

# THE CALL, COST AND REWARDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

A silhouette of a person in a boat on a lake at sunset, pulling a net. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow, with clouds catching the low sun. The water reflects the colors of the sky. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of mountains.

**GEORGE AKALONU**

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# **The Call, Costs & Rewards of Discipleship**

**George Akalonu**

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All saints who have been part of the process of birthing this Kingdom Culture resource are acknowledged in both the imprint page as well as the postscript. To Elohim is all the glory for release of His Grace, in 21 years, to apprehend His Heart and download same for distribution to the Kingdom Church!

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**Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV)** *1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:..... 47*

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## Preface for the Kingdom Culture Series

We have tarried before the Lord for some time to receive a rhema concerning how to introduce the books in the series you are about to read. He directed us to share a little bit of how He ordered our steps over a 21-year period between 1996-2017.

In 1996, the Lord called us out of denominationalism to serve His Body and Kingdom. As we resigned from a Pastoral calling and began to serve Him and the Body in a community in Africa (Owerri, Imo State of Nigeria), we held on to one critical vision He released beginning August 1996. At that time, we joined other saints to lament the sad state of Africa on almost all fronts of life. It was surreal to hear the Lord comfort us by saying He had appointed His Church in Africa as instrument of a quick work: Rescuing His Kingdom program in the earth realm from corruption in preparation for the return of King Yeshua, Jesus.

In August 2006, He directed us to relocate to London which as centre of the world which would make our Acts 1:8 assignment more impactful on a global scale. Looking back, because we did not see it then, it is significant that it was 100 years after Azusa Street Revival that the Lord in 2006 birthed Global School of Ministry as a catalyst of Reformation, Restoration, and Revival. Again, we did not see clearly then how extensively it was to be used to rediscover Truths which were missed out by Martin Luther in the Protestant Reformation of 1517.

Interestingly, the Lord used various means to make it clear what He was about to do was not raise a man or woman, like Martin Luther was raise prominently and publicly. But rather activate a company of saints worldwide with understanding of Him and the Church. A company of saints who embrace His Kingdom pattern and take their place as His sons who would do all His will. In this regard, the Lord made it clear the election of His Church in Africa was not for the purpose of building an 'African Cultural Church'. The wider and more strategic scope was to use it to use His remnant 'out of the seed of Ham to impact and connect His seed out of Shem and Japheth to constitute the fourth race which is the Elect Remnant or one new man' spoken of by Apostle Paul.

In other words, the focus of the Lord was simply to use the Global School of Ministry project to activate His elect remnant to walk in unity of the Faith. And, be empowered to represent Him and the Kingdom right where they are in various corners of the world where He preserved them from the claws of Babylon. It was then Holy Spirit provided illumination of this anchor scripture:

**Romans 11:5 (KJV)** *5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*

There is a simple, yet grand key to understand the fundamental difference between the Martin Luther Protestant Reformation and the Kingdom Culture project. The Reformation of Martin Luther was designed to 'Protest' some of the dogma and practices of the Roman Catholic Church when he received revelation of their unbiblical origins.

The Kingdom Culture project, on the other hand, is designed to take the Church back to what it was before the Roman Empire embraced the larger wing of the Church which was tired of persecution and

martyrdom in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. In other words, through the Kingdom Culture project, the Omega or End Time Church will be a logical conclusion of what had started in the Alpha or First Century Church.

Unlike other reformation project before it, Kingdom Culture, through the Global School of Ministry and annual Master Class series of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program have two simple keys: Get the Church back into the 'School' Paradigm where Study of the Word is central to both congregational and general ministry. Second, is to challenge all saints to receive the Four-dimensional work of Holy Spirit: He Is the Seal of redemption; He uses the Word to Transform Life of Believers from inside out, He Unites saints to live as one indivisible Body of Yeshua notwithstanding their locations or sects; He releases Power through which saints are able to demonstrate the awesome powers of the Risen Yeshua, Jesus!

These are accomplished when leaders and saints sincerely and diligently embrace the ministry of Holy Spirit and the Word through the **T>T>E>A>R process**. It is one where leaders are used by Holy Spirit to:

- Teach saints the whole counsel of Holy Scriptures
- Train saints to discover and take their places as effective members of the Body of Yeshua
- Equip saints with what it takes to walk in victory through mentorship and support
- Activate the Gifts and callings of Holy Spirit which may lie dormant in them
- Release the saints into productive ministry. This may be by public ordination or Commissioning during ministry events.

500 years after the Protestant Reformation of 1517, the Lord Yeshua, Jesus is activating throughout the earth realm this framework. The framework through which Holy Spirit will undertake training of Reformers who will receive proper understanding of the Pauline Epistles and Master Plan of the true Kingdom Church contained therein, and build individual lives, ministries and congregations accordingly.

This Kingdom Culture project involves release of 40 books in dedicated websites where all saints worldwide who desire to discover, pursue and fulfil their callings as the Royal Priesthood after the order of Melchizedeck can find the teaching resources to train in the comfort of their own homes.

On the other hand, these 40 books will put in the hands of the great company of elect ministers across the world who know the flock is not theirs but Yeshua's. These books are tools with which to systematically transform the operating systems of the ministries committed to their trust from 'Theatres' to 'Schools'. These books collectively make up the curriculum with which to launch their own Global School of Ministry project. The curriculum will ensure every two or three years, fresh sets of fit-for-purpose ministers of the gospel who will serve the Lord with all their hearts are produced.

All 40 eBooks on the websites constitute what it takes to root out the leaven of Babylon derived from our various experiences with Christian Religion. They therefore constitute what we need to embrace and walk in true Kingdom Culture. It I through ministry of the Word that the Church will be prepared and made ready for return of her Groom:

**Ephesians 5:25-27 (KJV)** *25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Please intentionally study this and the other resources in the series prayerfully under unction of Holy Spirit with your Bible to confirm all the points made. As you train, necessity is upon you to make your vessel available for Holy Spirit to use to transmit these empowering truths to other saints who yearn for empowerment!

**Psalm 68:11 (KJV)** *11 The Lord gave **the** word: **great was the company** of those that published it.*

**2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV)** *2 And the thing that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

**May Elohim, our heavenly Father make you the instrument of His Grace He designed you to be!**

## Use of the Hebraic Names of the Most High

Yahweh, Elohim, Yeshua. During our walk with the Lord, we discovered by leading of Holy Spirit how fundamentally flawed was the intrusion of Rome into the gospel from 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Replacement Theology led Rome to take away all Hebraic/Jewish connections as root of what is now called the Christian Faith. What He has led us to do is to call our Father by the Name He revealed Himself to Israel which is Yahweh. In the same way, rather than call our Creator by the generic title God, we find it more appropriate to call Him by the Hebraic Name He revealed to humanity through Moses which is Elohim. The Name, Elohim properly conveys His Unity in Plurality as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! We also call our King the Name His Father gave Him, Yeshua as well as the Anglicized translation, Jesus derived from the Greek translation, Ioseus.

We do this as led by Holy Spirit, not as part of the so-called sacred Names movement neither do we subscribe to the legalistic methods of Judaizers who are intent on dragging saints into the dead works and rituals of Judaism. We do not condemn or malign those who have not yet caught this depth of revelation. Please feel free to call the Most High by what He reveals to you and what you are comfortable with.

## Chapter 1

### Prologue

All over the world, Christianity seems to be exploding at the seams. This day and age over 2.5 billion people on earth claim to be Christians. Unfortunately, there is not much fruit in terms of their impact on the world around.

Even in advanced societies like America, as well as such Third world nations like Nigeria, it is not uncommon to see thousands and tens of thousands of people gathered in specific locations for worship. Unfortunately, there is not much positive impact of the large presence of Christians in the nations of the world.

It is obvious something is essentially wrong with a situation where there are so many people who are supposedly connected with Yeshua, Jesus, but do not reflect His nature or lifestyle in their day to day activities. On the other hand, there is so much reproach brought to the Name of the King by the way many Christians live.

The core problem is modern versions of Christian religion have been promoting a twisted version of the Great Commission. A version which appeals to the pristine elements of human nature: A gospel about coming to receive 'blessings' from the hands of an ever-acquiescent Elohim. The result is a form of worship which makes people to 'come to church' (as in a building or an organization) to identify with a specific minister. A minister who has the capacity to lead them to seek the hand, but not the heart of the Supreme Being.

The result is the flourishing of what is called the utilitarian gospel – where 'Elohim exists to meet the needs of the people'. This dangerous doctrine essentially reverses true worship: Instead of humans seeing themselves as created and existing to worship Yahweh with all their heart and mind, as Revelation 4:11 reveals, they would rather have Him exist to meet their material and emotional needs.

#### **Course Objectives**

This course will take saints back to the core of the gospel of the Kingdom. As we study, our Heavenly Father will use it to draw the mind of the Church back to an ancient landmark, the cornerstone of the gospel: Discipleship.

The Gospel is about making disciples of Yeshua, Jesus, in all nations of the earth. It is not about gathering a crowd of humans who are dependent on 'anointed' ministers for their spiritual, emotional and physical sustenance. It is not about building huge physical structures or building up images of 'success' to draw those seeking to breakthrough.

It is essential therefore to see in clear language, what Yeshua, Jesus instructed the Church to do with His exit. His marching orders to the Church are captured in these verses:

**Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)** *18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

**Commentary:** Following His death and resurrection, all power in heaven and earth, which He had, was restored back to Yeshua, Jesus (Philippians 2:5-11). He was reminding the disciples and us that based on having all power, He was sending us forth to accomplish a supernatural assignment that is described in verses 19 and 20 below, known as the Great Commission:

*19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

**Commentary:** The Great Commission as given by Yeshua, Jesus is not about targeting the crowds with slick commercials promising a better life, if they come to Yeshua, Jesus! It is not about making them feel comfortable with their preferred lifestyles! It is rather the exact opposite. It involves the rightful use of the Word to accomplish two critical connected objectives:

**i. Go ye or go forth.** It is not about inviting people to come and see a better preacher or teacher, but rather a changed paradigm of actively going to where people are to engage with them.

**ii. Teaching people.** The New Covenant Yahweh offers to mankind in Yeshua, Jesus, is the gospel of the Kingdom. It is not something to be skimmed on the surface. It requires skilful application of the principles and culture of the Kingdom to challenge worldly culture evident in mindsets, belief systems, speech, lifestyles and pursuits of those who purport to or who really believe in Yeshua, Jesus, as Lord and Saviour across the world. Those who accept, understand and live it out do so by making a conscious investment of themselves as instruments through who Holy Spirit manifests the presence and power of the risen Yeshua, Jesus! In other words, through disciples, what Yeshua began to do and taught as the Son of Yahweh on earth is continued until end of the age. There is no greater assignment on earth as proclaiming this truth which sets humans free of all kinds of idols including self, worldly culture and dominion of Satan.

*20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**Commentary:** The essence of the discipleship process is bringing the full weight of the New Covenant to those who are part of it to the degree they walk in the experiential reality of what it is. All Yeshua, Jesus, taught on earth are instructions on what the Kingdom Life is and how it can be lived in the earth realm as an opposite lifestyle from the world around. To that degree, the remit of the Kingdom Church is to execute this mandate in such a way all true saints are governed by the Constitution of the Kingdom in all areas of life.

Concerning this strategic assignment, King Yeshua had a simple promise to make: He would be with His Church 24/7 till end of the age!

Saints, it is time we come off various attempts to split the Word into parts we like and parts we dislike. It is time to refuse to play the milk spoon feeding game, which attracts crowds of miracle chasing folds seeking the hands of Yahweh but refusing to seek His heart or His face. It is time to make the main thing the main thing; making disciples of all nations in a systematic, strategic way. This is to be done with all diligence and with investment of the nest resources placed at disposal of the Kingdom Church until He Who sent us returns to rule and reign from Jerusalem!

In this course, we will trust the Father to make His heart plain on the subject matter. The need arises to understand with clarity the kind of relationship Yeshua expects from His own is not casual neither is it about seeking a 'better life'.

**John 10:10 (KJV)** *10 The thief cometh not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

When Yeshua spoke about coming to give abundant life to His Own, it is necessary to understand the process through which that would come to pass; death of the old man, which frees the saint from the pull of raw ambition, strife, competition and desire to be seen and heard in favour of a blessed life that is lost in Him, rests in Him, and is therefore, one with Him. As the disciple abides in Him and He in them, the sure promises of John 15:1-8 follows without struggle.

**John 15:1-8 (KJV)** *1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 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. 3. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciple.*

Disciples are not fair weather, milk drinking believers, but rather saints who have allowed Holy Spirit and the Word to renew their minds, transform their hearts, and they become personal representatives of Yeshua through whom He continues His redemptive assignment in the earth realm.

### **Course Synopsis**

This course will present with clear detail:

- The call to discipleship of Yeshua, Jesus, not membership of denominations, as the prime need of the Church in our generation.
- Defining what the call is.
- In what ways and with what language did Yeshua, Jesus, make a demand on His followers.
- What process does Elohim expect believers to undergo to be who He wants them to be?
- How does acceptance of the call of Yeshua, Jesus, affect our previous relationships?
- What are the rewards the King promises those who pay the price to follow Him?

## Review Questions

1. From your perspective of this chapter, what is authentic discipleship that is to be modelled in the earth, anywhere and everywhere?
2. What is the supernatural assignment all Believers share? How does it personally affect you?
3. According to John 10:10, what is the necessary process that must take place for John 15:10 to manifest in the Believer's life without struggle? Explain.

## Chapter 2

### Introduction

#### **Introduction**

During a mission to pray over Rome and its religious altars, we saw with our spiritual and natural eyes how the personal relational gospel, which came to the city from Jerusalem and Antioch, was effectively substituted with a religious system. This dead religious system has two pillars on which it rests.

**1.** The first is personal relationship with Yahweh is jettisoned for a system where people are primarily members of a physical church. This is the root of denominationalism, a critical enemy of the Most High and His redeemed. When people are comfortable with membership of a church over and above their personal walk with Yahweh they acquire a false sense of security. Security based on observance of religious routine and rituals which act as a sop to the human conscience. The people are thus programmed to see loyalty to the physical church as superior to their loyalty to the King Yeshua their redeemer who is supposedly distant in heaven.

**2.** The second pillar is those who are in the physical church but have no vibrant personal relationship with Yahweh will, of necessity, need mediators to access the mysteries of the heavenlies for them. This is the origin of the apostate priestly caste which stands between Yahweh and men. The result of this situation is the word of the priests is authoritative and accepted without question since the people are shielded from knowing the Bible themselves. In this state of ignorance, church folks can be manipulated to do the bidding of man rather than the will of their Father. People can therefore be in church and work ostensibly for Yahweh without knowing Him. See Romans 9:1-5 and Romans 10:1-5 to see how this principle affected the Hebrews as a people. This is the sad end of legalism.

Yeshua is reforming His Church. Part of that process is to empower saints with the right information, which will lead them to have a vibrant personal relationship with Him. Flowing from that personal relationship, they are taken through a process which will enable them to enjoy intimate fellowship through Holy Spirit indwelling in them. And, from that stand point proceed to hear and respond to His call to service as co-labourers in His vineyard.

It is not the will of Yahweh any should perish for which He received the sacrifice of Yeshua on behalf of the whole world and those appointed unto salvation receive it by faith, not works as Romans 10:8-12 clearly states. However, the whole counsel of Yahweh in the New Covenant reveals Salvation by faith is to be the beginning of a process, not an end. That process of discipleship was not only practiced by Yeshua with the disciples who came to Him. He furthermore articulated with clarity the demand for those who claim to believe to press on into deeper waters:

#### **Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)**

Here then is a present and future danger for those who jump the discipleship step and step into ministry based on their spiritual gifts and callings, avoiding the discipleship process to which they are appointed.

They may end up as mercenaries preaching, ministering and supposedly blessing multitudes but eventually missing the mark when it counts most.

### **A. Definition of a disciple**

In plain language, a disciple is a Christian indeed. There is a difference between a nominal believer and a Christian. Anyone can claim to believe based on hearing the gospel and purport to believe in Him. The popular scripture such people use to justify their shallow faith is Romans 10:8-10. That scripture however, speaks of the key to enter the kingdom, which is faith in Yeshua, Jesus. Faith expressed by receiving revelation of Him as propitiation for sin acceptable to the Father in the heart and confessing the same verbally. Yahweh, in His benevolence, made it simple to enter the Kingdom so no one will be with excuse on the last day. It must be stressed He does not expect anyone who enters the Kingdom to remain at the doorstep.

A disciple is a follower of Yeshua, Jesus, who walks after Him and seeks to be more like Him. As we said in the previous chapter, disciples are not fair weather, milk drinking believers but rather saints who have allowed Holy Spirit and the Word to renew their minds, transform their hearts. Saints who become personal representatives of Yeshua through whom He continues His redemptive assignment in the earth realm.

### **Two Dimensions of Discipleship**

There are many saints who grow weary and even offended when they hear teachings on discipleship. The flesh suggests to them such teachings are for new believers. Some other saints believe since they are doing great things for Yahweh through their gifts and callings, no one should talk to them about such 'elementary' topics as discipleship. This is a major strategy of Satan to confuse such saints.

It is necessary to understand discipleship has two dimensions: An Act and a Process. Using the relationship of Yeshua, Jesus, with the Disciples, we see clearly there were specific days when they encountered Him and received His call. The whole counsel of Scripture also teaches us they still needed to be processed throughout His time with them and even after He ascended to heaven.

The Act is the dramatic dimension of discipleship, which happens the day you discover the vanity of life lived for self. And, make the decision to reverse course and live for the redeemer as His vessel to manifest His Nature, Presence and Power. This is the day the believer responds to the upward call of King Yeshua and dies to self.

**Matthew 16:24-26 (KJV)** *24 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. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 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?*

It is an experiential encounter that is not easy to forget and one which is a tangible reality, which shifts the focus of life and determines what pursuits that becomes primary in life. This affects every area of

life, including attitude to life, death, money, fashion, fame and indeed, all other things which average Christians are concerned with!

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

The second dimension is the process of longing after Him, which never ceases until you run your course or see Him in glory. Paul best illustrated this dimension through these verses of scripture:

**Philippians 3:7-14 (KJV)** *7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

### **Explanation:**

There is thus an invitation to enter the Kingdom in its fullness. That invitation is the call to discipleship, a call which draws a believer into a life of:

i. Seeking after King Yeshua for a deeper, intimate relationship with Him and not for the blessings He bestows. It is a state that makes you hunger and thirst for more of Him and yet seeking more and more. You are processed daily to be like him from glory to glory, never stopping until you see Him in the ultimate glory of the hereafter.

**Matthew 5:6 (KJV)** *6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

ii. A conventional relationship with Yahweh, rather than a casual one. So, He can commission you to represent Him as His ambassador by the real anointing of the Holy Spirit that produces a transformed character and empowered witness (Acts 1:8).

iii. Dying to self so Yeshua may occupy the throne of your heart; this requires switching loyalty from yourself to Him. In effect, it is an invitation to lose your self-life at the cross and take up His own life instead as the core of your being (Matthew 16:24–26; Galatians 2:20.)

iv. Pressing into the fullness of the purpose of Yahweh in creating and redeeming you.

v. Coming to a place where Yeshua, Jesus, is the centre of your life, and where you find the fullness of satisfaction in Him alone.

vi. Discovering and utilizing all the properties which are part of your spiritual DNA (spiritual gifts, talents, life experiences, skills acquired, education, opportunities, business/job and income thereof) to declare the gospel and advance the Kingdom as the primal purpose for which you are alive.

### **Caveat**

This is not an invitation to resign businesses or jobs for 'full time ministry,' as some religious people teach. Someone may be in full-time ministry, but not be a disciple of Yeshua, Jesus, because his/her belly is the really god being served. The principle behind discipleship is this: Yahweh owns us by Creation, Redemption and His Providential care over our lives. He is simply asking us to recognize this reality and come to a place where we surrender all our beings, ambitions and desires to Him. In recognition that He owns us, we give His Holy Spirit right of way to lead us in making decisions about everything, including how to use the time, money and other assets and resources He graciously gives us.

**Scripture references:** Matthew 11:28–32; John 15:16; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 6:14; 1 Peter 2:9.

### Review Questions

1. Please present a concise summary of the two pillars of the dead religious systems you have learned from this chapter.
2. a. Give the definition of Discipleship as you have learned in this chapter and  
b. as you have experienced it in your daily Christian walk.
3. a. List and  
b. briefly express your expectation of how the two dimensions of Discipleship <an Act and a Process> will further align your walk with Elohim's will for your life holistically.

## Chapter 3

### Profile of Those who Pervert Discipleship and ...

#### **Profile of Those who Pervert Discipleship and Biblical Response to them**

As we have seen so far, to make disciples of all nations is the core assignment of the Kingdom Church. Unfortunately, since the third and fourth centuries, Babylon interjected into the gospel programme and Christian Religion became a predominant reality of the organised Church.

Outside of Rome and mainline orthodoxy, which creates disciples of denominations, there has been a rising tendency for many in the Protestant Movement to veer off course and cease from making disciples of Yeshua, Jesus.

This should surprise no one because Yeshua, Jesus, and His disciples spoke extensively about false ministers and their false gospel. Based on this, we can deduce one of the realities of life is in every generation unto end of the age, there will be a clear majority who will, either in ignorance or deliberately, seek to pervert the gospel of the Kingdom!

**Galatians 1:6-8 (KJV)** *6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*

In their numbers will be these nine types of 'ministers':

**1. Those Yeshua clearly declared as 'false'** (in other words, not commissioned or sent by Him), yet who would do great 'exploits' using His Name. They will lead many on the broad way outside the Kingdom while supposedly 'in Church'.

**Matthew 7:13-23 (KJV)** *13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 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. 22 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? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

**2. Those Yeshua declared with graphic language as Tares who are planted in the Kingdom by Satan.**

They look very much like Ministers sent by Him, speak with same language, but are at their core aliens to the Commonwealth. Yet, heaven does not destroy or stop them until That Day when they will be reaped for eternal damnation.

**Matthew 13:1-30, 36-43 (KJV)** *24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares*

among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

**3. Those like Yeshua described as 'Foolish Virgins', who have become weary of living the discipleship-like cutting edge life of watching, waiting and keeping their lamps burning with fresh oil of Holy Spirit uncontaminated with flesh.**

**Matthew 25:1-13 (KJV)** 1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

**4. Those who will be so caught up with affairs of life at end of the age they will be negligent concerning feeding the Flock of Yeshua with the pure word and the truth of His imminent return.** They will rather tend to fleece the flock for unjust gain through all manner of commercial schemes in the Name of the King. Unto such is appointed destruction at the end!

**Matthew 24:45-51 (KJV)** 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**5. Those who, having received the Great Commission and Charge to 'Occupy' until the King returns choose to build empires around their charisma, personalities, families and financial security to the**

**degree they do not lead the people to be disciples of Yeshua, Jesus, but disciples of themselves.** They do not train, equip, activate and release saints into the fullness of destiny as able ministers of the New Testament after the Order of Melchizedek. But, rather make them a crowd of adoring fans. Such have serious indictment on the Day of Days! This also includes ministers who withhold from deploying all of their lives, time, assets in service of the King but want to 'enjoy' their reward in the present.

**Luke 19:11-15, 20-27 (KJV)** *11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 15 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.*

*20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 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. 22 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: 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26 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. 27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste death, till they see the Kingdom of God.*

**6. Those Paul the Apostle declared as people whose 'god' is their belly. They may have been saved and Spirit-filled but never were disciples.** The main motivation for being in ministry is the wealth, influence and prominence that attend having a crowd of people around them who are not allowed to mature (because of the milk of personal prophecies and promises of breakthrough).

**Philippians 3:17-21 (KJV)** *17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

**7. Those who fit into the profile of what Apostle Peter calls doubters.** They have become so accustomed to this world and its allure they now doubt the sure promise of His return. For that reason, they hate all messages concerning the end times and return of King Yeshua and are in active state of denial that the King will return literally. Such people cannot labour to produce disciples of the real Yeshua.

**2 Peter 3:1-4 (KJV)** *1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

## **8. Those who John the beloved said were formerly in the Faith but had backslidden, gone into error or apostatized.**

**1 John 2:18-20 (KJV)** *18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

Unfortunately, because the gifts and callings of Elohim are without repentance, their gifts are not automatically withdrawn.

**Romans 11:29 (KJV)** *29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

They are thus able to do miracles, prophesy and seem to flow in the Spirit but have become enemies of the Cross. Such people are unable to preach and teach the full gospel of the Kingdom or disciple any one. They have a form of godliness but deny the power which is able to transform sinners into true disciples of King Yahshua, Jesus.

**9. Those who are seemingly successful in ministry, but are building on foundations that are not Yeshua, Jesus.** They are building religious organizations where people are programmed to be their 'members' but not disciples of Yeshua, Jesus. The primary loyalty of such people is to them and their organizations. These are Ministers who are building with combustible substances — 'wood, hay and stubble' which when subjected to the fire of Yeshua on the Last Day will not stand. They may squeeze into the eternal dimension of the Kingdom but will have no rewards because they did not build according to pattern.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (KJV)** *10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Of this number are Ministries who have pointedly refused the Person and present work of Holy Spirit; Ministries closed to any or some offices of the Fivefold, especially Apostles and Prophets; Ministries that use dead works, length of membership and seniority to determine how and where people would serve rather than their spiritual gifts; ministries that reject the completed work of Yeshua, Jesus, and therefore cling to Judaism or the equally dangerous opposite, those which are built on Replacement Theology. Because these and other tendencies negate the very core of the New Covenant, they reek of danger!

### **Caution**

True disciples need to know these 9 categories of ministers and ministries will be the predominant face of the gospel in the end times.

**2 Timothy 4:3 (KJV)** *3 For the time will come when they will not **endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

It is necessary we know the Omniscient, Omnipresent Elohim knew this day before it came to be: When only a remnant will remain faithful till the end in the Kingdom business of making disciples of all nations!

**The remnant, armed with this revelation must:**

1. Avoid responding in bitterness, anger or offense against such ministers
2. Avoid praying for such ministers to be judged by Yahweh as they are already under judgement
3. Avoid desiring or praying for them to come to any harm

The remnant ministers who are faithful must align with our Father Who allows the unfaithful to remain alive and continue their 'labours'! Why is this the only Biblical approach?

