

GEORGE AXALONU

IMPRINT

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Legacies of Christ

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Table of Contents

Great Legacies Bequeathed to Saints

| | Introduction | 7 |
|-----------|--|------------|
| 1 | The Power of the Blood of Jesus | 9 |
| 2 | The Authority of His Name | 21 |
| 3 | The Grace of God | 43 |
| 4 | The Holy Spirit and His Church | 5 7 |
| 5 | The Word of God | 63 |
| 6 | The Gift of Righteousness and Justification | 71 |
| 7 | The Gift of the Kingdom of God | 7 9 |
| 8 | Christ our Jubilee | 85 |
| 9 | Christ is our Wisdom | 91 |
| 10 | Only Jesus is Qualified to Open the Scroll of Your | 93 |
| | Destiny | |
| 11 | The Great Door and Many Adversaries | 99 |
| | 0. P | |
| | Our Responses | |
| 12 | Genuine Repentance and Conversion | 107 |
| 13 | Consecration | 111 |
| 14 | Single Minded Commitment to the Kingdom | 115 |
| 15 | Live the Love life | 119 |
| 16 | Receive the Fullness of the Holy Spirit | 125 |
| 17 | Make the Great Commission the Centrepiece of | 129 |
| | your life! | |
| 18 | Grow in Grace and Mature to Sonship! | 139 |
| 19 | Build According to Plan | 151 |
| 20 | Live the Simple life in Humility | 155 |
| 21 | Jubilee Declarations | 159 |

Introduction

When Jesus went to the cross, definite outcomes were expected from that paradigm-shifting action. That divinity would become humanity and literally die on the cross is a mystery too great for mortal man's finite mind to comprehend.

We are grateful that the Lord did not leave us in the dark about why such an incredible thing should happen.

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 2:14)

In the final analysis, God had to be made flesh in Christ Jesus for one simple reason: to demonstrate His unfathomable love for the fallen crown jewel of His creation.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

This book presents the core benefits of that demonstrated love of God which was sealed when Jesus uttered the immortal words, "It is finished", in John 19:30.

Never go a single day on your journey of faith and the kingdom life without appropriately understanding and demonstrating the Legacies of Christ.

Chapter 1

The Power of the Blood of Jesus

The Blood that was shed on the cross at Calvary was not that of a mere mortal but of the unique personality and God-Man, Jesus the Christ. Since it was not inherited from Adam, Jesus' blood was therefore pure and holy. Jesus' blood was, and is, the only valid atonement for Adam's original sin through which the entire human race was polluted, as sin became a principle of life, not merely an action! The Blood was divine life poured out to buy back the freedom and life of humanity from Satan's legal lordship which began the day Adam and Eve fell (Genesis 3). In effect, while the whole world lies in the hand of their ultimate unseen god, the wicked One, the "prince" of this world was judged at Calvary and has no legal hold over those who have been redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ. (1 John 5:4, 5, 19).

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5: 4, 5)

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. (1 John 5:19)

The Blood fulfilled the just demands of God's Law for humanity. Once it was shed, the Blood became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for sin. No other sacrifice for sin has been approved or acceptable since that day.

But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: the Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was vet standing: which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience: which stood only in meats and drinks, and diverse washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (Hebrews 9:7-28)

The numerous, nearly impossible-to-fulfil ordinances which were against mankind were fulfilled in that single sinless sacrifice of the God-Man, Jesus Christ. What the Law could not achieve due to the weakness of the flesh – such that even the High Priest under the Old Covenant needed to atone for his own sins – Jesus Christ took upon and fulfilled in Himself. The result is that those purchased by the Blood can validly walk in the liberty of holiness without struggling, if they would surrender their lives and weaknesses to the Bishop and Shepherd of their souls by allowing Him to run their lives.

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ve are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you blotting out the handwriting trespasses: ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and shew of them openly, powers, he made a triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:11-15)

The redeemed walk by the grace derived from Jesus' fulfilling the Law on our behalf. The Sermon on the Mount reveals that our righteousness, which is based on the New Covenant, is of greater value than the legalistic observances of religious works (see Matthew 5-7).

This blood was shed for you personally. It was shed to cancel every legally valid reason why you should fail, be afflicted or die before your time. It was shed to open the life gate transitioning you from sinner to saint; from a condemned, accursed person to being favoured and blessed of God and

man. The Lord said of your limitations, torments and fears: "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Jesus' blood opened the heavens when it was shed, and in the present, in order that no true saint should have to labour under a closed heaven. The Blood was taken to the Court of Heaven and shown to I AM right on the true Mercy Seat, proving that the blood of the animals poured out on top of the Ark of the Covenant was merely a copy.

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (Hebrews 9:22-24)

The Blood had to be shown in the Courts of Heaven where the mother of all sins (Lucifer's pride and rebellion) was conceived and executed.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people, to whom he said, "this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing:" yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

Because ye have said, "we have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves": therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, "behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

"Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report." (Isaiah 28:11-19)

This also means that you cannot come to heaven on your own

merit, or approach God based on your self righteousness or good deeds. The only lawful access to the Mercy Seat is through the shed blood of Christ. Come with your petitions through that valid avenue and you will receive help in time of need

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; [for he is faithful that promised]. (Hebrews 10:19-23)

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God; let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace; that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I

sing praise unto thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "behold I and the children which God hath given me."

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted; he is able to succour them that are tempted. (Hebrews 2:10-18)

A Redeemed Earth

The Blood of Jesus also redeemed this earth from the curse it has borne since the day Adam and Eve's conduct attracted the terrible judgement of a backbreaking laboured existence.

And unto Adam he said, "because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, 'Thou shalt not eat of it': cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto

dust shalt thou return." (Genesis 3:17-19)

When Jesus' side was pierced, blood and water spilled out on the earth in addition to the drops of blood which had resulted from the whipping and the crown of thorns. Saints are no longer to live under the curse, because every drop of that holy blood that touched the earth was on a redemptive mission to take the curse away. If you know, believe, and apply this truth; your business, job and personal economics will be redeemed from the curse in Genesis 3. It is wrong to dwell in Genesis 3 when Galatians 3 has long overtaken it! Saints, the Blood bears witness on earth; and you must no longer operate in ignorance of this legacy that Christ bequeathed to you at great cost (1 John 5:8).

An Open Show to the Enemy of Man

The Blood of Jesus was also taken to the courts of hell and displayed to Satan and his evil cohorts. As the lifeless body of Christ hung on the tree, His spirit and soul went on a journey to show the blood to the Enemy of mankind who was no doubt celebrating what he thought was a triumph over the Prince of Life! In revealing the Blood, Jesus took the keys of death and hell away from the cowering Satan:

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18)

That is why the resurrection was, and remains, an important doctrine of the Kingdom. By rising from the dead after exiting this earthly life and making that brief sortie into hell, Christ was proved beyond every reasonable doubt to have fulfilled the divine plan of redemption, and taken captivity captive as He ascended to heaven.

Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. [Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things]. (Ephesians 4:8-10)

The Blood is your Bill of Rights

Saints, the blood of Jesus is your certificate of redemption and the powerhouse where you are safe and sound. Has Satan arisen against you, your spouse, children, family, destiny, business, or job in any way? Don't keep quiet. Do not be lazy. By faith and prayer, go to war – spiritual warfare that is – using the Blood of the Lamb and your testimony as a blood-bought saint to overcome as promised by Revelation 12:11. Come out of your shell. Stop retreating. Stop giving more space to the enemy. Go forward with the blood of the Lamb and see his powers crumble and his hosts scatter as you plead and apply the blood! Are your nights troubled by bad dreams and nightmares?

Draw a blood line around your soul and property, and watch yourself sleep like a baby! Nothing can be more strategic than to teach even our young folks the incredible power of the blood of Jesus. Witches and wizards bow and cringe in fear at the mention of the blood of Jesus when used in faith!

Saints, please set aside the worldly wisdom of your so-called 'great' preachers and teachers and lay hold of the legacy

freely bequeathed to you by our Great King Jesus, with which we are to go through the journey of life. Failure is not an option! Your destiny has been procured, signed, sealed and delivered by the blood of the Lamb that was slain. Satan can neither open nor destroy the seal of your destiny. Only the Lamb who was slain is qualified to open the Seal and to direct the course of your life and destiny. Amen!

Chapter 2

The Authority of His Name

Here again is another extraordinary legacy which is freely given to the redeemed of the Blood: the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. It is strange that an outstanding facility with which we can navigate the waters of life can be held as carelessly as it is by this generation. What the Lord meant to be used to see us through every challenge and circumstance of life is now essentially parroted as a religious buzz word, or worse, a swear word. As He walked the streets of Galilee, Capernaum and Israel, Jesus went about doing good through the extraordinary unction of the Holy Spirit that He received at the Baptism of John.

And John bare record, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." (John 1:32-33)

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. (John 3:34)

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

The word "impossible" was non-existent to Him. He healed

the sick, gave strength to the lame; caused the blind to see, the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak. Even the elements were brought under subjection as miracles became the norm. Shortly before He finished His earthly assignment. Jesus began to address both His immediate disciples as well as those who would eventually be brought into the family of God. He deemed it necessary to convey one vital truth: that saints should not be mere earthlings and weaklings during their pilgrimage on earth, but vital partners with Him in completing His works. Paramount among these was to establish a beachhead from which the kingdom of God would operate on earth in future. As the ways of God are far different from the ways of men, even so Jesus did not immediately establish the full-fledged kingdom with all the trappings of power and glory. Instead, the divine plan for establishing the Kingdom would consist of an exceptional route: Jesus would die to pay the price, be buried, resurrect on the third day, ascend to heaven and wait for a season and time known only to the Father. During the interim, He would equip those who believed in Him with the supernatural capacity to bring in the harvest of souls who would make up the full complement of Kingdom citizens. At the exact date and time when all the Redeemed have been brought in to make His Body complete, Jesus would appear, subdue all opposition, and establish the fullness of God's Kingdom.

> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the

sower, and bread to the eater..." (Isaiah 55:8-10)

Jesus answered, "my kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36)

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said; "the kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, "a certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saving, we will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money. that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

"Then came the first, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.' And he said unto him, 'well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.' And he said likewise to him, 'be thou also over five cities.' And another came, saying, 'Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.'

"And he saith unto him, 'Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?' And he said unto them that stood by, 'take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.' (And they said unto him, 'Lord, he hath ten pounds!').

For I say unto you, that unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me!" (Luke 19:10-27).

(See also Luke 17: 22-37; Matthew 24: 1-51)

This extraordinary plan is now coming to its logical conclusion. The return of Jesus is imminent, so we must focus on and make "the main thing" the main thing:

• Seek and save the lost by giving them the Word of

life;

- Equip saints with all it takes to be fit for purpose in their individual Kingdom assignments, and;
- Announce to all and sundry that the King is about to appear and set up His Kingdom as ruler of the world, with the Faithful as His co-rulers over cities and nations right here on planet earth!

Saints, while it is good to marry and be married, bear and nurture children, acquire property, have good jobs and prosper in business and your profession, those things will amount to idols if they displace your total and unconditional love for God and the three-fold priorities above.

Even before Jesus went to the Cross to shed His blood as the Lamb of God, He released two extraordinary legacies with and through which the saints would live and minister successfully. One of them is the Authority of His Name. The way Jesus put it. His name is the same thing as His Being. Both are inseparable because they represent the fullness of who He is. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you will believe on His Name. If Jesus is in you, His Name should be in your heart and on your lips. The secret to the power of His name is revealed in Philippians 2:5-11. Because Jesus humbled Himself and took on the lowly form of man, His Name has been exalted above every name. The name of Jesus Christ (and of course the original Hebrew name Yeshua, as well as every translation which captures the essence of the God-Man) has an unlimited capacity to cause everything in the three critical realms of heaven, earth and hell to bow. Wow! What glorious power is available to mere mortals young or old, male or female, rich or poor! What prevents you from having faith in His Name?

No wonder the disciples laid hold of that Name with all faith and zeal, and used it to clear opposition out of the way, preach the good news with power, change the hearts of despots, heal the sick, and deliver the oppressed.

Saints, read through the Acts of the Apostles and see that virtually every thing accomplished by the early Church was in the name of Jesus. No wonder Satan stole away knowledge of, and faith in that name when He caused multitudes to go the way of the so-called "Christian religion", a misnomer for the golden calf of Rome and its deformed children!

The Use of His Name

The Name of Jesus is to be freely used by saints on three levels:

1. Believing on His Name for salvation: Our salvation hinges on understanding and accepting the propitiatory sacrifice of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, the only such personality in all realms.

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

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name... (John 1:12)

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (John 20:31)

To pass and establish decrees on earth and do miraculous and extraordinary works: In other words, the Name of Jesus has the capacity of itself to bring to pass whatever the saint decrees in full assurance of faith! In effect, our lips are mere channels for unleashing the awesome powers of that divine Name.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (John 14:13)

At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you... (John 16:26)

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. (Acts 3:6)

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. (Acts 3:16)

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. (Acts 16:18)

Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. (Job 22:28)

Go ahead and decree things!

