

### ***Printing Year 2024***

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THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD  
North America  
Printed in the United States of America



## THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

### MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR VISIONS AND GOALS AS MEMBERS  
OF THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

To make heaven.

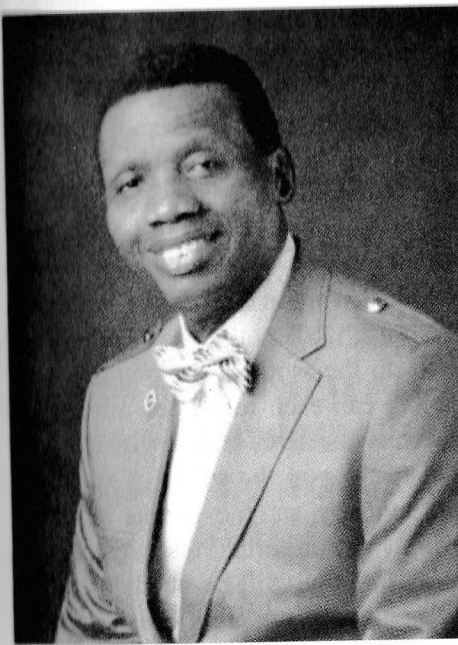
To take as many people as possible with us.

To have a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in every  
family of all nations.

To accomplish No 1 above, holiness will be our lifestyle.

To accomplish No 2 & 3 above, we will plant churches within five minutes  
walking distance in every city and town of developing countries and  
within 5 minutes driving distance in every city and town of developed  
Countries.

We will pursue these objectives until every nation in the world is reached  
for...JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.



*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33, BSB).*

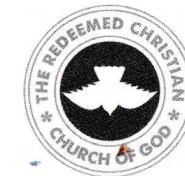
The LORD Jesus came to earth simply to reveal the Kingdom of God to mankind, and that is why He admonishes us to seek the Kingdom of God above all else.

Matthew 13:44-45 say that the Kingdom of God is hidden treasure, a pearl of inestimable value, which is why we must seek it as a priority over everything else. To seek the Kingdom of God, we must know Jesus, the Revealer of the Kingdom. To know Jesus requires knowing the Word of God. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).*

The only surefire way to know the Word of God is to study it for life application. Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible confirm this to us. **Joshua 1:8 (NLT)** says, *"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."* **2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)** says, *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."*

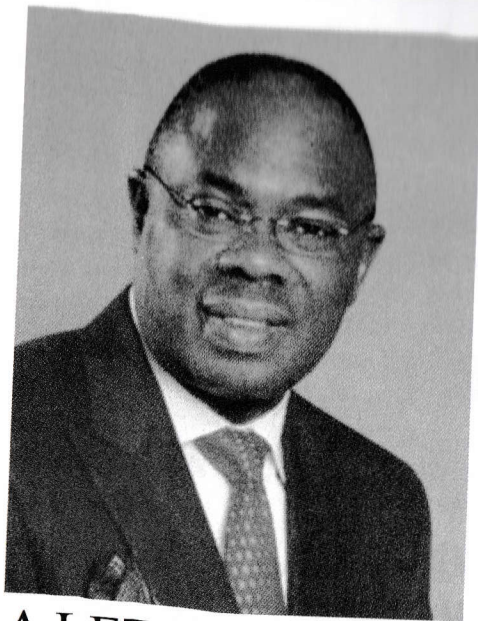
For this reason, you are invited to join other believers in searching the Scriptures like the Bereans (Acts 17:11) in this new year (2023-2024). Study the Word of God so that the Kingdom of God can come through you for the will of God to be done here on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).

God bless you richly.



Pastor E.A. Adeboye  
**General Overseer, The Redeemed  
Christian Church of God  
Worldwide.**





## A LETTER FROM PASTOR JAMES FADEL

Dear Friend,  
Welcome to the 2024/2025 edition of the RCCG The Americas I Sunday School Manual. The lessons in this year's manual cover a range of topics including praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving, the Trinity, prayer, relationship with God and holiness, the Christian home and marriage amongst others.

As you know, these topics may not necessarily be covered exhaustively in the time allotted for each lesson. Therefore, it is expected that you will personally be proactively dedicated to the study of the Word of God to know it for yourself. That way, you can contribute godly counsel to the Sunday School sessions as you go through this

manual with other believers over the course of the year.

Of course, it is a good soul-winning opportunity to invite unbelievers around you – work colleagues, neighbors, family members – to these Sunday School classes so they can hear the undiluted Word of God and ask valuable questions. 2 Timothy 4:5 encourages us to do the work of an evangelist so that we can each fulfill our ministry. I pray that the Holy Spirit will Himself minister to you the value of fulfilling your ministry, and the manner in which to do so here on earth. Most importantly, I pray that you will be obedient to the instructions of the Holy Spirit and the revealed written Word of God.

I pray for you that you will experience the righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost that comes with being a part of God's Kingdom as you release yourself to the Spirit-led journey available through these pages.

It is well with you in Jesus' Name.

**Pastor (Dr.) James O. Fadel**  
Continental Overseer, RCCG The Americas

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON 1 - THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER	8
LESSON 2 - THE TESTIMONY OF OUR FAITH	11
LESSON 3 - FOCUS ON THE ASSIGNMENT	14
LESSON 4 - EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT	16
LESSON 5 - BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING	18
LESSON 6 - COUNT IT ALL JOY	20
LESSON 7 - EMBRACE CHANGE	22
LESSON 8 - STAY FOCUSED	25
LESSON 9 - REFUSE COMPLACENCY	28
LESSON 10 - BE CONSCIOUS OF THE KINGDOM	31
LESSON 11 - GOD'S CREATURE - MAN	33
LESSON 12 - TECHNOLOGY AND CHRISTIANITY	35
LESSON 13 - FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION	38
LESSON 14 - ADDICTIONS	42
LESSON 15 - SEXUAL VICES	42
LESSON 16 - EMPATHY AND COMPASSION	45
LESSON 17 - GODLY PARENTING	47
LESSON 18 - LIFE	49
LESSON 19 - LITTLE FOXES	51
LESSON 20 - HOW TO GET GOD'S ATTENTION	53
LESSON 21 - SPIRITUAL FAMINE	56
LESSON 22 - THE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH	59
LESSON 23 - GOD-PLEASERS	61
LESSON 24 - MEN-PLEASERS	63
LESSON 25 - CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALIZATION	65
LESSON 26 - SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION	67
LESSON 27 - SAY NO TO ANGER	69
LESSON 28 - DEBT MANAGEMENT	71



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON 29 - <b>COMMITMENT</b>	73
LESSON 30 - <b>COPING WITH REJECTION</b>	76
LESSON 31 - <b>THE THIEF OF TIME</b>	78
LESSON 32 - <b>THE MIND OF MAN</b>	80
LESSON 33 - <b>THE MARK OF TRUE BELIEVERS - PART 1</b>	83
LESSON 34 - <b>THE MARK OF TRUE BELIEVERS - PART 2</b>	86
LESSON 35 - <b>EXERCISING OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES</b>	88
LESSON 36 - <b>IDENTITY CRISIS</b>	91
LESSON 37 - <b>EXPECTATIONS OF CHRIST ON HIS RETURN</b>	94
LESSON 38 - <b>COME UP</b>	96
LESSON 39 - <b>THIRD INTERACTIVE SESSION</b>	99
LESSON 40 - <b>THE GIVING HEART</b>	101
LESSON 41 - <b>THE PLACE OF PRAYER</b>	104
LESSON 42 - <b>HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM</b>	107
LESSON 43 - <b>THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES</b>	110
LESSON 44 - <b>GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES</b>	113
LESSON 45 - <b>HOSPITALITY</b>	116
LESSON 46 - <b>THE WILL OF GOD - PART 1</b>	119
LESSON 47 - <b>THE WILL OF GOD - PART 2</b>	121
LESSON 48 - <b>OUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST</b>	123
LESSON 49 - <b>THE LIFE THAT WINS</b>	125
LESSON 50 - <b>OVERCOMING HABITUAL SINS</b>	128
LESSON 51 - <b>KNOWING GOD FOR YOURSELF</b>	131
LESSON 52 - <b>FOURTH INTERACTIVE SESSION</b>	134

## LESSON 1 - THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER

### Memory Verse

"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." Hebrews 12: 2

### Lesson Text

Hebrews 12: 1-3



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

Today, the Lord wants to remind us of and give us a reawakening, a reassurance about His role in our lives. It is the desire of many believers to submit to the Lord, but that submission must be continuous and total. Such that where He leads, we will follow. John said, the voice of a stranger, a sheep will never hear, except that of the Shepherd (Jn. 10:5). The Lord wants to reset our focus as we journey with Him as it is easy to be caught up by emotions and be lost. Peter started well when walking on the sea but he fell on the way. Judas started well but ended up betraying the Lord. Demas started well but ended up loving this world (2 Tim. 4:10). May you start and end well.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH
- B. THE FINISHER OF OUR FAITH
- C. OUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

#### A. THE AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH

What does it mean to be the author? The word author in Heb. 12:2 was translated to mean the following in different versions of the bible. NLT - The initiator, AMPC - The Leader, source, TLB - Leader and instructor, and ESV - Founder, and GNB - Beginning. Jesus our King and Lord is the author, initiator, leader, source, and the beginning of many things in our lives.

#### What He Has Authored

1. Gen. 1: 1 - In the beginning God... Everything started by Him and in



- Him. Jn. 1: 1 said without Him was not anything made that was made.
2. Heb. 12: 2 – He authored our Faith.
  3. Heb. 2: 3,10 – He authored our salvation.
  4. Col. 1: 18; Rev. 1: 5 – He is the first begotten of the dead.
- This means He has shown to us what will become of us at resurrection
  - He went ahead of us and became the first to rise and never to die again.
  - He has gone to prepare a place for us. Jn. 14

Our God wants us to recognize and accept His leadership in our lives and this implies that we must come to a point, like Moses, where we won't move an inch until we know He is on that journey with us.

## B. THE FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

He is not just the author of our faith, He is also the perfecter, end, omega, and finisher of our faith. Many of us believe in the Lord as the source of our salvation but find it hard to believe He can finish and perfect what He started. Paul in Gal. 3: 3 regards such people as foolish. "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?". Do you think your maker who shed His blood at calvary is not ready to see you through the path of righteousness? Jude 1: 24 says "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy"

What He Has Finished / Perfected

1. Our access to God. Jn. 19: 28-30
2. Our inheritance. Eph. 1: 13-14

What He Will Perfect

1. Philippians 1: 6 – The good work: being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
- The good work of total surrender.
  - The good work of humility.
  - The good work of consecration.
  - The good work of holiness.
2. Jude 1: 24 – Our walk with him.
  3. Eph. 5: 27 – The church.

## C. OUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Take heed and not let his words we have heard slip. Heb. 2: 1
  2. Fix our eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12: 2
  3. Do not seek perfection by the flesh. Gal. 3: 1-3
  4. Open the door of our hearts to Him. Rev. 3: 20
  5. Be a sheep and not a goat. Be ready to submit to him as he leads all the way.
  6. Prayer – this is a way of reckoning His authorship over the day.
  7. Confess it. The voice of God triumphs over all forms of noise.
- When the noise says you cannot achieve a thing – say God is the author and the finisher.
  - When the vision is not coming to fruition - say God is the author and the finisher.
  - Over your health - say God is the author and the finisher.
  - Over your provision - say God is the author and the finisher.

## CONCLUSION

Our God authored creation and salvation and He finished them. Will you allow Him to author and perfect your walk, career, spiritual life, marriage, business, and education?

It is our prayer you encounter the Lord as the perfecter of your faith, career, walk, and visions.

## QUESTIONS

1. Reflect: Have you started a journey that the Lord did not ordain?
2. How can you daily reckon Him as the author and the finisher of your faith?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Jude 1:3; MON: Heb. 11:6; TUE: Rom. 10:17; WED: Matt. 9:18-26; THUR: Gen. 1:1-3; FRI: Jn. 1:1-3; SAT: Jn. 10:1-10



## LESSON 2 - THE TESTIMONY OF OUR FAITH

### Memory Verse

*"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 9: 24*



### Lesson Text

Hebrews 11:1-10

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

A testimony is evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something. What is this evidence for a Christian? What is the proof that a believer has been with the Lord? Especially in a world where the richest people are not even Christians. Failure to understand our testimony can lead to envy, bitterness, and even a falling away from faith. It is our prayer that as we study today, we will come to a full understanding of our testimony in Jesus Name.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. OUR TESTIMONY
- B. THE DESTROYERS OF OUR TESTIMONY

#### A. OUR TESTIMONY

A testimony is the message on our lips, the evidence of the existence of something, or the recounting of an experience. For us Christians, our testimonies are not the number of cars we have or our account balance but the following:

1. We can commune with the Father, and He can commune with us. It makes us different from animals and unbelievers.
2. It is that we know God. Jer. 9: 23-24. Our priority and first reason for boasting is that we know God. Acts 17: 16-34 tells us about the people in Athens who had a void but were serving an unknown God.
3. Our names are in the book of life. Is your name in the book of life? Lk. 10: 20 tells us that we should not rejoice that the spirits

submit to us but rejoice that our names are written in heaven.

a. To achieve this, two things must happen – alignment with Him and obedience to His words. He will keep us in Him – Heb. 7: 25, Jude 1: 24

4. The testimony of our faith is that we have an advantage. The excellency of our power is of God and not of us. 2 Cor. 4: 7. This is the confidence that we have; when we call, he hears us. The advantage of a bird is the air; for the fish, it is water; for us, it is God and His presence.

5. The testimony of our faith is that we have a Father willing and able to carry our burdens, and He asked us to cast those burdens on Him. 1 Pt. 5: 7

6. Despite challenges, we have hope. 1 Cor. 15: 19 – "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

7. The testimony of our faith is Joy in the Holy Ghost. Rom. 14: 17-20

#### B. THE DESTROYERS OF OUR TESTIMONY

We have learned about some of the testimonies of our faith, but we must realize that the enemy is fighting hard for us to lose these testimonies. He wants to deprive you of His presence or steal your joy or keep you from growing in the knowledge of your God. Here are a few destroyers of our testimony:

1. Sin. Isa. 58: 1
2. Pride. Prov. 16: 18
3. Unbelief. Heb. 3: 19 shows us that because of their unbelief, they were not able to enter His rest.

Who is this testimony for? Everyone that believes is ready to forsake all and follow the Lord. Remember that a testimony is the evidence of the existence of something. It is either your life testifies of God or makes a mockery of it but Gal. 4: 7 says God cannot be mocked! This means the mockery is of yourself.

#### CONCLUSION

Paul said for though I preach the gospel I have nothing to glory of. If I must glory, I will glory in the fact that I know the Lord. What is your testimony? Do you know the Lord?



## QUESTIONS

1. What is the biggest challenge or struggle in your walk with God?
2. What can you do to overcome those challenges?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Rom. 8: 18; MON: Gal. 3: 11; TUE: 2 Tim. 2: 19; WED: Isa. 59: 1; THUR: Eph. 2: 6; FRI: 2 Cor. 3: 18; SAT: Heb. 7: 25.

## LESSON 3 - FOCUS ON THE ASSIGNMENT

### Memory Verse

*"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it". 1 Corinthians 9: 24*

### Lesson Text

*Nehemiah 4:1-6*



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

Every manufacturer designs a product with the intent of it meeting a specific function or need. In the same manner, God has created each one of us for a specific purpose which fits into His ultimate purpose – that His Kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10). Unfortunately, we get carried away by the cares of this world, thereby hindering us from fulfilling the purpose of which we were created (Mk. 4:19). Unfortunately, our “valid excuses” won’t be acceptable by our manufacturer as reasons for not carrying out the assignment He has entrusted unto us. It is our prayer that the Lord God will help us set our face like a flint and not be ashamed in Jesus’ name. Amen. Isa. 50:7

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. IDENTIFY THE ASSIGNMENT
- B. WEATHER THE STORM

#### A. IDENTIFY THE ASSIGNMENT

According to Dr. Myles Munroe, “When the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable.” Unfortunately, this simple but factual statement is the reason why we have a world full of confused people. This confusion isn’t only seen between unbelievers, but also in some believers.

For the unbeliever, the root of this confusion stems from them not knowing or acknowledging God (Rom. 1:18-32). Isa. 45:9 paints out what we see today. “Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making? Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands?’” Until there is an acknowledgement and surrender to Christ, the unbeliever will remain in the confused state, when measured on the scale of God.

Why do believers become confused or walk in a confused state? One major reason is the failure to seek the Holy Spirit’s help (1 Cor. 2:10). According



to the scripture, without the help of God, we won't know exactly what God wants us to do per time. It is God who knows the plans He has for us (Jer. 29:11) so if we fail to seek Him out to reveal those plans, but instead decide to work with our own understanding, it won't be long before we discover that our understanding will fail us. Prov. 3:5-6

## B. WEATHER THE STORM

The journey towards fulfilling purpose can be summarized in the story of the man who set out on a journey to execute a contract. Unfortunately, he had to get to the destination in less than five hours if he was to get the deal done. This man was so focused that he was confident nothing could stop him from getting to his destination and signing the contract. On his way, he encountered so many distractions, including stopping to eat, amongst many others. However, just about 30 minutes to his destination, he runs into an old friend whom he hadn't seen in over 20 years. He decided to pull over and have a quick discussion with his friend but after the conversation was over, he realized he only had 5 minutes to get to his destination. At this point he knew he lost the deal because he still had at least 15 minutes' drive to reach his destination. No wonder 1 Cor. 9:24 encourages us to run until we obtain the price. Therefore, we must be fixated on the goal and ignore distractions. These distractions can include wanting to please people, competition, social media, quest to be known and popular, and even sometimes our career. We see in Neh. 4: 2-3 how the Jews ignored those who mock them just so they can finish the work given to them by God.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, God is gracious enough to surround you with people who will help you fulfill His assignment, Neh. 4: 6. However, the bulk of the work to ensure you complete the assignment lies with you. It is my prayer that the Lord will strengthen you to finish well in Jesus's name. Amen.

## QUESTIONS

1. How can one discover his assignment?
2. What can you do to overcome distractions?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Col. 4:17; MON: Matt. 6:33; TUE: Jer. 1:5; WED: Ps. 1:1-3; THUR: 2 Cor. 5:17-18; FRI: Luke 9; SAT: Luke 10.

# LESSON 4 - EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

## Memory Verse

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,  
and cometh down from the Father of lights, with  
whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"*  
James 1: 17

## Lesson Text

Deuteronomy  
32:4



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

God is good and perfect; it is His nature. He is not God if He is not good and perfect. He is the supreme and majestic Being. The source of all good and perfect gifts to man is God, these encompass not just tangible items but also spiritual and emotional wellness touching upon every facet of life. Ps. 18: 30; Eccl. 3: 14; Ps. 25: 8; Ps. 34: 8; Nah. 1: 7; Rom. 2: 4.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE SOURCES OF GOOD GIFTS
- B. PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

### A. THE SOURCES OF GOOD GIFTS

He created the sun, moon and stars and light itself. All of them are unchangeable. Each is unchangeable. Each, by its nature, gives off and reflects its light. God is light, perfect light, so perfect that there is not even a variation or shadow of turning with Him. God gives us the things that will stand in the light, things that give us joy, are good for us, do not shame us, can build us up, perfect and mature us, give us assurance and confidence, and that shows forth Christ and God. God is the father of lights. He is our father. He never leaves us in the dark, groping and gasping to know the truth. He gives us every good and perfect gift because He is the Father of lights; Ps. 27: 1; 84: 11; 1 Jn. 1: 5; Lk. 11: 13; Jn. 10: 28; Jam. 1: 17

### B. PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

It is His will that we know the Word of Truth. Any false teaching



about truth is not of God. However, the purpose of these gifts can not be overemphasized, He wants us to utilize the gifts to:

1. Worship and serve Him on earth and in the new heavens; Jn. 1:12-13; Jn. 3: 3, 5-6; 2 Cor. 5: 17; Eph. 4: 24; Tit. 3: 5; 1 Pt. 1: 23, Matt. 7:11
2. Serve others. 1 Pt. 4:10-11
3. Grow. 2 Cor. 9:8, Matt. 25:14-30
4. Build the body of Christ. Eph. 4:11-13
5. Convey hope and encourage others. Rom. 12:6-8

## CONCLUSION

It is quite expedient for us to remain grateful to the one who has extended His love towards us regardless of our challenges. However, we must be conscious of the fact that there is a place of choice for us to make use of the gifts.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is an example of a good and perfect gift God has given us?
2. How can we identify that a gift is from God?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Rom. 11:29; MON: 1 Cor. 12; TUE: 1 Cor. 14; WED: Matt. 25:14-30; THUR: Eph. 4:7-8; FRI: Rom. 12:3-8; SAT: 1 Pt. 4:10-11.