**1. Yahweh is able to use their unfaithful labours to reach His remnant in the world and bring them into His Kingdom.** There are many who cannot come into the Kingdom except being attracted by what the false ministers put up as their fronts – Bread, Butter, quest for happiness, miracles and 'breakthrough! This is a mystery we need to live with. When it is time for such remnant to mature in the Spirit, He moves them from the House of Milk to connect with faithful vessels through which He eventually perfects them into divine purpose as disciples of Yeshua! In other words, there will be many who cannot come into the Kingdom except by the supposed 'ministry' of such people. Yahweh is thus able to use all things — including 'unfit' ministers to achieve basic evangelization of the world.

**Philippians 1:15-18 (KJV)** *15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*

**2. Constant intercession for the remnant** — including those we do not know — seeking face of the Father for Holy Spirit to guide them into fullness of truth and maturity is needful. Those under temporary leadership should be interceded that at the time appointed, Yahweh will lead them on to connect with instruments of becoming who they were ordained to be as disciples of Yeshua.

**3. The remnant must rise to the challenge of using the truth expounded here as motivation to spend and be spent in the Kingdom business of making disciples of all nations.** It is a worthwhile assignment worthy of even our very lives!

Review Questions

1. In this chapter, Scripture reveals nine types of ministers as perverters of the gospel. Discuss 3 of the 9 profiles given here.
2. As a disciple of Yeshua armed with this revelation, what must you avoid to further ensure your alignment with our Father? Explain.
3. After meditating upon this chapter, how will you rise to the challenge as a mobile temple of Holy Spirit in making disciples of all nations? Explain.

## Chapter 4

### The Call to Discipleship: The Language of YESHUA, Jesus

#### The Call to Discipleship: The Language of YESHUA, Jesus

In the gospels, Yeshua, Jesus, modeled the best way to approach the subject of discipleship. There were those like Peter and Andrew He called out of another pursuit to be ‘fishers’ of men.

#### **Matthew 4:19 [Full Chapter]**

*19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

There were people like Matthew who had to trade crunching figures in public service for being His personal and ministry biographer.

**Matthew 9:9 (KJV)** *9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.*

In the same way, there were also many who were attracted to His ministry by His Charisma, popularity, ability to do miracles or ability to give them food to eat. His caring attitude drew people like a magnet. His unwillingness to play the religious game of the Pharisees, Scribes and Sadducees gained Him the admiration of sinners such as the woman caught in adultery. However, in all cases, Yeshua, Jesus, looked at the crowd as prospects to receive and demonstrate Kingdom Life! That is why He systematically taught them principles of the Kingdom; how culture of the Kingdom differed from that of the world. He often ended by challenging them to decide to either follow Him and live out Kingdom Culture or remain in their sins and worldly culture!

#### **Two Core Examples of the Yeshua, Jesus, paradigm**

The paradigm which Yeshua, Jesus, modeled was simple: Keep the door wide open and use every means — including working of miracles, healing, compassionate projects such as feeding the poor and caring for the sick to draw people nearer. When they come, systematically teach them the truth that to be His disciples is the only way acceptable to the Father for a vibrant personal relationship. In this regard, the axe should be laid to the root of the self-nature and those who claim to love Him must be challenged to switch loyalty from Satan, Self or the World to Him alone!

#### **Case Study #1**

In **Matthew 16:24–26**, then Yeshua, Jesus, one day turned to those who were following Him and made a rather startling demand on them. It was made in strong language which required them to respond one way or the other. Here are details of the benchmarks He laid out for those who, though called, wanted to be chosen for a more intimate relationship with Him called discipleship:

**1. “If anyone”** – It is established clearly that to be a disciple of Yeshua rather than a mere believer is a matter of choice. The King does not force people to serve Him against their own will. Even in

dramatically arresting Saul on the road to Damascus, Yeshua still gave Him a choice whether or not to yield to Him by asking him to go to see Ananias (Acts 9:6).

**2. “Desires to come after me”** – Yeshua. Jesus made it clear that the ultimate destination or the highest goal of Kingdom life consists of coming after Him. This is to say that a true disciple is one who pursues Yeshua, emulating Him in every area of their life; thoughts, words and deeds.

**3. “Let Him Deny Himself”** – Yeshua, Jesus, here lays out a very critical condition: deny self! What is this self that should be denied? Self is the combination of the soul and the body. These two dimensions of man make up what is called the carnal nature. The carnal nature likes to be in control and hates to be vulnerable before Yahweh and men. Self likes to occupy the throne of the heart; the very place reserved for Yeshua, Jesus, to dwell as Lord. Therefore no one can possibly be a true disciple of Yeshua and still be in control of their own life. A disciple is of necessity one whose will is wholly subsumed by the will of Yahweh. It leads to a state, as was once said by A.W Tozer, *where the will of The Father becomes the dwelling place of His people*.

**4. “Take up His cross”** - Discipleship also involves the conscious decision to identify with the cross of Yeshua, Jesus. The cross is not a fanciful piece of architecture. It is the ultimate symbol of rejection, pain and suffering. The Romans reserved it for crucifying the basest of men by nailing them to the rugged cross beam and hanging man and wood on hilltops for all to see. Yeshua, Jesus, here invites those who desire to follow Him to count the cost and decide if they really want to go further. It is a life where one is expected to make difficult choices. These are choices that may require us to be accused falsely, suffer wrongfully or be passed over in promotions we clearly deserve and yet be without sin, committing everything into the hands of He who judges righteously (1 Peter 2:19–23).

Another dimension of the cross that we are called to carry is that it represents the intersection of the will of Yahweh and our will. Anytime our will (the cross beam) submits to the will of Yahweh (represented by the long beam), we are in a sense, carrying our cross. On the other hand, if our will causes the will of Yahweh to be negated, it represents rebellion. Our crosses thus differ according to our individual destinies, personalities and lifestyles.

**5. “And Follow Me”** - This is an invitation to follow Yeshua right up to Golgotha, the place of the skull. It is an invitation to die with Him so that He may live in and through us. Paul the Apostle puts it poignantly when he explained the secret of his outstanding life and ministry in **Galatians 2:20**. It is out of a crucified life that divinity issues out in its fullness to touch lives in a mighty measure. The devil knows that the powerful Christian life is one which is crucified and therefore wholly yielded to the will and power of Yahweh. That is why he has created and foisted on the Church another gospel which is devoid of the cross or where the cross preached is the new plastic cross rather than the old rugged cross. This other gospel causes un-crucified men to worship Yahweh for the good life He will give them and thus robs the faith of the sharp cutting edge transformed life which comes to be after a true encounter with Yeshua on the cross (Galatians 6:14).

**6. The critical choice: Matthew 16:25-26** – Believers have a choice to love self in this present life or to lose it in this present life and be rewarded with eternity. In other words, those who refuse to pay the

price and chose not to die to self may seemingly “enjoy” life now for a short season, only to discover their grand folly when they face the prospect of eternity outside of Yeshua in hell. The un-crucified life will always gravitate to sin, and sin will always separate man from Yahweh. It is therefore clear that embracing the old rugged cross and allowing our carnal nature to be crucified until none of its motions oppress us is the only viable option. At the cross deliverance that comes from being sincere before our Father takes place until nothing defiling lurks within the human persona.

## Case Study #2

**John Chapters 5 and 6** offer us another case study of how working of miracles and feeding drew multitudes to Yeshua. As they thronged Him, Yeshua used the opportunity to release some of the most profound truths about Himself and His mission. The intensity of the word which required people to ‘eat’ Him <be totally immersed in Him> as the only identity acceptable to heaven challenged the religious mindsets to the degree that many of His followers jumped ship!

*44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. 46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. 48 I am that bread of life. 49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. 59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*

**Commentary:** Yeshua never withheld truth from people in order to retain their physical presence around Him. On the other hand, He allowed them to come just as they were — regardless of the weight of their sins. But two things always followed. The first is to tell them ‘go and sin no more’. The second was that He taught them the depth of Kingdom culture that challenged every worldly culture they were part of!

*66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

**Commentary:** The language here is clear: ‘many’ went back! While He was feeding them with free food and doing great miracles, He was their popular preacher and identifying with such a celebrity was the smart thing to do. But as He released the conditions of walking intimately with Him, majority voted with their feet: they were unwilling to pay the required price by jumping the Kingdom ship! We cannot do it any other way than our Master! This is the word of our King:

*67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*

**Commentary:** Yeshua, Jesus, always gave people the opportunity to make choices concerning embracing Him and the Kingdom! Humans were created with free wills so that they can exercise same and answer for their choices on the last day. To keep people happy as a way of coercing them to stay in a place is to deceive them into eternal damnation. The shortest distance to hell is still the so-called Church which refuses to tell people the truths which sets free!

*70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.*

### **Applying the two case studies to the Church today**

Of a truth, Yahweh extends this call to all who purport to receive Yeshua as Lord/King and Saviour. The Saviour is He who will guarantee that souls do not perish in hell’s eternal fire. On the other hand, the Lord/King is He who will rule your life and determine what you say, think and do. Unfortunately, there are many who receive Yeshua, Jesus, as Saviour but shrink back from enthroning Him as Lord/King. Consequently, they miss an essential principle: Yeshua, Jesus can only guarantee a place in eternity as Saviour to only those who have submitted to His Lordship/Kingship on planet earth.

Hence, we establish the truth that every believer is called to be a disciple of Yeshua. It is not an option reserved for a few in a priestly caste. The gospel programme is about producing disciples of Yeshua, Jesus, rather than mere believers who lack commitment. The Great Commission is not a game of statistical manipulation or seeking to pull crowds into the Church. It is rather a continuum which begins with leading people to receive Yeshua and His Kingdom rule in their heart as Saviour and a lifelong process of enthroning and maintaining Him as the Lord/King of their lives. This is the principal objective of the teaching ministry. The Word of Scripture is thus applied systematically as food to nourish the inner man to maturity in Yeshua (Matthew 28:18–20; Matthew 6:24–34; 1 Peter 2:9). As many as respond to the Call of Yeshua, Jesus, thereby secure for themselves due consideration as the chosen ones (Matthew 20:16). Those who will stay on course until the end are deemed as the faithful. Revelation 17:14 gives us a profile of those who will make it to the end: the called, chosen and faithful. It is a matter of response, anchored on the will of an individual. May we all be part of that number.

### **Review Questions**

1. How did Yeshua view the people of His day as He ministered in the earth realm? From this posture, how does it reflect upon your ministry?

2. Give a synopsis of Yeshua's language regarding discipleship through **Case Study #1**.
3. Allow the Truth revealed in **Case Study #2** to saturate your heart. Now, from that place, provide another commentary of **Case Study #2** that speaks the same language in your own personal discipleship. It is to be no more than five (5) sentences.

## Chapter 5

### Strangers & Unwilling Slaves

#### **Why the Call to Discipleship is so critical: It is Cure for the 4 Negative States – Strangers; Unwilling Slaves; Orphans and Babes (Part 1)**

During a Mission to Limerick, Ireland, Yahweh opened the heavens to provide a missing piece of the puzzle concerning the subject matter of discipleship. For those who have visited the website of Global School of Ministry, you would have noticed the teaching note for Course 118 is very scanty – just 8 pages. Since we started this course, Yahweh has given us enough revelation to add 9 more pages. But, there was still a hole needing to be filled and it was in Limerick, Ireland the revelation finally came through.

The reason why saints are called to be disciples of Yeshua is it is the only acceptable way they can receive and walk as sons of Yahweh in the earth realm! Yeshua came from heaven not just to pay the price for us to be redeemed from the hands of Satan, Sin, and the World. He also came for two additional but connected reasons: That the self-nature may give way for us to enthrone Yahweh wholly as the reason for being and therefore the driving force of our lives! This in turn leads to the ultimate objective: Saints may function in the earth realm as sons of Yahweh, in the mold of the Begotten Son, Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah!

One of reason the Holy Spirit is given to saints is to enable them walk in the consciousness that they are one with and have the DNA of Yahweh, our Elohim. Those who receive the Holy Spirit of adoption no longer see Him as a 'distant God' Who can only be approached with fear and trembling but rather see and relate with Him in the intimacy of personal relationship just as Yeshua enjoyed with Him while in the Body!

**Galatians 4:6 (KJV)** *6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

Flowing from this relationship, saints functioning as sons are to be vessels for manifesting His Glory, Presence and demonstrating His Power!

This is what Christian Religion missed when Babylon tried to divert the gospel away from personal relationship to rituals and affiliation with religious organizations! Though Martin Luther was used of Yahweh to activate the Protestant Reformation in 1517, products of that protest later took the same way of Rome; to invest in creating and nurturing denominations as religious organizations to be joined for purposes of doing religious rituals. Rituals designed to find favour with a 'distant God' and to quieten the conscience.

**The Four Types of Position/Postures which negate discipleship and are not acceptable to the Father.**

There are four types of positions or postures which people can exhibit towards Yahweh that negate His eternal purpose and make it impossible for them to become and live as disciples of Yeshua.

### **#.1. Position/Posture of a Stranger.**

Ordinarily, this posture was ascribed to unbelievers who are outside the Commonwealth of the Kingdom. Because they have not received the Love of Yahweh, He is to them a 'God that is a far off'. To such people, the prospect of Yahweh being near and relational does not register in their consciousness. Because they have not yet received the Spirit of adoption, they can only apprehend Him by their carnal senses. This is why they are very comfortable with such points of contact with Him like Church buildings, Incense, Candles and the religious robes worn by Priests functioning after the order of Levi/Aaron.

Buildings are good to own as long as they are designed to be training and equipping centres where saints are activated to go forth into the Community to manifest Yeshua, Jesus. But, when buildings are programmed to be the only place to encounter and relate with Yahweh, they become religious tombstones where destinies of saints are trapped! Saints are to be Salt and Light of their Communities. To limit the presence of Yahweh to what is done inside a building for some hours on certain days of the week and to live an opposite life during the rest of the week when 'Church and God' are switched off is religion gone bust!

The sad truth is that majority of those who purport to belong to various orthodox, Independent and even Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches across the world are now actively in this posture. Somehow, they are now in a place where Yahweh is 'distant' and where the heavens seem closed like Brass. They find prayer a difficult thing to do. They are not able to receive fresh manna from the Word when they study. They are too busy chasing stuff, money and pursuing their ambitions that they no longer know or enjoy His Presence.

Those with the stranger posture are unable to make sense out of the terms of the Kingdom Covenant whereby King Yeshua says the holistic wellbeing of saints is guaranteed by our heavenly Father as we seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness. This is because strangers do not trust people, not to talk of a distant, impersonal 'God'! Since they don't trust Him, they cannot rely on His Word! For them therefore, this scripture is a 'hard thing':

**Matthew 6:25-34 (KJV)** *25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 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.*

Because they are strangers in their walk with Him and cannot trust Him, they trust in their own devices and thereby make arm of the flesh their confidence. Unknown to them, they walk in the Adamic curse by so doing:

**Jeremiah 17:5-7 (KJV)** *5 Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.*

**Genesis 3:16-19 (KJV)** *16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17 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; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 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.*

As they labour for the meat which perishes, these people are by the same measure despising and shunning the vibrant, personal relationship that Yahweh so desires from them.

**John 6:27 (KJV)** *27 Labour **not** for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*

Though they claim to know and even love Yahweh, their works create the opposite effect: they deny Him the degree of Lordship He desires.

**Titus 1:16 (KJV)** *16 They profess that **they** know God; but **in works they deny him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

Strangers play games with Yahweh while supposedly in His service. Because their hearts are not handed over to Him, most of what they think, say or do are works driven to produce material gain or popularity. If they are elevated, it is to use prominence to draw more people to themselves and build religious equivalents of the Tower of Babel where people congregate to be given regular shots of preachments that will pump up their emotions but cannot convict them of sin, righteousness and judgement. This creates a situation where people are in the physical Church but not part of the Church Militant. Sin is their default position, not righteousness.

**Philippians 3:17-19 (KJV)** *17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*

The Stranger posture easily makes saints 'grandchildren' of Yahweh. Because it is based on a principle that the leader alone has 'access to God' and he/she alone is super anointed. In this environment, Christians are no more than 'grandchildren' to Yahweh who need the minister as a mediator to tell them what to do in all life situations including choice of career, when to move to a new location. In other words, believers under the stranger anointing or who are strangers to Yahweh do not have an intimate personal relationship with Him.

For these reasons, people relate with Yahweh in fear as He is cast as a very difficult, hard-to-please personality up there in the clouds, watching out for every wrong move by believers which He responds to with a cudgel. This merciless picture of Yahweh drives people to run away from Him when they sin. As they run further away from Him, they despair and are vulnerable to voices of Satan and their flesh suggesting there is no hope for them to be forgiven. Some become oppressed with the subtle suggestion of the enemy to commit suicide or become totally reprobate.

Saints, the stranger spirit has ravaged the organized Church keeping multitudes in bondage to self-deception. They want others to think they are serving Yahweh. But they are not coming to seek His heart or His Face! They have no interest in knowing or doing His will. They have come to seek His hands. They are victims of the most dangerous gospel ever foisted on humanity by Satan: the utilitarian gospel.

This gospel reverses the essential nature of true worship – where saints worship Yahweh in spite of their present estate, what they have or do not have. It rather makes humans the object of worship. It is a strange gospel indeed where Yahweh essentially exists to meet needs of the people and make them happy by giving them ‘blessings’ – even when they live in sin! This strange fire must be recognized for what it is: the grand deception that is back of the broad way gospel which Yeshua said will lead practitioners straight to eternal damnation!

**Matthew 7:13 (KJV)** *13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

## **#.2. The Posture/Position of unwilling Slaves**

The second type of relationship which many in the Household of Faith seek to have with Yahweh is that which is based on the mindset and attitude of Slavery. The word ‘servant’ was hallowed by Yeshua Who took pleasure in serving both His Father and humanity. In practice and precept, Yeshua made it clear that Service from a pure heart is a critical pillar of Kingdom Life and Ministry expected of true disciples (see John 13: 1-17 and Matthew 20:20-28). Paul the apostle gladly introduced himself as a bond servant or slave of Yeshua, Jesus. He saw it as a privilege to take the yoke of His King and joyfully lost his personal will and preferences for those of He Who redeemed him. Serving as a bond-servant of Yeshua therefore out of a pure sincere heart is a commendable thing to do!

### **An opposite attitude/lifestyle: unwilling slave**

What we speak of in this lesson is the opposite of the above. It is the mind set of an unwilling slave. In the course of history, millions have been enslaved against their own will. They would rather be elsewhere, doing different things from what they are compelled to do in the houses of their masters. They are owned by those they despise. There is no relationship between them other than that of Master and Slave. No intimacy subsists.

For this reason, such slaves usually despise their masters and device crafty ways of short changing them. They do what Africans call ‘eye service’ which means to rest and play and on sighting the master, begin to sweat over nothing, pretending to be over worked. They take whatever they find valuable and have no qualms because it is a way they get back at those who place the yoke on them.

In the physical Church, there are many brothers and sisters and ministers whose attitude and quality of relationship with Yahweh is that between an unwilling slave and a hard task master. Their default lifestyle does not point to Yeshua Who redeemed them but to Satan, Sin and the World which dominates their consciousness.

Saved from Egypt and Pharaoh, they become willing captives of new Pharaohs: their popular Preachers to whom they owe primal loyalty. Such saints have no patience for deep study of the bible, preferring milk and 'words of encouragement'. They cannot pray over issues they encounter but would rather spend time describing their situations to 'anointed ministers' or prayer warriors who would in turn take such needs to the 'Throne of God'. In this regard, they create the mediators they prefer so that instead of being children and sons of Yahweh with unrestricted access to Him, they function as 'grandchildren' or grandsons who need mediators to reach the Father!

They are adoring fans of their preferred ministers and would read up and quote all books written by such idols when they have not read the whole bible in their life time. They gladly wear lapel pins, ties, head ties and other accessories bearing the images of their heroes or ministry logos to show their loyalty. They give more when pumped up with promises of what 'God will out give'. Payment of tithes and giving of offerings are programmed into their consciousness away from worship to 'investment'. As ministers reinforce the investment dimension, people give in order to get back. They play casino in Church with Yahweh as their ultimate slot machine with the biggest pay outs! While it is true that Yahweh blesses those, who give generously and cheerfully, this corruption of motive from worship to investment creates an environment of mercantilism!

While this way of relating with Yahweh mindset is bad in supposed saints, it is worse in modern ministers of the gospel who by their preaching, teachings and lifestyles draw people to themselves rather than to Yeshua, Jesus Who redeemed them with His Own precious blood. These ministers have clearly rebelled against Yeshua because they are not faithful to His Words which does not rule their lives nor are do they deem Him a model worth following. They therefore hate what He loves and love what He hates! The World and all of its allurements hold first place in their hearts where self is seated and the anointing of the Holy Spirit they received before being 'illuminated' is now a tool to draw crowds, keep crowds and milk them to live swanky lives that will make Yeshua blush!

**1 Timothy 6:9-10 (KJV)** *9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

These ministers who function as unwilling slaves of Yeshua deem Him a hard task master for not guaranteeing them the 'good life' on this side of eternity. Because of their servile mindset, they are blind to awesome promises of divine provision for those who serve faithfully with joy (Matthew 6:19-34).

Even where they seem to understand, they are impatient with Him and therefore recourse to arm of the flesh to make a way for themselves. As one of their own in Nigeria said to the hearing of an investigative undercover reporter from Britain's Channel 4 a few years ago 'Ministry is a Game'. They therefore set out to 'found' Churches not really in fulfilment of the Great Commission, but as practical avenues of creating religious equivalents of commercial empires. At the beginning, they use the right words to lure

people into such ventures which later manifest as personal fiefdoms for self-aggrandizement. In the process, Mammon is exalted and seated in the high altar with ministers and believers bowing down to such abominations of desolations, thinking they are serving Yahweh.

In serving, their motive is not love of Yahweh or the brethren but what they can get out of it. Ministry therefore is nothing but a milking project and saints are cash cows to be cajoled to produce more through 'faith pumping' messages that ring hollow because of the corruption effected by self-interests. The result is that those who came to Yeshua for liberty become slaves to fellow humans.

**2 Peter 2:17-22 (KJV)** *17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

This accounts for why they make so many investments in cosmetics, apparel, appurtenances of 'success'. Those they emulate and teachers in Bible Schools they attended taught them how to play the ultimate Public Relations game based on the principle of making good first impressions on saints through showing off what appears to be symbols of success to draw in those who seek to be 'successful'! Investment in making and sustaining impressions begins to create a mask of the real person to the degree falsehood becomes a norm. Their popular mantra in so doing is: 'Dress the way you want to be addressed'!

Such persons take time to learn the language of the times and find a way of throwing in the right words to show they are 'current'. The outcome is ugly: masquerades prancing around on oversized stages doing the religious equivalent of theatre! In effect those who are part of such theatres come to a place of real danger to be twice the children of hell!

**Matthew 23:13-15 (KJV)** *13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. 15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*

The bottom line is that they are in search of wealth and will invest any and everything to 'make it' and use whoever they can manipulate to believe the lie that is both themselves and their jaded messages. Once people are hooked to such deft manipulations, greater investments are made to trap their destinies. Because believers are pointed to them, not to Yeshua, they cannot grow to become who and what He redeemed them to be. They become either clones or clients of fellow human beings in the name of being in Church.

They are not nurtured to be disciples of Yeshua as they are fed messages which make them comfortable in sin but receiving affirmations of so called ministers. They march broadly to hell, blind folded to the reality of damnation ahead because they hear the sweet voices of those who are subverting the gospel and serving them a dangerous brew that destroys spirituality. The truth is that these things are possible because humans who are not yet broken prefer to handle the word of Yahweh deceitfully. In other words, though there may be elements of truth in some of the messages they preach, there are subtle and not so subtle twists which deliver a different outcome from what Yahweh intended which is to produce disciples of Yeshua:

**2 Corinthians 4:1-2 (KJV)** *1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

In this regard, these kinds of ministers are engaged in the Pentecostal wing of Babylon: hunting after and keeping people away from destinies ordained by Yahweh before the foundation of the world. The end result is one of the most jarring scriptures in the Book of Revelation 18:13:

**Revelation 18:11-13 (KJV)** *11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.*

No wonder such ministers hate the truth as well as true preachers of righteousness. They love their pernicious ways and would rather remain therein. To save such ministers and brethren from self-deception is an assignment which Holy Spirit alone can do, that is if they have not turned the bend unto **reprobacy** with consciences seared with hot iron as a result of love of money and power.

**1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV)** *1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

Jude 1 documents the lifestyle of those who walk as unwilling slaves of Yeshua in ministry:

*10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. 17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*

*22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

Saints, to say that the lifestyles of those who refuse to make disciples of Yeshua but rather trap destinies of believers for commercial gain does not concern the remnant is to display irresponsibility over the estate of our Father which has been invaded by spiritual robbers! What those who know them can do may have to be dramatic because their spiritual ears and eyes are clogged with wax and glaucoma respectively:

**Jude 1:3-4 (KJV)** *3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

May we be filled with hearts of true love which invests all that is possible to intercede for and literarily pull those we have access to away from the pit!

#### Review Questions

1. Please describe the state of negative relationship with Elohim called Stranger
2. Please describe the state of negative relationship with Elohim called Unwilling Slave
3. In what way can it be said that to be a disciple of Yeshua is the only cure for these 2 negative relationship types.

## Chapter 6

### Negative Relationship with Yahweh #3: Orphanhood

In Lesson 5, we began a discussion of how Discipleship is the ONLY cure for distorted relationship types in the Household of Faith. When people are not disciple, the centre of their lives gravitate away from Yeshua and migrate to their self-natures or to their human leaders. Consequently, they tend to relate with Elohim as Strangers (He is like a 'distant, unknown God').

Others tend to relate with Elohim as 'Unwilling slaves' who serve a hard to please 'Task Master'. This makes them have a transactional mindset where they want to negotiate something in return for any deed done. For this mindset, to give an offering, one must of necessity seek the hundred fold return. Nothing is wrong with exercising faith on the promises of Elohim but giving need to be essentially an act of worship!

Today we will examine two other negative relation types: Orphans and Babes.