3. As the basis on which we pray to the Father: When

we pray, we need to come to the Throne of grace on the merit of that Name, fully conscious of who Jesus is, both to us and to the Father. We are invited to come boldly to that ultimate Throne because our Redeemer and near Kinsman sits right there beside the Father acting as our advocate and chief Intercessor-High Priest. He once walked in flesh and blood and knows all that we are going through.

Forasmuch then as the children partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For, in that he himself hath suffered being tempted; he is able to succour them that are tempted. (Hebrews 2:14-18)

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God; let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let

us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace; that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

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

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23-24).

When we pray together in His name, it is as though He were physically present:

Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:19-20)

Our thanksgiving and praises to God should also be made in His Name:

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... (Ephesians 5:20)

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

As Jesus was winding up His mission on earth, His disciples became despondent. For three and half years, they left their businesses and other pursuits to follow Him. He had provided shelter, food and even fame that they had never anticipated. Allaying their fears of abandonment, Jesus declared a truth which few of them could apprehend. In John 16:6, 7, He consoled them with the revelation that His exit from this world would pave the way for another Divine Helper to emerge on the scene.

But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. (John 16:6-7)

Earlier in John 14:15-18, Jesus says:

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Jesus made some categorical commitments to the frightened disciples:

• Those who love Him and keep His commandments would receive another Helper from the Father who

would abide with them forever.

• The Holy Spirit who had been with them would indwell them under the New Covenant. This was certainly a radical proposition! The same Holy Spirit who came upon and used the Prophets of old for mighty exploits would now make His residence in His disciples' hearts. The old Covenant with its types and symbols would in effect give way to a New Covenant where the Holy Spirit will dwell in the temple that is the heart of saints

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

• Saints would not be spiritually orphaned, as the Holy Spirit would be with them 24/7 to do, with and through them, all that Jesus would have done.

The mother of all promises in John 14:12-14 – that the saint would be able to do greater works – is predicated on the working of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

The Lord Jesus was declaring something entirely revolutionary: that the Holy Spirit would take over the role of being with the saints and assure them of their divine connection. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus' promise to His disciples was fulfilled when every one of the 120 people gathered in the Upper Room was filled with the Holy Spirit.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

There in that room were male and female as well as young and old believers:

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, [the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty] (Acts 1:14-15)

That day, the Church was born as a collective of the redeemed (not a building or denomination), filled with power to advance the kingdom of God individually and severally, anywhere and everywhere on planet earth!

With the birth of the Church and its empowerment, the divine agenda for proclaiming the message of the God's kingdom was passed on to the Body of Christ, with each member supernaturally equipped to play the role assigned from heaven

Christ's free gift and legacy to the whole Church has become befuddled by great preachers and denominational inclinations. Satan has used men and women of the cloth to confuse saints to a degree that has left many ignorant, fearful or unwilling to receive all that Christ purposed for us.

The truth is, the same Holy Spirit who:

- is God;
- hovered over the surface of the waters on creation morning and caused order and life to spring forth;

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)

 filled Jesus' human body without measure and empowered Him to function as He did while on earth;

And John bare record, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, 'upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.' And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God." (John 1:32-34)

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. (John 3:34)

and filled the 120 in the Upper Room and used them
to do the mighty exploits that constitute the Acts of
the Apostles; is the very same Holy Spirit that Jesus
Christ bequeathed to His Church so that believers can
live an otherworldly life in the present and
demonstrate the power of the Kingdom.

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. (Luke 11:20)

This demonstration should not be something which happens inside a structure designed for religious activities, referred to as a "church building". It is not something we are only meant to experience during the three hour segment of a "Church service"; or a worship or healing hour. It is not specially designed for the select pulpit-based few we love to call "anointed" men and women of God – those who overflow with the Holy Spirit – while the vast majority of saints sit in the pews expecting to be healed, delivered and blessed. No, saints, these are variations through which the Pentecostal and Charismatic offspring of the Church of Rome – influenced by the spirit of religion – limit Christ's purpose in bequeathing the Holy Spirit to His Church. This is the reason God has been upsetting the apple carts of Pentecostal and Charismatic leaders all over the world!

The Holy Spirit – God who is present with His people – came for a much wider and potent purpose than to be hemmed into boxes like "church building" or ministry "programs". The Holy Spirit of the Living God is the blessed inheritance of

every saint! The only difference is how much of Him a saint desires to have. In John 7:37-39, Jesus made it clear that all who believe in Him would receive the Holy Spirit.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, "if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified).

However, as we all know, you can only drink as much as you thirst for. Some will drink a cupful, or from a mug and be satisfied. Others will need to drink two or three cups before being satisfied. Another determinant of the quantum of the Holy Spirit that an individual can manifest is what is called election. Election is the exercise of the sovereign will of God by which He chooses – regardless of age, gender, education or status – those through whom He will manifest Himself!

Measures of the Spirit

The Four Measures of the Holy Spirit and the purposes of each are:

1. The Seal Measure – The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts a person of sin, righteousness and judgement, pointing to the blood that Jesus shed as the only valid sacrifice acceptable to the Father.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. (John 16:8-11)

Whoever accepts this revelation, is convicted and repents, will receive a seal of the Holy Spirit which proclaims Christ's ownership of that individual in the realm of the spirit. Every true saint has this measure. The seal guarantees that if the saint finishes his life's course before Christ returns; he will be raised up in the new body. If the saint is alive, the seal assures his instantaneous transition to immortality and his inheritance of the fullness of redemption.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Romans 8:9-11)

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God... (Romans 8:16)

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the

redemption of our body. (Romans 8:23)

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

The seal measure of the Holy Spirit wires a new spiritual DNA, which includes the basic or root gifts of Romans 12:5-8, into every saint.

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:5-8)

Contrary to classic Pentecostal and Charismatic dogma, EVERY SAINT HAS A MEASURE OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! Romans 12:5-8; Ephesians 4:7 and 1 Peter 4:10, 11 are some of the scriptures which bear out this reality.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7)

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

You have no excuse for failure! Find out your root/basic gifts; for they are fundamental to your success in life, ministry and the market place. Build your life on your root gifts!

- 2. The Transforming Measure It is the indwelling Holy Spirit who conforms the attitude, perspectives and desires of a saint to Christ's standards. He uses God's Word, pastoral care, mentoring and life experiences to work all things out for the good of the saint. As we cling to Christ, the Holy Spirit works to mature and develop us in Him (John 15:1-8).
- 3. The Uniting Measure The Holy Spirit bears witness in our spirits that other believers in Jesus are our brothers and sisters of like precious faith. This internal witness enables us to break through denominational barriers and men's ideologies to receive and enjoy fellowship with those we were programmed to see as "others" by narrow minded

pastors. This uniting witness causes us to be used by God to achieve what centuries of conferencing and grandstanding by religious leaders could not achieve – the unity of the Body in the bond of peace. Have you noticed how millions of saints are connecting and enjoying real time, genuine relationships in the spirit on *Facebook, MySpace, YouTube* and other social media? That is the Holy Spirit at work. Let us not allow the activities of predators, sexual perverts, blackmailers and extorters masquerading as Christians to devalue this awesome work of the Holy Spirit (John 17; Ephesians 4:1-6).

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

4. The Demonstrating Measure – This measure of the Holy Spirit is available for every saint who will recognize our abject limitations without His fullness. When we realize how insufficiently we can fulfil our divine mandates and assignments without the fullness of the One who empowers our witness; when we realize the limitless possibilities of being endued with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, the only way forward is to thirst for all of Him as Jesus

advised in John 7:37-39.

5. The demonstrating measure of the Holy Spirit comes with a release of the enabling gifts in 1 Corinthians 12. Never be intimidated by the manifestation of the Holy Spirit through other vessels, nor should you devalue your own God-given gifts. Not all of us will raise the dead or cause limbs to grow. Your gift of discernment is equally important. Understand your gifts, embrace them, exercise them wherever you find yourself and appreciate what God has given to others. Labouring together, our collective gifts establish the authority and power of the Kingdom as we collectively fulfil the Great Commission.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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. (Mark 16:15-18)

Everyday Life!

Saints must know and walk in this truth so that they can live it out in everyday life. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not given just for use when we gather together or inside a building with religious architecture. They are for everyday use, anywhere and everywhere! They are for use

in the marketplace, at our work places and at home. The Holy Spirit has been given to teach us all things, guide us into all truth; explain the mind of God to us, lead us into making the right decisions and investments; prevent us from danger and generally enable us to live elevated, clearly illuminated lives. Saints, let us go for ALL of Him and begin to function in such a way that our relatives, friends and colleagues cannot but wonder and know that we have been with Jesus. Let us live by the enabling gifts of the Holy Spirit and enjoy the God-kind of life. The truth is that all these are ours, for free! If only we would hunger and thirst for, yield to, and surrender our will to His. If only we would ask Him to take over our mind-sets and faculties in faith, trusting Him to run our lives better than we ever could. If only we could allow Him to manifest Christ in us and also to take all the glory, there is no limit to what He can do with and through us! It is our vessels that He needs.

Saints, let us release all of our beings to Him!

Perhaps this statement captures the essence of what we are saying: "One great disservice Pentecostals and Charismatics did to the Holy Spirit was to 'denominate' and confine Him to the 'church' building." It must be evident to all who understand what God is saying that, by denominating the Holy Spirit, confining Him to a building and making Him a giver of goose bumps, we effectively check mate Him and His awesome powers! The great God of the universe became a giver of goose bumps to those attending high octane emotional meetings. Secondly, we have limited Him to speaking in tongues, in Church buildings, at prayer meetings and at home. Saints, it's time to let the Holy Spirit demonstrate His power through us everywhere!

Chapter 3

The Grace of God

Let us move on to consider the fourth Legacy that Jesus Christ freely bequeathed to all saints: the grace of God. The grace of God has been severely misconstrued by independent believers, Pentecostals and charismatics to mean a license to live anyhow. It has also been misinterpreted by orthodox Christians as a holy halo on the head of a select few. We will not get into the semantics of what grace means here.

We will simply receive what the Lord says about grace, straight from His ever reliable and faithful Word. God's grace is the mercy and power He made available to humanity, free of charge. It is the mercy to receive unmerited favour and pardon, which makes the transition from sinner to saint possible for those who will repent of their sins and believe the good news of the Kingdom of God. We cannot approach God on our own merit or based on our good deeds.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isa 64:6)

As observed, all the righteousness of man is like filthy rags before God. The reason is that the eyes of God are far too pure to behold iniquity. This attribute is why the Father looked away and forsook Jesus when He hung on the tree, laden with the sins of the whole world.

Grace Leads to Repentance

It is by His grace, saints, that we are drawn to conviction, repent of the sins we used to excuse and become accepted into

the family of God. Through His grace, we became partakers of His Kingdom without having to prove anything. All we needed to do was to believe and accept what was freely offered us; and even that response required His grace! Truly, no one can boast about the process and plan of salvation. We need to remember this simple truth, be filled with gratitude for God's graciousness and go forth with renewed fervour to proclaim His grace to one and all. No one ordained for salvation can ever refuse a truthful, sincere, loving and prayerful presentation of the gospel. Among the scriptures which capture the essence and purpose of grace towards sinners, these stand out:

Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Deuteronomy 9:5)

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:10)

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)

And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, "men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." (Acts 15:6-11)

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Romans 2:4)

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all... (Romans 4:16)

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. (Romans 5:15)

And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory... (Romans 9:23)

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God... (Ephesians 2:5-8)

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men... (Titus 2:11)

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:5-7)

Saints, it is the matchless grace of God which brought us into His Family and Kingdom. While in the kingdom, it is the freely available power of God that enables us to live the way He wants and finds pleasing. It is the capacity, beyond human ability, to get things done so that the arm of flesh cannot boast. Paul the Apostle, whom God used mightily to enlarge the Kingdom during the first century, succeeded largely because of his deep understanding of the centrality of grace.

In 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul exclaimed: "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." That mind-set was critical to the exceptional deeds

the Lord performed through him in spite of the extraordinary challenges, opportunities and attacks he suffered at the hands of Satan, false brethren and unbelievers. May we all learn from this holy warrior of the faith! We need to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the sufficiency of His grace to enable us to live and respond aright to all situations. No matter what challenges we face or fires stoked by Satan or men, the key solution is the quantum of grace we are willing to draw down from the Bank of Heaven, sealed with the blood of Jesus.