## Memory Verse

*"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" Philippians 4: 6*

## Lesson Text

*Philippians 4:6-9*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

American Psychological Association (APA) defines Anxiety as an emotion that is characterized by feelings of tension, worried thoughts, and physical changes. It is at an all-time high, but there is a remedy from God, which is a relation call to make peace with God, and then the peace of God floods our lives. The lesson text gives clear guidance on how to deal with anxiety. I pray that God will give us understanding as we explore this topic for more clarity.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. TRIGGERED BY WORRIES
- B. COPING MECHANISMS

### A. TRIGGERED BY WORRIES

In 2 Kings 4: 1-17, we can see that the widow's worries already set in, possibly prior to her husband's death because she knew he was indebted and those whom they borrowed from had no mercy. Her worries were then further triggered after the death of her husband. She knew she was really in trouble and was at a high risk of losing her children to the lenders. The aftershock effect of this, if not resolved in a timely manner, could lead to shame, disgrace, and disappointment. The Bible says that anxiety causes fear and could lead to depression, Prov. 12: 25. We see this play out between Saul and his army when they are confronted by Goliath (Sam. 17: 1-11. Anxiety leads to withdrawal, cowardice, unwise and harmful decisions, discouragement, a defeatist attitude, Spiritual backsliding etc. It is quite imperative for us to let God into our hearts, be receptive to His direction, and see how He



“count it all joy” (See Jam. 1: 2). The passage didn’t say that it will all be joy but rather, we should count it all joy. The choice is therefore ours.

Sometimes God uses trials to refine, prune, and make us stronger (2 Cor. 12:9-10) knowing fully well that we will not be consumed (Isa. 43:2). He also uses it to strengthen our relationship and knowledge of Him. We tend to remember God when things are not going so well, and God being the all-knowing God, uses tough times to force us to draw near unto Him so He can in return draw near unto us (Isa. 43:2, Jam. 4:8). Our trust in God is being developed. We trust that He is ever faithful and does not change (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8). Why is it important for us to grow in our trust in God?

1. When we trust Him more, we won’t fear. Ps. 27:1
2. To renew our strength in Him (Isa. 40:31). When we trust in Him, we will be able to wait on Him.
3. To carry out all He has assigned us to do. Philippians. 4:13
4. To have the boldness to do the impossible. He will make me walk upon my high places. (See the Red Sea experience in Ex. 14:12-15)

### C. BETTER DAYS AHEAD

We must never forget that everything that starts must come to an end, that better days are ahead of us (1 Pt. 1:3-4), and we will be made perfect in Him (1 Pt. 5:10). We know that we have a glorious end because Christ has redeemed us (Gal. 3:13) and we are therefore saved. We should therefore rejoice in the God of our salvation. Remember, salvation is higher than any problem because salvation gives eternal life (Jn. 3:16; 5:24; 1 Jn. 5:11-15)

### CONCLUSION

We must make up our minds to count all that we go through in life all joy (Jam. 1:2), and make the joy of the Lord our strength, irrespective of the situation. (Neh. 8:10).

### QUESTIONS

1. How do we maintain our Joy in Christ?
2. In what ways does the enemy attempt to steal, kill, and destroy our Joy?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Ps. 30:5; MON: Rom. 5:1-5; TUE: Jn. 16:22; WED: Ps. 4:7; THUR: Jn. 15:11; FRI: Philippians 2:1-2; SAT: 1 Chron. 16:27.

## LESSON 7 - EMBRACE CHANGE

### Memory Verse

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.” Isaiah 43:18

### Lesson Text

Isaiah 43:16-21



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

The only permanent thing in life is change. Becoming a child of God involves a change process (2 Cor. 5:17). We were transformed from the kingdom of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pt. 2:9). We entered into a world of new creatures where we have to learn and live a new kind of life that He gave us. To live this new life effectively, we will need to have a mindset that embraces change and that is not moved by the effect of the changes. A reconciliation of man back to God, thus qualifying men to become co-workers with God.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED
- B. AREAS OF CHANGE

#### A. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED

They say old habits are hard to die but as children of God, letting go of old habits are very much needed. Here are some reasons why they are needed:

1. God has promised to do something new for us, but a major problem is that we want God to do something new for us, while we keep doing the same old things. Isa. 43:18-19
2. One of God’s ways of changing our situations is to first change us so we must be willing to yield to His pruning. Remember that a new wine should not be in a new wineskin. Lk. 5:37-39, Mk. 2:22
3. God needs to change our ideology so that He can put His ideology in us. In Gen. 21:10-13, we see that even the best of our



ideas are really foolish when we put them side by side with God's. Although it sounded like a good idea not to cast out Ishmael since he was Abraham's son, God wanted him to do the exact opposite. Therefore, our "good idea" might not be "God's idea."

4. That we may become like Him – Praying in the night for somebody who enjoys sleep is not interesting but to become like God, it will require some molding process. God is molding us into the image of His dear Son. 2 Cor. 4: 16-18

5. To radiate His glory and cause others to come to Him (2 Cor. 3:18; Matt. 5:16)

## B. AREAS OF CHANGE

1. We have to change the way we live daily. We have to live in holiness (1 Pt. 1:15-16; Heb. 12:14). You have to resist those urges to sin (Heb. 12:4). It must include body, soul and Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:23

2. We have to increase the time we spend in the study of the Word – 2 Tim. 2:15; Col. 3:16

3. Also, our prayer life needs to change for the better. The amount of time we spend now seeking God in prayer isn't the best we can do. We have to strive for more. Ps. 55:17; Eph. 6:18; Philippians. 4:6

4. Fasting is another area we need to change (Matt. 6:16). There have been several arguments about whether or not there's a need for the believer to fast. The answer is yes because scripture says so. The final authority is the word of God so we ought to fast. Let go of the excuses and decide to set up fasting days for you and your family.

5. The great commission centers around soul winning (Mk. 16:15-16). As true friends of Jesus, we have to take soul winning seriously. Jn. 15:14-16

6. Another area which God wants us to change is in the fulfillment of vows. When we make a pledge unto God, we have to fulfill it. Ps. 50: 14-15

7. Lastly, God wants us to be better in our interpersonal relationship with Christ. He wants our fellowship with Him to be better daily. It is our responsibility to seek Him (Ps. 63:1) and He will draw near to us. Jam. 4:8

## CONCLUSION

One key aspect of change is letting go of the past. They may look good or precious, but they all must go. If they are not in God's plan for your life,

let them go. Let go of whatever the flesh is asking for, regardless of how painful it is. Until we let go and fully embrace the change God requires for each and everyone of us, we might never fully manifest God's plan for our lives.

## QUESTIONS

1. In what other areas of our lives does God expect changes?
2. Who benefits when we embrace change and live our lives as God expects?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: 2 Cor. 5:17; MON: Ecc. 3; TUE: 2 Pt. 3:9; WED: Eph. 4:22-24; THUR: Rom. 12:1-2; FRI: Heb. 7:12; SAT: Col. 3:10.



## Memory Verse

*"For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." Isaiah 50:7*

## Lesson Text

*Luke 9:61-62*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

The Almighty God created eyes in front and not back because He wants us to always look to the front. It is quite expedient for us as believers to keep our gaze on Jesus Christ in this fast-paced and distraction-filled world. It means prioritizing our relationship with Him above all else and continuously aligning our lives with His will. Today we will explore the essence of this topic and I pray God will give us understanding.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. MAKE JESUS YOUR TOPMOST PRIORITY
- B. DON'T LOOK BACK

### A. MAKE JESUS YOUR TOPMOST PRIORITY

Let us consider the man spoken of in Lk. 9:61.

1. He offered himself to Jesus. Jesus Christ must have made an impact on him.
2. He was willing to follow Jesus.
3. The man had double loyalty and allegiance. Note 'first' & 'But'. There were some concerns before he follows the Lord. He prioritized his family before the Lord. Why family first? Could he have been attached to his family more than Jesus Christ? Maybe they wanted his counsel and advice. Could it be that he wanted their approval?

According to Matt. 16:24 and Matt. 10:38, Jesus expects us to put Him first and nothing else. He wants us to make Him and all that pertains to His Kingdom our utmost priority (Matt. 6:33) not disregarding our families though. He also wants us to not fret over the things we may lose while making Him our topmost priority (Philippians 3:8). Lastly, He expects our service to Him to be taken seriously. Deut. 10: 12. 1 Chron. 28:9

### B. DON'T LOOK BACK

We are enjoined not to look back (Lk. 9:62; Matt. 7:21; Gal. 4:9; Heb. 10:38; 2 Pt. 2:20; Mk. 13:13) but instead press towards obtaining the prize set before us (Philippians 3:13-14). Remember, we will all give account unto God (Rom. 14:12). Lot's wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt. Gen. 19:26

Here are a few specific things we shouldn't look back on:

1. Don't look back at past sins. They are already forgiven (1Jn. 1: 7-9; 1 Jn. 2: 1). His blood has cleansed from all unrighteousness. Learn to forgive yourself because Christ already forgave you.
2. Put all failures and defeats behind you and make failure a stepping stone to greater heights. Failure is not bad but to give up is bad. To stumble is not to fall but to move forward faster. Remember, quitters don't win, and winners don't quit. Blind Bartimaeus, instead of giving up, cried out more. Mk. 10:46-52
3. Forget the past situation (Num. 11:4-8 – Israel looking back to Egypt) and hold on to the promise of God. Isa. 43:15-19
4. Forget all old conflicts and hurts. Let old wounds be gone. Col. 3:13
5. Don't dwell on old victories (Philippians. 3:13-14). Let them propel you to new victories. God is a specialist in doing new things so strive for more victories instead of dwelling on the old ones.



## CONCLUSION

Staying focused on God requires intentionality and discipline. This will definitely subdue distractions and offer support as we run the race set before us with perseverance.

## QUESTIONS

1. What are common distractions you face that hinder your focus?
2. How can you refocus your gaze?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Philippians 4:13; MON:Isa. 43:18-19; TUE: 1 Jn. 2:15; WED: Jn. 21:15-25; THUR: Col. 3:1-2; FRI: Lk. 17:21; SAT: Philippians 3:13-14.

## LESSON 9 - REFUSE COMPLACENCY

### Memory Verse

*"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:  
I would thou wert cold or hot." Rev 3:15*

### Lesson Text

*Joshua 17:14-18*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Complacency is a subtle but powerful obstruction on our journey in Christendom. It often manifests as satisfaction with the status quo which can lead to stagnancy in our walk with God. Prov. 1:32 ESV says that the complacency of fools will destroy them. The focus of our study today is to examine the profound wisdom offered by the Bible on how to identify and overcome complacency so that we can live a vibrant and purpose driven life.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. LUKEWARM FAITH
- B. CALL TO ACTION

### A. LUKEWARM FAITH

A lukewarm faith is one that isn't fully committed to God (Rev. 3:15-16). It is also the type of faith that is proclaimed but not acted upon or that is acted upon only to check the box. Remember that faith without (acceptable) works is dead (Jam. 2:26). Complacency leads to lukewarmness which in turn leads to lack of growth.

In our text, we see the two tribes of Joseph launched a bitter complaint to Joshua insisting that they deserved a greater inheritance because they were great in population. The issue wasn't with Joshua not wanting to allot them more land. The issue was with them being lukewarm instead of taking action. Let's take a closer look:

1. They blamed Joshua for their condition - Num. 13:8 shows that Joshua was from the same tribe so the excuse of whether he was



impartial due to tribal difference wasn't there for them to use. It is evil to introduce tribalism into the house of God.

2. They expected special treatment - Since Joshua was from the same tribe, they expected him to give them preferential treatment but Joshua wasn't having it.

3. There is a place for contentment (1 Tim. 6:6-8), but that should not be mistaken with the place of striving for more. Even those who consider themselves to be wise can yet be wiser. Isa. 5: 21

So what was the issue? They failed to realize that all they needed to take possession already lied inside of them; in their abilities. In vs 17 of the text, Joshua had to let them realize that there is more land available to them but they will have to do the work in driving out the Cannanites. Likewise, we must do the work and bear the fruits meet for repentance. Matt 3:8, 1 Jn. 3:7

## B. CALL TO ACTION

Salvation is by faith but work must follow (Eph. 2: 8-10). For example, a student who fails to study will be comforted by the Holy Spirit when they fail. So what then is needed from us?

1. Do the work - Reaching your potential requires hard work and diligence. Prov. 22:29

2. Study to know the mind of God. 2 Tim. 3:16

3. Press more and more into greater heights in God. Heb 5:13-14

4. Knock off laziness – The people were at ease in Zion (Amos 6:1). They did not want to do anything. Remember, laziness ends in poverty. Prov. 10:4

5. Be willing to engage the enemy to secure your possession (Deut. 2:24). We are not to shy away and give up when faced with the enemy. We are at war with powerful forces (Eph. 6:12-18). David confronted Goliath and won the victory for the people of Israel and also for his destiny (1 Sam. 17). The Christian life is that of fighting – we are called soldiers. The enemy is strong but our God is stronger. He has also equipped us to win. We have the armor of God (Eph. 6) and the Holy Spirit. 1 Jn. 4:4

6. Build up your faith. Jude 1:20

## CONCLUSION

God is against complacency, and if our lives are to shine and reach the fullness of what it was designed for, we cannot afford to live a complacent life. According to Jam. 2:14, it is not enough to just have faith. We need our faith to be shown by works. James 4:17 says “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” So from now, we should avoid all those excuses and take possession of that which is ours.

## QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do believers show complacency?
2. How can you fight complacency?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Lk. 14:18; MON: Heb. 6:12; TUE: 1 Cor. 10:12; WED: Eze. 33:31; THUR: Zeph. 1:6; FRI: Haggai 1:2; SAT: Deut. 8:14.



## LESSON 10 - BE CONSCIOUS OF THE KINGDOM

### Memory Verse

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

### Lesson Text

*1 Chronicles  
29:10-12*



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

The kingdom of God is also known as the kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 19:23-24). The concept of the kingdom of God takes on various shades of meaning in different passages of the Scripture. A general understanding of God's kingdom program will help every believer key into the plan and purpose of God for mankind. Moreover, the concept of the kingdom of God is generally considered to be the central theme of Jesus' teaching.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD
- B. SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

#### A. ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

God's kingdom comprises three aspects: a Universal Kingdom, a Mediatorial Kingdom, and a Spiritual Kingdom.

1. Universal Kingdom: This is God's eternal sovereign rule over all that exists; the entire universe (Dan. 4:3). In this kingdom, God rules in absolute sovereignty over all His creation. Ps. 47:2, 7-8
2. Mediatorial Kingdom: God uses divinely chosen human representatives to speak on His behalf and stand in the gap for His people. God is constantly seeking people who will stand in the gap over territories (Eze. 22:30). The Scripture records the special encounters and insights given to these representatives about God's will for mankind and His provision to save sinners. The Mediatorial Kingdom will end with the thousand-year (millennial) reign of Christ upon the earth (Rev. 20:4-6). This will be the concluding link

between human history and the eternal kingdom. Rev. 21 & 22

3. Spiritual Kingdom: This kingdom is an invisible kingdom that exists in the hearts of believers in Christ Jesus (Lk. 17:20-21). Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world (Jn. 18:36). He preached that repentance is necessary to be a part of the kingdom of God (Matt. 4:17). The kingdom of God can be equated with the sphere of salvation that must be entered into by being born again (Jn. 3:5-7; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). It is the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king, or the fulfillment on earth of God's will. Matt. 6:10

#### B. SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus admonishes His audience to first seek the Kingdom of God and its righteousness (Matt. 6:33). To seek the Kingdom of God is to, as a matter of priority, hunger and thirst for the rule and reign of God in our lives with Jesus being in charge (Matt. 5:6; 6:9-10). Remember that seekers always find (Matt 7:7). We must also be willing to submit totally and obey His will as we come under the lordship of Christ and He is in control of our lives. The main benefit of the kingdom is the forgiveness of sins (Acts 3:19; 5:31). It is not rules and regulations but "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" Rom. 14:17.

### CONCLUSION

We are equally commanded to witness to others that the kingdom of God is open to all who will surrender their lives to Jesus. Matt. 3:2, Mark 16:15-16

### QUESTIONS

1. Explain the three aspects of God's kingdom.
2. How can you seek the Kingdom of God?

FURTHER READINGS - SUN: Ps. 103:19; MON: 1Kgs. 3:13; TUE: Dan. 2:44; WED: Ps. 103:21; THUR: Deut. 7:21; FRI: Lk. 24:47; SAT: Jn. 6:15.



## Memory Verse

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31*



## Lesson Text

*Daniel 12:1-4*

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

The bible teaches us that in the last days, there will be an abundance of knowledge (Dan. 12:4). This knowledge includes both generic knowledge and the knowledge of the glory of God (Hab. 2:14). Recently, there has been a pervasiveness of technology ranging from self-driving cars to robotics. It will interest you to know that the advancement of technology existed since the Bible days. For example, the use of bricks hardened by fire is seen in Gen. 11:3, high rise buildings were constructed in Gen. 11: 5-6, doors opened of their own accord, and we saw the first motion sensing doors in Acts 12:10, and many more in the Bible. What appears to be new to people now are the fast-paced advancement and adoption of technology and how they expand opportunities for humans. One of the latest innovations in technology in recent times is Artificial Intelligence (AI) and there are varying views as to whether Christians should use AI or not. Some believers tag it as an end-time tool of the devil and the antichrist; others hold that it is a result of being created in God's likeness with a creative mind (Gen. 1:26-27). This lesson will bridge the information gap on technologies such as AI and how they can be purposefully embraced in Christendom.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. TECHNOLOGY EXPLAINED
- B. BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY
- C. A WORD OF CAUTION

### A. TECHNOLOGY EXPLAINED

Technology simply put can be seen as the application of (often

scientific) knowledge to change, advance, and ease the way humans live their lives. The advent of mobile phones for example helped to ease communication between loved ones, the invention of cars by Karl Benz in 1886 helped provide a better means of transportation of humans, goods, and services. Like you must have heard or read about, there is a seemingly new technology in town called artificial intelligence (A.I.) that was developed to imitate human intelligence in machines, enabling such machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These A.I. tools can learn and make decisions from available options, just like humans. They can be used to finetune your resume, generate an image from a text, design a website, or even to mimic your voice. In fact, it can take your voice and your picture and then generate a video of you. As you are possibly thinking, isn't this a two-edged sword? Like most things in life, it is a two-sided coin that must be used carefully. This is the essence of today's teaching – to open your eyes to the pros and cons of these technological tools.

Like cars, airplanes, and social media (meant to improve life) these tools are created by scientists and engineers whom God has given creative ability to improve lives (Ex. 31:2-4). However, they can become the controller and caretaker of man. This can degenerate into humanity worshipping the works of their hands—idolatry (Deut. 5:8-9).