#### **#.3. The Posture/Position of Orphans**

In our continuing download of what heaven is saying about the profile of the Church in this generation, we will in this lesson examine another set of believers who may be Spirit filled or have supposedly grown up but are afflicted with a malaise that can at best be described as the 'orphan spirit'. The orphan spirit is basically against the entire concept of discipleship and sonship.

#### **In the natural**

In the natural, orphans are children who lost a parent or both parents to death. In the modern era, orphan hood includes those whose parent or parents are missing from their duty posts. In such cases, the child grows up knowing of a father or mother who is simply not there! Children need love, affection and presence of their parents more than they need candy or ice cream. When the presence, affection and input of the father or mother is absent, in the formative and impressionable ages of children, it often leaves a hole. This hole is a psychological deficit which affects the confidence, stability and sense of wholeness of the child. This deep hole can drive their lives all through the earthly pilgrimage.

In essence, very few children outgrow this hole in their hearts and minds. They grow up with low self-esteem and an inferiority complex. They are suspicious of motives of people who try to help them wondering what undeclared agenda is driving such overtures. They are consequently ill prepared for the challenges of life where they must interact with other people from various walks of life.

Interestingly, the tendency of the heart is to declare or hide things. For those inclined to 'declare' their identities, there is so much insecurity arising from the depth of damaged emotions and fears that were caused by rejection or loneliness as they grew up. This in turn makes them either overly aggressive or overly reclusive with no balance. They certainly do not trust nor, can they willingly submit to authority figures like leaders since they are thus reminded of absentee parents (who in so doing, broke their trust). They are not able to receive love, believing that there must be agendas or evil motives in those who try to bless them.

Consequently, they trust their own selves and rely on arm of the flesh to get things done. They can be very meticulous in planning, leaving nothing to chance. They do not function well in group settings. Their basic mindset is competition rather than complementing which leads to a life of strife.

### **The Orphan Believers and Ministers**

Seeing how negative what has been described here is of orphans, it does not take much imagination to grasp how much a problem the Church has on its hands with a large number of orphan believers and orphan ministers. Holy Spirit witnesses expressly that orphan hood and the arrested orphan hood syndrome is a massive hole that needs to be filled really quickly in the Church across the world.

The present situation is the logical outcome of the quality of Christian Religion that emerged from the Reformation especially in the last century. The great denominations of Christendom had grown to imbibe some of the cultures of Rome including Hierarchies of a professional priestly caste who were virtually supreme authorities of their denominations. Great Church buildings were designed and constructed where people would come to 'meet God' on certain days of the week. In society, schools and hospitals were constructed to provide social services. Relationship with Yahweh was replaced with rituals and dead works which quietened consciences of people and made them feel good.

Unfortunately, this tendency morphed into a gospel which de-emphasized discipleship. It was a gospel which made the numbers game of gathering crowds and analysing statistics a major feature of Christian ministry. As healing Evangelists held their Big Tent meetings, the emphasis was on numbers gathered; how many decisions were made for Jesus and how many Churches participated. Without effective discipleship processes and systems, new converts were systematically programmed to be disciples of denominations. As they were baptized into such local assemblies (often not really into Yeshua, Jesus), they were programmed to see themselves primarily as members of those particular denominations.

Believers became statistics to be counted as cattle. Their outward conformity with denominational rules was seen as evidence of being 'good Christians'. As they grew in devotion to their denominations, they found favour with their leaders and began to move up the ladder and eventually into ministry. Meanwhile, Yeshua, Jesus was left behind. His Kingdom was more often than not left out of the teachings they were exposed to. With time, they were encouraged to do certain things to demonstrate their continued loyalty to their churches. In this situation, attendance of 'Church service' a number of times in the week, size of offerings and tithes given became the yardstick or index of measuring their commitments. Programmed to see these religious activities as the chief ways of pleasing Yahweh, believers became split personalities.

They would live lives that had little semblance of Yeshua, Jesus at work and at home only to 'switch on' a different lifestyle inside the 'Church' (building, that is). They were disciples of their denominations, ready to fight the causes defined by Church boards. For many, picking up new cultural battles gave them a sense of commitment to Yeshua, though their own sins were darker than scarlet. This dangerous form of hypocrisy did not and does not amuse heaven. Many saints today tend to forget for instance that it was such kind of men – drunks, immoral men and perverts of all sorts who from Europe rode by horse back all the way to liberate Jerusalem, killing countless Jews and Muslims alike – in the 'Name of God'!

In other words, part of the crises of limited disciples in Church today was sown by the **denominationization** of the gospel.

### **The Pseudo-kingdom and disciples of men without Yeshua, Jesus**

To compound this situation is the emergence of the pseudo-kingdom gospel in different ways. Starting from the so-called 'Prosperity' gospel to the Faith movement which was based on projecting imaginations and ambitions by words in prayer and decrees, believers came under a new type of assault. This time, individuals replaced denominations as alternatives to Yeshua to who believers were drawn to. With the addition of the pseudo-kingdom gospel promoted from the Caribbean basin and North America, the ultimate Jeroboams of this age emerged: those who taught believers not to make Yeshua, Jesus the main issue!

Taking some scriptures like Matthew 6:33 out of context, this new pseudo-kingdom gospel offered people a 'kingdom' where they, rather than Yeshua, Jesus was the centre piece. In so doing, they excited the ultimate idol of all times in saints: the Self nature. They proceeded to offer believers a pathway to 'illumination' and 'power' where they could literarily conquer all mountains of society, establish the Kingdom and invite Yeshua, Jesus as a guest of honour, to use a figure of speech.

### **Outcome**

In true Kingdom Life, Yeshua, Jesus is the centre and circumference of the Kingdom! The Kingdom is His and all about Him. The true manifest phase of the Kingdom will be established by Yeshua, at His second coming, not by humans!

Yahweh does nothing with humans outside of the lens that is Yeshua. He is the One personality Whose life we are called to follow.

**John 14:6 (KJV)** 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Orphan ministers who were not discipled to know Yeshua, trust Him 100 percent and give up all of their selves, ambitions and agendas to enthrone Him will invariably produce orphan believers in ministry. Orphan ministers who had no authority figures they were truly accountable to when growing up as believers tend to two extremes: one is to micro manage and over control lives of saints or to give them license to live lives that are not accountable to Yahweh or leadership. That is the law of reproduction: seed reproduces after kind.

### **Signs of Orphanhood**

Such orphans will manifest various traits of their leaders in varying degrees. These include but are not limited to any, some or all of these:

- 1.** Inability to trust Yahweh for supplying all their needs. Therefore, they tend to be more comfortable pursuing their self-agendas.
- 2.** Because of this trust deficit, they are unwilling to surrender their lives wholly to Him, preferring to hold onto what aspects of their lives are most precious – ability to make decisions independent of

Yahweh. In this, they refuse to emulate Yeshua who in John 5:30, John 6:38 and at the Garden of Gethsemane demonstrated total surrender of His will to Yahweh for direction.

**3.** For this reason, both the ministers and their off springs are not led by Holy Spirit in the things they do but rather by their carnal senses and emotions. This makes it impossible for them to function as sons – Romans 8:12-16; Galatians 4:1-7.

**4.** For them, prayer is basically imposing their wills on Yahweh and expecting Him to rubber stamp such.

**5.** When they do not get what they prayed for, they are offended with Yahweh at heart and basically accuse Him of being negligent.

**6.** They also tend to be jealous and envious of the blessings given to other people.

**7.** They are very ambitious and even in ministry tend to pursue raw ambitions with such singleness of eye yet having the audacity to claim they are doing it for the Most High. Most times, it is ambition that drives such exercises as building bigger campuses; planting new churches or even doing works of charity so that they can be seen of men and hailed. In this, some unconsciously emulate Abraham who in a moment of weakness produced Ishmael by his arm of the flesh.

**8.** Just as they do not trust Yahweh, they also cannot trust people, including destiny helpers He sent to invest in their wellbeing. Basically, infected with suspicion, they just cannot bring themselves to believe that fellow humans will go out of their way to love and bless them. Unconsciously they resent such people and even drift away from them.

**9.** Unfortunately, this tendency causes some to drift away from vessels Yahweh appointed to invest in their growth (true Destiny helpers) to other vessels to which they are emotionally drawn into unhealthy soul ties. As they meet other vessels that excite their fancies, they are ready to move on. In this regard, loyalty is an alien concept in their hearts. This is back of church hopping and adoption of multiple spiritual coverings which leads to confusion of face.

**10.** Because they are driven by ambition and need to be accepted as successful, they do not mind who or what is trampled on by their ways.

**11.** They have damaged emotions and their soul realms are out of sync with divine order. Their minds do most of the thinking leading to carnality (a life driven by what is seen, touched/felt; heard; tasted and smelt) rather than by Holy Spirit.

**12.** Because they are not whole but rather hurting, they in turn hurt other people and produce similar people.

**13.** Because they are carnal, they depend on excessive self-promotion and self-consciousness as a way of feeling accomplished and therefore accepted. They want their photo-shopped faces plastered across billboards, posters and flyers so that people will know that they are important and 'anointed'.

**14.** They are not able to invest in building up what other people started neither can they function sincerely in congregations nor networks where they are not in leadership. In this, they are unable to

discern the body. In other words, they need to ‘found and lead’ before they can feel they are in ministry. In this regard, they foundationally reject the divine plan of the Great Commission stated in:

**John 4:35-38 (KJV)** *35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. 36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. 37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. 38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.*

**1 Corinthians 3:4-8 (KJV)** *4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

**15.** At the family level, they are not able to get into or maintain healthy marriage relationships. They allow their damaged emotions and hurts to influence their perspectives of their fiancés and spouses and often end up in quarrels, fights, separations and divorce only to start all over again and again with fresh people they connect emotionally with – even while in marriage!

**16.** They are very selfish and self-centered. They want everything to be about them.

**17.** They are in the habit of brooding over minor issues and using their emotions to control others.

#### **What such saints need to do to move past arrested orphan hood syndrome**

**1.** The first is to recognize the true state of their lives and the danger it poses to actualization of destiny.

**2.** There is need to repent and be broken for remaining in a state of arrested orphan hood syndrome.

**3.** If necessary, they need to urgently seek deliverance through ministries of Inner healing and biblical counsellors.

**4.** They need to learn to trust Yahweh and other saints as well as human beings generally so that they can receive and give love without suspicion or conditionality's.

**5.** Because Orphanhood arises from lack of ‘parenting’, those afflicted need to cooperate with Elohim Who has already assigned vessels with the grace and skills to help them. It is doubtful if Timothy would have become the great champion of the gospel he turned out to be if Paul was not used by Adonai to fill the void left by his absentee, unbelieving father! Saints and ministers in this state need to release themselves to Yahweh to use an assigned individual or group of saints to disciple them by the Spirit, through the Word and hold them accountable for spiritual progress in the long run. For those already in ministry, this may be painful but necessary especially if they had been Pastors over others or even Overseers of their own ministries. The need to submit to authorities whom Holy Spirit reveals to them may require them to open up and take some corrections while there is time. To be accountable is safe! As they embrace the Kingdom concept of being under godly authority who they can be transparently honest and accountable to such spiritual authorities will be used by Holy Spirit to guide them through the process of becoming whole.

6. Ultimately, the solution is to open their hearts in faith to receive the Grace for accepting the Fatherhood of Yahweh and therefore walking in a relationship of son ship with Him. Holy Spirit bear witness in their hearts that they are sons.

**Romans 8:12-17 (KJV)** *12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

**Galatians 4:4-7 (KJV)** *4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

7. To get into the relationship of sonship, the only pathway is to die to self and enthrone Yeshua, the Ultimate Son as Lord and King. That means to move on from being mere 'Believers in Yeshua' to become 'followers of Yeshua'. Once this happens, their confidence in Him will rise!

**Matthew 16:23 (KJV)** *23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. 24 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. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

**1 Peter 2:21-23 (KJV)** *21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

#### **Take note:**

Very few people whose lives are mirrored in this lesson get to receive the kind of healing that makes whole. It is to the glory of Yahweh that He has provided ministers blessed with the gift of counselling, inner healing and deliverance that are equipped with the anointing to deal with the baggage of orphan hood. Unfortunately, either out of ignorance, shyness or simply being caught up in the comfort of orphan hood, many saints do not make use of what Yahweh provided. If you need help to get in touch with those with this special type of ministry, please contact us and we will oblige.

Stop blaming Satan, parents, other people or situations! There is power in taking responsibility and approaching Yahweh at the Throne of Grace and Mercy, seeking the ministry of Holy Spirit when a believer finds that his/her life is of less quality than it should be. Once the relationship is negative and toxic, crying out to the Father is a good way to go forward.

**Psalms 139:23-24 (KJV)** *23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

## Review Questions

Please note the revelation in this chapter is of critical import. We need to make sure you understood the chapter through the scope of questions in this assignment. Please read through the chapter and answer ALL the questions:

1. Please describe the state of relationship with Elohim called Orphan.
2. Please list 9 of the 17 features of this sad state of spiritual life.
3. In bullet point form, please state how a saint or minister in this state can come out of it
4. What will you do with the revelation in this chapter?

## Chapter 7

### Toxic Relationship #.4: Babes/Arrested Babyhood Syndrome

Let us recall that in Lesson 5, we began a discussion of how Discipleship is the ONLY cure for distorted relationship types in the Household of Faith. When believers are not disciples or intentional, yielded followers of Yeshua, Jesus, the centre of their lives gravitate away from Him and migrate to their self-natures or to their human leaders. Consequently, they tend to relate with Elohim as Strangers (He is like a 'distant, unknown God'.

Others tend to relate with Elohim as 'Unwilling slaves' who serve a 'hard-to-please Task Master'. This makes them have a transactional mindset where they want to negotiate something in return for any deed done. For this mindset, to give an offering, one must of necessity seek the hundred fold return. Nothing is wrong with exercising faith on the promises of Elohim when obeying His Word on giving. However, for true disciples, giving need to be essentially an act of worship!

In Chapter 6 we examined another negative relation type: Christians who behave as if Yahweh is an absentee Father and who therefore live like Orphans.

In this lesson, we come down the wire on the four types of toxic relationships that Yahweh does not want to have with those who claim to be His. It is the posture of Babes.

#### **In the natural**

Everyone is born a baby. Babyhood therefore is the infant stage of life. It is a time marked by breastfeeding – on demand. All a baby has to do is cry or wriggle and the mother answers with milk! Babies tend to manifest the nature of Adam, though they are innocent. It is a time of extreme selfishness and self-centeredness. Babyhood is therefore a time of total dependency on others for sustenance.

#### **In the spiritual realm.**

When people are brought into the Kingdom, they come in as babes with limited understanding of these realities: Yahweh their Father; Yeshua their redeemer; themselves as citizens of the Kingdom, what should be the nature of their relationship with the spiritual leader and the congregations where they are planted.

In a real sense, they are like sponges which will soak in whatever they are drenched in – pure truth; mixture of truth and error or outright lies. To the extent that they are dependent, they are also exposed to two potential extremes: either manipulation to serve human or denominational agendas or they are open to receive empowerment to grow in grace and become all that Yeshua redeemed them to be.

Spiritual babes normally tend to desire milk and sweet sounding messages/exhortations/prophecies which make them feel good, even when what they really need is progressive exposure to sound, balanced teachings which will challenge them to grow.

In the 21st Century, many ministers and ministries have developed mindsets and created ministry environments that are perfect for bringing in babes and basically keeping them there. So, while many believers chalk up statistics of numbers of years they have been 'in Church', their mindset, attitudes and lifestyles reveal a state of heart that is still at babe state.

In other words, spiritual babyhood is normal for those who just got saved. As they desire and receive the Milk of the Word (basic principles of the Kingdom in the Holy Scriptures), they grow from grace to grace.

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

What is abnormal is for believers to stop growing at some point and begin to run around in circles or even lose what they already experienced before. In this case, they begin to permit certain negative trends of their former lives (sins) to resurrect.

**2 Peter 2:20-22 (KJV)** *20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

This is what is called arrested babyhood syndrome! It is akin to what happened to Israel in the wilderness. Rather than press on to enter the promised land, there came a time when they stopped moving forward and began to settle at the Mountain where Elohim appeared to them in times past.

**Deuteronomy 1:6-8 (KJV)** *6 The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: 7 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. 8 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.*

For all believers and ministers who stopped growing, we trust that the nuggets of truth Elohim releases in this lesson will be a true life line to break the negative trend and launch them onto the path of breakthrough into real spiritual growth!

### **Core signs**

Core signs of arrested babyhood syndrome include these markers:

1. Desire for and Love of affirmation, even when they are in error or sin
2. Distaste for solid truth
3. Instead of studying the Holy Scriptures in a systematic way to understand the mind of Yahweh, they skim the surface looking for promises to claim

4. They are in-disciplined, giving their members (parts of their body like eyes, ears, reproductive organs) unrestricted ability to get into compromise and sin. For that reason, sinning is a default lifestyle rather than holy living.
5. They are church hopping, hunting for those who will make them happy rather than those who Yahweh will use to make them mature
6. They have a dependency syndrome, unwilling to discover and walk in their identity in Yeshua. Rather, they actively seek to be known by which popular preacher or Pastor or ministry they are connected or identified with.
7. Their daily life attitudes are negative and repulsive.
8. They are very selfish and self centred.
9. They do not like to take responsibility for their own spiritual growth or indeed anything else
10. They are not faithful to assignments committed to their trust except where such will bring them publicity and recognition
11. They live in arrested childhood syndrome such as throwing tantrums when things do not work out their way. Things have to work their way, or they take to the high way.
12. They hate the cross or at best dislike it.
13. By not building their spiritual lives on the solid rock of the word, their lives are unstable, carried about and tossed by every wind of doctrine!
14. They love physical activities which make them known or seen in the congregation
15. They are therefore ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of truth
16. They do not bear fruit of the Spirit even after many years in faith.
17. As they profess to be believers but rather manifest works of the Flesh, they are potential cast aways (candidates for hell and Lake of Fire) Galatians 5: 15- 21; 1 Corinthians 6: 9-13
18. Their devotion to Elohim is from the soulish, rather than spirit realm. The result is that THEY use their emotions to gauge spirituality. Yeshua said that true worship should be in Spirit and in Truth.
19. They cherry pick scriptures. In this way, they read, study and memorise the Promises and ignore the passages which Holy Spirit can use to convict them of sin, righteousness and judgement.
20. They flock to where there is multiplied activity and where the crowds flow to and feel empty when they are alone.
21. Because of all that has been said, believers and ministers in arrested babyhood syndrome are easily prone to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils!

22. Because they can and are often deceived, they easily deceive others who come under their wings, if they are ministers.

23. What all these mean is that believers in arrested babyhood syndrome do not have Yeshua at centre of their lives. Rather, they are co-dependents of the ministers they are affiliated to.

These scriptures are relevant to their spiritual identities and direction of life:

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 (KJV)** *1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

**2 Timothy 3:1-7 (KJV)** *1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

**2 Timothy 4:1-4 (KJV)** *1 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; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

### **The Tragedy of Babes who become ministers**

Have you seen teenagers who become pregnant unprepared and deliver babes? Majority of them are disasters in the estate of motherhood! As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. The sceptre of babes producing and nurturing babes is one of the outstanding features of the gospel in our generation.

Many ministers there are whose core identity is not the depth of Yeshua they have but their association with a particular popular preacher or place of religious activities they enter on prescribed 'holy days'! They refused to grow up and become direct disciples of Yeshua. At a time, they should be true teachers of the word who Yahweh should be using to bring up disciples, such people are still needing milk to drink!

**Hebrews 5:12-14 (KJV)** *12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

They are comfortable in flaunting the gilt-edged certificates affirming them to be 'spiritual sons or daughters' of their favourite ministers. Their preachments are not from the heart neither do rivers of water flow from their bellies on Sunday mornings. Rather what comes out of their lips are words of such popular preachers they listened to late on Saturday night. Because such words are devoid of conviction

and unction of Holy Spirit, they are like the hot air of theatrical productions – fit for amusing people and making babes who listen to get a high that lasts for a few hours!

Arrested babyhood syndrome did not start today. In the days of Paul, the apostle, he was mightily used of Holy Spirit to deal with the tendency of those who were delivered from the hands of Satan but refused to press into the fullness of Yeshua by discipleship. Consequently, they were buffeted by legalism fostered by Judaizers.

**Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)** *6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

**Galatians 4:1-12 (KJV)** *1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. 8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. 12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.*

## **How the babyhood syndrome can be destroyed so that saints become disciples**

**1. By genuine conversion arising from inviting sinners to encounter Yeshua alone; not the preacher, congregation or ministry.** This is what will produce genuine candidates for further empowerment: those who repent of their sins and are converted (have a change of heart and mind arising from the encounter with Yeshua).

**Acts 3:19 (KJV)** *19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

**2. By focusing on ensuring that those who are thus truly saved have specific saints (already walking as disciples or yearning steadfastly for that experience) are assigned to follow them up.** Such brethren come alongside them for guidance. It takes a disciple to disciple others. In this way, new converts are not lost in the crowd but can rather find the loving environment to grow.

**2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV)** *2 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.*

**3. By encouraging them to open up to understand, receive and submit to leadership of Holy Spirit in all things, not running ahead of Him.**

**Romans 8:12-16 (KJV)** *12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

**4. Regular study of the Word which renews their mind** to imbibe Kingdom Culture as their old natural cultures are rejected and ejected.

**Romans 12:2 (KJV)** *2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

**Ephesians 4:23 (KJV)** *23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

**5. Consistent Prayer Life – teach them to pray about everything and how it leads to a life of dependency on Yahweh as Father which is safe!** This makes them to live without anxiety and rather one of joy in spite of whatever confronts them

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)** *17 Pray without ceasing.*

**Philippians 4:4-7 (KJV)** *4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**6. Life of Faith, trusting Elohim as a Father who cares for all aspects of their lives and stands by to enable them fulfil Destiny.**

**Mark 11:22-24 (KJV)** *22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

**7. Need to embrace the Cross; die daily to self.** Baby saints need to be taught early that the Cross – represented by fires of life which Elohim allows is not for destruction but rather process them to be better vessels. When they understand and embrace the Cross, they will count all things like dung for the excellency of growing in Yeshua!

**Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV)** *24 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. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

**1 Corinthians 15:31 (KJV)** *31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

**8. Need to know how to hear from Elohim and to do nothing without first discerning His will.** Baby saints will profit from an exposition of all the potential ways through which Elohim speaks and learn how to discern His Voice.

**9. They should be taught to seek first the Kingdom:** be eternity conscious and make present decisions in the light of eternity. That is the whole point of Matthew 6:19-34

**Matthew 6:33-34 (KJV)** *33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 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 16:26 (KJV)** *26 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?*

**10. Through restoration of five old led Congregations.** One of the reasons why the 4 types of toxic relationship with Yahweh outlined in this study arise in the first place is that congregational ministries have been wrongly run as personal estates of mono or dual gifted people. The Holy Scriptures are very clear that for congregations or city churches to be instruments of producing sons of Yahweh who are disciples of Yeshua, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers need to take their places by divine orchestration, not fleshly manipulation and release synergy which impacts saints and transforms them.

**Ephesians 4:11-16 (KJV)** *11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Saints, to run congregations and ministries contrary to the divine pattern is to court disaster, at end of the day:

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (KJV)** *10 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. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

## **Warning**

There is danger of damnation for believers and ministers who embrace the Arrested Babyhood syndrome and remain therein. Let us heed this warning:

**Hebrews 6:1-9 (KJV)** *1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit. 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to*

*come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. 9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.*

Let us say it again: Arrested Babyhood Syndrome leads to a life co-dependency, centred on fellow humans, not Elohim!

### **Review Questions**

Please note that the revelation in this lesson is of critical import. We need to make sure you understood the lesson through the scope of questions in this assignment. Please read through the lesson and answer ALL the questions:

1. Please briefly describe the sad state of spiritual life called Babyhood
2. Please list 8 of the 13 signs of arrested babyhood syndrome.
3. In bullet point style, state the steps that a believer can take to come out of arrested babyhood syndrome
4. What will you do with the revelation in this lesson?

## Chapter 8

### Relationship Yahweh wants from His Own in the earth realm: Sons

#### **The Nature of Relationship Yahweh wants from His Own in the earth realm: Father and son! (1)**

Over the past three lessons, Holy Spirit has done a marvelous work of revealing four negative types of relationships Satan instigates many people to tend to have with Yahweh. Whether as **strangers**; **unwilling slaves or like orphans or babes**, none of these negative relationship types are acceptable to Him.

#### **Why Not?**

The main reasons they are unacceptable to Yahweh can be found in these factors:

1. Each type represents a direct repudiation of His Father hood in real terms
2. Each represents the outcome of doubting His Love
3. Each represents repudiation to one degree or the other of the awesome Blood Sacrifice of Yeshua which broke down the walls dividing humanity from Him and gives direct access.
4. Each of those relationship types represents a shade or more of Satan's lies to humans just as he did in the Garden of Eden by which Adam and Eve transited from being sons of Yahweh to become slaves of Satan (Genesis 3: 1-7).
5. Each of those four toxic relationship types basically activate self as main driver of life, wired to respond to the voice of Satan rather than the voice of Holy Spirit.
6. To that extent, each of those four types will gravitate to love of the world and all that is therein accessed by Lust of the Eyes, Lust of the Flesh and Pride of Life. As people cling to those three ways of making decisions, they fall into systemic rebellion, drifting away from the perfect will of Yahweh.

To understand how fundamental this principle is, we need to diligently compare the temptation of Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:1-7) and that of Yeshua, Jesus in the wilderness (Mathew 4:1-11). You will discover that whether in the lush Garden or the barren desert, the principle was the same: using what can be seen to activate a desire for what Yahweh forbids and trying to use what can be seen to suggest independence from Yahweh which is the root of pride of life.

This is why John the beloved was used to pen one of the most outstanding instructions for saints of all generations:

**1 John 2:15-17 (KJV)** *15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

7. The implications of 1-6 above should not be lost on saints: this principle represents living and serving Yahweh out of corruption of un-crucified flesh! It does not matter whether this applies to personal decisions like who to marry, what career to choose or those in ministry trying to build through Lusting after what will make them 'successful' which they cheekily present to Yahweh to approve as fruits of ministry.