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. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:1)

God's grace is vast and unlimited, but the onus is on the saints to draw down as much as they need in knowledge, faith, prayer and trust. We are enjoined to grow in grace just as Jesus did from His youth (2 Peter 3:18). We need to mature progressively as we allow the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to work in us the fullness of the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus. As this happens, we find the fruit of the spirit coming forth out of our lives without struggle. Desires that were contrary to God give way, and we begin to live in a consciousness of God's omniscience and omnipresence. Grace enables us to watch the motions of our hearts and minds, weighing them with our consciences. In this way, we instinctively reject whatever is not pleasing to the Lord and wage the warfare of the mind, pulling down strongholds the enemy may want to construct with our thought patterns and perspectives. Of course, God knows the weak frame of mortal men and therefore supplies His own strength.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. (Luke 2:40)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 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. 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. 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. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:1-8)

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds); casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience,

when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

Our ability to tap into the fullness of grace is founded on a few divine principles.

Firstly, we must understand that at no time in our relationship with God does He abandon us to our own abilities and devices. We are rather brought into a living, loving relationship with a reliable Father, a trusted Saviour and an ever present Holy Spirit. If we yield to the workings of the Holy Spirit, He will, among other things, continue enabling us to will and to do the good pleasure of God.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ... (Philippians 1:6)

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure

will and to do of his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13)

- The second prerequisite is to be humble with God and people. Humility is a precious asset in the eyes of God and to such as would humble themselves before Him, He goes out of His way to supply grace to live by.

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts,

ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:6-10)

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Isaiah 66:1-2)

The third principle is that of availability. There are many things God wishes to accomplish in His Kingdom through the saints. However, He respects our will and does not force Himself on any one, choosing only to use the "available". The degree of Paul's availability caused God to overwhelm him with the grace to do all things effortlessly.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Phil 4:12-13)

This gave Paul the confidence to announce that all who supported him in ministry would tap into the same grace.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:19)

- Furthermore, grace is appropriated at the altar of faith-filled prayer. It is in prayer that you express your inability to accomplish His will in your own strength and lay yourself open for Him to refill your spiritual tank with a fresh infusion of grace. Interestingly, yesterday's grace is not sufficient for today's needs. The grace you carried into work this morning may well be in need of a top-up this very hour, so pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians: 5:17).

Saints, God holds us accountable for how we use the grace he has made freely available to us. Never allow His grace to become your justification for careless living. It will be an absolute contradiction to use grace as an excuse to remain in sin. He who is truly in grace cannot continue to revel in sin; otherwise, grace would be of no effect! Those who use grace as an excuse to sin against God and their fellow human beings are stoking the fires of hell for themselves. Saints cannot continue in sin that grace may abound. Whoever has real grace will lay hold of the same to overcome Satan's and sin's solicitations. Grace is the power of God. Let us learn to run towards and not away from its outstretched arms at the hour of temptation, trial, challenges and the fires of life.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation

worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us... . and not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one: much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ). Therefore as by the offence judgment came upon all condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:1-5; 16-21)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?... Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have

dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ve have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered vou. Being then made free from sin, ve became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ve have vielded vour members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ve were ye the servants of sin. were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ve are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ve have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:1-2; 11-23)

Outside of God's grace, we are hollow, empty shells, blind and vulnerable to forgetting what we were delivered from and returning to our vomit. Such was the sad state of the Church at Laodicea, which is a clear example of the way many saints have turned the grace of God into occasions of lasciviousness across the world. (2 Peter 1:5-11; 2 Peter 2:18-22)

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

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; "these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing'; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with evesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love. I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore. and repent." (Revelation 3:14-19)

Saints, God's grace is fully available to enable you be all you are created to be and to fulfil every assignment He gave to you to accomplish on planet earth. There is more than enough

grace to meet your every need, but sadly, none for your greed! If what you are doing was assigned by God, stop worrying, fretting, competing with others or burning yourself out. Try grace for a difference! Understand grace, receive it; be humble before the One who created, redeemed and called you, and be available. Leave the rest to Him! Grace at work is self evident, as was the case of Barnabas who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord (Acts 11:23).

Go for all of grace, Saint, and your life can never be the same!

The first fruit of grace is Favour. What a way to live – by favour, not struggle! Saints need to transit from the curse of Genesis 3:17-19:

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, "Thou shalt not eat of it": cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

to the blessed state of Galatians 3:10-14:

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it

is evident: for, the just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, the man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, *Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (1 Corinthians 16:23)

Grace also enables you to pass through the fire unharmed; through the waters without drowning and to overcome every fiery dart of Satan and wicked people without losing your inner peace and spiritual balance. Saints, do not leave the Lord until He clothes you with His sufficient grace.

It is your portion. Calvary guarantees it!

Chapter 4

The Holy Spirit and His Church

The Lord wants a revaluation of our understanding and attitude towards the Holy Spirit. He is a present help for our temporal assignment in this mortal realm. When He fills up our mortal tank, we are branded with His fire and glory to do the works of Christ. It is a disservice to both Him and us when we confine Him to helping us have a "better" church experience! He is given to reside in us; and from our depths, flow out to touch lives in everyday situations so that the preaching of the gospel becomes a life style of representing Jesus wherever we are.

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

His power is expressed in the gifts He sovereignly bestows on us according to God's will. His gifts make us particular members of the Body of Christ and specific contributors to the overall health of the community of saints.

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that

ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:5-8)

Believers demean the Person and operations of the Holy Spirit when His Presence is induced through the use of gimmicks such as pumped up emotions, stage lights and effects or repetitive musical stanzas. Yes, the prophet Micah needed a harpist for the anointing of prophecy to come upon him – because he operated under the Old Covenant when the Holy Spirit only came upon a few individuals! The Holy Spirit is demeaned when we try to use Him to achieve a predetermined, soulish agenda. The natural mind and uncrucified soul is not and can never be a good facility for relating with the Holy Spirit. He dwells in the spirit man from where rivers of living water flow out to affect the lives of others (John 7:37, 38).

When this paradigm is affected, the unregenerate around us cannot but believe that Jesus indeed lives and demonstrates His power as God through His saints. Saints, let us all be filled with, and full of the Holy Spirit!

Let His wisdom be made manifest in our work places, in business and through those who work in public services. Let the Joseph company arise with the ability to see trends far ahead of time, interpret dreams, and display supernatural economic expertise!

And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine. And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's

house. And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, "give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? For the money faileth." And Joseph said, "give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail."

And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.

When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, "we will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands: wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate."

And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof. Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.

Then Joseph said unto the people, "behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land. And it shall come to pass in the increase; that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones." And they said, "thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."

And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part, except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's. (Genesis 47:13-26)

The presence and influence of Jesus must go beyond the building walls. It must touch and enliven the marketplace. Let the Daniel company arise within the polity, displaying true wisdom with holy living.

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...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. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 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. And Daniel continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus. (Daniel 1:8; 17-21)

Let the Bezaleels and Aholiabs arise in the creative industries:

And Moses said unto the children of Israel, "see, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; and to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work." (Exodus 35:30-35)

Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded. And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every

wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it: and they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning. And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; and they spake unto Moses, saving, "the people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make." And Moses gave commandment. and they caused it proclaimed throughout the camp, saving, "let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much. (Exodus 36:1-7)

Let all of us, in all that He does with and through us, return all glory to the One who died to redeem us and is alive for ever more,

Amen!

Chapter 5

The Word of God

It is important to take off the religious mask that tries to cover and make the living, active word of God into a hallowed piece of print before which we must bow in hollow reverence. If only we understood what God is trying to communicate in Hebrews 4:12, 13:

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. 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 whom we have to do.

On creation morning, the word of God went into action to create all things out of nothing but what was conceived in His mind (Genesis 1:3-30). John 1:1-5 reveals a vital connection with Genesis chapter 1 – Jesus is the very word of God! Catching this revelation will dynamically change our attitude to the word. We would never allow ourselves to be so bored or indifferent to the word if we knew that whenever we come to it, we are having a fresh encounter with Jesus Christ Himself! It appears that David caught the revelation and therefore savoured the word of God (see Psalm 119 in its entirety).

The word of God has been signed, sealed and delivered to provide every single item in the covenant relationship we have with God. It documents all the terms of our relationship with Him, the benefits of loyal citizenship, and the consequences of missing His mark. The word of God is not a suggestion or a group of ideas that we should be considering whether to comply with or not. The word of God is God's ordinance and prescription for godly living, backed by the blood of the Lamb as its seal

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, "this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:20)

What shall we do with the word of God?

1. Study it: Doctors spend years studying medical science and books. Architects and other professionals do likewise in order to qualify. It is only in the Kingdom that saints and ministers want to have results from a system they do not understand! We are adopted into the family of God and translated into His Kingdom. Every kingdom has a king, a Constitution or governing document; a domain/dominion with loyal subjects and ambassadors who represent the kingdom from which they are posted. Ambassadors need to have a deep understanding of the constitution and full allegiance to the king to function optimally and successfully. Saints, we must give due diligence to studying the word of God, rightly divide its provisions and understand its applications.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

2. We ought to be lifelong students of the word (2 Timothy 3:15-17). The days are here when saints will

be the targets of mass deception arising from manipulation of the word.

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

3. Meditate on it: The word which is studied does not profit much until it is processed through meditation. Meditation occurs when we lay hold of, and ponder over the word's revealed truth throughout the day. It is the process of chewing upon the truth we receive and reflecting deeply on it for additional insight from God (Psalm 1:1-3);

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. (Joshua 1:8) 4. Pray the word: We should ask the Holy Spirit for illumination as we read the word, as it makes all the difference when He quickens the word and brings forth the intent of God. Prayer takes away dryness and makes the work quick and lively, able to fulfil its multi-dimensional assignment as water, hammer and fire, sword, mirror and milk.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

"Is not my word like as a fire?" saith the LORD; "and *like a hammer* that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29)

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...(Ephesians 6:17)

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. (James 1:22-24)

As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk

of the word, that ye may grow thereby...(1Pet 2:2)

5. Renew our minds: We should allow the word we study to renew our mind, change our mind-set and expose humanistic thought patterns that try to hinder our walk with God and with others. Whenever we receive such expositions, let us not excuse them but go to war and pull down the mental strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds); Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

6. We have a sure word concerning the mind-set which emulates Christ.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil 4:6) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Phil 2:5)

7. Receive the Word in Faith: When we study as

described above, our faith in the word will rise, as we begin to receive God's promises to us. Writing down such promises and putting into journal form the revelation of what God wants us to do is exceptionally profitable.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:1-4)

8. Believe and confess the word: The principle in Romans 10:8-10 is applicable to all situations:

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; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The word is settled. Let us believe the report of the

word and make it our regular confession in all things, regardless of what we see, hear, feel or touch. Confession of the word was the chief weapon Jesus applied against the enemy (Matthew 4:1-11).

Saints, let the word of Christ dwell richly in you (Colossians 3:16) and allow the Holy Spirit to take over and say, "it is written" to Satan and his agents when they come around. The idea is to apply the word to every situation of your life. Let us allow the word to be made flesh in us (John 1:14) so that there shall be a performance of all that is written concerning us (Luke 1:45).

9. Rest in the Word: We need to come to a place of absolute rest in God's word because we know it cannot fail (Psalm 37:3-7; Proverbs 3:5-8). Rest is one of the blessings of Jubilee where we stop worrying whether God will fulfil His word because we know that *we know* that He will!

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. (Psalm 37:3-7)

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;

and lean not thine unto own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (Proverbs 3:5-8)

Chapter 6

The Gift of Righteousness and Justification

The Kingdom life we are called to live starts with a precious gift from God to whoever is willing to receive it. It is the gift of God's righteousness in Christ Jesus which was procured on the merit of His blood. Righteousness is, simply put, right standing with God. This right standing is possible because of the exchange that took place on the Cross at Calvary, when the sins of the whole world were laid upon Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the Law's righteous demands that "the soul that sins shall die", and made due atonement by taking on our sins. Whoever believes in this transaction at the Cross and responds to heaven's invitation by genuine repentance is converted from sinner to saint; translated from the kingdom of darkness (and Satan) to the Kingdom of Christ; and is given the free gift of righteousness (Colossians 1:12-14, 19-23).

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have through redemption his blood, forgiveness of sins...for it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holv

unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister... (Col 1:12-14; 19-23)

In the economy of God, the entire past of the sinner, no matter how great and messy, is wiped away as he is justified by the grace of God in an instant. Justification therefore says we stand before God as new creations with the record of our past sins fully blotted out by the blood of the Lamb. As righteousness is received by grace, the peace and joy of God floods our hearts, which enables us to start living the glorious Kingdom life in the midst of a sinful generation. We can do it, not because of our own strength, but because Jesus Christ Himself has become our righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30; Micah 7:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 5:1, 2; Romans 14:17-19; Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 3:9; Colossians 1:22).