## B. BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology has several benefits for Christians.

1. They can quickly aid access to a wealth of scriptures and other Christian texts when needed (Jn. 5:39). For example, many of us no longer carry a hard copy bible because they are now available on our mobile devices.
  2. They can be used to enhance communication with church members and visitors. For example, embedding AI-powered chatbots on a church website can help churches answer questions from their congregation and community, and can be available around the clock.
  3. Technology can help provide a seamless and more attractive service by using advanced media and graphics tools.
  4. The use of church management software can improve aid the administrative needs of the church.
  5. It makes giving more convenient.
- These and many more are the benefits of technology.



### C. A WORD OF CAUTION

Christians should, however watch out for areas of caution (1 Cor. 10:23; Eph. 5:15). We must understand our limits that we are God's creation (Gen. 1:27), and we cannot outdo His creative power (Isa. 55:8-9). Christians should be wary of some scientists who are determined to make a new religion out of technology (Ex. 23:2a; Lev. 26:1). Technology should not be used in a way that conflicts with Christian beliefs (Rom. 14:21-22). In providing support for one another, Christians should ensure that human relationships are not replaced by technology (Heb. 10:25). Technology or AI should not replace the place of waiting upon the Lord for fresh words or inspiration (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 20:32). For example, many preachers and teachers now go to Google or A.I to generate content for their sermons rather than praying earnestly and waiting on the Holy Spirit to give them the word of the season for their congregation or listeners. Christians should beware lest they devote their entire lives on technological innovations and forget God (Deut. 6:12). Technological addiction should be avoided so as not to kill mental and spiritual growth. 1 Cor. 6:12

### CONCLUSION

Advancement in technology is spurred by the creative ability God gave to man. Christians should cautiously use it to the glory of God while ensuring that it does not draw them away from the Lord.

### QUESTIONS

1. Explain AI in your understanding.
2. Mention three cautions to believers in using AI.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: 1Cor. 10:31; MON: Ex. 23:2; TUE: Deut. 6:10-12; WED: 1 Pt. 3:8-11; THUR: 2 Chron. 26:14-16; FRI: Rev. 4:10-11; SAT: Ps. 8:1-4.

## WEEK 13

### WELCOME TO THE FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION

#### YOUR PRIVILEGES:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINES
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MARKS OBTAINABLE = 100 MARKS**

**Total Score for Class Attendance and Punctuality (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Quarterly Test (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Assignments (120)**

**Grand Total Score (220 marks)**



Divide Grand Total Score by 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Position = \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 14 - ADDICTIONS

### Memory Verse

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD." Isaiah 52:11

### Lesson Text

Proverbs 31:2-6



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

Addiction is a compulsive tendency developed over a period of continuous and repeated actions or exposures to a certain substance, tool, or way of life. It can result in loss of willpower and self-esteem, loss of or shift in focus, social and emotional disconnect, poverty, death, etc.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. TYPES OF ADDICTION
- B. OVERCOMING ADDICTION

#### A. TYPES OF ADDICTION

There are two main groups of addiction: Substance and Non-substance addiction. Substance addiction - It is also known as substance use disorder. It refers to a condition in which an individual is unable to control the use of a substance despite experiencing negative consequences. Substance abuse is the excessive use of psycho-active drugs/substances such as skunk, marlin kush, molley, Cocaine, opioids-Heroine, amphetamines, benzoic, diazepam, codeine, Colorado, ice, alcohol, cigarette, tobacco, marijuana, nicotine, dequadin, caffeine, zombie, etc. These substances could lead to physical, social and emotional harm (1 Cor. 3:17).

Non-substance addiction (Behavioural or process addiction) - It is the addiction to mood-altering behavior such as gambling, sexual activity - masturbation, sex, pornography (1 Kings 11:4-5; Prov. 31:3), eating disorders, reckless spending (Lk. 15:13-14) and shopping, watching television, etc. It could also be position addiction. The addict enjoys his power or affluence at the expense of others. Some examples of power



addicts in the Bible include King Saul (1 Sam. 20:30-31) and King Herod (Matt. 2:1-3, 16).

## B. OVERCOMING ADDICTION

The following are guidelines on how to overcome addiction:

1. Take a stand. You must first of all acknowledge that addiction is an affliction and you are already caught up in its web. Then, you must be willing to break free from its bondage. Lk. 15:17-18
2. Seek help. Acknowledge that you cannot help yourself. You must open up to God and to people who can be of help in breaking the evil habit (Jam. 5:13-16; 1 Pt. 5:7). Surrender yourself for proper screening and therapies: pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy and spiritual therapy.
3. Avoid relapse. Withdrawal from addiction often comes with a myriad of challenges usually referred to as withdrawal syndrome. You must avoid exposures to all forms of triggers (1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:11-12). Relapse is to addiction what backsliding is to sin and its episode is usually worse than before treatment/deliverance took place. 2 Pt. 2:20-22; Matt. 12:43-45
4. Keep your heart with all diligence and renew it daily (Prov. 4:23; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:22-23) because addiction is a battle of the mind.
5. Keep company with those who can encourage you in your journey to total victory (Prov. 13:20; Heb. 10:24-25).

## CONCLUSION

It is incumbent on the brethren not to cast away the victim at this critical time (Ps. 38:11) but to show him/her love and encouragement until victory is attained (2 Tim. 1:15-16; Ps. 133:1-3).

## QUESTIONS

1. Explain the two main types of addiction.
2. State the guidelines for overcoming addiction.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Rev. 18:4; MON: 2 Cor. 6:17; TUE: Jer. 50:8; WED: Lev. 22:2; THUR: Heb. 13:5; FRI: 1Cor. 6:19; SAT: 1Cor. 5:6.

## LESSON 15 - SEXUAL VICES

### Memory Verse

*"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?" 1 Corinthians 6:19*

### Lesson Text

*1 Corinthians 6:16-20*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

The fact that God created humanity as "male and female" reveals that we are created as sexual beings (Gen. 1:27). Sex is a channel to fulfilling God's command to "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:28). Sex was designed to consummate the lifetime union between a man and woman (Gen. 4:1). However, sex has been misused and abused (Rom. 1:24, 26-27) in the world because of sin (Rom. 3:23). It must be clearly stated that purity is a reflection of God's character. Hence, sexual purity is a treasure to be guarded and valued.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE FORMS
- B. CONSEQUENCES AND WAY OUT

### A. THE FORMS

Apart from adultery which is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than his or her spouse (Ex. 20:14) and fornication - sexual sins between unmarried people, the world has also invented so many sexual acts or practices contrary to God's intended purpose. Here are some of the sexual perversions that believers must guard against.

1. Homosexuality: Sexual acts between people of the same gender. A man having sex with another man is gay while a woman and woman sexual relationship is termed lesbianism (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26-27). This abominable act led to the destruction of the people of Sodom. Gen. 19:4-5, 12-13



2. Incest: Sexual activities between family members. Lev. 18:7-18
3. Paedophilia: Perverted sexual attraction towards children.
4. Bestiality: Having sexual relations with an animal. Lev. 18:23
5. Rape: Forceful sexual intercourse with an unwilling partner. 2 Sam. 13:14
6. Pornography: The explicit literary or visual depiction of sexual subject matter with lustful intent; a display of materials of erotic nature e.g. videos, pictures, graphics, or writings designed to provoke sexual lust.
7. Masturbation and use of sex toys.
8. Cyber/Phone-sex: Sex-oriented messages or conversations over the Internet or the use of phones to have improper sexual conversations or to listen to explicit erotic messages for sexual perversion. It also involves fantasizing about immoral and impure sexual activities. Philippians 4:8

## B. CONSEQUENCES AND WAY OUT

Failure to repent from sexual vices can lead to addiction (2 Pt. 2:19; 1 Cor. 6:12), and the destruction of destinies (Prov. 6:25-28; Gen. 49:3-4). Strange illnesses and diseases (STIs and STDs) can be contracted. The body can be defiled and the fulfillment of God's purposes hindered (1 Cor. 6:15-16). It takes away the spiritual covering and brings God's wrath (1 Cor. 10:8; Num. 25:1-11). Guilt and self-condemnation sets in (Ps. 51:3). Sexual sin can destroy marriages and families.

To overcome sexual vices, you must take the following steps:

1. Confess your sins to God (1 Jn. 1:9) and ask Him to cleanse, renew and transform your mind. Rom. 12:2
2. Get rid of all triggers. Avoid being alone or being in a dark and lonely place with the opposite sex. 1 Thess. 5:22-24
3. Speak out about your struggles and see a good and godly counselor. Prov. 11:14.
4. Study, meditate, and confess God's word. Fast and pray often. Ps. 119:9-11
5. Practice self-control with the help of the Holy Spirit. Gen. 39:7-9; Gal. 5:16

## CONCLUSION

Sexual vices are destructive. Flee to avoid God's wrath. 1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:10

## QUESTIONS

1. Explain at least four sexual perversions.
2. Outline three practical steps to overcome sexual vices.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: 1 Cor. 6:18; MON: 1 Cor. 5:1; TUE: 1 Cor. 7:2; WED: Eph. 5:3; THUR: 1 Cor. 6:13; FRI: 1 Thess. 4:3; SAT: 1 Cor. 6:9.



# LESSON 16 - EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

## Memory Verse

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." 1 Peter 3:8

You can't just be singing 'though we are many we are one body without helping

## Lesson Text

Luke 7:11-16

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Empathy and Compassion both involve responding to other people's emotions but they differ in focus. Empathy is the capacity to feel another person's feelings, thoughts, or attitudes indirectly, especially because of his or her suffering. Compassion is the desire to take action to help the other person. They characterize the attitude and ability to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn (Rom. 12:15). Empathy is related to sympathy but is generally considered more personal. True empathy is the feeling of participating in the suffering of another person.

## LESSON OUTLINES

Jesus & Lazarus

- A. THE BIBLICAL BASIS
- B. PRACTICING EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

### A. THE BIBLICAL BASIS

The biblical basis for showing empathy and compassion as a believer will be discussed under three major headings: the model, the motive, and the method.

1. The model: God Himself is the very best at empathy and compassion (2 Cor. 7:6). He knows our frame and afflictions (Ps. 103:13-14; Ex. 3:7-8) and even helps us in our errors and shortcomings (Gen. 3:21). Jesus Christ also showed empathy when He wept at the tomb of Lazarus (Jn. 11:35) and the Bible affirms His undeniable feelings for us (Heb. 4:14-15; 1 Pt. 5:7). The Holy Spirit exemplifies empathy by comforting us in times of grief and pain (Jn. 14:16, 18; Acts 9:31). He feels and responds. Jesus was often moved with compassion toward the sick before healing them. Matt. 14:14,

Mk. 6:34

2. The motive: The motive for empathy is to imitate God and to obey His repeated commands to show empathy toward one another. Matt. 25:35-40; Col. 3:12; 2 Cor. 1:3-4
3. The method: The method of empathy is to discern sufferings or needs and to act quickly, personally, and deliberately to alleviate or meet them. Lk. 10:33-34; Gal. 6:2 *This is an instruction of God do not just hear the gist! do something*

## B. PRACTICING EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

Empathy is at the core of the Christian witness. Though not lacking in modern Christianity, a lot of effort and work is still needed. Believers should imbibe the culture of showing empathy to all (Gal. 6:10). It should be enshrined in our day-to-day interactions (Heb. 13:16). Christians are called to restore those who have sinned in a spirit of gentleness (Gal. 6:1). Be understanding and supportive with friends and partners during their emotional moments (Prov. 17:17). At work, we can show empathy to colleagues in times of stress or difficulties (Gal. 6:2). Believers in healthcare should demonstrate empathy when dealing with patients' concerns and pains (Eze. 34:16). Teachers can be empathetic to students' learning challenges and emotional needs (Prov. 9:9). In communities, support and understand the struggles of people especially during challenging times (Prov. 14:21). Globally, empathize and show compassion to those affected by global crises or disasters by providing help or support (Gen. 4:9).

Teachers: we all learn at different paces.

## CONCLUSION

Parents do not compare your children with one another or with others. Every believer must imitate God and have empathy for one another. We must try to put ourselves in someone else's shoes. Eph. 4:32

## QUESTIONS

1. Explain the biblical basis for showing empathy
2. Mention four ways of practicing empathy.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: 2 Cor. 2:10; MON: Jn. 8:44; TUE: Ps. 9:12; WED: Rom. 6:21; THUR: Philippians. 4:18; FRI: Prov. 24:16; SAT: Ruth 1:16.

Empathy is not complete without an ACTION.  
If you cannot take personal actions speak to someone/authorities by the way, the bulk of situations that will come your way are those that God has given you capacity & wisdom to solve.



## Memory Verse

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Prov 22:6*

## Lesson Text

*2 Samuel  
7:12-15*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

This is quite challenging and rewarding at the same time. However, the Bible constantly admonishes us to conform to the image of our Maker (2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:9-10). God wants to be involved in the lives of His children (2 Cor. 6:17-18) hence the need to consider the example of His parenting style.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. ADHERING TO BASIC PRINCIPLES
- B. GOD'S INSTRUCTIVE STYLE

### A. ADHERING TO BASIC PRINCIPLES

God, our Father, loves us His children and wants to be connected with us (Jer. 31:3). He is forgiving and merciful when we err (Heb. 8:12). He is willing to receive all who come to Him for forgiveness of their sins (1 Jn. 1:9). He is approachable (Isa. 1:18). Therefore, as parents, we must be willing to love and associate freely with our children. We must be forgiving and merciful when our children go astray. Also, God communicates clear boundaries for us to follow as His children (Ex. 20:12-17). Therefore, as parents, we must communicate to our children all the things that they need to know for a successful life (Prov. 22:6; 4:20-22). However, there are other values and paths that are quite essential for us to leverage on which include and not limited to the following:

1. Model a relationship with God
2. Teach biblical values and principles Prov 22:6
3. Discipline with love and wisdom Heb 12:3, Prov 13:24

4. Pray for and with your children Ps 103:17
5. Show love, grace, and forgiveness
6. Train them in God's ways
7. Release them to God's plan

### B. GOD'S INSTRUCTIVE STYLE

God is not manipulative because He gives us freedom over all non-moral issues in our lives. From the beginning, God gave Adam and Eve the freedom to eat from any of the trees of the Garden (Gen. 2:16-17). However, He did communicate a moral boundary so they would not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We must also have that balance in our parenting style. We must draw clear moral boundaries and grant freedom to our children over non-moral issues. Our heavenly Father also disciplines us when we disobey and rebel against Him (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:7). He will not look the other way when we sin (2 Sam. 7:14). As parents, we must be willing to use all forms of correction at our disposal to secure moral boundaries within the family (Prov. 19:18).

## CONCLUSION

Just like Jesus, being an example to our children is one of the most powerful and authoritative teaching tools we possess as parents. Jn. 13:15

## QUESTIONS

1. In what three ways is God involved in parenting His children?
2. Mention three ways parents can be instructive like God.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Ruth 3:1-5; MON: Ps. 78:2-4; TUE: Prov. 31:1-9; WED: Ex. 18:15-24; THUR: 1 Sam. 17:17-18; FRI: Deut. 6:6-7; SAT: Matt. 7:3-5.



## Memory Verse

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

## Lesson Text

*John 15:5-19*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial, people have been asking: What is the meaning of life? What is life itself? Various people give various answers. Some say, "Life is the union of soul and body." This may be true of humans, but not of plants. Some say it is the period between birth and death. This of course is not true, for life exists before birth and after death. Only Jesus has the answer (Jn. 11: 25; 14: 6). The Bible speaks of three kinds of life: Physical life, which was given to man at the time of creation; Spiritual life, which is the new life that God gives to the believer in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2: 1), and Eternal life, which is the nature of the Lord God Himself.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. ORIGIN AND PURPOSE
- B. LIFE SPAN

### A. ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

All lives come from God (Gen. 2:7). The Lord Jesus is life (Jn. 14:6, 11:25). The Lord Jesus gave life (1 Jn. 5:12-20). Our parents are vehicles through which we came to this world. To accomplish our God-given assignment or destinies. To prepare for eternity with the Lord Jesus in heaven. To choose the final resting place for our souls. However, there is a need for every child of God to identify and ascertain the purpose of life (Ecc. 12:13-14, Ps. 16:11). The main essence of our being centers on the fear of God, and reverencing Him which would guarantee wisdom (Prov. 9:10-12). We can all submit that finding meaning in life is to acknowledge the fact that all things were and are made for His pleasure. Col. 1:16, Rev. 4:11

## B. LIFE SPAN

The Bible gave different life spans at different dispensations. Before the flood it was 846 years on average (Gen. 5). After the flood it was reduced to 393 (Gen. 11). At the time of Moses it was between 70-80 years (Psalm 90:10). Life is compared to a journey - From birth to death (Gen. 47:9). Life is compared to a dream which comes in the night and disappears in the day (Ps. 73:20). Life is like a shadow which is a poor imitation of real substance (compare 70 years to eternity. This is infinitesimal). Ecc. 6:12. Life is like a vapor which vanishes away (Jam. 4:4). Life is like a tale (an interesting story). Ps. 90:9. Life is like water spilled on the ground which is absorbed immediately. 2 Sam. 14:14. Life is like a flower which fades away soon after budding. Job. 14:2. However, the span of life is filled with challenges and storms but God has made provision for us to navigate it (Job 23:10, 1 Pt. 1:6-7, Ps. 23:4, Matt. 6:25-34). It might not be a rosy one, but the assurance of victory is guaranteed. Moreover, there is a promise of eternal life (Jn. 3:16, 1 Jn. 5:13) which gives us the assurance of life after death.

## CONCLUSION

Life is precious. Keep it in Jesus. Philippians 1:21

## QUESTIONS

1. What does life consist of?
2. What makes life precious?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Jn. 3:16; MON: Ps. 78:4-7; TUE: Matt. 25:14-30; WED: Mk. 12:31; THUR: Gal. 5:13; FRI: Prov. 27:17; SAT: Eph. 4:29-32



## Memory Verse

*"Let all bitterness, and wrath and anger, and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." Ephesians 4:31*



## Lesson Text

*Psalms 15:1-5*

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

As Christians, there are some foxes that we must watch out for as they can spoil the vine (Sos. 2:15, Judg. 15:1-6, Neh 4:3). Therefore, if you want to enjoy your love towards God, you must deal with the little foxes, so that your vine may be preserved. These foxes lead to lack of growth as Christians and subsequently make us weak. Many of these foxes are as a result of the world creeping into the church and the church getting unequally yoked with the world. May the Lord help us as we study today.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. WHAT ARE THE LITTLE FOXES?
- B. HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LITTLE FOXES

### A. WHAT ARE THE LITTLE FOXES

There are little foxes that Christians do not take cognisance of and sadly they have the potential to spoil the good work that the Lord wants to do in our lives. Because of the subtleness of these foxes, it is easy to overlook them. Some of such foxes include:

1. Competition: Competition leads to unhealthy rivalry which brings about hatred and malice. When you start competing with people, you will find them as your rival instead of seeing them as your co-laborers in Christ (1 Cor. 3:9). We are not to compete with ourselves but we are to be laborers together with God. Believers don't compete, they complement.
2. Showing off: Many see the work of God as a show and not a burden. As a matter of fact, any and every work committed to you is not a platform or a tool for show off but to glorify your Father in heaven and to bring a lot of people to His kingdom. Your Job, ministry, career, profession is to glorify God and not to show off (1 Cor. 10:31)
3. Secret Manipulation: We see this happening today in the Church

and in the society at large where people are being manipulated to do things that are not pleasing to God. That is why as Christians, we need to be very careful. The world has entered the church and the church has entered the world. Secret manipulations only serve selfish interest. 1 Jn. 2:15, Jn. 15:19

4. Do or die affair: The thirst for position, power and money have launched several people, including some Christians to do the unthinkable. Many have seen position and money as a do or die affair. This ungodly thirst has led to a lot of sickness and untimely deaths. Prov. 13:11

## B. HOW TO DEAL WITH LITTLE FOXES

All we have to do is to simply see these foxes as something that should not be placed as paramount issues in our lives. Instead, we should put the Almighty God as first in our lives (Matt. 6:33; Matt. 22:37-39; Ps. 70:4). We must ask the Lord to constantly purge us. Remember how Moses's anger prevented him from entering the promised land. Deal with the little foxes before they deal with you. Don't chase after vanity (Ecc. 1:14) rather chase after the life of God. For your labor not to end up in vanity, you must do it in accordance to the will of God. Ps. 19:7

## CONCLUSION

Many times, it's the seemingly little things we ignore that wreak havoc. A drop of water they say makes a mighty ocean. Destroy the little foxes today before they become a mountain of limitation.

