

DR. MENSAL OTABIL
ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGES
FROM APRIL 2020

(GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)



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19TH APRIL, 2020 - TOPIC: OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:14-19

Last week, we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And the Resurrection, as you know, is the Foundation of our Christian Faith.

And so, following after the Resurrection, I want to Preach this morning on the Subject that I have Titled: "OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE".

WHAT IS THE HOPE OF A CHRISTIAN? - What are we looking forward to?

... That is what we are going to address today.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was not only for Himself; but for those who believe in Him - People we call today, BELIEVERS, or His Followers.

It is the Foundation of our lives; and His Resurrection is OUR HOPE!

When we say that something is "OUR HOPE"; it means that it is something we have confidence in, and wait for EXPECTANTLY.

... "Something you have CONFIDENCE in, and wait for EXPECTANTLY!"

... That is what HOPE is.

There is something that God wants Christians to have CONFIDENCE in, and wait for EXPECTANTLY.

And that thing that God wants us to have Confidence in and wait for EXPECTANTLY is the repellent to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The life of the Christian starts from here on Earth but it continues after life on Earth, in the next life.

And when we talk about HOPE, we are talking about something that God wants us to have a "Deep Assurance" and a Foundation in.

My opening Text is in going to be from 1 CORINTHIANS 15:14-19;

... And let's hear the reading of God's Word.

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Well, the Scriptures says: if our "Only Hope" is in this life, then we are a very pitiful bunch of people.

Those of us who call ourselves Christians, and name Jesus Christ as our Lord, and live for Him: If our "Only Hope" is in this world, then we are a very, very sorrowful and pitiable bunch of people.

The Christian life doesn't end here on Earth.

And just because people do not come from the dead, does not mean we do not have an idea of what happens when we live this Earth.

... There is life beyond this EARTH.

There are things that indicate to us that there is life after this Earth.

Because every evening when we go to bed to sleep; we loose consciousness of life. And we don't even know that we are human beings at that time.

And whilst we are in that state of unconsciousness, there is another part of our lives that's at play - We dream, we enter into a totally different world, and things happen.

And anybody looking at our body would think that nothing was happening within us. And then we wake up!

It's an indication of life after beyond this Earth - That there would come a time when people would look at your body and think - that's the end of you! And not knowing there's another life you are entering into.

And every time a child is born, it tells us that there is life beyond.

Because when that child is conceived in the womb, they have no concept of life beyond the womb.

If they were to articulate their fuss; if you told a child, there is another world and you describe that life to them; they would think it's an impossibility!

But one day they leave the womb, and entered this world.

And if you were in the womb with them, you would think: Oh, they left the womb, and probably they are dead and gone forever!

But a whole New Life begins for them after and outside of the womb.

And that is what God uses to indicate to us that when we leave this Earth it would seem as if, that's the end. But a WHOLE NEW LIFE is going to open up to us.

... And for us Christians, we have to examine what life is after this Earth.

So, what is the hope of the Christian?

What is it that Paul is saying: If we don't have any Hope, then we are pitiful bunch of people?

WHAT IS THAT HOPE?

And I'm going to talk about Four (4) Things that are the FOUNDATION OF THE HOPE OF THE BELIEVER.

1. The first (1st) of our Hope as Believers is "THE NEW LIFE" - Our Resurrection.

As Christians we know that beyond this life, there is a Resurrection.

It is a Hope whose Foundation is in Christ Jesus - He Resurrected from the dead.

And He called Himself, "The Resurrection and The Life".

In John 11:25-26; Jesus Christ said:

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

... I suppose the question is to you: do you believe this?

The Apostle Paul further states in Corinthians 6:14 - "And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His Own Power."

There is a day of Resurrection for Believers in Christ.

Just as Christ was Resurrected from the dead; we also would be Resurrected from the dead.

In our Christian Faith, the Resurrection from the dead is laid down with major events that will take place in our world.

Some call it: The End of the world; Others call it: The Rapture; Others call it: The Second Coming of Christ.

... And different Phrases!

All these are Biblical, and they point to something that's going to happen some time, in the future Planet Earth.

And this is how it is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17;

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Note the points there:

- The Lord will descend from Heaven with a shout;
- The dead in Christ will rise first;
- Those who are alive would be caught up to meet the Lord the Air!

This is the BIG Resurrection Event. It is coming, and it's going to occur as the Scriptures say.

So, even for those who die in this life; if they are in Christ, this is what the Bible predicts for them: that they will RISE again from the dead.

This life is not all that we have; and this life has no ending for us. There is life after existence. And for those who die in Christ there is a day of Resurrection coming - When the dead in Christ shall Rise, to be united with the Resurrected Lord.

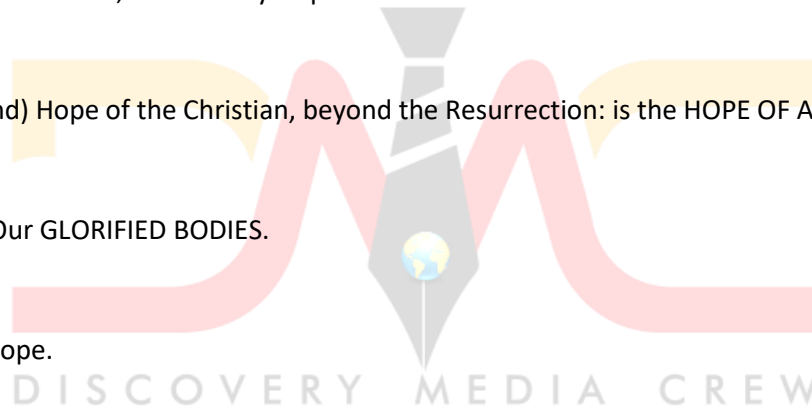
... And that is our Hope - THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH CHRIST.

... Beyond the Resurrection, is there any Hope? YES!

2. The Second (2nd) Hope of the Christian, beyond the Resurrection: is the HOPE OF A NEW BODY.

... A New Body - Our GLORIFIED BODIES.

This is a unique Hope.



It is also founded in Christ - When Christ Resurrected, He had a different Body from what He had before He died.

The earlier Body He had, had been badly bartered. Had been brutalised, had been worn out. But He had a New BODY that could not be worn out!

Of course, many Religions have the concept of form of Resurrection in it.

But when they talk about what happens when a Person resurrects; it is very different from how the Bible teaches, as the HOPE OF THE BELIEVERS.

Some Religion believes that people who die would become Ghosts, or would become Ancestors, or some other form.

Some believe when People die, they will come back again in a New body, as a baby. Or some times even as an animal.

The Christian Hope of the Resurrection does not say that we would come back as Babies, or as Animals, or become Ghosts.

The Bible says: When we are Resurrected, God would give us Brand New BODIES: just as Jesus Christ was Resurrected and He had a Brand New BODY.

We do not come back as Ghosts, we do not become Babies and we do not take on the body of an Animal.

This is how the Bible describes it in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44;

"So also is the Resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in Incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in Glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in Power: It is sown a Natural Body; it is raised a Spiritual Body.

There is a Natural Body, and there is a Spiritual Body."

Now, when the Bible says, using the word "SOWN" (in the Passage) - It is the equivalent of BURIED.

So, when a Christian dies and they are buried; their body has been SOWN.

And the Bible says: In the Resurrection, that body would be raised up INCORRUPTIBLE.

In other words, it will not deteriorate. it would not age, it would not loose vibrancy.

And then that Passage also says; that Body is RAISED IN GLORY, not in dishonour. It also says it is RAISED IN POWER.

And the Passage also says, IT IS RAISED A SPIRITUAL. BODY!

There would come a time when a Child of God is going to have a New Body - An Incorruptible Body, a Glorified Body, a Glorious Body, a Powerful Body and a Spiritual Body.

... It is the Hope of the Christian!

In the Resurrection we don't go on carrying on with this old body.

Who wants to live for a long time with this body? - Getting sick, having toothache, having headache, having all kind of problems, and live eternally with this body.

... That would be Horrible!

In the Resurrection you have a totally different body.

Philippians 3:20-21 says;

"For our conversation is in Heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his Glorious Body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

... Jesus would transform our bodies to be conformed His Glorious Body!

So when we are Resurrected the Bible says the Body we will have would be like the Body Jesus Christ had. It is the kind of Body that Jesus had after His Resurrection.

Now, you know that after His Resurrection He had a BODY; and that Body could be recognised!

When Mary saw Him at the tomb, she KNEW - this was the Lord! When the Disciples saw Him, they KNEW - this was the Lord.

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The Resurrected Body looked like Him, but it was not like the old one: Very DIFFERENT from the Old one.

You can in essence say: It is the Perfected Body that Christ received. A more Perfect Body than the one He had previously.

I. It was a Body that could walk through walls, instantly transporting itself from one Place to the other.

Jesus could be in one Place, and in one instance His Body could be in another Place.

II. It is Body that could ASCEND; defiling the Law of Gravity.

III. It is a Body, but it's not a Natural Body.

It is not subject to deterioration, and it is not subject to death!

The Bible calls it a Glorious Body, or a Glorified Body. It is also called a Spiritual Body!

In a Glorious Body, all sicknesses are healed. In a Glorious Body, all infirmities are Restored: The Blind has Perfect eyesight, the Lame have Perfect limbs! Those who were amputated have their limbs totally Restored.

The Body parts they lost in the Natural Body are fully restored in the Spiritual Body.

That is the Hope of the Believer!

We don't become little cockroaches and mice; we don't come as bulls, we don't become Ghosts. We don't even come as Babies.

... We receive a totally New BODY.

So, what kind of Body is that?

Well, we don't know everything about it.

But when we examined the Scriptures, we get cleared of the indications of that Body.

First of all, it is The Body of Jesus Christ after Resurrection.

So if you want to understand how the Resurrected Body of the Believer, or the Gloried Body, or the Glorious Body of the Believer looks; you have to examine how the Body of Jesus Christ looked.

It is very obvious that the Body of Jesus Christ after Resurrection, did not have blood in it.

You and I have blood in our bodies. But it is very obvious that the Body of Jesus Christ did not have blood in it.

How do I know?

Well, nobody cut His flesh to see. But we know that He shed His Blood, and Presented His Blood as a sacrifice for our Atonement.

You cannot Present your Blood and still have it at the same time.

So if He didn't have blood in Him, why was He still alive because for us Naturally, we need blood to keep this body alive?

Jesus Christ Resurrected, His Blood has been Presented as an Offering, but His Body is still ALIVE!

... Because it's not a Natural Body; it is a Spiritual Body.

The Glorified Body is sustained by something more Powerful than Blood! It looks like a normal body, but it has no blood in it.

It's sustained by something more Powerful.

And what is that POWERFUL THING?

Well it is my conceded fear is that the Glorified Body is Sustained by the Light of God.

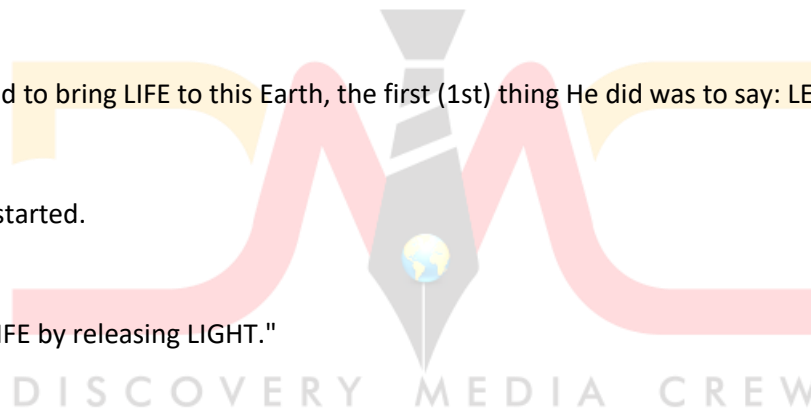
Because the only other Source of Life (apart from blood) is Light.

"In Him was Light, and the Light was the Life of men."

When God wanted to bring LIFE to this Earth, the first (1st) thing He did was to say: LET THERE BE LIGHT.

... And then Life started.

"God expresses LIFE by releasing LIGHT."



And it is my conceded fear that the Body that is Resurrected; the Glorified Body, would have no blood in it. But would have the Light of God crossing through, from the head to the toes.

... That is the Life that God has for us; that is the kind of Body that God has for the Believer.

We have the HOPE of a Resurrection - When we leave this Earth, that is not the end.

A life on this Earth: as nice and beautiful as it is, as Pleasurable as it is: All the wonderful places that the Earth has; all the great Mountains that we can climb, the Valleys, the flowers, the River Bodies that we can admire, can NEVER be compared to the life God has prepared ahead of us.

There is a Resurrection coming for every Believer; There is a Glorified Body coming for every Believer. And if you are a child of God, that is your HOPE.

The Hope of a Resurrection, the Hope of a Glorious Body.

3. The Third (3rd) Hope of the Believer is the HOPE OF A NEW WORLD - our HOME in Glory!

You cannot have a Resurrected Person, in a Glorified Body, coming to live in this contaminated world - It doesn't fit!

So there has to be a world that is designed to accommodate the Resurrected Life, the Glorified Body. And that world must be suitable for the Resurrected Person.

This world, is our Home now, but in the Resurrection we are going to have another Home: just as the Babies in the womb change home when they are born, so we change Home when we're Resurrected.

There are many ways that people describe this New Home that God has Prepared for Believers - Some call it Heaven, some call it the Kingdom of God, some call it the New Jerusalem.

... Jesus calls it My Father's House.

In John 14:1-3 He said this to His Disciples (and He is saying it to you and to me):

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to Prepare a place for you. And if I go and Prepare a Place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

... This is a "Prepared Place" by Jesus, for those who believe in Him.

It is a "Prepared Place!"

It has been Specifically, Purposely, Tailor-Made, for the Resurrected Person with a Glorified Body. And they live in this Place, Jesus says He is Preparing.

HOW DOES THE PLACE LOOK LIKE?

Well, the Bible gives us clues of it - Revelation 21:1-4;

"And I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth: for the First Heaven and the First Earth were Passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, Prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a Great Voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His People, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

... What a Glorious Picture of the Hope of the Christians - Resurrection, Glorified Body and a New Home.

The concept of Heaven is found in many Religions.

In most cases, if you examine many Religions, Heaven (however they call it) is a world of "Sensual and Physical Pleasure".

But in the Christian Hope, Heaven is not a Place or a world of Physical Pleasure. It's a world where the Tabernacle of God is amongst His People. It's a place of Pleasing God and not Pleasing ourselves.

... And ENJOY ourselves (so to speak!)

And because the Tabernacle of God is amongst us; He wipes away every tears, takes away every sorrows, and every crying. And takes away Death!

It is a Place suitable for Glorified Bodies.

... And in that Place, the most important thing is Pleasing God.

Jesus said, there would be no Marriage in Heaven.

So the ultimate of human contact is denied in Heaven.

WHY? - Because the Glorified Body has different needs from this Physical Body.

This Physical Body needs certain things to make it feel good. But when you have a Glorified Body; your desires, your appetite are different!

It is a Place govern by God directly. It is a Place when its Ecology is sustained by God: There is no light, except the Light of God. There is no sun, there is no moon, there is no electricity.

But the LIGHT OF GOD sustains the atmosphere.

That Place is currently the Abode of God, and His Heavenly Beings.

... In the Resurrection, it will also be our Home!

There would be no Marriage there, for those of you who are hoping to marry in Heaven - BAD NEWS for you. There would be no Marriage there!

Our Marriage would be with Christ: He would be the Groom, we would be His Bride. We will be United with Him FOR EVER!

And THIS HOPE, is only for those who know Jesus Christ as Lord.

For those who reject Jesus Christ: there would be a Resurrection, but there would be no Glorified Body, and there would be no Father's House for them.

There's another place they are going to go to, which is OPPOSITE of the New Jerusalem.

The Hope of the Christian is that; there would be a Resurrection, there is be a Glorified Body, and there is a New Home.

4. The final Hope of the Believer is a NEW MISSION - Our REIGN with Christ.

On Earth we work, we work for SURVIVAL.

I know that as of now, most of us are not working, because we have been locked down.

But, we work for Survival. We work to make ends meet, we work to take salaries.

And we take Pleasure in our work - Whether you are a Painter or you are a Footballer, or you are a Banker or you are a Mechanic, and whatsoever you do, you take Pleasure in it.

So, when we are Resurrected, and we have a Glorious Body, and we are in Heaven; WHAT DO WE DO?

Well, sometimes you get People giving the impression that we would spend the whole time saying: Holy, Holy, Holy to God.

... It's good to Worship God.

But in Eternity, that is going to be too much of a task. There has to be something else we are doing.

We are not going to be. Sitting on clouds with Harps; playing Music forever. There has to be something!

What would be the MISSION? What would we be doing?

Revelation 22:3-5 says:

"And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His Name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

... And that is what I want to focus on: - "They shall reign for ever and ever."

That word REIGN means to exercise Authority as a King or a Sovereign, over His Jurisdiction.

It means to have Dominion and Power over an area.

So, when the Bible says that in this New Place, they shall Reign; it's not just about seeing His face and Worshipping Him. There's also another dimension REIGNING with Christ.

In the Resurrection, our Glorified Bodies, living in a New World, would join Christ in exercising Authorities over New Territories. And I believe those jurisdictions would include Places in the created Universe.

If God has created this vast Universe, then there has to be Control over them; there has to be Management of them!

And so when the Bible says we shall reign with Christ, it is possible to think that Believers will be part of those God uses to Rule the created Universe.

... That is our HOPE!

We live our lives as Christians, not only celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also hoping and believing and expecting in our own Resurrection.

*Trusting God, Believing and Hoping for:

I. A New Body - A Glorified Body, which does not cough nor sneeze.

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II. A New Body that's not susceptible to virus and viral attacks.

III. A New Body that is Whole, that is Perfect in every way!

IV. A Spiritual Body, a Glorified Body - The Body that Jesus had at His Resurrection.

That is the Hope of the Christian:

1. A New Home, a Place to dwell with God for ever.

The Earth is a nice Place; but there are all kinds of stuff here that makes the world a difficult place to live in.

2. And then a New Mission; Working with God, Reigning with Christ, Ruling with Christ and Serving Him in a Pleasurable way.

So, if this is the Hope of the Christian; HOW SHOULD WE LIVE OUR LIVES HERE ON EARTH?

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There are people who say that sometimes People become so Heavenly minded that they are of no Earthly Good!

So, there has to be a balance.

1 John 3:2-3 says; "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this Hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is Pure."

"... Every man who has this Hope in Him Purifies himself, just as He is Pure."

If you cherish this Christian Hope, then your responsibility is to live to Please Him, whilst you are here upon Earth: is: To Purify yourself - It is to make sure that you live right and you live Righteous, and you live Holy before Him.

If this is our Hope, we cannot live our lives anyhow. We cannot just go about sinning as if we have no Hope. We cannot live our lives as if we don't have something; then there is nothing ELSE for us.

... There is HOPE FOR THE BELIEVER!

And that is what we look forward to.

And those who have this Hope in them, PURIFY THEMSELVES.

So today, I want to ask you a question: Is that your Hope? Is that what you are looking for, too?

Or your Hope is just going to Church, be part of the Church, be part of the Women's Group, be part of the Men's Group. Dance when music is played; Then after that, the END of it!

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Is that all the Christian life is all about?

When a Christian is barren, is that the end of them? Is that how we are living our lives?

If that is how we are living our lives, there is no difference between the Christian and the none Christian.

But we live our lives with the FULL Expectation of the Resurrection, of a Glorified Body, of a New Home (Heaven) and of a New Mission; Reigning with Christ.

And because that is our Hope, we live our lives to Please Him, to Serve Him, to Honour Him. And we PURIFY ourselves.

May Jesus Christ help us to keep this Hope alive constantly before us. And as Christians, we would not come to the point of living our lives as if it is base on what we achieve here on Earth, and what we get here on Earth.

... There is HOPE for the BELIEVER!

ALTAR CALL

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, nothing I have described here, is Hope for you.

You cannot participate in it, because this is not a General Issue and Condition.

This here, Jesus says: He has Prepared this for a Special Group of people - For those who trust Him, for those who believe in Him. For those who will make Him the Lord of their lives.

So, if you are listening to me today, you say Pastor, I want this as my Hope. When life on Earth here is ended, this is how I want my future to look like.

Then, the way to live that life is to let Christ come into your life, to be the Lord of your life. To live in you; for you to serve Him, for you to Purify your life for Him. For you to make Him the Master of your life.

So if you want this Hope as a Christian, why don't you bow your heads with me as we Pray (wherever you are) or reading this on the Label of DMC. As you invite Jesus to come into your life; as you Pray and tell Him to come into your heart:

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Say Father, I come to You as I am. I am a sinner, forgive me of my sins. Wash me, and cleanse me with the Blood of Jesus.

I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ died for me. That He was RAISED from the dead for my Justification. And today, I accept Him as my Lord and Personal Saviour.

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I Thank You Father for accepting me. In Jesus' Name - Amen!

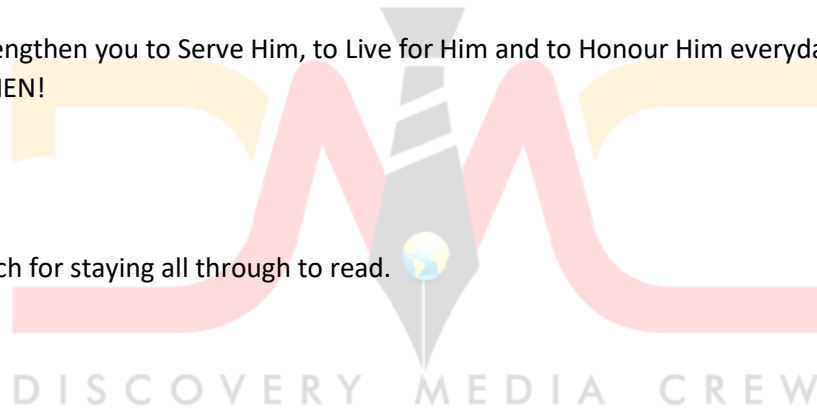
If that was your Prayer, then I give you the Promise of Scripture: Your sins have been washed away. As far as the East is from the West, God has removed your sins. And you are a brand New Person in Christ; old things have passed away; behold all things have become New.

... And for those of you who are in Christ keep this Hope alive in Him - The Hope of Resurrection, for a Glorious Body, for a New Home, and for a New Mission in Him - to Reign with Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

May the Lord strengthen you to Serve Him, to Live for Him and to Honour Him everyday of your life. In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



26TH APRIL, 2020 - TOPIC: CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN

TEXT: ACTS 1:6-11

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah - Jesus is Lord!

And let us make our DECORATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready?

SAY WITH:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His awesome Hand has formed me; His creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my mind.

Therefore, I BOLDLY DECLARE: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His strength, I rise. By Faith, I press forward towards the prize of my highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is the Lord! He is the Vine, I am the branch; in Him I abide, in Him I blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shown His Light in our hearts; we have His Treasure in hearten vessels. That the Excellency of His Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to Excellence, I commit to Exceptionalism, I commit to do the Extraordinary.

In JESUS' Name - AMEN!

And Amen and Amen and AMEN!

And you may be seated in Heavenly Places in Christ.

And it is a great joy to Fellowship with you this morning; as we come before the Lord and we come before the Table of the Lord.

This would be our second (2nd) Communion Service in lockdown; and we trust that our third (3rd) would be in Freedom!

Because God is a God of Freedom, and He would bring an end to this Pandemic, all over the world - Amen!

I am persuaded that His Word through this dark moment, and His Light is shining all over the world, once more!

Well, as you know, a couple of weeks ago (2 weeks ago) was Easter Sunday. We celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week I spoke about the "Hope of the Christian".

My tradition normally, has been to Preach around the Christian Calendar.

So when it's time for Easter, to Preach around the Theme of the moment. And when it's Christmas, we are going to Preach around the Theme of Christmas.

So today; around what the Theme of Easter and compulsory the Resurrection of Christ, I'm preaching a Message that I have Titled: "CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN".

... CHRIST will come AGAIN!

One of the questions people are asking during this time of Covid-19 is in relation to JESUS CHRIST SECOND (2ND) COMING.

Well, I have heard people make declarations, relating what we are going through to the Second (2nd) Coming of Christ.

All of us have heard some allusions, one way or the other. And today I want to address the Theme of The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I got Born Again; had a Born Again experience in the early 1970.

And. Anybody who was Born Again and in the Scripture Union Evangelical Circle, in the 1970s; you would remember that the Main Theme that engaged the Evangelical Christians at that time, was the Second (2nd) Coming of Christ.

Almost every Messages was Preached around the Coming of the Lord!

The Phrase "Maranatha" - meaning: Come Lord was very prominent on the lips of Christians.

We sought to prepare ourselves for the Coming of the Lord.

And most Preaching at that time was around; the concept of the Antichrist, 666 - the Beast, the Mark of the Beast, the Tribulation, the Millennial Rule of Christ, and so on and so forth!

These days, you don't hear much Preached in those circles; around the subjects but in the 1970s it was very Prominent Message.

So much attention was Paid to Calculating Dates and numbers to uncover who the Antichrist was.

In 1988 somebody wrote a Book that was Titled: "88 Reasons why Jesus is Coming in 1988". And it was a huge Phenomenal, especially in the United States.

People were Preparing; People sold their Properties, waiting for Jesus Christ to Come in September 1988.

... Unfortunately He didn't come in September 1988.

And then that same Person wrote a second Book: "89 Reasons why Jesus is Coming in 1989". I think by that time, People had given up on him!

So, Why do People always want to calculate the Coming of Christ; aligning it to Epical Events - like what we are going through when there is a shaking?

When things are turning around we begin to make calculation and permutations as to the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!

And so, I will address that, and I will tie it to a Message that was delivered to the Disciples of Jesus on the day of the Ascension of Jesus - when Jesus was Ascending to Heaven.

And the record that I want to refer to is in the Book of Acts 1:6-11;

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The interesting account about the Ascension of Christ; very little is said about this normally.

We talk about the Resurrection but very little about the Ascension.

But this is the Ascension of Christ, when He bodily left the Earth.

There are two (2) important Messages I want to bring your attention today:

1. The first (1st) is that Christ Ascended from Earth to Heaven.

... He did not only Resurrect from the dead; but He BODILY Ascended into Heaven.

It is a very important Pillar in our Christian Faith.

2. And the Second (2nd) Statement is that: Christ will Return from Heaven to Earth.

This the message that the two (2) Heavenly Beings gave to the Disciples;

"That this Jesus who is going UP, is also going to COME down."

Jesus spoke frequently, not only about His death and Resurrection, but also His Return.

And so, we are going to examine this Passage and try to figure out HOW CHRIST is coming back.

If Jesus is COMING Again; How is He going to Come Back? And how are we supposed to respond to that idea?

So, HOW WILL JESUS RETURN?

It is subject that has engaged Christians in the last two thousand (2,000) Years.

HOW WILL JESUS RETURN?

There has been many Predictions; there has been Christian Sects that have Predicted this Coming - Sometimes fixed dates.

And unfortunately, those dates have come and gone, and Christ has not returned.

So, HOW WILL HE RETURN?

Let us consider the Testimony of the Angels presumed on that occasion when Jesus Ascended - the Two (2) Beings that spoke to the Disciples.

Verse 11 (of Acts 2) says: "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven"

Now, what I want you to note is the phrase: "THIS SAME JESUS"

And the Second (2nd) Phrase: "WILL COME IN LIKE MANNER YOU SAW HIM GO!"

They were very clear about how Christ was going to return.

So let us take the Phrases one by one;

1. First (1st) is "THIS SAME JESUS".

Say with me: THIS SAME JESUS!

This is serious very important Phrase.

You could also translate it to say: THIS VERY JESUS.

The Jesus you saw go to Heaven, will be the One who comes back.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

It means it would not be another individual. When He comes back, He will not be called by another name. And He will not come back as another Person - It is this SAME JESUS.

That also means, HE WILL NOT COME in another form: He will not come as a Spirit, He will not come as an Angel - He will not come as another Being;

He will come in the same form He was in, where He went up - THIS SAME JESUS!

He will not be another Person; He will not come in another form.

So when you hear People say there is a Jesus here, and there is a Jesus there. And Jesus had appeared in Bangladesh, or Jesus had appeared in Malaysia or Jesus is now in Mauritania - You have to understand, this Jesus is going to be THE SAME JESUS.

... The SAME JESUS who bodily Ascended, is the SAME JESUS who is Coming down - He will not be another, He will not called another name, and He will not be in another form.

So, HOW WILL HE SHOW UP?

The angels said: HE WILL COME IN LIKE MANNER - in the SAME MANNER!

Listen to what they said: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in like manner AS YOU SAW HIM GO"!

... He will come in like manner AS YOU SAW HIM GO"

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

It means, His COMING will be similar to His ASCENSION; the way He will come WILL BE SIMILAR to the way He Ascended.

Now, Jesus Christ spoke about His Ascension on Luke 21:27.

He said: "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with Power and great Glory."

Revelations 1:7 says: "Behold, He cometh with Clouds; and every eyes shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the Earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen."

So, Jesus ASCENDED BODILY. And when we say 'Ascended Bodily' it means He went in a BODY form;

He didn't Ascend as Spirit, He didn't Ascend as an Angel - He Ascended in a Glorified Body - BODILY.

So, if He is coming in the same manner; it means His Return would also be BODILY - The matured Body form of Jesus is what He will Return with.

In His first coming, He was born in a Manger. In His Second Coming, He will not be born somewhere else; it is the same form He went IN, is the same form He is coming down IN.

So, if somebody tells you: "A baby has been born somewhere and he is Jesus Christ Coming again." - That's FALSE!

... That is not Biblical.

Because Jesus did not Ascend as a Baby; He Ascended as a full grown thirty three (33) Years old BODIED MAN. And He is Coming back in THE SAME MANNER.

Not as a baby to be born: He is not going to be conceived again by another woman.

There is no woman anywhere who is going to give birth to Jesus Christ for His Second (2nd) Coming.

... This same Jesus, He Ascended BODILY; he will COME BACK, BODILY.

2. Secondly, He Ascended VISIBLY: The Disciples saw Him GOING. They saw Him been taken up, the cloud receiving Him.

... If He Ascended VISIBLY, He will Return VISIBLY.

Revelations 1:7 says: ALL eyes shall see Him. - He will not Return in Secret.

In other words, Jesus Christ will not come, and we would not know He has Returned.

He will not come in the Secret and alight on a Mountain somewhere - He is going to come VISIBLY.

And Revelations says: AND ALL EYES SHALL SEE HIM.

It will be a Glorious Spectacular! - He will Ascend Bodily, He will return Bodily; He will Return Visibly; He will Return VISIBLY.

3. Thirdly, He Ascended in a CLOUD -The Disciples saw the Cloud receiving Him.

He will return according to Revelations

1:7; with CLOUDS from Heaven - the same way!

The same way He went, when the Clouds received Him; when He is Returning, He will also Return with Clouds.

I'm not sure how the Clouds formation will be, but it would be clear enough, that on every Part of the world, People would see Him.

Now, that is something Miraculous, because one Part of the world would be in Daylight; another Part of the world would be in Darkness at the time of Jesus' Coming.

... But ALL EYES shall see Him.

It could be that Technology would pick it up! Cameras would be able to show His Coming, and everyone would Live Stream it. Or see it one way or the other.

But the important thing is that: ALL EYES SHALL SEE HIM.

.. It would not a Secret Coming.

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4. The Fourth (4th) Thing: He Ascended in Power and Glory; He will Return with GREAT POWER AND GLORY.

He would not come as a weak Infant, pursued by Herod, or pursued by some Kings. He would come in FULL POWER as the JUDGE of the world!

This same JESUS, He is Coming, and it is not going to be a Secret.

So, if Jesus is Coming; How are we to Prepare for His Coming? What are we supposed to do?

I want you to note the question that the Angels asked the Disciples: "Who do you gaze up into Heaven?"

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In other words, Jesus Ascended, they kept looking up. They weren't seeing Him, but they were looking up!

They were gazing into Heaven. And a number of them (whichever number they were) were just looking UP!

Probably they have been looking up for some minutes or some hours - But they were just looking up.

And the Angels came and said: What are you looking, up? Why are you just living your life looking at the Lord who had departed? Why are you just fixing your eyes on His going? Why are you just looking up?

The Angels did not want the Disciples only to look His going into Heaven; they wanted them also to have something to do here on Earth.

So, what Christ wants us to do: His Coming is Near, but we should not spend all our time gazing up. We should not just spend all our time making calculation about when He is Coming, and thinking about when He is Coming because there is a different attitude He wants us to have.

In Luke 19:11-13; Jesus spoke a Parable about the Kingdom of God.

And verse 12 and 13; "He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a Kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come."

... OCCUPY till I Come!

That Phrase - "Do Business" - in the New King James; or "Occupy" - in the Old King James; is from the Greek "Pragma tale mine".

What is the meaning of the Phrase Pragma tale mine?"

If you listen to it, there is something there that is familiar in the English Language - and that word is "Pragmatism"

"Pragma tale mine" in English, when you listen to it, it sounds like "Pragmatic".

In the Greek it means to be occupied with something. It means to be Practically involved in getting something DONE!

So, Jesus said: I go to Heaven, I have Ascended. But be Practical. Don't just look UP to Heaven; be Practical - Occupy till I come. Do Business till I come; 'Pragmatism tale mine' - be involved in doing something!

So the Christian life must be lived, not with theories - counting days and speculating about whether Covid-19 experience is the Second (2nd) Coming of Christ; or Jesus is Coming. Calculating it.

It is not just that!

'Pragmatism tale mine'. Be PRACTICAL; don't be speculative!

We must be involved in Practice, in Action!

He wants us to be occupy in His WORK.

If something like this has happened in the world, and it makes us draw our minds to the Coming of Christ; WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

Because I know a lot of you; a lot of Christians are saying: Jesus is Coming.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

Because the Angels said: Don't gaze up to Heaven and Jesus Himself said: 'Pragmatism tale mine'.

... Be Pragmatic, Occupy, Work, do something before I come.

So, what are we supposed to be doing before He comes?

1. We are supposed to be Preaching the Gospel as a Witness to the World.

This is the Church's Mission - We have to use ALL Forms of. Communication to make Christ known.

We must be Logical, we must be Passionate, Ethical Persuasions.

We must reach this Generation in the language they understand.

On the Day of Pentecost, each one heard the Gospel in their Native Language.

But when we talk about the Gospel in People's language, it is not just Ethnic Language; it is also about Generational Language; it is also about Technological Language.

The Church has to learn to speak to the world with Modern Technology; with the New Vocabularies that allow the New Generation to appreciate the Gospel of Christ.

We cannot Preach the Gospel in the same old way.

... Gospel is the same, but the Preaching of it must not be the same - The Preaching of it must be relevant to every Generation!

... We must be occupied with Preaching the Gospel!

If there is anything this whole episode has taught us; it is for the Church to expand its Avenue for Preaching the Gospel - We are using Social Media; People are having Church with different Applications.

It doesn't mean that is how Church would always be: but it has given us the Evangelistic Tools to Preach the Gospel in the Language of this Modern Generation.

And to Preach the Gospel on Facebook on WhatsApp, in Zoom; using all the Technology. This is what we have learned; that this Gospel of Christ must be Preached!

And that is what "Pragmatism tale mine" means - OCCUPY, get involved! Don't gaze up to Heaven; just waiting for Him to come.

In those days, in the 1970s; a lot of Christians were so concerned about the Coming of Jesus Christ:

I. Some did not continue their Education, because they felt, they would not have completed their Education before He Comes!

II. Some did not buy land, because they said it was unnecessary - Jesus was going to Come!

.. And many People have lived to regret the actions they took.

We must not be an "Ignorant Generation" - We must be an "Informed Generation".

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Jesus is Coming again, but don't gaze to Heaven; speculate, don't calculate dates. Don't be so fixed dated: When is the Antichrist coming? What sort of injection is he going to give us? And all of that!

I understand the importance of all of that. But Jesus said: instead of speculating on the Antichrist; 'Pragmatism tale mine' - Occupy till I Come!

WORK! - Preach the Gospel, speak the Gospel, and Church must RISE in a New way to Preach the Gospel.

2/ Not only must we preach the Gospel; we must PREPARE THE CHURCH - As the Bride of Christ, to meet the Lord, when He's Coming!

In the Parable of the Ten (10) Virgins, some were Prepared, others were not Prepared - when I get Bridegroom SHOWED UP.

The Church must be PREPARED.

We must not be concerned about when is He going to Come?

We must be concerned with: Whenever He shows up, we are READY - That must be the attitude of the Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ MUST know Christ. We must seek Him.

I think our Christianity has to take a little change from just seeking Men of God, and seeking People that we think God is using; to Seeking Christ.

...That I may KNOW HIM, that I may Grow in Him!

We must grow from Teaching and Preaching, just to make People happy. To Grounding People in the Doctrine of Christianity. Grounding People in their Faith.

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We must get Acquainted with the Holy Spirit.

We must live our Christian life in a Practical Manner.

The Church must be "The City that is set on a hill."

The Prophet Micah Prophesied in Micah 4, that the Church is the Mountain that is above all Mountains.

In other words, in this Season, the Church must be lifted up - The Church of Jesus Christ must be exalted.

The Church is not going down, the Church is rising! The Church is going to be vibrant. The Church is going to Preach the Gospel. People are going to be transformed! The Church is going to be Strong.

We will not be running after: There is a Miracle there, there is a Sign there!

But we will be SEEKING an Encounter with God; that is Real, that is Authentic, that is Christ Himself, manifested in our lives.

OCCUPY till I Come! Don't just gaze up.

And I'm just fascinated by all the Permutations that People put together - Very nice analytical work, thoughtful work, Intelligent Prognosis.

That should not be our Fixation!

Our fixation should not be gazing up to Heaven, and calculating when He is Coming.

Jesus. May come today, may Come tomorrow. But He may also come a thousand (1,000) Years from now - We don't know!

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He Himself said, He does not know the hour.

All we need to do is to be READY!

At His First Coming, Nobody knew when He was going to be born. But the Bible says: "IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME; God brought forth His Son Jesus Christ."

So, there will be a FULLNESS OF TIME. In God's Own Sovereign control; when Christ comes again!

Until then, 'Pragmata mine' - Occupy, Do Business, Work! Preach the Gospel, Prepare the Church.

We must Occupy by Preaching the Gospel; We must Occupy by Preparing the Church;

And we must also occupy by PERSEVERING in the face of Persecution.

We must know how to hold our ground in the face of Global Persecution because our world is becoming increasingly AntiChristian

We must know how to defend our Faith in the Public Square: Not just how to run after things, but how to defend our Faith.

The World is becoming more and more Antichristian: they make Provision for other Religions, but viciously fight the Name of Jesus.

In this time we may not be thrown to lions, like the early Christians were thrown to lions. But these days we are thrown as in mockery before the Media.

And they will try to make mockery of us, and try to trivialise us, and trivialise everything we believe.

Most Institutions of our world are rapidly Antichristian - They try to make Believing in Christ seem like abnormality.

This, is the New Persecution!

And in the midst of this Persecution, we must Prepare People who can STAND and DEFEND their FAITH. People who go DEEP in their Faith; who know Jesus Christ as LORD INDEED!

Not people who run after things: run after a Miracle, run after a Sign.

... And when they are Persecuted, they have no basis to stand for their Faith.

We must not just follow Christ for what we GET from Him. We must follow Him for WHO HE IS!

And until Jesus Christ COMES; we must Preach the Gospel, Prepare the Church as a Bride of Christ. And we must learn to Persevere in the face of Persecution.

Because this Persecution is not going to end!

More and more the Church will be trivialised! More and more the Church would be mocked. More and more there would be parades of how to MOCK us, and SCORN us.

It is going to come from Academia, it is going to come from Science. And they are going to try to rubbish everything we Believed in.

... Although they themselves they have no Answers.

But the Media is going to support it. That is the New Persecution!

And we must be ready to defend the Faith, in the Name of Jesus; in the FACE OF A HOSTILE WORLD.

So the Bible encourages us, in the midst of all of these, in Hebrews 10:23-25;

"Let us hold fast the Profession of our Faith without wavering; (for He is Faithful that Promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to Good Works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

As we see the Coming of Christ being imminent.

The Bible says we MUST Stay together; we must not forsake the Assembling of ourselves.

This time, because of a virus; whether contrive or real, we have been locked down and we don't meet and Assemble ourselves. But the time will come, this lockdown will be over: We must Assemble ourselves!

We must not just say we are going to stay in Church ONLINE. It says, when we see the day appearing, we must Assemble ourselves.

And we must Exalt one another! And we must stir up Love and Good works.

So my Friends in Christ; I announce to you the Message that the Angels gave the Disciples on that Day when Christ Ascended: "Why do you gaze up into Heaven? This SAME JESUS, is Coming in the SAME MANNER that He went up into Heaven."

And whilst we wait, we don't rest, we don't gaze into Heaven; we OCCUPY, we work PRACTICALLY; we Preach the Gospel, we Prepare the Church to be the Bride of Christ. And we Persevere in the face of Persecution.

Well, may the Lord find in us a Generation of Christians: Who truly knows Jesus, who serves Him, who knows Him.

.. And we will live in all our lives to the Praise and the Glory of His Name - Amen.

CLOSING PRAYES

May Christ Jesus be exalted in our lives this morning. As we Serve Him, may His Kingdom Come! May His Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying and reading all through.

3RD MAY, 2020 TOPIC: THROUGH THE STORM WITH JESUS

TEXT: MARK 4:35-41

Hallelujah!

Let's get ready to make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hand has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my mind.

Therefore, I BOLDLY DECLARE: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise.

By FAITH, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that JESUS is the Lord! He is the Vine, I am the branch; in Him I ABIDE, in Him I BLOSSOM.

As it is written: GOD, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shown His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen vessels. That the Excellency of His Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to Excellence, I commit to Exceptionalism, I commit to do the Extraordinary.

In JESUS' Name - AMEN!

And Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

And you may be seated in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It's great to have you in the House of God today; wherever you are in Fellowship with us or reading on the Label of DMC now as we Honour Jesus Christ:

As we declare His Majesty, as we declare His Victory in all that we do. And we trust God that He would come through and give us a Great Victory!

Well, today is the seventh (7th) Service since the New Protocols on Mass Meetings were established.

And so for seven (7) Services now, we have been doing our Church Online.

Our lives, as you know, have been dramatically disrupted in very profound ways by the current Pandemic sweeping all over the world.

And I have heard many People, our Church Members talk about how much they miss Church (in person Church). We are still having Church. But the gathering of Believers in the House of God - People miss it - We want to be Part of Worship Service with other People!

... As a Pastor, I desire that!

However, we are faced with the situation that requires a lot of sacrifices and a lot of discipline, to overcome it.

Temporarily, we are inconvenienced, but we have to go through this and come out Victoriously.

And so, much as we would love Church to resume for us to gather together as Believers, the last thing any of us wants, is to make our Gathering - the Gathering of God's People to become a Gathering for the INFECTION of People, and for the hazard of People.