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

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:18-19)

Righteousness is a gift that cannot be purchased or procured because it is a gift of grace. All we can do is receive it through faith and genuine repentance. We cannot earn it by good works; observance of religious ceremonies or through self flagellation. We do not deserve it in any way. Righteousness is an expression of the love of God for us, even while we were in sin. It seeks us out even when we reject Him. It is sure proof of God's taking responsibility for initiating our salvation so that whoever is lost or misses the mark cannot blame God for his fate and plight:

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Romans 8:32-34)

The objective principle for righteousness as a gift from God to humanity is simple to understand. In Adam, all mankind (who were in his loins when he sinned) received the foundational inheritance of sin. Sin is inherited by all humanity, irrespective of their immediate parentage. Jesus became the Second Adam as a man incarnated without sin. Any sinner who rejects Adam's heritage and embraces the love of God in the sinless Christ receives a spiritual transition from sinner to saint. It is all by faith through grace so that no man can ever boast (Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 2:4-8). That transition is real and the received gift of righteousness is tangible in that it marks the start of a new walk and lifestyle. Old things truly pass away (Romans 5:6:21).

For when we were yet without strength, in due

time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. (Romans 5:6-11)

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God... (Ephesians 2:4-8)

Righteousness is not theoretical. It is real and tangible. If you have received the gift, you will be righteous. Your righteousness will give you unrestrained access to the courts of heaven where you are justified because your yesterday is forgotten! If you have received the gift of righteousness, your lifestyle in the family, community, at work and everywhere else will reveal it clearly. It will be shown in your preferences and choices, as well as what you allow into your heart, mind and body. You will recognise potentially defiling things from a distance and treasure the gift of righteousness enough to

protect it (Romans 6:1-23; Romans 8:1, 2).

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:9-12)

If you miss the mark in any way – thought, word or deed – you will feel hollow, filthy and uneasy! You will, like David, yearn for that strong reconnection to your source and the return of the joy of salvation and accompanying peace. To sin in any way and feel normal; to enjoy a life of sin and to joke around with the presence of God is proof that a person did not receive the gift of righteousness in the first place. Hear David in Psalm 51 and especially his plea in verse 12 (see also 1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 2:1, 2). Righteousness takes away condemnation, judgement and fear (John 3:16-18; John 5:24; 1 John 3:21).

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit... who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Romans 8:1; 34)

Have you received this precious gift of righteousness? Please do not just assume you have. And if you have received it, are you allowing anything to affect it? Are you holding it lightly or tightly? If you have received this precious gift, be like Paul who affirmed that he would allow nothing on earth, in hell or any person to separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did he also did predestinate conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:28-39)

Let us heed the repeated words of Jesus and purpose to overcome every challenge. Satan's chief target is to take away this precious gift and he will use anything and anyone to do so – if you allow it (Revelation 2: 7, 11, 17, 26; Revelation 3:12, 21, 22).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God... He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (Revelation 2:7; 11b)

Jesus is coming soon:

He which testifieth these things saith, "surely I come quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Rev 22:20).

Chapter 7

The Gift of the Kingdom of God

One of the most glorious truths in the Holy Writ is the fact that Jesus came to inaugurate the Kingdom of God and will one day return in His glorified body to rule and reign over the whole earth from Jerusalem, the city He chose for himself before Abraham came to Canaan (Remember Melchizedek, the king of Salem, in Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-10). The incarnation of Jesus was an extraordinary divine masterstroke.

Kings normally ride into town on roaring steeds and decorated chariots to overthrow their adversaries and take over the realm. In Jesus' case, the kingdom of Heaven invaded the earth realm through a pathway that was hidden from angels and shrouded from even the prophets of old who uttered prophecies concerning it:

...of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:10-12)

The assumed baby in the manger was no ordinary person. He

was the bodily expression of God's love for humanity and a sure proof that the God of Love is also the God of Justice! As His first human creations, Adam and Eve had missed the mark and forfeited their dominion over the human realm of the kingdom; and God's law required that the soul which sins would die unless due atonement was made by the shedding of blood (Luke 1:35).

After centuries of tolerating the inadequate blood of bulls and goats for the atonement of sin, it became necessary that divinity become humanity to take away the power of sin and death through which Satan held mankind hostage. Divinity became humanity in Jesus Christ so that His sinless blood would be shed to offer one single sacrifice that would forever liberate from the yoke of Satan, all who respond to this awesome love of God (Hebrews 9:6-27; 10:11-18). Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50); so the divine plan required a pathway to the kingdom of God which confused Satan.

The Kingdom of God is first received in the heart of the redeemed:

Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:21)

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name... (John 1:12)

Their outward circumstances may seem unchanged. They may be ordinary-looking folks. However, if they embrace Jesus as the supreme ruler or Monarch over their lives – controlling the way they think, live, work, spend money and prioritise – such people are translated in the spirit realm as citizens of the

presently invisible kingdom of God. That translation is real because every other allegiance – be it parental, religious, political, or to the economic and social system of their day – is automatically subordinated to their primary loyalty to God in Jesus Christ the King.

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ve in light: and what ve hear in the ear, that preach ve upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father; and the daughter against her mother; and the daughter in-law against her mother in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of

his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 10:24-39)

In effect, true saints hold dual citizenship: naturally, of the land of their birth or residence, but spiritually, and more significantly, that of the kingdom of God. Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. It is not the kind of political power world leaders hold. It is beyond targeting the White House or No.10 Downing Street (John 18:36-37). Going to church, ministering in any capacity (including to your pastor) or holding great titles do not translate into being a citizen of God's kingdom. Kingdom citizenship is accessed by genuine conversion, complete consecration and total commitment to the Kingdom and all it stands for (Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 12:1, 2).

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, "if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

Saint, please answer this question: are you a kingdom citizen or a church goer who simply fulfils the religious obligations or rules of your denomination? Jesus may be your Saviour, but is He also the Lord to whom you are fully subject, and the King who unquestionably rules your thoughts? The kingdom

we are called to possess is not denoted by multiplicity of food, money or material resources but by the internal state of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17-19). It is an inside-out life wherein Christ, the hope of our glory, manifests in our thought life, attitudes and disposition. The Lord promises to cause other things to come to us by course as we focus on growing in this grace (Matthew 6:33).

The Constitution of the Kingdom

The Kingdom's full manifestation lies in the future. Just as Jesus suddenly came into this world in human form to take away the sins of the world through His crucifixion and resurrection. He will suddenly return, bodily and visibly, to set up God's kingdom on planet earth. Jesus will sit on a throne in Jerusalem, the City of David, to rule and reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords. That title offers a clue that there will be other kings or rulers. The good news is that as many as have been faithful in discovering God's purpose for their lives and completely submitting to His reign; as many as fulfil their callings and ministries in this present life will be elevated as kings and priests over definite kingdom territories in the world to come. A faithful sister could be the President of a country; another will be Governor of a State and yet another can be made the Mayor of a City. Indeed, brothers in the faith like Peter and the twelve Apostles have secured their places as rulers over the 12 tribes of Israel in the Kingdom (Matthew 19:27-30). This kingdom will have the ultimate governance with perfect peace, perfect joy, perfect security and perfect provisions for every need. Imagine a world without terrorism, wars and rumours of wars. Without an army, air force, navy, police or special forces.

Imagine a world where lions, snakes and sheep lie down with

humans with no danger (Isaiah 65:17-25). Imagine a world where there is no oppressive 9-5 job; and you have just pictured the blessed kingdom of God. Eden (before the fall) will be re-enacted and we will manage and keep this earth in proper order (Genesis 2:15). God has always planned for this earth to be the portion of men connected to Him (Psalm 115:16). During this period, Satan will be locked up in prison for one thousand years and there will be absolutely no demonic activity (Revelation 20:1-6). In effect, every human being will think and live right, exuding the imputed nature of the King. God asks us to yearn for, to seek with all our hearts, and to pay whatever price it takes to be partakers of this kingdom. This kingdom will be possessed by those who presently labour for and earnestly expect its manifestation (Matthew 6:33; Matthew 25:1-13; Matthew 24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-24). Some saints will die before this kingdom comes and be resurrected to meet Jesus when He comes from heaven. Others who are alive will be translated to meet Him in the air and join forces with Him to defeat the armies of men who seek to oppose His return (1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; 1 Thessalonians 15:1-11; Jude 14, 15; Revelation 17:14).

Chapter 8

Christ our Jubilee

Under the Old Covenant, a Jubilee was declared every 50 years (Leviticus 25:55). On the given day, as soon as the shofar (the musical horn) sounded, slaves were freed. In that year, the land was not farmed, yet there was ample provision for the needs of the people. In effect, Jubilee connotes Liberty, Rest and Restoration.

The good news for all true believers is that Jesus Christ is our Jubilee! On the day He breathed His last as the atonement for sin, the last words He uttered "It is Finished" was a declaration of Jubilee for all saints of all generations!

Religion has masked this reality by portraying the gospel as a "mission impossible" of trying to please God through rituals and self flagellation. The Holy Writ paints a different picture. We should never allow ourselves to become so put off by the plasticity of proponents of the so-called prosperity gospel that we give up on the treasures God has for us in Christ. These people preach another gospel that is based on using God to achieve their dream life. They will pay dearly for their folly if they refuse to repent. That said, we must reject any religiosity which confines us to suffering in order to please God. That is not the gospel.

The Gospel offers sure promises and guarantees which are of more weight than God's oath to Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18; Hebrews 6:13-18). The blood of Jesus with which the New Covenant was sealed is a greater guarantee that God will fulfil all that Jesus died for at Calvary, as seen below:

• **Jesus redeemed us with His own blood:** We have been delivered from Satan's yoke and translated from his kingdom of darkness over to the Lordship of Christ, and to be partakers of His glorious kingdom:

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (Colossians 1:12-14)

 Jesus is our Liberty: Those who are in Christ are new creations, and old things about us are passed away.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Generational sins and shortcomings have been atoned for, if we can receive it. If you are in the Kingdom, you are set free by the truth in, and of Jesus Christ, and should never be in bondage of any type again.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:32, 36)

Every handwriting of ordinances that was against and contrary to you has been erased:

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:14-15)

This is because you have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Christ. Truly, God placed a curse on mankind and the ground when Adam sinned. The good news is that this terrible curse was effectively taken away by the blood of Jesus. You are now a recipient of the liberty of the ordinance of Abraham's blessing!

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. (Galatians 3:14-15)

None of us has any business living and acting as if nothing happened at the cross! The Cross was a real place of liberation where all the evil mankind deserved because of the foundational sin of Adam and Eve were legally atoned for so that through faith, we can walk in the blessings of God as our Father in heaven!

 Restoration is now a matter of choice: All you lost to Satan during your years of ignorance and religion can be restored to you. Any of God's promises pertaining to life and godliness, which you lost due to ignorance or carelessness, is recoverable. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue... (2 Peter 1:3)

Do you want your wife or husband back? You can receive her or him if you will believe and pray. Do you want your job back, or would you like God to set you up in business where you would have mastery over your time and be able to serve Him unrestrained? Ask in faith. What do you need to recover? If God could do it for David in the Old Testament, the blood of Jesus guarantees that restoration is your portion. Now is the time for us to walk in the blessings of restoration which was prophesied by Joel. Take time to build your faith by studying, meditating on and applying these scriptures with the help of the Holy Spirit who alone grants illumination: 1 Samuel 30:1-20; Joel 2:18-28; Matthew 7:7, 8; Mark 11:22-24; Luke 11:1-13; Luke 15:32; Luke 18:1-8, 27-30).

Rest is your portion: You are not supposed to live an animal-like life where your soul is split with various pressures in numerous directions. Jesus promises rest for those who will yield to Him.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

We need to allow Christ, our Prince of peace, to fully reside in us.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Favour is your portion! You are no longer to live by struggle, sweat and hard labour. Like Zion, your acceptable time of favour has come (Psalm 102:13). It is your turn, like Jesus, to be preferred above your fellows (Hebrews 1:9).

• The Presence of God is with you always: Even in the midst of fire, trials, persecution, lack or any other function of the dynamics of this present life, Jesus will never leave nor forsake us:

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Paul understood this truth and was able to brave all opposition and challenges to carry out the kingdom work assigned to him. The Lord never says we won't face difficulties, but He assures us of His constant presence and ultimate victory (John 14:7; John 16:32-33; Romans 8:28 -39; 2 Corinthians 4:5-18; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33).

As 1 Peter 2:20 exhorts however, let us not suffer for our own faults!

Chapter 9

Christ is our wisdom

This earth in which we live has some rules, one of which is that wisdom is the principal thing. The Word says to get wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 4:5, 7; Proverbs 3:13; Ecclesiastes 9:16). Wisdom is God's mind concerning any situation. The good news is that Jesus is our wisdom. As He increased in wisdom while on earth, so should we:

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

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

Jesus enjoined us to be as wise as serpents in order to overcome this world and its people (Matthew 10:16). The wise understand the signs of the times and always know what life's priority should be, just like the sons of Issachar and the wise virgins (1 Chronicles 12:32; Matthew 25:1-13). Without wisdom, men and women grope about in intellectual darkness (Proverbs 18:15). With wisdom we walk in illumination. Wisdom enables us to rule and reign in life. A wise person's face will always shine, and he will understand and walk with diligence. Standing before kings, princes and CEOs becomes the norm for that person.