## QUESTIONS

1. What are the other little foxes that spoil the vine?
2. Mention the importance of not involving yourself in those little foxes?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Gal 5:19-21; MON: 1 Jn. 3:8; TUE: 1 Cor. 15:58; WED: Lk. 13:32; THUR: Ps 63:1-10; FRI: Eze. 13:1-4; SAT: 1 Jn. 2:15.



## Memory Verse

*"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." Psalms 34:18*

## Lesson Text

*Psalms 34:14-15*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

We all want God's attention but the best way to get His attention is to give Him our full attention, and pay close attention to what attracts Him even as we please Him. There are things we do to attract Him such as our attitude and actions. They go a long way in drawing attention to our lives. According to Ps. 34, God is so close to those who humble themselves before Him, when they call on Him He answers. Believers must create an atmosphere that is inviting to God's presence.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. WAYS YOU CAN ATTRACT GOD'S ATTENTION
- B. BIBLICAL INSTANCES

### A. WAYS YOU CAN ATTRACT GOD'S ATTENTION

1. Praise – God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). Sincere praise is irresistible to God. When you praise God from your good heart God will stop what He is doing and attend to your case because He lives in praise and your praise will draw His attention to you.
2. Worship – The difference between praise and worship is that praise is more about God while worship is directly to God. When we sincerely and earnestly worship God, heaven takes notice (Jn. 4:23). It is like a sweet-smelling incense that ascends before His throne.
3. Prayer – God moves when His people pray. It takes more than a need to get God's attention. There are plenty of people in need who don't get a response from God. There is a spiritual principle that works – when you ask it shall be given to you (Matt. 7:7)
4. Humility – Pride is at the top on the list of things God hates. When

you give yourself for God, He will always come close to you and give you attention (Jam. 4:8). God resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Jam. 4:6

5. Repentance – Genuine repentance, which is a godly sorrow for sin, hating and forsaking sin, gains God's attention. When someone repents from his or her sin, God moves to such a repentant soul. The Lord is near those who have a broken heart. Ps. 34:18

6. Faith – Nowadays we find it difficult to believe and trust God and then complain that God is far from us. Without faith you cannot please God and if you cannot please God there is no way you can gain God's attention for your life. Heb. 11:6

7. Obedience – obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22). When you are obedient to God, He will be more interested in you and give you His attention. Abraham obeyed God and God called him His friend. Jam. 2:21-23

8. Unity – God does not bless where there is strife, He blesses unity. What produced Pentecost? The unity of one hundred and twenty disciples who tarried together for days in prayers with one accord. Acts 2:1, Ps. 133:1-3

## B. BIBLICAL INSTANCES

We must understand that as much as we want to get God's attention, He also wants our attention. The bible is replete of many examples of people who caught God's attention. We will name a few instances:

1. Simon Peter: He toiled all night but caught nothing after a night of fruitless fishing expedition. However, Peter said "At thy word" in obedience to Jesus' command. Simon Peter obeyed the voice of Jesus and the result was a net breaking harvest of fish. Lk. 5:5
2. Cornelius: He was a devout man, feared the Lord, an incurable sacrificial giver, a prayerful man, and a worshiper. If you are committed in God's service the way Cornelius was, God will draw close to you. Acts 10:1-2
3. Dorcas: Your good works can be a weapon for divine attention. In Acts 9:36-41, she was restored to life because of her good works. She was generous and gave alms to people during her time.
4. Elisha: God responds to faith and we are encouraged to walk



by faith and not by sight. 2 Kings 6:3-7 talks about the floating ax head. Elisha was quick to say where did it fall? He cut a stick and dipped it into the water and made the ax head float. Wherever you see faith, there you see God in action.

5. Job: A rugged determination to serve and trust God will always attract divine attention. Job trusted God and said, even though He slays me, I will trust Him. Job 13:15

6. King Solomon: Sacrificial giving attracts God's attention for our lives. The bible records of King Solomon giving a 1000 burnt offering, and that same night he attracted God's attention. After the sacrifice, God visited Him and attended to his case. 2 Chron. 1:6-7

7. King Jehoshaphat: Worship can attract divine attention. He demonstrated this in his battle against the people of Moab, Ammon and Mount Seir. The King appointed singers to sing and worship God. It was right there God defeated their enemies. 2 Chron. 20:21-22

## CONCLUSION

Many Biblical characters sought the attention of God and got it. Those who fear God get God's attention. They can depend on His strength. Ps. 147:11

## QUESTIONS

1. What can hinder you from getting God's attention?
2. What practical steps can be taken to get God's attention?

FURTHER READINGS - SUN: 1 Kings 19: 11-13; MON: 2 Chron 16:9; TUE: Heb 13:15; WED: Acts 16:26; THUR: Ex 2:23-25; FRI: Ex. 3:1-15; SAT: Ps 42:1-2.

# LESSON 21 - SPIRITUAL FAMINE

## Memory Verse

*"And he humble thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and feed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." Deuteronomy 8:3*



*Lesson Text*  
*Amos 8:11-12*

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

God spoke to a spiritually declining nation through the prophet Amos, predicting a terrible disaster which was fast approaching the borders of Israel. It was not an earthquake, flood or storm, but rather it was the worst kind of calamity that could ever befall a people. His forecast called for a famine. But, God said it was "not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Am. 8:11). Spiritual famine is a state of spiritual hunger arising from failure to experience the presence and joy of God.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. FACTORS THAT LEAD TO SPIRITUAL FAMINE
- B. OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL FAMINE

### A. FACTORS THAT LEAD TO SPIRITUAL FAMINE

1. Unchecked Lust: Lust resides within the flesh and unchecked lust can bring about spiritual famine. Apostle Peter said in the bible that we should abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul (1 Pt. 2:11). When we are entertaining our minds with lust, we are feeding our sinful desires. This can result in spiritual famine.
2. Lack of Bible Reading, Meditation and Prayer: Although it is good to be busy and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58), we must realize that our work can become empty, heartless, and sapped of power if we are not fuelling ourselves with spiritual food that comes from God's word.
3. Pride: Anyone that has pride cannot be a friend of God (Prov. 16:5). Every spiritual food comes from God and whosoever disconnects



himself from God, cannot be fed spiritually by Him. The Bible says God resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Jam 4:5

4. Love of money: The word of God says the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10). When someone loves money the love of the father is not in such a person. You cannot serve two masters, it is either you serve God or Money (Matt. 6:24). When a man allows his eyes to be fixed on earthly things the brightness of God's glory cannot shine into his heart and will suffer spiritual famine.

5. Neglect of Responsibilities: When we choose laziness over diligence, this can often lead to spiritual dryness, even depression (Jn. 9:4; Prov. 10:5)

## **B. OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL FAMINE**

The presence of the Spirit of God scares away all other contrary spirits that might fuel famine in our spiritual life. It is time to stand firm and never allow anything that will drain our spiritual life. The following are some ways to overcome spiritual famine:

1. Abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22). Every child of God should stop entertaining sin that will bring about spiritual famine.

2. You must continually study, meditate on the word of God (Josh. 1:8). Every word of God is an antidote of anything that may come as spiritual famine

3. Walking in Holiness (Lev. 11:44). Walking in Holiness is one of the ways to conquer spiritual famine. When you are holy, it will be very difficult to sin. If you don't sin, there is no way you will experience spiritual famine

4. Walking with God (Gen. 5:21-24) - The book of Genesis says that Enoch lived 365 years before he was taken by God, surprisingly throughout his lifetime, he did not allow any traces of spiritual famine in his life because he walked with God and God took him.

5. You must have faith in God (Heb. 11:1). You cannot walk with Him without faith. The presence of doubt, especially when it is prolonged, is a sign of spiritual famine. If you want to please God you must be a person of faith.

6. You must die daily in God (1 Cor. 15:31; Rom. 8:13) - If you want to follow Jesus, you will have to die to self daily; and by

dying, you live for Jesus. When you crucify the flesh, sin will not have dominion over you.

## **CONCLUSION**

The only way we can escape spiritual famine is to repent. We also have to make sure we do not return back to that sin or old way of life that brought the famine.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Reflect: What brings you into spiritual famine?
2. How can one stay flourishing in Christ without famine?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Acts 3:19; MON: Rev 3:16; TUE: 1 Pt. 2:2; WED: Lk. 9:62; THUR: Prov. 26:20-21; FRI: Lev. 6:12; SAT: Prov 4:18.



## Memory Verse

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17

## Lesson Text

2 Timothy 3:13-17



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

The Greek word for truth is *aletheia*, which means to un-hide or hide nothing. It conveys the thought that truth is always there, always open and available for all to see, with nothing being hidden or obscured. The Hebrew word for truth is *isemeth*, which means firmness, constancy, and duration. Such a definition implies an everlasting substance and something that can be relied upon. Truth must originate from somewhere. Ignoring the truth always leads to undesired consequences.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE WORD IS THE TRUTH
- B. BEWARE OF FALSE DOCTRINES

### A. THE WORD IS THE TRUTH

In Jn. 14:6, Jesus made the simple statement I am the truth and Jn. 1:1, 14 tells us that Jesus is the Word. Mathematically, it means:

If Jesus = The Truth .....equation 1 and

Jesus = The Word .....equation 2

Therefore, the Word = the Truth (Jn. 17:17).

The Truth is not relative; rather it is absolute, accurate, and unchangeable (2 Cor. 13:8). The truth of God's word is divinely inspired and therefore profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16; Ps. 119:9). The word gives wisdom and direction (Col. 3:16; Ps. 119:105). God's word is sharp and powerful (Heb. 4:12). If we know the word of God, we know the truth that will deliver and make us free (Ps. 107:20; Jn. 8:32). The word of God is

incorruptible: it gives us a solid spiritual foundation in the faith and an inheritance among the saints of God (1 Pt. 1:23; Acts 20:32).

## B. BEWARE OF FALSE DOCTRINES

Almost speedily as the word is running with sound doctrines, the devil is also making efforts, as a busybody, to counter the effort of God through his diverse and varying false doctrines such as:

1. Jesus is not the Son of God. 1 Jn. 4:1-3
2. There is no resurrection of the dead. 1 Cor. 15:13-19
3. The days of miracles are over. Heb. 13:8
4. The days of tithing are over. Mal. 3:10-13
5. Holiness is impossible. Philippians 4:13; Lh. 1:37

## CONCLUSION

Time spent in ensuring that the original truth is well known is not a wasted one (Jude 3:7), after all, we know that Satan is more organized in these last days in the spread of his doctrines.

## QUESTIONS

1. What biblical truths do you struggle with?
2. How can the knowledge of truth increase our faith in God?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Ps. 1:1-3; MON: Rev 19:30; TUE: Ps 107:20; WED: Jer 15:16; THUR: Isa 55:8-11; FRI: Jer 23:29; SAT: Eph. 6:17.



## Memory Verse

*"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" Colossians 1:10*

## Lesson Text

*1 Thessalonians 2:1-6*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

The Almighty God created us human beings with the capacity to relate with Him and with one another. It is the level of your relationship with God that determines whether you are willing to please Him or not. A God-pleaser refers to someone who does things that bring pleasure to God. Things that make Him smile. These approved behavioral patterns are available in the word of God to learn from.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. BECOMING A GOD-PLEASER
- B. BENEFITS OF BEING A GOD-PLEASER

### A. BECOMING A GOD-PLEASER

You must be determined to be a God-pleaser because every good thing requires seriousness and grit for it to succeed. Below are some of the ways to become a God-pleaser.

1. Be a devout worshiper: God loves to be worshiped because He cannot worship Himself, therefore He seeks worshippers. Jn. 4:23-24
2. Believe and trust God wholeheartedly: One of the ways to give pleasure to God is by putting your absolute trust in Him. (Psalm 118:8). This gives you easy access to Him always. Hebrews 11:5-6
3. Obey and serve Him: God takes pleasure in the people who obey His word. Ex. 19:4-5
4. Actively enlarge His kingdom: Seek to testify about your salvation experience to someone daily, draw men out of darkness into the light, expanding God's kingdom. Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-18

## B. BENEFITS OF BEING A GOD-PLEASER

There are so many rewards available to those who choose to please God (Heb. 11:6). Some of these include:

1. Divine presence with all its abundant wonders. The presence of God brings fullness of Joy (Ps. 16:11). It was the presence of God that prospered Joseph everywhere he went and in everything he did (Gen. 39:2). The presence of God makes mountains move out of the way (Ps. 68:8). It was the presence of God that separated the red sea. Ps. 114:3-8
2. Glorious manifestation both here on earth and in eternity. Those who please God shall be abundantly blessed here on earth and reign with Christ in eternity as kings and priests. Mk. 10:28-30; Rev. 5:10
3. Demonstration of God's power. When you are a God pleaser, you do not only make the promises of God to come to pass in your life, (2 Cor. 1:20), but you turn them into time-bound decrees. Job 22:28
4. Divine safety and security. As a God pleaser, your defense is sure, because God will shield you against every evil targeting you and fight your battles. In other words, your battles become God's battles. 2 Chron. 20:17, Ex. 14:13-28
5. Divine promotion. Anyone who pleases God will be divinely promoted and made ten times better than all his/her contemporaries. Dan. 1:8,20

## CONCLUSION

Beloved, it is better and extremely profitable now and for eternity to be a God-pleaser. Be determined to be one and God will help you.

## QUESTIONS

1. Mention any three ways to become a God-pleaser.
2. What are the benefits of pleasing God?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Gen. 5:24; MON: Gen. 18:19; TUE: Ps. 89:20; WED: Acts 10:2; THUR: Acts 16:14; FRI: Josh. 24:15; SAT: Acts 1:19



## Memory Verse

*"Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God."*  
Colossians 3:22

## Lesson Text

Ephesians  
6:5-8

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

A "Men-Pleaser" is an individual who strives to please men or seeks to gain their favor with an ulterior motive. If the motive for your actions, speeches or attitudes is to always please men or the world rather than God, then you are in the category of men-pleasers. Acts 5:29

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. CHARACTERISTICS AND DANGERS OF PLEASING MEN
- B. OVERCOMING MEN-PLEASING ATTITUDES

### A. CHARACTERISTICS AND DANGERS OF PLEASING MEN

There are peculiar traits associated with men pleasers that tend to separate them from the rest of humanity. Some of these are:

1. Love for human praise: They are known to love the praise of men and to receive special appellations from other people. Jn. 12:43
2. Emotional toxicity: They can do anything including to "murder" people, either physically, spiritually or emotionally. While Herod used physical weapons such as imprisonment or guns (Acts 12:1-3), some other people used their tongue, position etc.
3. Manipulation of justice: Men pleasers usually have undue respect for men such that they tamper with justice and deliver injustice to the poor. Deut. 1:17
4. Fear of men: They exhibit fear of man as one of their peculiar traits, they always forget that the fear of man often brings a snare. Prov. 29: 25

The scripture warns against being men-pleasers because of the inherent

dangers. Anyone who has the habit of pleasing men will live in perpetual bondage (1 Sam. 15:24). Such a person will lose his or her freedom. Also, men-pleasers will become accomplices in sin (Prov. 28:21). The person will not have a mind of his or her own and will be easily tossed (Eph. 4:14). Men-pleasers will become the enemy of God (Jam. 4:4b) because of the attention given to men other than God. Men-pleasers will eventually experience the wrath of God because such a person is working contrary to God. Isa. 30:1-2; Jer. 17:5

## II. OVERCOMING MEN-PLEASING ATTITUDES

Men-pleasing attitudes can be overcome through a high degree of seriousness and consistency. Here are some deliberate steps to take:

1. Rededicate and consecrate your heart to God by putting the Almighty in His true and deserving first position. Deut. 6:5
2. God must always be your delight (Ps. 37:4) and love Him passionately. 1 Jn. 4:19
3. Follow people, as they follow Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). Stop putting your hope in men because vain is the help of man. Ps. 60:11
4. Pray more in the Spirit for courage (Josh. 1:6) to say no and you will prevail over men-pleasing attitudes.

## CONCLUSION

God is supreme, worthy of our worship and does not like competition (Ex. 10:3-5). Beware of men-pleasing attitudes.

## QUESTIONS

- What are the dangers of pleasing men?
- Mention three ways to overcome men-pleasing attitudes.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Rom. 1:16; MON: 1 Sam. 15:24; TUE: Ps. 20:7; WED: Acts 10:35; THUR: 2 Sam. 1:1-16; FRI: 1 Thess. 2:4; SAT: Eph. 6:1-8.

*Dangers of Pleasing men -  
Disappointment - because men will shock/shame you.  
It does not honor & please God.  
It hinders your personal growth & confidence because the time you are supposed to use to make your life better, you are using it to please & satisfy men.  
How to overcome  
Love God & his kingdom  
Think about how God feels*





## LESSON 25 - CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALIZATION

### Memory Verse

*"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Philippians 4:5*



### Lesson Text

*1 Corinthians 6:12-13*

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

To socialize simply means to talk and do things with other people in a friendly way. There are various ways of socializing, ranging from relating with people in the immediate environment to getting involved in governance and community development activities. Christian socialization cuts across recreation, social interaction, cultural activities, and political issues. While there may be diverse opinions on the extent of the involvement of Christians in social issues, it should be noted that moderation should be the watchword.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. BIBLICAL INSTANCES OF SOCIALIZATION
- B. WORLDLY PERSPECTIVES VERSUS BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

#### A. BIBLICAL INSTANCES OF SOCIALISATION

The scripture gives several examples of people socializing. Let's take a look at some of them:

1. Jesus
  - a. Jesus Christ and His disciples attended a wedding ceremony at Cana of Galilee. Jn. 2:1-2
  - b. Jesus dined with Zacchaeus in his house. Lk. 19:5
  - c. Jesus was a friend to the family of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha (Lk. 10:38-42) and also paid them a condolence visit. Jn. 11:33-35
  - d. Jesus and His disciples also participated in the Feast of Passover. Mk. 14:12-14.
2. Others

- a. Apostle Paul interacted with diverse classes of people for the sake of the Gospel to win them over to Christ. 1 Cor. 9:19-23
- b. Daniel was involved in political administration in his days. Dan. 1:18-21; 6:1-3

The bible has more than sufficient evidence of socialization.

### B. WORLDLY PERSPECTIVES VERSUS BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

Christians cannot live in isolation in this present world. However, we must know when and how to draw the line between worldly (sinful) and acceptable (holy) socializations. For instance, Christians are expected to recreate (1 Tim. 4:8) but visiting bar/beer joints and nightclubs for recreation is unacceptable. Christians should avoid participating or feasting at occasions where idols are celebrated (1 Cor. 10:28). Modernized carnivals with satanic undertones and other places where Christian integrity is questionable should also be avoided (1 Cor. 8:10-11; 10:19-21). Watching immoral movies, listening to/singing ungodly music, and wearing seductive dresses in the name of socialization are also ungodly things Christians must avoid (1 Cor. 8:8-11). While getting involved in secular activities, Christians should watch out and abstain from things that can make them compromise their faith. Philippians 4:8

### CONCLUSION

Whatever we do to socialize should be to the glory of God and the edification of the saints (1 Cor. 10:31). Christians are to show moderation in social interactions.