### **What then was the main reason Yahweh sent Yeshua? To recover sons in the earth realm!**

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, something cataclysmic happened that re-defined the nature of man and how he was to live in the earth realm. Adam was created to be and live as two things:

#### **1. The son of Yahweh in the earth realm.**

**Luke 3:38 (KJV)** *38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.*

Adam was made in the image and likeness of Elohim as a triune being – had a measure of the Spirit of Elohim (his spirit) which on entering his physical body, activated the soul. The soul is the realm of self-expression containing the Mind (for reasoning and analysing), the will (for making decisions) and the emotion (for releasing attitudes and responses to external stimuli).

As long as the spirit of Adam which came from Elohim was in charge of his soul and body, Adam lived a life of utter dependence on His maker for all things. In love, Yahweh had provided both the right ecosystem as well as all that pertained to life and godliness for Adam to live as His son. A careful examination of the temptation in the Garden of Eden reveals that the clincher in Satan's bag of tricks was the suggestion that if they disobeyed Elohim by eating the forbidden fruit, they would become independent of Him! Take note in Genesis 3:6 that this was what captured the heart and mind of Eve.

**Genesis 3:1-7 (KJV)** *1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

#### **#.2. Adam and Eve were created to represent the Kingdom of heaven in the earth realm as it Ambassadors.**

They had a clear mandate to exercise the authority of heaven (from whence their spirit-man was released) in the earth realm.

**Genesis 1:26-29 (KJV)** *26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl*

*of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*

**Genesis 2:15 (KJV)** *15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

Elohim Being a Spirit, created man with a corporal body that had the properties required to function in the earth realm. In other words, the body was to be a suit which the spirit man needed to function on earth. The soul was to be his instrument of assessing his environment. Adam and Eve were therefore Ambassadors of the Kingdom on earth!

**Psalm 115:16 (KJV)** *16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.*

## **Consequence of the Fall**

The fall of Adam and Eve was an epic one! With the fall, came loss of the privileges associated with living and functioning as sons of Elohim and Ambassadors of the Kingdom in the earth realm! Here are some of the direct consequences which have affected human kind until Yeshua came to pay the Supreme Price on the Cross of Calvary:

### **1. Introduction of death to the body.**

Sin opened the door for death and decay. Instead of living in the body indefinitely, Adam and Eve had their days cut short. It is on record that from the high years of Adam (930 years), progressively the time allotted for humans to be alive in the body was cut shut until 70 became a kind of average.

**Psalm 90:10 (KJV)** *10 The days of our years are **threescore** years **and ten**; **and** if by reason of strength they be **fourscore** years, yet is their strength labour **and** sorrow; for it is soon cut off, **and** we fly away.*

2. From dependency on Elohim for all their needs, mankind activated a new life of struggle to live. What followed has been a life of hard labour and atavistic tendencies that people even carry into ministry, thinking they can please Yahweh by their rituals or works of religiosity.

The day Adam and Eve succumbed to seduction of Satan, they lost this glorious nature and estate and were driven out from both the Garden as well as the Presence of Elohim. From son, Adam and Eve became strangers and orphans for whom Elohim became a distant reality!

**Genesis 3:22-24 (KJV)** *22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

As Adam and Eve lost their first estate in the Garden, they began a new life of back breaking labour, depending on arm of the flesh for sustenance! Instead of enjoying inheritance of Yahweh, they were condemned to a life of work and struggle to eke out a living!

**Genesis 3:17-19 (KJV)** *17 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; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 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.*

As Genesis 5:1-5 revealed, they began to bear children in that backslidden state and passed on the DNA of failure, defeat and struggle by self-effort.

### **3. Sin also brought decay, sickness and health issues**

We will be exploring these two purposes viz-a-viz the mission of Yeshua to the earth and on the Cross (to re-populate the earth realm with sons of Elohim and Ambassadors of the Kingdom) in another lesson. Thereafter, we shall see how Satan used Christian religion<both the Orthodox and Pentecostal/Charismatic variants> to re-define the gospel away from the divine purpose.

### **Faulty Foundation of Churchianity/Christian Religion**

Because modern day 'Churching' is about accumulation of Membership which necessitates building of bigger or more attractive buildings for them to come into; the ultimate purpose is not to make disciples of all nations but to generate more cash/wealth for the individual preachers or denominations/organizations. That is what the ABC syndrome (Attendance, Buildings, Cash) is all about.

This is why in this last generation; many saints are not enjoying vibrant, intimate personal relationship with Yahweh as His sons and empowerment by Holy Spirit to serve as Ambassadors of the Kingdom on earth.

### **Review Questions**

1. Briefly state 4 of the 7 reasons why the 4 negative relationship types (Strangers, Unwilling Slaves, Orphans and Babes) are not acceptable to the Father
- 2, Please explain the two things that Adam and Eve were created originally to be and do
3. What are the 3 things modern day Christianity are pursuing which negate the original purpose of Elohim?
4. What new thing did you learn in this lesson?

## Chapter 9:

### One of the Core reasons for Yeshua's Sacrifice: Adoption

Yeshua came to pay the price for mankind to be restored to the original purpose of Yahweh! He came that we should function as sons of Elohim and Ambassadors of the Kingdom of heaven in the earth realm! In this regard, let us extract from a lesson in Course 104: The Glorious Truths to establish the reality of saints being redeemed from the hands of Satan, Sin and the world to live and function as sons of Yahweh in the earth realm.

#### **Glorious Truth #3: Adoption - Galatians 4:1-7; Ephesians 1:3-7, Ephesians 2:11-19**

One of the radical blessings Yahweh offers lost humanity is an opportunity to become members of His holy and divine family. This reality is offered through a legal process and covenant relationship called **adoption** for all who accept the free gift of salvation in the Blood of Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah.

It is important that we understand this glorious truth so that our faith can stand on the secure word of Yahweh rather than the fables of men, religious dogmas of denominations or the massive twisting of truth which Satan has caused to invade the camp of saints! For those in leadership, one of the most important truths that can ever be communicated to saints is that they are adopted legally into the Family of Yahweh and are His! They are adopted to be accepted in the beloved!

**Ephesians 1:4-6 (KJV)** *4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

By adoption, a spiritual transplant is offered to whoever will receive the gracious invitation of Yahweh. From being part of the dominion of Satan and kingdom of darkness a penitent sinner who puts faith in the blood that was shed is conveyed into the Family of Yahweh and His Kingdom.

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

Because of the redemption price which was fully paid by the blood that Yeshua, Jesus shed, the saint is now adopted into the family of Yahweh with full rights and privileges as a son indeed who has a personal relationship with a Personal Father Who is Creator of the whole universe!

Adoption is the core basis on which Kingdom life differs from religion and religious devotions. Religion requires you to worship an "unknown god" even in fear and trepidation of what he or she will do if you do not meet a long list of expectations and rules. On the other hand, Yahweh Who we have to deal with has revealed Himself in Yeshua, Jesus as One who is truly is Love Personified. This is in contrast to the old Covenant where Yahweh revealed Himself to Israel from afar. In that decadent covenant, only Moses knew Him intimately while the populace was content to worship from afar! Hebrews 1:1-3

**Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV)** *1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

**Psalms 103:7 (KJV)** *7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

In the New Covenant, Yahweh firstly revealed Himself in Yeshua, Jesus. Secondly, through the relationship between Father and Son, Yahweh reveals how intimately He wants to relate with His Own children who are on earth! In effect, Yahweh wants the relationship with members of His family to be as modelled by the intense fellowship between Him and Yeshua, Jesus when He was in the Body.

This is why we must not forget that Yeshua, Jesus after completing the work of redemption announced the shift in stature of the disciples from friends to fellow sons of Yahweh who would continue His assignment in the earth realm!

**John 20:17 (KJV)** *17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

Contrary to the religious and secular narrative, Yeshua, Jesus did not come to establish a religious system – even Christian Religion! He came for a more profound purpose: to bring many sons to that same glorious relationship with His Father through the principle of adoption:

**Hebrews 2:10-13 (KJV)** *10 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. 11 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, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

Adoption is a legal covenant. Someone who is adopted into a family is entitled to all the rights and privileges which the new standing and relationship with the adopter. So is it with all of us who have been brought into the Divine Family of Yahweh. We have all that Yahweh offers. Just as justification wiped out our past, adoption gives us access to the present and future! It for this very reason that Yahweh sent His Holy Spirit – the very same which was endued without measure in Yeshua during the baptism of John – into all saints first to seal them and to empower them to live as He lived in the perfect will of the Father in all things and minister or serve in power!

**Romans 8:14-17 (KJV)** *14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Through adoption, we become heirs of Yahweh and joint heirs with Yeshua. This glorious privilege is not to be tossed away by ignorance. Each saint is under obligation to resist every attempt of Satan or humans to suggest that you are on your own in this life and that Elohim is a distant reality!

This error is the root of both the **Stranger; Unwilling Slave; Orphan** and perpetual **Babyhood** syndromes that have made the majority of believers wallow in the shallow and ritual-infested waters of organized Christian religion! It is responsible for the tendencies to run after 'anointed men and women' rather than a Father Who Owns all, gives all and loves all saints without partiality! Refuse error and press into the fullness of your identity in Yeshua, Jesus so that you will live like the victor you are and not a victim of circumstances!

When we were babes, we did not fully understand our identity as adopted sons of Yahweh. Now that we are mature in Yeshua by His Grace, let us cast off the stranger; orphan, slavish and babyhood mentality which kept us away from intimate relationship with our Father in Heaven.

**Galatians 4:1-7 (KJV)** *1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Those adopted into the family of Yahweh are not judged by their race, colour, gender, socio-economic status or geographical location. The only thing which defines them is who they are in Him and Who Yeshua is in them.

**Galatians 3:26-29 (KJV)** *26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Therefore, a person who has been adopted is to be known to no one by natural qualities. No one is permitted to know us after the flesh but by the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 5:16 (KJV)** *16 Wherefore henceforth **know** we **no man after the flesh**: yea, though we have **known** Christ **after the flesh**, yet **now** henceforth **know** we him **no** more.*

The adopted sons that the world is waiting for are to be carriers of the presence of Yahweh and dispensers of His power received by the Holy Spirit at work within them. They are to take the Church from the building to the community to demonstrate, by the power of Holy Spirit, the fact that Yeshua, Jesus is alive and reigning in their hearts. As they stand anywhere and everywhere as His witnesses, sceptics, agnostics and even principalities and powers in heavenly places cannot but stand in awe at what they see:

**Ephesians 3:10 (KJV)** *10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

According to **Romans 8:19** a day is coming when the whole creation will see the full manifestation of the sons of Elohim. Adopted sons will presage that realm of life.

That is why saints are to allow Yeshua to be the Centre and Circumference of their lives. When we submit to His call to be disciples, our fleshly agendas fall away, and we become vessels through which His Personality, Presence and Power are manifested!

**Romans 13:14 (KJV)** *14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

#### **4 key concepts**

We can see therefore that adoption is the reality of our acceptance as legal members of the family of Yahweh. The former sinner is translated from the realm of darkness or dominion of Satan and rather conveyed into the Kingdom of Yahweh. By adopting us into His family, Yahweh establishes these principles:

##### **1. The new life in Yeshua is one based on spiritual relationship, not religion and religiosity**

**John 4:23-24 (KJV)** *23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

**2. Since we are now members of His Family, our relationship with Him is defined by His nature engrafted into us – we have His DNA and are His off springs.** The Father/Son relationship with Yeshua, Jesus is now extended to us. Hebrews 2:10-18.

**Acts 17:28-29 (KJV)** *28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

##### **3. The Adoption Conundrum: from Babe, through Servant, Friend and Son!**

On adoption, we are babes in Yeshua. We must not remain there because greater things were purchased for us by the Blood that Yeshua, Jesus shed. As we desire the sincere milk of the Word, we grow in grace 1 Peter 2: 1-2. The tendency is to grow to be servants, ready to work for Yahweh. Unfortunately, there may be danger of operating with a servile mentality which beclouds our ability to develop into the fullness of our adoption.

Passion for more of our heavenly Father especially His Presence in the Word and in prayer will lead us to a life of willing obedience with a heart eager to please Him. This leads saints to transit to a more intimate relationship with Yeshua, Jesus to the degree that He regards us as friends

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

Good as this state of intimate relationship with Yeshua is, there is an ultimate state for which we were adopted into the family of Yahweh. That is the State of Son ship. This comes about when we come into full understanding that He who died to save us also poured out His Blood to secure for the Father many more sons – just like He was – in the earth realm. This was what Adam was – a son of Yahweh before he

fell. Yeshua recovered that lost mantle for us. This is why when Mary Magdalene tried to embrace the risen Yeshua, He announced to her in clear language that the status of the redeemed before Yahweh had been perfected by His shed blood: they were now sons!

**John 20:17 (KJV)** *17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

This is the state in which saints recognize who they are in Yeshua and Who Yeshua Is in them. It is a state of taking responsibility for execution of the will of the Father on Planet earth generally and the particular sphere of influence assigned to the saint. Sonship is the ultimate purpose of adoption and no one in the Kingdom should be satisfied until they begin to think, speak, pray and live like sons who execute the ordinance or will of the Father in all situations just as Yeshua, Jesus did.

At this stage of their walk with Yahweh, the primary motivation in life is to do the will of the Father and to finish it, the costs notwithstanding (Hebrews 2:10 –11,17; John 20:15-17; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-29).

Let us be reminded again that Yeshua, Jesus did not come to set up a religious organization! He rather came to redeem those who are willing to accept the offer of the Father and be adopted into His royal family.

#### **4. Adoption into the family of Yahweh makes us co-heirs with Yeshua, Jesus.** Romans 8:14-17.

There are two dimensions of this status.

**- In the now, we are His ambassadors who with single minded pursuit of the Kingdom, make it a priority to represent Him well as well as become instruments of reconciling the lost.** Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 6:25-34; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21. As His ambassadors, we exercise the authority in the Name of Yeshua, Jesus as His brethren so that ALL that He would have done is accomplished by faith in His Name. As we live like this, seeking first the Kingdom and His righteousness, all that we need to fulfil destiny are released to us from heaven which is drawn down by Faith. As heirs, saints have no limitation to how far they can soar in the earth realm.

- Success in achieving destiny is therefore an inheritance they do not have to run from pillar to post to achieve. In the same way, they do not chase after wealth or resources. Rather, by faith, they receive Allocations of Divine resources with which to fulfil their Kingdom assignments. It is their inheritance in Yeshua, Jesus! Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3; Matthew 7:7-9; Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:18; John 14:12; John 15:7; John 16:23,24.

**- The eternal dimension of co-heir ship is that we will rule and reign with Yeshua, Jesus when He returns to establish the full phase of the Kingdom.**

Yeshua, Jesus will be enthroned in Jerusalem while all faithful sons will be assigned as kings over various cities and nations world-wide to instruct people in the ways of the King and the approved culture of His Kingdom. We are adopted into a Kingdom of Priests and Kings! Revelations 1: 5-6; Revelations 5:9,10; Revelation 20:1-6

## Review Questions

1. What is Adoption
2. What happens to a saint who knows and understand that he/she is adopted into the family of Yahweh?
3. Please briefly summarise the 4 key concepts

## Chapter 10

### Resolving the Identity Crises.

There is an urgent need for those Yahweh will use as true reformers to understand the depth of the crises the end time Church is facing: it is that of an identity crisis! Who saints are in Yeshua and Who He is in them lies at the root of this crises. Since Babylon intruded into the gospel of the Kingdom about 300-400 years after the death of Yeshua, Jesus, what it has earnestly tried to do is drag the Church into an institutional mode which places emphasis on making people become 'members' of particular denominations rather than being followers or disciples of Yeshua, Jesus. Consequently such 'members' live by the benefice of Pastors or leaders rather than Yahweh.

It is recommended that all who are participating on this course on Discipleship also study GSOM Course 104: The 16 Glorious Truths. It is a course which presents the radical blessings Yahweh offers whoever will accept His call for salvation into His Kingdom. It is a course which presents the true heart of the glorious gospel of Yahshua, Jesus and the centre-piece of what constitutes our Kingdom life in the present which distinguish saints from the world around.

In so doing, this course shows why the gospel is called the Good News. It presents the depths of these glorious truths which should shape the true identity, world view and lifestyle of saints and truly make them live an "other world life". These are not dry doctrines or church dogma to memorize or recite. These blessings, which all saints need to appropriate as gifts from our heavenly Father in Yahshua and walk in are:

**#.1. Redemption.** Saints are redeemed through the blood that was shed at the cross of Calvary. He gave His life so that saints may live! Redemption guarantees saints legal freedom from Satan, Sin, The World, Self and all handwritings of ordinances that are against them and contrary to them.

**#.2. Justification.** This is the pronouncement that seals the deal of translation from sinner to saint for those who truly repent of their sins. It is the act of being counted blameless with no record of past sins in heaven as they were blotted out. The outcome is peace with Yahweh and a good conscience free of guilt.

**#.3. Adoption.** Here, the former sinner and enemy of Yahweh is made a member of His family and translated or conveyed into the Kingdom. In practical terms, adoption begins as children and progresses to sons. Son-ship speaks of maturity so that we take responsibility for maintaining the estate of our Father in the earth realm.

**#.4. Inheritance.** Sons have an inheritance from their Father. It is the full benefits of being in Yeshua, Jesus in time and in eternity. It speaks of the Covenant Blessings of Calvary's cross. When we walk in understanding of our inheritance, we do not get stressed out praying for 'provisions'. We rather place our trust in the Fathers ability and willingness to release every one of the Allocations(Resources) commensurate with our Assignments and draw them down in prayers of faith. Ephesians 1:3; Romans 8:31-32; 2 Peter 1:3.

**#.5. Grace.** It is by Grace that sinners are saved through Faith they exercise in the finished work of Yeshua. Grace is also the life of Yahweh in Yeshua and His strength that is the basis of the new life of the redeemed. Without Grace, saints will live a dry religious life free of the vitality that comes from their vibrant relationship with the Father.

**#.6. Election** – Saints did not just happen. Well before foundation of the world, Elohim had chosen them in Yeshua out of His love and mercy to be part of His glorious family in the earth realm. Though this has been His plan for all, the paradox is only the remnant actually respond to this lifeline! Ephesians 1: 3-6; Romans 8:29-30

**#.7. Position** – based on what happened at the Cross, the saint has a shift in position. Whereas he/she was a full earthling, there is now a paradigm shift by which though still physically in the earth realm, the spirit-man of the redeemed is seated with Yeshua in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:1-6

**#.8. The Mobile Temple of Holy Spirit** – The dramatic truth that saints need to know is that they are mobile Temples indwelt by Ruach ha Chodesh, Holy Spirit. In this setting, they literally carry Him wherever they go, and He will show up if they accept this truth by faith. The analogy is the Ark of Testimony which Israel physically transported whenever they moved camp. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

**#.9. Security** – The redeemed of Yahshua have a double layer of security in Him and Yahweh that they need to know and walk in. When this truth sinks in, fear will automatically jump out of their lives. Colossians 3:1-3; Psalm 91

**#.10. Dual Citizenship** – Saints are in effect, dual citizens. They are first citizens of the Kingdom of heaven while they are planted as its Ambassadors in specific nations in the earth realm. Their primary loyalty is to Yeshua their redeemer and there is absolutely no question that His word rules their lives. Yet His word requires saints to love, respect and honour temporal leaders of their earthly nations and obey laws, except where such will lead them to sin. Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 2:11-15.

**#.11: Show piece of Elohim.** The redeemed of Yeshua are the showpiece of Yahweh who He wants to showcase. Our manifestation as His sons in the earth realm is something He yearns to bring to pass because it demonstrates His goodness Ephesians 2:10.

**#.12. Guaranteed Outcomes** – Saints are guaranteed that while on their earthly pilgrimage, all things will work together for their good and are therefore part of the process for their maturation and perfection. Romans 8:28. This gives them stability of emotions as they trust their heavenly Father even in the midst of storms.

**13. Walking by Faith not Sight** – When people are born again, they receive Faith as a superior ‘sense’ to the 5 carnal senses of their natural estate. This is the special ability to ‘see’, ‘know’ and relate with Elohim Who is a Spirit-Being. Saints begin the eternal journey by Faith and continue therein through it. 2 Corinthians 5:7; Mark 11:22-24; Hebrews 10:35-39; Hebrews 11:1,6. In effect, Prayer is the vehicle through which saints release their Faith as they communicate with their heavenly Father on a spirit to Spirit basis!

**14. The New Creation of Elohim in the earth realm.** Those who genuinely repent of their sins and receive Yeshua, Jesus into their hearts are the New Creation of Elohim according to 2 Corinthians 5:17

**15. Sealed unto day of Redemption.** The same Holy Spirit which convicts a sinner of sin, righteousness and judgement also ensures that he or she is sealed into Yeshua unto the day of ultimate redemption, if that individual continued in the faith.

**16. Delegated Authority.** The saints recover and walk in the reality of being the delegated authority of Elohim in the earth realm.

These 16 gifts of grace are to be received, appreciated and appropriated by Faith. All saints are to walk in them and by so doing, announce to people within their spheres of influence whose they are and where they are going.

Believers who do not know and are not walking in the reality of these gracious gifts, are engaged in religion which leads to serving a 'far off God' with rituals and dead works. Leaders who are not teaching saints these truths need to repent and humbly receive the revelation by faith! They represent the clear and incontrovertible evidence that saints have become the new person in Yeshua spoken of in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

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

### **Discipleship and the true identity of saints as sons of Yahweh and Ambassadors**

It may be necessary to ask the question: what has discipleship got to do with understanding the true identity of saints as sons of Yahweh and ambassadors of His Kingdom in the earth realm on this side of eternity? The short answer is EVERYTHING!

Let us explain. One of the little understood verses of scripture which believers tend to quote is this one:

**Hebrews 5:7-9 (KJV)** *7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

Note that the scriptures say: though Yeshua was the son of Yahweh, He learnt obedience by the things He suffered! In other words, though Yeshua was incarnated to be the Begotten Son of Yahweh, He still had to go through the Law of Process! Isaiah captured the essence of this reality with this potent word:

**Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)** *6 For unto us a **child is born**, unto us a **son is given**: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

A Child was born but a Son was given! He did not just drop down from heaven as a mature son to fulfil the redemption assignment. He was born a babe – seemingly helpless and needed nurture. He grew up unknown and ordinary, engaged in day to day life of the average Hebrew male of His day. But He was fully aware of His identity even from a young age as recorded in this scripture of his encounter with religious leaders and His natural parents as a boy:

**Luke 2:40-52 (KJV)** 40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

One day at the age of 30 – the age of full maturity, Yeshua submitted Himself to John for Baptism. He needed to validate the ministry of His precursor, John the Baptist. He also needed to fulfil all righteousness: as a King from the tribe of Judah, it was needful, in fulfilling the Old Covenant that John who was of the Tribe of Levi anoint Him publicly so to say. It was in the act of this obedience that the heavens opened, and His Father announced Him to Israel:

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

He did not just go ahead and redeem man. Further trials and tests lay ahead. First was the temptation in the wilderness where Holy Spirit led Him. There through the suffering of a fast and abiding in the love of His Father, Yeshua defeated the overtures of Satan to seduce Him through Lust of the eyes (turn stones to food), Lust of the Flesh (to possess all the Kingdoms of the world before the due time thousands of years later) and Pride of Life (prove He is a Son of Yahweh by falling down from the Pinnacle of the Temple). Matthew 4:1-11.

After the temptation, Yeshua lived for three and half years teaching the culture of the Kingdom of heaven for those who would receive it. It was a culture opposite to the Old Covenant and superior to it in every way. Whereas the Old Covenant demanded rituals that needed to be performed in certain ways by a select priestly caste, the New Covenant was received by Faith and therefore to be written on the fleshly tables of the hearts of the redeemed. Whereas the Old Covenant was based on external observances that could be apprehended with the carnal senses, the New was based on what transpired on the inside: the heart of human kind or the spirit-man which is where true worship can take place

**John 4:23-24 (KJV)** 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

A key promise to Israel in the Old Covenant was unfolding as the New Covenant Yeshua came to inaugurate would be in the hearts of the redeemed!

**Hebrews 10:15-18 (KJV)** 15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and

*in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

That is why genuine heartfelt repentance – evidenced by change of nature and lifestyle free of bondage to sin was preached by John the Baptist, Yeshua and the Alpha Church as the very first step to become His disciples.

**Matthew 3:1-2, 7-8 (KJV)** *1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

**Matthew 4:17 (KJV)** *17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**John 3:1-7 (KJV)** *1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 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. 3 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. 4 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? 5 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. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

**Acts 3:19 (KJV)** *19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

Those who receive the Son by Faith become sons like Him and as they receive the Person and Power of the same Holy Spirit who indwelt Yeshua, Jesus. With Holy Spirit, inside of their hearts or spirit-man, they become Ambassadors of the Kingdom representing Him wherever He posts/plants them to manifest His Presence, Person and Power which in turn causes the world to see, know and bow.

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

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

The Question therefore would be: what did Yeshua, Jesus demonstrate and teach as the pathway for saints to function as sons of Yahweh and ambassadors of the Kingdom in the earth realm?

Was it just to believe in Him and be ‘good members’ of denominations as the Orthodox groups basically teach? Was it just to believe in Him and preach the gospel of Salvation by Grace as Evangelicals basically teach? Was it just to believe in Him, receive Holy Spirit and begin to do miracles in His Name and build great churches as Pentecostals and Charismatics basically preach and do?

The answer is to be found in how Yeshua called those who walked with Him and what He did with them culminating in how they lived and served in what is clearly documented as Acts of the Apostles and the epistles of the New Covenant! Lesson 11 will address this theme.

### **Review Questions**

1. Please write a concise summary of what you understood from this lesson
2. What new insight did you gain?
3. What will you do with the Lesson?

## Chapter 11

### Understanding the Language of Yeshua in calling people

Let us do a quick recap of a major revelation that has come through in this course of study. In Yeshua, Jesus, Yahweh begat a Son. Yeshua was not to be His only Son rather, through His propitiatory death on the Cross; the price was paid for many more sons to be partakers of His glory! As was said in a previous lesson, contrary to the religious and secular narrative, Yeshua, Jesus did not come to found a religious system – even Christian Religion! He came for a more profound purpose: to bring many sons to that same glorious relationship with His Father through the principle of adoption:

**Hebrews 2:10-13** (KJV) *10 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. 11 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, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

As Isaiah 9:6 makes clear, the Child Yeshua, Jesus was born but the Son was given. As it was with Him, so it is to be with all those redeemed by His Blood! Though born again as children/babes, we are to grow into experiential maturity in the free gift of sonship which the Father has given us in Him. This becomes possible when saints deliberately surrender their wills, desires, ambitions and other life pursuits to their Redeemer and give Holy Spirit free space to use the Word and the things they are appointed to suffer in order to be fashioned into the mould of Yeshua, Jesus the Ultimate Son in all things.