So, we desire Christian Fellowship, but we must also be concerned about the dangers we may pose to each other if this Pandemic is not properly adhered under control.

And so we trust the Lord; to help our world, to help our Nation, and to help each one of us, to come through this storm with minimal health.

And whatever it would cost us, to make sure that we stay in health, we must be committed to Total Victory: so that our worship of God does not become an act of doubt.

Coming to Church, not being sure whether People are coming with infections, whether People are coming with all kinds of problems.

We want to gather properly and Worship God in the true liberty of the Spirit. Not under some form of Hazard that we are not all aware of.

And so I want to encourage you; it's inconvenient for all of us. Me Preaching to empty chairs (although knowing that you are hearing me or reading on the Label of DMC); and you worshipping alone and not feeling the warmth of other Christians.

It's a difficult thing we are enduring. But God will give us Victory in our journey - Amen.

Today, I'm going to Minister to you a Message I have Titled: "THROUGH THE STORM WITH JESUS".

We are going to join Jesus Christ and His Disciples on a JOURNEY.

It is a Journey; like Journeys we have taken in our lives.

It is a Journey that started with simple instruction, a simple desire;

.. But was faced with Complex situations!

And each one of us have been on such a Journey before - we start very simply enough, innocently. And all of a sudden, everything starts going wrong way in the middle of that Journey.

The World started the Month of January, 2020 with a lot of hope. And then we were hit somewhere in the middle of January to February with this Pandemic that is disrupting our lives.

So, we are going to see how Jesus and His Disciples went through a situation of Storm and how they managed it.

And my Reading and Text is from Mark Gospel 4:35-41;

... And let us hear the Reading of God's Word. Mark 4:35-41;

35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

... What a wonderful encounter with Jesus!

The Passage says that on the same day; and what day was it?

It was a day when Jesus taught them about the Kingdom of God and how the Kingdom of God works.

And on that day, when it seemed like everything was good, and moving on well. They started a Journey, and that Journey was confronted with a MAJOR STORM.

We are going to walk our way with the Disciples of Jesus, as they go through the Storm.

There are several STEPS I want to bring your attention to:

1. The first (1st) one is THE CALL TO BEGIN.

Jesus said to them: Let us Cross over to the other side.

They had had a great time, and now they are moving to the other side - to continue their journey.

And that Call seems like a very simple Call - Let us start doing something.

Like many of us started this Year's January - Let us go through this Year 2020. It is going to be a Marvelous Year.

Oh, you start the day, so say: I'm going to have a great day. And that's how it was: "Let us go over to the other side!"

Every Journey requires movement! You cannot be in the same Place and make Progress at the same time.

In other to make Progress, you have to MOVE. There has got to be movement!

... Movement would create inconvenience!

So Jesus said to His Disciples: you have had a great time; you have enjoyed My Ministry; you have seen Miracles - Now, let us move on.

There will always be a time in our lives when we need to MOVE ON to the other side.

The good thing is that Jesus did not say to them: "Go over to the other side." He said: Let "US" - the most important thing.

In other words, Jesus was not going to leave them on the Journey alone; He is going to be with them on the Journey.

And the Bible says in verse 36; the Bible says: "And when they had sent away the multitude, they took Him even as He was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships."

They took Him along with them: He was with them on the Journey.

Was God with us on the Journey on 31st December, 2019 when we entered the New Year? - YES, He was with us!

Was God with us on 1st January? - YES, He was with us!

Was God with all the Christians when they were declaring all the Great Things that was going to happen this Year? - YES, He was with them!

... JESUS was with them in the Boat, He had not left them!

The Natural Question would be: IF JESUS IS WITH US, WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

But many of us assumed, if God is with us, nothing can go wrong - Everything will be cool, everything will be easy, life is going to be very smooth. And then we are going to have Victory after Victory.

JESUS was with them in the Boat, He had not left them; but things started going WRONG.

Is it possible to have God with you, and still things go wrong?

Well, according to the Scriptures, YES! it's possible, that God can be with you, and yet things do not go Right.

You know, sometimes People say: Well, where were all these Pastors? Well, where were all these Churches? If they believe there is God, why do we have all these problems?

Well, Jesus was there, and things started going wrong.

... So, first there's a CALL;

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2. Second (2nd), THERE IS A STORM.

The Storm is what I call - AN UNPREDICTABLE INTERFERENCE (2ce)!

They didn't Plan for it. Obviously, Jesus knew about it but the Disciples had no clue that walking with Jesus, there would ever be any inconvenience.

There is a STORM - An Unpredictable Interference; and many of us at this time, feel that Storm.

The Storm can come in different forms: It can be in the form of Criticism, it can be in the form of a Gossip against you, or it can be a Financial Challenge or Betrayal, or Physical attack in the body, crises in your Marriage, Threats, Hostility, Antagonism.

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Today, many of us feel the Storm that is called the Novel Coronavirus. And it is a producer called Covid-19.

... It is a STORM: It rises!

And the Bible says concerning this Storm, that it was not small.

... It says: A Great Wind Storm arose, and beat into them and into the Boat.

STORMS would come to Test us and to see what STUFF we are made of.

If you really believed God is with you, then there would be a Storm!

If you believed God has opened a door for you, there would be a Storm!

If you believed that God is giving you Victory in 2020, there will be a Storm.

With Jesus in the Boat, the Storm arose, beat into them. It disturbed the Boat; the Boat is the vehicle they were travelling with;

... It started shaking it started being destabilised.

3. And then the third (3rd) thing happened - THE SILENCE.

... There is a CALL, there is a STORM and then there is the SILENCE.

The moment when you are going through a Storm, then it seems as if God is not there; remember they started with Jesus in the Boat on this Journey.

He is with them, they are going and then the Bible tells us where Jesus is - He is in the stern, that is lower part of the Boat, asleep on a pillow.

How He managed to sleep in the Storm; that is another Story!

But that He is at the bottom of the Boat and asleep: is what I call THE SILENCE.

The SILENCE is when you are going through a Storm, you know God is with you, but you cannot feel His Presence - You cannot hear Him.

Because sometimes, SILENCE is a language of God. God Speaks to us, in a SILENCE.

We like to hear Him as Thunder, as Lightning - Sometimes, His quietness is a Message to us because God works His Great Works in SILENCE.

He put Adam to sleep in order to create Eve - It was a moment of SILENCE.

Before Jesus Christ was born, there was what Bible Historians call the Four Hundred (400) Years of SILENCE - For Four Hundred (400) Years no Prophet had spoken; it seemed as if God had abandoned His People.

And all of a sudden John the Baptist came and Announced: A Messiah is Coming!

SILENCE, is a language of God. And so if you feel God is silent in your situation; He is still in your BOAT; He is still Speaking.

You may not hear Him Perfectly, you may not hear Him Fully, you may not hear Him Accurately: but God is Speaking to you.

Silence is a language of God: and though we may not see Him, He is always there!

Is God Present in the Crisis our world is going through? - YES!

Why is He not doing something? Why is He Silent? - It is Part of the way God speaks to us!

Because Silence draws us closer to God; Silence makes us draw closer to Him and to Call for Him.

4. And in the Silence, something happens - PANIC.

In the Storm where they feel the Silence, there is PANICKING.

And they asked that Perplexing Question: Teacher, do You not care that we are Perishing?

Sometimes People ask this question: Where is God when there is suffering?

Where is God when all things are going Wrong? - Doesn't He care?

Teacher, why don't you care for our suffering?

And I can hear many of you asking the same question: Why doesn't God do something?

Why doesn't God step in? Why doesn't God just wave His Hands and all of a sudden, everything is gone?

Yes, there would come a time for Him to do that. But at this Point, we are going through the Training with God - He is silent.

We may not see Him - But He hears every Prayer, He hears every cry, He sees every tear, He knows our fears!

... He understood the PANIC of the Disciples.

STORMS would make us question God: Don't You care that we Perish?

Never doubt God's Love and His Faithfulness when He is SILENT.

His Silence is not His absence; His Silence is still His Presence - Just like His works are still His Presence.

We must know God in His WORKS; we must also know God in His SILENCE.

We must know God when He SPEAKS; and we must know God when He doesn't Speak!

And whether He Speaks or He doesn't Speak, He is still GOD. Whether He Works or He doesn't work, He is still GOD. Whether He Heals or doesn't Heal, He is still GOD.

Somebody asked me once, he said: So Pastor, what about all the People who go through PAIN in this world?

Our world is quite an interesting Place: While somebody is going through pain, and questioning God; another person has received an Answer, and Praising God!

You know, when we look at what this Pandemic has done to the World: Important People have died, Ordinary People have died, Old People have died, Children have died, Men have died, Women have died.

But if we keep our eyes only on death, it seems as if God has abandoned us.

But in the midst of all of that - People are recovering, People are getting healed and there are People who are saying: Thank God for restoring my health; Thank God for Healing me!

So, one Group says: We cannot see God. Another Group says: I saw God!

In the midst of the same Storm; ONE doesn't see God, the OTHER sees God!

Whether you see Him or you don't see Him; He is in BOAT WITH US.

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He is in the BOAT with us in Ghana, He is in the BOAT with us in West Africa, He is in the BOAT with us in Africa, He is in the BOAT with us all over the world. And He has not abandoned us!

So when they woke up Jesus: Lord, don't You care that we Perish? Interestingly, Jesus did not answer that question.

He didn't tell them, I care! He didn't tell them, Oh, I think of you! He just WOKE UP and ADDRESSED their Problem!

... And He said to the Storm: PEACE, BE STILL

And I believed that same Jesus, is going to say to this Pandemic: PEACE, BE STILL!

He is in the Boat with us; we are in a Storm with Him. We may feel He doesn't care but He is going to say to the Storm: PEACE, BE STILL!

... And I say in His Name: PEACE, BE STILL

Peace, be STILL over Ghana, Peace, be STILL over Africa, Peace, be STILL over our world!

He spoke those Powerful words, those Creative words - And the Storm CEASED, and there was a GREAT CALM.

There are moments, when the Lord seems to be quiet, and there are moments when He works. But, isn't it amazing: He WORKED when they call on Him.

He didn't Work because He was Present; He worked because they recognized His Presence and they CALLED on Him - they asked Him to INTERVENE.

And there are so much Prayers going on, and God hears! We don't have to get into the Prayer of Petition as if He is a "Deaf god".

We don't have to get into the Prayer of Repetition as if we need to shout and scream ourselves out before He hears us.

.... When they called on Him, He HEARD them!

Is God listening to the World? - YES!

Our world has been so full of unbelief for so long! People have believed so much in Science for so long.

... And God says; okay, let Science solve it for you.

But I believed one of these days, very soon, we are going to say: The Owner of the world; the Owner of Creation; the Owner of all Species of being - God is the Owner of Viruses.

And that is true (laughs!)

He created all viruses too. He created human beings.

One of these days, we are going to say: Lord, HELP US.

And when we do, we will hear His Word to us in the Storm: PEACE, BE STILL!

The lesson we learnt: That in the Storm, we don't FEAR. Because when Jesus had stilled the Storm; then He addressed their Problem.

And I like this about Jesus; He didn't start rebuking them - Oh, you People, and so on and so forth. And then solve the Problem.

... He SOLVED the Problem, and then CORRECTED their attitudes.

And this is the question Jesus asked them: Why were you so FEARFUL? How is it that you have no FAITH?

So, what Jesus is saying is: Just by me being Present with you - you shouldn't have been AFRAID!

YES, this is Storm, it will play tricks on your mind. It will make your minds go in circles.

But He says: Because I'm with you, you shouldn't have been afraid!

... We don't have to let this Storm be over before we learn that LESSON:

We can learn that Lesson NOW: That because He is with us, we FEAR NOT; we refuse to be afraid.

There is a Fear that is sometimes healthy - Fear that helps you to comport yourself and do the Right Thing!

And then there is another Fear that torments you and harasses you and make you kill yourself before your time. But most of you are facing that Fear.

Anytime you feel a cough in your throat, you are wondering: Have I gotten it? You sneeze - Is it here?

The little inconvenience in your body, throws your mind into a Sprint Circle.

If you believe He is with you in the Storm, why do you behave as if you are in the Storm all alone?

He is the One who told us from the beginning of the Journey: Let US go over to the other side!

He was with us in January, He was with us in February, He was with us in March, He has been with us in April, He is going to be with us in May.

He will be with us in June, He will us be with us in July, He will us be with us in August, in September, in October, in November, in December. And the next year January - Amen!

He is the SAME Yesterday, Today and for Ever! And He is always there.

He said to them: Why did you Fear?

And then the second (2nd) question He asked them: How is it that you have no FAITH?

... Interesting question!

So Jesus said: The reason you were afraid was because you had no Faith - No Faith Produces Fear!

What should they have had Faith in? They should have had Faith that when He said to them from the beginning: "Let US go over to the other side!" He had already determined the end of the Journey - that they would be ON THE OTHER SIDE!

They should have believed right from the beginning: They STARTED with Him, and He had already determined the end.

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Let US go over to the other side: then each one on in that Boat was going to get over to the other side

... They should have BELIEVED that in the Storm.

So, I'm here to remind you: If you Trusted God in January, and you Believed Him in January and you are in the Storm - GO BACK to the God you believed in January.

GO BACK to the God you trusted in January. GO BACK to the God you trusted in December, when you said 2020 would be the Greatest Year of your life when you felt God was Speaking to you: Let us go over to the other side!

NOW, in the Storm, you still have to BELIEVE what God Spoke to you.

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A precious Woman of God called Kurinthy Boom; a Jew in the Second (2nd) World War. She was a Prisoner in the Nazi Prison with her sister. And they went through a lot of pain.

But after the Second (2nd) World War, she came out of the Nazi Prison and became a great woman Preacher.

And she said something very, very Precious, that helped her when she was in Prison. And she spoke it after she came out, to help a lot of Christians.

And she said: When you are in the darkness, believe what God said to you in the Light (2ce)!

What does that mean?

When there is no Problem, and God said: let's go over to the other side. When Storm comes, you have to go back to what He said to you right from the beginning.

So, go back to what Inspired in your heart in January, and last year; when you had Hope, when you had Expectations.

Don't say: Oh, this is the end of my dream!

That is not the end of your dream.

Yes, you are going through turbulence.

God Spoke to you in January, I want you to Believe the God who Spoke to you in January.

Some of you had "Great Plans" early this Year - You still have to believe you could marry this year.

Some of you believed this is going to be your Greatest Year. You still have to BELIEVE - this is going to be the Greatest Year of your LIFE.

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Jesus said: Why were you Afraid? And why did you have no Faith?

Faith is trusting that the God who spoke to you in the beginning, would go through the Journey with you.

1. So there is a CALL.

We started with a CALL: Let's go over to the other side! And He is with us, when He calls us.

2. Then after the Call, there is a STORM.

3. Then after the Storm, there is the SILENCE.

4. Then after the Silence, there is a PANIC.

5. Then after the Panic; there is THE WORD OF GOD that comes to Speak to the Storm.

And the Lesson we learnt from that is: We don't have to be AFRAID when we are faced with STORMS.

Don't only believe God, trust Him when things are Cool. It doesn't take Faith to believe God when things are Cool - FAITH is required when THINGS ARE NOT COOL.

And I came to announce to you; the same God who was with you at the beginning of this Year, will be with you, at the end of this Year!

He has not abandoned you, He is with us: He is with Ghana, He is with Africa, He is with the rest of the world.

And after all of that had happened: The Disciples who had known Jesus all along, at this time, they have walked with Him for quite a bit; asked a very interesting question: Who can this be - that even the Wind and the Sea OBEY HIM?

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Isn't it amazing, the kinds of things People discover about God?

Now, remember that Jesus had been with His Disciples on the Sea of Galilee - actually, the same Sea!

When Peter had no Fish, and Jesus said to him: Launch out into the DEEP for a catch. He said, Lord we have toiled all night long, with no results.

But "AT THY WORD"; Peter launches in; Catches Fish!

Now, it never crossed his mind that the same Lord who can bring fishes out of nowhere into the Sea; can also COMMAND the sea to be STILL.

Many of us, experience God one way, but don't extend His Power to other areas of our lives.

... "What kind of Man is this: that even the wind and the sea, obey Him?"

He is the King of Creation - He created the Wind and the Sea. This Virus is a Creation of the Work of God.

He is the Master of Life - He RULES over every situation of life!

He is the Word that abide forever!

What He said to us in the beginning, before the Storm, He will do it - He is the Beginning and the End. He doesn't start with you and drop you in the middle of the Ocean.

He says: Let us go over to the other side!

He is going to go with us to the OTHER SIDE - That is a Promise!

In a moment, there is a Storm; in a moment, we are in the middle of the sea - in the middle of nowhere.
We can't see our way clear - In a Moment!

But in another moment, the Lord arises and speaks to us.

... Let God ARISE, and all His enemies be Scattered!

May God Arise over Ghana (Nigeria) and speak PEACE, Be Still! to the Storms of this Nation!

May God arise in your LIFE, in your FAMILY - I command, Peace be Still.

I don't know what Storm you are going through, by this Fifth (5th) Month of the Year. But I Pray that God will Arise into your circumstances, whatever it is.

It could be Sickness, it could be financial Storm that is really scaring you, and you are looking at it and you said: How am I going to survive this?

God would Arise on your behalf; He would Arise on your behalf and He is going to say: PEACE, Be Still! - And everything would be alright!

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And everything would be alright! EVERYTHING would be alright!! EVERYTHING would be ALRIGHT!!!

And if you believed these things; that He is with you in the Storm, wherever you are, listening to me or reading now on the Label of DMC

... Not when you are driving - If you are driving, don't obey this instruction;

Wherever you are listening to me, just lift up your hands: two (2) hands, one (1) hand to God and begin to Thank Him that He is with You in the Storm. That He has not abandoned you!

Just Thank Him: Say Lord, I recognize Your Presence. I know You are with me in the Storm. Thank You that You have never abandoned me.

I feel the shaking of my Boat; I feel the Shaking of my System. My ground is shaking. But Lord I trust You and I Thank You that You are with me in this situation.

You have never abandoned me, and I refused to question You and to doubt You. I refused to Question You and to doubt You!

I refused to be afraid but I allowed my Confidence in You to grow Stronger and Stronger.

Just talk to Him, just talk to Him. Talk to Him: He is coming into your situation.

Thank You Lord Jesus, Thank You for the move of Your Spirit. Thank You for changing Atmospheres;

Atmospheres are shifting, situations are changing, all over this land in Jesus' Name!

The enemies has come against us like a flood; but today, the Spirit of God lifts up a standard against their flood!

Thus far, and no further! Thus far and no further;

We speak the Power of God into this situation. We command this situation to YIELD to the voice of JESUS.

We command your situation to YIELD to the voice of Jesus: No matter what Storm you are going through, in the Name of Jesus!

As we command: PEACE, BE STILL (repeatedly!)

And we Thank You Father, that we are coming through this, to the OTHER SIDE.

We are coming with a Song, we are coming with the Testimony; we are coming Rejoicing, we are coming with Victory;

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We are coming with Strength, we are coming with Power, we are coming as Overcomers.

We will not GO DOWN; but we will RISE, and we would declare Your Praise. And we would declare Your Honour, we would declare Your Majesty.

You are the Redeemer, You are the Great Deliverer: You didn't bring us to the Storm to kill us; You didn't bring us to the middle of the sea to leave us.

You didn't bring us this FAR, to make us mockery and a shame, and a BYWORD!

We haven't come this far to be disgraced. We haven't come this far to be disappointed. We haven't come this far to die and to be destroyed.

We have come this far, to see the Glory of the Lord. And we Thank You that You who have started with us, You will finish with us!

ALTAR CALL

Before I close my Message today, if you are here or reading now on the Label of DMC, and you don't have Jesus in your heart as your Lord and Saviour;

Allow Him to come into your heart, allow Him to be in the Boat of your life: and bring Calm and Peace to your life.

If you want Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour; just lift up your hands wherever you are and say this Short Prayer with me:

Say with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today, just as I am. I am a sinner. Save me, forgive me all my sins, come into my life, change my life, make me a Brand New Person.

I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord; and I declare with my mouth.

And I Thank You Father, for my Salvation and my New Life.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!

CLOSING PRAYER

I trust God, that His Presence is with you, wherever you are - at home, on your sick bed or is it prison - reading this now on the Label of DMC - Wherever you are listening to me now, wherever you are: May God ride the Storm WITH YOU and give you Victory. You are going over to the other side!

You will be alive on the other side, your Dreams would speak, your Vision would Speak!

There has been a Storm, and you have not been diverted; you are still on the same Journey, and you will arrive SAFELY, in the Name of Jesus.

If you believe that, shout a BIG Amen with me - AMEN!!!!

Thank you so much for staying and reading all through.

10TH MAY, 2020 - TOPIC: WHEN JESUS SHOWS UP IN THE STORM

TEXT: MATTHEW 14:22-32

Well, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord - Hallelujah!

This is the day the Lord has made; we rejoice, we are glad in it. We Thank God for His Goodness, we Thank God for His Mercy, we Thank God for His Kindness.

The Lord is Good, the Lord is Worthy to be Praised. All Glory, Honour, Adoration, Majesty belong to God. He is King, He is Lord, He Rules in the affairs of men.

Let's get ready to as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you READY? SAY WITH:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my mind.

Therefore, I BOLDLY DECLARE: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise.

By Faith, I press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that JESUS is the Lord! He is the Vine, I am the branch; in Him I ABIDE, in Him I BLOSSOM.

As it is written: GOD, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shown His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellency of His Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to Excellence, I commit to Exceptionalism, I commit to do the Extraordinary.

In JESUS' Name; Amen, and Amen and AMEN!

Hallelujah! You may be seated wherever you are, in the Presence of the Lord.

The Lord is Good and He is Worthy to be Praised. And again, we Honour Him for the Gift of life, for the opportunity to be serve Him to celebrate Him, to Honour Him. And to be Alive to see the New Day, and the beginning of a New Week.

Well, today as we have heard, is MOTHER'S DAY.

And so Happy Mother's Day to all the Women, and all the Ladies.

And we trust God that He will cause your efforts in raising your family to be Fruitful.

So we celebrate every woman who plays a Motherly Role one way or the other, and mentors, nurtures, and encourages People;

May the Lord Bless you, may the Lord keep you, and may the Lord Strengthen you, especially in these very unusual days, where life seems very unpredictable by the day.

May the Lord be your Shield, may the Lord watch over you, may He Strengthen you; protect your children as they go in and come out; your grandchildren and great grandchildren as well.

As you know, our world is going through some INTERESTING days in the last few Months from January, especially for us in Ghana from the Month of March has been extraordinary Months.

As we have sought to mitigate the effects of this rampaging virus that is attacking men and women indiscriminately, all over the world.

And just when we thought in Ghana that we were having a control over the situation, we are beginning to realise that the virus doesn't seem to correspond to some of the efforts that we are making.

So it looks like things are getting a little uncomfortable for all of us. Definitely, it also means that this is not the time for Church to consider gathering together in Assemblies;

Because the crisis before us is not going down.

And it is important that as Churches, we Play our role in the Society, which is made up of our Members, and we ourselves as Pastors - as Part of the Society.

And we trust that we will endure the arrangement as it is now.

It may seems uncomfortable, it may not seems as suitable to us, but that is the Price we Pay.

... That is the Price we Pay for making the world a better Place.

And I trust that each one of us will be patient and wait till we can safely gather.

Safely gather, not gather and much ado; but safely gather and safely worship and Fellowship together as a Church.

And I trust that they will come very quickly.

But if it tarries, we will wait for that day; so we can gather together as God's People not in an atmosphere of uncertainty, but in an atmosphere of certainty and trust in the Lord.

This virus is wrecking a lot of damage; I think we see health as the main hazard. But it goes beyond health hazard, it's affecting relationship; People are separated from each other.

Mothers are separated from their children, from their grandchildren. Brothers and sisters are separated.

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Some People who have especially relations outside this Country are having it difficult - Where People cannot travel and relate to one another. It's affecting relationship.

Businesses have been hit very massively: The Airline Industry, the Hotel Industry, all kinds of Industry; Manufacturers have been affected in very, very profound ways.

And jobs have been affected; People have lost their jobs, People have lost their livelihood. And it's like a Perfect storm that has hit the world.

And yes, it affects the Church, but it does not only affect the Church, it affects everybody: It affects Sports, it affects Schools, it affects Businesses.

And each one of us must Play our role to get this under control - so that we can continue with our lives.

Today I just want to bring you a Word that I believe, is speaking to the times that we live in.

And I believed it is a word that would encourage each one of us, as we make a better life for ourselves.

So last week I Preached on: Jesus in the Boat with His Disciples in a Storm.

And today we are going to look at another story of Jesus and His Disciples in a Storm.

Two (2) different stories; in one instance: Jesus is IN the Boat. In another instance, He is NOT in the Boat.

So whether He is in the Boat, or He is not in the Boat; the Common experience is that there is a Storm.

I have Titled my Message today: WHEN JESUS SHOWS UP IN THE STORM.

The Bible Text is according to Gospel of Matthew 14:22-32 (NKJV).

MATTHEW 14:22-32 (NJKV):

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.
Now when evening came, He was alone there.

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

This is a very interesting Story about Jesus once again, with His Disciples in a very Turbulent Environment.

And the reason we are speaking this world is because many times we also feel that we are in a Storm; sometimes we feel God is with us, sometimes we feel He is not with us.

And the world at this time is a Storm as it is.

Maybe your Business feels it, maybe you feel it in your Marriage, maybe you feel it in some other areas of your life.

In your Health, it feels like you are in a Storm, and Jesus is not with you. And you are there all alone by yourself, in the Storm.

And what is Jesus going to do, when you are in the Storm and He doesn't seem to be there? - He doesn't seem available.

This incident that we read about in Matthew Gospel occurred after a very successful Meeting that Jesus had had with His Disciples.

Jesus had just finished feeding five thousand (5,000) People with five (5) loaves and two (2) fish. And there has been an overflow. There was excitement; everybody had gone home very happy.

And then after the Meeting, Jesus talked to His Disciples, and told them: you go ahead of Me, to the other side of the sea.

The Sea there is in reference to Lake Galilee or the Sea of Galilee.

The Lake is so big that normally it is called a Sea. Because it had a lot turbulence.

So, Jesus told His Disciples to go to the other side - to land, and then He would catch up with them later on.

And I think they all supposed He will pick another boat and go over with them to the other side.

But then, as they were sailing on the water, something happened - They encountered a Storm.

The distance between where Jesus dismissed them to where they were supposed to go is between five (5) to six (6) Miles.

And normally it takes about three (3) hours on the boat to move from one end of the Sea of Galilee to the other end.

When Jesus dismissed them, somewhere around evening (say 6 O'clock in the evening).

So all things being equal, between 8 O'Clock and 9 O'Clock in the evening, they should be at the end of their Journey.

But in the middle of the Sea, they encountered the Storm; and they tried to steady the boat. And they tried everything they can and it goes on and on and on!

And so the Bible says that Jesus comes to them in the fourth (4th) Watch - The fourth (4th) Watch would be around 3:00am and 6:00am.

So at this time, they have been on the Sea for nine (9) hours and literally not completed the journey.

They were somewhere at the middle of their Journey after nine (9) hours - Nine (9) hours of hassles, Nine (9) hours of struggles, Nine (9) hours of uncertainty.

The fourth (4th) Watch is a very important time, because it is the darkest moment of the night; just before dawn.

The darkest moment of just before dawn; and that was the time that Jesus chose to go out to the Disciples.

At this time, I'm sure that they have given up every hope - They think, this is the end.

Probably saying their last Prayer; Jesus is not here there is nothing we can do. The last time He was in the boat, we woke Him up - This time He is not here; we can't feel His Presence. So what is Jesus going to do about this situation?

Maybe you are in a situation and you feel, Jesus is not with me, God has abandoned me, God is not with me, I can't feel His Presence. What is God going to do about this situation?

Whilst they were in the midst of nine (9) hours of struggles on the Sea, they saw something coming in the Sea!

Now, remember most of these guys are fishermen, and they see something coming on the Sea. And the thing is coming closer to them; it can be a very scary thing!

And so they start screaming: it's a Ghost, it's a Ghost!

And then the thing that is coming at them speaks back to them and said: IT IS I DO NOT BE AFRAID.

... What a moment!

Many times when we are in such a Storm, there are two (2) things that come against us: The storm that is coming, or the Storm that we are in and the Presence of God with the Storm.

You really have to determine where to focus your attention at this time - You are in a Storm, but right there in the Storm GOD SHOWS UP.

But He doesn't show up in the way that we expected Him to show up.

You think oh, this is a Ghost. Maybe this is going to make my matter worse; this is going to complicate my situation.

But that was JESUS; He is coming across the Storm. The thing that was sinking them - Jesus is walking on it!

One of the things you have to understand in life my friends, is that: what scares you does not scare God. What troubles you does not trouble God. What is sinking you does not sink God. What overwhelms you does not overwhelm God.

The fact that you are overwhelmed does not mean God is overwhelmed; the fact that you are troubled does not mean He is troubled.

... He comes walking on the water that is sinking the Disciples.

And this morning, I believe this same Jesus is coming to you - Walking on the things that you are afraid of. Walking on the water that is sinking you.

.... Because, what troubles you does not trouble Him!

In the Passage; if we were Shooting a Movie of this Passage, what you would see is that the camera is focused on the Disciples in the storm; everything is turbulent, turning this way and that way.

And then all of a sudden, the camera focuses on another image and it is not turbulent; it is Somebody Walking on the water.

Two (2) Images - the Storm and the One Walking on the Storm.

At this Point you have to choose where to focus your attention, either the Storm or on the One Walking on the Storm.

And I speak to you my friends today; you have to choose where to focus your attention - Either on Coronavirus or on Jesus!

You are going to either decide whether you will focus on numbers of infectious or on Jesus; you have to decide whether you are going to focus on People dying or on Jesus.

Because it's a choice we have to make. It's not an easy choice, because the Storm is real, the Storm is Present.

But Jesus is also REAL; the One Walking on the Storm is also real.

There are two (2) realities facing you - The Spiritual reality of Jesus walking on the Storm, and the Physical reality of a Storm trying to sink you.

You have to choose where to fix your eyes!

So, for a moment, the Disciples are fixing their eyes on Jesus. They are not looking at the Storm any longer; they are looking at Jesus, they are looking at the Person of Jesus - Who He is;

Looking at His Presence with them in the Sea. They are looking at His Power on display, and they are looking at His Presence!

And as they focus on that, each one is deciding - You can imagine their brains are calculating: how do we respond to this?

And one of them Peter, says Lord, if it is You, tell me to COME. If it is You, then help me also to walk on the Storm as You are Walking on the Storm.

And that should also be our Prayer: Lord, if it is you, tell me to COME: this storm has sunk People in the Past, it has sunk People in other Nations, it has sunk People all around us.

But Lord, if it is You (and You can conquer storm) and if You can walk on this storm then all I need You to say is COME!

Peter imagined that if the Lord can walk on water, I can walk on water; if the Lord can overcome the Storm, I can overcome the Storm.

So it is not just about what God can do, but what we can do through Him.

It is not just that God can do all things, He also says "all things are Possible to him who believes."

It's just a God factor, it's also God walking with us. He walks on the Storm, we walk on the Storm too.

And when Jesus said to Peter COME, the Bible says that he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

Many times when People talk about this Passage; Peter is Portrayed as a very weak character, a very cowardly character.

But it takes bravely for a fisherman who knows that water, that there is no support of any human being to step out of the boat, which has no base - It is courage!

It takes a desire, an aspiration, intimacy with God to seek to walk where no man has walked.

So Peter said: Bid me come!

... And he did walk on water!

The Bible says he walked on the water to go to Jesus!

I'm sure at this time, Peter looked at himself and said, I never thought that it was possible; I never thought a day would come when they said a Fisherman, instead of swimming in water, walked on water;

I never thought a day would come when I would be able to do this amazing things for God.

I'm here to announce to somebody: What scares you, what is trying to overthrow you, what is trying to sink you; God is going to give you the Power - Amen.

Not just to see it, not just to touch it. But to WALK on it - Amen.

You are going to walk on the situation; we are going to go through this storm, and we will walk over the Storm.

So Peter is having great fun; I'm sure the Disciples are wondering, whoa! - Is it possible for Peter to do what the Lord is doing? Is it possible for us to do what God is doing?

And many times, we get hit by storm, by force.

Some of you are feeling it so hard now; some of you have your jobs quickly taken away from you.

Probably you received a Letter that says your Company is going down, that they can't Pay you any longer. So you are being let go.

And you are wondering, how am I going to survive? - It is a Storm, it is a STORM.

Maybe you run a Business, and everything is gone bad with your business. If you were in the Airline Industry, I can imagine the horror of what you are faced with.

You run a Restaurant, I can imagine. If you run a Hotel, I can imagine the horror that you are faced with. If you run a School ...

It is horrifying to be thrown into the middle of a Storm, and trying to steady yourself for nine (9) hours, as they did.

And in our days, maybe for ninety (90) days (not just hours) and still fighting.

You can't control the situation but then, all of a sudden, GOD SHOWS UP.

How are we even sure it is God who showed up?

He will give us a word; He will GIVE US A WORD.

So maybe in the midst of the storm you hear a Word from God; it may be a Word that He spoke to you as you were reading the Bible. A promise of God, that He spoke to your heart.

Just as Jesus spoke to Peter, COME! You heard God speaking to you; maybe from the words of Isaiah, or may be the words of Jeremiah, or may be the words from Paul, or the words from Moses or from David.

God spoke to you across time and across the ocean of your life. And He whispers something to you, and wonder;

It is a Ghost, it is an hallucination, it is a fantasy, it is my own imagination playing tricks on me.

I came here to announce that the Word you heard Jesus say - IT IS I; it's not a Ghost, it's not an Imagination, it's not an hallucination, it is not your mind playing tricks on you.

God is truly showing you that you can walk over the waters. And that is why He brings you His Word, that is why we have the Word of God.

Because God wants to assure you that what you are scared of, He can DOMINATE it.

So I don't know what you heard. Each of us: myself, you, everybody, is in the Storm together.

Nobody is immune; we are all Paddling our boat;

But each one of us must determine whether we will let the Storm drive us, or come from God to drive us.

And at this Point, I don't know about you I choose to hear the Lord saying, COME! - Come and walk on the water with Me; Come and be with Me, Come and stay with Me.

And I believe God is saying that to you; no matter what your circumstance is, He is saying that to you.

That you can get out of that boat and you will not sink.

When Peter started walking on water with Jesus; for a moment, everything was working well for a moment.

We are not sure how long that was; we are not sure how far away Jesus was to the boat. If you take it that Jesus was probably a hundred (100) feet or about thirty (30) meters from the boat - That would be some distance.

So, if Peter had walked on waters for about twenty (20) meters away, he Probably walked on waters for about twenty (20) meters.

The Bible doesn't say that, I'm just using my Power of imagination.

He probably walked on water successfully for twenty (20) meters; and then his eyes and focus SHIFTED - Instead of looking to Jesus, and holding unto His Word, all of a sudden, he looks round again at the Storm!

Because it happens to us all the time; one moment we are in Faith, the next moment we are in fear.

And so one moment you think everything is going to be alright. Then you hear oh, the number (of infections) has gone up to nine hundred and twenty one (921).

... You say, oh God, I'm finished!

Because many of us; we live by circumstantial Faith - When we hear something Good, we are feeling Good. When the information changes, then we change our Faith.

For us to be constant, we have to keep our eyes on Jesus, and on the Word of God. Contrary to every evidence that comes in.

So when the number keeps coming up (which will continue); I'm not speaking bad luck to Ghana, I'm speaking statistically; that we will hear more and more increase in our Numbers.

We are not at the end of this Journey yet, but God is with us - So keep your eyes on Him.

Peter is doing so well; and I can guarantee, some of you were doing so well, until this week.

Peter is doing so well, and then his eyes and his gaze shifted from JESUS to the circumstances. And all of a sudden, everything he has done in the last twenty (20) meters, walking on water, is not important again.

... Because the Storm becomes real to him again.

And the Bible says, he began to sink.

... Beginning to sink! And I like how the Bible puts these words; it didn't say 'sinking', but BEGINNING to sink.

In other words, at the moment when he started focusing on the Storm, he started staggering. And probably his feet started going down gradually into the water.

And he cried out to Jesus and said: LORD, HELP ME!

And the Bible says the Lord reached out and caught his hand.

Isn't it amazing that when our Faith is weak, He is still there to help us.

In other words, God is not requiring "Perfect Faith" from us, but He requires "Perfect Trust" in Him; that when we are sinking, we can say - Lord, help my Unbelief;

When we have tried our best and it's not working; we can still stretch out to Him, and say Lord, Help me!

And I like Jesus; He didn't say well, now you are asking for help!

Thank God Jesus is not a Ghanaian. A Ghanaian would have said: Now, you are asking for help!

Jesus didn't say that, He took him by the hand, bought him up and took him to the boat.

And the Bible says, immediately they got into their boat, the Storm CEASED!

And then, Jesus REBUKED him!

He didn't rebuke him when he was in the Storm sinking. He rebuked him after He had delivered him.

And that tells us; Those who remain with Jesus, He solves the Problem before He talks about our fault.

... He helps us before He tells us where our weakness is.

He says: You of little Faith, why did you doubt?

Now the Problem is not the "Little Faith"; the Problem is why did you doubt?

Because with the little Faith he walked on water.

You don't need "Big Faith" to walk on water.

With a "Little Faith", he walked on water.

... The Problem was - he DOUBTED!

The Word that is used and translated as doubt from the Original Greek, suggests that: The idea of going in two (2) different directions at once! Trying to go left and right at once.

So when we say somebody is doubting, it means that he is trying to be in Faith and Fear at the same time.

He is afraid and he has Faith at the same time - Two (2) things happening at the same times - that is called DOUBT.

... He is going in two (2) different directions at the same time.

Jesus says, when I tell you to come; just focus on COME!

There will be a storm, but you just keep coming.

There will be pressure, but just keep coming.

There is going to be NEWS that will shock you, but still keep coming.

You are going to hear things that will tear your heart apart, but keep coming.

I am here this morning to encourage all of us or those reading now on the Label of DMC - The News may not be Good tomorrow, but Jesus is still on the water, He is on the Storm and He still says COME!

And I believed with all my heart, that He will take us through this Valley of the shadow of death; and we will fear no evil, because His Rod and His Staff will comfort us.

So no matter what you hear tomorrow, no matter what you hear next week, no matter any New Information you hear; just focus on God and look to Him. And He will take us through.

He will take us through!

For each one of you who is struggling; He is going to make a Way!

Maybe your business is gone, God is a Restorer. And you will pull through this: not in your own might, but in the Power of the Most High God.

He will give you what you have lost, He will restore to you what this Storm has taken - Just keep your eyes on Him.

Don't beat yourself down too much; what is gone is gone! You can't bring it back. If it is of any comfort it is affecting everybody;

Government's don't know what to do; Scientists don't know what to do; Industries don't know what to do; Things we thought could solve Problems don't know what to do.

But God is with us in this Storm; it's a Perfect Storm, and in the Fourth (4th) Watch; in the Fourth (4th) Watch we see Jesus Coming.

When we have given up hope of survival, we see Him Coming!

So, if you have been ravaged by this disaster, just trust God; just trust Him!

You say Pastor: Is that all?

What's More can I tell you to do? I can't give you any further instruction; I cannot tell you to climb mountain;

I cannot tell you to go and eat some Special Food; I cannot tell you to drink some Special Anointing Oil. I cannot tell you to drink some Special Water. I cannot give you Special Handkerchief - None of these works!

All I can tell you is Trust God.

Is that all? - YES SIR!

That is all we can do.

... Our Faith is very simple - Trust God, and that is done!

On the Sea of Galilee, apart from Jesus Christ, a human being walked on water. And his name is Peter. Because he trusted the Word of God.

History will record your name some time in the future that you walked on water; history will record it that this is the man who lost everything and got a double back

This is the man who lost everything and got a double back; This is the Person who lost his job, and started a New Business. This is the Person that was thrown away and yet opened the door for many other People.

History will record that you did the impossible in this Season; you walked on water, you overcame disaster, you overcame the Storm.

... And you WILL OVERCOME that Storm!

So I speak into your Spirit: Every fear to depart from you; every fear to leave you; every dense of anxiety to go!

That in this time, in this fourth (4th) Watch - Jesus will walk upon the Storm to bring your Miracle.

And even when your Faith goes weak, He will still help you.

When there is destruction, trust Him; when there is Storm, trust Him; when there is hunger, trust Him; when your eyes are failing, trust Him; when the News is disturbing, trust Him.

When you don't know where to turn, trust Him; when people fail you, trust him; when you are told it's impossible, trust Him.

... Because He will "SHOW UP" in their fourth (4th) Watch of the day.

He didn't show up the First (1st) Watch, He didn't show up the Second (4th) Watch, He didn't show up the Third (3rd) Watch - He showed up at the Final Watch - The Fourth (4th) Watch; when it was the darkest, just before dawn.

To let you know that you are in the "Space of Transition"; it is about to change, it is about to CHANGE - Don't give up!

Jesus shows up in the Storm; and when He shows up in the Storm, we walk by Faith and not by sight.

PRAYERS

So I Pray for you wherever you are; I Pray for you that God will be a shield and a defence for you; that God will Strengthen your heart; that God will be the lifter up of your head; that God will speak life and peace to you in the midst of the Storm.

And I Pray for this Nation (Ghana); that God would take us through this Storm and bring us out; not because we are the best Nation in the world;

But because we Trust Him. We Trust Him to deliver and to set us free.

ALTAR CALL

Before I end my Message today; Jesus doesn't just walk on water, but He can also walk into your lives. He can walk into our hearts: He can change our lives, He can give us what it takes to make life meaningful - to make life significant.

So, I just want you to invite Him into your life. If He is not there, invite Him. Ask Him to come into your heart, ask Him to change you, ask Him to forgive you of your sins, ask Him to make you a Brand New Person.

And if you invite Him into your boat. He will sail with you; life is rough, life is unpredictable.

The only Predictable Factor is God, through Christ Jesus; That is the only Predictable Factor!

PRAYER OF SALVATION

May He come to reside in your life, may He guide you, may He lead you, may He order your steps, may He Direct you!

And as I Prsay for everyone; the Peace of God which surpasses all Understanding keep your heart and mind through this Storm;

You will not sink, you will walk over the Storm as God has spoken to you. .

Your end will be beautiful and your Testimony will be Powerful, in Jesus' Name!

DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

If you believe that, say Amen - AMEN!

GOD BLESS YOU - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying and reading all through.

17TH MAY, 2020 - TOPIC: THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY

TEXT: ISAIAH 40:30-31

Praise the Lord - Hallelujah!

This is the day the Lord has made; we rejoice, we are glad in it.

Let's get ready as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my mind.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise.

By Faith, I press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that JESUS is the Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I ABIDE, in Him I BLOSSOM.

As it is written: GOD, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shown His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellency of His Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to Excellence, I commit to Exceptionalism, I commit to do the Extraordinary.

In JESUS' Name; Amen, and Amen and Amen and AMEN!!!

And you may be seated in His Presence wherever you are!