### QUESTIONS

1. Mention three other biblical instances of socialization.
2. Distinguish between worldly and godly socializations.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Philippians. 4:8; MON: Lk. 19:5; TUE: 1 Tim. 4:8; WED: 1 Cor. 10:28; THUR: Philippians 4:5; FRI: 1 Cor. 10:31; SAT: Dan. 6:3.



## WEEK 26

### WELCOME TO THE SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION

#### YOUR PRIVILEGES:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINES
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MARKS OBTAINABLE = 100 MARKS**

**Total Score for Class Attendance and Punctuality (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Quarterly Test (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Assignments (120)**

**Grand Total Score (220 marks)**

Divide Grand Total Score by 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Position = \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Memory Verse

*"Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools." Ecclesiastes 7:9*



## Lesson Text

*Ephesians 4:26-27*

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Anger is a negative emotion characterized by bitterness towards someone or something especially when there is a perceived wrong. It often ignites powerful, restless, aggressive feelings and behaviors. The feeling of anger arises due to how we interpret or react to certain situations. Anger is termed 'temporary madness' because it takes over the mind and body and removes the ability to reason with no respect for dignity and friendship. Anger Management is gaining control over our emotions and the ability to regulate rage. We can be angry but it must be managed and not degenerate into sin, Ps. 37:8; Eph. 4:26-27

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. ANGER TRIGGERS AND ITS EFFECTS
- B. SUBDUING ANGER

### A. ANGER TRIGGERS AND ITS EFFECTS

As humans, we have triggers that make us angry and this could be, from trivial to serious concerns (Lev. 10:16-17). Anger issues also stem from a strong feeling that is oriented toward some real or supposed grievance (Num. 22:27). Other causes of anger include hatred/frustration (Jonah 3:10, 4:1); lack of rule over one's spirit (Prov. 25:28); hasty judgements (2 Sam. 12:5-7); quick temper (Prov. 14:17); acting foolishly (2 Chron. 16:8-10); transferred aggression (Dan. 2:11-12), and unjustifiable reasons (Matt. 5:22).

Anger is dangerous because it can result in murder and alter destinies (Gen. 49:6-7), stir up strife (Prov. 29:22), ruin/halt good relationships

(Prov. 22:24-25), make one do irrational things (Ex. 32:19), make one stand in the way of God's plan (1 Sam. 17:28-30), and make one say what should not be said (1 Sam. 20:30).

## II. SUBDUING ANGER

To manage anger, every believer must develop the ability to control his/her temperament (particularly in stressful situations) with the help of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). We must show proper behavior and/or disagree appropriately without losing control of our emotions (Eph. 4:26). Self-control is a good regulator for anger (Gal. 5:23). We must consciously put anger far away from us (Eph. 4:31). Anger is a vice we must cease from (Ps. 37:8). Anger must be deliberately put off (Col. 3:8) so we are to employ strategies such as being slow to speak (Jam. 1:19), providing a soft and gentle answer (Prov. 15:1), being discreet (Prov. 19:11), walking away from an angry person/scene (Prov. 26:4), talking to oneself "why am I angry?" (1 Cor. 9:27), looking inwards with divine assistance for unresolved issues which trigger anger (Ps. 139:23-24), staying calm (Prov. 14:29), learn to be quiet (Prov. 13:3), and attend to issues with knowledge (Prov. 17:27, 13:16). Not allowing anger to run for days depicts maturity. If you lose your temper at the slightest provocation, you must acknowledge that you have an anger issue and deal with it decisively. See a therapist if need be and ask God for help.

## CONCLUSION

God has given us the Spirit of self-control (Galatians 5:23a), so, our anger can be managed when we work at it and ask God for help. Control anger before it ruins you.

## QUESTIONS

1. Identify four triggers of anger.
2. Mention three ways to subdue anger.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Jam. 3:2; MON: Ps. 39:1; TUE: Col. 3:5; WED: Rom. 8:13; THUR: Rom. 12:2; FRI: 1 Pt 4:11; SAT: Eph. 4:7.



## Memory Verse

*"A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, 'Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves'." 2 Kings 4:1*



## Lesson Text

2 Kings 4:1-7

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

Debt occurs when something, usually money, is owed by one party (the borrower or debtor) to a second party (the lender or creditor), especially when it becomes difficult to pay back what is owed. Debt is a common problem and has a way of growing faster than expected. Although the Bible neither expressly forbids nor condones the borrowing of money, we must, however, be wise. Prov. 22:7

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DEBT
- B. AVOID DEBT

#### A. CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DEBT

Debt can occur through different means. Some of the likely causes are poor money management skills (Lk. 15:11-13), lack of employment/underemployment (Prov. 20:4), health challenges (Lk. 8:43), failed business/reduction in income, living outside one's means (1 Tim. 6:8-10), gambling, divorce/widowhood/single parenthood (2 Kings 4:1), uncontrolled child-bearing, unexpected emergencies, unfavorable economic factors/inflation (2 Kings 6:25), impulse buying (Lk. 15:13-14), poor investment skill (Prov. 23:5), a misunderstanding of needs versus wants (Lk. 15:13), laziness (2 Thess. 3:10b), education cost, fraud, etc. Anyone who comes to the realization that he or she has taken on too much debt becomes uncomfortable (2 Kings 4:1). The lender can torment the borrower (Prov. 22:7). It can also lead to psychological or emotional breakdown.

### B. AVOID DEBT

To forestall going into debt, believers should do the following:

1. Develop a savings culture. Prov. 21:20
2. Prepare a budget based on your actual income and actual expenses. Lk. 14:28
3. Avoid unnecessary spending (Prov. 21:20). Do not spend impulsively on what is not your primary need.
4. Do not be lazy; find something to do. 1 Thess. 4:11, Prov. 6:9-11
5. Be satisfied with what you have. Prov. 15:16; 1 Tim. 6:6
6. Seek financial counsel and invest wisely. Prov. 15:22
7. Honor God with your substance – tithe, offerings, first fruits. Prov. 3:9-10
8. Help the needy. Prov. 19:17; 28:27

Any believer who is already in debt should do the following in addition to the points raised above;

1. Pray for divine intervention, then seek wise and godly counsel. Prov. 24:6
2. Drastically reduce high lifestyle expenses. Philippians 4:5
3. Negotiate with your creditors for a possible review of the repayment plan. Lk 16:5-8
4. Be committed to paying back what you owe. Rom. 13:8a
5. Maintain discipline in financial matters. Prov. 22:26-27

### CONCLUSION

Borrowing should be avoided as much as possible. It should only be considered in the case of a profitable venture.

### QUESTIONS

1. Mention five likely causes of debt.
2. State four ways debt can be avoided.

FURTHER READINGS - SUN: 2 Kings 4:3-36; MON: Matt. 6:12; TUE: Rom. 4:4; WED: Lk. 7:42-43; THUR: Col 2:14; FRI: Ex. 22:14; SAT: Deut. 15:6.



## Memory Verse

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58*



## Lesson Text

*Luke 10:25-28*

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Commitment is the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally driven to a cause. It means that decisions to follow through are made in advance irrespective of the circumstances. Commitment involves dedicating ourselves to something like a person or a cause (Ps. 34:1). Our Father in Heaven requires our total allegiance, not just a contribution. The Bible also teaches that the complete devotion of our lives should be to God, loving and serving Him (Matt. 22:37-38). This means that we must hold nothing back from Him because God holds nothing back from us. Jn. 3:16

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. BIBLICAL INSTANCES
- B. INDICES OF COMMITMENT

### A. BIBLICAL INSTANCES

There are several passages in the Bible where people showed commitment. Let's consider a few of them:

1. Abraham was so committed to God that he agreed to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. Gen. 22:2-3
2. David's followers were committed to him (2 Sam. 23:15-17). Loyalty to a God-fearing leader is a commitment to God. Heb. 13:17.
3. Esther was committed to Mordecai and her people (Est.

4:15-16). We are not in a position to amass wealth to ourselves; rather, we must be duty-bound to serving our people. Prov. 22:9

4. Elkanah was committed to Hannah, his wife, despite her barrenness. 1 Sam. 1:4-5
5. David was obligated to praise God. Ps. 108:1
6. The Apostles were devoted to witnessing. Acts 4:18-20; 1 Cor. 9:16
7. Paul was ready to spend and be spent. 2 Cor. 12:15
8. God rewarded Elijah for his devotion, he became the first man ever to raise the dead. 1 Kings 17:17-22
9. The loyalty of Elisha to Elijah earned him the double portion of anointing. 2 Kings 2:9-14
10. Ruth, through her bond with her mother-in-law, was numbered in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Ruth 1:14-18, Matt. 1:1-5

## B. INDICES OF COMMITMENT

1. Willingness to give sacrificially. God was well pleased when Abraham after receiving the instruction to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, did as he was instructed without questioning or wavering. Gen. 22:2-3
2. Readiness to surrender all. Jesus, our perfect example of commitment willingly surrendered His life for all. 1 Jn. 3:16, Jn. 10:17-18
3. Enthusiasm to please God. The apostle Paul said he would please only God at all costs. Gal. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:4
4. Preparedness to suffer. Paul admonished Timothy and believers to be willing to endure hardship. 2 Tim. 2:3, Rom. 8:35-37
5. Willingness to take a risk. David was willing to risk his life when he went against Goliath because of his commitment to his nation. 1 Sam. 17:45
6. Keenness to pay the ultimate price. Esther was willing to pay the ultimate price for her people – if rejected by the King (Est. 4:15-16). Paul was ready to be bound and also die for the name of the Lord Jesus. 2 Kings 4:3-36

Remember, partial commitment is no commitment at all. Rev. 3:15-16.



## CONCLUSION

Our commitment should be shown in our behavior, personal integrity, loyalty to family, community, and ultimately to God.

## QUESTIONS

1. Mention five pieces of evidence of commitment.
2. What are the indices of commitment?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Ps. 37:5; MON: Prov. 16:3; TUE: Deut. 4:29; WED: Deut. 6:5; THUR: Deut. 10:12; FRI: Deut. 26:16; SAT: Josh. 22:5.

## LESSON 30 - COPING WITH REJECTION

### Memory Verse

*"When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me." Psalm 27:10*

### Lesson Text

*Judges 11:1-7*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Rejection is the dismissing or refusing of a person, proposal, idea, etc. In this context, it is to refuse to accept, use, or believe someone. This could be by individuals, groups, or God (Gen. 21:10, Jn. 1:11, Hos. 4:6b). This rejection may be social, religious, political, etc. Various reasons could be responsible for rejection such as ill feelings, hatred, bitterness, envy, rebellion, disobedience, etc. Rejection must be well managed so that it does not lead to low self-esteem and ultimately depression. It is therefore expedient to examine biblical examples of those rejected and learn from the ways they handled it.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES
- B. HANDLING REJECTION

### A. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Going through the scriptures, there are several cases of rejection. For instance, God rejected King Saul because he failed to carry out His directive to completely destroy the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15:2-3, 26). Also, Cain was rejected by God because he did not offer an acceptable offering (Gen. 4:5-7). The children of Israel rejected God from reigning over them as their King and requested for a human king just like the nations around them (1 Sam. 8:5-7). Joseph was rebuffed by his brothers because he dreamed of a glorious future and was sold as a slave to Egypt (Gen. 37:5-10, 28). Jephthah, though a mighty man, was rejected by his brothers because he was the son of a harlot whom



his brethren considered a strange woman (Judg. 11:1-2). Even Jesus spoke about His rejection by the human race (Lk. 9:22, 17:24-25, Matt. 21:42).

## B. HANDLING REJECTION

Being rejected by an individual or a group does not necessarily mean you are the problem. Never write yourself off but keep improving on yourself, like Jephthah, for opportunities that may change your narrative (Judg. 11:3-6). Remember, it is a phase and it will pass away (Judg. 11:7-8). Have a forgiving spirit like Joseph, free your mind from bitterness and ask God to let you know the lessons He wants you to learn or the reason He allowed you to go through that experience (Gen. 45:5, 50:16-20). If you are wrong, accept responsibility for it, make corrections and move on (Ps. 139:23-24). Unlike Cain, rejection must be well managed so that it does not degenerate into anger or jealousy (Gen. 4:5, 8; Heb. 12:15).

Some other ways to handle rejection may be to:

1. Make peace as much as possible (Hebrews 12:14).
2. Turn to God and ask Him for help (Psalm 121:1).
3. Trust God and fear not (Psalm 56:4).
4. Address the issue on the ground and never sweep it under the carpet.
5. Consult a counselor or therapist may also be of great help.

To avoid being rejected by God, believers must obey His instructions promptly and completely.

## CONCLUSION

Do not write yourself off, God can use rejection to open a bigger door as long as you are not rejected by God.

## QUESTIONS

1. Identify four people who experienced rejection in the Bible
2. Mention three (3) ways to handle rejection

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Gen. 15:1; MON: Ps. 27:3, TUE: Prov. 3:25, WED: Isa. 7:4, THUR: Isa. 35:4, FRI: Matt. 10:26; SAT: Rom. 8:15

## Memory Verse

*"He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap." Ecclesiastes 11:4*

## Lesson Text

*John 9:4-5*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

It is said that "procrastination is a thief of time." To procrastinate simply means to put off till some future time. It is to postpone or needlessly delay what should be done immediately. Experts define procrastination as a self-defeating behavioral pattern marked by short-term benefits and long-term costs. In one of Jesus' teachings, He taught His disciples not to delay what should be done immediately (Jn. 4:35-36). Procrastination and laziness appear to be "brothers" because sometimes procrastination is the result of laziness. Prov. 18:9

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A ILLS OF PROCRASTINATION
- B DEFEATING PROCRASTINATION

## A ILLS OF PROCRASTINATION

Procrastination births redundancy and lack of productivity (Prov. 12:27). It steals time through idleness and renders one ineffective (Prov. 26:13-15). It oils the wheels of putting off important decisions or actions till some future time which may be disastrous by producing a negative outcome (Prov. 15:19). The attitude of pushing tasks and necessary appointments which should be attended to promptly till later has resulted in a loss of integrity for some people (Matt. 21:28-30). Putting off important tasks causes stress and this additional stress contributes to negative psychophysiological impacts (Any physical illness caused by a psychological illness). Procrastination replaces self-esteem with self-defeat when the procrastinator asks and is fixed on, "What is wrong



with me?" "Why can't I just do it?" "Was I born to fail? Procrastination is so bad that it can lead to poverty (Prov. 10:4) and it becomes a sin when we know how to do good but defers by refusing to do it (James 4:17).

## B. DEFEATING PROCRASTINATION

The under-listed will help us to deal with Procrastination.

1. Proactiveness: We must always be actively engaged with our minds and hands on the task we need to do without giving any leeway to push it to a later date. Ecc. 9:10
2. Record-keeping and accountability partnership: Get a task book to record accomplished daily tasks or get an evaluation partner to report to on the achievement of important tasks and appointments. Prov. 13:20
3. Consciousness of time: Always tell yourself that 'delay is dangerous' and never push what you can do now till later (Jn. 4:34; 5:17). Setting a realistic time frame for assignments will help to attend to matters without pushing them to a later date. Ecc. 3:1
4. Intentionality: Dealing with procrastination requires a great level of intentionality. We must be calculated and purposeful all the time so as to attend to tasks and schedules appropriately. 1 Cor. 9:26, Eph. 5:15-16
5. Promptness: We must be quick to deal with issues as they come to us and never give any room for delay. Ecc. 11:4
6. Goal-setting: It is important to set achievable goals divided into bits so we can measure progress. We must organize our tasks, appointments, etc., so we know what to do and at what time to do them to avoid being overwhelmed. Prov. 21:5
7. Divine help: We need to ask God to help us as we put our hands to work on the projects before us. Ps. 22:19

## CONCLUSION

Procrastination must be consciously kicked out of our lives.

## QUESTIONS

1. Mention at least three ills of procrastination
2. Mention five ways to overcome procrastination

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Jn. 4:35; MON: Prov. 26:13; TUE: Ecc. 9:10; WED: Rev. 22:12; THUR: Matt. 25:15-17; FRI: Prov. 6:10-11; SAT: Ecc. 3:1.

# LESSON 32 - THE MIND OF MAN

## Memory Verse

*"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16*

## Lesson Text

*1 Corinthians 2: 1- 16*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

As Christians, it is imperative that we understand the nomenclature of our being. Today, we will study the mind of the natural man (before salvation) and the spiritual man (after salvation). Man was made in the express image of God and in his likeness, but the knowledge and essence were lost back in the garden of Eden. Thankfully, at the point of salvation, man was restored and reconciled. What role did the mind play? What state was it in, and what state is it in now?

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A THE MIND BEFORE SALVATION
- B THE MIND AFTER SALVATION

### A THE MIND BEFORE SALVATION

As God is tripartite – trinity, Man is also tripartite. Humans comprise three parts: The Spirit (Intuition, Conscience, and Communion), The Soul (Volition, Mind, and Emotion), The Body (Flesh, Senses). During creation, the bible tells us that the breath of God made man a living soul (Other version says a living being). This implies that the Soul was in complete synergy with Christ and his Spirit. This is why Adam could name all the creatures and it was recorded that whatever he called each animal, that was the name thereof.

However, after the fall, the Flesh was in complete control dictating what goes to the soul (Eph. 2:3). Before salvation, the mind of humans is in enmity with God (Rom. 8:7), full of wicked works (Col. 1:21),



blinded by the gods of this world (2 Cor. 3:14). This tells us that one of the wars of the enemy against humans is the war of the mind. The greatest attack on a man is on his Identity and the second is on his mind. In fact, we can say that all temptations which entices man are presented to his mind and the state of the mind determines his response. "The mind suffers the onslaughts of the powers of darkness more than any other organ of the whole man" – Watchman Nee. We must be careful of the messages we allow into our minds. Even the devil understands that if he must wage a war, it must be in the minds of humans. 2 Cor. 3:14, Eph. 2:3, 2 Cor. 4:4

## **B. THE MIND AFTER SALVATION**

At the point of salvation, it is the Spirit that was saved and not the soul. Whatever gets into your Spirit can not be tampered with, that is why the scripture says we are sealed by the Spirit of promise (Eph. 1:13). In other words, everything deposited in your spirit is everlasting. However, the Spirit does not interfere directly with the physical. It must interface with the body for the deposits to be seen. How does this interaction happen? It goes via the soul – volition, the conscience, and the mind. Until the words in your Spirit get into your minds, it may not be effective. This is why at salvation, we had to be given the mind of Christ with an instruction to renew it daily. Rom. 12:2. There is now an interaction between the Spirit and the Mind. The spirit enables our inner man to know, while the mind causes our outer man to understand (Rom. 8:6). To walk in the spirit is to allow the spirit to rule the mind. In gaining dominion over his mental life, the Christian should not allow any improper thought to remain in him. Every inappropriate item must be driven out. Further, he must not permit his mind to lie idle (Philippians 4:8). After salvation, our mind was renewed and 1 Cor. 2:16 says we now have the mind of Christ. This means we have the capacity to comprehend the words of God. We mind the same things he minds; then we can comprehend his will and purposes. As Christians, we must renew our minds with the word of God and his Spirit (Rom. 12:2, Heb. 8:10, Eph. 4:23), and set our affections on things above (Col. 3:1-3).

## **CONCLUSION**

The mind is a key component in our day-to-day activities. Before salvation,

it is ruled by the flesh, but after salvation, it is ruled by the Spirit. We must learn to commune with the Holy Spirit until His words permeate into our minds.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What are the roles of the human mind?
2. Mention three ways the mind of man can be blinded.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Philippians 2:5-11; MON: 2 Tim. 1:7; TUE: 1 Pt. 1:13; WED: Jn. 5:30; THUR: Rom. 12:2; FRI: 1 Pt. 4:17; SAT: Rom. 8.