That process which activates the fullness of sonship in saints is what is called discipleship! In other words, to be a disciple of Yahshua, Jesus is to take the definite journey towards becoming what Yahweh, our heavenly Father wants us to be: His sons in the earth realm to whom He commits the special responsibility of raising more sons and being Ambassadors of His Kingdom! In this, we have the sure example of our Master and King Himself who learnt obedience by the things He suffered! In other words, though Yeshua was incarnated to be the Begotten Son of Yahweh, He still had to go through the Law of Process!

**Hebrews 5:7-9** (KJV) *7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

### How Yeshua called those who He Personally disciplined

Most times, we think we know what is best for us in terms of academics, career and life pursuits. The reality is that our finite minds are limited in what they can know about the future. It makes sense therefore for us to give space for Yeshua Who is Lord of the Past, Present and Future to make decisions about our destinies and how to get there. When we encounter Yeshua, His demands for us to become His disciples may lead to minor or major shifts in our trajectory to the future. If only we can trust and obey, He will bring us into what is best for us!

Let us examine how Yeshua called those who He personally discipled and see that He did not permit any to walk in presumption.

**Matthew 4:18-20 (KJV)** *18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

**Commentary:** Peter and his brother Andrew were busy in the family fishing business when they encountered Yeshua. In the conflict that arose from His invitation to a new life with new focus, their response was immediate and decisive. From fishing for fish, they switched to the eternal assignment of fishing for men.

**Matthew 4:21 (KJV)** *21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*

**Commentary:** James and John had an unforgettable encounter with Yeshua which changed the direction of their lives permanently!

**Matthew 8:21-22 (KJV)** *21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.*

**Commentary:** Here Yeshua, Jesus laid down an important principle of Discipleship: He cannot take second or third place in our lives in relation to other relationships! No true disciple will dare degrade or devalue Him or ANYTHING concerning Him or His Kingdom. He cannot be subordinated to any other interest or relationship!

**Matthew 9:9 (KJV)** *9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, **Follow me.** And he arose, and **followed** him.*

**Commentary:** Matthew had acquired skills for recording figures and had an eye for detail. That skill was now needed for a higher Kingdom purpose: to document the Biography of He Who Is King of the Jews so that they would know that the Messiah had indeed come. From making Money through legal and illegal means, His life focus was to change for ever.

### **Some Benchmarks**

Always detailed, the King in the passage below lays out important benchmarks for true disciples to know whether they are following Him or not. These were not laid out only for saints in the first century but all disciples of all the ages.

### **Breaking down Matthew 10:16-39**

*16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

**Commentary:** Disciples are not called to engage in bravado and commit suicide in His Name! Disciples are not to engage in verbal fights with different sectors of society or use His Name as excuse to be nasty towards Governments and Civil society.

*17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.*

**Commentary:** Here the King outlines some of the things true disciples may suffer for His Name sake. These include, in verse 17, persecution by Religious leaders who are stuck in error (consider that this will include those who are Christian leaders but are blinded by religion!). Civil authorities and government leaders will also rise up against true disciples. In all these situations, disciples are not to resort to arm of the flesh for self defence! The King says the abiding presence of Holy Spirit will guarantee the quality of words to be uttered at such times.

*21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

**Commentary:** For true disciples, persecution shall arise from close relatives who may be offended at the other worldly life of the true disciple. Humans who are under the influence of Satan (1 John 5:19) may not take kindly to the witness of the true disciple and may recourse to hating them because they are associated with Yeshua.

*23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*

**Commentary:** The King says to true disciples: do not fight back! He was charging disciples to not insist on evangelizing peoples, cities or nations which steadfastly reject Him!

*24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 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?*

**Commentary:** Here Yeshua made it clear that the highest ideal of the disciple is to be like the Master and emulate Him in attitude, perspectives and deeds. Whatever He suffered – including rejection – shall be the portion of disciples. To this extent, He calls on disciples not to be fazed by evil names they may be called by those who are in darkness.

*26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28 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. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

**Commentary.** King Yeshua makes two important points here. The first is that disciples should live free of the crippling effects of fear. As those who are in Him, disciples enjoy such security that should dispel any form of fear. It is for that reason that He charges disciples to do His work with confidence and holy boldness.

*32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

**Commentary:** King Yeshua lays out a choice before those who are His disciples: to confess Him before men and receive the honour of Him confessing them before His Father or to deny Him and receive the ultimate rejection: be denied by Yeshua, Jesus before the Father. The way we live and how we stand for Him are all on record!

*34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 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. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37 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.*

**Commentary:** Here Yeshua, Jesus details how responding to His call as disciples will forcibly affect all human relationships. He details out the choices that an intending disciple must make. Those choices include enthroning Him to such a degree that every other relationship takes second place: parent, children, spouses, friends, career and even life itself. A disciple must therefore make a conscious decision to give Yeshua the prime place in his or her heart.

*38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*

**Commentary:** The Cross is exalted for all disciples to receive and walk in. For this to happen, the natural life needs to be surrendered to be crucified with the Master so that the life of Yeshua becomes evident through Holy Spirit Who dwells within the disciples! (Galatians 2:20)

**Matthew 16:24-26 (KJV)** *24 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. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 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 19:16-22 (KJV)** *16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*

Discipleship is about following Yeshua to such a degree that it becomes a consuming passion! It is about living out His life, not engaging in dead rituals of religion that have no profit! Let us see more readings of how He called people and their responses:

**John 1:43 (KJV)** *43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me*

**John 10:27 (KJV)** *27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

**John 12:26 (KJV)** *26 If any man serve **me**, let him **follow me**; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve **me**, him will my Father honour.*

**Commentary:** King Yeshua wants to decorate His disciples with the glory He shared with The Father. Those who press into this relationship will live and walk as sons of the Most High on earth!

### Review Questions

1. Please summarise this chapter
2. What new insight did you gain into the subject matter of discipleship?
3. Please mention 3-5 scriptures which Holy Spirit illuminated for you in this chapter

## Chapter 12

### Case studies in the Call to Discipleship

#### **Case studies in the Call to Discipleship: fulfilment of redemptive purpose!**

It is important that we continue to consider the ways Yeshua called different people from various backgrounds. In this way, we can see clearly that no matter the estate of life wherein any one was found, there were basic shifts expected of each one in terms of enthroning Him as King; living like a Son of the Father and functioning as an Ambassador of the Kingdom of heaven within the realm of influence assigned from above. This implied a change of identity and direction to be vessels of honour who bring the Father glory.

Those who accept the call to be disciples of Yeshua, Jesus are in effect positioned for fulfilment of the Divine Purpose for which they were created and redeemed.

**Ephesians 1:3-8 (KJV)** *3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;*

To refuse the call to be a disciple of Yeshua and yet hope to fulfil destiny is to live a pipe dream!

#### **The call and divine purpose of Mary, earthly Mother of the Man, Yeshua**

**Luke 1:26-38 (KJV)** *26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

**Commentary:** The call of Mary to be a vessel through whom the Son would be incarnated by a special operation of Holy Spirit is often ignored by many scholars. This is because of how the enemy was given space to do havoc on the true identity of this remarkable vessel of honour. Rome re-packaged her to be

Queen of heaven and co-ruler with the enthroned Yeshua as a perpetual 'Mother of God' and 'Mediatrice'. In disgust, most Protestants simply cut out Mary in their preachments and teachings. Both sides miss the point entirely!

No one can wish away the true and biblical Mary! She was an extraordinary epitome of true discipleship. Here was a simple, unknown vessel to humans of her generation but who Yahweh chose above all others to be the vessel of fulfilling the prophecy in Genesis 3:15 of the Seed of the woman who would destroy the head of Satan! In the fullness of time as Galatians 4:4 observes, Mary was found and Holy Spirit planted Yeshua in her womb and she brought forth.

Mary alone with Joseph knew the true identity of the child she bore till He became manifested to Israel at age 30 during the Baptism of John. She meditated on the awesome revelation of the Angel Gabriel concerning who Yeshua really was: Incarnation of Elohim! Yet, she was not proud nor did not carry herself as anything else other than a chosen vessel.

At the marriage of Cana, she simply told them to do whatever Yeshua, Jesus instructed (John 2: 1-11). She was with Him all the way to the Cross even when the disciples, except John ran away (John 19:25-27). When Yeshua instructed His disciples at Mount Olives to wait for the promise of the Father, while about 380 drifted away, Mary was among the 120 who waited until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14, 15; Acts 2:1-4).

### **The call and assignment of Mary Magdalene and other women**

When we study the Word under the unction of Holy Spirit, we will always see things which those who skim the surface for promises may miss out! Here is the account of Mary Magdalene who loved much because she was forgiven much and delivered from demonic bondage:

**Luke 8:1-3 (KJV)** *1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, 2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, 3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.*

**Commentary:** There was a company of women who waited on Yeshua and ministered to His physical needs out of their substances. What this means is that their devotion to Him was not financed from ministry funds but from their pockets. The implication is that they were regular people: having their own family businesses or sources of income which they invested in sustaining the Man Yeshua, Jesus because they accepted His call to discipleship. They lived outside of themselves and were delivered from the normal pursuits of fashion, cosmetics and beauty generally which afflicts women of all generations and cultures!

These women were consistent in their devotions till the end and were part of the company who received Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Among them was Mary Magdalene. She fulfilled a number of redemptive purposes for which she came into the Kingdom.

**John 12:1-8 (KJV)** *1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. 2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of*

*them that sat at the table with him. 3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. 4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. 7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. 8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.*

**Commentary:** one of the redemptive assignments of Mary was to anoint Yeshua, Jesus for the day of burial! She was given a sense of the timing of this epic event and played her part with full grace, withholding nothing!

**John 19:25 (KJV)** *25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.*

**Commentary:** Mary Magdalene and the women who served Yeshua were consistent till the very end! They had no fear for their safety and even when the rage of the religious mob was hot, chose to remain with their Messiah!

**John 20:17-18 (KJV)** *17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

**Commentary:** Another redemptive assignment of Mary was to be used to declare the final shift in the process that disciples of Yeshua were undergoing. Following the completion of His Mission, she was the vessel through whom disciples knew their new identities as sons of Yahweh and brethren of Yeshua in the earth realm! She executed it with precision and took her own place as a son of the Most High!

## **The Call of those in the Market Place and Civil Society**

### **The call and assignment of Matthew**

**Matthew 9:9-15 (KJV)** *9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. 10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? 12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

**Commentary:** Matthew was active in the Market Place when Yeshua, Jesus called him. Before he went into what can now be called 'full time' ministry with His Master, Matthew manifested how sold out he was to the Kingdom by boldly assembling those within his obviously vast circle of influence for a dinner with Yeshua so that they too could encounter the grace that was in Him! That Matthew could stick out his neck publicly to acknowledge Yeshua, Jesus as Master showed the depth of consecration in him. He thus fulfilled Matthew 10:32-33. He went on to fulfil his main redemptive assignment by putting his skills to work to document the extensive account of the life, teachings and ministry of Yeshua known as the Gospel according to Matthew. It was a gospel through which Hebrews were given an understanding of

the Life and Ministry of Yeshua in fulfilment of the Holy Scriptures. Through that documentation, Hebrews ordained for salvation were brought to the Kingdom.

### **The Call and assignment of Zacchaeus**

**Luke 19:1-10 (KJV)** *1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. 6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. 8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

**Commentary:** Zacchaeus was another personality active in the market place when He encountered Yeshua, Jesus. He was the equivalent of a Commissioner for Revenue and Taxes in the wealthy commercial city of Jericho. His zeal to see the Messiah was so fervent that Yeshua honoured him with a visit to his home. Accepting the challenges of discipleship, Zacchaeus wasted no time to put his new life to work. Realizing that he had wronged many, Zacchaeus began to do restitution even publicly. Nobody needed to teach him because his conscience was alive! There is no record that Zacchaeus became a full-time minister. He evidently served his king right where he was as a practical witness!

### **The Call of Nicodemus and Joseph and fulfilment of their redemptive purpose**

**John 3:1-6 (KJV)** *1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 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. 3 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. 4 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? 5 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. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

**Commentary:** Through the encounter with Nicodemus, a Pharisee steeped in the religion of Judaism, Yeshua declared that rather than observance of dry religious rituals, basic entrance to the Kingdom is by the new birth experience, mediated by Holy Spirit.

**John 7:45-53 (KJV)** *45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? 46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. 47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? 49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed. 50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) 51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? 52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. 53 And every man went unto his own house.*

**Commentary:** Nicodemus was also used to challenge conventional wisdom of the Pharisees which ran against even basic rules of their own law. Through his intervention, the plot of Pharisees was dissolved and no body touched Yahshua, Jesus until the fullness of time.

### **Joseph of Arimathaea**

**John 19:38-40 (KJV)** *38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. 39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. 40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. 42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.*

**Commentary:** Joseph of Arimathaea was another disciple of Yeshua, Jesus from among the wealthy class of people. He was a secret disciple until the day appointed for fulfilling his redemptive purpose which is to be the vessel through which this scripture is fulfilled:

**Isaiah 53:9 (KJV)** *9 And he made his **grave with the wicked**, and **with the rich** in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

He rose to the occasion and boldly went to Pilate to demand the Body of Yeshua for a decent burial. He did not mind what would happen to him in the process and thereby fulfilled the divine purpose. Nicodemus was an active participant in the process of giving Yeshua a decent burial.

### **The call and focus of Paul**

**Acts 9:1-6 (KJV)** *1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do*

**Commentary:** Here was a man with a great pedigree as a Pharisee who was mentored by Gamaliel, leading Professor of Judaism in his time. He was so fervent in his religious belief that he counted it an honourable thing to destroy lives of Christians. His encounter with Yeshua changed the course of his life. He became a remarkable son of Yahweh with a singular eye to be found in Yeshua. No wonder it was committed unto his trust the Master Plan of the Church and one who understood the dimensions and differences of Kingdom Now and Kingdom Come like no other of his generation. No wonder Holy Spirit used him to write most of the Books of the New Covenant!

**Philippians 3:5-14 (KJV)** *5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless .7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I*

*have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

**Commentary:** In each case, those who encountered Yeshua and responded to His call to discipleship experienced an inside out transformation. From seeking the vain glory of ambition and worldly pursuits, they all enthroned Him in their hearts, submitted to the government of the Kingdom of heaven in Him and began to pursue the divine purpose! Whether in the Market Place, Civil society or full-time ministry, we all are called to be sons of Yahweh in the earth realm and Ambassadors of His Kingdom. The process of maturing into this status and role is to be disciples of Yahshua! There is no philosophy or logic around this!

### Review Questions

1. Which 3 of the case studies in this chapter ministered most to you or were similar to your experience with King Yeshua? Please share how.
2. What will you do with the lesson in this chapter?

## Chapter 13

It is about Following Yeshua, the Divine Personality!

### **The Main Thing is to be disciples/followers of a Divine Personality, Yeshua also known as Jesus!**

One familiar trick of Satan is to suggest to some Christians that they are not called. In doing this the enemy uses a religious mindset to equate discipleship with living a monastic life in a dour, religious order. Such minds are filled with pictures of religious priests built on the Old Testament model. In this model, there is a dichotomy between a small, professional clergy and a large laity based on a pulpit versus pew division of the Church. This is a clever trick of the enemy to keep the huge reservoir of manpower in the church frozen in the pews.

Let us repeat a point made earlier in this course of study. The call to discipleship is not an invitation to resign businesses or jobs for 'full time ministry' as some religious people teach. Someone may be in full time ministry but not be a disciple of Yeshua, Jesus because his/her belly is the god that is being served:

**Philippians 3:18-19 (KJV)** *18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*

These are ministers who have roundly rejected the charge of Yeshua to give freely of what they received freely but have used their 'anointing' for self-enrichment!

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

King Yeshua wants abundant manpower that are His Church to be discipled and released into the vineyard of the world. He wants us to realise that no one is in the Kingdom by accident and that none is useless. Every true saint is joined to His Body by Holy Spirit and invested with peculiar gifts which are to be released to edify other saints. For this to happen with purity of heart, every saint is called to be a disciple of Yeshua, Jesus and emulate Him in serving The Father and one another.

### **The Real Deal in the Call to be a disciple of Yeshua, Jesus**

Discipleship is ultimately based on the principle of Divine Ownership! Yahweh owns us – spirit, soul, body and all things we 'own' on these bases:

- First because He Created us.
- Secondly, by Redeeming us with His Own Blood, Yeshua stakes a valid legal claim over our lives. The life we live is, in a real sense, a loan from Him which Paul the apostle recognized in the epic statement of Galatians 2:20.
- Thirdly, by the Providential care of Yahweh over our lives which guarantees that we are preserved from all evil and provided with what it takes to thrive even in the midst of adversity.

Once we understand this principle, a claim is made on our lives to be lived for Him and not ourselves.

**Romans 14:7 (KJV)** *7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.*

In a sense, the call to discipleship is a call to recognize this triple reality and come to a place where we surrender all of our beings, ambitions and desires to Him. In recognition that He owns us, we give His Holy Spirit right of way to lead us in making decisions about everything including how to use the time, money and other assets and resources He graciously gives us. This includes how we relate with and serve our spouses and children so that they do not take His place.

**Romans 8:12-14 (KJV)** *12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

### **A vital pillar in the call; it is about following a Person, Yeshua, Jesus alone!**

The call to discipleship is not a call to join a particular religious organization or ministry to learn its ways of life or principles of 'success'. It is not a call to be a fan of a particular prominent preacher who has extraordinary ability to do miracles, preach powerfully or teach the Bible inside out. It is not cramming the mind with a thousand and one rules of life or learning the various self-help precepts that litter the commercial world of organized religion and the pseudo-kingdom.

It is rather a call to follow the Man Yeshua, Jesus and allow His Kingdom to be manifested in and through us! As Paul, the apostle warned the saints of Galatia, it is not just any Jesus but rather the One Who was described in these passages and Whose Person looms in the whole counsel of Scripture from Genesis 1:26 and Genesis 3:15 across the Old and New Testaments:

**Genesis 1:26 (KJV)** *26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

**Commentary:** He was and is part of Elohim Who spoke on creation morning 'Let Us'!

**Genesis 3:15 (KJV)** *15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

**Commentary:** He was the promised Seed of the woman. The meaning is that the woman who would bring Him forth would do so through a process that excluded the polluted seed from Adam! Luke 1: 29-35 confirms the process of His Incarnation as a Divine Act.

**Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)** *14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

**Commentary:** Emmanuel simply means 'Elohim with us'.

**Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)** *6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

**Commentary:** The awesome, Divine nature of Yeshua is clearly defined here.

**John 1:1-4 (KJV)** *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

**Commentary:** That Yeshua is part of the mystery of Elohim is clearly stated by John, the human being with closest proximity to Him while on earth as well as the writer of the Book of Hebrews:

**Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV)** *1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

**Commentary:** those in the pseudo-kingdom movement who deny His Divinity but use His name to make money and fame should read these passages.

**John 14:6-7(KJV)** *6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

**Commentary:** the Word is very clear that there is no other way to the Father than Yeshua!

**Revelation 22:12-14 (KJV)** *12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

**Commentary:** those who seek to belittle Yeshua and deny His Divinity will face eternity outside of He Who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all things!

### **The Process of His manifestation**

With the fall of Adam who was the first son of Elohim, the whole world went into bondage to Satan who deceived him (1 John 5:19). In all the ages that Yahweh permitted rituals and religious activities to become a school master that kept humanity in check from manifestations of extreme atavism, human religious leaders such as Rabbis could gather crowds to themselves and make personal disciples who emulated their lifestyles through strict observance of their rules.

During this time, the blood of animals and fowls was allowed to be used to stand as offering for sin. But when it was obvious that the blood of animals and birds was insufficient to atone for the sins of both individuals and the entire human race, Elohim had to do the impossible: produce a Lamb from Himself to satisfy His Just and Righteous demands for atonement for the sin of Adam and Eve and all humanity. That Lamb was to come from heaven and be planted in the womb of Virgin Mary by Holy Spirit. In effect, in the fullness of time as Galatians 4:1-7 says, He was Begotten when a Body was prepared for Him to be, live as and function as a Human Being, the Second Adam!

**Luke 1:35 (KJV)** *35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

By this miracle, the foundation was laid for this critical scripture below to be fulfilled. Take note that the entire focus of Yeshua, as indicated in Hebrews 10 verses 7 and 9 was to do the will of His Father! He came to show us a new way to live that was contrary to the self-inclined lifestyle of the first Adam!

**Hebrews 10:1-9 (KJV)** *1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

Yeshua, in His Incarnate state had one driving passion: to do the will of Yahweh! And in so doing, He was revealing to all who believe that the one critical thing which matters above all things is to live for the pleasure of Elohim in the earth realm.

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

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

The whole essence of the Holy Scriptures is to reveal to those who are redeemed the way Elohim wants us to live. If we love He Who first loved us, it will be our good pleasure to obey His Word!

**John 15:10-14 (KJV)** *10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

**1 John 4:19 (KJV)** *19 We love him, because **he first loved us.***

True worship is based on obedience! We were created and given eternal life to worship Him through living for His glory, not our fleshly desires!

**Revelation 4:11 (KJV)** *11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

### **Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah is the Mystery of the Ages!**

This same Yeshua Ha Mashiach is the mystery of the ages! In Him, Elohim partook of humanity so that through Him, humanity might partake of Divinity! This very personality, Who be straddles History is the Ultimate Bone of Contention in the earth realm! Religions have arisen based entirely on rejection of His Divinity! Heaven has nothing to bother about the various religions which reject the clear claims of scripture concerning His unique stature as the Incarnation of the Elohim of the entire Universe!

Heaven is concerned however with the thousand and one ‘ministers of the gospel’ and ‘ministries’ who have taken the low road of Judaism which, under the veil of Moses and its attendant religious legalism opt to deny His Divinity! Heaven is amused that though such ministers and ministries prefer to deny Who Yeshua, Jesus is, yet they seek to get by, preach, teach, make money and do miracles in His Name!

Heaven is not amused by these **Strangers** to His Person and Office as the Son but who exert humanistic energies and strategies to produce **fellow strangers, Unwilling Slaves; Orphans and Babes** that constantly need the Milk of sweet sounding nonsense and chasers of miracles that are performed in His Name but deny Him the central place in their hearts!

Saints, Yeshua Who came in the Body of a Hebrew but best known in the modern world by the English word, Jesus which in turn is a translation of the Greek rendering Iesus, is the Personality that we are called to be disciples of! This is an awesome invitation of a loving Saviour to be like Him in His Divine Purpose; Lifestyle and Perspectives which come by enthroning Him as King in our hearts. To be thus enthroned, we must of necessity systematically identify, reject, renounce and dethrone all other ‘kings’ who previously were driving our lives! These kings include Self and its love of the world and all that are therein as well as its ambitions to accumulate all the stuff that make it feel secure!

It is an invitation to be the sons of Elohim in the earth realm, like Him. In that regard, we are to have the singular desire to bring the Father great pleasure by doing His will with joy, in spite of collateral damage that Satan or humans may seek to inflict on us for being so focused. It is an invitation to manifest the sovereign rule of King Yeshua, Jesus which makes us vessels through whom Holy Spirit literally ‘shows up’ through the gifts deposited in the individual vessels in the Body of Yeshua.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-12 (KJV)** *4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 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: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

Above all, it is an invitation to live the rich, abundant Zoe Life – the very life of Elohim in this wicked and adulterous world by which we may be scorned by friends, family and colleagues who are amazed that we do not ‘enjoy’ their riotous behaviour or seductive fashion.

It is a new way of life that can at best be called ‘lifestyle worship’ where the very thoughts of our minds, motions of our hearts, words of our lips, writings of our pens/keyboards and actions manifest the holy and loving nature of Yahweh our Father and strength of His Kingdom – not just when things are good but more so when under pressure or facing challenges (John 4:23-24).

This was the case of Yeshua, Jesus who witnessed a good witness before Pontius Pilate and the religious leaders of Judaism – even unto death. It is a call to abandon self defence and emulate Yahshua to trust He Who assures that all things will work together for our good!

**1 Peter 2:21-23 (KJV)** *21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

### **Final word on Centrality of Yeshua**

In the modern age when humans prefer to handle the Word deceitfully, their first target has always been to re-define Yeshua. Unfortunately, they only betray the reality that they do not know the Scriptural Yeshua, Jesus and therefore feel confident to re-invent one who is a mere senior brother and at best a Prime Minister type of person in the Kingdom devoid of the Nature and Power of Divinity. What they may have ignored is the truth that only those Who the Father truly calls are brought to an experiential knowledge of the Truth that is Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah, the One Who is the center and circumference of the Kingdom.

**John 6:37-40 (KJV)** *37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

The Father has ultimately committed all Judgement of all who claim to be in His Kingdom to Him and Him alone. In 2 Corinthians 5:10, those who manage to hold onto Him till they exit mortality will come before Him to be assessed for how they represented Him. As 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 says, the fire of His Glory will try all works supposedly done in His Name – whether they were built on the foundation of revelation of His Divinity!

On the other hand, to deny Him before men, declaiming His stature as Incarnation of Elohim is to possibly have reputation with humans on earth only to face those fearful words on the Last day when time is no more:

**Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)** *21 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. 22 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? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Let us spend and be spent, sticking out our necks to declare He Who is The Amen!

**Romans 1:16 (KJV)** *16 For I am **not ashamed of** the gospel **of** Christ: for it is the power **of** God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Scripture references: **Romans 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7–16; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 4:10-11.**

### **Review Questions**

1. Please explain Yeshua, Jesus as Incarnation of Elohim with at least 2 scripture references
2. 'Though an incarnation of Elohim, the life of Yeshua while in His Incarnate state centred on doing the will of the Father'. In so doing, He showed us that disciples need to earnestly seek, know and do the will

of Elohim at all times in all situations. Please cite at least 3 scripture references in this lesson to validate this postulation

3. In what way has this lesson been of help to you?

## Chapter 14

### The Cross and Discipleship

Earlier in this course, we looked at a marker King Yeshua, Jesus laid down for all who desire to be His disciples – the Cross - and broke it down into detail.