It's a joy and it's a privilege to welcome you to Service this morning.

And I trust that wherever you are, God is WITH YOU; and His Presence is WITH YOU; and His Spirit is WITH YOU; you are GUARDED in the Name of the Lord!

He says where two (2) or three (3) are gathered together in HIS NAME; and He didn't talk about whether it's Online or in Physical Presence.

Once we gather IN HIS NAME; He is Present with us; and I believe He is Present with you wherever you are, in your home or reading now on the Label of DMC. If you are in the hospital, He is with you; if you are in your car -Wherever you are, He is WITH YOU. And He is with us this morning.

Well, it's always a privilege to be able to Minister God's Word to you. And I trust that this morning, that as we are gathered to REFLECT on the Word of God; that God will speak to you in a clear Ways - Amen.

Well, as you know, the last several weeks has been very challenging for all of us, all over the world, in our Continent, in our Country.

I think we have been doing this Broadcast for probably about nine (9) weeks or so.

In the last so many Weeks and Months, the world has been confronted with the reality that things are not as we thought they were!

That our world is not as Capable as we thought it was!

That our Scientific Understanding is not as formidable as we thought it was!

That even the Most Advanced Economies are not as resilient as we thought!

And that Men and Women of God are not as 'Powerful' as we thought; or as they claimed to be Powerful.

But in the midst of ALL of these; there is One Constant - Who is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever. And His Name is JESUS!

And so, when we lift up His Name, we lift up the CONSTANT - Who never Changes, and Who has never FAILED.

... And our Trust and our Confidence is in Him!

To deal with all the chaos that the world has gone through; various Nations have demanded different Measures, and some Changes - some of them are extreme for their citizens!

And today we want to applaud the Leadership of the entire Globe (of the world) for all that People are doing;

For what the Scientists are doing, what the Political Leaders are doing, what Religious Leaders are doing, what Business Leaders are doing.

And especially the Health Care Leaders, who are really Leading this Crusade and running to deliver Mankind from disaster. We want to applaud everybody's effort!

And we trust that God will Bless our efforts and cause us to be Fruitful and to be Productive.

Whilst as we acknowledge all that has been done, and all the Success; you know that there is so much more to be done.

So, I came here this morning to encourage you not to be weary and not to be tired.

I know that we have done a lot. But there is so much MORE to be done!

So, my Message today is Titled: THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY.

You can say to yourself: I will RUN and not be WEARY!

And we declare that for everybody and for every individual that: We would RUN and we would not be WEARY!

ISAIAH 40:30-31 (NKJV);

30 Even the Youths shall faint and be weary, And the Young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their Strength; They shall mount up with wings like Eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

And my Message is based on Verse 31: They shall run and not be weary

Running can be a lot of fun, especially when we are in a Competition and we start running.

There is some fun at the beginning - if it is a long distance Race.

But sometimes, as the race gets into the middle somewhere, we realised that the race is not as fun as we thought it would be.

When you see a Marathon race begin, most of the time when the race begins, you see People smiling; some of them taking selfie, waving and clapping for themselves as they begin.

And then somewhere along the middle of the race, the mood changes - There is no more selfies, friends are separated, and there is no more laughter because the race is now very serious.

And then by the time he gets to the end, most People have dropped out. If they had a camera, they have dropped it somewhere along the way!

... It's fun to begin, but it's not fun to continue and to Complete!

And that is why I came here to tell you: You will RUN and you will not be WEARY!

So, as we run this race; as our Nation and other Nations pursue Health for her citizens, I Pray that - we will RUN and we will not be WEARY!

There is a very inspiring Story that emerged from the 1968 Olympics Games that was held in Mexico City (Mexico); and it is the story of a Marathon Runner who had fielded in for his Country - from Tanzania. And he is called Stephen Aquari - He was a Marathoner from Tanzania.

And during the 1968 Olympics Games, he ran in the Marathon!

He started very well, but somewhere around the nineteenth kilometers (19km) Point;

... If you want to know, the Marathon is forty two kilometers (42km).

So somewhere getting to the middle - nineteenth kilometers (19km) Point; People were jogging for Position, to station themselves well. And somebody elbowed him wrongly.

And Stephen Aquari fell to the ground; he dislocated is joint, wounded his knees, his shoulder hit hard on the pavement.

However, he continued running!

Although he was wounded, he continued running. And because of his wounds, he was ways behind. He was LAST - Proper last.

And so, as the race Progressed, they got to the "Finishing Point"; which is always a Stadium and the People have come in and clocked their time.

The first (1st) Person had clocked in at 2hrs 20 minutes. Other People had come in

And when it was thought that the race had finished and everybody who ran had completed; at 3hrs 25 minutes later - that is 1hr after the first Person; there comes in Stephen Aquari - leaping, hurting, but STILL RUNNING!

When he got to the Stadium Bowl, People stood up for him and started clapping for him, because he had MADE THE RACE.

And so, after he had finished the Marathon - LAST, by over 1hr; Journalists went to interview him and asked him: You knew you were hurt, you were wounded, you were LAST. You couldn't WIN this Marathon, why did you KEEP RUNNING?

And this is what Stephen Aquari said, he said: My Country did not send me 5,000 Miles to START the race; they sent me 5,000 Miles to FINISH the Race

... And that is what I want to tell you: You didn't come this far just to STOP. God brought you this far because He wants to take you further to FINISH the Race.

... We will RUN, and we WILL NOT BE WEARY!

There is a man in the Bible who also confronted a situation like this; his name is GIDEON! And his story is in the Book of Judges.

And the Part I want to read to you is Judges 8:4-6. It says:

"When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit...

.... I want you to note that; EXHAUSTED but still in PURSUIT.

Then he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the People who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian." And the leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

Gideon had led this Army; he started with about thirty two thousand (32,000) People. God pruned it down to three hundred (300) People. And with those three hundred (300) People, he started winning his battle!

Now, as he Progressed with the battle, he had to make sure that the Kings of the enemy's Country (the Midianites) who had oppressed Israel for so long, would be captured.

So he started running after the Kings - Zalmunna and Zebah.

And the Bible says that he was EXHAUSTED because he kept running and running and RUNNING!

... But, he was still Pursuing; EXHAUSTED but still Running.

Then he came to a Place called Succoth, which was Part of his Country. And he asked that they should give him bread - to strengthen him to go and finish the race; or to finish the battle.

And the men of Succoth said to him: Well, you haven't won the battle yet, why should we help you?

So, you see a man who is EXHAUSTED, he is doing his best to win, he is asking for Help - and his Help was REJECTED!

And there are times we go through life like that: You run and run, and do your possible best; and you want somebody to lift up your hands and tell you: Oh, I support you, it will be well with you. But everybody says: Not yet! We want you to finish the race, we want you to win before we support you.

Well, if he wins, he doesn't need your help; he needs your support before he wins!

But they told Gideon: We are not going to give you bread; pursue the Kings yourself.

... And so, exhausted, hungry, with rejection - he didn't stop!

And that is what I want to encourage you with because some times in life, whilst you are Pursuing what you have to pursue; you hope that People would understand and encourage you - And they may not encourage you.

But whether they encourage you or not, whether you are helped or not; if you are exhausted and they don't give you bread - You still have to run, you still have to Pursue: because God will give you the Victory!

In every race of life, we come through these Processes.

And for each one of us who has been working hard; may be in the last eight (8) weeks; Trying to fix what was wrong, trying to rebuild your life, trying to build your Business; Churches - Pastors feeling exhausted. Online Service after Online Service; missing your congregation - We haven't FINISHED this race. So, we are going to be Pursuing.

... Although we are WEARY, although we have no BREAD; we are still going to KEEP RUNNING - because there is Victory at the end for us.

So, I came here to tell you: You don't stop Running, until you have FINISHED the race.

Stephen Aquari did not stop running until he finished the race. He was not FIRST, but he finished the race;

Because life is not about who is First, who is Second; but who FINISHED the race.

The Great Apostle Paul said: "I have fought a Good fight, I have FINISHED the race."

He didn't tell us which Position he was in; he didn't tell us whether he was First, or Second - He said: I HAVE FINISHED the race!

Our Assignment in life is not to compete with People, but to FINISH the race that is set before us.

There would be Exhaustion, and then may be Refusal and no support; but we must finish what God had Planted into our hearts.

Exhaustion, getting tired, feeling like giving up, feeling like surrendering, is Natural!

It comes through many processes - Sometimes, it comes through warfare - when it feels like your whole life is about continuous battles.

You fight this battle, and then fight another battle; you solve that problem and then solve another Problem - It is just one continuous warfare, after warfare, after Warfare!

When you do that, or you go through that; sometimes you may feel Exhausted. And sometimes we get exhausted because of wounds, hurt, pain.

Sooner or later, my friend, somebody is going to hurt you!

Whether you invite it or not, somebody is going to hurt you! Somebody is going to try to PUSH you;

That is what happened to the Marathon Runner - Stephen Aquari. Somebody just PUSHED him in the middle of the way and hurt him. He fell down, and the Person kept running.

And that is the sad thing - After they have pushed you, they keep running.

And if you keep staying there, they will keep going.

So, do yourself a favour - GET UP, and continue running!

And sometimes we become WEARY, because we have lost direction: We are wandering, we don't know where we are going and it doesn't seem we are making any Progress.

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Because sometimes you go through life, you don't know whether you are making Progress or you are not making Progress. You don't know whether it is working or it is not working.

You put in a lot of efforts, a lot of efforts and a lot of EFFORTS and you feel like you are just wandering.

I just want to encourage you today: You may have been wounded in your battle, they may feel like you are wandering. And you may feel, that there is too much warfare in your life but God did not bring you this far, lift you so high, blessed you so much; open so many doors to you, give you so many opportunities - so that YOU QUIT!

He has done all those things for you, because there is a Race set before you and you must FINISH IT!

In the Book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul had to deal with the People in Galatia - The Church in Galatia was Planted by Paul but that Church was going through difficulty.

They started very well, with the Doctrine of Christ; Strong in Faith. And then along the way, they got TIRED of Trusting God, of believing God; and trusting in the Salvation that Christ had given to them. And His Grace that was Sufficient.

And so, they started Practising all kinds of things and mixing all kinds of things with their Faith.

So, Paul writes to them in Galatians 5:7-9.

And this is what Paul says to the Church in Galatia, he says:

"You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the Truth? This Persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump."

... You ran WELL, you STARTED well, you were DOING well: What happened? Who hindered you?

So the reason why sometimes we are Running; whether it is a Race of Life, whether it is a National running, whether it is a Church running; or we are committed to an endeavour, and we give up - It is because there are hindrances! There are hindrances; there are Obstructions on our way.

... He says: you ran well, who hindered you?

Hindrance can either be a Situation or a Person.

In every endeavour of life, there are hindrances:

1. Whether you Prayed for it or not; there would be hindrances.

2. Whether you bind it or cast it out; there would be hindrances

3. Whether you shut your eyes or open it; there would be hindrances

... You ran well, what hindered you?

And then he talks about PERSUASIONS - Who Persuaded you to stop running?

Persuasions are:

1. Arguments that People give you,

2. Excuses that they make to you - Oh, you have tried your Possible best. Oh! you have done the best (No man can do some).

... He didn't come to do all.

So, you look at it and you say: yeah! You know, I think I have done my BEST!

Well, if you haven't FINISHED THE RACE, you haven't done your best!

If you haven't ENDED the Assignment, you haven't done your best!

Your best is to finish the Race that is set before you!

So, I came to tell you my friends: Yes, it's TIRING; Yes, you feel WEARY; Yes, you feel you have been running for a LONG TIME - Like Gideon, you are running against this Army and you are HUNGRY, and nobody is helping you.

But you have to keep running; I have to keep running, and ALL of us must keep Running!

Persuasions, Arguments - we must be very careful of People who give us an excuse to quit; People who ENCOURAGE you to quit! People who make it EASY for you to quit:

They are not your Best Friends!

They may seem like your best friends because your Best Friends is not the one who tells you 'YOU CAN NOT!'

Your Best Friend is the one who tells you; WITH CHRIST, you are Well Able.

... Paul talks about Hindrance, he talks about Persuasion and then he talks about LEAVEN - A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

What is a LEAVEN?

A Leaven is like influence; it's like Yeast in flour - It influences the flour and causes it to RISE.

So, there are certain influences that come into our lives that make it easier for us to quit - Influences people who quit, and we see their example of quitting;

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And we say: Well, if he couldn't make it, then I CAN'T make it! If he failed, then it is okay to Fail; if he couldn't finish, then it is alright not to finish

... That is your LEAVEN!

Paul asked the Galatia Church: you ran well, what happened? What HAPPENED?

Why did you start so well; put yourself under so much Pressure and tried to win this Race, but later gave up and lose every Good Thing you have ever achieved for yourself?

Why did you put in the first effort? Why were you excited and gave up?

I remembered you know when this whole Virus issue came, it was almost like "Comic Relieve" for a lot of People.

You know, who were following the virus and making fun of it.

And then we realised, this is very serious and it is getting serious, and we see what is happening in other Nations - Even when we started putting on the Face Mask, People were making fun. You are using fabric, you know, Africa fabric - Kente and so on!

Pretty soon, you are going to realised that covering your Nose and Mouth: whether with Kente or clothes, it's not FUN!

Because, to WIN the battle, we don't treat life as fun: The Battle is serious, the demands are serious; what is expected of us is SERIOUS!

... And we have to continue running until we WIN

Gideon, EXHAUSTED, but still running; Stephen Aquari, PUSHED aside, hurt, wounded, but still running.

Is that going to our story? Or we are going to be like the Galatian Church - who ran well from the beginning, and got hindered?

So, the Bible encourages us in Hebrews 10:36: "For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the Will of God, you may receive the Promise:"

... You have need of ENDURANCE.

If we are going to WIN, we need Endurance.

And let me say it all out here; with all the damage that has been done to the World's Economy; with all the damages done to the Economies all over the world; even the most established Economies have been brought to their knees!

Countries like Ghana, who depended on the Big Economies; we are in serious trouble - We are in serious trouble!

The "Ripple Effect" is going to be DEEP, the damage to will be deep, the reabsorption of the effects of dislocation in our lives will be deep.

It is not going to be an easy journey - So, let us just not think, Oh, everything will return to normal by the snap of a finger.

No Sir! - That is not how it is going to be.

It is going to be a "TOUGH RACE".

That is why I'm Preparing you.

We will be Exhausted, we will be refused bread but we will keep running!

We are going to run, we may be shot aside, we may see everybody has left us behind - but we still have to keep running because recovery is not going to be quick;

It is going to be Slow, it is going to be Painful: but it is DOABLE

So Hebrews 10:36 says: "For you have Need of endurance, so that after you have done the Will of God, you may receive the Promise:"

Very interesting; you have done the Will of God, but the Bible says in order to receive the Promise; it didn't say, you do the Will of God, and then you receive the Promise.

It says: You do the Will of God, you Need Endurance, you RECEIVE THE PROMISE!

So, in between doing the Will of God and receiving the Promise; there is a Process called ENDURANCE!

It's just a matter of: You just sow and you reap; you just do the Will of God and everything turns out right.

... It says, you do the Will of God, you Need Endurance.

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Why do you NEED ENDURANCE?

Because you are going to be EXHAUSTED, you are going to feel WOUNDED, you will be REJECTED, you will be ABANDONED, BREAD will not be given to you - BUT YOU HAVE TO RUN!

So, How do we stay in such a RACE? How do we survive?

I know some of you are saying; oh Pastor, you don't make it easy for us!

I'm just telling you, this is how it is.

It doesn't mean that we don't have Victory over it!

I'm just showing you that we are going to have this Victory; but this is how we will get the Victory.

How do we develop the endurance?

We need STAMINA!

Stamina is the ability to endure and to hold on

Many of us are familiar with the Phrase "Busy Bees".

We call Bees BUSY and bees are not called busy simply as a nickname - they are called busy because they are BUSY.

... And we call them BUSY BEES because they are actually busy bees.

To produce one Pound of honour; please forgive me, I still think Imperial, although the world is very Metric; so I still work in Pounds and Ounces (so convert it).

To get one POUND of honey, the bee must visit fifty six thousand (56,000) Clover Heads - Fifty six thousand (56,000)!

And since each head has over fifty (50) flower tubes; a total of three Million, three hundred and fifty (3,350,000) visits are necessary to Produce ONE (1) POUND OF HONEY.

For a bee to give you the honey you drink, or you put in your tea, put on your bread; this is how much work!

In the Process, it flies the equivalent of three (3) times around the world - It is going up down, up down, up down - over three million times, to Produce one (1) pound of honey.

To Produce one (1) table spoon honey for your toast; the bee takes four hundred and twenty thousand (420,000) trips to fly.

The next time you are eating honey, think of the bee - the HARDWORKING Bees!

That is why they are called Walker Bees - they keep going up and down, up and down, up and down! Back and forth - little at a time, small at a time, one step at a time, one upon the other.

They keep going; there is Endurance, there is STAMINA! And they win in the end - they give us honey!

And we go and suck them, we take their hard work and put it in our tea and some call it Pure Honey.

... But it comes from hard work; extremely Hard Work.

"You have need of endurance, so that after you have done the Will of God, you may receive the Promise:"

... They shall RUN and not be WEARY!

I am EXHAUSTED, but still I'm pursuing what God has set before me; and I believe, when we ARM our minds with that:

There is no Journey too hard, no Task too difficult, and no Mountain too high for us to climb.

In your own Personal Life; if you are a Business Person, and your business has been dislocated; I believe Restoration will come to you - Amen.

But the Restoration is not going to come because you just sat down, and Restoration happens; Restoration is going to come because you Pursued like Gideon.

The interesting thing with Gideon is that when God met Gideon the first time; the Angel of the Lord met Gideon and said: the Lord is WITH YOU!

Now, if the Lord is with you, you will say: Why are you Pursuing and you are exalted? If God is for us, then we don't need to do anything, it's going to happen.

The Lord was with him, and look at how HARD he is working? And look at the rejection; but God is WITH HIM.

1. The fact that People Rejected you doesn't mean God has abandoned you
2. The fact that you are Exhausted doesn't mean God had abandoned you;
3. The fact that you have worked hard and hard and hard - without any result immediately, it doesn't mean that God has abandoned you;

That is God's Process - You have Need of Endurance, so that after you have done the Will of God, you may receive the Promise.

I declare to somebody today; you will receive the Promise; You will win this battle; God will restore you - Amen.

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God will make you a thousand times MORE; a thousand times BETTER, a thousand times SWEETER, a thousand times MORE VICTORIOUS - Amen.

Your End would be better than your Beginning; your story would be better than it was PRE-COVID - Amen.

In your Post-Covid and Pre-Covid Analysis; your Post-Covid would be better than your Pre-Covid - Amen.

But for us to get to that Point;

1. We have to be like that Marathoner: Life would PUSH you down, but we are going to get back up.

2. If we are going to get to that Point, we have to be like Gideon: We are PURSUING, People are refusing us help but we will keep Pursuing, because we have an Assignment.

We must not be like the Galatians, who RAN WELL, but were hindered.

So, How did it END UP for Gideon?

... As I bring my Message to an end!

This is how it ends for Gideon - Judges 8:11-12: "Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he attacked the army while the camp felt secure. When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he Pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army."

... The guy ran, he was exhausted, and he fought this battle, and he won Total Victory - HE WON.

... And that is how your story will also end:

1. EXHAUSTED? But you are going to win!

2. TIRED? But you are going to win!

3. WOUNDED? But you are going to win!

4. REJECTED? But you are going to win!

5. THROWN ASIDE? But you are going to win!

6. GETTING OLDER? But you are going to win!

Because when you have the Spirit, AGE is not a disadvantage to you again.

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A man called Caleb in the Bible, at eighty five (85) Years old, was ready to face New Challenges.

Because when you have this Spirit, you can be like Caleb; in your OLD AGE, you will do what you couldn't do in your Youth

1. Don't just resign yourself to age; don't surrender to age; don't surrender to your failures; don't surrender to the fact that you are falling; don't surrender to, Oh, I built well, now everything is down - You will REBUILD AGAIN!

2. Don't say, oh I had a "Good Time", and now I don't even know where the future is coming from - You will REBUILD YOUR LIFE!

Your Businesses would come up again! Your Finances would work again! Things would come back to normal, and EXCEED where it used to be!

Because that is one of the Characteristics of God: When He restores you, He makes you BETTER than before.

... And somebody's life is going to get BETTER than before!

I am fully Persuaded, that for everybody who seemed to have had a setback; even for Churches who feel Oh, it's been a difficult time - There would be RESTORATION and it will be better for you than it was before;

More souls would be saved, more lives would be impacted, God's Grace would abound, God's Glory would be greater, God's Favour would be Greater!

And for every Church, every Church in this Country: may the Lord cause His Grace to rest upon you; may the Favour of God rest upon you; may the Lord Increase you and Increase your flock;

May the Lord make you a thousand times BETTER; may more lives be impacted by your Ministry and your Church; may more souls be saved. May the GLORY of God fill the House any time you gather.

May God do things in your life that you never saw before; may your Church experience Growth it has never experienced before!

For every Business: Small Business, Medium sized Business, Big Business, that have lost so much - I Speak LIFE to you: that the Lord will Restore you.

Yes, you have been pushed aside, but you are going to Pursue and you are going to win this one; and IT WILL BE WELL WITH YOU.

Your Business would be greater than it has ever been. Your Impact would be greater than it has ever been.

Whereas you used to be Agent for International Business; you would now Stand on your own and take full charged of your Destiny.

For this whole Nation of Ghana, I speak LIFE to Ghana - We have been knocked hard with the whole world. But we will rise and we would be better, and will be greater.

For this Continent of Africa, it has been a tough times; we were down already. And this has knocked us further; but we would RISE to our greatest height after this.

This is the Season of the Manifestation of the African Continent - This is Africa's Time! This is our Season:

We would not FAIL, we would not BOW, we would not be a BASKET CASE; we would rise and TAKE CHARGE of our Destiny.

Like Gideon, we are exhausted, but we are Pursuing.

Like that Marathoner, we have been thrown aside, but we are still running our race - and we are going to WIN THIS.

I just want to PRAY WITH YOU wherever you are; and I just want you to call the Name of the Lord on our behalf.

I don't know what you are going through, what you have gone through, how long life has been this hard. Maybe you don't even have food to eat, you don't even know how things are - everything is just out of joint: I Pray for you; that you will not fail.

Just lift up your hands with me wherever you are or reading this on the Label of DMC, let's call upon the CONSTANT GOD; the God who never Changes, who is the same all the time.

Science would fail us, but He doesn't fail; Men of God would fail us, but He doesn't fail; Nations would fail us, but He doesn't fail.

CLOSING PRAYER

So Father I Pray with my brothers and sisters, joining my Faith with theirs; that in this time when we feel that we have been knocked down, we feel tired and exhausted, we feel that it is not working;

May You give us the Spirit You gave to Gideon - that we WILL RUN, even when we are exhausted.

And I Pray Lord, Your Holy Spirit would envelop us; would surround us with Your Power.

That our strength would be renewed, we would mount up with wings like EAGLES; we will Run and not be WEARY, we will walk and not faint.

May the Lord God in whom you have put your trust; under Whose Wings you have taken refuge: May He Protect you, may He Bless you, may He increase you!

Don't give up, don't get tired, don't lie down on the floor. May the Lord LIFT YOU UP, and do Great Things with you again.

In Jesus' Mighty Name we have Prayed - AMEN!

If you truly believe that, why don't you CELEBRATE THE LORD wherever you are or reading now on the Label of DMC: and just give the Lord a mighty shout and a mighty clap to God.

Because you are turning around the situation to the Glory of God; in Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying and reading all through.



24TH MAY, 2020 - TOPIC: PLACE IT IN THE HANDS OF JESUS

TEXT: MATTHEW 14:13-21

Praise the Lord - Hallelujah! Praise the Lord - Hallelujah!! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!!!

It's great to be in the House of the Lord.

As we stand together, we are going to make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready? - SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that JESUS is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I ABIDE, in Him I BLOSSOM.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the POWER may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In JESUS' Name - AMEN!! And amen, and Amen and AMEN.

And you may be seated in God's Presence wherever you are!

It's always a great Joy to have this time of Fellowship with you;

As we think about what the Lord has done for us in these twelve (12) Weeks, or so. Just to remember where God has taken us from, and where He has brought us to.

For many of us, it may not seem like a great time in our lives; but you know God uses all situations to work out His Purposes. And there is something He is doing behind the scene, to your advantage.

And although you may not see it, God is opening Treasures to you. And get ready, you are about to Encounter Him in a Supernatural way, in a Powerful way, in a Realistic way, in a Life transforming way that will make your life better than it has ever been before.

God does not take us backwards, He always takes us Forward!

And so, as we contemplate all that has happened in the last few Months, on this Planet Earth; this Year has been quite an extraordinary Year in so many ways.

I'm sure that all of, for Years will recount 2020 as a Major Watershed Year. Our children who are older enough, and our grandchildren who are old enough to experience this moment, will recount it for DECADES - as the Year, THE EARTH STOOD STILL: almost everything came to a Standstill.

And we have been impacted tremendously by this virus. It's not so much the HEALTH hazard - because many of us would never have the virus, many of us would never be affected healthwise.

But it is the Economic and Social impacts, that has severely disrupted all of us.

You know, even if the virus had not come to this Country; even if Ghana had no Covid case; the Economic impact, the Social Impact - the impact on our Economy would probably be the same!

Because we would be cut off from the rest of the world; we couldn't do business as we would and there would be all kinds of disruptions.

So, whilst we are concerned about the health hazard, it's time for us to start thinking about how to bounce back from the impact that it has had on us, on our Jobs, on our Businesses, on a Social interactions, in our whole few of life!

So, much of what I have said is to encourage us to know how to face life through this catastrophe that has befallen our world.

So, my Message today is simple, and I have Titled it: PLACE IT IN THE HANDS OF JESUS.

And you may ask, what should we Place in the hands of JESUS?

We will find out very soon!

... PLACE IT IN THE HANDS OF JESUS!

What do you do when you are in a difficult Place in life?

Time is not on your side, and you have very little Resources, but a huge Problem to solve?

You look around you and what you have is inadequate.

And these days, we are all aware of that.

And so today, we are going to follow Jesus and learn from Him.

We will examine The Miracle of the Feeding of five thousand (5,000):

It is one Miracle of Jesus that is mentioned in all the four (4) Gospels.

Each Gospel account gives a detail that helps us to see the "Total Picture".

So ideally, it will be great to read all the four (4) Gospels account. But I am not going to be able to do that, just for time; I will love to manage time well.

I will focus on Mathew's rendering of that account and how the Apostle Matthew saw the account, and the Holy Spirit enabled him to us.

But I will also make references to Luke's Account and John's account in my Message.

Just before I read the Passage, it is important to know that The Miracle of Jesus Christ carry both a Spiritual and a Natural Truth.

And the base of it: A Miracle is a Supernatural or Miraculous Act.

... But it is also written for us to learn God's Principles in it.

And so, whilst we see the Supernatural Miracle, we are also learning how God works; and it's application to our Natural Lives.

And so let us read the account from Matthew's Gospel 4:13-21; and this will form the basis.

And like I said, I would be accounting from the other Gospels as well.

MATTHEW 14:13-21 (NKJV)

13 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

18 He said, "Bring them here to Me."

19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to Heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

... That means that although we normally call it the Feeding of the five thousand (5,000); If you added the women and the children, the number was way beyond five thousand (5,000).

If you want the other Readings, it will be in Luke's Gospel 9:13-17; and John's Gospel 6:4-11.

Jesus, as you know was usually followed by large numbers of people - He was a "Phenomenal Teacher" of God's Word.

... Of course, He is the Word of God Himself!

And so, anytime He taught, people had such clarity of the Scriptures that they never had before.

But in addition to Teaching, Jesus also worked Miracles in the lives of people, and people were healed.

So on this particular occasion, Jesus is Teaching; and the account says He has been doing it for three (3) days. And the Bible says that He has healed the sick.

But this was not taking Place in a Chapel - it's not in a Church Auditorium - It is out there in the field.

And so for these number of days, people are listening to Jesus, the sick are Perfectly Healed. But the people are getting hungry, of course, they are human beings - they need food to eat.

And so, there is a challenge Presented in this Place.

And Matthew says in Chapter 14 verse 15:

When it was evening, His Disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted Place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

So, what was the challenge facing them at this time?

1. First, they had Problem a with the PLACE where they where.

The Bible says they were in DESERTED Place.

.... So they had a Location Problem.

The people had followed Jesus to a Place that is DESERTED.

... So the location is wrong!

Many times we have a Location Problem: Where you Pitch your Tent; where you live; where you stay.

For almost all of us in a Nation like Ghana, there is a Location Problem because we are considered the least developed of the Countries of the world.

... At least our Continent is seen that way!

And of the least developed in African - we are Probably the last. But well, I think Central Africa is worse, we top them a little bit.

So growing in a Nation like Ghana, sometimes seems like a disadvantage - The Place is deserted.

So, there is a Location Problem.

And we may feel there is a Location Problem - Maybe you think, if you were in another country - you were in another Place; you would do better.

So first, a Location Problem.

2. They had a TIME Problem.

The Disciples said: The hour is already late; time is against us!

And the reason they said the hour is already late is because it is evening, and the sun is about to set.

And you know those days, there was no electricity and so you couldn't switch on light.

There was also no Solar Power to give us "Artificial Light".

... So when the sun goes down, nobody works!

They had a short time for something to happen, because time is against us.

So there is a Location Problem, there is a Time Problem - Time is against us.

And if you look at it, they have a Big Need - A huge Multitude, five thousand (5,000) men, besides women and children!

Hungry People, they have been fed Spiritually, they have heard the Word of God - their bodies have been healed.

But there is something about hunger that is not easy to compensate.

When People are hungry you can give them the Word of God (laughs!); Pray for them; but hunger has its own dynamics.

And so these People, they appreciate the Spiritual Help they have received from Jesus. They appreciate ALL the Good Thing - they appreciate the fact that they have been healed.

... But they don't appreciate the fact that they are hungry!

And that is one of the things I have come to realize in life: No matter how well you help People; no matter how you try to help People; If they feel hungry, they tend to overlook all the Good that has been done!

These People are hungry - and Jesus understands it; that although I have Preached to them, and have Ministered to them, they have a hunger Problem!

So, there is a SPACE problem; there is a TIME problem;

3. And there is a HUGE NEED - The Multitude.

... And the resources are LIMITED: Five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fish!

I like how John's Gospel renders that - John 6:8-9. It says:

One of His Disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

... Five (5) barley loaves and two (2) small fish, but what are they among so many?

... That's the Resources that they had!

Matthew says it's five (5) loaves; but John goes into a little detail and tells us the quality of the loaves. Then said there are, Five (5) barley loaves.

Now, why does John say Five (5) barley loaves?

Because in the days of Jesus, top Priority loaves were made from Wheat.

Just like our time here; barley loaves were made inferior - Cheap Quality Loaves.

So what they are saying is: What we have is Cheap - it's barley loaves.

And then we have five (5) barley loaves bread and Two (2) fish.

... But he didn't say fish - John qualifies the fish and says it's two (2) "Small" fish.

In other words, the Quality is inferior; the Size is inferior!

So you have barley loaves - Not even wheat loaves. And you have fish that are small - Not even Tuna (Big Tuna fish) but Two (2) small fish.

And so they themselves looked at the resource available to solve this Problem - and they asked a very big question; "What are they among so many?"

... So they have and they depreciate it!

And many times we go through life that way: We look at what we have in our hands - It may not be barley loaves. But it might just be Fifty (50) Cedes; it may be five (5) Cedes, it may be a hundred (100) Cedes!

... And yet, it doesn't seem like much!

What is this among so many? - That is the question that they asked!

What is what I have in relation to the problems I have to solve? And the TIME frame that is against me; and the LOCATION that is fighting against me?

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I came to announce to somebody today: God is about to work something in your life; in your Business. In the next few Months, in this year - Amen.

What you hold in your hands that seems inferior; What you hold in your hands that seems small; the Place that you are seems to be disadvantage; the Time that you is against you - God is about to bring all these together, and put into a Package, to work a Miracle in your life - Amen!

And as we bounce back from the hazard of this virus; we are going to be faced with Limited Resources, Time against us, Location disadvantage, barley loaves, two (2) small fish.

And we are going to ask ourselves; How can we use this?

For our Nation (Ghana), how are we going to use the little resources and the disadvantages we have?

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For you as a Person, for Churches - Some of which are not even sure when we open, will People will come back to Church?

So you look at the little you have: Maybe you are a little Church in a little classroom and you are wondering - How am I going to survive after this?

... God says: He is about to work something in your life - Amen!

Yes, the Location doesn't favour you, Time doesn't favour you, Resources are limited - they are cheap, they are inferior.

And you are asking yourself: What are these, among so many?

So, THE PROPOSED OPTIONS:

The Disciples says: Well, looking at where we are, the Time that is against us, and the Resources that we have:

1. SEND THEM AWAY!

In other words: Don't even try to solve it, Jesus.

Because Jesus asked them: What should we do?

And they said: Sir, shut down the Business, declare bankruptcy, send them away. There is no way we can solve this - Nothing is at our advantage!

... That's Option No. 1.

And if you have thought of it this way too, I want you to know that God thought of you and put it in the Scripture - there will be People who have this Option!

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... There is Option No. 2 and that is the Option Jesus gave:

2. Jesus said: GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT!

And they looked at each other and said Lord: Do You really understand where we are? - We are in the desert. The next Village is far away!

And even if we have so much money and we go in to Village, we wouldn't even have enough bakers to bake enough bread for these People. And we are not even sure how much money is required to feed these Multitude of People.

... But Jesus said: GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT!

God will give you something to eat - Amen. God will intervene in your situation - Amen. The Location is wrong, the Resources are limited, Time is against you.

But I hear Jesus speaking from the Sanctuary into our lives today; Give him something to eat; Give her something to eat; Give them something to eat.

...GOD is about to give you something to EAT - Amen!

So, Two (2) Options:

1. Send them away, don't try to solve it - Disciples,;

2. Jesus - Give them something to eat.

Now if you were there, whose Option would it be? If you were in the Multitude?

Maybe some of them would say: I think the Disciples are smart.

Oh, they are Practical People! So let us go.

And some of them would say: Well, I think Jesus knows how to solve Problems like this.

Although we haven't really seen Him do something like this but, we think He can do something about it.

Where would you be?

Would you say: Well, let me close shop or give them something to eat?

... I trust JESUS, or I trust the Disciples - Where is your Faith?

... What is this, among so many People?

So, one of the Disciples comes and say Lord, there is a young boy here who hasn't eaten his food! He has kept his five (5) loaves of bread, two (2) fish.

... Remember, this is a small boy's lunch - it's not an adult lunch.

So in my mind's eye, I can imagine (if he is a lad) probably age fourteen (14) - He is going to hear his mother says: take this bread and take this fish.

He didn't have anybody and he didn't look old man in my eyes! So this is a small boy's meal.

And they said: Jesus, this is all we have!

And Jesus says, fine! Now let's try to solve the Problem.

So, Let's see HOW JESUS SOLVED THE PROBLEM.

Luke's Account - in Luke 9:14 -15. For there were about five thousand (5,000) men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." And they did so, and made them all sit down.

Five thousand (5,000) People must HAVE - It is very difficult to feed!

When you saw the Problem, BIG as it is, it is difficult to solve it.

So, Jesus introduced a Process - He said to the Disciples: There are over five thousand (5,000) People here; let them sit down in groups of Fifty (50)!

So, in groups of Fifty (50) and there are about five thousand (5,000) People - that means one hundred (100) Groups!

So, instead of solving five thousand (5,000) Problems, Jesus now, is looking at it in groups of one hundred (100) with fifty in each Group.

If you probably double it, they will be about two hundred (200) Groups - spread out there!

And what did Jesus teach us there?

He teaches us that even when you have all the solution, you have to ORGANISE the Problem.

You don't have to deal with the matters as they are - You have to organize the matters!

After organizing the People, you have to put them in "Proper Structured Groups". Otherwise your Resources (no matter how Miraculous they are) will be abused!

Jesus knew the FULL number of the People; Jesus understood the SIZE He had to deal with - so He rearranged the People!

... They came together as a Mass, but He put them into organized Groups.

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One of the things I have learnt (and I'm sure you have also learnt it in life) is that - Normally when you break down Problems, it seem easier to solve.

... Normally, just break them down!

Many times the Problems just look so big, and then you break it down.

And as a matter of fact, in most Mathematical Problems, the solution is just breaking it down! - Breaking down the equation to the lowest level, then you have the answer.

So, the ability to Segment the Problem: Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Creator of the Universe; understood that when you are dealing with things that and Natural and Human - you have to Organize it Properly.

So, maybe your Problem is HUGE, but if you segment it well; if you break it down well; if you put them in groups, so that the Problems don't walk from one group to the other; so that the Problems don't interact with each other. But you solve one, and solve the other, and solve the other!

Probably, it will make you see that: Although your Resources are small, it can WORK in a large situation.

... So, it's an important key!

Maybe as you look at all the issues that you have, you to start segmenting them: What is your Marriage Program? What is your Children Program? What is your Business Program? What is your Finance Program? What is your Human Resource Program?

Which one is a Structure Problem? - Whatever it is - just BREAK IT DOWN; and see it clearer.

And Jesus made everybody sit down!

The days of Jesus were quite close to the days we are living in Ghana - if you don't make People sit down, they will trample over the food you are giving to them.

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... We have seen it happen several times!

Jesus made the People SIT DOWN - That just shows you how smart Jesus is.

And so, let's see HOW JESUS APPLIED THE RESOURCES.

MATHEW'S ACCOUNT - In Matthew 14:19;

"Then He commanded the Multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to Heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the Disciples; and the Disciples gave to the Multitudes."

1. When JESUS was offered the five (5) loaves, two (2) fish, He TOOK it! - He took Ownership of it.

At that time, the five (5) loaves were no longer the little boy's five (5) loaves; they were Jesus' five (5) loaves.

... This is the most important thing I want to bring to your attention today.

May be what you have is small, and the time is against you, the location doesn't favour you. But you have to learn to put it in the Hands of JESUS.

Somebody says: But Pastor, how do I put it in the Hands of Jesus? He is not here. Where do I find Him to put my Problems and Resources in His Hands?

... You do it by PRAYER!

And how do you do it?

You TOTALLY surrender it to the Lord! And you trust in Him ABSOLUTELY, and you allow Him to OWN IT.

In other words, Once you say: Lord, I give it to You, you don't continue worrying about it.

He has come for it but don't be worrying as if you MUST solve the Problem. Because the moment you do that, you haven't put it in God's Hands; you haven't put it in Jesus' Hands.

When you put it in JESUS' Hands, He is the OWNER - and you have to trust Him.

So somewhere in your life, somewhere in the next few days, you have to make a "Quality Decision" - To take what you have in your hand and say: Lord, I don't even know how big this is among so many. But I PLACE it in Your Hands; I TRUST You with it. And from today, I refuse to be anxious and I refuse to worry.

Because it is in Your Hands: My Five (5) loaves and two (2) fish are now YOUR five (5) loaves and two (2) fish.

You have to give it to Him, You have to Trust Him with it; and you have to do it in PRAYER.

And when you do it in Prayer, it has to be a Commitment that is REAL.

Don't put it in His Hands, and then you go and take it tomorrow morning. When you put it in His Hands, learn to trust Him.

And say that in Prayer; commit it to Him in Prayer.

... So, Jesus took OWNERSHIP of it, because it was given to Him.

2. Then, He BLESSED IT.

He Blessed it! It was small, but He Blessed it.

So, the word Blessing means to Celebrate it, to speak well of it. It means to set it apart. It means go Invest it with Glamour.

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3. And then He BROKE IT.

So there is something you have, something I have!

If you are a Pastor, it may be "Diminished Congregation"; If you are a Business Man - "Diminished Business, Goods and Services or Resources, or Capital.

Probably, these Months of staying at home, you have just consumed your Capital - Your Working Capital is gone!

Then you have just very little left. And you are not sure;

Can I start my business all over again? Can I start Church all over again? Can I start my School all over again? Can I start whatever am doing all over again?

How am I going to make it again? How am I going to recover what I have lost?

But this is all you have!

Understand that this is all you have because you are in a Deserted Place, the Time is against you. But God left something in your hands.

What if there was no boy with five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fish?

But Thank God there was one (1) person who had not eaten his lunch. For three (3) days - he has been holding his lunch. And they have eaten theirs, but this boy has not eaten his!

So, look into your hands - there is something that has not been eaten; there is something that has not gone; there is something that has not left.

It may be a building, it may be land, it may be some money, it may be relationship, it may be a contact! - Whatever it is, IT WAS NOT EATEN: it's still there in your hands!

And you have to trust God with it!

It's a Radical Faith - it's Radical Faith, it's not wishy washy Faith.

... It is TOTALLY ABANDONING YOURSELF to the Lord!

... And say: Lord, this is all I have - I Place it in Your Hands.

Jesus Christ Himself says: Except a grain of wheat falls to the ground and DIES - it abides alone; but when it falls to the ground and it dies - it will germinate, and it will bear much fruit.

When you put it in His Hands, it is dead from you, but ALIVE in His Hands. And He will cause it to germinate.

Now, I want you to just look at THE RESOURCE - the five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fish.

In the hands of the boy, it was just five (5) barely loaves and two (2) fish - very limited and inferior.

In your hands, it is limited and inferior; in the hands of the boy, it is limited and inferior.

In the hands of JESUS - It is Celebrated! It is not despised. Jesus BLESSED it!

... And the Lord would BLESS what you give to Him.

4. Then Jesus didn't keep it in His Hands - He lifted it up to the Father's Hands.

In the Hands of the Father, it transformed - from Inferior Limited, to Expensive Unlimited.

5. Then Jesus took it back, and He released it in the Disciples' hands.

In the Disciples' hands, it was Multiplied.

6. And in the hands of the People, it Satisfied!

Many times I Picture what that Miracle looks like. And it is the only Miracle that is narrated by all the four (4) Gospels because SO MANY People were there - Thousands of People!

And I can imagine the number of People who went on talking about it:

You know what happened today? We were in the wilderness and Jesus had only five (5) loaves and two (2) fish. And look! He FED ALL OF US.

Thousands of People reported that! - It was a Miracle that could not be avoided.

Most of the Miracles of Jesus happened to one (1) Person - one (1) Person at a time. One blind Person, one lame Person, one mute Person, or a small family.

But this was thousands!

... ALL, not Spectators, but benefiting from the Miracle!

... In the HANDS OF JESUS, it changed!

So I have always wondered (in my mind I Picture): The boy has five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fish. Jesus takes it - it's still five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fish.

He lifts it to God and Prays: It's still five (5) loaves of bread, two (2) fish. He brings it down; It's still five (5) loaves of bread, two (2) fish - Nothing has changed!

If you look at it, you wouldn't know a Miracle had happened - He gives it to His Disciples and that is when the Multiplication starts!

So, he gives it to Peter; Peter, take this bread and share.

And Peter goes, he breaks a part of the bread, and the bread FILLS up! He breaks, the bread fills up!