The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. (Proverbs 18:15-16)

Saints, let us let go of worldly wisdom and tap into Christ's wisdom through His word. (1 Corinthians 3:19; 2 Corinthians 1:12; Colossians 4:5). It is through the Word of life that we are to function in this high realm of wisdom which enables us to present a superior life and gospel to those outside the kingdom.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

The good news is that God is willing to release the full measure of wisdom to us. He only requires that we humble ourselves to recognise how much we need wisdom and to ask for it in faith.

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. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

Chapter 10

Only Jesus is qualified to open the scroll of your destiny

One thing that was forever settled at the Cross is your destiny. Saint, rejoice and be exceedingly glad that neither Satan, demons, evil people, nor false brethren who secretly creep in to espy our liberty, can destroy, deflect, hijack or truncate your destiny. Glory! In Revelation 5, John was given privileged insight into this matter and what he saw was documented for us to learn and understand, so that our hope would be firmly anchored on the Lamb who is seated on the throne. Saint, it is absolutely comforting that Jesus alone is worthy to open seals of the scroll in the hand of the Father.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

And one of the elders saith unto me, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof." And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and

seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, "thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Revelation 5:1-12)

Rejoice and leap for joy at this holy thought. Stop weeping, complaining and moaning. Stop every activity that gives Satan undue credit. Do not allow your tears and long face to make the adversary smile in devious satisfaction. He has no power to stop or destroy what God has said about you. Be encouraged to know that the day Abba Father conceived you in the depth of His awesome, infinite mind; He had a blue print of the "you" of His dreams. Men and women may not like your colour, look, shape, or any other aspect of your

persona. Too bad for them! God designed you uniquely and wonderfully, as David understood and exclaimed in the book of Psalms.

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. (Psalm 139:13-18)

He conceived and created you to give Him pleasure!

You can do this primarily by accepting and celebrating your uniqueness. If you are a woman, there is a man created by God who is looking for the colour, height, weight, likes and all that make up your personality. Your Adam wants you just as you are. If only you would trust God, hold on and realize that delay is not denial, you will receive exactly the man God ordained for you. Do not be impatient, count years, or compare yourself with any of your contemporaries.

The meat of this message is that the destiny God had in mind when He conceived you is sealed in a scroll, written in coded language, which God alone understands perfectly.

He will reveal it to you when you wait on Him and make it an issue of paramount importance. Wait on the Lord to locate

details of your destiny. Whatever He reveals to you, do not be quick to share with everybody, as Joseph did and got into so many troubles. However, if you *have* shared details of your destiny with other people; or those who hate you have heard of your awesome destiny and gone into overdrive to try and stop you with trips to occult houses, Shamans, warlocks or witches, weep no more! Even if you seem to be running around in circles; or your testimony is like that of Israel at Horeb, God will give the Word of command for you to break forth and break through!

On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law, saying, "the LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, 'Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them." (Deuteronomy 1:5-8)

If near-success syndrome (the habit of getting close to a breakthrough only for it to suddenly become a mirage) seems to describe your life, we have a sure word of prophecy for you: WEEP NOT, FOR THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH HAS PREVAILED TO OPEN THE SEAL OF THE SCROLL OF YOUR DESTINY! The blood He shed on the Cross sealed the deal!

You need to repent for attributing to Satan, demons and evil

people more powers than they deserve. It is part of Satan's grand design to give you the illusion that he is all-powerful, and that he can do and undo. Remember how he bragged about this in a similar fashion to Jesus during their epic encounter in the wilderness (Matthew 4: 8-10)? It is time to emulate Jesus by pushing back at Satan with the words, "It is written". Revelation chapter five has been written to let you know where the true power lies: secure in the hands of Jesus Christ!

Please note also that Revelation 5:8 lets us into a strategic secret: every true, sincere prayer you have prayed is stored up in a container at the Throne of grace, and is like sweet incense to God!

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

At the appointed time, the Lord will release the answers you have sought from Him. Finally, please read Revelation 5:12 below and understand this mystery: all the seven things the Lamb was worthy to receive after His death and resurrection are for you!

"...Saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Don't be more righteous than God and reject this seven-fold blessing of Calvary. Jesus knew you would need them in order to fulfil His charge in Luke 19:13 to: "Occupy, till [He comes]!"

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." And the four beasts said, "Amen." And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever (Revelation 5: 13,14).

Chapter 11

The Great Door and Many Adversaries

"For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:9)

Saint, the Lord emphatically stated that He is flinging open many doors of opportunity for His remnant. We are not speaking of things you could do ordinarily, or the type of favour you can obtain because people ordinarily like you. The Lord has, by Himself, opened great doors for you. These are doors of great possibilities for fulfilling the purpose for which He created, redeemed, called and commissioned you to be one of His witnesses on planet earth. This is the Lord who has the keys to open doors which no man can shut.

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; "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." (Revelation 3:7-8)

Rejoice and leap for joy! As long as you align your life and pursuits with His purpose, the word "failure" is no longer part of your lexicon, and the word "impossible" has no place in your vocabulary. God has opened the doors for you to succeed on every spiritual, social and economic level. A door has been opened for you to find uncommon favour, receive approval

from those who truly matter, and walk through every door needful for your life assignment. The door is open to recover what you have previously lost. Have you lost a spouse or God-ordained fiancé (e)? Has a business venture been in a "holding", motionless state for years? Or is it a job which you know God promised you, but seems at the last moment to have slipped out of your grasp? Do you badly need a particular grade in order to graduate? Have you been struggling in ministry, or held hostage by the same old faces with their intimidating looks when you preach what God lays on your heart? What seems like a brick wall before you?

We have good news for you: the door is wide open! It was blown open by God Himself so that there would be NO LIMITS to what He has set you on planet earth to do before Jesus Christ returns! However, the same God who released this great news says to tell you: there are many adversaries out there. On the day your manifestation was announced in the spirit realm, the enemy and his cohorts realised you were not so ordinary after all. There are demonic beings—referred to as "Herodian" spirits—whose operational style is on hold until the day the person to whom they are assigned is announced.

Then they wake up from apparent slumber. Their character is taken from Herod's behaviour when he heard of Jesus' birth. The same announcement which gladdened angels and men of goodwill was the very thing which sparked the rage and murderous intent in his tyrannical heart (See Matthew 2:1-18). As God announced your Jubilee in the realm of the spirit, even so great and effective doors were opened for your ministry and business to expand beyond your Jerusalem:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and

in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Some saints reading this message should be preaching powerfully across their nation, and others going on missionary assignments to different countries, blazing forth like the flames of fire they have been ordained to be.

How can you beware of adversaries?

Ask the Lord and He will show you. He always exposes such spirits in order to redeem situations. As the Lord reveals them to you, map out the nature, character and mode of operation of these opposing spirits. Look away from the human vessels they occupy, otherwise you will fall into the trap of bitterness and unforgiveness thereby falling short of God's glory;

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:12-15)

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. (Mark 11:25-26)

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest

any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled...(Hebrews 12:14-15)

Your battle is not against flesh and blood, because we do not war after the flesh. The time has come to take up our full spiritual armour and deal with the adversaries Satan has released to block our way. The adversaries may be internal – negative mindsets which need to be dealt with vigorously.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong hold); Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

They could also be demonic beings in their various hierarchies of evil according to their placement by Satan.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the evil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints:

God has revealed the working of the mystery of Lawlessness to us. The coming anti-Christ will be preceded by the release of spirits whose assignments are to cause disunity, confusion and disorder in the families, ministries and businesses of saints. Satan knows the near limitless power of a united congregation, family or business. He will therefore assign demons that specialize in scattering what you gather. They will operate by twisting the mind-set of some of the people around you into seeing things differently from you.

Ordinarily, there is no problem with this. However, when people who are supposedly your co-labourers cling to their own different perspectives at the expense of the vision holder's, their liberty becomes a license to destroy the Lord's work. As a matter of fact, if you are under an authority – in ministry, business or public service – and come to this point, the honourable thing to do is to quit rather than become a vessel through whom Satan will do an inside hatchet job! Satan and his cohorts know that a mighty door has been opened to the remnant, and that they cannot stop saints from gathering the spoils of war and blessings from Abba Father. Their new chief plan is to scatter whatever the saints gather. Watch out for the spirit of lawlessness in your home, ministry, business and all around you. Watch out for the spirit of dissension, the spirit that easily takes offence, the spirit of

gossip, back biting and whatever else distorts the coherence of your set up. There is a sure promise that God will deal with these adversaries

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power... (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

Our job is to locate the nature of such spirits, through discernment and prayer, and let God do the destroying. We need to trust Him for deliverance as we commit such challenges to Him in prayer; that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. (2 Thessalonians 3:2) We must love the unlovable, but hate the demons at work in them with a perfect hatred. We must exercise the power of the blood of Jesus and the authority of His name to subdue all the demons assigned by Hell to resist or scatter our blessings.

Will you go to war, right now?

Our responses to the Legacies of Christ

Chapter 12

Genuine Repentance and Conversion

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

"Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19a)

The narrow Gate referred to in Matthew's gospel above is called REPENTANCE AND CONVERSION. These two words combine to create a holistic effect in the life of anyone who would apply them. To repent means to experience a sincere, deep anguish and pain for a life lived outside of Christ, while conversion leads to an absolute change of mind and direction concerning one's lifestyle. The Lord's intention in combining the two is for the mortal man who is dead in sin and trespasses to one day receive the Holy Spirit's convicting illumination, which results in an awareness of the Lord's displeasure, as well as the consequences of continuing in that sinful way of life.

Such a person now sees the blood of Jesus Christ as the only sufficient atonement for his old sinful life. Deeply convicted during a moment of light and crisis, he genuinely repents not just of one element of sin, but of his entire filthy life, and whole heartedly embraces the redemption offered. Sins are washed away in that moment and there is a change of life and identity deep within the spirit man. This person becomes a saint of God, made righteous by the blood of Jesus, and

translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God. Old things about him pass away and a new creation emerges from that definite encounter with the Lord, with his name now inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life. Through the working of the Blood, this new member of God's family, as a citizen of His Kingdom, receives joy, peace, righteousness or right standing with God (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:12-14). Saints, this tangible, life-changing encounter with God is what brings the Kingdom into your heart; and through it, the Holy Spirit seals you unto the day of final redemption.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Satan has used religion to sell mankind a cheaper, counterfeit version of the Kingdom. What religion now offers waters down the significance of Romans 10:8-10?

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; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The repentance required in its contemporary popular, corrupted form does not lead to a definite encounter with the Lord or a transformed life. It is either regret for one's actions,

or repenting of a particular sin which a preacher may mention when preaching powerfully, neither of which results in a conversion experience. Today, many attend a crusade or revival service during which the preacher repeatedly denounces a particular sin or lifestyle (stealing, immorality, lying or any other sin), until the hearer is convicted of that PARTICULAR SIN and steps out to answer an altar call. That person repented of a specific sin, but not of his sin nature and old life. Conversion does not follow thereby!

Some people answer altar calls in response to the preacher's charisma or fame; and after a short "sinner's prayer", said in great haste with music blaring, they are assured they are now born again. Saints, let no one deceive you. No one can assure your salvation. Only the Holy Spirit is qualified to do so with an assurance that is not empty, but is proved in your heart by the deep sense of right standing with God, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (Romans 8:16-17)

It is also proved by the way you live thereafter, as well as by the cravings of your soul. If you have been inducted into the Kingdom of God, there will be evidence of such proceeding out of your inner core.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. (Romans 14:17-18)

Saint, how did you enter the Kingdom of God? Through the narrow way Jesus Christ proposed, or the wide gate offered by religion or denominational practices? Please settle this matter today and enjoy the JUBILEE found in Christ Jesus. Do not let your title, years in ministry or the numbers of years you have been a "Christian" deceive you. The shortest route to hell is through the Church, and often, via the pulpit (Matthew 7:13, 14; Acts 3:19).

Chapter 13

Consecration

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

With genuine repentance and conversion, the spirit man is instantly transitioned into the family and kingdom of God. This is the beginning of a walk with God which assures us that He is no longer a distant religious God, but a living, loving Father with whom we can enjoy a mutually satisfying relationship. The Spirit of Grace cries in our hearts, "Abba Father'. We realize how close He is; with His residence not only in heaven but also deep within our hearts.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God...(Romans 8:15-16)

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

We, in turn, respond to this matchless love by abandoning our agendas, fleshly pursuits and personal preferences; and we willingly enthrone Jesus in our hearts. What is actually required is to give up our natural inclination to live independently of the influence and "control" of God, and submit to the unchallenged rule of Jesus Christ. This, saints, is what is called Consecration. Consecration is God's first requirement of the truly redeemed, both in the Old and New Testaments. Jesus Himself confirmed it when He informed the enquiring scribe that God requires all mortals to love Him with everything He has blessed us with, and to live for Him.

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him; "which is the first commandment of all?" And Jesus answered him, "the first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." (Mark 12:28-30)

Consecration is the proof that we love and trust God without question. Anyone who cannot love God this way is truly not fit for purpose in His Kingdom.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, "Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest." And Jesus said unto him, "foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

And he said unto another, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father." Jesus said unto him, "let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God."