**Matthew 16:24-26 (KJV)** *24 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. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 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?*

There are two dimensions of this taking up of the Cross:

- The dramatic encounter with Yeshua which ushers one into the realm of the New Birth Experience
- The continuance in this experience by consciously yielding members of the Body to only Holy Spirit for manifestation of holy impulses and response to external stimuli at all times and in all situations.

For the world, the Cross (the Old Rugged one, that is) connotes what is distasteful. That is why the pseudo-kingdom and false prosperity gospel, offers humanity a **New Plastic Cross** which does not deal with sin and the old nature. For this reason, we will need to examine the real Cross in greater detail in order to understand the scope of what it represents for disciples.

#### **A. What then is the Cross, relative to the disciple?**

**A.1.** The first thing about the Cross is that it represents where the Price of Redemption of humanity was fully paid! On it, Yeshua uttered the Ultimate Jubilee Proclamation to all humanity who inherited the Sin gene of Adam by progeny by pronouncing with finality: 'It is Finished'! – John 19:30.

#### **A.2. It represents liberty from dominion of Sin**

With the price paid for Sin and Redemption of humanity, those who receive the propitiatory work of Yeshua at Calvary are no longer to be slaves of Sin; captives of Satan and the World system! The Cross offers liberation from these three Pharaohs which kept humans in bondage. For the disciple of Yeshua therefore, embracing the Old Rugged Cross is the same as receiving and walking in the newness of life that manifests the righteousness of Yahweh in Yeshua.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV)** *21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

This is an extraordinary blessing! Whereas the mass of humanity lives and walk in sin as a normal experience, Yahweh offers those who embrace the Cross an extraordinary benefit: to be His Own holy ones in the earth realm.

**1 John 3:3-10 (KJV)** *3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth*

*hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

**1 John 5:19-21 (KJV)** *19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. 20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

That is why those who have encountered the Cross cannot use Grace as excuse to remain in their sins as Romans 6:1-3 says!

### **A.3. The Cross as intersection of the will of Yahweh and will of the disciple**

For freedom from sin to be real, the disciple needs to apply the holy discipline of checking out the will of his/her heavenly Father against personal preferences in all things! In other words, seeking to know and do the will of the Father becomes a consuming passion and lifestyle of the disciple. This is really a big deal in the modern world which is fast paced and people value their independence, will and emotions so much that they are agitated when Governments, Preachers or anything seem to infringe on their liberty!

The true disciple lives an opposite paradigm! The disciple knows the danger of making decisions with the five carnal senses (Sight; Smell; Hearing; Taste; Touch/Feel) and therefore does not make haste to jump to conclusions about things.

**Isaiah 28:16 (KJV)** *16 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.***

He or she does not make haste to start or continue a relationship. He or she does not jump at opportunities because they are available, knowing that Satan can activate human ambition to take things contrary to the will of the Father. In this lifestyle, cross carrying becomes a pleasure rather than pain as the Ultimate Son revealed in His walk with His Father:

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

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

Even at the Garden of Gethsemane, Yeshua submitted His will to the will of His Father:

**Matthew 26:37-46 (KJV)** *37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 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. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 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. 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 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. 46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*

Like the Ultimate Son, disciples are called to a way of life in which they consciously give up ownership and control of their own life! It means total reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance, which is a critical hallmark of sonship!

**Romans 8:12-16 (KJV)** *12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

If we want to live a sin free life which glorifies the Father on a daily basis, the ONLY viable pathway is to embrace the ministry of the Old Rugged Cross! In this way, our desires are crucified and His will embraced in all situations! The Old Rugged Cross will never be out of Fashion!

**Luke 1:74-75 (KJV)** *74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*

## **B. The Mindset of the disciple who carries his/her Cross daily**

The mind is the engine room which drives life. The way any one thinks will invariably manifest in words, attitudes and actions.

**Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)** *7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.*

If disciples remain in the grace they have received in Yeshua, consciously giving no room for thoughts, words or deeds which do not glorify the Father Whose Omniscience, Omnipresence and Omnipotence fills their consciousness, their renewed minds are in the state described in this passage:

**Philippians 4:8 (KJV)** *8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

This leads to the divine life that is the basis of the abundant life which Yeshua promised to those who are His.

**John 10:10 (KJV)** *10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

**Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)** *3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

With this default mindset, they can detect intrusion of any thought which is contrary to His will and they immediately utilize grace to reject and cast down those imaginations.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (KJV)** *3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

A disciple who does not drastically deal with the old mindset will be an easy victim of Satan because whatever and whoever controls the thought pattern will have mastery of life:

**Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)** *7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.*

### **C. Carrying the Cross Daily**

Carrying the Cross is not a one off thing that disciples do only on the day of being born again or at the point of sanctification. Carrying the Cross should be a daily, positive lifestyle throughout our entire pilgrimage on this side of eternity.

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

Paul understood this divine instruction very well, hence he gladly embraced the daily dealings of his own appointed Cross

**1 Corinthians 15:31 (KJV)** *31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

Let us subject all choices before us to the Cross and proceed to do ONLY those we are persuaded are the will of the Father.

### **D. The Disciples and the Word**

The Cross does not function in a vacuum. It is rather mediated by the Constitution of the blessed Kingdom which is the Holy Scriptures. For the true disciple, quality time needs to be invested in studying, meditating, praying in the Word which is Yeshua until it is made flesh! This lifestyle, focus and attitude changes the dynamics of Word study. From being a drab, dry activity, it becomes a vibrant heart throbbing experience in which studying and hearing the Word is dynamic.

**Colossians 3:16 (KJV)** *16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

**D.1.**The Word enables disciples to build their lives and ministries on solid ground that can stand the test of time and adversity:

**Matthew 7:24 (KJV)** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

## D.2. The Word is insurance against Sin

**Psalm 119:11 (KJV) 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

## D.3. The Word becomes a vital tool in spiritual warfare just as it was for Yeshua

**Matthew 4:2-4 (KJV) 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

## D.4. The Word also produces divine prosperity because it leads us into the centre of the will of Yahweh our heavenly Father.

**Psalm 1:1-3 (KJV) 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

**Joshua 1:8 (KJV) 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

For true disciples, there is a sure promise that all Allocations for their assignments in the earth realm are sure and will be released as and when needed Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3.

## E. Can a disciple sin? And what happens if he/she does

There is no doubt that in the Mind of Yahweh, all His sons on this side of eternity who put their trust in Yeshua and live for Him can and should live free of sin. His DNA of holiness in them does not propel disciples to sin and sinfulness of thought, word and deed but rather keeps them holy within and without.

**1 John 3:9 (KJV) 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

However, if a disciple, in any situation allows emotion, will or the five carnal senses to make decisions rather than Holy Spirit, the outcome more often than not will be sin. If a disciple stumbles in this way for any reason, he/she is called to run to the Father through Yeshua rather than away from Him as Adam did when he fell.

**Genesis 3:8-10 (KJV) 8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.**

The seed of divinity which causes the conscience to be alive draws the disciple towards the Father of mercy!

**1 John 2:1-2 (KJV)** *1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Genuine repentance from a broken heart and contrite spirit yields the fruit of mercy and forgiveness of Sin!

**Psalms 51:17 (KJV)** *17 The sacrifices of God are a **broken** spirit: a **broken** and a contrite **heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

**Proverbs 28:13 (KJV)** *13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

**2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (KJV)** *10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

Because death rings no bell and nobody can predict when and how death comes or when Yeshua will return, the Cross draws the true disciple to receive forgiveness and justification from an ever-loving Father. With that justification, there is no record of such stumbling or sin any realm of creation other than the accusing mind of Satan.

**Micah 7:18-19 (KJV)** *18 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. 19 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.*

Our Father is still justifying the pertinent! Justification blots out the past and opens the page of life.

#### **F. Backsliding and apostasy result when Sin is not dealt with by disciples**

The true disciple cannot afford to be self-defensive, cover up or be concerned about reputation when he or she falls into sin. To cover up sin and continue with ministry is to engage in religion as a placebo in the state of broken relationship.

**Psalms 66:18 (KJV)** *18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

In other words, no true disciple will use the mercy of God as excuse to remain in a state of continual sinning.

**Romans 6:1-16 (KJV)** *1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more*

dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16 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?

To use Grace as excuse to remain in sin as a default position of life would be to betray the reality that one is no longer properly attached to the True Vine that is Yeshua or worse still one has backslidden or is in apostasy which attracts divine censure!

**John 15:1-2 (KJV)** 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 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.

**Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV)** 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

**Hebrews 10:28-31 (KJV)** 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

No true disciple of Yeshua would want to miss eternity after walking with Yeshua in this present time!

### Review Questions

1. Mention and briefly explain the two dimensions of the Cross mentioned in this lesson
2. Why is study of the Word vital for disciples
3. Explain what you understand in 1 John 3: 9 that those are truly born again do not commit sin
4. What should a true disciple do when he or she stumbles into sin?

## Chapter 15

### Disciples and the Opposite Life on the Road Less Travelled.

**Disciples are called to live the Opposite Life on the Road Less Travelled: living in the present time for the world to come!**

As has been said repeatedly, the call on all saints is to be disciples of Yeshua Ha Mashiach, not fellow humans or religious organizations or denominations. It is a call to follow Yeshua, Jesus in the way He lived; pursue His priority which is to manifest the government of the Kingdom of heaven in the earth realm and also to proclaim the reality that a day is coming in which the Kingdoms of this world with all their glory shall become part of His global government (Revelations 11:15).

Let us trust Holy Spirit to break down these realities.

**#.1. To Follow Yeshua, Jesus is to live His Life with a new heart which is opposite to that of Adam**

To follow Yeshua, Jesus is to live the way He lived and be governed by the principles and perspectives which determined His outlook and actions.

#### **The heart is heart of the matter!**

Those who answer the call to be Disciples are required to give up the Adamic nature. This is the way of living based on the motions of a wicked and deceitful sin laden heart which in hypocrisy likes to use the rituals of religion and outward observances to mask what is within.

*Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV) 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

This is why Religion glories in observances of days and endless rituals and dead works which have no value before heaven! To Mature in Yeshua, Jesus, disciples need to outgrow the allure of religion and dead works so that they can relate intimately with Yeshua, Head of the Body.

*Colossians 2:16 (KJV) 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. 18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.*

No amount of rituals can change the un-regenerated heart! It is rather through true relationship with Yahweh in Yeshua fostered by the process of discipleship that the admaic nature of mankind can be transformed from inside out. As Holy Spirit reveals to saints the wrong motives and hidden agendas behind what they say and do in life, business and ministry, they surrender to Him for an inside out transformation. This brings them to the point where all of Adam is rejected so that all of Yeshua, Jesus is manifested!

As Yeshua, Jesus declared, the heart is heart of the matter!

**Matthew 15:19 (KJV)** *19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:*

Just as we came into this world with the sin laden nature of Adam, one of the assignments of Yeshua on those who will press into the fullness of Him is to give them a new heart from which springs forth holiness and genuine love of Elohim and humans, just as promised in Ezekiel.

**Ezekiel 11:19 (KJV)** *19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*

**Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV)** *26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

**1 Corinthians 15:45-47 (KJV)** *45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

Those who take scripture out of context and claim that they do not need to press into the fullness of Yeshua stand on weak ground! The New Testament was written for saints to show them how to press into the fullness of Yeshua as His disciples! (See Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:2)

Only the Truth of The Cross and the Blood that was shed therein, when declared in the power of the Holy Spirit can convict natural people to repent of sins committed in the first to enter the Kingdom! In the same way, only the discipleship process can deliver an inside out transformation of the heart so that it becomes sincere, true and free of agendas of human ambition.

## **#.2. It is to seek first the true Kingdom: that which is to come!**

Those who follow Yeshua, Jesus are also proved by what they pursue with all their hearts in passion. It is the Kingdom of Yahweh! Contrary to the crafty twisting of the word by orators of the pseudo-kingdom movement, the Kingdom we are called upon to seek first is not about this present world system. The Kingdom is within us when the King sits as Supreme Ruler on the throne of our hearts, directing our thoughts, words and deeds. The Kingdom now is not about accumulation of anything on the external but the right standing with the Father (Righteousness); Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit that is the portion of those who live this way (Romans 14:17-18).

While we are called to be His Salt and Light to the world, this is limited to the impact we can make in space allocated to us and people over whom the King grants us influence. Our superior life challenges them to see a better way which draws such to Him. Those who are lifted to places of authority, no matter how small or great are able to exert His nature, Presence and Principles of His Kingdom which transforms those appointed to life and demonstrates the superiority of Kingdom culture over that of the world.

But the truth must be told that humankind has steadfastly chosen to reject and refuse Him! From the days of Adam until the end of all things, Yahweh has always respected the exercise of the free will He invested in mankind. In the days of Noah, they rejected Him and all but 8 were destroyed. In the days of Sodom, the people chose to ignore His ways, leading to total destruction, save Lot and family.

As the world marches on, a careful estimate shows that perhaps over 60 percent of human kind does not want to have anything to do with Yahweh and His laws. A further 15 percent of those who claim to be His prefer to live the way they want. It may sound tough but the truth is that no one can fix the world system which is steadfastly set to be contrary to Yahweh in every way. The truth is that we are not called to exert all our spiritual and natural energies to burn out, climbing all the Mountains of Society and then hand over the conquered world to Yeshua, Jesus.

That is a twisting of truth! On the other hand, a day is coming when this announcement will settle all things:

**Revelation 11:15 (KJV)** *15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.*

This is the Kingdom Yeshua, Jesus says we should pray for on a regular basis just as exiled Jews were exhorted to pray for the restoration of Jerusalem!

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

This is the literal Kingdom which Yeshua says we should seek first and trust that our heavenly Father will provide all our needs as we do so! The whole of Matthew Chapter 6 should be read to understand the context rather than just verse 33 which the pseudo-kingdom movement uses to confuse people as to why they should not preach Yeshua, Jesus!

**Matthew 6:33-34 (KJV)** *33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 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.*

The truth which the veil of religion covered is that Yahweh is restoring the simple key to the mystery of the ages: The Kingdom to come is what we are called to seek with everything in us. We are called to invest 100 percent of everything in us for the world to come when Yeshua, Jesus will rule and reign in the literal, manifest phase of the Kingdom for 1000 years! This is a time when humans in the earth realm will experience the beneficence of the Father like Adam and Eve did before they fell. It is a time when we will see how the world would have been if they had not succumbed to the seduction of the stranger, Satan!

It is a phase in which humanity will experience no terrorism, no accidents, no stress, no robberies and no security issues of any sort. There will be no diseases or sicknesses and therefore there will be no physical deaths! These things are in the programme of Yahweh for the earth realm and on a day appointed, Satan and his cohorts will be taken out of the way for manifestation of this glorious phase of the Kingdom!

**Revelation 20:1-4 (KJV)** *1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 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. 4 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.*

Yeshua, Jesus will sit on the Throne of David in Jerusalem as Supreme Potentate of all the earth which was secured by the Blood He shed. All the faithful remnant who sought first this Kingdom in the way prescribed will experience the ultimate rewards: they will rule as Priests and Kings over definite geo-political entities and nations, teaching people the ordinance of the Kingdom and ruling them in righteousness.

**Revelation 1:6 (KJV)** *6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Revelation 5:10 (KJV)** *10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

The nations of the earth will go on pilgrimages to Jerusalem, a city chosen by Yahweh as global capital before Abraham was born! It was the city which Melchizedeck ruled from. As the Book of Hebrews says, this King was a theophany of Yeshua!

**Hebrews 7:1-3 (KJV)** *1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

No wonder that Satan has always set his face against Jerusalem. That is why it is a tough burdensome stone for the Gentile nations even unto this day! It is in this city that the last act of global significance, the Battle of Armageddon will be fought before time collapses into eternity!

Saints, the core point about most teachings of Yeshua, Jesus and the parables He gave was to stress why saints should live in the present for the world to come! He Himself modelled this approach when He lived and died for the future glory of His coming Kingdom as indicated in this scripture:

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

He consistently drew attention of saints to the reality that the Kingdom in which they will co-rule with Him will manifest at His Second coming. When we understand this truth, disciples will invest everything in them to the Kingdom mandate to occupy, until He returns to reward the faithful and punish the disobedient!

**Luke 19:11-13 (KJV)** *11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A*

*certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.*

Yeshua sought face of Yahweh in John 17:1-20 to preserve His Disciples from the influence of the Devil so that they can focus and fulfil the primary Kingdom business of making disciples of the nations until the day He returns to rule and reign!

**Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)** *18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**Acts 1: 6 (KJV)** *6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 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. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye 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.*

In other words, He was telling saints why they cannot yet let down their guards or allow the oil in their Lamps to run dry: The main event is yet ahead! The parable of the Merchant who found a pearl of Great Price sums up how we should esteem the coming Kingdom so highly that if necessary 'sell' all else to make our participation sure.

**Matthew 13:45 (KJV)** *45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

Saints, discipleship introduces saints to a new way of living wherein though on this side of eternity, they use their lives and all assets at their disposal for the express purpose of investing in the world to come! The Royal Priesthood therefore assumes this posture:

**1 Peter 2:9-12 (KJV)** *9 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; 10 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. 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 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 Timothy 6:17-19 (KJV)** *17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

The pseudo-kingdom movement has destroyed the faith of many by causing saints to deny the Divinity and Centrality of Yeshua, Jesus Who is the King of the Kingdom and Just Judge over all mortals!

**Matthew 10:33 (KJV)** *33 But whosoever shall **deny me before men**, him will I also **deny before** my Father which is in heaven.*

**1 Corinthians 15:50 (KJV)** *50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

### **Review Questions**

1. Part 1 of this lesson is titled: "To Follow Yeshua, Jesus is to live His Life with a new heart which is opposite to that of Adam". Please summarise what you understand this to mean.

2. Part 2 of this lesson is titled "It is to seek first the true Kingdom: that which is to come!". Please summarise what you understand this to mean for you as one called to be a disciple

## Chapter 16

### Benchmarks of the True Disciple who lives an 'Opposite Life

As we stated earlier in this study, Discipleship is both an act (of surrender) and a process (of deeper realms of surrender) which takes place in the life those who hear and respond to the invitation to follow Yeshua, Jesus. For those who think these lessons are too much to devote to the subject matter, consider this: King Yeshua spent 3 and half years teaching, training, equipping, activating 12 people He called to be his disciples.

Yet, after going to the Cross, He spent another 40 days teaching them deeper realms of Kingdom truths and asked them and other followers to wait an extra 10 days to receive the fullness of Holy Spirit! (Acts 1: 1-8), Even after Pentecost, all of His disciples continued to press in till the day they sealed their testimonies in blood except John who died by natural means.

The benchmarks of true disciples that are listed here are not to be products of self-effort! Rather they are fruits of trusting in the Father's love; abiding in Yeshua, Jesus Who is the True Vine and surrendering to Holy Spirit who works in and through the yielded vessel both to will and to do what Yahweh desires!

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)** *5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

**John 15:1-7 (KJV)** *1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 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. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

**Philippians 1:6 (KJV)** *6 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 2:13 (KJV)** *13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

In truth, the beauty of the call to discipleship therefore is this: Yeshua guarantees us that those who accept the call and yield to the process shall not be rejected neither shall they be on their own.

Yahweh is secure on His Throne and will always do what He promised. Why then are saints not manifesting His inward dealings in their behaviour, life pursuits and focus? Why is there a dearth of true disciples across the world? The answer can be found in the human will specifically and the human persona generally as has been discussed elsewhere in this study.

This is why Yahweh wants us to come to the place where we consciously assess this world and agree with scripture that it is fleeting and heading to an end. We need to be aware that the ultimate phase of the Kingdom will manifest when the announcement of Revelation 11:15 takes place on a day and time

which no man knows. Closely aligned to that, Yahweh wants us to realise the brevity of life which is in this generation is capped at 140 years at the most.

When these two truths hit home, the saint discovers that the safest place to be 24/7 is in the centre of the will of Yahweh, just as Yeshua practised and declared in John 5:30 and John 6:38. This is the very reason why Yahweh makes two critical provisions for discipling of saints:

**A. Holy Spirit.** He leads us into all truth, reveals Yeshua to us, works out His nature and character through our yielded vessels and leads us into the perfect will of Yahweh at all times.

**Galatians 5:16, 22-23 (KJV)** 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

For Holy Spirit to function at optimum capacity in saints, they need to surrender their wills, love righteousness and hate iniquity and exercise the discipline of not allowing members of their beings to serve flesh, Satan or the world. Otherwise, works of the flesh will manifest!

**Galatians 5:15, 17, 19-21 (KJV)** 15 *But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*

17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* 19 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* 20 *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,* 21 *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Philippians 2:12-16 (KJV)** 12 *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.* 13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* 14 *Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

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

**Romans 8:12-14 (KJV)** 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

**B. The Word.** It is the Word which Holy Spirit uses effectively to transform hearts of disciples and renews their minds to the degree that they see things with the eyes of eternity! When saints live with renewed minds, they cannot be caught up and entangled in the snares set by prince of the power of the air. To be a disciple is to live the life powered by Holy Spirit Who quickens the Word within and not motions of the five carnal senses!

**Benchmarks of The Opposite Life include therefore these indicators**

1. Greater tenderness of heart towards the Saviour and understanding of the Fatherhood of Yahweh
2. A Life of loving Yahweh with all the heart, mind, will

**Matthew 22:37 (KJV)** *37 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.*

3. A life which proves its love for Yahweh by obeying the Word without struggle

The entire New Testament is a practical manual for making disciples of Yeshua, Jesus! True disciples must avoid picking and choosing sections they want! In this regard, a simple guide is provisions of the Sermon on the Mount which are merely a preamble to Kingdom Culture represented by the whole New Testament.

**John 15:10, 14 (KJV)** *10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

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

4. A poured out life, laid out as an offering to Yahweh as an instrument for manifesting His Glory and Divine Purpose, not their ambitions.

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

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

5. A selfless life of Giving, not receiving

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

6. A life of following Yeshua, Jesus steadfastly in all situations- abiding in Him, notwithstanding situations and circumstances John 15:1-8.

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (KJV)** *58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

7. A Life that gives up its own ambitions, desires and rather is totally open and yielded to the superior wisdom of Holy Spirit for empowerment and guidance (1 Corinthians 2:1-16).

**Romans 8:12-14 (KJV)** *12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

8. A life in which the central preoccupation is not pursuit of self-defined purpose but one in which doing Kingdom Business is the main focus. This starts with consciously participating in preaching for sinners to be saved and making disciples of all nations

**Matthew 28:18 (KJV)** *18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

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

This does not mean every saint needs to be a full-time minister in the sense of resigning their jobs or folding up their businesses. It simply means that whatever one is doing must be done in the will of the Father and for His glory to manifest His Kingdom agenda in the earth realm and proclaim the reality that the fullness of the Kingdom is coming.

**9. Taking His yoke upon us** – Coming to that place where we are completely aligned with His will; following Him and doing just what He wants at any given time – because His leash is on our necks, so to say.

**Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)** *28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

**10. A Renewed mind which is aligned to that of Yeshua.**

**Romans 12:2 (KJV)** *2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

**Ephesians 4:23 (KJV)** *23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

**1 Corinthians 2: (KJV)** *For who hath known the **mind of the Lord**, that he may instruct him? but we have the **mind of Christ**.*

### Review Questions

1. Please summarise the introductory part of this lesson
2. Out of the 9 benchmarks of true disciples, please itemise those you need grace to manifest.
3. What will you do with this lesson?

## Chapter 17

### Hallmarks of Disciples

As has been variously said, The entire New Testament is a practical manual for making disciples of Yeshua, Jesus! True disciples must avoid picking and choosing sections they want! It is needful today to outline some hallmarks (features) of lives of disciples who follow Yeshua, Jesus and are rooted in the Word rather than opinions of men. Let us consider these features of their lives:

**1. Election. By this we mean that true disciples are called and chosen by King Yeshua** Disciples are not happenstances! They were elected in Yeshua before foundation of the world

**Ephesians 1:4 (KJV)** *4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

**Matthew 22:14 (KJV)** *14 For many are called, but few are chosen.*

**1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (KJV)** *26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

**Romans 8:29-30 (KJV)** *29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 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.*

**2. They are saved; Live and minister by the Grace in Yeshua.** They do not minister by the wisdom of man or by strength of arm. Their vessels are simply made available to Holy Spirit who uses them to manifest the Divine Purpose.

**Romans 1:5 (KJV)** *5 By whom we have received **grace** and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*

**Romans 5:2 (KJV)** *2 By whom also we have access by faith into this **grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

3. They also make the conscious and willful decision to respond and by so doing, lay down their lives in response to the call of He Who redeemed, Yeshua, Jesus in all things. He is their model

**Matthew 16:24 (KJV)** *24 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.*

**4. Disciples are open to ministry of Holy Spirit in all His fullness:** He convicts of sin and Seals them into Yeshua; He Transforms them from glory to glory from inside out; He unites them with other saints, teaches them sound doctrine, lead them into the perfect will of the Father in all situations and provides the power to demonstrate Yeshua, Jesus as they go forth to minister in His Name. They therefore dare not to rely on arm of the flesh!

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

**5. Their core mandate is to make disciples of all nations.** Everything in them is regarded as a divine asset to be invested into this very serious Kingdom mandate

**Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)** A18nd Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**Luke 19:10 (KJV)** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. 11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

**6. They live in Love, manifesting the saviour's life**

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

**Ephesians 5:1-2 (KJV)**1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

**7. They walk in unity as desired by the King.** They do not walk in disorderly fashion, seeking vain glory that scatters fellowship.

**John 17:21-23 (KJV)** 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one :23 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.

**Ephesians 4:1-6 (KJV)** 1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling ;5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**8. They submit to authority willingly, not by constraint.** In so doing, they keep rank which releases synergy for advancement of interests of the King and Kingdom.

**Romans 13:1-7 (KJV)** 1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

The principle of alignment and keeping rank is articulated in these two scriptures.

**1 Chronicles 12:38 (KJV)** *38 All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.*

**Joel 1:7-9 (KJV)** *7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. 9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.*

**9. They are holy unto the Lord.** This is not done by carnal observance of rules but by submission to the work of Holy Spirit, the Blood and Word in their lives which enables them to make their vessels available to express Holy His.