Andrew is breaking and it's filling up; he is breaking and it's filling up.

So, you never see the Miracle until it leaves JESUS' Hands and you start APPLYING it - you start choosing it!

... That is when the Multiplication takes Place.

You are not going to end up one day you look at yourself, Oh! I have a thousand (1,000) loaves!

It is when you use those fifty (50) Cedes, that one hundred (100) Cedes; that little thing you have that God starts the Multiplication Process.

So, after you have committed it to Him, you have arranged the People; Use what you have! The Multiplication starts when you use what you have committed in to the Lord.

And so, it continues going; continues going - five thousand (5,000) People were fed.

... These are men who are hungry - Some of them, hungry for three (3) days;

I'm sure they went for second (2nd) Helping, and the third (3rd) Helping. And that they ate more fish and more bread!

And when they saw that more was coming, they asked for more!

And I know how the society it: I'm sure everyone had their belly full.

Now, when they couldn't eat any longer, they dropped what they had in their hands.

Then they gathered what was leftover - twelve (12) baskets (huge baskets) of what was not eaten.
Whaaaa!

Can He do that today? - He is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever!

So I'm speaking to us on all levels; for us as a NATION, the little we have, we have to start all over. As well, we have to trust God with it - and it will feed the People. We can have Restoration!

For big Industries; I have heard Companies go bankrupt - That is heartbreaking!

Sometimes, I wish those People knew the Lord; and trusted Him a little bit more.

... Alas, Balanced Sheet was their Faith, and they shot down!

But there at Companies that have been reduced to almost nothing but you are about to bounce back!

For families, you have eaten all your Savings; but there is something left - God will use it!

For individuals, God will use what is left!

For Small Scale Businessmen - You operated Kiosk, or you carry your business on your head, or you have a table top. And everything seems to have been gone!

But if you Trust Him - not just a "Religious Trust" but a "Radical Faith Trust"; then you can trust that God will take the little you have and Multiply it.

If there is any time we have TRUSTED GOD - this is the time!

If there has been any time when we said: Lord, either You or I DIE! - This is the time.

And you will not die; you will not die! You will not die in this wilderness - Amen.

Although Time is against you, God will come through with a Miracle - A Transformation.

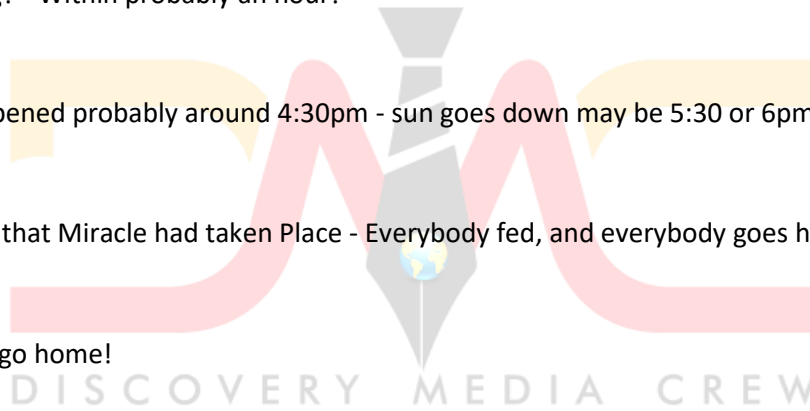
And so for all these People, they were all FED, before the sun went down.

Isn't that amazing? - Within probably an hour!

Because this happened probably around 4:30pm - sun goes down may be 5:30 or 6pm.

Within that time; that Miracle had taken Place - Everybody fed, and everybody goes home.

Jesus said: Let us go home!



But a Testimony - so Radical, that all the four (4) Gospel Books announced it.

I believe God is going to give you a Testimony so Radical - that the world would hear of you - Amen!

And the world would hear about People who had so little, and yet trusted the Lord God, that He can FILL IT UP!

May be you are saying: Pastor, are you really sure my only assurance is God?

I have no Capacity to Change your life but God has MORE THAN ENOUGH to take the little you have and transform it.

I am not Preaching myself; I'm introducing you to Jehovah Jireh - The God who Supplies; the God who is More Than Enough!

And if you TRUST HIM, He will not put you to shame! If you depend on Him, He will take what you have, and Multiply it!

So today I came here with a simple Message to you: Place it in the Hands of Jesus - That is all!

1. It is SMALL - PLACE IT in the Hands of Jesus!
2. You are in a DESERTED Place - Place it in the Hands of Jesus!
3. TIME is against you - Place it in the Hands of Jesus!
4. What you have is Inferior - Place it in the Hands of Jesus!
5. It is too Small - Place it in the Hands of Jesus!
6. What is this, among so many? Place it in the Hands of Jesus!



ALTAR CALL

So we are going to PRAY this morning; and I want you to Pray a Prayer of Surrender:

Look into your hands (literary) and imagine all that you have - your Bank Account.

Most of us can remember the figure, to the balance - because we check it daily. And it is not Good!

So, you remember your Bank Account, you know what is there, you know what you have.

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I want you to stretch your hands wherever you are and imagine what you have - And say: Lord, this is what I have, this is what I have; and give it to Him, and say:

Lord, from today I Trust You, that You will take this, and use it. In this HARD Place, in this Season of Covid - when even mightier Businesses are collapsing; that you will cause me to experience a "Supply and Transformation".

Let us begin to talk to God - Pray and talk to Him.

We Trust You Lord (repeatedly) it doesn't seem like it, we Trust You. It doesn't seem like You can help us, but we Trust You. Time is against us, but we Trust You. We Trust you (2ce)!

Just talk to Him from your heart, because He hears you - He is your God!

CLOSING PRAYER

So our Heavenly Father, our Great God Jehovah, You created all things out of Nothing!

When there was Nothing, You were there; and out of Nothing, You Called the Universe into Existence.

You sustain all things by the Words of your Power. You who formed us in our mother's womb, when we were nothing but a tiny dot - You brought us thus far!

You who helped us in the beginning to build what we have, today we take the little we have in our hands and we put it in Your Hands!

For every mothers, for every fathers, for every widows, for every widowers; for every "Deprived Persons", for Businesses that has been hit so hard; we PLACE ALL that we have in Your Hands.

Lord we say that from today, we Trust You with it. We refuse to worry, we refuse to be disturbed. We walk by Faith and not by sight.

And we Trust You that before the Sun goes down; before this Year is over - You would cause the little that we have put in Your Hands to become the Source that will cause Multitudes of People Glorify Your Name in our lives.

In JESUS' Name - Amen!

If truly you trusted God, don't go back and take it from His Hands - It is DONE, it is FINISHED, it is SETTLED.

Just trust the Lord - and He will show Himself in the wilderness of your life - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying and reading all through.



31ST MAY, 2020 - TOPIC: GOD WILL BUILD IT AGAIN

TEXT: JEREMIAH 18:1-6

Praise the Lord - Hallelujah!

Well, let's make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I RISE!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that JESUS is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I ABIDE, in Him I BLOSSOM.

As it is written: GOD, who commanded Light out of darkness, has SHONE His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the POWER may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In JESUS' Name - AMEN!!! And Amen, and Amen and Amen.

And you may be seated in God's Presence and in the Victory that only Jesus Christ gives to us.

It's always a great honour to be able to welcome you into this Awesome atmosphere of God's Presence in your homes, wherever you are. In your vehicles - wherever you are gathered;

Because we know that where you are - the Presence of the Lord is! Jesus tells us that He is in our midst.

Today is a very Special Day on the Christian Calendar; today is Pentecost Sunday.

All over Christendom, we remember Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, recorded in Acts chapter 2.

When the Holy Spirit came, according to the Promise of Jesus Christ, upon the Disciples. One hundred and twenty (120) People were filled with the Holy Spirit - began to Speak in Tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.

From there, the Christian Church was inaugurated; and for two thousand (2,000) Years the Church of Jesus Christ has been Marching ON - and No gates of Hades has been able to stand against it.

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And that same Holy Spirit is the One who is at work in our lives, at work in our Churches, at work in our Ministries. And I believed He is Present with you today!

So today, we honour the work of the Holy Spirit; we honour His Power, we honour His Ability, we honour His Gifts that has been made available to us.

... Pentecost Sunday is very Important on our Calendar.

Just to Announce to all of you and to ICGC: that from the 25th of June (this Year) to the 3rd of August; we will have "FORTY (40) DAYS OF POWER" - Forty (40) days of Fasting and Prayer and Waiting on the Lord.

... None stop Prayer and Fasting for Forty (40) days!

So, my Message today is very simple. I believed that is a Message that God wants to speak to you as an individual, He wants to speak to you as a family, He wants to speak to you if you are a Businessman, and He wants to speak to our Nation and to our world.

And the Message is simple that: GOD WILL BUILD IT AGAIN.

I don't know what has been broken in your life; but God will BUILD IT GAIN!

I don't know what has crumbled in your life; but God will BUILD IT GAIN!

My Text is going to be from the record of the Prophet; the Book of JEREMIAH 18:1-6 (NKJV)

And the record there is a Message that God gave to Jeremiah to give to the Children of Israel.

I believe that Message is relevant to us (to the Children of Ghana); and that Message is relevant to you as a Person; that Message is relevant to all of us in our world at this time!

JEREMIAH 18:1-6 (NKJV)

... Let's hear the reading of God's Word;

1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying:

2 “Arise and go down to the Potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.”

3 Then I went down to the Potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the Potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

5 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this Potter?” says the Lord. “Look, as the clay is in the Potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!

You can replace 'House of Israel' with your house - if you are Otabil, you say: 'O, house of Otabil!'

Whatever the name of your house is, God says He is able to do with you as this Potter does with the Clay.

... And we can say to our Nation - O, house of Ghana/Nigeria: God is able to do with you as the Potter does to the Clay.

Jeremiah was a very remarkable Prophet - One of those that are called Major Prophets in the Bible. He was called very young.

As a very young man, he was not even sure of Himself, but God encouraged him to go out, and not be afraid of the Message that was going to be put in his mouth; because he was called to speak to the Nation in a very, very difficult time.

And the Message he had was very difficult for him to carry, but he carried it!

For about fifty one (51) Years he Ministered Powerfully to Israel.

He was one of the Prophets that God raised when Israel went into captivity Babylon.

And so, he spoke about that instance! But he also spoke about the Return.

And if you read the Book of Daniel, it was because of the Prophecies of Jeremiah, that Daniel started to Pray for the Return of his People back to their land, and their Restoration.

In this particular Message that God gave to Jeremiah, God takes Jeremiah to the Potter's House!

.... The Potter is a Sculptor!

And he goes to observe what is going on. And in the Place, God gives him a Message.

I want you to note, THREE (3) ITEMS there that I will be commenting on:

1. THE POTTER:

The Potter is the one who works on elements or works on the clay!

His other name is a 'Thrower'.

And the reason is Potter is called a Thrower is because he takes a piece of clay and he throws it on the wheel.

So, the Potter is also called a Thrower or one who forms and fashion things.

... That is the Potter!

2. THE WHEEL:

The Wheel is also known as the Delivery Stool or the Birthplace - the Place of birth.

It is a place where things come into Shape.

3. THE CLAY:

A Clay is Mass - a heap of unformed mass.

It has no form, it has no comeliness.

So, there is a Clay - which has no form; there is a Wheel - which is a place of birth; and then there is a Potter - who is forming something with the Clay!

So, when Jeremiah enters the Potter's House; God says: I'm going to speak to you a word in the Potter's House.

And when he entered there, in verse 3; the Bible says he saw the Potter was making something at the Wheel. He was at the Process of doing something with the Clay.

The important thing to note is that: The Clay cannot form itself; the clay needs the Potter to make it into something!

So, the Potter is the one who takes the Clay, and works with it.

And the Potter's work is not done with just one touch - He has to constantly move and turn and twist and take out and add to the Clay!

... It's a constant touch, it's a constant work.

That is a Vision of how God works with us! - God doesn't just do one work and finish everything; he constantly works with us.

And if you think that God has finished with you, I am to announce to you - God is not finished with you. You have had one touch from Him, but you will have several other touches from Him.

... So the Potter is working at the Wheel.

Now, if you went to a Potter's house; you will see that (now for those of you who have seen it) the Potter starts by turning the Wheel. So the Wheel is turning, it's going round. And then it takes the clay, it smashes the Wheel with it.

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So the Wheel is turning, he introduces the clay to a Turning Wheel.

Now, if you were the Clay and you were put on that turning Wheel - you start feeling dizzy; because you are going round and round and round!

That going round and round is the Change of Times and Seasons. It is the events happening in your life.

God takes your life and throws you into things that are already happening.

And so the Clay is going round and round - if the Potter doesn't intervene, the Clay on the wheel spin out of control and be thrown away!

But Thank God - When the Clay is thrown unto the Wheel and things are turning round and it looks like it's chaotic; the hand of the Potter comes and steady it!

We are in a time in the world history when the "Wheel of Events" is turning round - So many things are turning. And many of us feel our lives are turning chaotically on the Wheel.

But the Potter's hand is what creates Purpose out of chaos. The Potter's hand gives you steadiness in the Place of chaos.

So, even if you feel that your life is turning around and things are changing - you have no idea what is happening: remember there is a hand that is upon you; there is a hand that is forming you.

So whilst Jeremiah is looking at this, he saw something beautiful emerging - A shape is emerging from the clay and the clay is becoming beautiful.

... We are not told what the Potter is making - Probably, it's a Flower Vase!

So, he is forming it.

And if you are watching, you would say: What a beautiful work! What a beautiful Flower Vase!

Now, you can see that the Wheel is turning, the Clay is shaping up; the Potter is in control. And everything seems to be working. Everything is working so Perfectly - he is making something out of the Clay!

And as Jeremiah watched this Potter making something out of the Clay; I'm sure he is thinking - Oh! what a beautiful thing the Potter is making.

Then something totally unacceptable happened in verse 4: It says that the vessel made of Clay was **MARRED** in the hands of the Potter.

The Potter is making the Vessel, and as Jeremiah is watching, this vessel was **MARRED**.

In other words, it was ruined, it was destroyed;

Or to put it in modern language: it was **MESSED UP!** - Something went **WRONG**.

But the interesting thing you would notice is that - It was still in the Potter's hands! The Potter still has his hands upon what He is making.

The Bible says: **IN HIS HANDS!** - Not marred in the hands of the devil; in the hands of the Potter.

That is a very important thought!

The fact that God's Hands is in it, doesn't mean there will be no trouble.

Because many times when things go wrong, we assume Oh! God is not in it; the devil has attacked and this is the devil.

But this is **THE POTTER** - representing **GOD**; **WORKING!** And whilst the thing is in His Hands, it get marred.

The reality of life is that sometimes, even things we commit to God's Hands and it seems like God is working something in our life, it looks like something beautiful is coming out of our life - THINGS CAN GO WRONG!

... Year 2020 is one of those years (laughs!) when we can say: Something got marred! Something was ruined.

Has God left the Clay? - No, He is still working!

Is His Hands removed? - No, He is at work!

Then how come God is still working on my life, God's Hand is still on my life, God still cares for me - How come I'm going through what I am going through?

... That is the Message God told Jeremiah to go and WATCH!

... So the vessel gets marred!

Sometimes in our lives, we feel as if - God is doing something beautiful in our lives; all of a sudden, everything goes wrong.

Everything just goes wrong! Or something spins out of control, or something good is just cut short and you wonder: Where is God?

... We are still in His Hands!

And it's going wrong? - YES, We are still in His Hands!

And many of us can relate to times when your Spiritual Life is going on well; you are worshipping God and you are so in love with God. And all of a sudden, something happened in your life.

And you are wondering: but I have been Praying, I have been fasting, and I have been Giving, but why this? Why is God treating me this way?

...Well, His Hand is still upon you!

So, while Jeremiah is watching, everything is going wrong; but the Potter has not left the Clay.

So the next thing that he sees is that he (the Potter) made it again into another vessel - as it seems Good to Him!

It got marred, but that was not the end; He made it into another vessel.

And that is the Message God has asked me to give to you - That He will make it into another vessel; He will BUILD IT AGAIN!

It got marred, but that is not the end of the story for the Clay!

God is about to transform, to change and to restore everything that has been ruined.

He will BUILD your life again; He will BUILD your Family again; He will BUILD your Home again; He will BUILD your Business again; He will BUILD His Church again; and He will BUILD our Nations and our world again!

... God says: it got marred, but watch - I will FIX IT!

And when He is fixing it, He does a few things with what He is fixing:

1. The first thing that you read in the Passage is that, HE MADE IT AGAIN.

... He gave it a Second (2nd) Chance!

If God can do it once, He can do it again. If God can do it for somebody, He can do it also for you!

He MADE it again!

Somebody say: God will make me again! Say God will BUILD it again - Amen!

I don't know what has been destroyed in this Year 2020; and a pot has been ruined. I don't know what has gone down - but God will BUILD it again - Amen!

That is what He is telling Jeremiah - I can do it again!

2. Second (2nd) thing you would notice - it didn't just say God did it again; but HE MADE IT INTO ANOTHER VESSEL.

He did not repeat Himself: He did something NEW!

He showed another side of His ability to the Clay.

He told the Clay: well, the first (1st) thing was ruined, but I will make it again.

So, if He was making a Flower Vase and it was marred. You think, Oh! He is going to make another Flower Vase - NO!

... He makes something TOTALLY different!

What God is about to do in your life is not going to be a repetition of what has been destroyed. It's going to be BETTER than what has been destroyed - Amen!

... God will BUILD it again; and He built it into ANOTHER Vessel.

Don't ever limit the extent of God's Grace on your life!

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I expect, that when we look back at Year 2020, we are going to look back at the immense Grace of God.
The unsearchable Grace of God.

When it seems that everybody is on his knees, and everything has collapsed, Nations have collapsed.
When it looks as if Oh! Nothing Good will come out;

Then God will make it again into another vessel; and the end will be better than the beginning.

What He does next in your life, would be: better, greater than what has been marred in His Hands -
Amen.

.... He made it again into another vessel.

3. The third (3rd) thing you would notice there is that: HE MADE IT AS IT SEEMED GOOD TO THE POTTER

He did it according to the Counsel of His Will; according to His own Purpose.

... He made it into another Vessel.

As we recount all that has happened in our lives, we cannot calculate all the losses - there has been
tremendous losses; in human life, in quality of life.

People have lost their lives, People's health have become fragile. Businesses collapsed, Hope loss -
distorted. Sources of income shut!

It happened to Believers and it happened to Unbelievers. It happened to People who Pray, it happened
to People who don't Pray! It happened to People who Believe in God, it happened to People who don't
believe in God.

So you wonder, what is the difference?

I'm a child of God, why am I going through all these?

Remember, God has not taken His Hands off the Clay; He has not taken His Hands off you.

If things have gone wrong - His Hands has not been removed from you.

Now, why do things go wrong? Why would something that God is shaping go wrong?

... It is not because God gets it wrong!

But sometimes when the Potter is making something, as he moulds the Clay, he would discover that there is a piece of stone in the clay - A piece of stone that has been in the clay all this time; and as he moulds it thinner and thinner; that piece of stone comes up! And if it remains - what he produces will not be Perfect!

So that piece of stone begins to change the structure of what the Potter is building; so the Potter says okay! I will deal with this piece of stone. And after I deal with it, I will BUILD IT AGAIN.

Sometimes it is the Quality - the Character of the Clay!

It doesn't respond to shaping. And so as He shapes it to a Point, the Clay is not malleable enough in the hands of the Potter. He has has to change it!

So, God is able Change what He is doing with our lives. And even if it is our fault - there is an inconsistency in us, there is a piece of stone, there is a character flaw that has caused you everything;

... Remember, your life is still in God's Hands.

The Good Thing about the Lord is that He doesn't say: Because it is your fault, I can't fix it.

Yes, it's your fault! Yes, you messed up - you made a mistake.

I don't know where this virus came from - Some says it came from a Lab. Some says it came from a wet blanket.

Wherever it came from: From a Bat, to a Pangolin, to a human being - Whoever made the mistake to introduce this to the human race, I don't know!

But what I know is: I serve a God whose Hands has not left me. And even if we don't know what caused this trial: God is able to USE IT to turn us around and form something Good.

So, He will form something Good with your life; He will do something beautiful with your life; He will do something beautiful with my life! He will take the event of chaos and grow something beautiful out of it.

Isn't it interesting, that the first time we encounter God in the Bible, we encountered Him in chaos! - Genesis 1:2

"The Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

... In a chaotic environment, the Spirit of God is still moving.

Is God still moving in our world? - Yes, He is!

And if you are a Believer in Christ and you have His Holy Spirit in you; I want you to know - God's Hand is on you!

And He will form you again; and He will shape you again; and He will BUILD you again. And whatever has been down is coming up again!

... It is going to be very beautiful again.

I am totally convinced without any shadow of doubt, that our Nation would be BUILT again. Without any shadow of doubt - Amen!

Because of this God we know; we will BUILT AGAIN; your life will BUILT AGAIN; your Business has collapsed, it will BUILT AGAIN;

If you have lost your customers, they will come BACK AGAIN; If you lost an Industry, He will give you ANOTHER Industry; if your sector of Business has collapsed, He will resurrect something new for you;

He will give you something DIFFERENT! Don't expect that it is going to be something the same thing.

... But He will do something as it seems Good to Him!

God will BUILD IT AGAIN:

And that is he assurance I want to give to everybody this morning.

And we are going to ask Him to BUILT IT AGAIN - Not the same thing:

Built it into another thing; build it into something New - do something beautiful with my life.

Do something beautiful with my family. Do something beautiful with my Marriage. Do something beautiful with my children. Do something beautiful with my Church.

Do something beautiful, do something New in our lives; and let us behold the wonders of Your Power - that You can take that which is marred, and do something beautiful with it.

*This morning, God wants to assure you: His Hands never left you - His Hands never left you!

His Hands never left our world. Even if our world wants Him to leave - He is not living; because He CREATED this world.

Even though People are saying: We don't believe in Him any longer, we don't care who God is - they insult Him everyday. His Hand is still upon our world. His Hand is upon our Nation and upon the Nations of the world, and our Continent.

Even if you say: Lord, LEAVE ME ALONE! He is not going to leave you alone - because He made you. And His Hand is going to be upon you. And He is going to form you, He is going to shape you into what He desires!

And may the Lord Perfect His Will in our lives. May He Perfect His Will in our Nation. And may He cause us to see the LIFTING UP after the casting down. May He cause us to see the Wheel turn and Produce something beautiful in our world - Amen!

I believe the Years ahead of us is going to be unusual Years - UNUSUAL Years - Amen!

After this catastrophe, our world is going to get into a New Season of Amazing Development, Amazing Transformation - Amen

We are not going from chaos to chaos to chaos; we are moving from chaos to ORDER - Amen.

Because God has His Hands upon His creation, upon His world, upon His People and upon those who believe in Him - Amen.

We want to spend a few minutes Praying to God.

I want you to ask Him to FIX your life.

... I don't want anything broken in your life;

You just talk to Him and say: Lord I trust You that Your Hand is still upon me. And Lord, BUILD THIS AGAIN FOR ME. Whatever is gone, just say Lord, BUILD IT AGAIN.

Just talk to Him - In your Marriage, in your life: You are the Potter, we are the Clay BILD us again Lord; Build our lives again, Build our Marriages again.

Let us Pray for our Country Ghana/Nigeria, and for the Continent Africa. Our Economy, we are already not doing well. And now it is marred!

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But may God do something New out of Africa - Greater than what we have ever seen!

... The emergency of a Pristine African Culture, and Civilization and Economic attainment.

May the Lord BUILD our Continent afresh; Lord BUILD our Nation afresh; Lord BUILD our Churches afresh; for those of you Pastors who are worried and concerned and wondering what is going to happen in my Church? Can I see God in my Church again? Will God visit the Church again? Will there be Revival in the Church again?

The Hands of the Lord never left the Church; His Hands never left the Church - He is BUILDING something New with His Church;

His Church is going to be better than it has ever been. Greater than it has ever been, more Anointed than it has ever been:

... Because God has not left us. He has not departed from us.

ALTAR CALL

And at this time of Prayer; if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you say - Lord I want my life to be better, save me, make me a New Person, forgive me of my sins, cleanse me and make me a Brand New Person.

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

If you are Praying to God to give you New Life, why don't you Pray this short Prayer with and say:

Lord Jesus I trust You as the One who died for me and rose again from the dead. And I receive you today into my life as my Lord and my Saviour.

I declare: that God raised You from the dead; You are seated at God's Right Hand. And now you live within me. Thank You Jesus. Amen!

Thank you so much for staying and reading all through.

7TH JUNE, 2020 - TOPIC: IT'S TIME TO PLANT AND BUILD

TEXT: JEREMIAH 1:10

Praise the Lord - Hallelujah!

Well, let's make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I RISE!

BY Faith, I press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that JESUS is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I ABIDE, in Him I BLOSSOM.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the POWER may be of God, and not of us!

IN THIS YEAR, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In JESUS' Name - AMEN!!! And Amen, and AMEN.

And give God a mighty Praise and a shout wherever you are and celebrate Him for His Goodness in our lives.

Welcome to the sixth (6th) Month of the Year – the Month of June 2020. You may kindly be seated in God's Presence.

I believe that we are living in an awesome times. And my Message today is titled "IT'S TIME TO PLANT AND BUILD".

You can tell your neighbour at home or wherever you are reading on the Label of DMC: I'm sure there is no virus between the both of you. Say – IT'S TIME TO PLANT AND BUILD.

These are events whence massive changes are taking Place all over the world.

At the beginning of his Book "A Tale of two Cities" Charles Dickens described the world which gave birth to the French Revolution in this very interesting remarks. And he said:

"It was the Best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of Wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of believe, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the Season of Light, it was the Season of darkness; it was Spring of Hope, it was the Winter of despair."

... I read those words Years ago in Secondary School.

Charles Dickens was a great Author, and he was describing the scene of the world – Just before the French Revolution.

And during that time because it was a time when the world thought everything was working very well. There was knowledge, there were great Inventions, and Growth. And it seemed as if things were working.

And all of a sudden, things started going very, very wrong.

And it is very much like the time we are living in: The time of Abundant knowledge, but it is also a time of narrow minded Ignorance. It is a Season of Global Wealth, it is a Season of Global Economic collapse.

We Proud of our Scientific Advancement, yet humbled by a tiny virus.

A Year of Great Hope, and a Year of Great fear and Despair.

We have looked through Telescope, looking for life in space, yet we are unable to relate to life in our neighbour.

... That is the world of 2020!

Great contrasts - Just like the Years that Charles Dickens wrote about in the French Revolution.

In the midst of all these extremes, God has called us to PLANT and to BUILD.

Our Mission is like the Mission of Jeremiah - Which was recorded in Jeremiah 1:10.

Jeremiah was a very Young Man who was raised by God. And God encouraged him to go to the People of Israel with a Word that didn't seem appropriate for the People at the time – Because the People were very complacent.

And Jeremiah's Mission was spelt out in Jeremiah 1:10.

And this is what God says:

"See, I have this day set you over the Nations and over the Kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to Plant."

... I want you to note that: "To BUILD and to PLANT".

In this Season that we are in, we have seen the "Rooting Out" and the "Pulling Down".

But I believe we are also about to see – "The BUILDING and the PLANTING".

... It is not just about Chaos, it is also about Reconstructing.

And I believed that this Season we are living in, is "Pulling Down Systems" that have been very Powerful in the world. But it is also PLANTING and BUILDING New Systems.

And I have every confidence that for us in Africa, it is our time to PLANT and to BUILD.

... And whilst we see magnificent Empires of the world collapsing, we must also see our Season of PLANTING and BUILDING.

The Book of Ecclesiastes encourages us to look at Times and Seasons.

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3; we are introduced to various Times and Seasons in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 says:

"To everything there is a Season, A Time for every Purpose under Heaven: A Time to be born, And a Time to die; A Time to Plant, I And a Time to Pluck what is Planted; A Time to kill, And a Time to heal; A Time to Break Down, And a Time to Build Up/"

... I just want to emphasize on Parts of Verses 2 and 3 - "A Time to PLANT and a Time to BUILD UP".

1. I believed that we are in such a Time in our Nation.

2. And I believed you are in such a Time in your life, in your family, in your business.

3. And I believed we are in such a time for our Continent.

I cannot speak for the whole world, but I have full confidence that for the Continent of Africa, for the Nation of Ghana/Nigeria, for you – You are in a Season of PLANTING.

Don't be disturbed by the chaos in other Nations - For us; it is time to PLANT and to BUILD.

The word PLANT means to Drive In!

It means to be firmly embedded; it means to be established.

So, when I speak about a Time to PLANT, it means: It is a time to be established; a time to be firmly embedded; a time to dig in.

Because we are about to be Established and we are about to Rise!

The word BUILD means to Raise Up, to Manufacture or to Produce and to Prosper!

... To Raise up, to Manufacture and to Prosper – that is what BUILDING is!

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So when God says to Jeremiah you are going to PLANT and BUILD, God is saying: You are going to Establish and also Prosper. You are going to introduce a Season of PLANTING and PROSPERITY.

Life has patterns that it follows: After darkness there is Light; after destruction there is Construction.

... And I believed that we have entered a Season of Construction.

So today, I'm going to focus on two (2) People who had to REBUILD something that had been destroyed.

And those two (2) People are both in the Bible;

1. The first (1st) Person is NEHEMIAH:

Nehemiah was called to REBUILD the Walls of Jerusalem after they have been lased to the Ground.

2. And the Second (2nd) Person we would look at is the man called ZERUBBABEL:

And he was called to REBUILD the Temple of Jerusalem after the Temple had been torn down.

These two (2) were PLANTERS and BUILDERS.

Both of them were PLANTING and BUILDING after a disaster.

So like these two (2); like Nehemiah and Zerubbabel; I believed God is also raising a Generation of Planters and Builders – Individuals who are specially anointed by God to BUILD, out of what has broken down.

1. To PLANT and to BUILD Confidence, instead of doubts.

2. To PLANT and to BUILD Beauty out of ashes.

3. To PLANT and to BUILD Glory out of shame.

4. To PLANT and to BUILD a People who have been down

And I believed you are one of those People – You are a Planter and a Building.

... Somebody say: I and a PLANTER and a BUILDER!

Because you have to declare it before you become it:

1. I (Moses Durodola/Titilayomi AJAYI) am a PLANTER and a BUILDER.

2. And this Nation Ghana/Nigeria must declare to itself: We are PLANTERS and BUILDERS.

3. And this Continent (Africa) must declare to itself: We are PLANTERS and BUILDERS.

Nehemiah was a Planter and a Builder; and Zerubbabel was a Planter and a Builder - They were building in very difficult Times but they did BUILD.

So, I believed, this is the Time for a Generation of Builders and Planters to emerge out of Ghana, out of Nigeria, out of Zimbabwe, out of Kenya, out of South Africa. From Cape Town to Cairo, from Senegal to Somalia; across this Continent (Africa) - May God raise up PLANTERS and BUILDERS - Amen.

And today we call forth a Generation of PLANTERS and BUILDERS - ARISE Planters and Builders because this is the Time you have been looking for, this is the time you have been Preparing for; and the time has Come!

... It is not the Time for wasting - It is Time to do what God has Planted in your heart!

When Nehemiah was called to REBUILD, it was a difficult time; and he records part of difficulties he encountered, in Chapter 2 of his Book.

The Book of Nehemiah (in the Old Testaments) 2:17-19. As he describes the situation, he said:

17. Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the King's Words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this Good Work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the King?”

... Many People have Preached from this Passage (in Churches) to get the People into Building Projects.

And today I just want to speak these words to you - Not just to get you into a Church Building Project, but to get you into a Continental Building Project, to a National Building Project - We want to RISE UP AND BUILD!

Nehemiah described the Time he was in as a Time of distress.

I don't know about you; but I think it qualifies to be used this Time that we are in – A Time of Distress!

We have covered our nose and mouth; we are breathing in our own carbon dioxide, we are distanced from our friends – Some have not seen their friends for Months.

We haven't touched People; we haven't felt the warmth of human life

It is a Time of DISTRESS!

Economics have collapsed - It is a Time of distress!

Nehemiah also called this Time – a Time of WASTE!

Everything seemed to have collapsed.

And a time of BURNING.

Things that were alive had been burned!

And yet, in this time of distress, in this time when everything had wasted away, in this time when things have been burned; God called him to REBUILD.

And so in verse 18, he says: “And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me.”

The reason why Nehemiah was very confident to BUILD was because the HAND of GOD was upon him!

It was not because the Economy had changed, or life had improved or they were seeing the Proverbial Light at the end of the tunnel - It was simply because the Hand of GOD was upon him!

And so many times when we want to BUILD; if we are looking for the Government to give us a Signal – we may not SEE IT; If we are looking for World Government to give us a Signal – we may not SEE IT.

What we have to look for: Is the HAND OF GOD upon us!

And if you believe the Hand of God is upon you, and the Grace of God is upon you, and the Power of God is upon you - then I declare to you: The time to PLANT and to BUILD has come!

It is not determined by Global circumstances, it is determined by the Power of God; it says: ‘The Hand of GOD is upon me, and has been GOOD to me’.

May the Hand of God rest upon you my friends, may the Hand of God rest upon you Pastors, may the Hand of God rest upon you Presidents, may the Hand of God rest upon you Prime Ministers; because you are about to do something you have never done in your life before.

... It is a time to BUILD and to raise ashes out of the wastage!

But at the time of building, there was a voice of discouragement and the voice of encouragement.

1. The voice of discouragement says: “What is this THING that you are doing?”

You know, when you try to BUILD out of the ashes, People are going to look at you and ask: “What is this thing you are doing”

It’s almost as if what you are doing is nothing, it’s insignificant, it cannot work, it’s going to fail: What is this thing you are doing?

But this is his response: Let us ARISE and BUILD!

People may not believe in what you are doing. They may not even think that what you are doing is Significant.

You have to encourage yourself and arise – and BUILD.

And in fifty two (52) days; they built back the Walls that have been broken for seventy (70) Years.

After seventy (70) Years destruction, they BUILT in fifty two (52) days!

Isn’t it amazing that God doesn’t need another seventy (70) years to reconstruct what has been broken?
- That He needs just a short time!

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So, I declare to you, what God is about to do: it will be quicker, it will be faster, it will be easier, it will be greater, it will be better - Amen!

The destruction has been Heavy; but the Construction will be HEAVIER!

Nehemiah built, with his Team in fifty two (52) days. Not because they were extraordinary People - The defining factor was “the HAND OF GOD is upon them to BUILD and to PLANT.

ZERUBBABEL was also a BUILDER.

Zerubbabel was building – not the Walls. Nehemiah Built the Walls.

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But Zerubbabel was building the TEMPLE - Because the Walls were down, and the TEMPLE was down.

And they started building the Temple, it looked like a joke; it looked like what that were doing was child's play – in comparison with the situation as it used to be.

And the story is recorded in the Book of Haggai 2: 2-9: Haggai was a Prophet that God raised to bring a Word of encouragement to the Builders – Zerubbabel and his Team!

And Haggai spoke these words to the Builders:

... And I believe if you decide to be a Builder; God is speaking the same Words to you!

And they built the foundation, it seemed like nothing had happened. This is how the Passage put it.

Haggai 2:3-9: "Who is left among you who saw this Temple in its former Glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the High Priest; and be strong, all you People of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts. 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!' For thus says the LORD of Hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake Heaven and Earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all Nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this Temple with Glory,' says the LORD of Hosts. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of Hosts. 'The Glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of Hosts. 'And in this Place I will give Peace,' says the LORD of Hosts."

... The DIFFERENCE, is the Hand of God upon the People

And it is remarkable how the Phrase says the LORD of Hosts' is repeated several times in this Passage – after every declaration.

That simply tells you: If you want to Plant and to Rebuild; we are not going to Build because of the Newspapers and the News Media; we are not going to Build because of what Political Leaders are saying - We are going to BUILD because of what God is saying – 'Says the Lord of Hosts!'

THE SIGHT OF INSIGNIFICANT:

When they started laying the foundation, those who has seen the former Temple, saw this New Efforts and it looked like a joke!

It looked like a joke!

And People will look at the efforts that we are making and say: What are you trying to do? Are you telling me you can build to that level of Magnificence? Are you telling me you can compete and be Good as the other Parts of the world?

For us in Africa, People are going to say: Do you really think you can Build the rest of the world? Do you really think you can Build the Economy? Do you think Africa will ever improve? Ghana/Nigeria will ever improve? Your life will ever improve?

I'm not too old, but I remembered the time when "Made in Japan" was the euphemism for CHEAP.

And so when they say something is "Made in Japan" everybody laughed at it!

... That was in the 60s and in the 70s.

I remembered when Japan started making Cars – Mazda and Toyota; everybody laughed at them!

Because we were used to Mercedes Benz; and we were used to Opel and Folk Store; and we were used to all these exotic names from Europe.

And these People were trying to Build – to compete with their established folks.

And we laughed at them!

Toys from Japan broke down; but today, “Made in Japan” is not a euphemism for cheap - they produce Quality!

Not too long ago, “Made in Korea” was cheap, because they had no reputation.

But now, “Made in Korea” is not cheap.

Although we say that a little about China; but it is not all together true

So, sometimes when you start Rebuilding, you would be laughed at. It would seems as if everything you are Producing is cheap - ‘Made in Ghana’ is cheap, ‘Made in Nigeria’ is cheap!

But in this Season, we choose not to despise the foundations we are building. We choose not to look down on our own efforts. We choose not to look down at what we are doing, and say it is nothing!

So, when Zerubbabel built the Temple, they said to the People; if you look at it now and compare it with what it used to be, it will seems like nothing!

But God says: Wait a little bit, and there is going to be a shaking.

And He says: I control the Silver, and I control the Gold. And I will shake the Earth, I will shake the Heavens; and the desire of all Nations shall come!

I believed that God is about to Pour Special Grace on our Continent of Africa.

God is about to Pour Special Grace on our Nation (Ghana/Nigeria).

We will not be this way forever; we will not be walking on Circles forever! We will not be mocked forever!

We are not going to be down, for People to walk upon us.

We are not going to look for other People to speak on our case for us.

... We will arise and defend ourselves, and make our own Statement, and make our own Proclamation.

For us to do that, we have to accept that the Hand of God is UPON US!

So, for you sitting down or reading now on the Label of DMC; I don't know what you have suffered and how much has been wrecked during this six (6) devastating Months; especially in the last three (3) Months.

Three (3) Months – that the hurricane of Covid-19 has swept through our Industries and collapsed them; without any sympathy.

1. Swept through our Factories and collapsed them.

2. Swept through our Nations and collapsed Institutions.

Things that have been built for years have been collapsed in three (3) Months.

I have read about Industries and Revered Companies that have collapsed.

And you shake your head and say how could it happened - Three (3) Months, seventy (70) labour collapsed.

So, when you are looking at the rubble of all these collapsed:

In America they are so frustrated, they are protesting really because of frustration; in Europe, everywhere!

The Good old Africa, we don't even know where to go: Because we look at the People we thought were established and they are collapsed.

Yet, I believed God is saying to us in the midst of this: A New Giant is Arising!

A new Plant is been planted; a New Building is been built; a New Wall is been elected; a New Temple is been built - It is our time to ARISE and BUILD because God's Hand is upon us.

So God says in Haggai 2:4: "Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel," says the LORD; 'and be strong Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the High Priest; and be strong, all you People of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of Hosts."

Verse 9 says: "The Glory of this latter temple shall be Greater than the former," says the LORD of Hosts. 'And in this Place I will give Peace,' says the LORD of Hosts."

Can you imagine – Ghana/Nigeria doing better than New York?

Can you imagine Accra/Abuja doing Prosperous than London; Abidjan looking flamboyant than Paris?

Can you imagine that?

It is almost an impossibility to conceptualize!

... Even with your highest Power of imagination, it collapses somewhere!

That is the kind of thing God was telling them.

He said: What you are about to see is going to be far Greater than you have ever seen because the epoch, the highest you have seen is what Solomon did.

But God is saying – I Am about to do something Greater than what Solomon did.

Can you imagine it - If God comes to you and says: I'm about to build something out of you – Greater than that the Heroes you have read about, admired and hoped to be?

Can you imagine; if you were a Fashion Designer, and God says you are about to build something Greater than Armani?

DMC EDITORIAL NOTES:

Giorgio Armani (Italian Pronunciation: ['dʒordʒo ar'ma:ni]; born 11 July 1934) is an Italian Fashion Designer. He first came to notice, working for Cerruti and then for many others, including Allegri, Bagutta and Hilton.

Can you believe, if you were just an IT (Industrial Technology) Company; God says I'm about to build something greater than Koko.

DMC EDITORIAL NOTES:

Koko SUNG of Industrial Technology Research Institute, Hsinchu (ITRI) | Contact Koko SUNG.

Can you believe it? You have a Shop, and God says; I'm about to build something greater than Amazon.

DMC EDITORIAL NOTES:

Amazon.com, Inc., is an American Multinational Conglomerate Technology Company based in Seattle that focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, Digital Streaming, and Artificial Intelligence. It is considered one of the Big Four technology companies, along with Google, Apple, and Microsoft.

I'm sure if God stood in front of you and says that; you will laugh at Him in His face because your mind cannot conceptualize it!

But the Scripture tells us; eyes have not seen, ears have not heard; neither has it entered the heart of any man, the things that God is about to do for His children.

If they could DO IT, you can DO IT!

Why? - Because the HAND of God is upon you.

So today, we want to Arise and BUILD. We want to believe God, and Trust Him - Not trust ourselves alone; but trust God. That His Hand is upon us, and we will BUILD and we will PLANT; we will Establish and we will Rise up!

And so we are going to Pray!

We are going to spend a few minutes Praying.

Wherever you are: In your home, sitting by your TV, in your car – wherever you are Reading this Message now on the Label of DMC:

1. You are going to Pray that the Hand of God will be upon you.

2. You are going to Pray for the Grace of the Planter and the Builder to flow towards you - That which you have started that seems feeble; may the Grace of the Planter and the Builder come upon you.

... Put your hand upon your head and say:

1. In the Name of JESUS, I receive today the Grace of the Planter and the Builder.

2. Say: LORD, let Your Hand be upon me (3ce!) In the Name of Jesus.

I pray for you this morning; that the Anointing of the Planter and the Builder will rest upon you!

Put your hand upon your heart and say: LORD Anoint me, Lord Equip me, Lord Enable me by Your Holy Spirit; to PLANT and to BUILD.

Some of you are Young, but you will Plant and Build.

Some of you are old, but you will Plant and Build.

Some of you are Retired, but you are about to be RECALLED from Retirement - to PLANT and to BUILD.

It is not Government Calling you, or your Company calling you! But God is calling you out of your Retirement – to PLANT and to BUILD;

Young men and women God is calling you from wherever you are, to Plant and to Build.

Say: LORD, Anoint me to PLANT and to BUILD!

I Pray for the Perseverance of the Planter and the Builder.

When you start Building, believe you me: you will not get encouragement. Nobody is going to Pat you at the back and say well done!

People are going to try to mock you:

You are too old to start this, you too young to start this; you are a woman you can't do this. You failed the last time – you failed ten (10) times; don't try it again!