And another also said, "Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." And Jesus said unto him, "no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:57-62)

Any un-consecrated area of your life will soon digress into religion, dead works and ultimately, sin. Consecration requires no coercion. Many saints receive Jesus as Saviour but deny Him Lordship over their lives. Your Saviour guarantees your eternity when you die. Your Lord will rule over every area of your life while on this side of eternity.

Saints, Jesus will be both Lord and Saviour! If He does not rule your heart in this present life, He cannot guarantee your eternity (Matthew 16:24-26). The greatest need of the hour is for people who claim to know Jesus to allow Him to rule their every thought, speech, attitude, ambition, desire, and perspective. The Lord is searching for saints who will trust Him enough to release their past, present and future to Him. This is the grand secret of the sin-free life that will project the person and power of Jesus Christ to this generation.

Chapter 14

Single Minded Commitment to the Kingdom

Saints, we must allow the Holy Spirit to help us answer the question: "once saved, why are we left on earth when it would be better to go and be with the Lord?" The answer is simple: to co-build the present phase of the Kingdom with Christ. This phase essentially involves getting the kingdom into the hearts of men and women so that they submit to Jesus' authority and give Him their primary allegiance over and above any other person, authority or system of governance (Luke 17:21; John 18:36; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58). Those who presently teach about the kingdom for personal gain are on assignment to make you to miss the mark, and the Lord will soon expose their dangerous leaven so that no true saint is deceived (Romans 14: 17-19).

In the future, we shall assume the role of co-heirs with Christ, ruling and reigning as kings under Him, right here on Planet Earth (Romans 8:17, 29, 30). To inherit that great destiny, we are called to take our place as instruments through which the Lord will do the following:

• Continue Jesus Christ's mission on earth, which is to seek and save the lost.

(Luke 19:10): There are souls destined for God's kingdom who will only connect when those ordained to tell them the good news go forth to do so. When Jesus exited this earth after just 33½ years, He did so fully understanding that those who believe His Word would make themselves available to finish the work of announcing that the price for redemption has been paid. Saint, if you are not committed to declaring the

good news, it may be necessary to examine whether you are in the kingdom. The way God designed it, all of what we do – in our private lives, homes, in the market place or when we congregate – form part of one organic continuum; centred on bringing the lost into the Kingdom and empowering saints to be true Disciples of Christ. Please check out your church programmes. Do they have this strong focus? If not, you might be off track. (Luke 19:10; 2 Corinthians 5:1-21)

- Declare to all and sundry that Jesus is coming back soon to provide the answer to the world's needs for peace, security, prosperity and all that is **good.** Those who receive Him now are guaranteed to become sons of God, irrespective of normally excluding factors like gender, race, ethnicity and religion. Those who reject this simple lifeline will be cut off from God and face His wrath in eternity. As we declare this compelling message with the power of the Holy Spirit and real conviction based on knowledge of the truth, multitudes will run to Him for shelter. This will spark the greatest revival ever known as men and women discover that what happened to the people of Sodom and Gomorra hand those of Noah's day will befall them if they do not repent.
- To be able to preach this truth of the Kingdom, we must completely give ourselves over to Him, be filled with, and full of the Holy Spirit, and experience the transforming power of the Blood such that our lives literarily glow with the presence and power of Jesus Christ. We thus become His living witnesses, branded with the fire of the Holy

Spirit. To be involved in the rat race of this world. remain in bondage to the economic, political and social systems of Babylon, yet claim with a loud voice that one is a "Kingdom" citizen or preacher is laughable. The Kingdom of God runs on opposite directions and systems to the kingdoms of this world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16: 15-18). Saints, our going forth is the key to the releasing people from the yoke of Satan and sin. In the same way, our staying back will cause people to remain enslaved. Of course, we cannot convert anyone by ourselves; what God is looking for are vessels to declare the good news. The Holy Spirit will do the work of conviction unto repentance. Our lives and the words we declare will witness against those who harden their hearts on the last day.

Then said Jesus to them again, "peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, "receive ye the Holy Ghost; whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

Chapter 15

Live the Love Life

Saints, the Lord set a critical benchmark for all who say they belong to Him. It is the benchmark of love. As is stated in Matthew 22:37-40; those who belong to the Lord are enjoined to love Him wholeheartedly; and, flowing from this, to love every person created in His image.

Jesus said unto him, "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)

The love of God constrains us to respond in like manner to Him; and to have nothing but Him at the centre of our lives. Our love for God is not negotiable. It cannot be displaced by the love of any other, otherwise it is corrupted. A spouse cannot displace that primal love; neither can children, jobs, business or even ministry! Anything which displaces the absolute and supreme love of God is an idol. The God we serve is jealous over us; a truth that repulsed a popular American TV personality into abandoning the faith and joining the New Age movement. The truth is that this TV personality may well stand in judgement against many saints on the Last Day because she was honest enough to publicly admit that this was what she found repulsive about the God of the Bible! Many today have placed selfish ambition, family, possessions and even patriotism or the fear of political systems above their love for God; yet they loudly profess to

be saints and Kingdom citizens. The benchmark of true discipleship is the degree to which Jesus enjoys unrestricted primacy in our hearts (Matt. 10:32-39).

If we truly love God, these outcomes will be our lifestyle:

• We will obey His Word without reservation. His instructions will not be grievous; and we will discover that our heart's inclination to please Him draws down the grace needed to live in willing submission to His authority. It flows naturally when we abide in Him. (John 15:1-14; 1 John 2:3-6; 1 John 4:19; 1 John 5:1-3).

...He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, "Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?" 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. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." (John 14:21-24)

• We will love the brethren because we are children of the same Father, redeemed by the same blood of the Lamb, and citizens of the same Kingdom;

A new commandment I give unto you; that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:34-35)

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

As the President of the International Ministers Fellowship, Dr. Cosmas Ilechukwu notes in his epic book, *The Church of His Vision*, "Love is the essential DNA of the Church". It is the very root gene which we inherit from God our Father (Galatians 6:9, 10; 1 John 4:16; 1 John 3:10-20; 1 John 4:7-21; Ephesians 5:1, 2).

- hearts to inflict pain on other people through hurtful words or lifestyles. There will be no room for immoral thoughts, words or deeds. Immorality represents hatred of one's own self; and eventually hurts spouses, as well as the household of Faith. Love will cause brothers and sisters to relate with purity and godly fear. True love for fellow saints will keep away evil propensities and keep the house of God pure. (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Ephesians 5:1-14; Ephesians 4:17-29)
- If we genuinely have the 'love' DNA of God abounding in us, we will know, from our Father's experience, that in this lifetime, some people will sin against us, reject us, speak evil of, and do many potentially hurtful things to us. We must realize that the issue is not what people DO TO, OR SAY AGAINST us. The real deal is how we respond. Are we going to obey the Word of the Lord, follow Jesus' examples and choose to forgive them? If we truly want to enjoy our God-given Jubilee, we must lay hold of this word and ask the Lord to do a deep work of sanctification in our hearts and to renew our mind-sets so that we can see the glory in whatever fire He permits us to walk through. Let's quit the tendency to respond

with hurt and hate; reject that animalistic response and choose to follow Jesus' example. Our God-assigned response is to forgive men their trespasses so that we can not only approach His Throne of Grace with clean hands, but also have the capacity to release the power of God by faith. Let us freely forgive those who offend us, for in so doing, we release ourselves from bondage (Matthew 6:14, 15; Mark 11: 22-26)

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:30-32)

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously... (1 Peter 2:21-23)

- There are times when God, in His wisdom, may seek to release people who serve with us into another portion of His vineyard. Saints, when such situations arise, let us, with open hands, allow them to go forth and serve the Lord. Let us prevent every plan of Satan from bringing discord and bitterness in the process.
- We will live in unity because it is God's nature. God is united in Himself even though He manifests to us as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We should also live in unity

because Jesus prayed earnestly for this.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are... Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one n us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. (John 17:11, 20-23)

We are called to endeavour to keep the unity of the Faith in the bond of peace. It is not something we leave to chance or to our emotions as feelings can turn sour. Unity is something we live out and work towards at all levels – in our families, ministries and in the household of faith (Ephesians 4:1-6).

• We will love those who seek to make themselves our enemies or whose actions are very hurtful. Of course, as much as lies in us, we will endeavour to live peaceably with all men, but the Word has already indicated that some of us will interact with those who are wicked and unreasonable because they have no faith (2 Thessalonians 3: 1, 2). There are also some brothers and sisters who may unknowingly allow the enemy to use them to impugn our integrity, accuse us or try to destroy the work of the Lord thinking they are fighting us. That the Lord permits our paths to cross with such people means He has

something glorious in mind. More often than not, God uses the evil behaviour of such men or women to reveal the un-crucified parts of *our* hearts. Many times, He allows their actions to provoke aspects of the old man in us, so that we can recognize the monster within and cast ourselves upon Him for mercy. This is why the Lord warns us to desist from judging others.

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. (Matthew 7:1-6)

God wants us to be able ambassadors of His Kingdom by manifesting Christ in all situations, including when we encounter evil people or saints who wittingly or unwittingly do evil to us. We can love them, hate their evil actions or words, and by God's grace, choose not to respond to them in the same manner (Matthew 5:43-48). We should follow after peace with them, even when they do not reciprocate (Hebrews 12:14). When all else fails, we can resort to spiritual warfare to deal with the spirits at work in such people (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Chapter 16

Receive the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

In one of the studies we received from the Global School of Ministry, the Lord revealed that the Holy Spirit operates in four measures on all saints.

The first is the seal measure by which we are preserved unto the day of redemption, received at the point of conversion. The second is the transforming measure by which, as we abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit works deep in us to transform our lives. The third is the uniting measure by which He enables us to recognize, receive and walk with other saints. The final measure is the demonstrating dimension. This is where many saints fall short, predominantly because they lack the true knowledge of the Holy Spirit. The simple truth about the Holy Spirit has been made complex by the varying opinions of men.

Saints, our ability to live out the Kingdom life and demonstrate Christ's authority and power in our lifetime will be in perfect proportion to the measure of the Holy Spirit within us. Let no denominational teaching or our revulsion to the extremely distasteful lifestyles of many who dishonour the person and power of the Holy Spirit cause us to pull back. Those who live this way will answer to the Judge of the whole earth.

Jesus paid the supreme price for the Holy Spirit to be freely available to us. Since we can have as much of Him as we desire, we must not limit the amount we can receive, but go for all of Him. (John 7:37-39) Though the disciples received a measure from Christ after His resurrection, they nevertheless paid the price of obedience to wait on the Lord

until they received the full baptismal measure (John 20:21-23; Acts 1:4-8).

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.2And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

The pseudo Kingdom movement has told people that Jesus is not God (1 Corinthians 1:3). The proponents of the prosperity gospel have taught the saints to love this present world and its allurements (1 John 2:15-17). The neo-Pentecostal and neo-Charismatic movements have limited the Holy Spirit to speaking in tongues and being emotional in church meetings; often while at loggerheads with other groups in the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 1 Corinthians 4:6-7; 1 Corinthians 3:1-15). Those who believe these doctrines can never truly flow in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. They may speak with other tongues, but the power will be lacking.

Even if there is a flow of power – because the gifts and callings of God are without repentance – manifestations of the Holy Spirit will be contrasted by the lives that are far from Him and lead people away from the coming kingdom.

We need the real, unsurpassed power of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the greater power of God's Kingdom over the natural kingdoms and systems of this world. We need the Holy Spirit (for He is the Spirit of holiness) to live right in God's sight. We need Him to teach us, for He is the Spirit of Truth. We need His revelation of the one true Jesus, for that is the Holy Spirit's assignment. We need Him to exercise the priesthood of all saints, for He releases the gifts in us (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-30; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10, 11). With the Holy Spirit, our gender, ages, racial, ethnic and socio-economic statuses have no bearing on our calling; what matters is the anointing He releases upon a vessel. We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to operate in the offices to which Christ has called us, and to do the work of equipping the saints (Ephesians 4:11, 12).

The day has come when saints with the gifts of healing and working of miracles will head mission outreaches from local congregations that will invade hospitals, clinics and hospices to heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, raise the dead and bring creative miracles to pass. Imagine a band of Spirit-filled youths at Times Square, New York; the National Mall in Washington DC; Oxford Circus and Piccadilly Circus, London; calling people out of their wheel chairs in the name of Jesus. Imagine demons fleeing from people in Beijing, the heart of China!

You do not need a miracle-working healing evangelist visiting town once a year to stage an expensive crusade. You would not need any one to tell you that Jesus is alive and real when He manifests His presence and power through the lives of the redeemed. This is the glorious future to which the Lord is calling His saints. Let us stop all the noise making in the name of the anointing. It is demonstration time!

Chapter 17

Make the Great Commission the Centrepiece of Your Life!