## Memory Verse

*"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." Romans 8:15*

## Lesson Text

*Ezekiel 9:6,  
Exodus 12:7,  
Hebrews 6:4-6*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

When light shines in darkness, the word of God says darkness will not comprehend it (Jn. 1:5). In the same manner, when a true believer shows up, it should not take long before it is evident to all that this man or woman is different. This is because every believer has been marked separate from those that do not belong to the Kingdom of God. Today, we will discuss some attributes of a true believer and what makes us different from others.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. A TRUE BELIEVER CONTINUOUSLY LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
- B. A TRUE BELIEVER BEARS GOOD FRUITS
- C. A TRUE BELIEVER STAYS READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN
- D. A TRUE BELIEVER TAKES UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOWS CHRIST

### A. A TRUE BELIEVER CONTINUOUSLY LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

When we become children of God, God takes out our sinful nature and puts in us His own righteous nature (Rom. 8:10-11). Now that we have this new nature, we must live in obedience to God (1 Jn. 5:18). However, we know God doesn't fellowship with sinners. It's against His nature (2 Cor. 6:14). Therefore, a true believer must walk in the light of God (1 Jn. 1:6-7). We know that He is the vine and we are

the branches (Jn. 15:1), so it is vital for us to continue our fellowship with Him. Remember, we can do nothing without Him. When a plant is disconnected from its source, it will dry up. Likewise, a river that disconnects from its source, will dry up. Therefore, every believer must ensure that he or she doesn't get plugged out from our source – God Almighty.

### B. A TRUE BELIEVER BEARS GOOD FRUITS

Another mark of the believer is that he bears fruit (Matt. 3:10,12). Our savior has commanded us to bear fruits (Mk. 16:15-16). As a matter of fact, He has zero tolerance to those who do not bear fruits (Matt. 7:19). When we evangelize, we lay up treasures for ourselves in Heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). Therefore, not only do we benefit in this world for winning souls, we also benefit in heaven. It's a win-win situation. Praise God!

### C. A TRUE BELIEVER STAYS READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN

Because the believer is a servant to our master – Jesus – he or she knows that it is important to always stay ready (Rev. 16:15). A believer must make sure that his or her oil never runs out (1 Kings 17:14). A true believer must also ensure that he or she continuously fans the flame. The fire must not go out. 2 Tim. 1:6-8

### D. A TRUE BELIEVER TAKES UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOWS CHRIST

What does it mean for one to take up his cross (Matt. 10:38)? It simply means:

- Dying to those pleasures that do not glorify God. Lk. 9:23
- Obeying every instruction God gives to us, especially when it is not convenient. Lk. 22:42
- Daily presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice unto God. Rom. 12:1

A true believer must therefore remain faithful till the end (Matt. 10:38). This includes in the face of adversity (Acts 7:59-60) and at the point of pressure (1 Kings 18:17-18).

## CONCLUSION:

The daily life of every believer should be lived in the consciousness of pleasing our Maker. Not only is it important we ensure our fellowship is not



dented by sin, we also have to obey every of our Commander's command until He returns or takes us home.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Jn. 14:21; MON: 1. Jn. 13:34-35; TUE: 1 Jn. 4:7-8; WED: Heb. 11:6; THUR: Matt. 17:20; FRI: Lk. 15:7; SAT: Matt. 5:3-4.

## LESSON 34 - THE MARK OF TRUE BELIEVERS - PART 2

### Memory Verse

*"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." Ephesians 6:12*

### Lesson Text

*2 Corinthians 10:4-5*



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

A true believer is known as a soldier. Not just an earthly soldier but a soldier of Christ. Only those in battles put on armor. Eph. 6:11-13 clearly shows that the life of a believer is one which is in continuous battle with the wiles of the devil. Today, we will focus on the believer's role in actively engaging in the battlefield against our enemy - the devil and his agents.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. CONTEND WITH THE DEVIL
- B. STAY VIGILANT
- C. FEAR NOT

#### A. CONTEND WITH THE DEVIL

A true believer knows to contend with the devil and the forces of darkness. However, like every earthly military ensures that the soldier is ready for battle, there are some things the believer has to do to ensure he/she is ready to face the devil. Before we contend with the devil and his agents, a believer must make sure he is in right standing with God. Jam. 4:7 says we are to first submit to God and then we can resist the devil. Also, a true believer knows that he or she is on a battlefield and the war is already ongoing. Therefore, there is no time to waste. We join the battle and engage. However, we don't war in the flesh but conduct our battle in the spirit (Eph. 6:12). It is for this reason we are expected to stay alert. Matt. 26:41



## B. STAY VIGILANT

A true believer is always vigilant (1 Jn. 4:1-3,15). The word "vigilant" means to be "alertly watchful." While the definition of a vigilant person is "someone who gives careful attention to a particular problem or situation and concentrates on noticing any possible danger or trouble," Because of the deception which is to be expected in the last days (1 Jn. 4:15, Matt. 24:24, 2 Pt. 3:3) we must be more vigilant.

## C. FEAR NOT

A true believer should not give in to fear. We are to live in the love of God and not in fear. One of the ways the devil uses to wage war against the believer is by attacking the mind. This is why we must take good care of our heart (Prov. 4:23). When the enemy wants to instill fear in us, he does this by causing us to worry. However, a true believer must be resolute in faith. For example, a true believer is not to worry about the cares of this world (Lk. 21:34) or what tomorrow brings (Phillipians 4:6-7, Matt. 6:34). Another way to ensure that fear doesn't get into the heart of a believer is by continuously engaging in the word of God (Josh. 1:8). Lastly, the believer knows that because God loves him or her, fear is not allowed to dwell in his or her heart. 1 Jn. 4:18

## CONCLUSION

The life of a believer is a very active one and anyone who fails to engage actively puts him or herself in great danger. Therefore, a true believer embraces and engages in contending with the devil. True believers also know that we fight from a place of victory and that no harm can come on anyone who is on the Lord's side. Rev. 12:11

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Eph. 4:3-6; MON: 1 Jn. 2:3-6; TUE: Gal 5:22-23; WED: Matt. 7:16-20; THUR: Matt. 24:13; FRI: Heb. 12:1-3; SAT: Jn. 17:20-23.

## LESSON 35 - EXERCISING OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES

### Memory Verse

"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." Hebrews 5:14

### Lesson Text

Matthew 13:1-23



## LESSON INTRODUCTION:

It is one thing to know God and it is another thing to respond to God. The difference between 60-fold, 100-fold return is often time in our response to God and His words. Rom. 1:21-22 emphasized that although they knew God, they did not retain Him in their knowledge which led to a reprobate mind. As Christians, we must be able to pick signals from Him when He intends to communicate to and with us. A fundamental advantage we have as Christians is that we can commune with our Father – Him to us and we to Him. To ensure that communication is not one-way, we must learn to exercise our spiritual senses.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A THE NAMED SPIRITUAL SENSES
- B THE NECESSITY OF EXERCISING OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES
- C HOW TO EXERCISE OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES

### A THE NAMED SPIRITUAL SENSES

Every time God wants to do a thing, He reveals, speaks, and places them in the heart of men. Gen. 18:17 tells us that God will not hide what He wants to do from Abraham. Amos 3:7 also tells us that God reveals His secret unto His servants. This implies that He is always seeking to speak to us and with us, but we must be available. Let's look at some of the spiritual senses we use to receive from God.

1. A seeing eye - The Father loves us so much that He wants to reveal things unto us. Jn. 5: 20 tells us that the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He does, and He even wants to show



us greater works. Eph. 1:18, 2 Cor. 4:18

2. A hearing ear - Solomon, the wisest man emphasized that the hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both (Prov. 20:12). Like Habakkuk, we must learn to stand upon our watch to hear what He will say unto us. Hab. 2:1, Isa. 30:21, Jn. 10:27, Isa. 55:3

3. An understanding heart - Jesus had to open the understanding of the disciples before sending them out. Lk. 24:45, Acts 16:14. Because an understanding heart is so important to our walk, the enemy is always seeking to darken our understanding. Rom. 1:21-22, Eph. 4:17-18, 2 Cor. 4:4

1 Cor. 2:8-10 shows us that we need these three senses to know and understand what God has prepared for us.

## **B. THE NECESSITY OF EXERCISING OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES**

1. It ensures we do not become dull in our spiritual hearing and sluggish or slothful in achieving spiritual insight. Heb. 5: 11 AMPC
2. It is one of the keys to spiritual growth. Heb. 5:12-14
3. It helps us in manifesting the full package God has prepared for us. Gal. 4:1
4. It is the way to behold the master. 2 Cor. 3:18
5. It prevents us from becoming like the Pharisees who in their zealousness never knew that Christ had been born until He started preaching, meanwhile a host of people already knew.

## **C. HOW TO EXERCISE OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES**

To stay healthy, we are told to regulate our meals, do not eat junk, and exercise. The same principle applies in the spiritual. Here are a few ways to exercise our spiritual senses:

1. Learn to give yourself to worship. Acts 16:14
2. Be intentional in asking God. His word says: Ask and it will be given. Matt. 7:7, Isa. 41:15
3. Eat the word for yourself and learn to obey the word. You cannot survive on your pastor's preaching alone. Josh. 1:8, Deut. 27:10
4. We must constantly commune with the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 13:14
5. Lastly, we must constantly practice the use of our senses. In other words, be intentional in utilizing your spiritual senses. We must yield to the "little" promptings of the Holy Spirit as no leading is inconsequential.

Heb. 5:14

## **CONCLUSION**

One of the main differences between the unbelievers and the believers is the ability to discern spiritual things by using our spiritual senses. As believers, God wants to commune with us, reveal secrets and mysteries to us but we must be discerning.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How can your spiritual sense become blunt?  
Mention three ways you can sharpen your senses.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: 1 Jn. 1:1; MON: Jude 1:20; TUE: Gen. 18-10; WED: Lk. 24:49; THUR: 1 Kings 19:11-12; FRI: Ps. 34:8; SAT: Ps. 141:2.



## Memory Verse

*"Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?" John 10:34*

## Lesson Text

*John 10:22-40*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

We now live in a world where one of the greatest attacks to humanity is the loss of identity. The narrative that one can be whatever they want to be has been taken to the extremes. We now have Christians who are oblivious of their essence, call, and nature. Many believers are now timid to make their stand known and express their faith and beliefs in God because of fear and not wanting to step on toes. Today, we aim to understand who we are in Christ Jesus and how to navigate an identity crisis.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST
- B. OVERCOMING IDENTITY CRISIS.

### A. WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

A believer is not defined by the world system but by the written word of God. To understand who we are, Christians must look at the Bible to comprehend what the scriptures say about us. Before Christ sends us out, what He does first is to make us understand who we are. For example, Matt. 5:14 first emphasizes that we are the light of the world before vs 16 then tells us to go shine as light. This means that we must first comprehend who we are before attempting to influence our world.

1. When man was created in the beginning, the bible said male and female created He them Gen. 5:2. So we understand that we are created as either a male or a female.
2. We were created in the image of Christ. Gen. 1:27. This means that we get our identity from Christ and not from culture and

humans. While culture plays a huge role in who we are, it must be vetted by the word of God.

3. We were created to be fruitful, multiply, have dominion, replenish the earth, and subdue it. Gen. 1:28
4. Although man sinned and fell, the nature of Christ was restored at salvation. He made us kings and priests so that we can reign on the earth (Rev. 1:6, Rev. 5:10). In other words, we do not conform to this world, but we rule over it. We bring influence on the world and set them on course for Jesus.
5. Jn. 3:31 says that he that is from above is above all. Eph. 2:6 says that we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

## II. OVERCOMING IDENTITY CRISIS

Identity crisis can manifest in numerous ways. For example, Esau sold his birthright for a piece of meal Gen. 25:29-34, Moses struggled with his confidence and self-esteem. He told God that he is slow of speech, and of a slow tongue (Ex. 4:10). Judas lost sight of who he is as a disciple and sold his master for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15). In case you are in a similar situation like Judas where you are about to be influenced by the Pharisees of this world, or like Esau and you are about to sell your godly inheritance, may today's lesson open your eyes and set you on course again for Jesus.

How can one overcome an identity crisis?

1. Be honest with the Lord. Moses told God exactly how he felt, and God gave him an assurance that He will be with him. Ex. 4:10-12
2. Study the word to know what was said and written concerning you. Ps. 119:9, 105, Jer. 15:16
3. Meditate on the word of God until it becomes life in you. Jn. 1:14
4. Words of affirmation. You must constantly affirm the words of the Lord yourself. Rom. 10:10, Isa. 3:10, Ps. 139:14
5. Surround yourself with godly people who can guide you. Heb. 10:25, Prov. 13:20
6. Set boundaries. Watch what you allow into your heart and spirit. Mk. 4:24, Prov. 4:23.

## CONCLUSION



Failure to discover and walk in the identity conferred on us by Christ is to diminish the authenticity, power, and endowment of God on us. We must hold fast to who we are in the Lord.

## QUESTIONS

1. How can believers lose their identity?
2. Mention three ways you can help another believer regain their identity.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Matt. 5:16; MON: Rev. 3:11; TUE: Col. 4:12; WED: Ps. 82:6; THUR: Gen. 1:26-28; FRI: 2 Cor. 5:18; SAT: Col. 4:6.

## LESSON 37 - EXPECTATIONS OF CHRIST ON HIS RETURN

### Memory Verse

*"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."*  
Revelation 22:12

### Lesson Text

Luke 19:11-28



## LESSON INTRODUCTION:

When Jesus was to ascend to heaven, He left us with instructions on how to live our lives on the earth. More importantly, He made His expectations clear to us so that we know what He demands of us on His return. Today, we will consider the words Jesus spoke to us about His return so that we can set our hearts right and buckle up peradventure we are already losing sight of our heavenly home.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE IMPORTANCE AND REMINDER OF CHRIST'S RETURN
- B. THE EXPECTATIONS OF CHRIST ON HIS RETURN

### A. THE IMPORTANCE AND REMINDER OF CHRIST'S RETURN

In case we are getting caught up in the affairs of this world, today, the Lord wants to reorient our focus and gaze. The bible tells us that God does not want anyone to perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Pt. 3:9). It is therefore important that we remind ourselves of His coming for the following reasons:

1. We are pilgrims on the earth. Heb. 11:13
2. We must continue to desire a better country and not get too comfortable here. Heb. 11:16
3. We must set our affections on the things above so that we can also appear with Him in Glory. Col. 3:1-5
4. To emphasize to us that our treasure must be in Heaven. As believers we should store up treasure where moths and rust do not corrupt. By the ponderings of our heart and the things we think



about, it is clear where we are storing our treasures. Matt. 6:19-21  
5. The parable of the 10 virgins reminds us that like a thief in the night, our Maker will come. Matt. 25:1-13

## B. THE EXPECTATIONS OF CHRIST ON HIS RETURN

While we await the return of our Lord and Savior, there are a few important tasks He expects us to engage in continuously. They are:

1. Watch and Pray - To watch is to be ready and willing to do Christ's will. 1 Thess. 5:2, 6 says we should not sleep like others because the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. As a watchman, our duty is to hear the word from God and warn the people. Eze. 33:6-7; Gen. 6-9, Prov. 8:34, Isa. 62:6
2. Occupy till He comes - Gen. 1:26. We must occupy territories, career spaces, political spaces, and the world showcasing His nature and character. We must profit (souls) with the gifts He gave us.
3. Shall He find faith on the earth? (Lk. 18:8). This is very important because whatever is not of Faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). He wants us to put on the breastplate of faith and persevere (1 Thess. 5:8, Heb. 10:36-38). It takes faith and endurance to keep pressing.
4. That we will remain faithful to his calling. Matt. 24:45-51
5. That we will keep our garments white. Rev. 16:15, Ecc. 9:8
6. We should hold fast to what we have. Rev. 3:11
7. That we will be rapturable and have our lamp burning. Matt. 25:1-13.

## CONCLUSION

Jesus expects that we will be ready for His return. Everything we need to live a godly life has already been provided for us (2 Pt. 1:3). His grace is ever sufficient. 2 Cor. 12:9

## QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are you preparing for the kingdom of God?
2. How can you ensure you do not fall off?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Lk. 9:62; MON: Matt. 7:21-29; TUE: Eph. 6:10; WED: Lk. 18:1; THUR: Deut. 28:1-14; FRI: Jn. 3:1-16; SAT: Acts 10:38.

## LESSON 38 - COME UP

### Memory Verse

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

### Lesson Text

Matthew 4:1-11



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

It is man's nature to want more of a thing. However, at some point, the law of diminishing returns kicks in. We lay hold of that which we once desired and prayed for, and instead of pressing for more, we decide to pitch our tent there. We become satisfied and never get to the promised land which God has in mind for us. Remember that the evidence of death is stagnancy. When we stop moving, we start to die. It is important to have a hungry heart or posture. The one who can call you to come up must already be at a higher level or position.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. FORCES THAT CAN PULL US UP
- B. AREAS TO COME UP
- C. WHY SHOULD WE COME UP?

### A. FORCES THAT CAN PULL US UP

There are two major forces that can pull one up. They are

1. The devil - The devil specializes in making illusions. Since he has no power, he does a good job in deceiving people that he does. In Matt. 4:5, 8, we see him tempt Jesus. Unfortunately, Jesus knew better. There are some things we need to note when the devils bid us to come up.
  - a. What he says will be contrary to God's "true" word.
  - b. What he says will be deceptive.
  - c. What he says will result in death. Jn. 10:10
  - d. What he says will be self-centered.
  - e. What he says will be rebellious.



2. The Spirit of God - Deut. 33:27 says "the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Therefore only God is capable of truly lifting us up. Here are some examples of His lifting:

- a. Jesus - Matt. 4:1
- b. John - Rev. 4:1
- c. Jesus and His disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration - Matt. 17:1

When God bids us to come up, what He says or asks us to do won't contradict the scripture. It will always result in life. Jn. 10:10, Jn. 6:63

## B. AREAS TO COME UP

What areas in our life does God want us to come up?

1. In our relationship with Him. Jam. 4:8
2. In our word study. Josh. 1:8
3. In our prayer. Lk. 18:1, 1 Thess. 5:17
4. In our fasting life. Matt. 9:14-17
5. In consecration. Lk. 9:23, Gal. 2:20
6. In obedience to Him. Matt. 26:39
7. In the way we relate with others. God wants us to increase our  
  - a. Love for the brethren. Jn. 13:34
  - b. Love for our family. 1 Tim. 5:8
  - c. Love for the church. 2 Tim. 2:2

## C. WHY SHOULD WE COME UP?

God wants us to come up so we can rule over everything that wants to rule us (Ps. 110:1-2) He also wants us to have dominion (Lk. 10:19). In addition, God wants us to come up so that He can show us the things He plans to do (Rev. 4:1). Life becomes easier when we know what God is doing and we in turn partner with Him. Also, God wants us to come up so He can show us His glory (Matt. 17:1-9). Lastly, He wants us to be like Him. That is, to be transformed into His image. 2 Cor. 3:17-18

## CONCLUSION

Regardless of how high we think we are now, God still wants us to come up higher. He says there is more and more in Him; only if we heed His call

Don't settle for where you are currently. There is more in God.

## QUESTIONS

1. What steps should you take to keep going higher in God?
2. List 5 causes of stagnation.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Rev. 4:1; MON: Matt. 5:48; TUE: Ex. 13:18-30; WED: Jn. 15:4-5; THUR: Col. 1:10-12; FRI: Jam. 4:2-3; SAT: Ps. 100:2-5.