**1 Peter 1:15-16(KJV)** *15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

**10. Disciples live in simplicity, like their Master Yeshua, Jesus.** In this way, they refuse the complexities of the Religious spirit and the world which loves hierarchies. On the day Yeshua was arrested, the religious leaders needed a traitor, Judas to identify Him out of 12 men because He was just like the others. His disciples ate with Him, stayed in proximity to see how He prayed and had access to Him.

**11. It is a disciplined lifestyle.** As disciples yield their spirit-man to Holy Spirit, they do not allow their appetites or carnal senses to run riot. In the same way, they exercise Kingdom authority over members of their body to ensure that there is no room for sin to overtake them.

**Romans 6:11-16 (KJV)** *11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16 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?*

12. They live in Moderation and low maintenance. In this way, they are not captive to situations. They can endure all things for the sake of the testimony of Yeshua

**Philippians 4:4-7, 12-13 (KJV)** *4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand .6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

*12 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. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

**13. They serve joyfully, as unto their King; esteeming service highly as instructed by Yeshua!**

**Matthew 20:25-28 (KJV)** *25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among*

*you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant :28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

**Colossians 3:17, 22-24 (KJV)** 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

*22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

See also John 13:1-17

**14. Yeshua, Jesus is the centre and circumference of the Kingdom they are part of and they therefore point people to Him rather than themselves.** They emulate John the Baptist, to point people to Yeshua, Jesus, not themselves.

**John 14:6-7 (KJV)** 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

**John 3:28-31 (KJV)** 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 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. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

**Romans 1:16-17 (KJV)** 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

**15. They live a 'Go Ye' life modelled after Yeshua, Jesus and in obedience to His command.** Signs and wonders attend their ministries because they are Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven. Like Yeshua, Jesus they live for the world to come when the Kingdom will be manifested in its fullness. They preach the Kingdom, not humans or denominations or religiosity, inviting people to repent and be born into it.

**Matthew 4:23 (KJV)** 23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

As they do so, the King backs them up with signs and wonders following. They therefore do not chase after miracles, signs and wonders!

**Mark 16:15-20 (KJV)** 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

## **16. They exercise Faith which overcomes the world**

**1 John 4:4 (KJV)** *4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

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

## **17. They do not commercialise the anointing and find it unethical to place monetary value on the word or ministry to people**

**Matthew 10:8-10 (KJV)** *8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.*

They trust the beneficence of the Father Who provides for them any how or way it pleases Him. They know that the vineyard where they sow may not be the place from where they reap, just like Paul.

**18. They carry the Cross to follow Yeshua, Jesus daily** (Luke 9:23). They count it all joy when they encounter various issues (James 1:2-4). They know that all things work together for their good and embrace the fire of process, knowing that it is for good. What destroys others can only strengthen and refines them (Romans 8:28-39)

**19. When they stumble or err, they expect and Receive divine discipline when necessary so that they don't have to face an uncertain future** Hebrews 12:5-17; & 2 Corinthians 7:10-14. If they sin, they run to the Father and receive mercy and justification because of the shed Blood (1 John 2:1-2).

**20. They are not casual about sound doctrine.** They study to show themselves approved in order to rightly divide the word of truth 2 Timothy 2:15. They try every spirit. They earnestly contend for the faith Jude 3 and do not suffer peddlers of error lightly (2 John:7-11).

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

**2 John 1:7-11 (KJV)** *7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

## **21. By His Grace, they remain Faithful till the end**

**Revelation 17:14 (KJV)** *14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are **called, and chosen, and faithful.***

**22. Because of the way they live, they are the Salt which preserves their spheres of influence from corruption of Satan's worldly culture but rather releases redemptive purpose.** In the same way, their

lifestyle and preaching/teaching ministry becomes the Light which dispels the darkness of worldly culture (Matthew 5:13-16).

**23. Prayer is their lifestyle because they depend on and Trust Elohim for All things!** They dare not depend on arm of the flesh.

**Luke 18:1 (KJV)** *1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

**Luke 11:9 (KJV)** *9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)** *17 Pray without ceasing.*

**24. The wage a good warfare.** They recognise that Satan is an implacable foe of the Kingdom and has marshalled himself and all demons at his command to wreak havoc on humanity and fight advancement of the gospel. They lay hold of all weapons of warfare to fight and overcome.

**John 10:10 (KJV)** *10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

They realise that some of the people that oppose them are simply tools in the hand of Satan and they therefore do not get drawn into fleshly responses.

**Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV)** *10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 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. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

**25. For them, all things work together for good because Elohim never disappoints.**

**Romans 8:28 (KJV)** *28 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. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 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. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

### **Review Questions**

1. Please briefly discuss any 7 - 13 of these Hallmarks which are areas of challenge you need to grow in.
2. What will you do with this revelation

## Part C. Chapter 18

### Rewards (A)

#### **The Rewards of true disciples – Part A: the spiritual foundation**

Yahweh, our Elohim is an equitable personality. He never makes a demand on humankind without commensurate rewards or punishments attached thereto.

#### **The Concept of Rewards and Punishment**

Right from the Garden of Eden, He established the principle of rewards for obedience and punishment for disobedience:

**Genesis 2:15-17 (KJV)** *15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

In the Old Covenant, the concept of rewards for obedience and punishment for disobedience was clearly articulate in Deuteronomy Chapter 28.

In the New Covenant, the principle of obedience is not an external issue but one which springs from abiding in Him:

**John 15:4-8 (KJV)** *4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

#### **The Mission of Yeshua, Jesus relative to recovery of humans lost in Adam**

When Yeshua, Jesus was incarnated, the Kingdom of heaven invaded the earth realm. The invasion was a Divine Act for the purpose of recovering sons who had been trapped in the genetic mutation from Adam. Created in the image of Elohim to be His ambassador in the earth realm, Adam and Eve succumbed to the wiles of the rebel, Satan and took on the nature and image of this evil being. Let us remember that this was the outcome of lusting after what Elohim had specifically forbidden:

**Genesis 3:5-6 (KJV)** *5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

From that day, the heart (spirit-man) of humanity became vile and deceitful, full of self-agendas that may masquerade as religion! (Please read Genesis 1:26-29; Genesis 2:15; Psalm 115:16 and Genesis 3:1-7 with Jeremiah 17:9).

## The Curse of Works of the flesh and Hard Labour

The result of the rebellion of Adam and Eve was the sentence of back breaking labour. This labour was to be driven by the soul <mind, will, emotion> which was activated by Satan as prime mover of life and through which the five carnal senses relate with the environment. With the activation of Flesh, mankind could no longer enjoy son ship relationship with Elohim Who is a Spirit Being.

From enjoying the benefice of His Creator in a state of intimate relationship and living by Grace, Adam and Eve received the curse of a works of the flesh based life. It was a life in which the woman lost the grace to relate with Elohim independently but now had a new task master she was to please: the man. It was a life in which Adam had to sweat to produce his capacity in order to take care of his needs. It was also a life to be lived outside the sweet Presence of Elohim with a cursed earth to contend with.

**Genesis 3:16-24 (KJV)** *16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17 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; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 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. 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. 21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

This tendency of a life of hard labour exerted with arm of the flesh over a cursed earth is the basic operating system of all human endeavour till today. As David observed in Psalm 51:5, humans are shaped in iniquity with the DNA of the fallen Adam running through them regardless of their races, ethnicities, gender, ages, geographical locations, religious and political persuasions or socio-economic status.

With the curse on the earth, the foundation was laid for an economic system that is based on competition. Under this system, the resources of planet earth are deemed to be limited and diminishing to be competed for by an ever-increasing population. To succeed therefore, people have to be stronger than others, trampling the weaker under foot, if necessary. The rich have to exert so much energy seeking to be richer and store up wealth for generations to come. In the process, they trample on the liberties, rights and welfare of those they have to use.

The poor have to be crafty in order to outsmart their task masters to eke out a living and do the utmost they can to survive and possibly lay foundation for their off springs to have a better future. Even Socialism and Communism are sustained by making the State a hard task master who owns all that hard-working citizens produce in order to distribute to all so that the weaker are provided for.

All religions – from the orthodox to the false prosperity gospel and the pseudo-kingdom movement essentially foster the continuance of the Adamic curse on one central basis: rejection of Yeshua, Jesus and His Mission to restore sonship of those who would receive Him with the Father. Humans therefore go into over drive to ‘found’ churches which are literarily, cash cows for their owners. Whether it is false prophecies that will bring the bucks or milk, people use the gift of the barb to release what people want to hear so that their fleshly natures are activated to ‘go for it’.

This state of life, after the fall has essentially followed the pattern of what happened in the Garden of Eden when Eve lusted after what Elohim had forbidden. Till today, it is the core way of life driving ambitions of humans:

**James 4:1-4 (KJV)** *1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

When in the days of Augustus <the first Caesar who became an Emperor or lord over the fiercely republican state of Rome>, heaven invaded earth and a Child was born in Bethlehem, Elohim was making an announcement: it was time to recover His sons who had been in captivity for some millennia to Satan, Sin and the World system!

The essence of the Incarnation in relation to this reality was summed up by Holy Spirit speaking through Paul the Apostle. Though many are born again and have confessed Yahshua, Jesus, they allow the spirit of religion to block their view of Yahweh as Father rather seeing Him as a distant God. In the process, they are unable to mature into the fullness of what they are called to be and do: sons of Yahweh.

**Galatians 4:1-7 (KJV)** *1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Holy Spirit of Elohim, who brooded over planet earth on creation morning, was the same Who planted Yahshua in the womb of the Virgin Mary. It was He Who came upon Yahshua, Jesus without measure <limitless infilling> on the day of His Baptism (John 3:34); It was He Who led Yahshua into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil (Matthew 4:1); It was He Who ensured that though in the flesh, Yahshua was able to do all the works which announced that the Kingdom of Heaven had come into the earth realm (Acts 10:38).

That is why on finishing His redemptive assignment on the Cross, Yahshua asked those who truly believed in Him to tarry at Jerusalem until they received the Promise of the Father. Acts 1:5-8 with which and through Who they would effectively live and minister world-wide. Those 120 who obeyed were endued with the same Holy Spirit Who was in Yahshua and by Whom He lived and served in

ministry. With their enduement in Acts 2:1-4, the disciples were equipped with the capacity to manifest the nature of Divinity, live the opposite life that was contrary to the acquisitive world and be used to make disciples of all nations.

In other words, Holy Spirit transformed ordinary humans into sons of Elohim whose prime mission in the earth realm became these:

- Been used as Instruments of manifesting the awesome love of Elohim in Yeshua as they were wholly consumed with the ministry of reconciling the lost back to their Father (John 3:16-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
- Through systematic teaching of truth and their personal examples, they enable other sons who live like Strangers, Unwilling Slaves, Orphans and Babes to see that they are called to be sons of Elohim. This is done through the teaching ministry which is effective only when the word is made flesh in believers (Matthew 28:19-20; John 8:32; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:25-27). This is the basis of the 'Opposite' or 'Other worldly' life we are called to live.
- Manifest the Nature, Presence and Power of their Father Whose glorious gene run in their new blood line in Yahshua. With this manifestation, they become the salt of the earth and Light of the world. Their lives, focus and actions which are superior to and run contrary to the world system challenge those outside of Yahshua to desire same.

**1 Peter 2:9-12 (KJV)** *9 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; 10 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. 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 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.*

This Kingdom Culture begins like the Yeast of the woman which leavens the batch of dough that is their worldly environments.

**Matthew 13:33 (KJV)** *33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

This creates an inside out transformation of peoples, communities and nation which embrace the Person and redemptive work of Yahshua. In this matter, we cannot hide our identities in Yahshua neither should we adorn the garb of religion and religiosity which limits Him to what happens inside the four walls of so called 'Church buildings'.

#### Review Questions

1. Please summarise this lesson the way you understood it.
2. What new thing (s) did you learn?

## Chapter 19

### Rewards of True (Part B)

As we saw in the preceding lesson, right from the Garden of Eden through the Old Covenant, Yahweh has a system of rewarding those who obey Him and punishing the disobedient. When Yeshua, Jesus walked this earth, He announced a New Order, different from what the Hebrews knew and practised since the days of Moses.

In this new order, rituals of religion were to give way to relationship between humanity and Yahweh not as an Impersonal, distant, unknown God but as a Living, Loving Father. The access way into this new relationship was not the sacrifice of birds and animals, but by repentance from a life of sin. This is another way of saying that people were required to consciously dethrone Satan, who has been 'god' of this world in order to embrace Yahweh as Father through Himself (Yeshua). This ushers them into a personal relationship with Elohim.

**Matthew 4:17 (KJV)** *17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**John 3:1-3 (KJV)** *1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 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. 3 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.*

**John 14:6 (KJV)** *6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

This new relationship they were called to walk in with the Father required them to give up what was precious and familiar in order to walk a new lifestyle that was based on this Father-son relationship. That is why in calling people to be His disciples, Yeshua required to make great sacrifices. For some, it meant a total change of direction. For others, it meant adjusting to a new lifestyle. To their credit, the disciples who walked with Yeshua gave up all they held dear in order to walk with Him.

One day, the impetuous disciple, Peter encountered the King with a question that may have gnawed at his heart for some time. Let us see what He asked Yeshua and what the answer was:

**Matthew 19:27 (KJV)** *27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. 30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.*

Through the answer of Yeshua, we understand that there are some specific rewards that lie in store for true disciples both in time and in eternity. Going through the Holy Writ, we can pick up a number of distinct rewards which await all who will heed the invitation to be disciples.

## **A. In the world to come**

**1. The Gift of Eternal Life** – this is the endless life of bliss which will be spent in the presence of Yahweh as Father stretching from time and reaching into eternity. To be a disciple who is faithful to the end is to escape the torment of hell and the Lake of Fire and Brimstone forever. Even if this is the only benefit, it is worth all the seeming troubles and sufferings we can ever encounter on earth as indicated in story of the Rich man and Lazarus told by Yeshua, Jesus in Luke 16:19-31.

**2. The Crown of Righteousness** for faithful service in which Yahweh and the Kingdom had priority over all other things in this lifetime.

**2 Timothy 4:6 (KJV)** *6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Paul, Peter and the other disciples looked forward to the Day in the hereafter when they will appear before the Judgement Seat of Yeshua, receive commendation for fulfilling the Divine purpose of their creation and redemption. So, should we too!

**3. Co-heirs with King Yeshua who will rule and reign over this earth with Him on His return.** The uniform testimony of scriptures is that Yeshua will for 1000 years of Kingdom rule demonstrate what the earth would have been like if Adam and Eve did not fall. He will not rule alone but true disciples who paid the price in this present life will be assigned over nations and peoples as Kings and Priests. In the present time, the posture of disciples as Priests and Kings are spiritually executed. On the return of King Yeshua, their reign with Him shall be literal. That is the full phase of the Kingdom! If we live the Kingdom life in the now, we shall be partakers of this full phase – Kingdom Come - at the appointed time!

**Revelation 20:1-4 (KJV)** *1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 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. 4 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.*

**Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV)** *5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**Revelation 5:9-10 (KJV)** *9 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; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

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

**2 Timothy 2:12 (KJV)** *12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

The sin wracked earth on which so much blood has been spilled and so much wickedness executed has run its course with human abuse for several millennia and is groaning and yearning for that time:

**Romans 8:18 (KJV)** *18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

**Matthew 5:5 (KJV)** *5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

## **B. Rewards of Disciples in this present life**

### **#.4. A life free of the lordship of Satan who rules the world through three core principles:**

- The Self nature which makes decisions of life by what the 5 Carnal senses of Sight; Hearing, Touch/Feel; Taste; Smell. This leads to carnal living
- Accordingly, Satan uses lusts of the eyes, lusts of the flesh and pride of life to gain access to people who are careless and uses same to control them.
- The sentence of works and labouring to survive which was activated in Adam the day he fell

In effect, true disciples are delivered from the **Adamic Curse of Works and hard labour** in order to get by in life, scheming and plotting strategies of competition to be better than others. Genesis 3:16-19. This is why true disciples live a **life of true liberty in Yeshua, Jesus** with freedom from the bondage of the flesh (soul and body) which makes many Christians carnal.

Like Yeshua, they can safely say: 'the Prince of this world cometh and finds nothing in me' (John 14:30; 1 John 2:15-17). **This is Yeshua, Jesus centred and honouring lifestyle** wherein His yoke gives true rest to the soul. In this state, the joy of the Lord becomes the hidden strength of His people. In this way, the true Kingdom Life is manifested by Righteousness (Right Standing with the Father); Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit:

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

**Matthew 11:28–30; John 15:1–7; Nehemiah 8:10; Isaiah 12:3.**

**#.5. A life of entering into the rest of our King. This is one free from the pressure of materialism and acquisitiveness.** It is the blessedness of owning nothing yet having all in Yeshua. One is freed from participation in the rat race of life and constantly being in the fast lane, seeking for more money or acquisition of stuff. This leads true disciples to rest in their King and trust their Father as true sons do.

His promise to provide all the needs of those who seek first the Kingdom in Matthew 6:19-34 is a sure one.

**Matthew 6:31-34 (KJV)** *31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 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.*

**John 6:27 (KJV)** *27 Labour **not for** the meat which perisheth, but **for** that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: **for** him hath God the Father sealed.*

**#.6. Gift of Holy Spirit.** It is Holy Spirit Who convicts us of sin; shows Yeshua and His Blood sacrifice as ONLY acceptable access to Elohim. He also seals saints unto the Day of ultimate redemption; Transforms them from inside out to conform to the image of the ultimate Son and releases the spirit of son ship in disciples.

John 16: 7-16; Acts 1: 6-8

He comforts them in their Cross bearing moments, causing them to see beyond the present when rewards will be received. He also empowers their witness so that they walk in the miraculous realm regarding their assignments (Acts 1:8; John 14:12). Holy Spirit does not just come into a disciple. He deposits specific gifts and callings with which to execute the Kingdom assignment (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:7-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

**#.7. The privilege of being sons of Yahweh who live the Kingdom life here in the earth realm as a sneak peak of the world to come.** They are matured enough to hear His voice, releasing and submitting their own will to His and being led of the Holy Spirit in all things. This implies maturity of understanding and taking responsibility for the Father's estate

**Romans 8:14-15 (KJV)** *14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

**Galatians 4:1-7 (KJV)** *1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

**8. The privilege of constant access to Yahweh in prayer** with an uncluttered heart that is pure. In this regard, disciples do not seek to use prayer to impose their wills on Yahweh. They rather posture as mid-wives to come alongside Him in birthing His will in the earth realm (Psalm 15:1-5; Psalm 24:3-6; Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14; 1 John 5:14-15).

When real needs arise, true disciples approach their Father in confidence knowing that He loves them

**Matthew 7:7-11 (KJV)** *7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

**9. The Gift of deliverance from the fear of death.** This is an understanding of its major assignment in lives of saints: transition from mortality to immortality and access way (along with the rapture – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) to receive the celestial body for living in the world to come. Disciples who understand death are no longer in torment but rather liberated from fear.

**Hebrews 2:14-15 (KJV)** *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

**1 Corinthians 15:50 (KJV)** *50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit in-corruption.*

Knowing this truth was what powered Stephen to seal his testimony in blood as the first Martyr without batting an eyelid but rather emulating his redeemer by forgiving his assassins. Acts 7:58-60. It was also why Paul looked forward to and embraced his forth coming execution in 2 Tim. 4:6-8. For Peter, this is what he had to say of impending death:

**2 Peter 1:13-15 (KJV)** *13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.*

**10. The blessed life of seeking, discovering and fulfilling the very purpose** for which one was created and redeemed

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

**Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)** *11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

**11. Productivity in serving Yeshua, Jesus as His** witness and co-labourer is guaranteed for all who will respond to His call.

**John 15:16 (KJV)** *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.*

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

**12. For true disciples, we inherit all things owned by our heavenly Father** – both in heaven and on earth! Disciples do not glory in humans which creates denominational divisions but rather in He Who

Owns all things and given them freely to us! **Trust and Faith in Yahweh** yields up all that He has provided, out of His faithfulness, for His servants to be without lack and for their needs to be met – (Deuteronomy 28:1–13; Psalm 37:25-26; Matthew 6:24–34; Matthew 19:29; Philippians 4:19; 2 Peter 1:3).

**1 Corinthians 3:21-22 (KJV)** *21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's; 22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;*

**Ephesians 1:3 (KJV)** *3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*

**2 Peter 1:3 (KJV)** *3 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:*

Yahweh is not an unjust personality Who will send us on Assignment for the Kingdom empty handed! There is a divine Allocation for every Kingdom Assignment in the earth realm. If we receive our assignments with joy and do same with excellence, our trust in Him and Faith in His goodness will draw down all the resources needed to fulfil Divine Purpose! This is why true disciples get it right with priorities: they Love Yahweh with all their hearts; Enthroned Yeshua as King of their lives; Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness in the power of Holy Spirit and enjoy provisions made for their journey through life!

**13. The Gift of changed position.** Whereas disciples were strangers, the call to walk with Yeshua causes a change of status to that of sonship. Though on earth, two extraordinary miracles are made sure in them:

**13.1:** Though physically on earth, their spirit-man is seated with the risen Yeshua in heavenly places far above all principalities and powers and everything named on earth and in heaven. This is simply mind boggling!

**Ephesians 2:1-6 (KJV)** *1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;); 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

**13.2.** Their fleshly hearts or spirit-man become the very Temple of Holy Spirit in the earth realm! He goes with them wherever they go and uses their yielded vessels to show up (1 Corinthians 12:7).

**1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV)** *19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

**14. The gift of deliverance from the curse of the Law.** The benefits indicated in 1-11 above are all possible because of the change of paradigm. In the Old Covenant, Israel lost the vibrant personal relationship with Yahweh which He desired with them. Unwilling to behold the Glory and Majesty of Elohim, they desired that Moses become His step down transformer so that they would tap into the

grace in him. Because of this, Moses had to wear a veil. The Law that came forth became a School Master to keep Israel in check until the fullness of Grace and Truth came in the form of the Incarnation of Yeshua. The Law was full of provisions that human kind could not keep with the Adamic nature. By His incarnation, Yeshua took all the hand writing of ordinances represented by the Law upon Himself on the Cross, cancelled them and gave us access to relate with Yahweh as Father and enjoy the fullness of His benefice - just as Abraham did about 430 or so years before the Law came!

**Galatians 3:13-14 (KJV)** *13 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: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

**Colossians 2:13-17 (KJV)** *13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 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; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

**15. For true disciples, all things ultimately work together for their good!** Knowing who they are in Yeshua and Who He is in them, they proceed with their life assignments, trusting the wisdom of Elohim in allowing various experiences.

**Romans 8:28-39 (KJV)** *28 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. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 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. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 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.*

**16. They are secure with lives hidden in Yeshua in Yahweh.** This enables disciples to live free of fear, worry or anxiety. With their lives in the hands of a loving caring Father, neither Satan nor his demons can destroy them!

**Colossians 3:1-3 (KJV)** *1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

**Revelation 21:7 (KJV)** *7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

**1 Corinthians 3:21(KJV)** *21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's;*

**1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV)** *9 But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen**, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God **hath** prepared for them that love him.*

**Review Questions**

1. Please discuss any 8 of these rewards which touched your heart most.
2. What will you do with this lesson?

**Please read also, the Rewards as detailed in Course 116: The Great Commission**

## Chapter 20

### Epilogue + General Feedback

Disciples of Yeshua, not followers of denomination or men/women are the critical need of this generation! Before we close out this very critical course, let us touch on a few issues.

#### **A. The cost of discipleship that only a few are willing to pay in each generation:**

1. The choice to respond to the Call of the Lord.
2. The willingness to follow the Lord wholly, without reservations.
3. The choice to allow the Word of the Lord to renew the mind and change the perspective so that one can apprehend spiritual truth and yield to His demand for Lordship

**Romans 12:2 (KJV)** *2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

4. The choice to dethrone the self life and yield it up wholly to be crucified with Yeshua

**Matthew 16:24 (KJV)** *24 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.*

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

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

5. The willful embrace of a Yeshua-centred life which is no longer driven by pursuit of material things but pursuit of the Lord Himself.

6. The willful offering up of our beings as the Lord's bondservants whose entire pleasure is to do His will

**Psalms 50:5 (KJV)** *5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.*

**Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)** *28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

It all comes down to one critical point – personal decision. Ultimately all Believers have the privilege of exercising their will either in favour of accepting or rejecting the call of the Lord for discipleship.

#### **B. How do you know the call on an experiential level?**

1. As a believer you become dissatisfied with the routine life.
2. You have an understanding that the pursuit of the things of this world is vanity and therefore you no longer derive your validity and satisfaction from them.
3. You sense a void deep within you that needs to be filled.

4. You realise that there is a higher purpose for which Elohim created and redeemed you that you need to pursue and fulfil.

5. You realise that there are deposits of grace in you which are not yet utilised or fully utilised.

6. You receive specific messages from Elohim by revelation (prophecy, dreams, visions, discernment), by quickening of the Word, by impression in your heart or by having a burden which leads you to seek Him to a greater degree.

7. The Lord orders your steps into a programme like the Global School of Ministry or Master Class where you are challenged to release yourself to Him wholly to be processed into ministry.

The most radical truth about discipleship is that it is an invitation to true liberty! That is Liberty from the bondage of Satan, Self, The World and its attractions

True Kingdom Life is found from the Cross and the Resurrection! If we die with King Yeshua, Jesus and rise with Him, the life that manifests is no longer our own but rather He lives through our empty vessels!

The Crowds which throng 'Churches' and ministries seeking for miracles and divine intervention are not evil! It is just that our Father wants them to be systematically and consistently taught the truth which sets free! It is that truth which will enable those appointed to become disciples and remain so!

To use personal charisma, marketing gimmicks or spiritual gifts to gather a crowd and continuously give them milk of promises to make them happy is to betray the ministry and King Yeshua Who commissions! This is the real issue and danger!

It is to disciples that the abundant life King Yeshua promised those who follow Him becomes real! Dead to self and ambitions, they are alive in Yeshua, seeking first His Kingdom and righteousness thereof and as vessels Holy Spirit uses to express His Nature, Presence and Power. There is something about such people – who while in the body live another worldly life that makes them remarkable. This is what enables them, to be the salt of the Earth and the Light of the world. Without controversy, theirs is a superior life!