The Love of God that we profess is proved, not by mere words, but by obedience to His commands and alignment with His purpose for mankind. Paul the apostle is a prime example of a saint whose life experienced a paradigm shift that affected his ambitions, disposition and life purpose. We recommend that you study Philippians 3:1-21 in order to get a glimpse of the life-changing nature of a true encounter with Christ. Paul was insistent on apprehending "that for which Christ apprehended" him (Philippians 3:12), and he sought, above all, "the prize of the upward call of God in Christ" (Philippians 3:14).

Why did God apprehend us? Was it for us to make more money? To achieve the Australian, American, European, Asian or African dream? Was it for us to own big businesses and get multiple promotions at work? Getting the answer to this question right is critical so that we can willingly let go of superfluities and make "the main thing" the main thing! When the Word says we should seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness, the Lord expects His redeemed to understand that it means we must release our hold on the kingdoms and attractions of this world and lay hold of His everlasting Kingdom. His Kingdom, which we have received in our hearts, beckons us to live for the fullness that will manifest when Jesus Christ returns to set it up. (Luke 17:21)

It is one of the legacies of Christ that we can receive Him, submit to the sovereign rule of God in this present life and springing from that holy relationship with Him as our King and Sovereign ruler, we exercise the power to be called the sons of God, separate from members of our families and colleagues in His sight!

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name,,,(John 1:11-12)

The fullness of the Kingdom is yet to come but everything we can be in it is being settled now by the way we live, our priorities and to what extent we completely give ourselves over to preparing the ground for its manifestation. In so doing, His righteousness, which is by faith in Christ Jesus, compels us to live right in holiness, pleasing Him in our thoughts, words and deeds. Let us reflect on these scriptures which reveal that the full dimension of the Kingdom of God will only be manifested when Jesus returns to set it up:

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, "art thou the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?"

Pilate answered; "am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?" Jesus answered, "my kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:33-36)

In a revelation granted to Paul, The Holy Spirit made it clear that the day is yet in the future when saints will be rewarded with the Kingdom – following resurrection of the dead in

Christ and catching up or rapture of the living at His second coming:

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)

This is why Jesus asked us to pray for its manifestation and remember that it is yet to come whenever we call on Abba! For that reason, Jesus gave one of the most challenging messages in Matthew 6: 19-34. There, He emphasized that our attitude to the things we see and possibly need in the present

may get in the way. He therefore called on all saints to seek that coming Kingdom with all their heart and strengths, trusting Abba to provide all their needs in the now. That miraculous provision of Abba for the saints is one of the legacies of Christ!

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Matthew 6:33-34)

Those who insist that the Kingdom is already here and encourage us to burn the midnight oil while expending all our energies pursuing the wealth and heights of this present life, are to be pitied for such blatant revisionism. Oh, may the fear of God prevent men from twisting His Words to confuse the saints!

God is not willing that anyone should perish – even though multitudes will choose to – which is why Jesus came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)

...Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4)

When it was time to depart from the earth. Jesus assured His disciples and us that He would return again to set up the Kingdom. In the interim, He charged His Body, the Church, with one assignment: to go forth and make disciples of all nations. What a seemingly tall order! Jesus asked the small band of 120 people to literally proceed, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring the lost of all races, nations and tribes into the Kingdom; and make them His disciples. The Great Commission is not about staging expensive crusades, crunching the numbers of completed decision cards, and using that information to claim pre-eminence and raise more funds. It is about bringing in people from darkness into the Kingdom of God, preparing them for the time to come when Jesus will rule and reign over this world in righteousness. This is not an assignment for a few super saints or a professional class of ministers called missionaries! The Great Commission is an assignment for the entire Body of Christ as a legacy He left for us!

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. (Mark 16:15-20)

The Great Commission is at the heart of the love of God for man. It was for that reason that The Holy Spirit was given so that the Church will be clothed with the divine presence and power needful to subdue Satan, bind his agents which hold humans captive and demonstrate the gospel as a supernatural endeavour with the approval of God. In so doing, the Church would be effectively preparing people to participate in the fullness of the Kingdom of God when Jesus returns.

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, "ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

And he said unto them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ve shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "ye men of Galilee, why stand ve gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus. which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:4-11)

The Great Commission is a deliberate lifestyle of deploying everything we are, and which God has invested in us, to sharing the good news of His Kingdom (not our congregations, denominations or great men/women of God) with those who are unsaved. As they receive our testimony, and are convicted by the Holy Spirit, we are to enable them to press in and become disciples of Christ through systematic teaching of the Word (teaching them to observe all things – Matthew 28:18-20). As they become disciples, they should be exposed to the five-fold ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers which will empower them to become able ministers of the New Testament:

...And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:11-12)

When this happens, they become Priests of Jesus Christ after the order of Melchizedek rather than the restrictive Priesthood of Levi.

For He testifies, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 7:17)

Under this order, you do not need to be the son of a priest, be college-educated, or in a monastery to serve the Lord. Every saint is called to find their place in ministry and to be fulfilled as they discover and exercise their spiritual gifts and callings.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

That is the whole point in releasing the Holy Spirit: so that the Body of Christ will function as a living, loving organism rather than a cold dry organization or institution. Every member of The Body is functionally relevant as we discover, release spiritual gifts which are in us while receiving those in other saints. The epistle of Paul to the Romans chapter 12 offers an exposition on this subject matter.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:3-8)

1 Corinthians 12 proceeds to expound on this beautiful analogy of the Body of Christ as a living organism comprising

various parts empowered by the Holy Spirit to manifest a measure of divinity.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Let us give ourselves over to this continuum of preaching so that sinners can hear and repent. Let us make disciples of the saved and equipping disciples to be ministers the centrepiece of our lives. If we are not fully engaged in this exercise, we must question whether we are truly consecrated to the Lord and committed to His Kingdom. If we ask the Lord, He will show us the part reserved for us in this continuum. Every one of us can, and should share the good news in our spheres of influence. We can all help disciple those who are saved by mentoring them one on one as 2 Timothy 2:2 counsels:

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

The equipping of the saints should be the core activity of every congregation; otherwise they will backslide into strife, competition and keeping the Holy Spirit in the box called the Church building. Let us allow Him to use us to take the "church" from the building to the community. That is where the action is! We can only be living expressions of the great Legacies of Jesus Christ when we discover what part of the Body He has made us and become so in practice, 24/7 any where we find ourselves!

Chapter 18

Grow in Grace and Mature to Sonship

When we come into the Kingdom, we are like babes having limited understanding, naive yet newly minted members of the family of God and His Kingdom. The teacher of the Law, Nicodemus was startled when Jesus gave the analogy of the new birth with babyhood.

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him; "how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:1-6)

Jesus illustrated this reality in an important discourse with His disciples.

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I

say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:1-4)

That is why young saints need the simple milk of the Word to be nurtured.

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Peter 2:1-3)

No one is permitted to remain a babe for too long! We are to mature, not stay at that level. The Lord has ordained that we proceed from babyhood to grow in grace and become all that He has purposed us to be.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

The growth process is not just about feeding them with milk. It involves offering of deeper truth of The Word as well as a deliberate cooperation with the process by the individual saints. It is the will of God that every saint must yearn to grow and diligently apply the principles in the word.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to

godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-11)

In the divine growth process, the next steps for the saint are these:

Discipleship: Grow through the teaching of God's word into a disciple of Christ. A disciple follows the master blindly, doing whatever is instructed without question. A disciple is dependable and faithful, keeping whatever is committed to her. The disciple does not need to know the mind of the Master save for what is shared with him/her. To follow and serve the Master without question or understanding why is the hallmark of a true disciple.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:24-26)

Good as this state of life is, God has ordained much more for the saints.

Friendship with Christ: The connotation here is one of intimacy. Here, you come to love your Master so much that His very presence is a sweet fragrance to your soul; and your relationship with Jesus literally transitions from Master-Servant to "friend". As a friend, He bares His heart to, and withholds nothing from you. Your service is no longer slavish and "to" Him but "with" Him. You have access to Him without needing any human or angelic intermediary. This is the transitioning Jesus announced to His faithful disciples after three and half years of serving as His servants.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. (John 15:14-15)

Friendship with Christ leads us to *walk with* Him step by step before we *work with* Him. That was the grand secret of Abraham's outstanding life: he was such a friend of God that God would always share deep things with him (Genesis 17:1-4; Genesis 18:1-9, 17-19).

Sonship: Wonderful as it is to be intimate with Christ, there is yet another level of relationship that He calls us to attain with Him, referred to as Sonship. God wants all of us (not a select few) to grow into Sonship. The whole essence of the incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is to raise many sons to glory.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "behold I and the children which God hath given me."

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. (Hebrews 2:10-18)

The same Holy Spirit who was responsible for the incarnation of Jesus in the womb of Mary and who filled Him at the Baptism of John is the same Holy Spirit who convicted us of sin and ensured our new birth. With that same Holy Spirit, we are called to be sons of God!

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have

received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Romans 8:14-16)

To be called a son of God is a privilege God confers on all saints who accept the honour and pay the price of consecration and commitment to Him, His Kingdom and righteousness above all else. It has nothing to do with gender, age or socio-economic status because it pertains to the standing of the spirit man, not the soul or body.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29)

Jesus announced that the hour He came to inaugurate would witness a paradigm shift where every person's standing with the Father would depend on the disposition of their spirits towards the Father and His agenda (John 4: 21-24).

Sonship speaks of a standing with God in which we picture Him as a personal Father. We have a sense of having being begotten by Him through the New Birth as the Holy Spirit and the Word translate us from being natural children of our earthly parents into sons of God. Jesus Himself first hinted at the possibility of human beings relating with God as Father when He told the excited Mary Magdalene as she came to embrace Him after the resurrection: "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren

and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God'" (John 20:17). Sons walk in the privilege of having this deep knowledge of the Father's mind and are completely sold out to His agenda. Because of this, we are able to think, speak and act as our older brother, Jesus, would if He were present. This is a serious matter. In fact, the people of the world will take note and bow to the authority of Christ when they experience true sons of God (Romans 8:1-5, 10-23). Because they have no personal agenda and ambitions, sons are led in all things – minor and major – by the Holy Spirit. They seek the Father's certificate of approval, not the applause of men. Jesus' promise of Greater Works (John 14:12) is based on the principle that sons will emulate Jesus and die completely to self (John 12:24).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (John 14:12)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)

That way, no ambition, selfishness, love of the world, covetousness or indeed any corrupt facet of the old man will hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Sonship at this present time offers us a sneak peek into the time when Jesus will establish the fullness of the Kingdom. We presently exert His presence and authority in our spheres of influence. However, the day is coming when, as Jesus Christ sits in Jerusalem to be the Potentate and Supreme Monarch over all creation, we will rule and reign in specific territories over peoples and nations as kings (Matthew 19:27-30; Romans

8:17-25; 1 John 3:1-3; Revelation 1:5, 6; Revelation 5:9, 10). That is the glorious Millennial reign of Jesus when Satan and all evil will be bound and the benefice of our Great King Jesus is manifested world-wide with us as priests and kings ruling with Him! That is why Jesus is called King of Kings – we will co-rule with Him!

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Rev 20:1-6)

Like every other doctrine of the pseudo kingdom movement, this glorious plan of God for us has been twisted to mean the exact opposite. It has become the basis on which some preachers have fostered the "Dominion" theology that saints will take over governance and every apex of culture in this present life as a platform to rule and reign with Jesus in this present time. This has generated the religious equivalent of the rat race in society as saints now pursue fleshly ambitions and dreams purported to be visions from God. Heaven-sent visions come with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, while ambitions cause stress, burnout and can be burdensome

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. (Rom 14:17-19)

That is why Jesus invites us to cast all our cares upon Him and receive His yoke and rest.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Secondly, the enemy has used the glorious privilege God extends to us as an excuse for the pseudo kingdom movement to claim that we are now equal to Christ, thus denying His divinity. Some leaders of this movement are merchandizing their names as brands, fleecing saints with human philosophies which they publish at expensive prices. As saints gobble up their toxic wisdom, these men smile all the way to

the bank while those who sustain their worldly lifestyles run around in circles trying to apply their wisdom to "take over" the world! Those who invite them to speak at meetings are often amazed at the strong commercialization of their gifts and "names". That is the fruit of error. Jesus said we would know people by their fruit and lifestyles (Matthew 7:15-23). Whoever will make money in an ungodly way, pursue fame with worldly passion and seek pre-eminence with the gifts and callings released freely by the grace of God will not function as a son of God in this present life and in the world to come.

Jesus is the perfect model of sonship: the death of self, a life lived wholly for the good pleasure and purpose of God – even when inconvenient – with complete reliance on Him to determine what is best. The quality of prayers offered to the Father by Jesus at Gethsemane offers an insight into the mind of a Son who trusts the Father completely.

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ve here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples. and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. (Matthew 26:36-46)

By so doing, Jesus established the strong Kingdom principle: Prayer is not an invitation to impose our will and desires on God expecting Him to accede to our whims! True prayer is like spiritual midwifery: to know, accept and birth the will of God on earth! To do the will of God was a central principle of the life of Jesus and should be ours also as sons!