But today, the Spirit of the Perseverer will come upon you.

You are going to be like Stephen Aquari – You are going to go to that Marathon; and although you have been bruised, and although you are falling; you are going to finish this Race!

Put your hand upon your head and say: In the Name of JESUS, I receive the Perseverance of the Planter and the Builder. I receive Perseverance as a Planter and a Builder.

In the NAME OF JESUS: I will not give up, I will not quit, I will not surrender until what I see is Greater than what I have experienced, in the Name of Jesus!

By that same Spirit that we have as individuals; we need to Pray for our Nation. We need to Pray for our Continent.

I don't know about you, but I am tired of begging; I'm tired of us being weak. It is time for us to win and live up to our Dreams!

So lift up your hands to God and lift up Ghana/Nigeria before God, and say: Heavenly Father, we speak Favour over Ghana/Nigeria, we speak Planting, Building into Ghana/Nigeria. We speak New Life, we speak New Strength, we speak a Turn Around over our Country.

In the NAME OF JESUS; turn us around, cause us to arise, cause us to flourish Lord. In Jesus' Name.

We are going to Pray for our Continent Africa.

When you go to the AU (African Union) Building, in Adisa Baba (Ethiopia); there is a statue of Kwame Nkrumah (Elderstateman of Ethiopian Origin)

You have the statue of Nkrumah arising from the Sun.

That Nkrumah himself about:

Ethiopia (Middle Africa) shall soon lift up their hands unto God.

Ethiopia – In Africa, we have lifted up our hands to everybody except God.

We have lifted up our hands To Europe, to Britain, to France, to Russia and lately to China!

... And everywhere we lift our hands to, they disappointed, they failed us.

But it's time to lift up our hands to God, and say: Lord, turn our Captivity around. Our children must not suffer our shame. Our grandchildren must not suffer our shame. The future must not be like the Present - Turn our Captivity around!

Lift up your hands as we Pray for this Continent of Africa.

And Pray that God will turn the Captivity of Africa around - We will be like those who dream. Then the Lord will fill our mouth with laughter.

Say: God Bless Africa; God Bless the land, God Bless the People, God Bless the fathers, God Bless the mothers, God Bless the children, God Bless the Leaders - with favour, with increase.

God Bless us!

Lift us up oh Lord, turn our difference around oh Lord, that we will not be a reproach. In the Name of Jesus!

I believe God has released Grace upon us; I believe God has released an Anointing upon us; I believe God has released Perseverance upon us.

And for some of you who have been down, from today, you will rise!

You are in midlife – In your fifties (50's) and sixties (60's).

And you think my life has Passed you by.

The things I thought I would do, I haven't done them.

I Pray that you would have a release into Destiny.

If you are young and you look at those ahead of you and you say there is no hope; I Pray that you have a release into Destiny.

If you are in your seventies (70's) and your eighties (80's) and you say: Well, it's for the young people!

Moses started at eighty (80). I Pray that you have a release into Destiny.

Nehemiah did it in fifty two (52) days.

May be what you will do in one (1) Year, in two (2) Years, in three (3) Years; would be far greater than what was destroyed over your life time of seventy (70) years!

... Don't limit WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH YOU – when you Trust Him!

So this morning, our confidence is in the Lord; that He is raising us to be Planters and Builders - May the Nehemiahs rise up, the Zerubbabels rise up – in our Continent, on our land, amongst our People.

In our individual lives, in our Churches, may God raise up BUILDERS and PLANTERS!

Pastors, your Church will not collapse - This virus cannot collapse your Church.

Don't give the devil too much Power – it will not collapse your Church!

Though you have not been meeting for some time with your Congregation; your Church WILL NOT COLLAPSE!

It is time for you to believe that God will do with you great things: You will BUILD and you will PLANT.

That is why I speak life to every Church, to every Congregation, to every Church in every corner of this Country - That God will cause the Grace of the Planter and the Builder to rest upon the Pastors and to rest upon the Churches.

I speak to every Factory floor, that God will cause the Grace of the Planter and the Builder to touch those Factories floor.

I speak to every Construction Site, that God will cause the Grace of the Planter and the Builder to arrest the Construction Site and cause things to rise up!

I speak to our Markets, that God will cause the Grace of the Planter and the Grace to go to the Markets!

I speak to our Highways and our Byways, to the young boys and the young men who are selling by the road side; may God cause the Anointing of the PLANTER and the BUILDER to rest upon them!

I speak to the beggars on our highways and our streets; may God cause the Anointing of the PLANTER and the BUILDER to rest upon the Beggars - We want to see People who used to beg now Building, now Planting.

May God's Hands rest upon this Nation, and may He turn our Captivity around!

And may the Lord cause us to do in this Season what other Continents and Nations have done.

May this be truly; the Season of Africa Rebuilding and Replanting.

We Thank You Father! We give you Praises, we give You Glory, we give You Honour, we give You Adoration.

We Thank You for the released of Your Spirit, we Thank You for Transformation, we Thank You for Turnaround!

Thank You for Your Presence upon your People,

Thank You for Your Presence upon this Nation,

Thank You for Your Presence upon our Continent.

We see with the eye of Faith; we see Planting and Building. We see, it will be said – Whilst others were uprooted and thrown, we rose up, we were Planted and we were Built up!

We Thank You Lord for it, we receive it for ourselves, for our families, for our Businesses and for our Nations. In Jesus' Name – Amen!

And if you believe that, scream a Big Amen - AMEN!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



14TH JUNE, 2020 - TOPIC: JUST ONE BLESSING

TEXT: GENESIS 27:38

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!! Truly, the Power of God is working.

We are going to make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence:

... Are you ready? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!!! And Amen, and Amen and AMEN.

And be seated in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus.

And it is Great to welcome you to Service and into the Presence of the Lord this morning:

As we Worship Him, as we Honour Him, as we Meditate on His Words. And as we walk in the Victory that Christ Jesus has made available for us.

Well, today I just want to bring a Word to encourage you and to let you know that God is not finished with you; that God is still at work with you. And that God is about to break forth in your life in a very Supernatural Way - Amen.

My Message is simply Titled; "JUST ONE BLESSING"

Today, we are going to look at the life of a man who missed it Big Time! And he struggled to get his life back on track.

Many times you know, life hit you so hard or you go through life and you feel you have missed it Big Time - You made a terrible mistake or an opportunity has Passed you.

... And it looks as if time has gone against you.

And this is what this man was confronted with in the Bible; and we are going to see how he regained what was been lost.

... The man's name is ESAU!

And I have Preached a lot about him: He was born with a Prospect of Greatness.

Esau was the firstborn, and he was a twin - firstborn of Isaac.

And by tradition he was entitled to the blessing of a Birthright.

The blessing of a birthright was a "Double Portion" of what the father had!

And so, if Isaac had inherited the blessing of Abraham, then Esau was supposed to inherit the blessing of Isaac - which will also be the blessing of Abraham.

So, that will be quite a Massive thing that is about to happen to Esau.

However, as a Young man, Esau was a very careless man. He did not value the Great Opportunities that were available to him; he made rash choices about his future in an irresponsible negotiations with his younger brother Jacob - He sold his birthright for a bowl of lentils soup.

... Most of us are familiar with that story, of Esau selling he birthright for a bowl of soup from Jacob.

After that Negotiation - After he had sold his birthright, he lived his life as if nothing had happened; until the time came when the Blessing is about to be Passed on!

... This is about twenty (20) Years after he made the mistake.

So he has made the mistake, twenty (20) years have Passed and I'm sure he believed that during this Period of time, the effect of his mistake Probably has vanished or would not work!

The interesting thing about life is that it will catch up on you one day - It catches up on everybody!

So, when the time for the Blessing comes - Isaac is about to Bless Esau. And he sends Esau to go and get him some meal to be Prepared.

And in the Process, by twist of circumstances, Jacob comes in and claims the Blessing!

And so, Esau returns and realises that the Blessing is gone!

... The Negotiation he made twenty (20) Years ago, has caught up on him.

And the Day came when he is supposed to be Blessed and the day was a disaster for him - Somebody has jumped ahead of him, somebody has taken what belongs to him, somebody has cheated him out of his future Blessing.

And what do you do when you realised that something you thought was going to happen didn't happen?

Each one of us has had opportunities in life taken away from us:

1. You thought you are going to get it, and somebody else took it.

2. You thought it was your opportunity, somebody got it.

3. You thought today is the Day, and it didn't become the Day!

How do you deal with it: When you have missed it Big Time? - Either by your mistake or that of other circumstances, you have missed it Big Time!

... So Esau realised, he has lost the birthright - he has lost the Blessing.

This is what his life is all about. This is what he has been waiting for all these time.

It is supposed that by this time in his life, he is Probably getting to his late twenties (20s) into thirty (30). And so it looks like almost every Year has been wasted.

So the Bible Text that I'm going to read is from Genesis 37 - Esau returns, realises his Blessing is gone; and in verse 38 we have these very profound words, recorded in the Scriptures:

"And Esau said to his father, "Have you ONLY ONE BLESSING, my father? Bless me - me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept."

I settled for this Message Topic within the context of anyone who feels cheated or has missed a Major Opportunity in life - We have to choose how we respond when those things happens!

And in the Passage, we hear Esau's Prayer of Agony - When he realised that all is gone!

... And he cried to his father, because his father tells him: I have already Blessed Jacob.

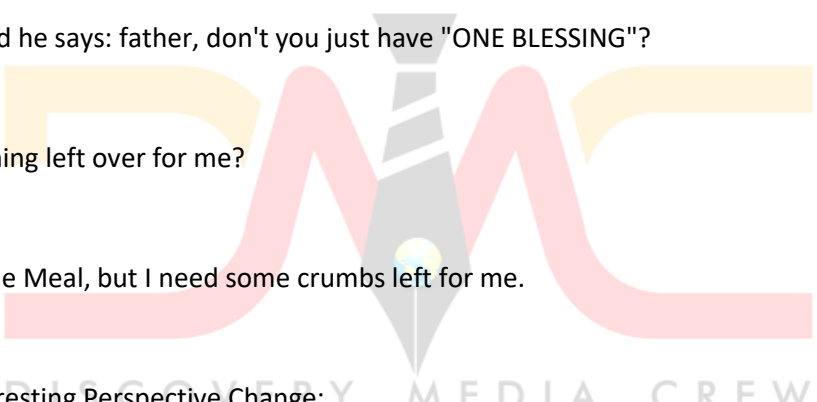
Everything in me is gone!

I have given him of what the birthright Blessing is supposed to be; there is nothing left for you!

And Esau cried and he says: father, don't you just have "ONE BLESSING"?

Isn't there something left over for me?

... I may not get the Meal, but I need some crumbs left for me.

That is a very interesting Perspective Change: The logo for Discovery Media Crew is centered in the background. It features a stylized 'DMC' in pink and yellow, with a grey pen nib pointing upwards from the center. Below the logo, the words 'DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW' are written in a light grey, sans-serif font.

1. Here is somebody who had lived with a sense of entitlement; believing that the future was his, he is going to be Great, everything was going to end up right!

2. And all of a sudden, now he is looking for "Just Leftover".

Isn't there "One Blessing"?

It may seem like a "Defeatist's Attitude" but it is a "Positive Attitude".

Esau is saying: I may have blown it; but I just need a Break!

... I need something to help me start all over again!

Today, if you are in that situation, and you have missed it Big Time, or somebody cheated you, or somebody took away what was yours; I came to tell you: There is something leftover from God for you!

... It is not OVER, there is something Leftover for you!

So, in the midst of that he could be bitter and he was bitter.

He could be angry and he was angry.

But he also focused on the Opportunity: 'Have you only "One Blessing" my father!'

This Prayer of Esau shows three (3) things:

1. First (1st), the Agony of Missed Opportunities

'...He lifted up his voice and he wept!'

He realised what he had lost - the weight of his mistake.

2. The second (2nd) thing you will note is about his Prayer; his Passion and Hunger for New Opportunities.

His Grace to agonise over missed opportunities - That shouldn't be where you will end.

There has to be Passion and Hunger for a New Opportunities.

3. And the third thing you will see about Esau is: A New Found Respect for little things.

He had learned that little things make "Big Difference".

He had lived with a Sense of Abundance - Everything had worked for him. He had so much working for him and all of a sudden, they are all gone!

And now he realised: I don't need many things to start my life all over again.

... I just need ONE LITTLE BLESSING.

The First (1st) step towards getting somewhere is: TO DECIDE, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE.

If you have to get somewhere, it is to decide - I'm not going to stay where I am.

Until you make that Decision - That I'm not going to stay where I am; you are going to be bound by where you are!

And Esau, in this moment of Pain, of Agony - Feeling cheated, feeling that somebody has stolen from him, feeling devastated and Probably even blaming himself for Negotiating his birthright away, twenty (20) years ago!

... Feeling hatred for Jacob!

Yet in the midst of all of that, he realised - If I just keep allowing this anger to poison me, I may never get out of this situation.

So, he asked his father: 'Isn't there something left for me?'

So his father said: Okay, there is something left for you and I'm going to give you what is left - It is a leftover Blessing; it is a leftover opportunity.

... This is what other People don't like but if you like it, I will give it to you.

This is what Jacob Probably didn't even seek for. But it's LEFTOVER!

... And I will give it to you.

So, in Genesis 27:39-40, we read that Blessing that came upon Esau.

And this morning, I Pray for you wherever you are or reading now on the Label of DMC: That something leftover will still come your way - Amen!

That God will still Favour you - Amen!

It may not seems big, but it will accomplish BIG Things for us - Amen.

So, I want you to listen carefully: The Blessing that Isaac gave to Esau is in Genesis 27:39-40.

"Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the Earth, And of the Dew of Heaven from above. By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to Pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck".

These Blessings, sometimes sound very Enigmatic because they sound almost like Poetry. And you have to decode them and try to understand what Isaac is saying.

There are Two (2) Parts of what Isaac is saying:

1. The first (1st) Part:

I. The first (1st) of it says that: You will have the the Fatness of the Earth.

... In other words, you are going to have the Natural Resources.

II. Secondly (2nd): You will have the Dew of Heaven.

... In other words, God is going to Favour you.

III. Thirdly (3rd): You are going to live by the Sword.

... In other words, you are going to be a Warrior.

Three (3) Things, they seemed Good: Natural Resources, a Spiritual Blessing and an Aggressive Spirit.

They seemed like Good Things.

But then, Isaac talked a Line - after he had said these three (3) - He said: 'And you will SERVE your brother'.

In other words: With your Natural Resources, with the Spiritual Heritage, you are going to have; with the Warrior Spirit you have - You will still be a Servant.

... This is not a Blessing!

It is not a Blessing for you:

I. To have Natural Resources and be a Servant.

II. To have a Spiritual Heritage and be a Servant.

III. To have an Aggressive Spirit and be a Servant.

... That is not what you are looking for!

Many times when I read this area, it reminds me of our Continent Africa - We have Natural Resources, we have a Spiritual Heritage. We Pray more than any People on this Planet Earth! We have a Strong "Boisterous Spirit" but we are still Servants!

And that is what Isaac is saying to Esau: You are going to have Natural Resources, you are going to have Spiritual Heritage, you are going to have an Aggressive Warrior Spirit - And all of that is not going to Change anything about you. You will still be a Servant to your brother Jacob.

... So that's not a Blessing!

2. Then he gives us the Second (2nd) Part of his Message:

He says: 'When you become RESTLESS, you shall break his yoke from your neck.'

... This is the Blessing - "The Blessing of RESTLESSNESS".

Isaac is saying: The reason why your life is what it is, is because you have taken too much for granted. You have taken abundance for granted, you have taken God's Resources for granted. But if you want to break the yoke of Jacob from your neck - then you have to be RESTLESS.

And the word RESTLESS means "To Roam", to be Troubled!

And when you read it, it gives the idea of an OX!

1. An Ox is a big Cow that has been yoked, or its neck is tied to something.

2. And the Ox can decide two (2) Things: Since my neck is tied, I'm going to wait here because I'm supposed to wait here. Or I'm going to break free from here.

And so what Isaac is saying is: When you are RESTLESS, that is when an Ox begins to turn its neck and turns its body and begin go resist the bondage. And then fight and fight and fight, until it breaks the yoke from its neck.

And he says Esau: That is what I'm Blessing you with - You are going to be RESTLESS, and you are going to break the yoke.

... It is not going to be the "Dew of Heaven"; it is not going to be your Resources; it is not just going to come by Chance - It is going to come because you took "Personal Responsibility".

... When you become RESTLESS: then the yoke shall be broken!

We can tell ourselves: What kind of blessing is that, because when we talk of Blessing we want Him to tell us - It will be well with you, you will do nothing and everything will be well. You will just be sitting there and there will be Manna.

But in this Blessing, it says No - The Freedom is going to come when you become RESTLESS.

I'm addressing this Message to you as a Individual - You have to Stand up and say: I'm not going to die in this situation!

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I'm addressing this Message to families, you have to determine: we have been Poor for too long, we have been Down for too long, we have been Oppressed for too long. And we will not END this way - we will be RESTLESS.

I'm addressing this Message to Pastors, you have to say: My Ministry will not END in Defeat. I will not just stay where I am. I'm going to BREAKOUT and do the Mighty Things that God has called me to do.

I address this Message to our Nation Ghana/Nigeria: we cannot Prosper with Natural Resources - We have Gold, it didn't work. Timber, it didn't work. Diamond, it didn't work. Oil, it didn't work. By now it should register in our minds that no matter how much Natural Resources we have; that will not give us what we are looking for!

A. The Change is not from the Blessing of the Earth!

B. The Change is not going to come because we Pray so much!

C. The Change is not going to come because we have AGGRESSIVE SPIRIT.

The Change is going to come because we start being RESTLESS and we wrestled, and we struggled with the yokes upon our necks. And we are saying: WE WILL NOT BE BEGGARS FOR EVER!

We are not going to be beggars, we are not going to stretch our hands to Nations to help us for every little things that we want to do that we need somebody to help us.

We have to be RESTLESS and we have to wrestle against that!

And that is what Isaac is saying to Esau - It is not going to come from the "Dew of Heaven", it is not even going to come from the Fatness of the Earth, it is not going to come by your Sword.

... It's going to come when you become RESTLESS.

Somebody say: I AM RESTLESS! Oh, say it, say: I AM RESTLESS.

You are not just going to lie down and say 'Qui sera sera' - Whatever will be, will be. This is how God wants me to be, this is my life!

That is not our LIFE!

Yes, we missed it Big Time; Yes, somebody had cheated us; Yes, they have taken our Gold, they have taken our Silver, they have taken our Oil.

... Yes, Yes, Yes; we know all of that!

What are you going to do about it?

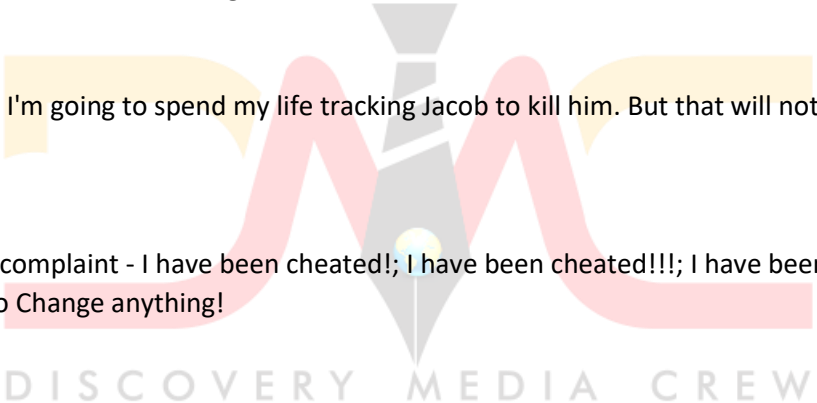
Yes, your family has had all the difficulties; People have not given you Opportunity, People Pushed you aside; your Big Brother cheated you, your Younger Brother cheated you, your Step Mother didn't treat you well - What are you going to do about it?

Your husband left you: It is sad, it is painful - What are you going to do about it?

Your Business collapsed: It is sad - What are you going to do about it?

Ten (10) years ago, your Business Partner took your Business from you: We sympathize but sympathy is not going to bring that business back - What are you going to do about it?

And that is the lesson Isaac is teaching Esau:

- 
1. You can decide, I'm going to spend my life tracking Jacob to kill him. But that will not bring your Birthright back.
 2. You can sit and complaint - I have been cheated!; I have been cheated!!!; I have been cheated!!! But that is not going to Change anything!
 3. You can blame yourself and say: Why, Why, Why did I do it? But it is not going to Change anything.

He says, what is going to Change it is: When you become Restless!

'WHEN' talks about a time.

There has to come a time in your life when you say: From this day, I'm not going to remain in this situation again.

And then 'YOU' - Is a "Personal Responsibility".

'BECOME' is a "Process of Transformation".

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... WHEN YOU BECOME! (2ce)

I Choose to become Restless. We must Choose to become Restless. This Nation must Choose to become Restless.

I don't know about you: But I don't want other Nations Fighting my Battles for me.

I don't want other People telling me that my life matters.

I know my life mattered - I DON'T NEED HELP.

We have to Choose to Change our LOTS by ourselves!

... And that is what Isaac is telling Esau.

... "WHEN YOU BECOME RESTLESS", you will break the yoke from your neck.

Thomas Edison - The Great American Inventor and Businessman, says: "Restlessness is discontent; and discontent is the first Necessity of Progress. Show me a "Thoroughly Satisfied Man", and I will show you a Failure.

I believe that!

Although the Statement there is Gendered - directed at men; It is both Gender Inclusive.

... Show me a "Thoroughly Satisfied Woman", and I will show you a Failure

Something about Comfort, with where we are and staying where we are, can become our greatest enemy.

And that is why Esau sold his Birthright - It was his, he had too much of it; he sold it without even thinking of consequences.

But when he came to his father, his father said: Son, the only thing I'm going to bless you with is Restlessness; the "Attitude of Perceivity" must Change. You have to rise up and do something about it.

So, Restlessness brings Discontent; Discontent will lead to Questions; Questions will Produce New Understanding; New Understanding will offer us New Options; New Options will lead to New Choices; New Choices will lead to New Actions and new Actions will Produce New Results.

It is a Process my friends; it is a Process.

I am a believing Man; I'm a Pastor; I believe in Prayer; I believe in the Power of Prayer. I believe God answers Prayer. I also believe there are Rules that God has set for the advancement of the Human Society;

That we cannot just Pray ALONE - without doing anything!

And one of the things we have to do is discontent it out in our forty (40) Days of Prayer.

I Pray that God will give us a Spirit of Restlessness - Amen.

To shake that yoke off your neck; shake that sickness from your body; shake that situation out of your life - Amen.

Did Esau Break the yoke? Did this Blessing work in the life of Esau?

Well, twenty (20) Years later because right after the incidence - Jacob ran away, and he is away for twenty (20) Years.

And now Jacob and Esau are about to meet after twenty (20) Years.

If you calibrate their ages they would probably be fifty (50) Years of age.

They are about to be encountered with each other.

Jacob had gone out, and he is returning with Blessing and he heard that Esau was about to meet him - after twenty (20) Years!

The last time they met, there had been a bad deal ad Esau wanted to kill him.

Now, Jacob heard that 'Esau is about to meet him' In Genesis 32:3-6 we read this account:

Then Jacob sent Messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favour in your sight". Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him".

... That is not Good News for Jacob.

So, what is happening is: Twenty (20) Years had lapsed; Isaac said to Esau, the blessing is gone - it's on Jacob. But if you are Restless, you will break his yoke from your neck.

Jacob goes, work for Laban his father in-law. Some kinds of transactions took place. But after twenty (20) Years he is coming back and he is a very wealthy man.

And he heard that his brother, whom he cheated or whose Birthright he got, is coming to meet him.

... I wouldn't really say his brother whom he cheated; but his brother who feels Cheated, is coming against him.

So, Jacob said: Take all of these, go and Pacify him.

... And even the language is very obsequious: your servant, my lord, (and all of that!)

Fine! To Pacify his brother, because he was told that 'Esau has four hundred (400) Warriors with him.

What is he going to do?

Genesis 33:1, 4-5. It says:

Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?"

So, Jacob, is afraid of Esau because of what happened.

So they meet, and he is scared.

And Esau - The "Supposed Offended Brother", ran and embraced Jacob, kissed him. He Looked at all his flocks and sheep and he says: "Brother, what are all of these?"

And then Jacob explains and says: This is what God has blessed me with.

Then in Verse 8: "Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favour in the sight of my lord".

What Esau is saying is: Before I met you, I saw all these cows and I saw the sheep and these camels and all these things you sent to meet me.

... What are all those for, my brother? Why did you send those things?

He says: Well, I sent them to find favour in your sight!

And listen to Esau's answer. Oh, I love this answer.

But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself".

So, what Esau is saying is: Oh, you think I have been bitter for the last twenty (20) Years? You think I was so upset because the Birthright went to you? No, No, No!

My father, your father Isaac, told me how to get ahead in life.

... And he said: If I will be Restless, I would be blessed too - And for the last twenty (20) Years, I have been working on that!

I haven't been looking back at the transaction that went bad. I haven't been sitting here complaining about how things went bad. I haven't been here criticizing what you did - I have been Working for the last twenty (20) Years and building on my life!

And so, I have enough; I have ENOUGH - keep what you have for yourself because God has blessed me also. Keep what you have for yourself.

Won't it be great for that to be our story in Africa, in Ghana/Nigeria?

When Britain says we are giving you Aid of one hundred million (100,000,000) and we say: We have ENOUGH, keep your one hundred million (100,000,000) because we know also how to get a one hundred million (100,000,000).

Won't that be Amazing?

When China says, Oh, we want to give Aid to Africa and Africa says - we have ENOUGH!

Won't that be Great?

When America says, we are sending Ventilators (the big thing) to Ghana/Nigeria and we say: We have Enough!

That should be our aspirations - That we can tell the rest of the world; we have Enough!

We too, we have been Blessed! We too, we have built our Economies! We too, we have built our lives!

And I Pray that will be your language.

I Pray, that the next time you meet your step brothers who made fun of you when you were young - twenty (20) years ago; there will be no bitterness.

And when they meet you, they would think oh now, you are the same person who was despised. You will smile and say: I have Enough Brothers, I have Enough Sisters - God has Blessed me too.

That the next time you meet your Stepmother, it would not be bitterness; you would be able to say - I have Enough, look at what God has done with me!

The next time you meet your former Boss; there will be no anger, there will be no bitterness - because you have learned to break the yoke yourself, and you can say with Esau: I have ENOUGH Brother!

In other words, I'm glad for what you have: but I also have mine. I'm glad for what you have achieved, but I also have mine. I'm glad you made it, but I also made it!

This is not a situation of one made it, and the other failed. It is one made it, and the other also made it.

One had the Blessing of the Birthright, missed it; the other took it and Prospered by the Blessing of the Birthright. But the one who lost the Blessing of the Birthright also made it!

... Not with Birthright, but with Restlessness.

In other words, there is a Blessing left for you. There is a Blessing left for you!

Somebody say: There is a Blessing left for me! Say: There is a Blessing left for me.

So I address everybody who feels they have been cheated in life by an ex husband, ex wife, ex somebody. Ex Boss, ex friend, ex brother, ex sister. Ex EX!

Somebody you feel has done you evil; and you are sitting down, and Planing of Revenge - Building four hundred (400) Soldiers for Revenge.

God says, that is not the Revenge; I want you to have.

The Revenge I want you to have is to meet that same Person and be able to stand shoulder to shoulder: that your life has not been diminished, your life has not been worse; you are not disadvantaged in any way!

It seemed like a disadvantage twenty (20) Years ago; see what the Lord has done in your life; see the Blessing the Lord has brought into your life - That is God's Blessing to you today.

I Bless you with that Blessing that Isaac blessed Esau with:

1. I Bless you that the Yoke shall be broken from your neck and you will not roam about seeking for Vengeance - Amen

2. That you are going to roam around seeking for an embrace - to tell your Testimony - Amen!

May the Lord Bless you! May the Lord Increase you!

Now, some of you may say: I have nothing!

You know, it doesn't take so much for God to do too much! He can do with LITTLE.

And for some of you, the "One Blessing" the Lord will give you is: A New Opportunity coming to you this week, next week.

Everything you have lost, "One More" is coming your Way.

Another Door is going to be opened - It may not seem like much; It may not seem like it has so much to offer. But take that Opportunity, use that Opportunity and see what God will Grow it!

So much has been lost, but there is something still left in your hand - Never despised what is leftover; never despised what God has allowed you to have.

And I believed if we as a People, as Individuals would take this Blessings - we will Prosper!

I believed our Country can Prosper!

Our Country, Yes! - The British took our GOLD, they took this and they took that! And we are still begging them.

We should be able to meet with them and say: Keep what you have, our brothers! God has Blessed us also. The little we had leftover, look at what God has done with it.

That should be the Story of Africa; that should be the Attitude of Africa - We were disadvantaged, now look at what we have in our hands!

And we have it because we became Restless and we worked hard and we broke this yoke from our necks. And see what God has done in your life!

PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

Wherever you are or reading now on the Label of DMC; I want you to stand up; because I want us to commit to a Prayer of Agreement.

Something is about to break loose in your life! You are moving from bitterness to achievement. From anger to achievement.

I don't know what it is that is gone; maybe a husband, or somebody just took it all; and you are wondering - How can I rise again?

You will rise again! And the next time you meet that Person, there will be no bitterness; because God will Prosper you also and make you well.

Put your hands upon your head and say:

Heavenly Father, Bless me - JUST ONE BLESSING (repeatedly) to BREAK the yoke from my neck. I will be free to Succeed, to Prosper, to do well, to rise up. No bitterness, no anger. Just a Testimony to give to You!

I receive this Blessing into my life from today in the Name of Jesus!

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND HER NATIONS

Now I want you to lift up your hands wherever you are and I want to Pray for the whole African Countries - We have been begging for too long. And we want to Pray for Africa, Ghana/Nigeria.

For the Spirit of Restlessness to break every Colonial Bondage; Imperialism Bondage - Everything that has been amiss all these Years four hundred (400) years; we will break it now, in the Name of Jesus!

Lift up your hands and Pray for our Nation, Pray for our Continent, Pray for our Leaders - May God give us RESTLESS Leaders like Esau, who BROKE THE YOKE.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Pray for our Nation, we Pray for our Continent - A People that have been under the yoke for Years, for centuries;

But today we come and say - Voice of Esau, bless us also! Bless us also with the spirit of Restlessness.

Not just with Natural Resources - We don't want more Oil, we don't want more Gold, we don't want more Diamonds.

We want a New Attitude, New Spirit of Restlessness to break the yoke of the enemies from our necks!

And may we oh God, Stand toe to toe with the Nations of the world; with the Continents of the world.

May we go to World Conferences - NEVER TO BEG but to say: my Brothers, I have Enough.

May we go to China and say: my Brothers, I have Enough!

May we go to America and say: my Brothers, I have Enough!

May we go to France and say: my Brothers, I have Enough!

May we go to Britain and say: my Brothers, I have Enough!

... Me too, I HAVE BEEN BLESSED!

We Decree these Blessings upon our lives, upon our homes, upon our Churches, upon our Businesses, upon our Nations and upon our Continent Africa.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen and Amen!

And if you believe the yoke is broken, wherever you are - give the Lord a mighty shout and scream wide and say: THE YOKE IS BROKEN!!!!

In the Name of Jesus! I believe something has shifted in the "Spiritual Atmosphere" - In your life and in your family; in our Nations and in our Continent.

And Watch Out "The World": The Story has Changed! A New People are Emerging - In Jesus' Name - Amen, Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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And I can assure you that you will be glad you did as it will avail you first hand access to comprehensive reports on the various Messages of Pastor E.A Adeboye and other Men of God!

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21ST JUNE, 2020 - TOPIC: WHY WE FAST AND PRAY

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 8:1-3

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Praise the Name of the Lord JESUS CHRIST - Hallelujah!

Are you ready this morning, to make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!!! And Amen, and Amen and Amen.

So my Message simply today is: WHY WE FAST AND PRAY.

Why is it important for Christians to FAST and to PRAY?

... And I will teach briefly on that this morning.

My Foundational Text is from the Book of Deuteronomy 8:1-3 (NKJV).

... And let us hear the reading of God's Word:

1 Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and Possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers.

2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every Word that Proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

Now, on the surface of it, this Passage doesn't seem to be talking about FASTING. But it is about Fasting!

And the reason why I choose this Passage to start my Reflection on Fasting is in the Verse 3, where God says:

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every Word that Proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

Now, those of you who know your Bible a little bit will remember that when Jesus was tempted, after His forty (40) days of Fasting and Prayer, this was the first (1st) response he gave.

When He was tempted to turn stones into bread - "That man shall not live by bread alone."

So Jesus was referencing this Passage in Deuteronomy 8:3!

So, this Passage, although doesn't seem to speak directly on Fasting, has a Strong Bearing on Fasting and Prayer!

SO, WHY DO WE FAST?

1. To Develop a Hunger for GOD.

When we Fast, we turn away from food, so that we can turn towards God.

The "Physical Hunger" that we feel when we are Fasting, must create a "Spiritual Hunger" in us: A yearning, a desire - NOT FOR FOOD but for God, for His Word, for His Presence.

So, God says to Israel, the reason why I led you and made you hungry was to make you understand that:

"Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every Word that Proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

When we Fast, that is what we are saying - Man shall not live by bread alone; but by the Word that Proceeds from the MOUTH OF GOD.

So that is the first (1st) reason why we Fast - To develop a hunger for GOD.

2. We Fast to show God what is in our HEARTS.

You cannot say that God is more important to you than everything else, and not be able to show it.

And you know that for us to live our lives as Human Beings, it is of necessity that every Human Being EATS!

And most of us get up in the morning, the first (1st) thing we are thinking about is FOOD.

And as we go through the day, we are thinking about Food.

And when we go to sleep, we are thinking about food!

Because Food is the FUEL we need to live our lives - It is almost as if without it, we DIE.

Now, when we FAST, we are making a Choice and we are telling God: YOU are IMPORTANT in our lives; You are our Priority, You are FIRST in our hearts.

That as essential as food is to our lives, You are the SOURCE of our lives!

So, First (1st): we have to show our hunger for God. Secondly, our heart to God.

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3. We Fast to learn to live by God's Word.

We stop depending on FOOD for sustenance and we live by God's Words.

That is why the time of Fasting, you don't just abandon eating food; You have to FEED on the Word of God.

Because you are Changing your source of feeding from FOOD to the WORD OF GOD.

If you Fast and you don't spend time in Prayer and in the Word of God; you don't complete the CIRCLE of what God wants to achieve in your life.

We learn to live by God's Word and we also learn to Yield by God's Leading - When we Fast, we Yield to God's leading.

Our Spirit becomes more open to the Holy Spirit of God; our Spirit becomes more sensitive to the Spirit of God and we become more aware of the Spirit World!

... Because man is a Spirit, he has a Soul, and he lives in a Body.

However, the most Prominent part of our life is our BODY because that is what we see, that is what contact the Earth.

And over time, we loose our Spiritual Consciousness and Spiritual Sensitivity because the PHYSICAL LIFE takes over our lives!

But when we FAST, we recalibrate our lives; we rework our lives, we retool, we re-engineer - We put our lives BACK INTO THE RIGHT ORDER.

The Spiritual takes the ascendancy over the Natural.

So, I just want to encourage you: It is time for you to recalibrate your life - You have done much for the Physical world; you have lived nicely, you have eaten for a long time, for much of the year;

Now, it is time to show where the order of things really ought to be! - The Spiritual first (1st) before the Natural.

And so when we Fast, we are yielding to God's Leading.

Throughout the Scriptures, we find People who Fasted and turn hopeless situations around.

But let me just give you a couple of RULES that Jesus gave us concerning Fasting.

... And you may know it already!

But it is always Good to remind ourselves why we do what we do - So that you don't just follow the crowd doing something because everybody is doing it and you have no reason(s) for it!

So, in Matthew 6 - this is Jesus still Teaching in what is called "The Sermon on the Mount".

He had started from Chapter 5 (The Beatitudes); to Chapter 6.

And He talks about different things Christians should do - How we should Pray, how we should Give. And then He talks about how we should FAST - in Matthew 6:16-18.

And He gives us the RULES on how to do all of these: How we Pray, how we Give and how we FAST

So, Matthew 6:16-18 - These were the Words of the Lord Jesus Christ:

"Moreover, when you Fast, do not be like the Hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be Fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you Fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be Fasting, but to your Father who is in the Secret Place; and your Father who sees in Secret will reward you Openly".

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... When you Fast - Not 'IF'.

In other words He expects that we FAST!

So, these Instructions that Jesus gave concerning FASTING are very similar to the Instructions He gave concerning PRAYER - He also told us to go to the closet!

And then concerning GIVING - That the right hand must not see what the left hand is doing.

Whatever that means, has to be explained - So that you don't go and misinterpret the Scriptures.

But I'm focusing on what He said concerning FASTING!

As I said the first time, Jesus expected us to Fast.

He said: "When you FAST" - Not "If you Fast".

There is a time to EAT; and there is a time "NOT TO EAT".

1. WHEN YOU FAST!

Jesus expects us, at some Points in our lives to PUT FOOD AWAY!

He explained to the Disciples that: We don't eat CONSTANTLY - Three Hundred and Sixty Five (365) Days Eating.

Every day some People eat - Some People eat twice (Two Times) a Day.

Some eat three (3) times and call it a 'Square' - they say: "Three (3) Square Meals (whatever that means!)

... And some eat more than three (3) times a Day!

If you eat more than three (3) times a Day, multiply that by Three Hundred and Sixty Five (365) Days! - In between you eat Snacks and all kind of things.

That is a lot of food for one (1) Human Being!

So, there is a "TIME TO EAT"; and then there is a "TIME NOT TO EAT"!

Jesus said: When you Fast! - There will be and there is a time NOT TO EAT.

... Second Instruction Jesus gave is that:

2. The Fasting should not be Pretentious.

He said: Don't be sad, don't disfigure your face to impress men.

In other words, don't go through life looking lean and drawn out and then very "Morose Faced" - Making your face look very odd and telling People - 'I'm Fasting'; 'I'm Waiting on the Lord!'

Jesus says when you do that, you are Pretending - And your reward is People cheering you up!

He says: when you Fast, make it an EFFORT not to look like you are Fasting - That is a very important thing!

You are Fasting but don't go out of your way to try to make it look like you are Fasting - So that People would be impressed with your "Spiritual Exercise" and your "Spiritual Stamina".

And He said: That you eat, you Anoint your head, your face and so on!

In other words, don't look Dry, don't look Emaciated, don't look like somebody who is suffering for JESUS - Just let it look like a Normal Life; let it look like something that is Part of your Routine.

... So, don't be Pretentious, don't call attention to what you are doing and don't just make People Praise you.

It doesn't mean People would not know you are Fasting.

Of course, People would know you are Fasting.

... But don't call attention to it, and don't try to impress People with it and don't Pretend - Don't be Pretentious with your Fasting.

Although People know you are Fasting, don't impress them with it and don't be Pretentious!

... That's the most important thing!

3. Jesus also said the Fasting should be done "UNTO GOD".

... Your attention should not be to men, but "UNTO GOD"!

It is not a "Stamina Test"; It is not to determine who has "More Stamina" than the other Person - It is "UNTO THE LORD"!

Be God Conscious - Be aware of His Presence, be aware that this is a Sacrifice to Him, this is a Worship unto Him, this is something you are doing to HONOUR THE LORD.

4. And Jesus says that when we do it right; GOD WOULD REWARD US OPENLY.

So, when you Fast; although you don't Pretend to show it to men, God SEES it. And because God SEES your Service, and your Worship because Fasting is Part of Worship, it is Part of our Sacrifice to God, it is Part of our Life of Faith with God!

And He says that when God SEES IT, He will reward you OPENLY.

Isn't it amazing? - It didn't even say that God HEARS your Prayer in Fasting; it says - When God SEES what you are doing, He would reward you OPENLY.

In other words, there is something about we turning our hearts towards the Lord, we turning our flesh to be quiet and we putting aside Food.

That by itself, impresses God!

God SEES it, and He says He will reward you Openly.

It doesn't mean: don't Pray but God rewards the EFFORTS we are making

... And He says He will reward you OPENLY.

In other words, after you have concluded the Fast, there would be an OPEN Reward.

I may not know what that "Open Reward" would be but I am Confident that there will be an "Open Reward" in your life - God will do something to mark you out as somebody He has favoured, somebody He has Paid attention to, somebody He has seen, somebody whose Sacrifice has been received.

Just as like the Sacrifice of Abel was received and God showed Approval to him. God will show Approval to you if you serve Him Faithfully in your Fast.

Now, I know that there are People who Fast for Health reasons because some People want to loose weight.

Well, you know some People say, I'm waiting for forty (40) Days of Power to knock off this ten (10) Pounds. I just want to loose some five (5) Kilograms - I'm just going to use the Fasting to loose my weight.

I appreciate your efforts at weight loss. But if you really want to loose weight, do it another time!

Fasting does not serve the Purpose of making you loose weight.

Yes, you will loose weight but that is not the Reward; that is not the Benefit.

There is a Health Benefit, but that is not why we Fast.

... If you want a Health Benefit, go on a Diet at another time.

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But if we are Fasting, it is "UNTO THE LORD" and we have to get it right.

Although we may gain a Physical Benefit from it, the "Real Focus" is:

This is a Spiritual Service, this is a Spiritual Sacrifice - as UNTO GOD.

Because if we don't get it right, then our whole Motive will be wrong.

And when our whole Motive is wrong, it doesn't make God satisfied and we don't get any Reward.

So, I appreciate your desire to be Healthy and I know you would be Healthy because Fasting by itself would make you healthy but that is not the reason why we Fast.

If you want that, go on a diet!

When we Fast, this is a Spiritual Exercise - It may have a Physical benefits; but it is Primarily a Spiritual Exercise.

So don't go there Fasting checking your weight - See me, have I lost any weight? Am I getting better?

If you wanted to do that, do it earlier on because Fasting is a Spiritual Worship.

This is very important to me because Jesus said: God Who SEES in Secret would reward you OPENLY.

For God to reward you Openly, you must do something that meets His Approval.

... It is "UNTO THE LORD" - it is not "Unto Weight Loss"!

We Fast to connect with God on a Deeper level.

So, I will give you a few BENEFITS - about Five (5) of them and then I will end up in giving you some Practical Instructions on what to do and what not to do.

2 Chronicles 20:2-4 shows us that, in a time of Fasting we HEAR BETTER from God

"Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and Proclaimed a Fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD."

1. When we Fast, we Fast so that we can HEAR FROM GOD; we can receive HELP from God; we can have an Assistance from God.

And may God help you, and may God speak to you, and may God's voice be clear to you: as it was to the People of Judah on the King Jehoshaphat – Amen!

May the Lord speak to you in these Times, and may the voice of the Lord come to your rescue – Amen!

2. To Intercede in Prayer

When we say we Intercede in Prayer, it means that we are joined together and Praying for something to be turned around - It may not directly be to our benefit.

In other words, most Intercession favours somebody's else.