## WEEK 39

### WELCOME TO THE THIRD INTERACTIVE SESSION

#### YOUR PRIVILEGES:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINES
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MARKS OBTAINABLE = 100 MARKS**

**Total Score for Class Attendance and Punctuality (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Quarterly Test (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Assignments (120)**

**Grand Total Score (220 marks)**

Divide Grand Total Score by 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Position = \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Memory Verse

*"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*



## Lesson Text

*Deuteronomy 16:16-17*

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

There are several arguments today on the topic of giving, especially giving to God. Fortunately for us, the word of God is ever true and will not bend or conform to today's trends. Instead, every trend or argument must bow to the authority of the word of God. We mostly focus on giving in terms of money but giving isn't limited to just cash. We can give in other ways. We can give our time, our resources, our wisdom or knowledge (to solve problems), etc.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. GOD'S POSITION ON GIVING
- B. BENEFITS OF GIVING
- C. TYPES OF GIVING
- D. WHO DO WE GIVE TO?
- E. THE RIGHT WAY TO GIVE

### A. GOD'S POSITION ON GIVING

When the subject of giving is brought up, we see people having several opinions on it. However, as children of God, our position should be the scripture's position. That is, God's position. Here's God's position on giving:

1. God commands us to give (Lk. 6:38). Not only did He command us to give, but Christ modeled it by giving Himself for us. Eph. 5:1-2
2. Giving should not be forced (2 Cor. 8:11-15). It should be done joyfully and cheerfully.
3. We are encouraged to give out of what we have and not what we do not have (2 Cor. 8:11-15). If we are led to give all we have, then that's a sacrificial giving which God will also bless and reward. 1 Kings 17:7-

16

4. We are not to come to God empty handed. Deut. 16:16

## B. BENEFITS OF GIVING

There are several benefits to giving but we will mention only two. We don't want our giving to God to be driven based on what we want to receive but rather due to the love we have for Him. God always provides more to those who give so they can keep giving (2 Cor. 9:8). God also increases those who give. Lk. 6:38

## C. TYPES OF GIVING

There are different ways to give. They include:

1. Sacrificial giving – That is giving beyond what you can currently comfortably afford. Sacrificial giving involves taking away your trust from what you have left, giving it to God, and believing that He will reward you accordingly. Here are a few examples:
  - a. The widow's two mite (Lk. 21:1-4)
  - b. The Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7-16)
  - c. The Macedonian churches (2 Cor. 8:1-5) – These churches show that even amid trials, it is still possible to give sacrificially, even beyond their ability.
2. Systematic giving – There are some basic expectations and instructions given by God which He expects us to obey. Some of these are for us to give offering (Ex. 35:5, Ex. 35:21-22), tithes (Deut. 14:22-28), pledge/vows (Ps. 76:11, Gen. 28:20-22) and first fruits (Prov. 3:9).

## D. WHO DO WE GIVE TO?

Who then should we give to?

1. To God - Neh. 13:11-12 instructs us to give unto God, that is directly to His house. We are instructed to do this so we can partner with God to build His house (Mal. 3:10) and also to help others as seen in the early church (Acts 2:45, Rom. 12:13). When we give to God, we help advance the work of God. If we are to fulfill the great commission, it will take a lot of resources. That's why we need those who will partner with God to properly steward the resources given unto them for the cause of the gospel.
2. God also wants us to give to our family. 1 Tim. 5:8.
3. In addition, He wants us to give to friends. We love our friends, so it is important we act on this love by giving to them. If we cannot love



those we see, how can we then claim to love God? (1 Jn. 4:19-20). If we do love them indeed, we will show it through our giving. Jn. 3:16

4. God wants us to give unto others or those we don't even know. As believers, we are encouraged to do good to everyone, and this includes non-believers (Gal. 6:10) and our enemies (Rom. 12:20).

## E. THE RIGHT WAY TO GIVE

We are warned to not sow in a rocky ground. Therefore, if we are to avoid wasting our resources, it is important we know the right way to give. One of the right ways to give is by doing so willingly (Ex. 35:21-22). When we give to God willingly, there is a rejoicing and joy we experience in our hearts (1 Chron. 29:9-12, Neh. 12:43-44). We also have to learn to give with an upright heart (1 Chron. 29:17) and not grudgingly (Deut. 15:10).

## CONCLUSION

A man with a giving heart doesn't have the consumer mindset. The consumer mindset is that which always consumes and takes without giving. We see several people in the scriptures who had a giving heart. These include Abraham (Gen. 14:18-20), David (2 Sam. 24:24), Solomon (1 Kings 8:63). The bible doesn't exempt leaders from giving (Num. 18:25-32), so everyone of us must give. Make it a point of duty to start giving.

## QUESTIONS

1. What can hinder our giving from being accepted?
2. List 7 things you can give to advance God's kingdom.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Prov. 22:1; MON: 2 Cor. 9:6-7; TUE: Philippians 2:3-4; WED: Matt. 20:26-28; THUR: Mk. 12:41-44; FRI: Heb. 13:16; SAT: 2 Cor. 9:7.

# LESSON 41 - THE PLACE OF PRAYER

## Memory Verse

*"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1*

## Lesson Text

*Matthew 6:7-8;  
1 Thessalonians  
5:17*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Man by nature believes he is sufficient in himself until he hits a roadblock. It is at this point he soon realizes his insufficiency and seeks out help from one greater than him. Take a step back and just observe your life or that of anyone close to you and you will be shocked at how many times we have lived our lives as described above.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. APPROACH TO PRAYER
- B. ELEMENTS OF PRAYER
- C. STAY IN PRAYER

### A. APPROACH TO PRAYER

Our approach to prayer determines whether or not we engage in it, or how much we engage in it. Not until when we understand that we are insufficient and can't go through life without God, we might never take prayers seriously. When we do come to God in prayer, our heart posture matters. We should never come with a hypocritical heart (Lk. 18:9-14, Job 13:16). In addition, when we approach God in prayer, we should know that there's no guarantee for the quick response (Job 23:1-6). God is a King and He will answer when He wants to answer. Also, when we pray, we are not to use vain repetitions. Matt. 6:7-8

### B. ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

Matt. 6:9-13 shows us what our prayers should entail:

1. Acknowledge the Father. We start our prayer from the point of knowing and acknowledging who we are praying to. Heb. 11:6



2. Praise the Father. We gain access to God's presence and remain there through praise (Ps. 100:4-5). David was a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22) because he spent quality time in the place of praise and unashamedly so. 1 Chron. 29:10-22
3. Pray for His Kingdom to come. God is particular about His Kingdom being established on earth. Every time we pray about this, we show our partnership with Him. Matt. 24:14, Lk. 9:2
4. Pray for His will to be done. By nature, we are naturally selfish and that can be seen even in our prayers. However, God also wants us to pray His prayers, and not just ours. The only way to pray God's prayers is by knowing what God cares about per time. What is He trying to achieve today? The only way to know this is by engaging the Spirit of God because only He knows the current heart of the Father per time. Rom. 8:26-28
5. Pray for His daily provision – It is God's responsibility to daily take care of us (Phillipians 4:19). However, we must pray for those needs of ours to be met. Matt. 7:7-8
6. Ask for forgiveness of sin. Rom. 3:23 reminds us of the need to seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We know that God doesn't behold iniquity (Hab. 1:13), so if our prayers are to be answered, we must be in right standing with Him. Isa. 59:2
7. Ask to not be led into temptation. In the same manner, we must continuously ask God for grace and mercy to not fall into temptation. 1 Cor. 10:13
8. Pray for deliverance from evil. We know the devil is constantly on the move to do harm to people, especially the children of God, so we must stay vigilant in the place of prayer. 1 Pt. 5:8
9. Acknowledge His Kingship. Isa. 41:21, Isa. 43:6
10. Acknowledge His power. Isa. 44:6
11. Acknowledge His glory. Our God is a jealous God (Ex. 34:14) and He will not share His glory with anyone (Isa. 42:8). It is therefore our duty to always give Him glory. Ps. 71:8

### C. STAY IN PRAYER

As long as we dwell in the flesh, the flesh will always try to limit or hinder us from praying. This is why we have to put structures in place so as to stay in prayer. Examples of structures we can erect are:

1. Personal prayer altar. Mk. 1:35
2. Keep prayer watches. Dan. 6:10

3. Have prayer partners. Dan. 2:16-19
4. Engage in prayer meetings in church. Heb. 10:25, Acts 12:5

### CONCLUSION

It is without a doubt that we indeed ought to pray and not to faint. There are many excuses we give for not praying but our survival in this wicked world is in God. The part we play in securing our victory is by engaging in prayer. I pray the Lord will continue to quicken us to call upon Him in Jesus name. Amen

### QUESTIONS

1. How often should a believer pray?
2. What can hinder our prayers from being answered?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Mk. 11:24; MON: Jam. 1:6-8; TUE: Lk. 18:1-8; WED: Col. 4:2-4; THUR: Ps. 51:1-4, FRI: Lk. 18:9-14; SAT: Jn. 14:13-15.



## LESSON 42 - HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

### Memory Verse

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



### Lesson Text

John 16:1-33

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

In this teaching, we will study what it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and How we can receive the baptism. This teaching is very important in our Christian walk for the following reasons: No one can get born again without the Holy Spirit. More importantly we cannot live a godly life without the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He is the one that convicts us of our sins, and it is by the help of the Holy Spirit that we can live above sin and truly serve God.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE WHAT AND HOW OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM
- B. EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### A. THE WHAT AND HOW OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the experience of the Holy Spirit coming into a person's life to give power for God's service. It is a fulfillment of God's promise (Acts 1:4) and it is different from water baptism Acts 1:5, Matt. 3:11. Like water baptism, baptism of the spirit is when one is "immersed" or "totally covered" by the spirit. It comes through prayer and consecration. When the heart and life are pure before God, the believer should then ask God for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is God's desire and intention to bestow this gift on hearts that are prepared to receive it (Lk. 11:9-13). On the Day of Pentecost, 120 people prayed and prayed with one purpose in mind and they all received the Holy Ghost. You, too, must set yourself to one purpose and pray until you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Lk. 24:49). Obedience goes hand in hand with submission: Peter proclaimed that

the Holy Ghost is given to those who are obedient (Acts 5:32). Faith is vital in obtaining this experience, just as it is in receiving salvation and sanctification. When a sanctified believer comes to God and asks for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, he must then believe that God's promise is true and reach out in faith to accept the promised gift. Since it is clear that this gift is available (Acts 2:39), and indeed, that we are commanded to receive the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), faith must simply rest on these promises and commands, and step forward to claim the blessing.

#### B. EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

After we have prayed and coveted the baptism of the Holy Spirit, He comes in numerous ways into our lives. Sometimes as cloven tongues of fire, other times as gentle as a dove. However He comes, there is always proof that we now have the Holy Spirit. Some of these include the ability to pray in other tongues (1 Cor. 14:2). Some believers say that the ability to speak in tongues is a gift and not everyone can have it. This is not true because speaking in tongues is often confused with the gift of diverse kinds of tongues. While not everyone will have the gift of diverse kind of tongues like we say in Acts 2:1-47 where they spoke in human languages, everyone can have the gift of speaking in tongues, in fact it is the desire of the Lord that we all speak in tongues because it is an effective language that aids our prayer. Acts 19:6, Acts 10:46, Mk. 16:17

Other evidence includes the boldness to preach the gospel (2 Tim. 1:7), living a life that manifests the fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22), demonstration of the power of God and witnessing (Acts 1:8, Acts 10:38), effective prayer life (Rom. 8:26), numerous revelations of the scriptures (Jn. 14:26), divine guidance (Jn. 16:13), and many more.

### CONCLUSION

Apostle Paul urges us to live by the Holy Spirit so that we would not give in to our sinful flesh, which will not allow us to inherit the Kingdom of God. It's important to know that we need the help of the Holy Spirit. Hence, we must seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit

### QUESTIONS

1. What are the roles of the Holy Spirit?



2. What are the characters of the Holy Spirit?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Rom. 1:16; MON: Rom. 10:14-16; TUE: Acts 10:38; WED: Rom. 5:5; THUR: Joel 2:28; FRI: Acts 16:6-10; SAT: Lk. 12:11-12.

## LESSON 43 - THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

### Memory Verse

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

### Lesson Text

Hebrews  
12:1-11



### LESSON INTRODUCTION

The call to be a child of God is a call that confers on us many responsibilities, numerous attributes, and diverse manifestations. Hence, the salvation experience necessitates a translation from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of His dear son, a repositioning to sit in heavenly places, and a call into the ministry of reconciliation. In a bid to reconcile men to Himself, Christ beckons on us to showcase the multifaceted dimensions of Him such that the disparate part can fit into one as we journey on a path to see His fullness find expression in our midst and generation. Though the administration and demonstration of these dimensions may be different, the goal is often fundamentally the same. Today, we will consider one of such goals or calls - a call to be a witness.

### LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE NECESSITY AND CALL TO BE A WITNESS
- B. EXAMPLES OF WITNESSES

#### A. THE NECESSITY AND CALL TO BE A WITNESS

A witness is a testifier to an event, one that gives/provides evidence, or a solidifier of truth. All through the scriptures, we see various needs for witnesses: to establish a covenant Gen. 31:44 – 52, deciding the death penalty Deut. 17:6, for correcting a brother Matt. 18:16, accepting an accusation is predicated on two or three witnesses 1 Tim. 5:19. The necessity for a witness is so important that God even needed to add it to the ten commandments. "You must not bear false witness" - Ex. 20:16. The presence of multiple witnesses validates 'truth'. Recall that Jesus is the TRUTH (Jn. 14:6) and the validation of that truth or THE



TRUTH necessitates the presence and existence of witnesses! Not like He needs anything or anyone for Him to know He is TRUTH but if men must come to the knowledge of Him, there must be witnesses. No wonder scripture says that “they will not believe until they see the sign”. Even God did not do anything without a witness. Gen. 1:26 affirms that He had to beckon on the Godhead. No wonder He said He won’t do anything unless He first tells Abraham His friend and/or his prophets Gen. 18:17, Amos 3:7. The call to be a witness is a high calling but must be clearly understood and internalized. John gives us a pattern on the journey of a witness (1 Jn. 1:1-2). The call to be a witness is about the following: That which was from the beginning, what you have heard, what you have seen with your eyes, what you have looked upon, hands have handled of the word of Life. These are the things we must bear witness of.

## **B. EXAMPLES OF WITNESSES**

What we see in Heb. 12:1 is that the call to shed all weights is first because we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. Because the cloud of witnesses’ bear record to us of all possibilities in God. If we fail God, the witnesses will be presented to us that we did not fully tap into all that is available in God. They represent to us the possibilities in God. Some examples of witnesses of the different possibilities in God are the following

- a. Witness of Faith – Abraham, Daniel.
- b. Witness of Meekness – Moses
- c. Witness of Strength – Samson
- d. Witness of Prayer – Elijah

So, if something is lacking in my life, what I must do is to engage the word to comprehend those that bear witness of such. Ultimately, God also wants to make you and I a witness and be enlisted among the cloud of witnesses. The word witness is from the Greek word *martus* (Greek #3144) which by analogy, means a “martyr”. What does your life witness? Gossip or Gentleness, anger or anointing, malice or meekness? When the roll call of the cloud of witnesses is read, where will your name appear? The interesting part is that whether you like it or not, your life is witnessing something. There is no room for a vacuum.

## **CONCLUSION**

God is seeking men and women that he will send to the ends of the earth, but they must be vessels willing to first sit, hear, see, touch, and handle the word of life. People whose lives bring authenticity to the TRUTH and ultimately be enlisted among the cloud of witnesses. Will you be numbered among them? God can make us if we are ready to submit.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Give some other examples of witnesses in the Bible.
2. What other characters of God can our lives bear witness to?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Matt. 5:14-16; MON: 2 Cor. 5:17; TUE: Acts 10:38; WED: Mk. 16:15-17; THUR: Jn. 15:16; FRI: 1 Cor. 15:58; SAT: Matt. 3:8.



## Memory Verse

*"For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth". Romans 9:17*

## Lesson Text

*John 9:1-3*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

As individuals do we know why we are in this world? Have we ever wondered what our purpose is? Unfortunately, many people do not have answers to these questions and this has led some to destroy their lives. Fortunately, as Christians, we have a loving and merciful father who directs our steps, if we allow Him. Ps. 23 tells us that He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. It is our hope that through this study, we will have a better understanding of how to find God's special purpose for our lives in Jesus name.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MANKIND
- B. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES AND WHAT THEY TEACH
- C. HOW TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE

### A. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MANKIND

1. God's corporate purpose for humans: God gave man a specific assignment when He created man Gen. 1:28
  2. God's special purpose for the individual: The bible tells us that God created man for His glory. We see examples in the life of Pharaoh (Rom. 9: 17) and the man that was born blind (Jn. 9: 1-3), Paul sent to the gentiles (Acts 22:21), Jonah sent to Nineveh (Jonah 1), etc.
- It is important for us to know that though we are created for the purpose

of glorifying God, Isa. 43:6-7, we are each given a special purpose which we alone can fulfill, Josh. 24:15. To achieve our purpose, He gave us the talents and all we need to help us along the way.

### B. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES AND WHAT THEY TEACH

There are four main things we will observe from studying the lives of bible characters.

1. We can know God's purpose from an early age through revelation. Jer. 1:5-7
2. We can acquire life skills needed to fulfill God's purpose before receiving God's call on our lives. Moses (Ex. 2:9-10, 3:10), Paul (Acts 9:4-6,15), Gideon (Judg. 6:12)
3. We can seek God diligently to know our purpose and that of our children. Elizabeth & Zacharias (Lk. 1:13-17)
4. We can miss God's purpose for our lives. The sons of Eli, the Prophet (1 Sam. 2: 30-35)

### C. HOW TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE

To live according to God's purpose or will, we need to examine our lives in order to know how our choices impact other people and if our actions glorify God. If we are not sure of God's purpose, we need to ensure that we are living a life of obedience to God and to seek Him diligently. If we do, He will reveal His purpose for our lives. Sometimes, God will keep us waiting while he allows us to develop the skills we need to serve Him. The most important thing to consider at all times is motivation for making the choices that we make in life. Are we self-serving most of the time or do we consider God and others as we choose which way to go in life.

## CONCLUSION

We have seen that God's special purpose for each of us is to serve Him faithfully by rendering service to others in a way that brings glory to His name. If we obey His call on our lives, we are sure to find fulfillment in our service to humanity and blessings from God. May the Lord Almighty bless



our efforts, in Jesus name. Amen.

## QUESTIONS

1. Give examples of how to live according to God's purpose
2. How can one know their purpose for living?
3. Do you know your purpose for living?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Gen 1:28; MON: Mic. 6:8; TUE: Eph. 2:10; WED: Ps. 33:11; THUR: Philippians 2:13; FRI: Rom. 8:28; SAT: Psalms 57:2.

## LESSON 45 - HOSPITALITY

### Memory Verse

*"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2*

### Lesson Text

*Matthew 25:31-46*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Hospitality is defined as the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. According to Hebrews 13:2, we are instructed to make it a duty to entertain even strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Acts of hospitality were pivotal in the spread of the gospel as the early apostles relied on the hospitality of the brethren. In early times hospitality was mainly about strangers, especially the ones in desperate need of help. Judging from how hospitality was perceived in the early days you were hospitable when you treated people well, especially complete strangers. Every child of God must always be willing to be hospitable.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. TYPES OF HOSPITALITY
- B. WHY WE MUST BE HOSPITABLE
- C. WHO YOU SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE TO
- D. BENEFITS OF HOSPITALITY

### A. TYPES OF HOSPITALITY

1. Shelter. Gen. 19:1-8 talks about how Lot accommodated complete strangers who turned out to be angels. We have a very similar situation being foreigners in this land. How many of us can boast of opening our house to complete strangers who just relocated to the country without complaining about the excessive use of power or water. How do we treat brethren who just got into the country and are trying to settle down. We can learn a thing or two from Lot. May the lord help us to



open our hearts and home to those desperately in need. Amen.

2. Clothing. Another way to show hospitality to others is by clothing them (Isa. 58:7). How many times have we thought about a sister or a brother among us who we know needs clothing and we have helped with it. Do we regularly donate to the homeless? Let us go through our closet and bring out those good clothes we have not worn in years and show love to those in need of it.