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. (John 5:30)

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (John 6:38)

Sons learn to love the Father more than the work. They enjoy the Father's presence and yearn to hear from Him always. His Word is always sweet music to their ears and, therefore, studying and meditating on it is as essential to their lives as breathing air! Sons spend quality time in the presence of God, ever ready to hear what He will say. They do not rush into His presence to offload their latest list of prayer points. In prayer, sons take the place of spiritual midwives who partner with God to bring forth His will. To them "Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as in heaven" is not a catch phrase. It is life itself

Saints, God is about a release us into this realm of sonship. Press into this state! This is where the Father's concerns become ours because we are one with Him, just as Jesus was one with Him while on earth. In this state we mirror whatever we see the Father doing, and every challenge we meet generates this question: "what would Jesus do if He were me?" Saints, when we are in this glorious state, the Sermon on the Mount becomes a piece of cake. People will take note when we make this transition. Satan will quake and tremble as we approach because he will know that we become major threats to his kingdom when we are plugged in to our source, Jesus and the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 19

Build According to Plan

It is alarming that saints can just wake up, begin, and run a ministry based on what they think, feel and have seen done "successfully" elsewhere. This is absolutely unacceptable to the Lord. We live in an age where saints seem to have forgotten Jesus Christ's warnings about the sensitivity of the Holy Spirit. Saints today are quick to attribute everything they do to the Holy Spirit. Even when they receive a revelation that contradicts scripture, they claim it is from the Holy Spirit! Jesus made it clear that the Holy Spirit cannot contradict Him nor shall He speak of His own! It is also clear that the Holy Spirit cannot contradict the written word.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (John 16:13)

The written word is very clear that the foundation for the Church of Jesus is Christ Himself. The word also makes it clear that God chose to reveal the strategic master plan of the Church through a vessel called Paul the Apostle. That master plan is clearly articulated in the Pauline epistles. One of the most profound scriptures is found in 1 Corinthians Chapter 3.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 (Cor 3:10-15)

The time has come for sons restore the true foundation of Christ in the building of His Church.

It is strange that any brother or sister in this closing chapter of the ages would dare to plant or lead a church without recourse to the master plan. Both Cain and Abel offered God a sacrifice, but Cain's was rejected. So also shall be the fate of many so-called Church works that litter the religious landscape. Many Overseers and Pastors will be disappointed on the Last Day when, on presenting deformed entities to the Lord for approval, they receive the harsh rebuke: "depart from me for I never knew you..."

Not every one that saith unto me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?" And in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:21-25)

Sons do not build religious corporations or soulish empires. True sons do not:

- build denominations based on man's ideas
- Exclude people with inspired but biblically sound ideas which are different to theirs.
- Refer to the building as the "church". They know the building is not the church, no matter how beautiful the religious architecture.
- Spend a disproportionate amount of resources on buildings and programmes.

Sons will make it clear to saints that "we", the called-out ones, are the Church. Sons will make it clear to other saints that we are called into the Kingdom of God, and that millions of others world-wide are of the same parentage and citizenship. Sons will do away with every issue, policy and tendency which creates an organisation rather than an organism. The more radical sons will do away with the so-called church membership register, except where required by the law of the land. They will do away with those things that make any visiting true saint feel like a "visitor" or "stranger".

God's sons know that He cannot accept just anything presented to Him in the name of ministry. They recognise His strategic master plan for the Church and that Jesus Himself is building His Church according to the heavenly pattern. Therefore, they make "the main thing" the main thing in ministry by:

- Doing everything possible to ensure that the lost within their sphere of influence hear the Good News of God's Kingdom; and that no one within their territory has any excuse on the Last Day;
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to give them all they need to effectively teach new converts about Jesus and His life. This will prepare them to pay the price to become disciples 'indeed'. Such saints should be assigned to mature saints who would follow up and mentor them in

- knowing Jesus as Lord and submitting to His authority in every area of their lives. This is what 2 Timothy 2:2 recommends as the way for ministries to grow disciples.
- Creating an enabling environment for the expression of leadership gifts within the ministry. That way, disciples can be trained, equipped, and activated in the and gifts callings of the Holy Spirit and within two to, say, four years of conversion, be released into ministry. This process is non negotiable (Ephesians 4:11-16). Any ministry which keeps saints in the pews, coming to a "church" building two or three times a week to receive a shot of spiritual morphine is aborting the purpose and strategic plan of Christ! They are not building with Him. On the Last Day, all such work will not survive the fiery test of God and shall be revealed as toxic to the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

Chapter 20

Live the Simple Life in Humility

Saints, Jubilee is about liberty and true freedom. The greatest liberty we can enjoy is that which frees us from the rat race for earthly success. That rat race is responsible for every superfluity of naughtiness imaginable – the pride of life, seeking undue pleasure from worldly amusements, deep attachment and addiction to the latest fads, pursuit of money as an end in itself, and striving for pre-eminence. All these things induce a false sense of success and inevitably result in spiritual bondage to the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 6:3-12; 1 John 2:15-17). If we want to enjoy His Jubilee, the starting point is to receive the yoke of Christ which brings true freedom, peace and rest for the soul (Matthew 11:28-30). When we do so, the pride of life, with its destructive potential to incur the ire of God, will be removed, and humility will flow naturally (James 4:6-10).

Let us take a good look at our lifestyles, and examine the structures we have constructed or allowed to spring up in ministry. Do they create unnecessary barriers and layers of bureaucracy which make it difficult for the saints to access or relate with us? Do the saints we pastor have to spend months waiting in line to get a 15 minute appointment for counselling or prayer? Have we supplanted Christ with ourselves such that saints need us as mediators between them and their Redeemer? That is a dangerous proposition. Let us learn to willingly decrease before the saints while they behold the One who redeemed them. Let us emulate John the Baptist who willingly accepted that the Bridegroom alone deserves the Bride's full attention. That John was willing to decrease for

the person he baptised only a little while before is a strong indicator of true wisdom

Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, "Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him." John answered and said, "a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.' He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3:25-36)

Saints, let us live in such a way that we can say with Paul, "I know how to abase and how to abound" (Philippians 4: 12,

13), by letting go of every attachment to earthly things and enjoying the blessedness of owning nothing, yet having all! This glorious life takes our minds off earthly cares even as we place them securely in the hands of Jesus Christ, the true centre of our being. When we have dealt with our mind-set in this manner, we will begin to see life and "success" the way they truly are: fleeting and transient. So transient that we cannot afford to latch onto anything that can blur our vision of eternity (James 4:13-17; James 5:1-8; Matthew 6:25-34). When we are filled with this consciousness, moderation will come naturally to us, even if God blesses us with all the wealth in the world

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Saints, let us let go of self esteem, ego, positions and simply be brothers and sisters to our fellow redeemed of the Lord. Let us give ourselves as vessels of honour for God to use in empowering them to be all He ordained them to be. When we live this way, the word "disappointment" will depart from our lexicon. All things will begin to work together for our good because the Lord will have the right to use our every situation and circumstance to establish His purpose. (Romans 8:28-39) When saints walk in this dimension of maturity in Christ, they display Him in renewed minds, right attitudes and day to day life

Chapter 21

Jubilee Declarations

To the World-wide Dispersed Remnant

Jubilee is God's provision for His people who suffer any kind of deprivation to enjoy Liberty, Restoration and Renewal (Luke 4:18, 19). It is all about who you really are in Christ and Christ becoming the definition of your life.

You are:

- The son of a real, loving and caring Father.
- A brand new creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 2:10, 11; Romans 8:12-17
- Redeemed from the curse on Adam, the earth and of the Law: Genesis 3:17-19; Galatians 3:13,14

Old Things have passed away: Your old life of condemnation and enmity with God, self and ambitions has become a thing of the past.

God's Word to You

Live in Me like the son you are adopted to be. Live the love life – whether or not it is convenient (Matthew 22: 37-40). Reject the bondage of religion which says you are a sinner. Believe My Word and live in the awareness that you are my saint; my holy, consecrated one. Your pattern of prayer, lifestyle, and attitude to Me and My priorities will change drastically if you gain the understanding of this reality and walk in the knowledge that you are My living temple, not a happenstance (1 Corinthians 6: 19,20).

Satan, demons, sin, the world and self have no dominion over your life unless you wilfully give them the right of way or refuse the grace freely wired into you in Jesus Christ (1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4, 5; 1 John 5:18-21).

Jesus is your Jubilee (John 8:32, 36): Take your place. Exercise your Kingdom authority whenever Satan, humanity and circumstances show up. Your Destiny is safe and secure in My hands. Neither Satan nor man can take it away or alter it. Only you can reject or treat it with disdain. Quit worry and anxiety, and trust Me as a loving, caring, responsible Father who will fulfil all that I have said about you (Matthew 6: 25-34).

The Great Commission – your assignment in this dispensation – should become the primary focus of your life. Understand your part in it at local, regional, national and global levels. Make it your preoccupation. Let it determine everything you do; who you relate intimately to or network with; where you worship; how you spend money. Let it determine the spiritual, physical, social and economic investments you make (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:80; Luke 19:10-27; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 14:17-19).

Understand that the process for your glorification is fixed. Drop the ways of Babylon and Egypt – self-preservation and self-promotion. Allow My appointed fires, waters, trials, tests and personnel to do the work intended to bring out your best in Christ – so that you can draw on My grace which is sufficient for you. Take your eyes off the challenges; fix them on the divine purpose and glorious outcome (Isaiah 43:1, 2; Romans 8:28-30, 31-39; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

The end of all things is at hand. Jesus is coming back soon! Live in the light of eternity. Never allow the temporal to shift your focus away from the eternal 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Keep the big picture of your crown in view and let it determine

what you allow or reject. Let your firm focus on the grand objective keep you refreshed even in the midst of pressure, trials and temptations (Hebrews 12:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 2:17; 25-29; Revelation 3:4-6; 12, 20-21; Revelation 22:7, 12, 17).

Make These Jubilee Declarations over yourself.

- 1. I am a son and saint of God, set apart for His sole holy use, wired with the capacity to love Him above all else and my neighbour as myself; treating others as I wish to be treated (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Matthew 7:12). My love for my Father and Redeemer is out of gratitude and to fulfil a vital purpose for my being. Therefore, I shall not tie my devotion and service to my Father to any blessing I expect from Him.
- 2. Neither Satan, demons, wicked people, circumstances, nor the pressures of life have any permission or power to destroy me or limit my ability to be who God has ordained me to be (1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4, 53).
- 3. Every limitation of any sort, or curse which was purposed, projected, spoken over my life, spouse, parents, children or destiny is recognized as broken at the Cross and remains so (Colossians 1:12-14; Colossians 2:14,15).
- 4. From today, as pronounced and sealed by the blood of the Lamb, my Jubilee will show forth practically in the following realms, as I walk in Extreme Love, Full Grace, Complete Liberty, Full Rest, and Restoration of all that was lost through my past ignorance and carelessness. I receive and walk in:
 - 4.1. Consciousness of my true spiritual identity in Christ at all times (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- 4.2. Unlimited Joy (John 16:23,24)
- 4.3. Open doors and lifted gates to preach the gospel of God's kingdom to nations, cities, peoples and thrones (Psalm 24:7-10: Revelation 3:8)[For the Reformation, Restoration and Revival Movement, the charge is to fulfil Acts 1:8 by taking the liberating true gospel of the Kingdom and its holistic process of Training, Equipping, Activating and Releasing Saints into ministry to ALL nations of the earth before 12-12-12 (Wednesday, December 12, 2012, if Jesus tarries). If the Lord leads you to be part of this holistic Sovereign move of God for the final harvest. please contact us at ariseoffice@vahoo.co.uk].
- 4.4. Open doors and lifted gates to excel in the marketplace of my profession, businesses and investments into nations, cities, peoples and thrones world-wide.
- 4.5. Divine strength and grace to go through every situation and circumstance (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- 5. As I seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness, all other things which I need that pertain to life and godliness will come to me without struggle or sweat (Matthew 6:33; 2 Peter 1:3). My days of sweat were judged at Calvary; and I no longer live under the Adamic curse (Genesis 3:17-19) or the Law (Colossians 2:14-16)
- 6. I choose life and will live to fulfil my God-ordained destiny; therefore I will not speak evil of any man or rebel against authority. Any time I find myself unable to fit into any group, fellowship or congregation, I will rely on the Holy Spirit to lead me where He wants me. I will not destroy the work of the Lord wherever I am.

| 7. | enter into this Covenan that was sealed by the b the Cross at Calvary. H light of these revelation | very aspect of my yesterday and t Commitment with Abba Father blood Jesus Christ shed for me on foly Spirit, help me to live in the ns and to tap into the grace in hese Jubilee Declarations daily, in |
|----|---|--|
| | Signed | Date |
| | Name | |

Personal Notes

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