We may not be in danger, somebody is in danger and the best is, we can Pray and God will turn the situation around.

An example is Esther; in Esther 4:15-16.

Most of you are familiar with the Story of Esther, who was in the King's Palace (she was a Queen). And her People were being threatened.

She wasn't threatened but her People were being threatened.

And she went into Prayer and Fasting for God to turn the situation around:

"Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather all the Jews who are Present in Shushan, and Fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will Fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I Perish, I Perish!"

Esther said: PRAY FOR ME, I'm about to go and make a request. It is a difficult request – it may cost me my life but Pray for me, Intercede for me

So, here we see that when we Fast, and we are Praying; we are able to Intercede for other People; we are able to Pray for other People and God brings help to them.

And so Esther requested for Fasting and Prayer, an "Intercessory Prayer" for her to go and make her request

And you know the Story – She was very successful in making the Request!

3. Fasting can be AN ACT OF REPENTANCE.

In Joel 2:12-13, it says: "Now, therefore, says the LORD, Turn to Me with all your heart, With Fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is Gracious and Merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm."

There are times that a Nation or a Church, or a Group Proclaim a Fast because they want to get back to God; they want to rekindle their love to God; they want to return to God. And they want to affirm God again.

And Fasting is one Public Ways of affirming God or Returning to the Lord or making the Lord known in our lives.

And so, many times in the Old Testament you find that when People want to show that they have gotten back to God, they will Fast.

Now get this straight that: Fasting doesn't earn you forgiveness!

In the New Testament we receive forgiveness through the work of Jesus Christ: Through the shed Blood!

And when you ask Him to forgive you, He will forgive you

But when we Fast, we are saying to Him Publicly: our heart is now towards God; God is Priority for us; God is No. 1 for us - It is a Way of Return!

And the word Repent does not necessarily mean to be sorry for your sins (it includes it!) - But Repent means to turn around, to return, to make an about turn.

... And when we Fast, we are making an about turn!

And for many of us, this Year, we have tried our lives, we have lived our lives but we are telling God: We are making a return to You - You are Top Priority in our lives.

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4. Fasting is for SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT.

Luke 4:1-2; this is Jesus after His Fasting.

These verses talk about His Fasting but verse 14 says: "Then Jesus returned in the Power of the Spirit to Galilee, and News of Him went out through all the surrounding region".

... Jesus returned in the POWER of the Spirit!

So, when we Fast, God EMPOWERS us.

5. And Fasting can be a WORSHIP BEFORE GOD.

Luke 2:36-37; “Now there was one, Anna, a Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four Years, who did not depart from the temple, but SERVED God with Fastings and Prayers Night and Day.”

... She SERVED God with Fastings and Prayers Night and Day.

So, Fasting can be a way of Worshipped to God - It is a Service to God!

It is just like when we lift up our hands in Service, and we Praise God, and we Sing and we Adore Him – We are Worshipping God!

When we give our Offerings, we are Worshipping God and when we Fast also, we are Worshipping God.

... She SERVED – She Worshipped God in Fasting!

When we Fast, we are Worshipping God: we are declaring He is No. 1 in our lives; we are Returning our hearts to the Lord; we are in Spiritual Empowerment

Our Spirits have been opened to hear from God, and we are Interceding for a Turn Around in the circumstances of our lives.

So, MEHODS OF FASTING.

There are different ways of Fasting.

For a lot of People, Fasting can be very harsh on them because they are not used to it and some People have various reasons why, they may not have to Fast.

1. So my first statement is: Seek your Doctor's advice if you have any Health challenge.

If you are managing Diabetes, Please talk to your Doctor.

If you are managing Stomach Issues that requires a certain "Special Meal" – seek your Doctor's Advice.

It is critical that you do that!

Please, seek your Doctor's Advice: I'm going to start a Fast organized by my Church. Is it advisable to do it?

And then listen to what they tell you to do!

Now, if you don't have any Health challenge, in starting a Fast:

1. Start Slowly (if you haven't done it before).

Now, some of us Fast regularly. But if you haven't done it before; this is your first (1st) time, "Start Slowly".

When I say "Start Slowly"; it means: Start loosing maybe one (1) meal a day.

If you don't take breakfast, that means by 12 O'Clock you should eat.

... So that is "Start Slowly".

Then you do that for a week, by skipping breakfast.

Then the next week, you miss two (2) meals (Breakfast and Lunch).

... So you manage it well

2. Drink Liquids.

If you listen to the account of Jesus after His Fasting; He was Hungry, He was not Thirsty because Jesus' Fast requires drinking water.

And so, drink water – As much water as possible!

If you can drink them in gallons, hydrate yourself.

If you want to take something a little bit more, maybe a green tea – don't sweeten it, just a green tea, you could do that.

If you are not too sure of yourself, and you want to take something else like small fruit juice, you could do that!

But Hydrate, hydrate appropriately with water.

... But different People have Health Needs - We are not going to be too hard on you!

When you resume your Fast, that is at the time you are breaking; most People, they start, they break in the evening – after 6 o'clock.

3. Don't accumulate all the food you put aside; and do Justice to them.

... That is not Fasting, that is differed eating!

And so: What you didn't eat, YOU DIDN'T EAT - Don't Put aside to eat it later!

So, when you are Breaking your Fast; Please don't accumulate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (Laughs!) and MASH it all together.

Please, break it very easy: Take something very, very soft because if you eat very HEAVY after every Fast, the next day becomes hard again.

But if you start eating very light meal, maybe some vegetables, some soup; I don't mean soup like Ghanaian's Stocked soup with a lot of stuff in it but a brut, some light something

If you start doing that way, you will find out that the next day won't be hard because your body is now learning a "New Habit" of managing its intake of food.

So, when you are Breaking don't do hard eating.

Now, sometimes People ask: So what about if I'm Fasting and then I forget myself, and then I put some food in my mouth?

I will say: Eat it, swallow it and continue Fasting - You haven't spoiled the Fast.

You forgot and you put the food in your mouth – maybe you are just there and you saw some groundnut and it smelled nice to you (laughs!)

... Because when you are Fasting, every food smells nice.

So, you took the groundnut, you put them in your mouth and you said: Oh! I'm Fasting!

Just eat what is in your mouth (don't add more to it), finish it, swallow it, and CONTINUE.

Don't say: Oh! I have spoilt the Fast and go and hammer a lot of food on top.

Please, sometimes we forget ourselves - It happens that we put something in our mouth. Oh! I shouldn't have!

Just move on, God is not going to mark you down as you didn't Fast.

He is looking at your heart and the intent of your heart; more than your stomach really – It is the intent of your heart!

So, don't be too Legalistic about it.

Some People ask: Can I chew gum?

Well, if you want to. If I brush my teeth with Tooth Paste have I broken my Fast?

Well, one thing I'm going to tell you: If you are Fasting, you have to brush your teeth because all kind of things are there!

So brush your teeth, keep your mouth fresh and keep your body fresh – have your bath.

Jesus said, Oil yourself!

Over time, especially during long Fast, you find your body begins to look dry! You need to lubricate yourself; you look fresh to People.

... Look at what Jesus Christ said: when you Fast, expect results.

So, Father I Pray for everyone embarking on Fasting and Prayer: Ignite and Revive our hearts; Stir up our hearts, Stir up our Spirits Lord.

And Father, cause the Heaven to be Open over us. Let Power be released over everyone whose heart is willing, that we will see Your Glory and Your Power like never before.

In JESUS' Name – Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



28TH JUNE, 2020 - TOPIC: OH MAGNIFY THE LORD WITH ME

TEXT: PSALMS 34:1-3

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! PRAISE THE LORD - HALLELUJAH!!!

Let us make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this Year of Excellence. SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!!! And Amen, and Amen and Amen.

And you may kindly be seated wherever you are in God's Presence; as we come before Him and share His Words.

I believed God will do something Special, something Unique in your lives today - Amen.

My Message today is titled: OH MAGNIFY THE LORD!

If you have your Bible, turn with me to Psalms 34:1-3 (NKJV)

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
His Praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;
The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt His Name together.



This Psalms in the three (3) Verses that we have read, speaks about how we come before God and how we should see God in our lives.

And if you look at the Verse 1, it says that: We have to BLESS the Lord; Verse 2 says we have to BOAST in the Lord; Verse 3 says we have to MAGNIFY the Lord and Praise His Name.

And so I'm going to talk briefly about the FOUR THINGS that we see in the Passage we just read.

1. The first is - BLESS THE LORD.

... Everybody say: Bless the Lord!

The word BLESS there, means to kneel or to Praise!

When we Bless the Lord, we are not conferring Value on Him, we are not making Him better.

When we Bless the Lord, the Phrase simply means to Bow before God or to Praise Him! It means we acknowledge Him and we speak well of Him.

... Bless the Lord!

2. The Second (2nd) thing that the Passage talks about - is to BOAST IN THE LORD.

... BOAST in the Lord!

The word 'BOAST' there means to shine, to admire and to exclaim hallelujah.

To Boast means to make a loud exclamation in the Name of the Lord. It is to express Pride and Admiration to the Lord for who He is and what He has done.

.... We Bless the Lord, we Boast in the Lord;

3. The third (3rd) thing the Psalmist says is that - WE MAGNIFY THE LORD.

To 'MAGNIFY' means to grow, to become great, or to Promote something.

So, when we MAGNIFY the Lord, we are declaring that He is Bigger, He is Greater, He is Awesome; far Bigger than anything else we face.

We must MAGNIFY the Lord; MAGNIFY the Lord!

4. And the fourth (4th) thing that the Psalmist says we should do, is to EXALT HIS NAME.

To 'EXALT' means to raise high; to lift up high above.

When we Exalt the Lord, it means we see Him higher ABOVE everything else.

This is how God wants us to approach Him in Prayer: We Bless Him, we Boast in Him, we Magnify Him, we Exalt His Name.

And God wants to be BIG in our Prayer Life.

We know we are having some times of Prayers - Sometimes we don't focus right and our focus shifts from God to what the evil one is doing.

And many times, especially in our Part of the world; when we are Praying and we are casting out demons or coming against Principalities and Powers, we exert more intensity in that level of Prayer; than we are Magnifying the Lord, when we are Boasting in the Lord, when we are Exalting the Lord and when we are Blessing His Name.

The SHIFT has to be for us to lift up God.

A careful Study or reading of the Bible, reveals that the Bible doesn't Pay much attention to the devil - The Bible doesn't Pay much attention to him!

The word 'Satan' is used in the Bible about fifty five (55) times.

The word 'devil' is used thirty five (35) times in the Bible.

'Demon' is used eighty two (82) times in the Bible.

On the other hand: The word 'LORD' is mentioned Seven thousand, nine hundred and fifty five (7,955) times.

'GOD' is mentioned Four thousand, six hundred and sixty (4,660) times

'JESUS' is mentioned Nine hundred and eighty one (981) times.

'CHRIST' is mentioned Five hundred and seventy one (571) times.

'ANGELS' are mentioned Two hundred and ninety (290) times.

Without any comparison, the Bible is God's Book; it Exalts His Name, and Magnifies Him. It shows that the Centre of our life is not the devil, it is Jehovah Almighty God.

... Somebody say Hallelujah - Hallelujah!!!

So, the Bible is all about God, it is His Book, it is His Word; we are His Creation.

And so when we come Praying, we shouldn't be mindful of what the enemy is doing - We should be mindful of what God is doing.

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That is why the Bible says we must EXALT His Name, we must MAGNIFY Him, we must BOAST in Him and we must BLESS His Name!

When we PRAY, we are declaring the Victory of God!

So, as we spend time Praying, remember your focus is on the Lord; Magnify Him, Bless His Name, Lift up His Name, BOAST in Him!

It doesn't mean that the other guy is not doing something, or he is not around - It is just that we don't give him the Center Stage!

... We give Jehovah Almighty the Centre Stage!

And remember this: That whatever or whoever you MAGNIFY in your Prayer and your declarations, will dominate your life.

Whatever you MAGNIFY will Manifest - If you Magnify evil spirits; they will manifest their presence and power in your life.

If you MAGNIFY God, He will Manifest His Power and His Presence in your life - Because whatever you MAGNIFY will Manifest!

And so our Prayers, our desires, our intensity, should be: OH MAGNIFY THE LORD; Exalt Him, Boast in Him, Bless the Name of the LORD.

Now, when we say that we should MAGNIFY God, somebody would say: Well, but God is already Magnified, He is already Exalted.

We don't MAGNIFY Him (God) for His sake!

In other words, when we Magnify God He doesn't become any Bigger. When we Exalt Him He doesn't go any Higher! When we Bless Him, He doesn't get any Better! When we Boast in Him, He doesn't get more confident.

God does not need that, because the way we approached Him changes our Perspective of Him. And it helps us to see Him in the context that He truly is in.

Sadly, a lot of Prayers; especially for Believers - Pentecostals, is designed to MAGNIFY and EXALT evil spirits.

In fact, if you are in Ministry, and you fail to Magnify and Exalt the enemy - People tend to think you are not Spiritual, or you are not Spiritually Powerful.

And we think somehow: Spiritual Power is for us to magnify the powers of the enemy.

Spiritual Power is to MAGNIFY the Name of the LORD, to Exalt His Name, to BOAST in Him and to Bless His Name.

The more we study the Scriptures, the more we see how People Pray.

And so Psalms 68:1 says: "Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered:"

In other words, let God rise up in your consciousness; in your understanding - Let Him rise.

And when you let Him rise, the enemies will be scattered. We don't even need to scatter the enemies - Just by lifting him up, He scatters the enemies.

The focus of the Believer's Prayer is MAGNIFY the Lord.

Somebody say: Oh MAGNIFY the Lord!

Say: I will Bless the Lord at all times, His Praises continually be in my mouth.

So, briefly let me show you how this Pattern works!

1. Firstly, we start with the way Jesus taught us to Pray.

This is how Jesus taught us to Pray in Matthew 6:9 - We know it as the Lord's Prayer but He was teaching us; so that we can learn it as the Christian Prayer.

Matthew 6:9 says: This manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

That is how He teaches us to Pray - This manner, therefore, Pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

We start by Magnifying the Name of the LORD; Boasting in the Name of the Lord - His Name is Hallowed, His Name is Sacred from all other names; His Name is Greater than all other names:

There is none like Him, there is none besides Him. He is God - The Creator of the Universe, and He is our Father!

This manner, therefore, Pray: "Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name."

... That is Magnifying the Lord!

So, Jesus says: When you are Praying, you start by Magnifying the Lord. Don't magnify your Problems, don't magnify your Situation, don't magnify Covid-19; don't Magnify ANYTHING ELSE - Magnify the Lord!

Yes, you may have Problems! But when you come before God, you don't tell God about all the Problems - He knows about all the Problems, He knows about them before you Pray.

What He wants you to know is that He is BIGGER than your problems.

So we start by Magnifying the Lord.

Somebody say: Oh Magnify the Lord!

So, Jesus, this is how He taught us to Pray.

2. The second (2nd) thing I want us to look at is the way Mary - The mother of Jesus Prayed!

... We have seen how Jesus want us to Pray;

This is how is mother (Mary) Prayed in Luke 1:46-49;

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my Spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all Generations will call me blessed. For He who is MIGHTY has done Great Things for me, And Holy is His Name."

... My soul MAGNIFIES the Lord!

- Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name.

... My soul MAGNIFIES the Lord; that us how we Pray!

Our Focus is on making the Name of the Lord Great and Mighty; His Power great and mighty in our hearts, in our fears.

This is how the early Apostles Prayed:

... We have talked about how Jesus Prayed, how Mary Prayed.

How did the early Apostles Prayed?

Acts 4:24 - This is after they had been threatened and they have been disciplined, and told not to Preach again in the Name of Jesus. They have been Punished;

And the Bible says they went to their own company and narrated what had happened to them. And this is how they Prayed;

Acts 2:24: So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made Heaven and Earth and the Sea, and all that is in them.

When they heard about all their troubles, they didn't start by talking about: Lord, You see how bad they are treating us, Lord You see how difficult it is for us, Lord You see how life has been to us; Lord I don't have a child, Lord I don't have a job, I don't have money....

.... That is not how they were Praying!

They said: LORD, You are Magnified, You Created the Heavens and the Earth, and all the things in them!

When they came before the Lord, THEY MAGNIFIED THE LORD.

Many times we think that our Problems would be solved if we talk a lot about them - As a matter of fact, if you talk a lot about them, you get "More Depressed".

Sometimes we think, if we can attack the devil enough, we will win -No!

If we lift up the Name of the Lord enough, He WINS on our behalf.

He is the Captain of the Host; He is the Leader of the Heavenly Forces; He is the One who goes to battle on our behalf - We don't battle on our own He battles on our behalf!

He is the WARRIOR: we are just watching Him. He gets the Victory and we enjoy the Victory - Oh Magnify the Lord!

The Apostles under great stress, great Pressure, decided that they would Magnify the Name of the Lord - they would Praise Him.

And this is how the Apostle Paul Prayed in Ephesians 3:14-15.

The Bible records the Prayer of Apostle Paul.

Ephesians 3:14-15: "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in Heaven and Earth is named,"

... I BOW MY KNEES! - That is what the Psalmist meant by "Bless the Name of the Lord!"

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the WHOLE FAMILY in Heaven and Earth is named.

... That is Magnifying the Name of the Lord.

Now, when you read through the entire Scriptures you find that Prayer always Magnifies the Lord.

We Lift His Name, we Honour His Name, we see His Goodness, we see His Power.

If we will cause Him to arise, the enemies would be scattered.

I know the enemy is Present, but he is scattered when we Magnify the Name of the Lord.

He sent Jehoshaphat and the People of Judah into battle - A very terrible battle when they were faced with thousands of enemies bigger than themselves.

And they started by Magnifying the Lord, by Singing - Because He is Good and His Mercies endures forever!

Can you imagine going into a war, and your enemies have some Bazookas and some Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. And has got all kinds of weapons and guns. And you have nothing except: "Because He is Good and His Mercies endure forever".

... As they Magnified the Lord, He scattered their enemies from further.

So keep your focus right: We don't focus on dealing with the bad Guy (I don't even like mentioning his name) - the bad Boy! We focus on Exalting the Name of the Lord.

It doesn't mean we don't know he exists, it doesn't mean we don't know he works, it doesn't mean we are not aware of his evil Plans.

But we are more aware of the Power of God, we are more aware of the Goodness of the Lord, we are more aware of the Grace of the God, we are more aware of what God can do!

The devil can bring sickness but He (God) is the Healer; he can bring Poverty but God is the One who Prospers us. And as we declare His Name, we declare His Majesty, we declare His Power, we Honour Him, we Glory Him - Oh MAGNIFY the LORD!

The Psalmist tells us in the same Psalms 34 - If we do that, He says you will 'Taste and see that the LORD IS GOOD!'

If you Magnify Him - You will Taste Him; if you Exalt Him - you will see Him.

... Oh Taste and see that the Lord is Good.

When you Exalt Him - you will see Him; when you Magnify Him - you will see Him; when you Boast in Him - you will Taste Him; when you Bless His Name - you will Taste Him.

So before I finish Preaching today, I just want us to spend a few minute doing just that.

And in the next seven (7) or eight (8) minutes; I want you to stand up wherever you are: I know that some of you have been bartered. I know what this Perilous Virus is doing all over the world!

I know the fear, I understand all of that!

But for a moment forget about Coronavirus, forget about Covid-19, forget about the salary that is not coming, forget about all that you think the devil is doing.

Forget about all of that!

And for a moment, I want you to Magnify the LORD, and say with me:

Heavenly Father, I Magnify You today, because you are the King of the Universe. You are the RULER of the Universe; the Creator of all things, the Sustainer of all things!

Why don't you lift your Voice - Out of your own mouth, with your own words: begin to Magnify the Lord, begin to declare His Power and begin to declare His Praise.

He is the Lord who brought the Mountains into being. There was no Mountain until He said: 'Let there be!' There was no water until He said: 'Let there be!' There was no LIGHT until He said: 'Let there be!'

He is the Originator, the First Cause, the Initiator of existence; Out of Timelessness He created Time! Out of a Vacuum He created Space. Out of Nothing He brought the Universe - Constantly expanding into existence.

He is GOD - He fills all things by His Power! We Magnify You: Your Name is above every other names, Your Glory is above every Glory. There is none like You!

We BOAST in You! You are our Champion, You are our Leader, You are our General; You go into battle with us - You have never loss a battle. You never come home defeated.

You are Jehovah! You are Jehovah all by Yourself, You are Jehovah all by Yourself: when there was nothing, You were!

When everything came into being, You still are. By Your Breathe all things come into being!

I want you to Magnify Him. Say with me: Heavenly Father, I Magnify You, because You are above all gods, You are above all demons, You are above all Principalities - The devil is under your FEET.

Begin to Magnify Him - the One who is above all gods, the One who is above all Powers, the One who is Above all the imaginations of the devil. He is Above them, He is Above them!

He rules in Might, He rules in Power; His Power supersedes and exceeds all other Forces and all other powers. By the Breath of His nostrils be blows them away. He is our Father, He is our God.

... Just Magnify Him, Declare His Praise!

I don't know what witches are in your family, but Jehovah is above them! I don't know whoever that Prophetised that evil is coming against you: Jehovah is above that evil. He is Jehovah - He is Above all gods!

Among the gods, there is none like You: Glorious in Holiness, fearful in Praise, doing Wonders Jehovah!!!
We Magnify You! We MAGNIFY YOU!

Consider the works of God, consider what He has done; with the Army of Pharaoh running against His People; He opened the Red Sea and His People walked on dry ground. And when Pharaoh attempted to come through the same sea, He shut the sea - He opened the sea and shut the sea.

He can open the sea and shut the sea; He can shake Mountains, He can open rivers, He can feed a whole Nation for forty (40) Years in the desert. He can Provide bread every morning. His Name is Jehovah - and He is your Father!

Magnify Him, begin to recount the works of the Lord: He can shut the mouth of lions, so that, although you are in Prison with lions they will not eat you up; they will not eat you up!

I don't know what lion has been released against you, IT WILL NOT EAT YOU UP! Because Jehovah can shut the mouth of lions.

He can Provide Cooling for you in the fire - whatever fire you are in, He can cool it for you. He will sustain you!

Why don't you lift up your hands to Him. And begin to declare His works; remember His works. Remember His works of Old; He want to do the same works for you today, He wants to do the same works for you tomorrow, He wants to do the same works for you always!

In 2020, disaster has hit the Earth, but not God - God is not shutdown, God is not surprised, God is Above Coronavirus, God is Above Covid-19, Above every disaster. He is the One who is able to Heal, He is the One who is able to Restore all, He is the One who is able to Build up!

He will Build our lives again, He will Build our Nations again, He will Build our world again - Our trust is in Him.

I want us to Exalt the Name of the Lord because His Name is above every other names. Every problem has a name, and once you can name the Problem - the Name of the Lord is Above it!

So, if you are talking about Poverty, Poverty is a name. Say: the Name of the Lord is Above you! If you are talking about Stomach Ulcer, Say: Stomach Ulcer you are a name, the Name of the Lord is Above you. Whatever you need: begin to name the Name of the Lord ABOVE IT!

Why don't you lift up your hands and declare the Name of the Lord Above every names; above every Situations. I don't know what the Doctor said, it is a Name! just name the Name of the Lord Above it.

We Exalt Your Name above sickness and disease; we Exalt Your Name above Pain, above Dislocation; above Disruption in our Businesses. We Exalt the Name of the Lord!

And finally, I want you to rejoice in the Lord your Saviour - Just as Mary did: My soul Magnifies the Lord, my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

Just say: Lord I rejoice in You, I am Glad in You. My Spirit is at Peace in You, my Soul finds Strength in You.

Begin to talk to Him: in Him we have Peace, in Him we have Soundness, in Him we have Victory. We rejoice!

Some of you have never laughed for many Months; but today you will laugh with Joy. Some of you have been sad for so long, but today rejoice in the Lord.

There has been a Spirit of depression, trying to put you down, but today let your Spirit rejoice in the Lord.

Begin to Thank God for the Joy you feel; begin to celebrate the Goodness of the Lord, begin to have Peace in your heart, in the Lord!

So Father this morning, we say: Bless the Lord Oh my Soul; Bless the Name of the Lord.

Bless the Lord oh my Soul, and all that is within me, Bless His Holy Name! We declare Lord, that Your Name is Blessed.

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His Praise shall continually be in my mouth. My Soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The Humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, Magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His Name together."

CLOSING PRAYER

And so Lord, we are ready to Taste and see that the Lord is Good: May Your Goodness come before us, may Your Goodness surround us, may Your Goodness envelope us - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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And I can assure you that you will be glad you did as it will avail you first hand access to comprehensive reports on the various Messages of Pastor E.A Adeboye and other Men of God!

It is outrightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

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5TH JULY, 2020 - TOPIC: IT IS RAINING

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 11:14-15

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!!

Let's give PRAISE TO LORD - wherever you are at home or reading on the Label of DMC - God is Good, all the time!

His Mercies endureth for ever!

And this morning we trust God, He will touch you in a very Special Way and His Grace will come to you, and His Power will be sufficient for you.

Let's make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE together, in this Year of Excellence. Are you READY? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

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His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

... God Bless you wherever you are even as you read now on the Label of DMC!

My Message today is simply Titled: IT IS RAINING.

Why don't you tell somebody (and I hope you are Protected): "It is Raining.

Why don't you go ahead and tell yourself: "It is Raining.

Now, this statement: "It is Raining is both a statement of Fact and a statement of Faith.

It is a statement of Fact, because it is raining - it is a Raining Season

It is a statement of Faith because we are using it in a Metaphorical sense to speak about an OUTPOURING from the Throne of God - That God is reaching out to us, and God is Changing the atmosphere and God is turning up things into our advantage.

So, I believe: "IT IS RAINING.

And when it is raining, a few things happen - It RAINS!

And you have to make sure that whilst it is RAINING: As beneficial as the rain is; you PROTECT yourself from the rain and keep yourself safe so that the rain can do its job of bringing about Productivity.

So, in this Divine moment, in this Divine Hour, we have responsibility although God is at work!

I'm going to start with the Text, from Deuteronomy 11:14-15 (NKJV).

This is a Message that God gave to Israel when they were in the Wilderness; and getting ready to go in to the Promised Land.

And this is what He said to them:

14 Then I will give you the rain for your land in its Season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

15 And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'

Now, this Message that God gave to Israel may not seem like a very Special Message - because rain is normal, it's Natural.

But He was speaking to them within a certain context.

And if you backup from Verses 10 and 11 - you will get the context.

It says: "For the land which you go to Possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable Garden; but the land which you cross over to Possess is a land of Hills and Valleys, which drinks water from the rain of Heaven,"

... What does that mean?

God is contrasting the land that the children of Israel had come out from (Egypt) with the Land they are going to (The Promised Land).

And He says that the land of Egypt was a land where they sowed their seed and watered it by foot.

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... What does it mean: "Watered it by foot!"

It means that Agriculture in Egypt was by Irrigation.

They had Advanced Technology that enabled them to water their Plants like a Vegetable Garden.

They had developed an Irrigation System; they didn't rely on the RAIN!

But the children of Israel has been there for four hundred (400) years; and now they have left Egypt. And they didn't have Technology. They are a Low Tech Country; a Low Technology Country!

So God says: I'm going to take you to the Promised Land; and you will not find Irrigation System - as Egypt has.

But I would compensate for what you don't have; and I will give you RAIN from Heaven.

So, your lack of Technology therefore, will not be a DISADVANTAGE because there would be a Spiritual dimension to what God is about to do.

Where you seems disadvantaged, God will accelerate a Heavenly Process to take you to the Place that He has Promised you and give RESULTS that are greater than what Egypt has!

And so He says to them: I will give you RAIN - You may not have the Technology, but "I will give you RAIN!"

In other words, God is saying: I'm about to do something for you (Israel); you may not have what it takes, but when I finish with you - your DISADVANTAGE will disappear.

So, I have come to announce to somebody: You may not have the Technology other People have; you may not have the Strength other People have - You may be a disadvantaged People; but God is saying: I Am bringing the Rain and the Rain of God will give us the Advantage we NEED.

When the Bible talks about RAIN, most of the time it stands for FAVOUR!

So, when the Bible talks about RAIN, we have to read FAVOUR, we have to read LIFE, we have to read FRUITFULNESS, we have to read ABUNDANT, we have to read FRESHNESS!

So, when God says I want to give you RAIN, it means: I will give you FAVOUR, I will give you FRESHNESS, I will give you ABUNDANCE, I will give you FRUITFULNESS, I will give you LIFE!

It is not going to be like how others have developed it but, this is God's Dimension of HELP.

In the Nation of Israel, and Israel grew up in Palestine.

They had two (2) Major Seasons and God mentioned it in the Text we read; the EARLY Rain and the LATTER Rain.

The "Early Rain" Prepares for Planting - It is just similar to what we have in Ghana/Nigeria. We have the "Early Rain" around March.

And then the "Latter Rain" (which is what we have now) - That is called the Latter Rain!

They have their "Early Rain" around October to December and then the "Latter Rain" between March and April.

The "Early Rain" Prepares for Planting; and then the "Latter Rain" Prepares for Harvest.

So the "Latter Rain" is to mature what was down in the "Early Rain"!

... That's how it is!

And God says to them: I will give you BOTH the "Early Rain" and the "Latter Rain".

In other words: I will give you Favour when you Start, and I will give you Favour when you End. I will give you Favour to Plant, and I will give you Favour to Harvest!

So, the Early Rain and the Latter Rain are IMPORTANT in God's Economy!

And when I say: 'IT IS RAINING' I don't just mean we are in Ghana's Rainy Season; I am saying: God is Pouring Favour, God is Pouring Abundance and He is pouring Freshness and God is pouring Fruitfulness.

... And you have to RECEIVE IT!

The "Latter Rain" signifies the COMPLETION of what God has started in your Life.

With that statement in mind, I want us to go to the Book Zachariah 10;

And God is speaking to the children of Israel again - And this was coming when they came out from another Captivity (The Babylonian Captivity).

And God is talking about how life will be.

Zechariah 10:1, it says: "ASK the Lord for rain in the time of the LATTER RAIN. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone."

... ASK the Lord for RAIN!

Now, it is interesting - It didn't say: Ask God for "Early Rain" but it says ask God for the "Latter Rain".

.... The Latter Rain is the one that brings the Harvest.

It says: Ask God for the Rain that brings the Harvest - The Rain that Matures what you have sown.

This Passage is what is called 'A Restoration of Prophecy - It speaks about God's Restoration'

And I believe, there is Restoration coming to you!

The Two (2) Things I want you to Note in this Passage:

1. The first (1st) is GOD'S TIMING - THE TIME OF THE LATTER RAIN.
2. And then the Second (2nd) thing I want you to note: OUR ASKING.

Interestingly, when you look at the Passage, it say : *"ASK the Lord for rain in the time of the LATTER RAIN.*"

... It doesn't seems to make sense!

"ASK the Lord for rain in the time of the LATTER RAIN."

Because we think - if it is the time for the Latter Rain; the the Latter Rain must rain!

We don't Pray for rain in the Raining Season. Because in the Raining Season, whether we Pray or not, it is going to rain!

But in this instance, God is saying: "When it is time for the "Latter Rain", ASK FOR IT!

And the impression you get is that - Sometimes, there could be time for something, and if you don't ask for it - you will not receive it.

So, God says: "When you see that the Time has come for the Latter Rain, you have to PRAY.

And God says that when you see that the Time to Favour you has come: you have to PRAY FOR IT.

Ask the Lord for Rain, in the time of the "Latter Rain".

That is our job!

The Season has come - It is time for God to bring about Favour.

But He says PRAY FOR IT - Don't just say it is going to happen by itself. Don't say: well, it is the Season, we believed God; it is a Season for a Turnaround. We believe it is a Season for African's Lifting - And you just say it

... It says, you have to PRAY FOR IT.

I believe without any Shadow of doubt that one of the dynamics of this Pandemic is a "GLOBAL SHIFT OF POWER".

The Centres of Power are SHIFTING all over the World and Africa - I announce to you: "IT IS YOUR TIME!

And we DARE NOT miss this TIME - We have waited for five hundred (500) years for this Day - and it has COME!

We missed it the first (1st) Time (in the 50s) - when we started gaining Independence - We blew the chance!

But now we have another Chance and we don't have to blow it - It is our TIME!

"ASK the Lord for rain in the time of the LATTER RAIN."

If there is anytime we must Prayed for a "Lifting Up" of Black People all over the world - This is a time we must PRAY.

"ASK the Lord for rain in the time of the LATTER RAIN."

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Then look at how God says He will answer that Prayer;

He says: When you ask for the Latter Rain, when you ask for Favour, when you ask for my Bless.

... THIS IS HOW I WILL ANSWER IT.

Watch carefully how He says He will answer it.

It says: "The Lord will make "flashing clouds"; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone. - Zechariah 10:1.

When we say: God, it is time to Favour us, it is time for a Latter Rain, it is time for our Latter Rain; it is time for Ghana's Latter Rain; it is time for Zimbabwe's Latter Rain; it is time for Nigeria's Latter Rain; it is time for Gambia's Latter Rain; it is time for South Africa Latter Rain; it is time for Africa's Latter Rain.

God says when you Pray for that - In the time of the Latter Rain; when you see Power shifting and you start Praying for that;

He says: I will make "Bright Clouds" and I will give them Rain.

So, What is FLASHING CLOUDS?

God says: when you ask for the rain, I'm going to give you flashing clouds.

... So, What is FLASHING CLOUDS?

Flashing Clouds is what we normally call - Lightning and Thunder.

In other words, God's Rain of Favour is going to be Preceded by Lightning and Thunder and then there will be Rain.

Lighting and Thunder make noise; and they make very, very, scary noise.

When there is Thunder - it means you are hearing something that scares you, things that shake you, things that make everything about you really shaking.

Because when there is "Real Thunder"; buildings shake, People run away. Some hide under beds, some want to hold unto somebody else.

God says if you ask for that, I will send Thunder.

And then He says: I will give you Lightning!

Lightning is scary images, bolts of electricity flashing all over!

He says I'm going to do that and then I will give you RAIN.

So, what we get is that when God's Rain is about to come, it is going to come in an atmosphere of Shaking, of Thunder, of Lightning, of uncertainty, of almost "Destructive Power".

Yet, in the midst of that; Favour is being Poured out - In the MIDST OF THAT!

So, if you are the one receiving God's Word, when you see the Thunder, and you see the Lightning, and you see the Rain; although everybody is scared about what they are seeing: You are to be CONFIDENT that this is a Divine Visitation.

... Because you know God is using these Elements, to bring about His Favour.

And He says: I will make the "Flashing Clouds" - This is not the devil.

God says: I'm going to shake Systems, I'm going to Flash Systems, there is going to be some Rain.

In the midst of the Thunder and the Lightning, there is Rain!

And then He says: "I will give them SHOWERS of Rain; and Grass in the FIELD for everyone."

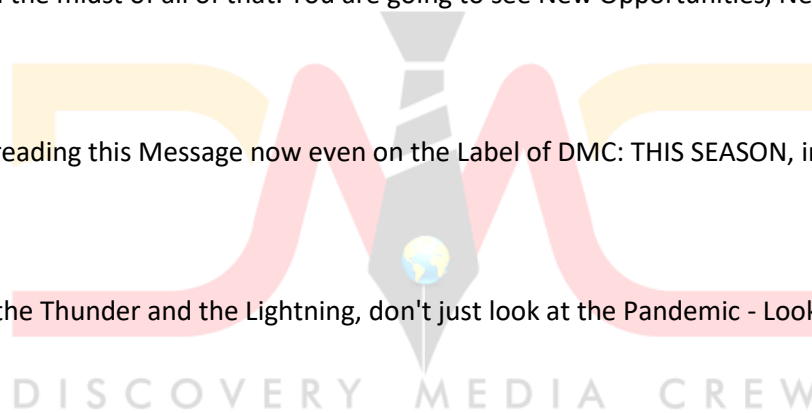
Whilst we are all scared about what is happening all over, and we see 'Super Lowers' being brought down, we see Systems been crumbled and we see ourselves 'little us' - We don't have the Technology, they have!

God says: Watch it! - Because in the midst of the Thunder and the Lightning and the Rains; you are going to see New Grass Emerging.

In other words, in the midst of all of that: You are going to see New Opportunities, New Openings, New Life, coming up!

For some of you reading this Message now even on the Label of DMC: THIS SEASON, in your Turnaround Season - Amen.

Don't just watch the Thunder and the Lightning, don't just look at the Pandemic - Look at the opportunities.



That is the Grass that is growing all around you!

Look at what God is doing because for some of you, you are going to see that when everyone thinks there is chaos, you are going to start seeing Life; you are going to start seeing Opportunities.

God says: You ask for Rain in the time of the "Latter Rain", I will make "Flashing Clouds"; and I will bring Rain, and I will give you Grass.

So, when the Rain falls, and there is grass (and I don't know whether you have noticed it) but sometimes you can walk on a piece of land - Everyday you walk there, you see it is dry.

And then Raining Season and all of a sudden, you see Plants coming up.

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Where did it come from? - Well, Rain doesn't contain Plants!

So, something happened when the rain fell - It fell on something!

So, when God says: I will bring Grass; Where does this New Life come from?

From Three (3) Sources:

1. The first (1st) Level is the Seeds that People sowed in the PAST.

They dropped it in the ground - Ideas they had, they dropped it.

They started it but it DELAYED. And they got tired and they left!

In this season of Visitation, you will reap seed that you didn't sow - Amen; you will reap fruits from seed you didn't sow - Amen.

Others sowed but didn't WAIT - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

Others started it, they got tired and they left it but God is going to cause it to flourish for you and you will rise up and POSSESS IT - Amen!

Jesus said to His Disciples: I send you to reap where you did not sow.

That is first (1st) Level - efforts they made; they couldn't wait. They got tired, they got weary and left it in the ground.

And now, in this Season of Favour - God is resurrecting it for you - Amen.

... That's the first (1st) Level.

2. Second Level is - Those seeds that you have Planted and forgotten about

Things that you started doing, you got tired yourself; you left it.

Some of you even forget - Oh, I had this Idea; Oh, I had this Plan and this is what I wanted to do.

But when the Rain of God falls upon it; that which you left behind - Ten (10) years ago, Twenty (20) years ago. Ideas you thought have died, Concepts you thought are gone for ever - May the Rain of God fall upon those Ideas - Amen, May the Rain of God fall upon those Concepts - Amen

Some of you are going to start doing things you thought you could NEVER DO - Amen!

You thought Oh, I'm too old to do it, I'm too tired to do it, I think my time is Past - Well, this is the time of "God's Latter Rain": There is Thunder, there is Lighting, Nations are shaking.

But for YOU: God is BRINGING FORTH GRASS - Amen; He is bringing forth Grass - Amen!

And I believe, without any shadow of doubt - that is why I have no fear about the FUTURE of the Church - Because this is our Rain, this is God's Rain and God is doing something UNIMAGINABLE, with the Body of CHRIST.

Old seeds Planted, you forgot them in the ground. You left them! Because some of you are here, there are things you wanted to do ten (10) years ago - you left them.

But in this Season, just open your eyes, open your eyes and watch what God will do with the things you thought you could never do again.

3. Third (3rd) Source of New Grass - New Seeds you just Planted in this Season that will start to Produce Results.

New SEEDS: Could be New things you just started during this Pandemic Season, and during this Lockdown.

You have some Business Idea, you have some Spiritual Idea, and you don't know how that idea works. And you just say: let me try and see how it will work.

Oh, it's not just try and see how it will work - IT WILL WORK - Amen!

... Because God will cause His Rain to fall upon it - Amen.

So, I am Praying for you, and standing in agreement with in PRAYER: That in this "Latter Rain", Please, when there is Thunder - HIDE; When there is Lightning - DON'T go out and get yourself KILLED.

Because the Harvest is coming, and you must be alive to REAP THE HARVEST!

It is Thundering, God is giving us New Opportunities; but we must STAY ALIVE to take hold of the New Opportunities.

We cannot go into the Rain and be struck down by Lightning or Thunder - and our Farm grows, but there was nobody to reap it.

... Because we didn't survive this!

If there is any Prayer I would Pray for each one of you reading this Message even on the Label of DMC and everybody in this Nation:

That God will PROTECT ALL OF US: That we would all live to see the Post-Covid World and the Opportunities it open for Africa and for Ghana/Nigeria and for Third World Nations.

For us to live in that world and say: we SAW IT, and look at what God has done!

I have seen Nations come through disasters and God has shown us, after the Second (2nd) World War the level of growth in the world!

Even after America went to Vietnam and totally destroyed that Country - Look at what happened to Vietnam.

Japan was bombed out in the Second (2nd) World War - Look at what happened in Japan.

Germany was bombed out - Look at what happened to Germany.

It seemed as if whenever there is a disaster, something comes up that is far greater than the disaster.

And I want you and I, and all of us to be alive to see the Post-Covid World - So Please, take all the Precautions you must take!

There is coming New Grass; it is Raining, we feel it; we know God is doing something - We feel the shaking, we see the Lightning, we feel the Rumbblings!

It's scary, we feel it but at the same time, we also sense in our hearts the opportunities - We see New life coming up, we see New Things coming up.

And I Prophecy to everybody Reading this Message now on the Label of DMC: That your BEST Harvest IS COMING! Your BEST Harvest is here! Your BEST Harvest has manifested! IT IS RAINING.

Somebody say: IT IS RAINING! Wherever you are at home - Just shout: IT IS RAINING!

... Shout one (1) more time, Say: IT'S RAINING!

Wherever you are, this is the Word God gave me to give to you that: IT IS RAINING.

There is Thunder, there is Lightning, but IT IS RAINING!

And the Purpose is not to kill you; but the Purpose is to fertilize the seed you have sown; and to Change the Environment you live in. And to give you an advantage that others have - you don't have!

Those who have Developed Systems - That did not require Rain. But God would equalize that by the opportunity He is giving to you.

Before I close today; I just want us to spend a moment or so to Pray.

Wherever you are, just Pray with me on this three (3) Prayer Topics. Say with me:

1. LORD, keep us safe during this Season of Raining. Keep us from the Thunder and the Lightning.

Just Pray that God will keep you safe, and keep your family safe, and keep your friends safe, and keep your Church safe, and keep your Nation Safe, and keep our Continent safe, and keep our world safe.

2. LORD, cloth us with Your Favour and New Opportunities. Cause Your Rain to grant us Favour and New Opportunities.

... Begin to Pray!

3. And finally I want you to Pray and say: LORD, cause the Seeds of Faith we have sown in the Past to germinate in this Season!

Some of you have made great efforts in the Past. The things you dropped in the Past - the Ideas you dropped, but in this Season you will just Say:

LORD, it's my "Latter Rain Season", cause Your Rain to fall upon every Seeds I have planted; the Ideas You gave me that I couldn't bring to Pass - Let it germinate.

... Begin to Pray!

In the Name of Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we Thank You!

We sense this Awesome Presence - this Awesome moment.

We have this confident that You have brought us to the birth and You will cause us to deliver.

You have brought us to the edge of the River and you would cause us to cross it.

You have brought us to the edge of the Sea, and You will part it open for us!