3. Food. The bible encourages us to feed the hungry. We can show this love in our church and communities either through quarterly or monthly food drives. Lev. 19:9-10, Ruth 2:2-17

4. Emergency assistance. Rom. 12:13

## **B. WHY WE MUST BE HOSPITABLE**

1. God wants us to be hospitable. The story of the good Samaritan in Lk. 10:30-37 explains that we do not need to know someone before we are good or render help to them. It is what God loves; it is what He wants. As Christians, being hospitable should be our way of life. Rom. 12:13

2. It is a requirement for church leaders. 1 Tim. 3:2

3. It shows love. 1 Pt. 4:8-10

## **C. WHO YOU SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE TO**

1. Members of the household of faith. Gal. 6:10

2. Widows, Fatherless. Job 31:16-23

3. Foreigners. Deut. 24:19-22

## **D. BENEFITS OF HOSPITALITY**

1. It opens doors to supernatural blessing. Gen. 18:2-8

2. You might be paying it forward. Lk. 16:19-24

3. Acts of hospitality honors God.

4. When joined with fasting produces speedy healing. Isa. 58:7-8

## **CONCLUSION**

Eph. 2:12 reminds us that we were once without hope but through salvation, an example of hospitality offered by God, we received eternal hope. He sent his son to die for us while we were yet sinners to change our status from outsiders to children of God. Your hospitality can change someone's status too.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Give an example of how you have shown hospitality to strangers.
2. How can the church help with hospitality in their community?
3. How can hospitality improve our lives as Christians?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: 2 Sam. 17:27-29; MON: Acts 16; TUE: Gen. 18; WED: 1 Kings 17; THUR: 2 Kings 4; FRI: Neh. 5; SAT: Judg. 19:1-4.



## Memory Verse

"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." Romans 12:1

## Lesson Text

Romans 12:1-2



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

One of the most profound desires of our hearts should be to always align our lives to God's purpose for us, or else we risk drifting aimlessly to the influence of worldly values and misguided pursuits. This lack of alignment with God leads to unfulfilled potential and a sense of purposelessness. Therefore, understanding and doing the will of the Father is of utmost importance.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?
- B. KEY POINTS ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD

### A. WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?

The will of God can be explained as an expression of God's divine plan, purpose, and desires for us. It encompasses His intentions, commands, and guidance for our lives, which brings glory to Him. There is the sovereign will of God (Isa. 46:8-11, Prov. 16:4, Rom. 11:36). There is the written will of God. The bible in Deut. 10:12-13 explains God's written will to the Israelites (Mic. 6:8, 1 Thess. 5:16-18). And there is the revealed will of God. Acts 8:26, Acts 10:1-6.

### B. KEY POINTS ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD

It is important to know that the will of God does not contradict His word (Ps. 119:160). God's word never lies. His word is unique to each person (Jer. 1:5) and it aligns with His Character (Jn. 3:16, 1 Pt. 1:16)

- We need to know the will of God because of the following:
1. To serve as witnesses to others and bring glory to the Father. Eph. 1:12-14, Matt. 5:16
  2. It is key to eternal life. Matt. 7:21-23
  3. It gives us confidence in prayer. Jam. 4:3, 1 Jn. 5:14-15
  4. For fulfillment of God's purpose. Gen. 50:20
  5. To help us avoid harmful paths. Prov. 14:12
  6. To help us in our decision making. Gen. 24:1-9
  7. To help us abound in joy. Jn. 15:9-11

## CONCLUSION

Whose will is dominant in your life? Yours or God? Alignment with God is non-negotiable for a Christian. Therefore, let us make knowing (Acts 22:14), understanding (Eph. 5:17), & doing God's will (Eph. 6:6) for us a way of life.

## QUESTIONS

1. What does living in God's will mean to you?
2. Give two reasons why we must know the will of God for us?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Josh. 1:8; MON: Jam. 1:5-6; TUE: Ps. 119:105; WED: 1 Cor. 2:9-12; THUR: Prov. 15:22; FRI: Heb. 13:20-21; SAT: Rom. 12:6-8.



## Memory Verse

"I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart." Ps 40:8

## Lesson Text

Ephesians 5:14-17



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Many believers are aware that there is a will of God for their lives as we studied in the last lesson but they do not know how to discern and live in this will. The focus of our teaching today will be to examine the needed and requisite heart posture to live in the will of God. May the Lord give us understanding and help us to be fully aligned with His will for our lives.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD
- B. HOW TO DISCERN AND LIVE IN THE WILL OF GOD

### A. CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD

Before we can live in the will of God, we have to do the following:

1. You must be dead to flesh. 1 Jn. 2:15-17, Jn. 9:31
2. You must have a personal relationship with Him. Jam. 4:8
3. You must have a sincere desire to follow God's guidance and do it. Matt. 26:39, Ps. 40:1
4. You must offer yourself as a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1
5. A willingness to suffer for Him. Gen 45:5-8
6. You must have faith and patience: Heb. 11:6, Heb. 10:35-39

### B. HOW TO DISCERN AND LIVE IN THE WILL OF GOD

The will of God for our lives can be discerned through the following

means:

1. Meditating on the Word of God. Ps. 119:105, Josh. 1:8
2. Through prayers. Jam. 1:5-6
3. Through the help of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:26-27, 1 Cor. 2:9-12
4. By actively using your gifts. Rom. 12:6-8
5. By seeking Godly counsel. Prov. 15:22, Ps 143:10
6. Through the presence of peace and joy. Heb. 13:20-21

## CONCLUSION

We must constantly ensure that we seek to know His will for our lives as this is the guarantee that we will live a victorious life. God is committed to providing for a journey he sends you and not the one you sent yourself.

## QUESTIONS

1. What can hinder you from knowing His will?
2. How can we encourage others to live in God's will?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Philippians 2:13; MON: Jam. 4:15; TUE: Heb. 13:21; WED: Eph. 1:16-17; THUR: Prov. 16:3; FRI: Isa. 55:8-9; SAT: 2 Tim. 1:9.



*Memory Verse*

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*

*Matthew 28:18*

*Lesson Text*

*Matthew  
28:18-20*

**LESSON INTRODUCTION**

Our Lord said, 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me'. If you notice, He did not say 'all authority is mine', meaning it was given unto Him and He never had 'all authority' until now. He then delegates the authority to Christians. Today we will look at who had this authority before it was given to our Lord and how He eventually got the authority from Satan. May the Holy Spirit grant us understanding today in Jesus' name. Amen.

**LESSON OUTLINES**

- A. WHO HAD THE AUTHORITY?
- B. HOW DID JESUS GET THE AUTHORITY?
- C. WHY DO WE STILL WRESTLE?

**A. WHO HAD THE AUTHORITY?**

We learn in Gen. 1:28 that Adam (man) had authority. The authority he had was over all creatures and was designed to be eternal on the condition that He avoids eating the forbidden fruit. Unfortunately, the power was transferred to Satan when he ate the forbidden fruit and passed the blame to Satan. The bible in Lk. 4:5-8, explains how Satan affirms that he has a lot of authority and power.

**B. HOW DID HE GET THE AUTHORITY?**

When we go through the bible in Lk. 4:8, we see how Satan tempted Jesus Christ after He had fasted for 40 days. By not falling to all the temptations and refusing to bow/worship Satan, the authority was transferred to Christ. Also, judgment had to take place for Him to get the authority (Jn. 12:31a).

**C. WHY DO WE STILL WRESTLE?**

The Bible explains to us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. Eph. 6:12, 2 Cor. 10:4-5. However, identifying the pathway to ascertain how we obtain the authority is pertinent and crucial to exercising our authority in Him. There are several ways to exercising this authority and we will discuss few of them during this third outline;

1. Prayers and declaration - Matt. 4:1-11
2. Act of faith - Matt. 8:5-13
3. Obedience - Prov. 16:7, Jam. 4:7

**CONCLUSION**

Eph. 1:15-22 - Become knowledgeable. If the devil can keep you from seeing him as he is, he will continue to win, if he can keep you in the dark and hinder you from studying the scriptures, he will win, if he can make you feel unworthy of coming boldly into God's presence, he will win. If he can make you feel like a servant and not a child of God, he will keep winning.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Give a personal understanding of our authority in Christ?
2. Is it possible to lose our authority in Christ?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Matt. 16:19; MON: Lk. 4:5-8; TUE: Matt. 28:18; WED: Rom. 8:17; THUR: Jn. 14:13-14; FRI: Ps. 68:35; SAT: Rev. 11:17.



## Memory Verse

*"And if also a man strive for masteries, yet he is not crowned unless he strive lawfully." 2 Timothy 2:5*

## Lesson Text

*1 Corinthians  
9: 24-27,*

*Philippians  
3:12-15*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

A critical examination of living things and their environment shows the ever-increasing intensity in competition and the desire to win. From plants to animals to humans alike. As you move above the food chain, we see a higher intense overpowering. It is then important to examine or study what it means to win. Is winning even important? Are believers expected to compete? Should winning be a goal? If yes, how do we win? How do we compete? Overarchingly, what does success mean to a believer?

May the Lord instruct our hearts as we study tonight.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. THE EXPECTATION AND PROVISION TO SUCCEED
- B. THE PRIORITY OF WINNING
- C. THE LIFE THAT WINS

### A. THE EXPECTATION AND PROVISION TO SUCCEED

One fundamental feature of people who are the praise of God is that they stand out amongst their peers. The scripture is replete with examples of people whose lives were a testimony of God's glory because they stood out in their respective fields. In the scriptures, we see biblical examples of men and women who were high performers, who went beyond the normal and did beyond what was expected of ordinary men/women.

1. Isaac received a hundredfold from his investment in Agriculture. Gen. 26:12-14

2. Daniel had an excellent spirit in him, and he was able to produce results that the astrologers and the magicians could not produce. Dan. 5:12
3. Joseph was able to weather the storm of food insecurity in the land of Egypt and provided food to the neighboring countries. His start-up idea to stock food, which took about 7 years, became a Unicorn. His idea made so much money for Pharaoh in Egypt. Even when money failed-(HyperInflation) he was still in business.
4. David's defeat of Goliath was a testament that he was a high-performing veteran. No Israelite could confront Goliath, but he was able to confront and defeat the enemy. 1 Sam. 17:45
5. Joseph of Arimathea Mk 15:43-45

If we agree that all these people were successful, how about the numerous kings in the Bible? Were they successful people? - King Herod, Caesar, King Nebuchadnezzar, etc. We then should probably look beyond success.

### B. THE PRIORITY OF WINNING

Success is to achieve a goal while winning is judged by a predefined set of rules. E.g., sports, games, etc. In other words, success is defined through the lens of men but winning is defined through the blueprints of He that sets the track. Paul said in Philippians 3:14 that I press to win and not just to succeed. I may have succeeded as a lawyer, but I haven't won yet. Apostle Paul emphasized the need to win but there is a clause there.

1. A '...prize for which God...'. So, God defines the prize.
2. The prize is heavenward, not earthly.
3. Men awards but God rewards.
4. Success is a means to an end and not an end.
5. God has not called us to succeed but to win.
6. Anyone can have earthly success but not everyone wins.



## C. THE LIFE THAT WINS:

1. The life that has found purpose in God. Eph. 3:11
2. The life that is running the race in God and with patience. Heb. 12:1
3. One that is on the path to finish the race. Lk. 9:62
4. The life that obtains victory by the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:57
5. The life that lives by Faith. 1 Jn. 5:4
6. One that is temperate in all things. 1 Cor. 9:25
7. The richest and wisest man on earth considered himself and made a conclusion - fear God and keep His commandments. Ecc. 12:13

## QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to succeed?
2. What does it mean to win?

## CONCLUSION

1 Cor. 9:25 tells us that the definition of winning for believers is to obtain an incorruptible crown, not a corruptible one. So, as beautiful as it sounds that we have the best jobs, it doesn't qualify as a success, except it keeps us on the path to obtain an incorruptible crown. In the testimony of that achievement, who won? God or your antics and politics?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Mk. 16:15; MON: 2 Cor. 2:4; TUE: 1 Jn 5:4; WED: Josh. 10:8; THUR: Prov. 21:31; FRI: Heb 10:19; SAT: Deut 20:4.

## LESSON 50 - OVERCOMING HABITUAL SINS

### Memory Verse

*"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound." Romans 6:1*

### Lesson Text

*Romans 6:1-2*



## LESSON INTRODUCTION

Habitual sins are often the leftover sins of our previous lives before being saved by Jesus. In some cases, they may have been the very sins that most convinced us of our need for a Saviour. Sometimes, they creep up as seemingly "harmless" sins or as "one time only" curiosities that grow into a regular part of daily life. Habitual sins can cause a lot of frustration and shame, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can move past them.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT CAUSE
- B. MY RESPONSIBILITY

### A. UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT CAUSE

Identifying the root cause of sin precedes its understanding. It is quite expedient for individuals to look inward and identify some areas of struggle and understand the real driving factors and forces (Rom. 7:14-25, Heb. 10:1-4). This is thus achieved via a thorough search of our desires, motivations, and those things that we value at Christ's expense in our lives. This could include but is not limited to the following:

1. Inherent sinful nature - Rom. 7:19-25
2. Temptation/Desires - Jam. 1:14-15
3. Influence - 1 Jn. 2:16
4. Spiritual warfare - Eph. 6:12

It is important to remember that God's forgiveness is not based on how good you are or all the good choices you made but on the



## B. MY RESPONSIBILITY

With Great Grace Comes Great Responsibility. While Jesus forgives our habitual sin, Rom. 6:1 tells us not to use that grace as a “license” to sin. We should take action (no matter how difficult) to move past these sins. Striving for holiness honors the great gift of forgiveness Jesus has given us. 1 Cor. 10:13 is a great encouragement for overcoming habitual sin. It reminds us that temptation is common. Even though you may feel alone in your struggle, remind yourself that everyone deals with these issues. God gives us a way to escape, but we must be willing and prepared to take it. Overcoming habitual sins also involves partnering in daily prayer with the Lord. Know When to Ask for Help. Before the struggle becomes too much, find an accountability partner (Jam. 5:16). This should be a trusted friend (your pastor, fellowship leader, counselor) who will commit to pray for you and to whom you give permission to ask at any time, “How is it going in your fight against the habitual sin?” Knowing that your friend is going to ask for updates and pray for you can be a great encouragement to keep pressing on and celebrate victories together. Struggling against sin is never going to be comfortable or easy, but it will always be worth it. As long as you are struggling against sin, as long as you keep fighting sin, then you are making progress and getting another win over the enemy. Never give up - God’s forgiveness is there for the moments we fall, but also to encourage us to start choosing obedience and the joy that comes with honoring God. Note:

1. Confession and repentance. 1 Jn. 1:9, Lk. 15:7
2. Seeking accountability. Jam. 5:16, Prov. 27:5-6
3. Filling ourselves with God’s Word. Ps. 119:9-16, Matt. 4:4

## CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit is your constant helper in all things, especially when we are at a crossroads between sin and holiness (Jn. 14:16-17, 1 Jn. 5:16). Habitual sins can lead to death, but God has called His children to holiness. 1 Pt. 1:16.

## QUESTIONS

1. What specific habitual sins do you struggle with, and how have you tried to overcome them in the past?
2. How can we cultivate a greater awareness of God’s presence and power in our lives to help us overcome habitual sin?
3. What role do community and accountability play in overcoming habitual sin?

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Prov. 28:13; MON: Rom. 8:1-4; TUE: 1 Cor. 10:13; WED: Matt. 26:41; THUR: Ps. 34:17-19; FRI: Philippians 4:8-9; SAT: Gal. 5:16-26.



## Memory Verse

*"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." Daniel 11:32*



## Lesson Text

Exodus 3:1-6

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

It is good to know of a person but it is much better to know the person. For example, so many people know the president of their countries (this is knowing of a person) while only a few actually have a relationship with him or her (this is knowing the person). In a similar manner, several people know of God, but how many can really say they have a relationship with Him? There are great benefits to knowing a person intimately. So as to maximize all the benefits God has in store for us, we have to get to know Him for ourselves.

## LESSON OUTLINES

- A. KNOWING GOD
- B. BENEFITS OF KNOWING GOD FOR YOURSELF
- C. DISADVANTAGES OF NOT KNOWING GOD FOR YOURSELF

### A. KNOWING GOD

According to today's memory verse, we see that those that know their God shall be strong and do exploits. God is multi-dimensional so it is our duty to know all of the different dimensions He is willing to reveal to us. As Christians, we never exhaust the knowledge of God. God is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, a consuming fire, the mighty man of war, etc. He is also the Lamb, the Prince of Peace, our Father, etc. We also know that the scripture refers to Him by other names by which we can also know Him. Let's consider a few:

1. The Lord of Heaven's Armies (Isa. 10:16, 43:5; Ex. 15:3) - As the Lord of all the armies, God shows His superiority and class. No one

challenges the Lord of Heaven's Armies and comes out alive (Ex. 32:25-29, 1 Kings 18:22-40). This is why we can confidently declare that when the enemies come against God's people in one way, they will truly flee in seven ways (Deut. 28:7).

2. Our Redeemer (Isa. 41:14, 43:6, 14) - This God is love and dwells in love. This is His nature. He is loving and it is out of this love He chose to redeem us back unto Himself. Gal. 3:13; Jn. 3:16; Rev. 13:8

3. Jehovah Jireh (Gen. 22:14) - This Lord doesn't need to rely on people for anything. Ps. 50:10 shows how sufficient He is. Unlike the other gods, they have to be carved and moved around. Our Lord moves to and fro the earth as He pleases. Deut. 23:14, 2 Chron. 16:9

4. The Sovereign Lord (Jer. 32:17; 2 Sam. 7:18; Ps. 71:16 NLT) - He is supreme and cannot be challenged. He also sits in a class of His own.

## B. BENEFITS OF KNOWING GOD FOR YOURSELF

Here are a few benefits of knowing God for ourselves:

1. To be strong in our belief in Him. Jn. 4:42
2. To do exploits for Him. Dan. 11:32
3. Deliverance in the day of trouble (Ps. 50:15). We have to know God for ourselves because when the day of trouble comes, He is the only One who can deliver us.
4. To take up His character. 2 Cor. 3:18
5. To learn His ways. Ps. 119:11
6. To be equipped for battle. Eph. 6:10-18

## C. DISADVANTAGES OF NOT KNOWING GOD FOR YOURSELF

Just as there are benefits to knowing God for ourselves, there are also dangers to not knowing Him for ourselves. In a world where there are several false gods, like the scripture attests to (Ps. 96:5, Ex. 20:3, 1 Kings 18:21), it is much more important we labor to know Him.

Here are some consequences of not knowing Him personally:

1. Inability to love (1 Jn. 4:8)
2. Punishment from God (2 Thess. 1:8)
3. Failure to keep His commandment (1 Jn. 2:3)
4. No eternal life (Jn. 17:3)
5. Lack of strength in the day of adversity or weakness (Ps. 119:28)
6. Risk of serving other gods (Gal. 4:8)



## CONCLUSION

Ps. 91:15a says "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him." 2 Tim. 2:19 says God knows those people who are His. In other words, God clearly differentiates between those who know of Him from those who Know Him. God therefore wants us to labor in seeking to know Him because He desires our fellowship.

## QUESTIONS

1. What steps should you take to know God for yourself?
2. What can hinder you from knowing him fully.

**FURTHER READINGS** - SUN: Jn. 1:1-3; MON: Rev. 19:30; TUE: Jn. 14; WED: Ps 23:1-6; THUR: Rom 1; FRI: Hos. 10:12; SAT: Num 23:19.

## WEEK 52

### WELCOME TO THE FOURTH INTERACTIVE SESSION

#### YOUR PRIVILEGES:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINES
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MARKS OBTAINABLE = 100 MARKS**

**Total Score for Class Attendance and Punctuality (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Quarterly Test (50 marks)**

**Total Score for Assignments (120)**

**Grand Total Score (220 marks)**



**Divide Grand Total Score by 2 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Position =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_