**Romans 14:17-19 (KJV)** *17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*

**Matthew 5:13 (KJV)** *13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Because they are dead to self, Holy Spirit is able to use their yielded vessels to touch much more lives in the dimension of the Greater Works Yahshua promised to those who truly follow Him!

**John 12:24 (KJV)** *24 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.*

### **C. Those engaged in Discipleship are those who fulfil the Great Commission!**

Let us take note that the Great Commission was not about just preaching for people to be saved! Getting people to hear the gospel of Salvation by Grace in Yeshua is but the first step of a process. Ultimately, the Great Commission is about transforming humans

- From being slaves of Sin to servants of Righteousness
- From ruler-ship of Satan to ruler-ship of Yeshua as their King

It is about coming to the place where they are delivered from bondage to the selfish self-centred ways of the world system to live the Kingdom life of Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost. It is about moving away from religion and dead works of rituals designed to appease an ever angry, distant, Unknown God to become intimately connected to Elohim through Yeshua to enjoy a vibrant personal relationship they cannot trade away.

When people are transformed in this way, they become agents of transforming other people assigned to them. In this way, whole families, Communities, people groups and nations are brought to obedience of Yeshua and live as His disciples, citizens of the Kingdom of heaven, even while still on this side of eternity!

Discipleship is at the heart of the Great Commission! If we are to fulfil the Great Commission, we must first get all saints to preach everywhere so that those appointed for Salvation hear and respond to the good news that in Yeshua, Elohim has paid the price for their Sins.

As they embrace the truth and become saved, the process continues: applying the Ministry of the Word to transform hearts and renew minds until they understand and walk in Kingdom Culture as a lifestyle.

From believing on Yeshua Jesus, they become His followers. Those who engage in discipleship are those who are engaged in fulfilment of the Great Commission. Discipleship is truly the heart of the Great Commission!

## Chapter 21

### General Feedback from Participants

Before we read the Feedback from various participants in the 2017 Master Class, let us reflect briefly on one reality: lack of Trust in Elohim is the root of tendencies to reject the Call to discipleship. This breeds fear of the unknown and tendencies to rely on arm of the flesh as a means to get by. As believers get stuck in believing on Yeshua but rejecting the call to follow Him, the tendency to live what the Book of Jeremiah deems a 'cursed life' is all too real:

**Jeremiah 17:5-6 (KJV)** *5 Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.*

Another point which needs to be made with clarity is this: The ONLY way to truly pursue and achieve Destiny (the purpose for which an individual was created and redeemed) is through the process of discipleship. The reason for this assertion is simple: only Disciples come to the place of death of the Self nature and are vessels through which Holy Spirit fulfils Divine Purpose. If this is so, it can be safely asserted that those who reject the call to be disciples or who postpone discipleship, are simply engaged in kicking Destiny, like an empty can, down the road!

The need to be disciples is further understood when we accept the reality that Elohim alone knows the way through the wilderness called life on this side of eternity! If we let go of our opinions and self-love and give Holy Spirit space, He will lead us into Kingdom Assignments for which we have been created and endowed with sufficient grace and capacity.

He may choose to use us in the Market Place or in 'Full Time' Pulpit Ministry. He may decide that our vessels our best suited for both Pulpit and Market Place ministry. Joseph, Daniel, Esther, Joshua and a cloud of witnesses were mightily used in the Market Place and Civil Society. By surrendering to His perfect will, we emulate our Head, King Yeshua Who did not live for Himself but rather for the Will of the Father.

**Hebrews 10:5-9 (KJV)** *5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

Discipleship is about true submission to authority of Elohim; proving our loyalty to King Yeshua and trusting Holy Spirit to leads us aright on the journey of life!

**Valerie Caraotta, Georgia, USA:** Discipleship is the heart of the Great Commission. The aim is to bring the understanding of the New Covenant to others, so they can understand what real Kingdom life entails.

Yeshua is after relationship and not ritual and today He is transforming the church through systematic discipleship where Holy Spirit indwells saints and the Word is taught so that others grow to maturity and in turn replicate the discipleship process with others.

A disciple seeks to be more like Yeshua. A vast difference from the typical church attendee today that does their weekly ritual and forgets about Elohim the rest of the week. Discipleship instead involves sacrifice so few are willing to pay. It involves a death to self whereby Holy Spirit can work through yielded vessels. Every believer is called to be a disciple of Yeshua.

The benefit of discipleship is relationship with Elohim which results in sonship where His glory is manifested in power demonstrated in the life that is lived for Him and others. When Sonship is reached the primary motivation in life is to do the will of the Father, regardless of the cost. It may cost friendship, family associations, and definitely will entail persecution of some dimension. Despite this a disciple keeps his/her eye on eternity, trusting Yeshua and resting in His peace, void of crippling fear.

Disciples give up ownership and control of their own life. They give no room for thought, words or deeds that do not glorify the Father. Quality time is invested in studying, meditating, and praying in the Word. This course included benchmarks and hallmarks of disciples which are valuable in evaluating my own life.

The life of a true disciple is not without rewards. Crowns and ruling authority await those that sacrificed much in eternity. This life promises us that there will be rest for our souls, that the Holy Spirit will be our guide, and that every Kingdom assignment will have His divine allocation.

For me personally I came to understand how loosely the term "disciple" has been thrown out in Christian arenas. Many do not understand the cost and requirements needed to follow Him. I will be able to use this material in many arenas to challenge and help others become all they can in Yeshua. An idea sprung forth in me starting a podcast teaching/training to help equip many in the basics of the faith. I feel more compelled to share the Word with others knowing the time is short.

**Jonathan Oriabure, Lagos, Nigeria:** This course 118 is basically about discipleship which is the core of the Great commission and the Great commission is the mandate Yeshua has delivered to us which is the centre focus of the gospel.

As Christianity seems to be exploding, there is also a corresponding challenge to see the situation where so many who claim to be connected with Yeshua, do not really reflect His nature or lifestyle in their day to day activities. This has made it mandatory to emphasise the need for true discipleship through various meaningful teachings that can be impactful to enhance the vibrant Kingdom culture as required by Yeshua.

Truly, the gospel is about making disciples of Yeshua in all nations of the earth and not just about gathering crowds who are dependent on 'anointed ministers' for their spiritual, emotional and physical sustenance, neither is it about building huge physical structures or collecting Cash but to see in clear language what Yeshua instructed the Church to do with His exit and giving the Church His marching orders as in Matthew 28:18-20.

The need to remember and validate the subject of discipleship is borne out of the fact that personal relationship with Yeshua was jettisoned for a system where people were primarily members of physical 'churches' leading to denominationalism which is inimical to The Most High and the redeemed. Secondly those who in physical Church but have no vibrant personal relationship with Yahweh would of necessity need to be taught.

A disciple is a follower of Yeshua, who walks after Him and seeks to be more like Him. This course also tries to probe into the profile of those who pervert Discipleship and biblical response to them and a call to breed true discipleship as the language of Yeshua which is a cure to the four negative states of strangers, unwilling slaves, orphans and babes emerging from Negative Relationship with Yahweh.

This course gave us a picture of the sons of Elohim in the earth realm that were to be modelled to suit His purpose and this led to the subject about Adoption which is a spiritual transplanting offered to whoever will receive the gracious invitation of Yahweh. However, in spite of the privileges resulting from Adoption, there have been identity crisis which this course delved into to resolve.

Furthermore, this course talks so much about understanding the language of Yeshua in calling people which is not restricted to one method. This led to the opening up of several case studies of disciples that were called which gave birth to following Yeshua as the Divine personality Who called. Disciples cannot be true disciples until they identify with the cross which involves dramatic experience and continuance in this experience by consciously yielding members of the Body to only Holy Spirit. These disciples are called to live opposite life on the Road less Travelled and manifesting the Benchmarks of the true discipleship which includes Election, Salvation, Holy Spirit, all culminating into the rewards of obedience and punishment for disobedience and rewards of true discipleship both in the kingdom now and the kingdom to come and the cost of discipleship which only few are willing to pay in each generation.

The course has imparted me positively to a point that my wife even told me that since I started this course, so many things have changed in my life. I know particularly, this course on discipleship has added value to my Christian experience. I give all my life to follow Yeshua as a true disciple and teach others likewise. Holy Spirit will help me. Thank you so much sir and Elohim bless you.

**Benedicte Musanga Mulyangote , Botswana:** Through this course I have understood that discipleship is about going to where people are to engage with them and teaching them to observe all things Yeshua, Jesus commanded. It is the duty of every true born-again to carry out the Great Commission so that all true saints can be governed by the Constitution of the Kingdom in all areas of life.

A disciple of Yeshua needs to have a covenantal relationship with Yahweh so that He can commission him/her to represent Him as His ambassador by the real anointing of the Holy Spirit that produces a transformed character and empowered witness and secondly, he needs to discover and utilize all the properties which are part of his/her spiritual DNA to declare the gospel and advance the Kingdom as the primal purpose for which he/she is alive.

This course has just given me a new meaning about following Yeshua, Jesus. I know that I am called to disciple others because of what I just learned in lesson #20, but I feel that I need to be discipled first

although I have been stirred up to go about making disciples (like they say, 'you can only give what you have!!!).

And the teaching on digging deeper series about disciples of Yeshua's life is challenging me to have a very perfect Christian life and I believe with the Master Class I will be able to release myself to Him wholly to be processed into ministry.

And once I'm released into ministry, the very first thing I see myself doing will be to encourage people to seek Yeshua's Heart or Face rather than running after miracles or 'anointed' men of God.

**Cynthia Sibongile Mupotsa, Harare, Zimbabwe:** Discipleship is the heart of the Great Commission, but there is a price to pay which on a few (true disciples) are willing to pay. Those true disciples are men/women who will surrender their Will, love righteousness and hate iniquity. They will discipline members of their beings not to serve flesh or the world to avoid manifestation of the works of the flesh.

Yahweh Has provided two critical provisions for discipling saint which are Holy Spirit and the Word. Holy Spirit leads saints into all truth, reveals Yeshua to us and works out His Nature and Character through our yielded vessels and leads us into the perfect will of Yahweh. It is the Word which Holy Spirit uses effectively to transform the hearts and renew their minds to the degree that they will live for eternity.

King Yeshua wants abundant manpower that are His Church to be released in the vineyard of the world. He wants us to realise that no one is in the Kingdom by accident and that none of them is useless. Every true saint is joined to His Body by Holy Spirit and given peculiar gifts which are to edify other saints.

They don't join denominations or churches where they are mere statistics and are regarded as cash cows. Their attendance is important only in cash terms (tithes and offerings). They attend church services on certain holy days and priests wearing their decorated robes perform rituals like the old covenant Levitical priests. To them this God is faraway and can only be accessed through these priests. After these services, they go and live a different kind of life from what was happening in church building only to come and start the rituals all over again the following week. They play churchianity or rather they are Sunday Christians. They remain babes who are fed with milk throughout. Some will hop from Church to church seeking miracles and signs and will always want to hear what pleases them not the truth of Yahweh.

The true disciples are the ones who were redeemed by the Blood of Yeshua and have been adopted into the family of Yahweh. This adoption is a legal covenant and those who accept this are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Kingdom of Yahweh which means all their provisions are catered to by Yahweh.

The most radical truth about discipleship is that it is an invitation to walk in true liberty. This is liberty from the bondage of Satan, self, the world and its attractions. These disciples are dead to self, so Holy Spirit is able to use their yielded vessels to touch many lives.

The Great commission is not about just preaching for people to be saved. Getting people to hear the gospel of salvation by Grace is but the first step of the process. It is about transforming humans from being slaves to servants of Righteousness.

**Bassey Patrick, Abuja Nigeria:** From this course, I have had vivid understanding of the intricacies of authentic discipleship. From my perspective of this lesson, authentic discipleship is the type that emphasizes bringing the full weight of the New Covenant to those who are part of it to the degree that they walk in the experiential reality of what it is – direct, conscious, willful involvement in the totality of The Great Commission. Authentic Discipleship Process ensures that the remit of the Kingdom Church is to execute the discipleship mandate in such a way that all true Saints are governed by the Constitution of the Kingdom in all areas of life.

These lessons have given me more boldness to actually “Go-Ye”; with the confidence that His ever presence will always be there with me. Secondly, assurance of all other benefits and blessings reserved for the obedient and the love I have to see the mission of Yeshua/Jesus fulfilled and His love for humanity shared constitute some of the motivating factors in obeying the Great Commission Mandate. It is noted with all sense of responsibility that the Great Commission Mandate is presented as key to Kingdom demands in all the Lessons of Course 118.

The necessary process that must take place in order for John 15:1-8 to manifest in the Believer’s life without struggles is to key into the flow with His promised abundant life. The process through which this would come to pass is for the Saint to undergo, adapt to and adopt a death-of-the-old-man lifestyle and carnal consciousness and move into another paradigm of new life in and with Yeshua/Jesus; with all the components of that newness: renewed mind, transformed hearts, Christ-like mindset and Ambassadorial consciousness on this earth plane through whom He continues His redemptive assignment on this earth realm.

In summary, as engrafted members of His Body, we cease to live our lives; but He lives His Own Life in and through us. This is how and why He answers all our prayers and performs His determinate counsel in this earth realm through such yielded Saints.

These are very informative issues on the concept of Discipleship in The Vineyard of Yeshua/Jesus. The Lesson is also a source of focus to as many as are yearning to serve right and execute our divinely allotted Kingdom assignment in this earth plane. We are truly encouraged that indeed, our labour is not in vain and shall be richly rewarded here and in Eternity with Yeshua/Jesus.

### **Course Impact**

The impact of this Course on my life as a person has its genesis from the realization of the import of true Discipleship as it affects my life in Yeshua/Jesus and the totality of my relationship with Him. I am indeed fascinated to realize that Discipleship is actually a process by which a Saint submits him/herself to be a conscious and willful follower of Yeshua, Jesus, who walks after Him and seeks to be more like Him. It has been reiterated in this Lesson also that disciples are not fair weather, milk drinking believers. The Lesson presses the point home that disciples are Saints who have allowed Holy Spirit and The Word to renew their minds, transform their hearts as they become personal representatives of Yeshua through whom He continues His redemptive assignment in the earth realm.

The process of Discipleship connotes that, while Jesus Christ was with His Disciples physically during His earthly ministry, there were specific days and intervals those Disciples would interact with Him

physically and personally to hear and learn from on a regular basis. This fact is a proof of the necessity for disciples to be processed on a continuous basis throughout His time with them and even after He ascended to heaven. The need for this continuous processing was one of the reasons The Holy Spirit was promised and sent while Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven; so that through The Indwelling Holy Spirit, Disciples would feel the physical presence of Yeshua/Jesus in day-to-day relationship with Him.

Discipleship, as I have experienced it in my daily Christian walk is the act which happened the day I discovered the vanity of life that I lived for self; prompting me to make the decision to reverse the course of my life and live for The Redeemer as His vessel to manifest His Nature, Presence and Power. This is the day I responded to the upward call of King Yeshua and die to self. The act of discipleship is a definite experience that happens at a point in time in someone's life.

It is an experiential encounter that is not easy to forget and one which is a tangible reality, which shifts the focus of life and determines what pursuits that becomes primary in life. This affects every area of life, including attitude to life, death, money, fashion, fame and indeed, all other things which average Christians are concerned with.

In this light, it could be dangerous and detrimental to jump the discipleship step; and step into ministry based on their spiritual gifts and callings, avoiding the discipleship process to which they are appointed. They may end up as mercenaries preaching, ministering and supposedly blessing multitudes but eventually missing. All these information and plain truth are highly appreciated and have greatly impacted my life in a tremendous dimension.

#### WHAT I INTEND TO DO WITH THE REVELATIONS THEREIN RECEIVED

The least I intend to do with all these revelations is to believe Elohim for His wisdom, grace, resources, opportunities and privileges to apply these to my daily walk with and work for Yeshua/Jesus and to impart same to as many people as possible

**Olufunke Aliu, London United Kingdom:** Discipleship is the heart of the Great Commission. Truly, discipleship is the heart of the Great Commission because when Yeshua was leaving, he gave the saints a mandate - Go and make DISCIPLES of ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

For saints to become disciples, they must first be believers. So, we are to preach the gospel to everyone who will listen. When sinners become believers, they are like babies who need the 'sincere milk of the word' but just as in the natural sense they are expected to grow from babyhood to adulthood. They are to transition from believing in Jesus to being a follower of Jesus. It is in the followership that a disciple is made.

#### ***Discipleship requires a number of things to happen: -***

\* A true disciple must die to self. This means he loses his will and enthrones Yeshua on the seat of his heart. Nothing is done anymore according to his will but according to the will of God. \* A true disciple with time grows into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He allows the Word to renew his mind and transforms his heart so much so that all the worldly habits, cultures, traditions of men, mentality,

backgrounds are washed away by the Word and a new kingdom, Christ like nature is taken on, becoming more like Jesus every day. \* A true disciple lives a life of "Go Ye", driven by the love and compassion for lost souls. They are constantly sharing the good news at every opportunity and as they bring the sinners to the kingdom, teaching them to know their identity of son-ship thereby populating the kingdom of God with many sons. \* A true disciple lives a life of total obedience to the word of God. All he is concerned about is to please the Father at all times. \* They know that whatever they have belongs to God and will use every resource they have to promote the kingdom. \* A true disciple lives a life of constant prayer- studying, meditating and praying in the word.

There are rewards to true disciples here on earth and also in eternity: - \* They will have eternal life. This means that they will have an endless blissful life with God in eternity. \* They have the Holy Spirit who guides them, comforts them and endows them with spiritual gifts to do their kingdom assignment. \* They are empowered to live above sin and to shun all forms of worldliness and everything that could constitute a distraction on their way to achieve eternal life. \* They enjoy an intimate relationship with Elohim because they have transitioned from being a servant to a friend and finally to a son.

2. This course has made me examine myself to see if I can truly call myself a true disciple. It has shown me the areas I need more grace to walk in and has impressed in me the need to live as a TRUE DISCIPLE. Otherwise I may just be engaged in religious activities. God forbid!!! I must continue to press in, in total obedience to the WORD of God and his MANDATE to me- Go Ye!!!! After all, I can only prove my love for Elohim in obedience to His word and mandate. I receive grace to press in more and more!! Thank you, Lord,!!

**FJ Morehead, Suswanee, Georgia USA:** The Lord has called us to be disciples unto Him. Although there is a cost, there are great rewards. We have to deny self, the enemy, and the worldly systems (reject them) as we take up this call and carry out the mission laid before us.

As Yeshua takes Lordship over our lives and the Holy Spirit instructs and guides (because we invite Him to fill us) our hearts become transformed. Let us pursue the Lord always and constantly seek to do His will. We must understand all that results from acceptance of Yeshua versus all that results if we choose to reject Him. In discipleship, we are liberated from the bondages of Self, Satan, and the World.

Let us die to ourselves and be raised up with Him. And so, fulfilling the Great Commission and making disciples of others, the goal is that others are transformed also, freed from sin and Satan, the world and religious systems to find ultimate freedom in Christ. Let us preach the true Gospel, the true Kingdom so that others will embrace it, embrace Yeshua and receive Him and Salvation will be theirs as well!

**Pastor Rodolfo Morales, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Guatemala:** This course helps me understand that Discipleship is the heart of The Great Commission. It changed the way I see my Ministry and the work I have ahead. My work is a Unity and Power ministry and it originates when I develop The Great Commission.

But without 2017 Master Class and this course about Discipleship I could not work out my calling. The increase in understanding and the Seven Spirits of Wisdom as Isaiah 11: 1-2 declares is important to advancement. I feel very sure because the plural participation of many nationalities and men and

women ministers in 2017 Master Course gives you a firsthand practice and gives confidence that the materials are fit to the needs in Missionary life and Local Ministries.

In the daily works of a Pastor and Prophet at Guatemala you need to be trained because persecution is at hand, both governmental and witchery, sorcery and magicians. Then 2017 Master Class course about Discipleship fit both needs, one to train for The Great Commission and to protect against persecution.

**Assignment/General Feedback on Course 118:** Please write a detailed Feedback showing that you understand the core of this course: discipleship is the heart of the Great Commission.

Indicate how the Course has impacted you as a person and what you intend to do with the Revelation therein.

Course Impact Assessment/Examination for Course 118

This Course Impact Assessment/Examination is designed according to what Elohim desires to further reveal in you. You will have opportunity to speak from your heart regarding all that has been imparted into your spirit man — 20 lessons of Course 118: The Call, Costs & Rewards of Discipleship.

Once you have completed all lessons of Course 118 and have provided your general feedback of this course, proceed to take this Course Impact Assessment/Examination electronically by placing your responses below in this thread.

Allow yourself the liberty of 45-60 minutes to take this exam, and do so with integrity and sincerity of heart.

Do not read the input of your fellow classmates until you have successfully completed this examination. Once you are done, go back to ensure that you have addressed each question or request with your best response.

**Let's get started ...**

1. To what extent has Course 118 extended your knowledge and understanding of true discipleship according to Matthew 16:24-26?

**Answers:** ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need Help

2. Building from your above response, choose all that apply to the dimensions of Discipleship. (Place an "X" next to all that apply)

2.1 ( ) Discipleship is only for the novice (immature believer).

2.2 ( ) Discipleship is for the life of the saint in the earth realm.

2.3 ( ) Discipleship training is not intended for those who are gifted in their callings.

2.4 ( ) Discipleship affects every area of life!

2.5 ( ) Discipleship is the process of longing after Elohim.

3. What is your depth of understanding of Matthew 10:32-36 as it refers to true discipleship?

**Answers:** ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need Help

4. In just ONE WORD or in a SHORT SENTENCE, what is Yeshua [Jesus] revealing about discipleship in Matthew 10:32-36?

4.1 \_\_\_\_\_

4.2 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Overall, how would you rate Course 118 in terms of giving you clear understanding of the call, cost, and rewards of true discipleship, and that discipleship is a mandate given by Yeshua/Jesus?

Answers: ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need help

6. To what extent did Course 118 help you to understand the nine (9) profile types of ministers who pervert discipleship?

Answers: ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need help

7.. List three (3) of them:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. To what extent did Course 118 help you to understand that one cannot just accept Yeshua/Jesus as Savior, but must also be submitted to His Lordship/Kingship, which is the core of discipleship?

Answers: ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need help

9. To what extent did Course 118 give you a clear understanding of the four (4) Positions/Postures which negate discipleship?

Answers: ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need help

10.1 \_\_\_\_\_

10.2 \_\_\_\_\_

8.3 \_\_\_\_\_

8.4 \_\_\_\_\_

9. To what extent did you understand the FOUR (4) negative relationships?

Answers: ( ) Excellent; ( ) Very Good; ( ) Good; ( ) Poor; ( ) Very Poor; ( ) Need help

10. To what extent do you understand that evangelism and discipleship work synergistically, and starts with you first impacting your Jerusalem, followed by your Judea, Samaria, and then uttermost parts of the earth?

Answers: ( ) Very well; ( ) Fairly well; ( ) Poorly; ( ) I need further help

11. To what extent did Course 118 inspire you to obey Yeshua's mandate to Go Ye, preach the gospel of the Kingdom, and make disciples?

Answers: ( ) Excellent ( ) Very Good ( ) Good (Average) ( ) Poor ( ) Very Poor ( ) Need help

**12.** Two-part response: 1) In just ONE WORD and 2) In a SHORT SENTENCE, describe the impact Course 118 on you and your Kingdom assignment in the earth realm.

12.1 \_\_\_\_\_

12.2 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13.** To what extent has your mindset changed regarding the cross and as a disciple of Yeshua, picking it up daily?

Answers: ( ) Greatly; ( ) Significantly; ( ) Fairly Well; ( ) Poorly ( ) Need More Help

**14.** In Matthew 16:24-26, Yeshua, Jesus, one day turned to those who were following Him and made a rather startling demand on them. It was made in strong language, which required them to respond on way or the other. Mark an "X" next to the four responses that are correct:

( ) Elohim forces all people to serve Him

( ) If any one

( ) Desires to come after Me

( ) Let Him deny Himself

( ) Take up His cross

**15.** As we have seen and experienced, Elohim has positioned Apostle George and Pastor Grace Akalonu to lead a segment of His Remnant to pursue holistic fulfillment of Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8 (Go Ye; Discipleship; Ministerial Training and Compassion/Mercy outreaches).

As you are lead of Holy Spirit, please indicate here in what capacity you are led by the Lord to come alongside the Vision Holders to ensure that dispensation of the Great Commission committed to their trust for the remnant is fulfilled. (Please mark an "X" next to all those that apply to you.)

1. ( ) Undertake "Go Ye" Missions as Holy Spirit leads you

2. ( ) Praying for them and their assistants

3. ( ) Giving for their Global Missions work

4. ( ) Mentoring others who need support, such as 2018 Master Class participants

5. ( ) Editing/Proof Reading Material

6. ( ) Promoting / Distributing Free Kingdom Culture resources/Teaching Notes on Social Networks and in other loops of influence

7. ( ) Set up and Run Local Chapters of International Ministers Fellowship or Global School of Ministry Centers

8. () Others.....

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**Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Function in the Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Nation: \_\_\_\_\_

Our charge to you: Go throughout the earth and make disciples of all people! - **Matthew 28:19-20**

**Psalm 68:11**, *“The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.”*

**2 Timothy 2:1**, *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.2 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.”*

**DISCIPLES, BE ONE, MAKE ONE!**

## About the Book

*And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

**Matthew 4:19**

The Gospel is about making disciples of Yeshua, Jesus, in all nations of the earth. It is not about gathering a crowd of humans who are dependent upon 'anointed' ministers for their spiritual, emotional and physical sustenance. It is not about building huge physical structures or building up images of 'success' to draw those seeking to breakthrough. Yeshua, Jesus gave his marching orders to the church:

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen **Matthew 28:19-20**

## About the Author

Apostle George & Pastor Grace are visionaries of The Global Advanced Mentorship Program and Global School of Ministry [www.globalschoolofministry.info](http://www.globalschoolofministry.info) as well as Vision holders of other ministries that service the Kingdom Church. Including Arise Metropolitan Assembly in Elm Park, Hornchurch, London, England where the fivefold are emerging to work together in activating a gift based congregation.



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