You have brought us to the Mountains, and we would climb it.

And we declare in this Season - for everyone reading this Message even on the Label of DMC; that it will Rain Favour, Opportunity, Open Doors, New Life, New Freshness upon their lives.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN and AMEN!

If you really believed that, give the Lord a Mighty clap wherever you are.

Celebrate the Goodness of the Lord!

If you feel like jumping, you can jump! If you feel like dancing, you can dance!

Just celebrate the Goodness of the Lord, because something from Heaven has broken loose in your life.

Begin to rejoice in the Lord: IT IS TRAINING - all around us!

We Thank You Father, in JESUS' Name - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



12TH JULY, 2020 - TOPIC: BREAKING UP YOUR FALLOW GROUND

TEXT: JEREMIAH 4:3

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!!

Let's rise together - wherever you are at home or reading on the Label of DMC -

And let's make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE together, in this Year of Excellence. Are you READY?
SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

... And you may be seated in the Presence of the Lord wherever you are, even as you read now on the Label of DMC!

It's a great Joy to have this time of Fellowship with you! We serve an Excellent God, Who is Perfect in all His ways.

God is always on time, and He never misses a bit: He is always with us in every situations.

And we believe that in this "Unusual Circumstances", His Grace still abounds towards us.

Last week, I Preached a Message on: IT IS RAINING. And I believe it is RAINING already!

Today, my Message is Titled: "BREAK UP THAT FALLOW GROUND. "

You may wonder: Where does that Title come from? - Jeremiah 4:3(NKJV)

For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns."

Although the Passage is mentioning men of Judah and Jerusalem; men there is a Generic term - that also includes women.

... And it speaks to us today, as well:

For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem (to Ghana/Nigeria/Africa/the world): "Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns."

This is Part of the Message that God gave to Prophet Jeremiah to speak to Judah of before they went into captivity.

And the Message uses a Farming Metaphor - relating to how to Prepare the land to be Fruitful.

If you know a little bit of Farming, or you studied Agricultural Science somewhere in your Education, you would have known about "Fallow Ground" and what it means.

So God used this metaphor to speak to Judah, and He was asking them to Prepare their hearts so that the Word of God would drop into it and that they would repent, so that they can face the future better.

So, the "FALLOW GROUND" that Jeremiah was speaking about was the "Hardened Heart" _of the People of Judah.

It is similar to the Parable of the Sower that Jesus Christ spoke about: About the hardened heart by the wayside that is not able to receive the SEED of Word of God.

Today, I am applying this Text and this same Message that God gave to Jerusalem in a different situation - To our situations now, to our lives now, and to the things that God wants us to open up to.

So, although in the Passage Jeremiah was speaking about the heart of the people; I am applying this Message to our situations (in a larger sense) not just our hearts.

So let's read that Text again from Jeremiah 4:3:

For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns."

In the Passage, there are TWO (2) CONDITIONS AND TWO (2) ACTIONS:

1. The first (1st) one is the Condition that the Bible describes as "FALLOW GROUND."

That Phrase: "Fallow Ground" simply means Ground that has not been Ploughed; the Ground that is Unfruitful, Ground that has not been Cultivated.

... The land that has remained unexplored, uncultivated for a very long time!

Usually, a "Fallow Ground" is HARD and it is dry - Especially in the terrain that Jeremiah operated with (Which is in the Middle East).

It would be a Hard Ground - A Fallow Ground is always a Hard Ground and it is dry.

A "Fallow Ground" can be land that has never been Ploughed before, or a land that has been left to Fallow after it had been Ploughed earlier; so that it can regain its Natural Fertility.

So, when we talk about a Fallow Ground, it means something that has not been explored ever before; or something that has been explored, but was abandoned.

... That is a Fallow Ground!

2. The Second (2nd) thing you would note is "THORNS" - in the Passage.

It says: "Break up your Fallow Ground, And do not sow among THORNS."

THORNS there, talks about Hostility or Unfriendly Atmosphere.

When the land lies Fallow for a long time, it grows things on its own accord.

In our Part of the world, when the land lies fallow for a very long time, it will grow WEEDS all over;

And in the word of Jeremiah, when the land lies fallow for a long time, it doesn't just grow weeds; it grows THORNS.

And thorns are Piercing; they are Hostile and they are Painful.

And so, frequently in the Bible, you will find out that God uses thorns as something that frustrates Productivity.

So, Jeremiah says to us: BREAK UP your Fallow Ground - the DRY land, the uncultivated land; And do not sow among THORNS.

So, How do we DEAL with the FALLOW GROUND?

And He tells us what to do - He says: BREAK IT UP!

What does it mean to BREAK IT UP?

It means to dig the land up and to make it open - Dig up and make open for cultivation.

In the days of Jeremiah, they broke the land by Ploughing the land. And they Ploughed the land using oxen and metal.

If the land is hard and you are going to break it, you have to use something harder than the land to break it.

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... So he says: Break up your Fallow Ground.

It means that you are going to Plough the land, you are going to break the surface of the land - so that it can receive the SEED that you are about to sow.

So, breaking the Fallow Ground is critical - It is the key to Breakthrough.

Every Breakthrough in Science, in Business or in Ministry requires breaking a Fallow Ground.

Until you break a Fallow Ground, you are going to stay where you are: in dryness, in limitation and in a hard Place.

If you want to make a Progress forward, YOU HAVE TO BREAK A FALLOW GROUND.

It is only when you break a Fallow Ground that you can Sow!

When a Ground is not broken, the seeds we Sow would be like: Sowing among Thorns."

So, note this that the verse is structured: There is a Pronoun - Break up 'YOUR' fallow ground,

So, what Jeremiah says is "YOUR".

... So say: IT IS MINE.

So, each one of us has a Fallow Ground we must break!

And until we BREAK that land, there will be no SOWING; and until there is Sowing, there will be no GERMINATION; and until there is Germination, there will be no FRUITFULNESS.

... The hindrance to our Fruitfulness is the Fallow Ground!

So Jeremiah says: "Break up the Fallow Ground!

And today, I believed God is speaking to each of us and telling us: "It is time to BREAK the Fallow Ground."

Each one of us has it!

For me, my Fallow Ground would be in the area of Ministry - New area of Ministry I need to Venture into.

So, what is your Fallow Ground?

Is there New Field that God wants you to Break into?

Is there a New Strength that God wants to build in you?

Is there a New Relationship that God wants you to develop?

When God brings you to a Fallow Ground, you have to BREAK IT.

And I am using this metaphor of Fallow Ground to talk about: Piloting New Things; Breaking into New Areas; Doing things you haven't done before; Going to Places you haven't gone before; Rising to Levels you have never risen before.

Somebody gave you a ceiling, but today you are breaking that ceiling; because that Fallow Ground must be broken.

There are many areas of our lives that have been a limitation to us.

But Thank God, we will break the Fallow Ground: "To go BOLDLY where no man has gone before."

... I like that Phrase;

"To go BOLDLY where no man has gone before!"

I came here to announce to somebody: You are about to go BOLDLY to a Place that you have never gone before!

The Fallow Ground - which seems to be your New Frontier is going to be broken.

That thing you thought was the limit, was the end - You can't go beyond it; I came to announce to somebody: You are about to break that Fallow Ground; you are about to go Places that People said you can never go before!

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As we speak, there are People breaking Fallow Grounds - God will allow us to do things;

Listen to me: God is not offended when His children dream BIG. He created us to explore the world He has created!

And God is not offended when you want to break Fallow Grounds, and you want to break limits, and you want to do things that were considered 'TOO BIG' for you to do!

In Joshua 14:12, Caleb asked for a Fallow Ground. He said: "Give me this Mountain."

And he was eighty five (85) years old - looking for Adventure, looking to do great things.

Some of you are seventy (70) Years and you think that is the end of life!

... There are New Frontiers for you to break into.

Some of you are just sixty (60) Years and you think - I'm grown, I'm an old Man, I'm an old Lady!

No, there are more mIMountains you must take!

Some of you are even forty (40) Years old and you think: Oh! Life has Passed me by!

But I came to announce to you; like Caleb, you are about to break up your Fallow Ground!

Sometimes, God will give you a Fallow Ground for you to BREAK: you don't choose it, but God gives it to you.

Look at what has happened to our world! - In the last four (4) Months, we have been forced to break up Fallow Grounds - in Ministry.

Whoever thought that Church could be done the way we are doing it now (Virtually/Online)?

Can you imagine that we have not had In-Person-Church for four (4) Months?

I never thought it was Possible!

For four (4) Months, I have Preached Sunday after Sunday without Congregation;

And you have attended Church Sunday after Sunday without leaving your home!

Did you ever think that it was Possible?

Did you ever think that we could still have Church in this way?

But look at what God has done: We are breaking New Lands, we are exploring New Opportunities.

And instead of running away from the Fallow Ground, you have to TAKE IT, you have to BREAK IT, and you have to SOW INTO IT.

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So, God is telling us something that seems unfamiliar - Maybe an opportunity; something that seems undone. Maybe a challenge for you to begin.

To someone else, it is scary but at the same time that it is scary, it is exciting to know the opportunities that stand in front of us.

Did I ever think it was ever going to be Possible to sustain a Congregation without Meeting them? Did I ever think that was Possible?

If you had asked me six (6) Months ago, I would have said no Church can do that! If you asked me that last year, I would say - that is impossible!

If somebody has asked me: Can you still be a Pastor of your Congregation and not see them for four (4) Months?

... I would have said, No - that is not Possible!

Can your Church still survive if it doesn't meet for four (4) months - Is that possible?

I would have said: it is not Possible!

But the Church is surviving - Not just surviving; it is thriving and growing from Strength to Strength:

We are Praying Online, we are hearing the Word of God Online, we are Giving Online.

And all of that is Fallow Ground - it has not been explored before!

It's a New Frontier; nobody thought that was Possible, but here we are! And look at what God is doing.

The Point I want to make is: God would give you Fallow Ground; an unexplored area, an Uncultivated land. Something that has never been done before!

And when He gives it to you: DON'T curse the Ground, and don't run from the battle, and don't run from the Ground;

Because, for all you know: God is giving you an opportunity to harness something that you thought was impossible but which is His Way to expand you, to grow you, to make you better and bigger and more effective!

... So, we don't curse the Ground when it is Fallow; we don't run away from the Ground; we don't complain: WE BREAK IT!

And for you in your own life; most of you are working from home, some of you have never been to your office (since this crisis started), some of you are shopping Online;

It doesn't work in Ghana/Nigeria but maybe it is a Fallow Ground we have to get into. Maybe the era of going to the Market to buy foodstuffs must come to an end.

Where the items must come to us in our homes - It is a Fallow Ground!

Because honestly, I don't understand why we have lived this way - When we go to the Market to pick items on the floor.

And you find very literates and educated People picking items on the floor; and all kinds of "Dilapidated Market" and all kinds of unhygienic environment and we live with it!

And God Probably is forcing us to break the Fallow Ground; where New Businesses will develop.

And these New Businesses are going to break New Frontiers.

And they are going to tell People: You don't need to go to the Market; the Market will come to you.

... It is a Fallow Ground!

And some of you are learning Online: Who knows where all of these is leading us.

All I'm saying is: It is a Fallow Ground; we are not going to run away from it - We are going to Break it, we are going to Sow on it, and we are going to be fruitful in it.

And if somebody Prophesies to you that the State we are in is going to be the end; I'm here to announce to you: It is the Beginning, it is a New Frontier - You are exploring, you are rising, you are doing what People have not done before.

And if you have the attitude like Caleb - To take on Mountains; if you have the attitude like Jeremiah told the children of Israel - 'Break up the Fallow Ground.'

... If that is your Spirit, you will break through!

I don't know about you; I believed that we are about to enter into the most fulfilling Years of our lives!

1. We are about to see God doing those things that we never thought Possible!
2. We are about to see God expand His Kingdom in a way we never thought Possible!
3. We are about to see the Gospel Penetrating People's lives in areas we never thought Possible!

Because, you know at first, People would say: I'm not going to listen, I won't go to Church.

But right now, Church is in your homes and you have to listen; and you have to Participate.

I have no idea where this is leading; but I'm excited to explore - To see where God is taking us: Breaking up Fallow Grounds!

So if you feel that this situation has brought you to a "Hard Place"; a "Tough Place" and you are wondering: I'm I going to survive? Are we going to survive? Is the world still going to be here?

Oh yes! - The world would be here because the world has been here for a long time, and it will be here!

Will I do well? - You will do well.

Will the Church of Jesus Christ survive? - We will not just survive, we would grow and increase in Leap and bounds.

Will People be able to take care of their families? - Oh, they will do far better than that!

Will there still be schools? - They will be better than that!

Will there still be Health Care? - Oh, Yes! Health Care is going to be better - with Telemedicine. Frontiers being opened.

Fallow Grounds are being explored.

Instead of running away and complaining, and cursing the ground:

Look at the opportunities God has laid in front of us and let us break the Ground and sow our seeds;

And we invest Energy and Ideas, and Wisdom into this time; we will watch what God will do for us.

And one of the ways that God helps us to break the Fallow Ground is that He gives us His RAIN.

Rain symbolises God's Favour, God's Grace; such that the Ground which is HARD - But God will give us Favour; He will soften it for you.

The Ground is hard, but God will give you Grace. Things are tough, but His will give us Grace!

You see, if you keep your eyes on the Grace of God, HELP will come to you!

I am not saying that it is not a "Hard Place"; it is a "Hard Place". But you serve God and the God you serve is Greater than the land that is hard.

And His Grace is sufficient, His Help is immediate, His Help is abundant, His Favour never ceases. God is able to send rain on your land - And He will!

And I Pray for you: As you read this Message today even on the label of DMC; no matter the Fallow Ground that is in front of you: Some of you have lost your Businesses; I know that some of you have started Companies that have collapsed right now in front of you. I understand it!

But don't just look at it and say: this is the end!

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It is not your end - It is the end of one (1) System and it is the beginning of another one!

Just ask God for Favour, and in that Place of hardness, He will give you Breakthrough; in that Place of failure, He will give you Success; in that place where you fell, He will cause you to rise up - Amen!

Don't look at what is dead in your hands and say: Oh, this life is so hard, it's impossible, I don't even know what I'm going to eat again - Yes, it may be difficult to find your meal today. It doesn't mean it will be difficult Permanently - Amen.

Look at the Opportunities God has given to you; look at the New Ways you can deplore your talents; look at the New ways you can work.

Even the old men and women will receive New Strength and a New Vision.

And I Pray for you that your heart will not collapse - Amen.

That you will not drown yourself off in Pity - Amen.

That you will not just sit down and say: Oh, everything is gone and just lie down.

I Pray that the Rain of God will fall upon you; that God will encourage you, that God would lift you up, give you the ability to rise up again and go to War because, this Battle that just began - I don't know how long we are going to be on this State: It may be for six (6) Months, it may be for a year, two (2) years.

But, if it is tough, we are Tougher! If it is hard, we are Harder! If it is confronting us, we are going to confront it!

We are going to come out of this Alive; We are going to come out of this Strong; We are going to come out of this with Testimonies; with Victory!

It may be difficult for a Season, but we will overcome and we will rise above it - Amen!

God says to you today: Break up YOUR Fallow Ground!

It is a hard land but we will BREAK IT! It is tough, but we will Break it! We are going to be EXPLORERS of a New Generation.

I believe that after the Period of this Pandemic - and I started saying it from day one (1) of this Pandemic:

That I believed that after this Period of Pandemic, those of us in the so called) Third (3rd) World Countries - Ghana, Nigeria, Africa, Caribbean, some Pacific Countries, etc: We will see the most "Accelerated Developmental Growth" we have ever seen in the last seventy (70) years.

It is going to be Massive and God is recruiting us - You and I to be part of that Massive Expansion.

We are about to become Part of an Adventure that will SHIFT the cause of History.

But, it came with a Fallow Ground; it came with a Hard Ground; it came with a Tough Terrain, it came with something we have never done before.

And it is challenging us to think of thoughts we haven't thought before.

1. To develop a Methodology that we have never developed before.
2. To think WIDE! - The New Frontier is out there, and we are exploring it.

So, to be Part of this Great Acceleration: WE MUST DO SOME BREAKING.

Sometimes I hear Pastors talk to me and say: Pastor, what do think about the future of the Church?

And I have never been in doubt:

1. Never in a moment be in doubt that the Church of Jesus Christ is going to emerge Victorious.*

2. That the Power of the Word of God is going to be more effective.

3. That the Penetration of the Gospel is going to be DEEPER than it has ever been.

... Because God gave us a Fallow Ground, and we are going to break it!

There are Pastors who thought that Church was just in the building.

Now, we are doing Online (virtual) Services.

You may have started small; maybe you don't even know how to start it; maybe you started in front of a camera to Preach and it feels awkward and weird.

Ask God for Grace, ask God for His Rain. Say: God, I have this Fallow Ground, I have never done this before. I don't even know how to do it but Please Help me Lord. Please give me Ideas, Please give me Favour, Please give me Wisdom.

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And God will rain upon you - And what you thought was an impossibility would now become an Open Door - Amen!

And it is the same - Not just the Pastors but for each one of you. Something is gone! Maybe your Company has laid you off - It is hard, it is difficult.

... It can be very scary, it can be very fearful to enter Monday and not go to work and have no where money is coming from.

It is a Hard Ground, it is a Fallow Ground but God says: BREAK IT UP!

If He says: "Break it Up!" - It means that He has given you something to break it up.

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So, I Pray for you: If you have no job, and you don't know where the future is leading you; I Pray that God would give you Grace not just to survive but to thrive - Amen.

I Pray that God will Anoint your head with Wisdom; that He will give you New Ideas and New Connections; He will Link you to New People; He will draw People's attention to you - Amen.

May People notice you, may Opportunities notice you - May you begin to see New Patterns that you never saw before - Amen.

May you begin to see New Ways you can use your Gifts, than you saw before - Amen.

It is not going to be the same old way - We will not go back to the world before it used to be.

No! It's a New World and we better get used to it.

So, today, I came here just to tell you: We are breaking "Fallow Grounds" in our Relationship with God, in our relationship with each other; in the our Ministries, in our Churches, in our Homes, in our Businesses, in our Country - Amen.

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May God forced Africa to think DIFFERENTLY - Amen because our old ways are not working.

We have operated almost the same Systems for years, and it is not working.

God is forcing us to think differently, to operate differently - And He will force us until we DO IT DIFFERENTLY.

... And may God give us the Grace to do it differently - Amen.

So today, I see you Going where you have never gone before - Amen!

I see you Owning what you have never owned before - Amen!

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I see you Counting what you have never counted before - Amen!

I see you Embracing what you have never embraced before - Amen!

I see you Rising to Levels you have never risen before - Amen!

I see you Possessing things that you never Possessed before - Things that you only dreamt about; I see you having them - Amen!

Because that is the Fallow Ground! It has been a Fallow Ground to you for years!

It has been Fallow Ground to your Family, to your Parents, to your Nation and to everybody around you.

But this Season, we would break that Fallow Ground; we are going to go Places; we are going to do things; we are going to Rise higher to levels we have never risen to before - Amen!

And may the Lord give us the Grace to do all of that - Amen!

And today, I want you to Pray and accept the challenge of the Fallow Ground in front of you.

I don't know what Fallow Ground is there, but don't curse it - Accept it!

And ask the Lord to OPEN your eyes to see the Potentials and the Opportunities that, that Fallow Ground is Presenting you - Amen.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Say with me: Heavenly Father, I accept where I am today, I accept the world and the opportunities in the world.

And so today, I ask that You Open my eyes, give me Understanding and Help me to see differently - To see potentials and opportunities in Jesus' Name.

... Now, begin to Pray!

2. Ask God for the Anointing to break through every hardships, every obstacles, every Pains associated with the Season we are in.

... Because there are obstacles, hardships, there are Pains associated with this Season.

I want you to Pray: Lord, it has been tough, but I ask for Your Grace to pull through this.

3. And finally, we want to Pray and I want you to ask God to show you what seed you must sow again on this Fallow Ground - In Industry, in Education, in Missionary Work, in Church Work, in Media, in New Technology.

... There are New Things!

Some of you have lived maybe for twenty (20) years, doing one (1) Particular thing. And all of a sudden, God is going to direct you to do something totally different from what you have done in the Past.

Maybe you thought all your life: I'm a Journalist - And God is going to lead you to a New Area which is not Journalism.

Because we are breaking Fallow Ground; we are ready to go where God is going. We are going where He is leading us.

So, I want you to Pray and say: Lord, help me to see what I must do next.

Pray and talk to the Lord!

CLOSING PRAYER

And so our Father; we Thank You for everyone. We Thank You for Your Grace which causes us to break the Fallow Grounds.

And Father, today I Pray that the Anointing to Break Fallow Ground will be imparted by Your Holy Spirit, to everyone reading this Message today even on the Label of DMC.

Let Your Grace be imparted to us.

And I Pray Father, for everyone today - For those who have come to a Fallow Ground: It used to be fruitful land, now it is a Fallow Ground. It used to Produce, but it is now dead.

And for those who are confronted with those Fallow Grounds, I Pray Lord, that Your Grace will abound towards them.

I Pray for the Anointing to BREAK every Fallow Ground.

For those Lord, who are stirring into space, and have no clues what to do; Visit them. By Your Spirit show them what to do, in the Name of Jesus.

And Father we Pray for our Nation (Nigeria/Ghana) - That we will Rise beyond our limitations; that we would build a New Nation; not on the old Template but on a New Template.

To Break New Grounds in Industrialization, in Technology, in Education, in Science and Health, in every area of our lives.

We Pray for the same Grace on our Continent Africa - That Africa will no longer be the Place where People go for Tourism to see Poverty, to see backwardness, to see antiquity.

That People will come to Africa to see Modernization, to see future Development, to see where the future is going.

May our Continent (Africa) represent the Hope of the World. May we represent the New Vision for Humanity.

As you visit this lands and cause us to accelerate in Development (beyond our wildest dream) may the Lord Help Africa, may the Lord Bless Africa.

By Your Spirit, BREATHE New Life into our Continent.

I Pray for you my friend; that this Season, you will BREAK Fallow Ground - Amen.

SELF DECLARATIONS

Why don't you say to yourself:

1. I am breaking this FALLOW GROUND.

2. I will not die here - I am breaking through this situation; I am coming out with Songs of Victory; I am coming out with a Testimony; I am coming out with the Joy of the Lord.

... Because God has given me Victory!

If you believe it, give Jesus a shout - Hallelujah!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

To read other Messages on the Coverage of DMC MediaCrew so far this Year and beyond; kindly visit our Website: <http://discoverymediacrew.com>.

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And I can assure you that you will be glad you did as it will avail you first hand access to comprehensive reports on the various Messages of Pastor E.A Adeboye and other Men of God!

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It is outrightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

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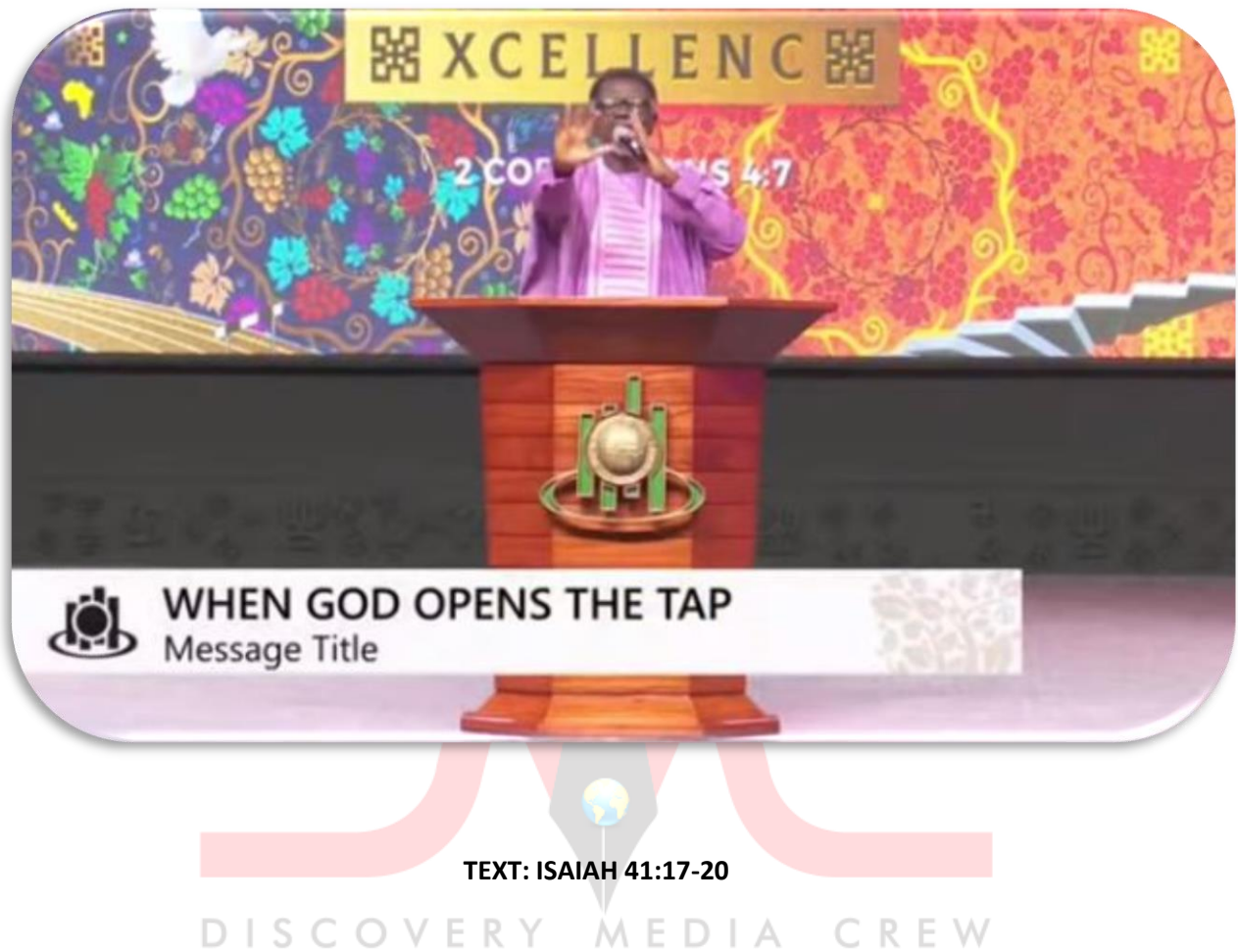
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19TH JULY, 2020 - TOPIC: WHEN GOD OPENS THE TAP



OH, Praise the Lord - Hallelujah!

Rise up wherever you are with your brothers and sisters all over the world or reading on the Label of DMC.

As we make the DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

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His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

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Last week, I spoke about: "Breaking our Fallow Ground".

Read the full Text of that Message on the various DMC Handle or via this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Breaking-Up-Your-Fallow-Ground-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

And today, I just want to bring to us another "Words of Encouragement" from the Scriptures, that will help us to understand - How to Position ourselves and see what He is doing for us in this Time and in this Season.

I title my Message: "WHEN GOD OPENS THE TAP."

You can imagine when water has not run from the tap for so long; there is no water flowing.

And the first time water flows, there is Joy, there is excitement - Because something that was dry, something that did not happen, is coming through.

... It is now flowing!

I remembered as a child, when we had to go to Public Stand Pipe to go and fetch water.

In those days, we had to Press that contraction very hard, and water will flow.

And it was a Joy - Just to see water flowing in to Peoples' buckets and enjoying the Power of water and what it does for us.

Of course nowadays, some People or most of us, have water flowing from our homes!

There is still Communities (in Africa) where People go to the Tap Stand, go to the Wells, or go to the Rivers to fetch water.

But in this Message, I am using the concept of "God turning on the Tap" to speak about when God allows His waters to flow up our lives.

And I am going to base my Teachings from ISAIAH 41:17-20 (NKJV).

... And let us hear the reading of God's Word:

1. The Poor and Needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in desolate heights,

And fountains in the midst of the valleys;

I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land springs of water.

19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree,
The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine
And the box tree together,

20 That they may see and know, And consider and understand together,
That the hand of the Lord has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.

This week, I will be focusing on the Verse 18. And next week, I will Preach on the Verse 19.

DMC Media Crew Promises to bring you the Full Text of the Upcoming Message as usual - Gos sparing our lives!

Reading this Passage from Isaiah, God addresses this Message to a Group that He calls "The POOR and The NEEDY."

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The term "The POOR" and "The NEEDY" refers to those who are disenfranchised in every Culture.

And they are not defined by Nationality or by Location - Although in this Prophecy, it is talking about Israel, it has a wider application to "The POOR" and "The NEEDY".

... The disenfranchised in every Society.

And it refers to People who are thirsty or desirous of water.

What the Passage says is that there is Pursuit of: "The POOR" and "The NEEDY." - It says that they seek for water.

And here, the water is reference to Life and Sustenance.

"The POOR" and "The NEEDY" are looking for Life; they are seeking for Help; they are seeking for Sustenance.

And the Passage says: Their Pursuit does not Produce Results.

The reality is: There is no Water, there is no Life, there is no Sustenance.

So, we have a Picture of People who are seeking for Help, who are seeking for Water - The Bible calls them "The POOR" and "The NEEDY."

And there is no Help coming from anywhere!

And God says: It is in that context that He showed up.

... He says "I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM."

And I just came here to tell you that, if you qualify as "The POOR" and "The NEEDY" and you are SEEKING (and not finding) - God says "I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM."

Can God Provide for us when there is no Provision?

Can we still Trust God when there is no Indication of Help in sight?

Many times when we Pray, we have a sense of whom we think God will use to answer our Prayers.

We have somebody in mind, that if I Pray - That God should give me this. I know He may use that Person (an Uncle, an Aunt, a Brother/Sister, a friend) - somebody close to us!

But what if there is none? - You have Nobody, no Helper and still you are seeking God.

Can God help you when there is no Helper?

And that is what Isaiah is talking about.

And so, look at what He says in Isaiah 41:17 (NKJV).

He says: "The Poor and Needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them".

Somebody say: God will not FORSAKE ME!

You have to say that with some Confidence!

Yes, for a moment you are seeking and not finding; but GOD WILL NOT FORSAKE YOU!

Earlier in the same Isaiah 41:10, Prophet Isaiah said:

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand".

So how is God going to Minister to these People who are Poor and Needy; seeking for water - finding None?

And this is how God says He will SOLVE their Problems. He says: - "I WILL OPEN"

... Somebody say: GOD WILL OPEN!

He says I WILL OPEN - To OPEN means to let loose or to throw open.

It is like Standing behind a Wall which seems like there is nothing behind the wall and all of a sudden, the Wall gives way.

... It opens up and out of it gushes out water or Good Things to you!

God says: I WILL OPEN - I will let loose, I will initiate a Process to give you Help; even though there is no Help!

Isaiah 41:18 (NKJV) says: "I will open RIVERS in desolate heights, And FOUNTAINS in the midst of the Valleys; I will make the wilderness a POOL of water, And the dry land SPRINGS of water."

There are FOUR (4) different Water expressions in this Passage: RIVERS, FOUNTAINS, POOLS AND SPRINGS.

... These are waters, but they don't occur in the same way.

And God did not say "I will bring rivers, rivers, rivers and rivers!"

But He talks about Kinds of water coming to People in different situations.

Not only are they coming to the People; it's coming to People in different situations.

So, we will look at the FOUR (4) CONDITIONS that God says He is going to respond to and how He is going to RESPOND to them.

1. The first (1st), as we see is RIVERS.

RIVER is normally a flowing water.

And He says; "I will open RIVERS in desolate heights."

... RIVERS in Desolate Heights!

And so, what are DESOLATE HEIGHTS?

Well, a HEIGHT is a Hill Top or a Mountain Top.

And the Hebrew word that is rendered 'Desolate Height' refers to Hills and Mountains that lack any Vegetation including Trees - They are desolate.

It is a Height but it is DESOLATE!

So, a Desolate Height is a High Place that is empty, that is dry.

... So, some of the POOR and NEEDY that God is talking about here are in High Places.

I. They are in High Places, but they are Desolate.

II. They are 'Big People' - People look up to them, but everything has run dry in their lives.

It is Possible to rise High in life - In your Profession, in your Career, in your Business; and then experience a Loss.

Soon, you find yourself in a Desolate Heights and when you find yourself in a Desolate Heights, People think you are High, that everything is okay with you.

But you know that you are Desolate at the TOP - Something has gone wrong at the Top!

And in this Season, especially what the virus has done to many people

I. Businesses that were at the Heights became desolate!

II. People who had climbed so High, have become Desolate - People still look up to them: They think they are Prosperous, they think they are doing well.

But they know by themselves, they are Desolated Heights - Though they are on a High Places, things have just DRIED UP.

And so, God says to those of you who are High but Desolate - You are at a High Place, but everything has been destroyed.

... You are in a Desolate Height!

... And for those People; He says: I WILL OPEN RIVERS!

It is very interesting how God speaks these words because, Rivers don't flow Uphill.

A Desolate Height is up! - It is Up the Hill and Rivers flow Downhill normally.

Just a couple of Rivers that flow Uphill in our world but majority of Rivers flow Downhill - From the top to the bottom.

But God says: Although you are High and it seems you are beyond the reach of water. God says: I WILL OPEN RIVERS.

... And the Rivers, instead of going Downhill, are going to come Uphill.

God is about to give you a Miracle that has never been seen before - Things are going to be turned in the Opposite Direction instead of it going Downhill, it's going Uphill.

So, those of you who are in Desolate Height, God says: I know how to Reach you; I know how to Bless you; I know how to Refresh you; I know how to Renew you!

God is able to turn the Path of the River to the opposite direction:

I. There are People who are High and Desolate Spiritually: God has blessed you, but you are Spiritually DRY and there is a sense of Emptiness - You need JESUS in your heart as Lord and Saviour.

II. There are People who are High but life has just messed them up - Maybe family issue, maybe marriage situation has just made you Desolate.

III. There are People who are High and life has just gone bad - Business just threw you up. You are High but you have become desolate.

For those People, God says to you today: I will OPEN to you Rivers in the Desolate Height.

The River is going to flow in the opposite, in a Place you never expected help to come from; GOD WILL GIVE YOU HELP.

Isaiah 42:17 says: "The Poor and Needy seek water, but there is none,
Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them."

God will NOT FORSAKE you; He will come up to you wherever you are, and give you Rivers in Desolate Height - Amen!

2. The Second (2nd) Type of Water that God is opening to us - That Isaiah talked about is FOUNTAINS.

Fountains in this Passage is not the same thing as Rivers - Fountain is a Headwater.

When we talk about: Headwaters; they are the Sources of Rivers. It is the Place where the River starts from.

Most Rivers start from very, very small Source.

So, Fountains are where the River starts from and they start very, very small.

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And God says to those who are in the Valleys, He says: I will open FOUNTAINS in the Valley.

Isn't it amazing that the waters of God reach out to the Heights, and it reaches to the Valley as well?

A Valley is a Low Place. It is a Place that is narrow.

And it is talking about People who have come very low in life or life has brought very, very Low.

The Valley has a way of hiding you; Valleys have a way of covering you; depressing you and taking you down.

And God says: If you are down in the Valley and you think that nothing can reach you where you are because you are too Low, it is impossible, and nothing can happen.

God says: I will Open Fountains for you in the Valley; I will Open Fresh Sources of Water; I will Open Fresh Sources of Supply.

For some of us, the Supply is the People we look up to, that have just shut up! Something that you thought would be there forever, is gone forever!

I mean, I have been amazed at the kinds of Businesses that have just collapsed all over the world, in the last six (6) Months.

And I can imagine all the staff, all the workers: from the Managing Director to the Factory Floor Workers; People in Human Resources (HR).

People who worked in these Companies, thousands and thousands of them who has Plans that they were going to survive - 'I'm going to work here for ten (10) to twenty (20) Years, I will get married, go on my Retirement, and so on and so forth!'

And all of a sudden, in six (6) Months, everything is gone and they are down in the Valley!

And God says: If your Water Sources are dried up, if your Sources of Revenue are dried up, if the People you relied on are nowhere to be found - I WILL OPEN FOUNTAIN WATERHEADS;

I will open Headwaters, I will open New Sources of water to you in the Valley!

I came here to announce to somebody: God will reach you in the Valley. He will open Headwaters for you. He will open FOUNTAINS for you - Amen!

Just look around you; in the Valley, GOD IS VISITING YOU WITH FRESH SUPPLIES - Amen.

In the Valley, the Fountain may look like a trickle.

And this Fountain that Isaiah talked about - That is what it is like.

... In the Valley, it looks like trickle.

It is like TRICKLE - It may look like nothing, it may look like something that will not amount to much.

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If you would Trust God, He owns Fountains in the Valley - And the Destiny of that Fountain is a BIG RIVER!

One of the biggest Rivers in the world - The largest; is the Great AMAZON RIVER in Brazil.

But the Source of the Amazon River is on a Mountain in Peru - And it trickles from there, becomes a small river, breaks up into various tributaries and then ends up into a huge Water Body.

... It doesn't start big; it starts small.

It is a Fountain and that is what God says He will give it to those in the Valley!

It may not seems Big, it may not seems Impressive, it may not seems Significant; but God says to you (in the Valley): I will open up something to you that looks small, something that looks insignificant - DON'T despise it!

So, if God opens a Fountain for you in the Valley, don't despise it! - It's water, it's little, it's flowing, it doesn't seems to have a big destiny but its Destiny is a MIGHTY RIVER.

And for those of you who are down now and out: life has dealt you a knockout blow - You are going to RISE UP AGAIN - Amen.

And this time around, NOTHING is going to knock you down again because Jehovah Almighty is able to HOLD you, He is able to KEEP you and He will give you water - as FOUNTAINS in the VALLEY.

If you are in a Desolate Height, He opens RIVERS to reach you at the Height; If you are in the Valley below, He opens FOUNTAINS for you.

Wherever you are - New Sources of water: New Headwaters, new Sources of supply and He will cause People you never thought would help you TO HELP YOU - Amen!

Situations you never thought would open again, would OPEN UP FOR YOU AGAIN - Amen.

... It is called FOUNTAINS in the Valley.

And this is the doing of the Lord!

God says, I'm doing it so that everyone would know - This is the DOING OF THE LORD!

May God give you a Miracle, that the Only One who will receive the Glory is Jehovah Almighty - Amen!

Nobody can say; I made it, I did it for you - Everybody would look on and say: But for God, this would not have happened - Amen.

3. The Third (3rd) Type of Water that Isaiah talks about is POOLS

Pools are STILL Waters; Standing Waters.

A River is flowing, the Fountain is flowing; the POOL is settled - STILL WATER.

As a matter of fact, that was what the Psalmist had in mind when he wrote Psalms 23.

And he says: "The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want...: He leadeth me beside the STILL WATERS."

Still Waters are the waters that do are not disturbed.

They are not moving - they are just there!

And God says "I will OPEN POOLS in the WILDERNESS."

The WILDERNESS usually symbolises Emptiness: A vast expands of land where there is DRYNESS.

... And normally, Wilderness is a Place of WANDERING.

So, when we say a Person is in the Wilderness - The Person is moving and working, and making efforts but Producing Nothing!

Wilderness is a Place where you move, you are working but nothing is happening.

And the children of Israel, when they were in the Wilderness, walked for days, and grumbled.

Because when you are in the "Wilderness Experience", you just grumble - Life is just like a "Fruitless Search"; a "Meaningless Adventure" and an effort that yields Nothing.

And God says: In the Wilderness, when it seems like there is no Help; I will open POOLS in the Wilderness.

In Genesis 21; when Hagar and Ishmael were weary in the wilderness and about to die of thirst - God OPENED a Pool of water in the wilderness for them.

... Hagar about to die, turned her eyes and saw a POOL of water.

May God open POOL of waters for you in your Wilderness - Amen!

I have never travelled in a Wilderness before; but those who have, would tell you that - The Greatest Joy in a wilderness is an OASIS.

An OASIS is a Place of Water - A Standing Water that is right there in the middle of the Wilderness. And sometimes, with Vegetations around it; with Plants around it and sometimes with a couple of Palms and Fruits.

And in the days of the Bible, when People find an Oasis, they settled there because it is a "Spot of Refreshment" in the midst of a wandering wild desert.

And that is what God says He will DO - He will open POOL in the wilderness for the wandering Travellers, for the Pilgrims, for the one who is tired, for the one whose burdens are too heavy, for the one who cannot carry on!

Maybe life has just become a weary trash, and you are just moving, you are making your best efforts, you are trying so hard to survive, you are trying do hard to go on. Family situations are weighing you down, maybe a Health situation is weighing you down and you are just moving but it's hard for you.

And for those People who are in the Wilderness; God says I WILL OPEN POOL OF WATERS - Amen!

May the Lord open a Pool for you - Wherever you are reading this Message from the Label of DMC and I Pray that God's help will locate you - Amen.

The Pool of waters will open up for you wherever you are; that this journey that has become so hard and so tough and so difficult for you - God will give you Help - Amen

And the Help will come from His Presence that He will sustain you, He will give you something to eat, give you warmth, give you an embrace, He will cheer you with His Presence - Amen.

May the Lord meet you on your journey, so that you don't get weary and die in the wilderness - Amen.

You will not die - for Vultures and Wild Beasts to eat your flesh - Amen.

God will deliver you from this Tiresome and Fiery Wilderness; He will bring you out and give you a Testimonies - Amen.

If you are in a Desolate Height, He will give you RIVERS; If you are in a Valley, He will give you FOUNTAINS; if you are in the Wilderness, He will give you a POOL of water.

4. And the last Group that Isaiah talked about, are those who are in the DRY LAND.

... He says that He will open SPRINGS in the Dry Land.

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Dry Land is a Place of dryness - It is a bit different from the Wilderness.

The Dry Land simply talks about lands which has NO RAIN.

It's in draught!

There has been no rain for a long time and the land is DRY. It used to be fertile, but it is dry now.

And God says, I WILL OPEN SPRINGS.

SPRINGS here refers to Wells of Water - Water that wells from the bowels of the Earth (Gushing Water)!

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And God says; I will give you SPRINGS in a Dry Land in a Season of draught.

... It used to be fresh, but it's now DRY.

When you are in a Dry Land; somebody says: How do I know whether I'm in a Dry Land or not?

When you are in a Dry Land, you say things like:

I. It has been a long time since someone smiled to me.

II. It has been a long time since someone Blessed me.

III. It has been a long time since I have been Happy.

IV. It has been a long time since God really surprised me.

V. It has been a long time since I felt the Presence of God.

VI. It has been a long time since when I have been Joyful.

There are People in this world that life haven't laughed.

When I talk about laugh, I'm talking about "Belly Laugh" - Really laughed for a very long Time.

... Every time they laugh it's just something at the top - It doesn't go deep.

Because inside (deep); there is Pain, there is dryness.

Your bones are DRY - There has been no jubilation ever in your life, there is no Help in your life.

And some of you are dry Spiritually - You look back and say: 'Oh, it has been a long time since I felt the Presence of God.

When God OPENS THE TAP: He gives us Rivers, He gives us Fountains, He gives us a Pool of Water, and He gives Springs in our Wilderness.

And He locates us where we are - If you are in a Dry Land - He will give you SPRINGS of Water!

If you are in the Wilderness - He will give you a POOL of water.

If you are in the Valley - He opens up New headwaters; New FOUNTAINS for you.

If you are up there in a Desolate Height; He opens up RIVERS for you.

Isn't it amazing that God knows which Water Source and Supply is tailor-made for your situation?

And wherever you reading this Message (even on the Label of DMC): He knows how to REFRESH you, and how to RENEW you.

We serve a God who cares for us; and He will not leave you alone.

Wherever life has brought you, God is able to Help you; God is able to Strengthen you, and God is able to Lift you up - Amen.

So today, before I close, I just want us do spend a few minutes to PRAY.

GENERAL PRAYERS

And wherever you now, we are going to Pray for these FOUR (4) GROUP of People;

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1. If you find yourself in a DESOLATE HEIGHT - People look up to you but you know you have NOTHING to offer.

Let us Pray that GOD WILL HELP YOU.

2. If you find yourself in the VALLEY; not in a Height but you are Low down there.

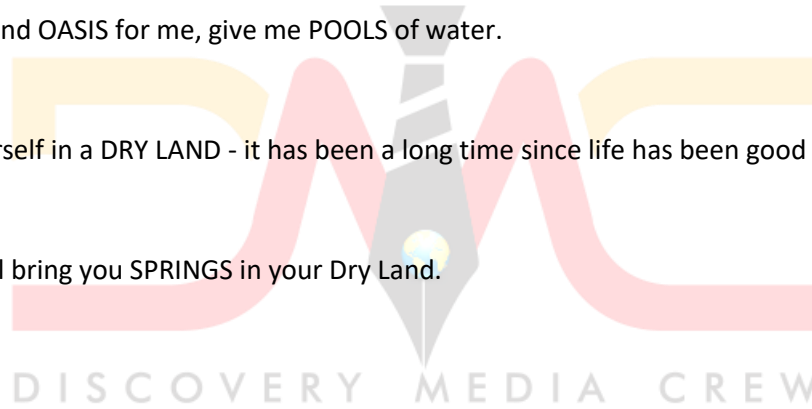
Just say: Lord, touch me, give me FOUNTAINS!

3. And if you feel you are in the WILDERNESS; you are working hard but everything is dry.

Say: Lord, Open and OASIS for me, give me POOLS of water.

4. If you find yourself in a DRY LAND - it has been a long time since life has been good to you.

Pray that God will bring you SPRINGS in your Dry Land.



PRAYER FOR OUR NATIONS/WORLD

And for our NATIONS: May God opens for us Rivers in Desolate Heights, Fountains in the Valley, Pools in our Wilderness and Springs in our Dry Land.

We Pray for our Continent AFRICA - May God Open for us Springs of water in our dry lands; Open New Headwaters in our Valleys; and give us Rivers in our Desolates Heights.

And Father, for the entire World that has been dislocated. Factories that have collapsed, Industries, Airlines, that have collapsed; People who have lost their Jobs - May you visit them in every Nations, in every Continents; of every Towns, of every Races.

Oh God, Visit our Earth, visit our World, visit our Planet - Oh Lord; give us RAIN AGAIN!

Father, give us Rivers in Desolate Heights, Fountains in the Valley, Pool of waters in our Wilderness and give us Springs of water in our Dry Lands.

May the Earth be revived, may our World spring forth again.

May there be laughter in our World against, may there be Joy in our Planet Earth again.

And may our Planet come out of this STRONG and HEALTHY;

.... Because of this Your Visitation!

We give You Praise Father, we give You Glory, we give You Honour.

You are the Owner of the Whole Universe - You Rule over the affairs of our lives even when everything failed.

Science failed, even Preachers failed and Businesses failed but You NEVER FAIL.

Oh Lord, You are our Trust and You are the One Who causes the Rivers, the Fountains, the Pools and the Springs to Minister to Your People.

We give You Praise Father, we give You Glory Lord, we give You Honour, we give You Adoration Lord.

We are confident of this: That we are coming out with a Testimony because You are the Lord God Jehovah - Your Word is TRUE!

And we confidently declare that: You will Open Rivers in Desolate Heights, Fountains in the midst of Valleys; You will make the Wilderness a Pool of Water and Dry Lands Springs of Water.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

And if you believe that: wherever you are in your home (reading even from the Label of DMC); just lift up your hands to God and shout a BIG AMEN - AMEN!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



26TH JULY, 2020 - TOPIC: WHEN GOD PLANTS YOUR FIELD



TEXT: ISAIAH 41:17-20

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Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!!

Shall we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

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Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

Well, last week, I preached from Isaiah 41:17-20. And I focuses on verse 18. And I focused my Message last week: "When God Opens the Tap."

DMC NOTES: You can read the Full Text of that Message on the various DMC Handle or via this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/When-God-Opens-The-Tap-Dr-Mensal-Otabil>

Today, I we will go back to the same Passage. And I will be focusing my Message on Verse 19.

And I have titled my Message: "WHEN GOD PLANTS YOUR FIELD."

I believe God is able to Plant Fields or Trees in our Desert Places.

Not only does He Provide WATER, but He also breaks Systems and Structures - He Plants our Field!

And may the Lord Plant our Fields and cause your field to Blossom - Amen!

So, ISAIAH 41:17-20 (NKJV).

... And let us hear the reading of God's Word:

17 The Poor and Needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a Pool of water, And the dry land springs of water.

19 I will Plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine

And the box tree together,

20 That they may see and know, And consider and understand together,

That the hand of the Lord has done this, And the Holy One of Israel has CREATED IT.

When God visits His People, the first (1st) thing we noticed last week is that: He OPENS Water for His people.

He talks about: Rivers in the Desolate Heights, Fountains in the Valley, Pools in the Wilderness and Springs in the Dry Land.

And today, as we focus on the next Verse after this: We want to look at what God does in our lives after He has WATERED the Land.

So I will read Verse 19 again;

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"I will Plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine And the box tree together".

So, what God shows Isaiah and Isaiah Proclaims in this Oracle is that: GOD IS VISITING HIS PEOPLE.

And in the Visitation: He Provides WATER for the land that is Thirsty of water.

... Not only are the People thirsty, but the Land itself is thirsty.

And God waters the Land, from the Mountain to the Valley, to the Wilderness; so that every spot receives a Visitation of God.

And I Pray that every areas of your life will receive a Watering from God - Amen. A Visitation of God - Amen!

God knows how to reach you at the Height, He knows how to reach you in the Valley, He knows how to reach you in the Field, He knows how to reach you in the Dry Land.

And then after God waters the land; Verse 19 tells us the next thing that He does to the land.

... Because, what Good is a "Watered Land", when it is Producing Nothing?

What Good is it for God to rain His Blessings upon your life, but nothing comes out in consequence of what He has done for you?

So in verse 19, God says: "I WILL PLANT."

... And I like that!

In Verse 18; it says: "I WILL WATER." In verse 19; it says: "I WILL PLANT". - The God who Waters, also Plants!

And today I just want to encourage you, to say that: "GOD IS PLANTING IN YOUR FIELD.

The Field which was dry and empty; there was no activity. God is about to burst loose on your field, and then there will be a by a Planting.

And in this Passage, He says: 'He will Plant Trees.'

... And I will take time to explain what that means.

And if you go through the sequence of trees, there are seven (7) TREES: The CEDAR, the ACACIA, the MYRTLE, the OIL tree, the CYPRESS, the PINE and the BOX tree.

... Seven (7) Trees!

And if you note, and if you understand the Geography of the Biblical Lands; you will understand that these trees are not typical Fruit Trees.

Normally, when you read from the Bible and you look at trees, you will find: Grapes, the Vine, the Olive tree, Apple or Pomegranate, Almond or some other fruit yielding trees.

... None of these trees are fruit bearing.

So, God says: I will Plant trees but the trees are are not for fruit bearing - they don't bear fruits.

These trees do Two (2) things:

1. They are for SHADE - They provide a Covering.

So, when God waters the land, He says I will Plant first (1ST) the Trees that provide SHADE.

... So the trees provide SHADES.

2. The Second (2nd) thing you would note about this trees - If you study the Bible further is that these are "Timber trees and they are for CONSTRUCTION".

And most of them were used in the building of the Tabernacle and in the Temple.

These trees - you will find the Cypress, the Pine; you will find the Acacia and so on - Used in Construction.

So, what God is saying is: When He has WATERED the land, He is going to bring SHADE to the land and He is going to Provide trees for CONSTRUCTION.

If God says He is going to Plant these trees, it means that something is going to take Place after the planting - Construction is about to take Place!

Because these are People who have been displaced; and God is about to reconstruct their lives. And He puts in the trees that are necessary for reconstruction.

So, there is SHADE and there is CONSTRUCTION.

So, when God sees a Desert, a Dry Land. A land that is unproductive; He Provides Water (Refreshing) and then He Provides the Trees - For Shade and for Construction.

The Trees represent God's People and God's Provision.

God Plants His People in a Place that used to be dry and not fertile.

We (You and I) are the trees that God is Planting.

He is Planting us in Places that used to be 'Not fertile' - Nothing used to grow there; nothing used to work.

But in this Season, there is coming a Watering and there is coming a Planting - Amen. And may the Lord Plant you as a tree in a desert land - Amen; and may you Flourish - Amen!

When God Plants People; the People are able to do things which hitherto were considered 'IMPOSSIBLE' to be done.

Many times when I look at the Continent of Africa; it's like a desert - Nothing grows here!

It is amazing that so much Investments is Poured into our Continent, but nothing of significant seems to thrive here.

People of consequences don't seems to thrive here.

It seems as if the land is incapable of supporting livelihood.

But I came here to announce to Africa: God is about to WATER this Continent; and He is about to PLANT TREES - Amen.

And they are trees that will be Planted and they will survive, they will grow and they will thrive - Amen.

There is coming a New Generation of African, who would be planted upon this Continent - and our DESERT YEARS ARE COMING OVER - Amen!

May the Lord PLANT YOU - AMEN!

If you believe God wants to Plant you, put your hands upon your heart wherever you are reading this Message now on the Label of DMC and say: "LORD, PLANT!"

... May the Lord PLANT you as a Person - Amen!

But God doesn't just Plant People; He also Plants SYSTEMS; He Plants STRUCTURES; He Plants THINGS that are able to sustain the People He is Planting.

What Good is it for God to Plant you, but there is nothing to support you?

So, the Trees represent what God is Planting - The People; it also represents the STRUCTURES that God is Planting.

And when you look closely at the Verse 19; when it mentions all these seven (7) Trees, it says: The Pine Tree and the Box Tree (those are the last 2) together.

... The word 'TOGETHER' is very important!

These Seven (7) Trees that God said He was going to Plant, are trees that you normally don't see together.

You will find one here, you will find one there.

They actually didn't belong to the land that God was Planting them in.

... These were usually "Foreign Trees"!

But God said: "I will bring things from Places, and I will put them together. I will work them together in this land.

The essence of the Message is that: God will bring together Structures and Systems from different Parts, and make them work together for His People.

In the Season that we have entered into; it is going to be a Season of "SYNTHESIS" - It's a Season of Synthesis!

It means that God is going to bring things from different Places and cause them to work together for the Good of His People.

... Things that have not been working together are going to work together!

Don't be surprised when God causes People who hated each other to start working together.

Nations which could never work together; would start working together.

You know, in our Continent (Africa) we have struggled with working together - Even Ghana can't work with Togo. We can't work with Ivory Coast, we can't work with Burkina Faso.

And so when we talk about African Unity, it almost seems like an impossible Mirage!

But let us trust God that in this Season, God will bring us into a Place: Where the Trees would WORK TOGETHER!

Nations that didn't work together would work together! People who didn't work together would work together!

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The Tribes of Ghana would work together! The People of Ghana would work together! The Systems of Ghana would work together!

Where our Systems have collapsed, we speak Life to our Systems: That they would work together - Amen.

Because if they don't work together, there will be no life!

If we cannot cause these trees that are separate from each other to come together; there will be No FOREST.

A Forest is not just the Planting of one tree; it is the coming TOGETHER of many Trees.

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May the Lord cause us to be a FOREST - Amen. May the Lord cause us to be His PLANTS - Amen.

So Isaiah tells us that God will Plant these trees - It is very interesting!

But none of the Trees is Fruit bearing tree because the fruit bearing trees would not be planted by GOD.

... The Fruit bearing Trees are planted by the PEOPLE.

And so when you read Isaiah 65:21-22;

"They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall Plant Vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not Plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands".

There are things that God PLANTS, and there are things that WE PLANT.

God Planted the trees for Construction, but the houses to be built by the People would not be done by God.

So, He Plants the trees: The Cedar trees, the Acacia trees - Construction trees!

... But the HOUSES would not be built by God.

God is telling you: There are things I want to favour you; but there are things you must do to take over the Favour I have Provided for you.

I will give you the trees - There are Timbers trees that Produce fruits.

So, He says in Isaiah 65:21 - You will BUILD the house; you will PLANT the Vineyard.

... The Vineyard is a fruit bearing tree.

And so, there are things that God does and there are things that we do - God doesn't totally solve our Problems.

He gives us Opportunity to solve our Problems. He gives us the Space to solve our Problems. He gives us the Systems to solve our Problems.

... And when we take advantage of it; we BUILD, and we PLANT the fruit Trees.

So, WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS?

God is VISITING the Dry Lands!

.. What is He going to do?

He Provides Refreshment, He Provides Opportunity; He gives us Systems.

When God gives you Gold - You make the Jewellery!

... God doesn't give you Gold and make Jewelry at the same time!

When God gives you Oil - You have the Plastic Industry.

... He doesn't give you Oil and Plastic Industry at the same time.

When God gives you Farmlands - You Plant the corn.

... He doesn't give you farmlands and Plant the corn at the same time.

God gives you the Systems, but you PLANT! You BUILD - You do your Job!

And we cannot just say God: You who gave us the Trees, give us the Vineyards; You who gave us the trees; give us the Buildings.

God is not going to do that!

He is going to give you the Trees and you Build; He is going to give you the trees and you Plant the things you need.

So, for you as an individual, there are things that God is going to open for you.

God is telling you: I have given you the Timber, BUILD. I have given you the Trees, PLANT the fruit trees.

And that is what God is saying to Israel: DO IT ALL FOR YOURSELF!

And so we in a Season: When God is doing MIGHTY THINGS for His People but He is not doing EVERYTHING for His People.

May the Lord PLANT You: Plant TREES in your field - Amen.

May the Lord give you TIMBER to Construct - Amen.

May the Lord give you SHADES to Plant your Vineyard - Amen.

May the Lord give you the PEOPLE to help you build your Future - Amen.

For the Young People that I'm talking to - When I say Young People; I mean Young People.

I don't mean Old People who think they are Young!

When I say Young People, I'm talking about those of you from age thirty five (35) and downward.

If you are age thirty five (35) and downward, and you are reading this Message from the Label of DMC - RISE UP wherever you are!

Because you are the Generation that God is Planning to use to CHANGE our environment.

And I Pray that God will Plant you (Young Men and Women); that God will Plant you in Industries, in Fields; that God will cause you to build things that your fathers could not build; that your Grandparents could never build.

Things that our Leaders have failed to do - YOU WILL DO IT, in the Name of JESUS - Amen!

I Prophecy to you Young Men and Women: May you be a "Builder Generation" - Amen. May you be a "Planter Generation" - Amen.

I speak the Spirit of a PLANTER over you; I speak the Spirit of a BUILDER over you - In the Name of Jesus; you will not repeat the mistakes of the Elders - Amen!

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You are a New Generation, you will be different - Amen.

And because of you; our Lands will Prosper - Amen!

Because of you, Africa will rejoice, and God will visit His People - Amen.

I know some of you are saying: Pastor, what about us who are above Thirty five (35)?

... By the way, I am above thirty five (35) too.

So, for all of you who are between thirty five (35) and fifty (50)

... I'm above that!

If you are between thirty five (35) and fifty (50) - your time is not over!

Put your hands upon you head - wherever you are even as you read on the Label of DMC now!

Between Thirty five (35) and fifty (50) Years Old: I speak Renewal over your life - Amen! I speak where your dreams are being shattered; that God will Renew you - Amen. God will Revive you - Amen!

That where you have been Dry, God will Plant New Trees for you - Amen. He will give you New Opportunities - Amen.

Where you have missed it, He will recalibrate your time and give you a New Opportunities - Amen.

May you become Part of the Army that God is raising for this time - Amen.

I command the Spirit of a PLANTER and the Spirit of a BUILDER to come over you - Amen!

... For those of you from Thirty five (35) to Fifty (50) RECEIVE IT NOW - Amen!

Say with me: I am a PLANTER, and I am BUILDER - I AM A PLANTER, I AM A BUILDER!

Now, that means that those of us who are beyond that; if you are from Fifty (50) to Eighty (80) - Get up wherever you are now reading on the Label of DMC. Just stand up and put your hands upon your head.

... Because the Spirit of God is coming upon you!

Not only shall the Young Men see Visions; the Old Men shall dream dreams. You will not miss your Visitation - Amen.

So I speak the Spirit of a Planter upon you, upon the OLD! Upon those who have gone in age - In JESUS' Mighty Name, Time will work in your Favour - Amen. TIME will Favour you - Amen!

The dreams of your Youth shall be Manifested in your latter Years - Amen!

I speak that in the next few years, God will accelerate the Process of bringing you in to Fulfilment, Completion and Perfection - Amen. That which you dream in your heart will become a Reality - Amen.

I speak the Spirit of a PLANTER and a BUILDER over you - Amen!

Somebody say: I am a PLANTER, and I am a BUILDER in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

PRAYER CHARGE

May the Visitation of God touch our Generation in the Older Generation, in their Middle Years and in their Younger Years.

May God Almighty work with us - PLANT us and BUILD us for our Future.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

If you believe that - Why don't you lift your hands to God and begin to Thank Him for making you a PLANTER and a BUILDER.

He says: You will build Houses and People will not take advantage over you. You will Plant Fields and the Fruits will not be stolen from you!

May the Lord who waters our Garden, Plant us! And may He who has Planted us, cause us to BUILD and to PLANT. May He cause us to do things to His Glory.

We speak this same Grace upon the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ;

That God will Plant His Church - The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will Plant the Church.

I talk to you Pastors - Some of you are concerned: "Will my Church survive after the virus?"

Your Church will not only survive, your Church will GROW, your Church will INCREASE, your Church will FLOURISH!

God did not allow this to destroy you; He brought it to INCREASE you and to PROSPER you.

May the Lord cause you to be a BUILDER and a PLANTER in this Time and in this Season.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!

CLOSING PRAYER:

FATHER we Thank You for Your Visitation that makes us PLANTERS AND BUILDERS.

And we Thank You Lord that in this Season, You are lifting us up to New Heights and into New Levels.

May the Waters of Your Spirit flow in to our lives.

May You Water the Dry lands, may the Fountains come up in the Valleys Lord!

We Pray Father; that You Plant the right Trees, the right Systems and the right People in our lives, in our Lands and in our People!

And may You Oh God, cause us to become BUILDERS and PLANTERS in our Generation.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

2ND AUGUST, 2020 - TOPIC: THANKSGIVING COMPLETES OUR FAITH



Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!!

We give God the Praise, the Glory, Honour and Adoration.

Shall we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

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And you may be seated in His Presence wherever you are or reading now on the Label of DMC.

It's a Joy to have this time of Fellowship with you, and to sit in the Presence of God together.

Our God is a Good God.

So today, my Message is Titled: "THANKSGIVING COMPLETES OUR FAITH."

My TEXT is from the Gospel according to Luke 17:11-19 (NKJV)

... And let's hear the reading of God's Word;

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11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He Passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.

13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

The Passage starts with the location of Jesus.

And it says that Jesus, on His way to Jerusalem, He goes through different Towns in Samaria and Galilee.

And the scene is very intentional, because of what happens later on.

Samaria is made up of Mixed Multitudes who are not full Jews; and then Galilee is made up of Jews.

So, Jesus is going between Villages of Samaria (who are not Jews); and Galilee (who are Jews).

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And as He entered one (1) of the Villages - we are not told which one it was: Whether it was a Samaritan Village or a Galilean Village.

He was met with ten (10) lepers. And these lepers are standing outside of the gate of the village. And shouted with a loud voice "JESUS, Master have Mercy on us!"

In the days of Jesus; lepers were not allowed to enter a City. They were considered unclean, and their disease very, very contagious.

And so they were kept outside of the Population; similar to what we see now - When somebody gets infected with the coronavirus, they are quarantined!

... Lepers were quarantined at that time!

So, these lepers shouted to Jesus; they cannot go to Him and they cannot go into the Village - If they had tried to go to the Village, they would be stoned.

And so they shouted "JESUS, Master, have Mercy on us!"

And Jesus shouted back to them and said: "GO SHOW YOURSELF TO THE PRIEST."

And they BELIEVED the Word of Jesus Christ, and decided to go show themselves to the Priest.

And as they were going, they realised that: THEY WERE HEALED!

The reason why they had to go show themselves to the Priests was because the Priests then were Health Inspectors of Israel.

They had to certify whether a disease had been healed or not.

And so they go and get a Certificate of Health.

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So, they go and it is Certified that they are Clean.

And they all go their various ways - They are so happy about their healing; but they forget the HEALER except ONE (1)!

And he went back to Jesus Christ and he WORSHIPPED before the Lord; and he cried with a LOUD VOICE and THANKED Jesus Christ!

And Jesus asked a very interesting question: "Where they not ten (10) People cleansed? How come none of the ten (10) came back except this Foreigner?"

And that is very important, because the man was a Samaritan - He wasn't from Galilee, he wasn't a Jew!

The Jews are the People of JESUS - Jesus is a Jew!

His People got Healed, and NEVER THANKED HIM. And the People who are not His People, THANKED HIM!

It was like saying: God moved and worked Powerfully; the Believers didn't Thank Him but the unbelievers were Thanking Him.

That is what happened!

And Jesus said: Where are the Nine (9)?

That simply tells you Jesus was expecting the People who had been touched by Him, to come back and SHOW APPRECIATION to God.

So the question is: After God has moved Powerfully in your life, does He expect THANKSGIVING from you?

... Yes, HE DOES!

When God VISITS you, does He expects you to show Appreciation?

Yes, He does!

When God HEALS you, does He expects you to show Appreciation?

Yes, He does!

When God PROSPERS you, does He expects you to show Appreciation?

Yes, He does!

When God BLESSES the work of your hands, does He expects you to show Appreciation?

Yes, He does!

When God allows you to wake up in the morning, and live your life INCIDENT FREE, does He expects you to show Appreciation?

Yes, He does!

... HOW DO WE KNOW?

Because Jesus said: "Where are the rest?"

There are many times when we come to God with expectations; but after He has done what we expected of Him; We are so excited about what He has done, that we forget the One Who did it.

And this leper from Samaria came to JESUS.

And I like how the Bible puts it in Luke 17:13 - When they were offering their request; the Bible says;

And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have Mercy on us!"

Note how the Bible puts it: They lifted up their voices.

That means they shouted and they screamed - JESUS, help us!

Now, when the gratitude is been shown, listen to how the Passage also puts it - Concerning this one in Luke 17:15:

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a LOUD VOICE Glorified God,"

Do you note that?

He used a LOUD VOICE to get Jesus to heal him; and a Loud Voice to THANK HIM!

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That shows that by the same INTENSITY by which he sought God's Help, was same INTENSITY by which he brought his Thanksgiving to God.

Many times there is a lot of INTENSITY when we are seeking God; but when we are Thanking Him, the intensity goes down.

We come to God with A Lot of Intensity, but after He Ministers, we Lower the Intensity in our Thanksgiving.

"And he was a Foreigner, he came back to Thank God; he bowed down, he was on his face - and Thanked God!"

Now in this Thanksgiving, this man - The only thing he had to Thank God was his Praise, was his words, was his Posture of his body.

... Because that is all he has!

He was a leper, he doesn't work, he doesn't earn any salary - He has nothing to Thank God with but his BODY, to Thank God.

And so he THROWS his whole BODY at the feet of JESUS!

If he had something more than his body - he would have thrown that also at the feet of JESUS.

But he is a leper with nothing!

So, all he has is the BODY that has been Healed, that has been Cleansed. And he cast his body, at the feet of JESUS.

So, if we believed that God has touched us, and if we believed that God has visited us - He wants you to return to Him and GIVE THANKS.

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AND HOW SHOULD WE GIVE THANKS?

... Well, the Leper shows us how to do that;

1. He came with a LOUD VOICE to make his request.
2. He came with the same INTENSITY to Thank God.
3. And because ALL he had was his Body - He THREW HIS BODY at the feet of Jesus.

Let us hear what Jesus Christ taught about: THANKSGIVING AND HONOURING GOD.

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Matthew 15:7-9; Jesus Christ was denouncing some People and he calls them: "HYPOCRITES!

What did Isaiah Prophecy about you, saying: 'These People draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

But Jesus is talking about: two (2) ways in which People Honour God.

1. He calls one: Honouring with the LIPS.

... These People honour Me with their lips.

When we Honour God with the lips, it is good!

But in this instance, Jesus is not Praising - 'Honouring God with the lips;' because there is a Second (2nd) Honour that Jesus talked about - that is Preferred:

2. Honour with the HEART

Honour with the LIPS, Honour with the HEART.

Honour with the Lips - Jesus says, that is not what I'm looking for.

I'm not looking for "LIP SERVICE"; Saying something that you don't mean.

I'm looking for "HEART Service", "HEART Worship", "HEART Thanksgiving" - Coming from the DEPTHS OF YOUR BEING.

And that is what the leper did - He came with his Heart (though his LIPS were speaking)

It wasn't just LIPS speaking, it was HEART speaking.

When we want to Thank God and Honour God, we have to do it FROM OUR HEART.

You will know whether you are doing it from your heart; because you are doing it with THE SAME INTENSITY with which, you went to seek Help from God.

... With THE SAME INTENSITY with which, you went to God for Help!

Proverbs 3:9-10; says: "Honor the Lord with your POSSESSIONS, And with the firstfruits of ALL your Increase; So your barns will be filled with Plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

HONOUR the Lord - If it is from our heart; it must Honour the Lord.

The word simply means to offer something that is Weighty or Glorious. Doing something that is Significant or Glorious - it is HONOUR!

Honour is sometimes difficult to define but there are ways in which we can Honour:

For example, if a Young Man is going to ask the hand of a young woman. And they have decided to marry. The Young Man and the woman wants to marry.

And as our Traditions in Africa is: you go into the Knocking, and then you do the Traditional Marriage, and then you go to the Church and do the Church Wedding.

So, Part of the Ceremony in the Traditional Marriage is that the Young Man (through his Intermediary) must make a Presentation to the father of the Bride, the mother, and some times other relatives.

... It used to be Items, now everything is deduced to money.

Like the Groom going to the Bank and ask for a Fresh Notes, put the fresh Notes in a nice pack and Present it to his future Father Inlaw.

Why does he do That?

Items worth that amount is the same as Fresh Bank Notes - The value is the same!

... One is Honourable, but the other is NOT Honourable.

So, when we say that we are going to Honour God, it is not just the ACT, but it is also the HEART behind it, and the VALUE you PLACE on the PERSON you are going to Honour.

So, there are things we do for God - they look okay!

For example, somebody says: Oh Lord, I Love You (repeated)!

And another Person says: OH LORD, I LOVE YOU!

... Two (2) different 'I Love You!'

Words are the same, but the gesture is different!

One comes from the HEART - it shows VALUE for the One who is been Honoured. And the other is just going through emotions!

When we come to Honour God, we don't go through Emotions.

We don't just do something because we have been asked to do it; in Christianity we don't do something because our Church says it.

We do things because we are convinced that it is the Will of God.

If your Church says it and you don't feel it is the Will of God, go ahead and live your life!

But our Faith is not in the Church, it is not in the Pastor; our Faith is in God and His Word.

And if we are doing something, until we come to the "Full Conviction" - 'This is for God, this is from God: then whatever we do, will be LIPS Service, It will NOT Honour God!

So, we are told: HONOUR THE LORD

That means you are going to be very Particular about what to do.

And then it tells us: WHAT TO HONOUR GOD WITH.

... Honour the Lord with your POSSESSIONS.

If all you Possess is your Body (like the leper); then you Honour God with your BODY, and Worship and Bow before Him.

If in addition to your body, you have the Work of your hands - Then you Honour God with the Works of your hands!

If God has Blessed you with MUCH, You Honour Him with MUCH!

If God has Blessed you with little, You Honour Him according to your Strength!

But you don't just say: Well, everybody is Honouring God with this; that is what I'm going to Honour God with.

No, it depends on the WEIGHT of His Blessings that He has placed on you!

"... To whom MUCH is given, MUCH is required."

Honour the Lord, do it for God: THANKSGIVING is what COMPLETES the Circle!

For the Nine (9) lepers, they didn't Complete the Circle because Jesus said something to the One (1) which He didn't say to the Nine (9).

1. He told the Ten (10) of them: "Go and show yourself to the Priest."

2. To the one (1) who returned to give Thanks; He said: Your FAITH has made you WHOLE. Or your FAITH has made you WELL.

... That, He never said to the Nine (9) - who were ungrateful!

WHAT IS THE IMPLICATION OF THAT?

I don't Know! - But it must be Significant if it was spoken.

It means that something happens to that ONE (1) that DID NOT happen to the Nine (9)!

This is my inclination; the Bible doesn't say so.

But my inclination, that when Jesus said to the TEN (10): "Go and show yourself to the Priest; Go and be cleansed" - Their leprosy was cleansed.

But if you know anything about leprosy;

There is a difference between been Cleansed from leprosy and being HEALED from leprosy - Or being made WHOLE from leprosy.

When you are CLEANSED from leprosy - the Infection goes.

But if it has eaten your fingers, or it has eaten any Part of your body, and there is Distortions and disabilities in any Part of your limbs - They will still remain; although you are CLEANSED!

If you go to any Lepers' Colony and see, or a Place where lepers have been cleansed and healed; you may still find out that what it took away was not restored to them - Although they are now well.

So my inclination is: When this Person came with THANKSGIVING - A process of Healing has started but it was COMPLETED when he came with THANKSGIVING.

The others left with Part One (1) of God's Process; they NEVER got the Part Two (2) of the Process.

The Part Two (2) came when this man came and said: Lord, I WORSHIP You, I THANK You for what You have done.

And Jesus spoke a Second (2nd) Word to him. He said: 'Your FAITH has made you WHOLE.'

I believed when Jesus said that; the Limbs that have been eaten, were RESTORED - Everything came back WHOLE!

Not just a CLEANSING, but a RESTORATION.

There is something about THANKSGIVING, that Competes your Faith in GOD - What God STARTS in your life, is COMPLETED through THANKSGIVING.

And for many of us this Month, God has started a Process - from July to August.

And we believed that this August is going to be a TURNAROUND Month for many of you.

Your Story will be different, your Focus will be different; God is going to open doors that have been shut for so long - Amen!

But when He starts the Process, don't think that it's the end of it.

Just because you got CLEANSED doesn't mean He has finished working with you - He wants to also RESTORE what He has Cleansed you from.

And it happens, when we THANK the Lord - when we RETURN to Thank the Lord.

And when we Thank the Lord; our Thanksgiving is an HONOUR.

So it says: Honour the Lord with your Possessions

Possessions simply means your Belongings, your Properties, your Wealth!

... You Honour God with them.

Because believe me: He is the One who gave them to you - You must Honour God with them!

And then it says: Honour God with your INCREASE - Your Earnings, your Profits. Honour God with THEM.

It includes Salaries, Dividends, Bonuses, Royalties - You Honour God with your INCREASE.

And as I said earlier: if you are doing something and you say: 'I'm doing it for my Church, I'm doing it because my Church teaches it - You are LOST!

We don't do things because Church teaches it or the Pastor teaches it.

We do things because we are CONVINCED that is what God expects from us.

Until you come to that Place of CONVICTION - Your Christian Life would be LIP SERVICE.

You need to come to the Place of knowing for yourself what God expects from you and Honouring God out of CONVICTION, not out of FEAR.

Out of Faith, not out of Fear; not out of Intimidation, not out of Manipulation - It is out of Conviction!

Christianity is based on FAITH!

Without FAITH it is impossible to Please God.

You can give a Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), but if it is not based on Faith, it's USELESS!

What makes our Worship WORTHY is because IT IS BASED ON FAITH.

We KNOW this is the Word of God; and we do it as unto THE LORD.

"Honour the Lord with your POSSESSION, Honour the Lord with your INCREASE, Honour the Lord with your FIRST FRUITS.

Now, in most Churches, People take the Tithe - which is One Tenth of what People earn. God also requires the First Fruit.

The First Fruit is important; and if you look through the Pattern of the New Testament (from the Beginning to the End); every Giving in the New Testament was more than One Tenth.

That means when we are Honouring God, we don't put Tape Measure on it. We don't put Calculator on it.

When we are Honouring God, we are saying: Lord, everything belongs to You anyway!

... Now, I'm going to Give you something that shows my weight of Appreciation for You.

And until we are able to operate that way; our Giving will be Mechanical - And it attracts no Blessings.

It will be Denominational, it will be based on False Doctrine and there is no Conviction.

Can you imagine a man says: I love my wife, and I will never give her above this amount? Because you have calculated it!

No, that's not how you show your Love; although it goes both ways - Wives should love their husband too.

Get to a Point where you can say; Yes, this is what is required, but I want to do MORE. This is what is asked of me, but I want to MORE.

All I'm saying is: When it comes to Giving THANKS to God; don't be Mechanical about it and don't try to just FULFILL an Obligation.

It is a Covenant Relationship and you do it: AS UNTO THE LORD!

When that leper came to Worship Jesus - he is a SAMARITAN!

People were not sure whether Jesus is the Son of God or not.

That act of bowing to Jesus and Worshipping Him was a very Dangerous Act.

Because the Jews could stone you for doing that - For Bowing to a Human Being but he BOWED to Jesus.

At that time, he threw everything he had, unto Jesus.

And he didn't really bothered whether People will be offended, will be angry or somebody would criticize me after this, or somebody will stone me after this:

"This is a man who saw me AFAR OFF, and TOUCHED my life."

So, let me ask you a question: Has JESUS really TOUCHED your life?

Has Jesus Spoken to you? Has Jesus Cleansed you? Has Jesus lifted you Up? Has Jesus given you Ideas?

Is He important to you? Is your Salvation Precious? Is your Faith in God Precious? Do you consider going to Heaven Precious? Do you consider the Promises of God as Precious?

Then if ALL of those things are Previous, and you REALLY LOVE the Lord: Then in your own HEART determine the WEIGHT you will use to HONOUR Him.

... And that is how we give unto the Lord!

You don't give out of Preferential or Compulsion; we give out of CONVICTION because we Honour the Lord with our THANKSGIVING!

And for the rest of your life; constantly remember that: THANKSGIVING COMPLETES YOUR FAITH - It completes the Process that God has started in your life.

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We overcome through our Testimony, we overcome through our Thanksgiving; we overcome by Lifting up the Name of the Lord.

So, this morning we just go ahead and Pray.

How far has He brought you into the Month of August?

We want to Pray that God will guide us through the Month of August.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father we Thank You for so much that You have done for us.

Thank You Lord, that when we were down You lifted us.

When we were in the Valley, you gave us Fountains of water; in our Desolate Heights, Lord You gave us Rivers; in the Wilderness, You opened Pools for us; in our Dry Places, You opened Springs.

You are the One who Helped us to Break our Fallow Grounds.

You have given us life, You have given Patience, You have not Cut Short our Expectations.

For ALL that You have done, we HONOUR You. We Thank You, and we Love You. And we Appreciate You.

And we declare Lord, You are Number One (1) in our lives, You are Number One (1)!

You are the Top of the Line in our hearts; and we bow to You, as this leper did.

May it not be asked of us: Where is he? Where is she? Where are the other Nine (9)?

May we be the one (1) that comes and returns with Thanksgiving to Honour You for ALL that You have done.

We give You Praise Lord, we give You Honour Lord.

In Jesus, Mighty Name we have Prayed - Amen!

And I want you to just Propose in your hearts that you will Honour God every time and show Him Appreciation for what He has done for you!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

9TH AUGUST, 2020 - TOPIC: IT'S A NEW SEASON (PART 1)



TEXT: DANIEL 2:20-21

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!!

Shall we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY? SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

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By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

And you may be seated in His Presence wherever you are or reading now on the Label of DMC.

So, my Message today is simply Titled: "IT'S A NEW SEASON."

Our lives on Earth is subject to Change.

If you have lived long enough, by now you know that life is subject to Change.

The Earth itself Physically rotates and revolves constantly. The Earth is constantly turning.

It is interesting that we live on this Earth and think it is stable. But in reality, it is a big ball in the Sky, hanging, driven by Gravity that is constantly on Motion.

And because of that, there are Changes in Season on our Earth. But Spiritually, God is also constantly Changing things.

And we have to know that when God is indicating a Change one way or the other because the way we respond to that will determine how effectively we live our lives.

... So there are Changes in the Seasons of God.

Daniel made that observations in Daniel 2:20-21.

Daniel indicated that God changes Seasons.

it says (NKJV):

Daniel answered and said:

20 Blessed be the Name of God forever and ever, For Wisdom and Might are His.

21 And He changes the Times and the Seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives Wisdom to the Wise

And knowledge to those who have Understanding.

The Part that I want you to note is: "He Changes the Times and the Seasons"

So, God changes Times and Seasons - And it is important when Times and Seasons Changes - to recognise it.

Normally, we recognise it when the Times and Seasons Change.

If we are in a temperate region, there will be Four (4) Seasons of: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn.

... That is four (4)!

In our part of the world, (Africa) it is two (2) Main Seasons - It is either Raining or it is not Raining. Rainy Season and Dry Season.

But in between, there are normal changes; although we are now in the Rainy Season, relatively, our weather is a bit cold at this time.

... So weather changes!

Weather is not the only thing that Changes. God's dealing with us also goes through Changes.

And we have to recognize when God is indicating a Change in Seasons.

A Season is not the same as a Circumstance.

Having a change in Circumstances is not the same as having a change in Seasons.

... A Circumstance is very different!

A Circumstance for example, when it rains, the ground would get muddy - And that is Circumstance.

It is an event or an activity tied to an event because it has rained, the ground would get wet.

That is circumstance! It is not a season.

And if you wait till the next morning, the ground would dry.

So, when our lives go through Circumstances; if we wait a little but, it changes back.

But when there is a Season, it is not just something that you wait and say: Oh, by tomorrow it will be different - No, it is a BIG transformation. It is a BIG EPOCH.

And so, when we say that God is changing the Season, you can't wave it out!

You can't say: Oh, God is changing it; but I will stay where I am - hopefully, the world would return to where it was.

... It would not!

And that is just something I want all of us to understand;

What is happening in this world is bringing about a change in seasons - It is a Seasonal Change.

So, for those of us who are waiting that things would get back to normal; the normal will not be the NORMAL you are used to.

So, we have to know when there is a Change in Seasons.

And then, I just want to talk about a similar thing that happened in Israel when there was a Change in Seasons.

And it occurred when King Saul died.

King Saul had been King of Israel for forty two (42) years. His reign had been a bit turbulent: People's Spiritual Life had deteriorated. And he himself at some Point was consulting witches.

And so, the Nation is in a bad shape. And it is been so for forty two (42) - they were losing battles. But God had indicated that David was going to come in as a New King.

He didn't have to wait for years for that day to come into manifestation.

And then Saul dies in battle, and now there is a Change in Seasons - The Seasons are changed.

Something that they had been doing for forty two (42) years is about to Change!

And if you were an Israelite at that time, if you are the only one who had been King for forty two (42) years, you would Probably be the only one that most People knew.

And his style of Leadership is all that they knew. And his decisions were all that they knew.

Now, David is come - I want you to watch something that happened when this Change of Season is taking place.

1 Chronicles 12 (and in the whole Chapter generally) the Passage is talking about the Armies of Israel that came to ensure that this Change in Seasons happened.

And I want you to Pay attention to 1 Chronicles 12:23, and then later I will read verses 31-33 (NKJV):

23. Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the Word of the Lord:

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I want you to note that Phrase: EQUIPPED FOR WAR.

They came to turn over the Kingdom of 'SAUL' not the Kingdom of Israel. the Kingdom is Saul to David.

Because Leadership is shifting from the House of Saul to the House of David - And so, these People came.

And the Bible says: They were EQUIPPED FOR WAR - To ensure that the Change is Season occurs.

Now you jump to Verses 31-33, and it says:

31. Of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king;

32. Of the sons of Issachar who had Understanding of the Times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

33. Of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;"

Now, if you read earlier in the context, each Tribe is mentioned and the number of People who went and the weapons they carried.

These were Military People who were going to ensure this Change in Season happens. And they go to make David take over in this New Season.

But then in Verse 32, a Tribe is mentioned (the Tribe of Issachar) and they don't have weapons of war. They are not Military men, they don't have a Shield, they don't have a Sword, they don't have a Spear.

But the only thing they had, the Bible says: "They had Understanding of the Times - Understanding of the Times!"

So, the weapon they went into battle with, was not spear, sword and shield; but they went with an Understanding of the Times.

There are moments in warfare where Spear doesn't do the work effectively; but Understanding does the Job effectively.

And that is what the People of Issachar understood - That this is a Change in Season.

You don't just go with weapons of war, you have to go with Understanding of the Times.

And it is very interesting, that of all the Major Tribes of Israel, Issachar should be the one who had Understanding of the Times.

I mean, David's Tribe is Judah; the Bible does not say they have Understanding of the Times. There is the Benjamin - they are the Levite. All of them had weapons of war.

... But Issachar had Understanding of the Times!

The name Issachar means: "One who is Paid to serve; or Wages Paid for Service:"

1. And it came about because of how he was born - Issachar's mother was Leah.

And if you know your Old Testament a bit; Leah was the wife of Jacob that Jacob didn't love.

And unfortunately or fortunately; the one who was not loved, is the one who was giving birth.

So, Leah started giving children to Jacob! - She gave birth to Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah.

At that time, Rachel who was the loved one came to negotiate with Leah (and I am not going to go into that negotiations).

But negotiations took Place, and her maid gave birth. And then afterwards, Leah goes and say well, I will have to come back for my husband!

So Jacob comes back to Leah, and in the Process, Issachar is born!

And so Issachar is like the reward for the Service that has been Provided.

So, all that you can say is that: His birth was not a Glorious one!

He was not born under a very noble circumstances - He was born under a very shady dicey circumstances.

... That's the first thing to note about Issachar.

2. The second thing to note about Issachar is what his father (Jacob) said about him.

Jacob said in Genesis 49:14-15 - When he is speaking about his children and their descendants, and Blessing them curiously.

Listen to the Blessings he gave to Issachar - Genesis 49:14-15:

14. Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;

15. He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves."

Jacob, Predicted that Issachar would be a Tribe of Slaves.

The father says: "He is a Strong donkey. All he knows how to do is to bear burden.

And when they got to the Promised Land, he will see that the land is Good. And he will be a Slave in the land.

So, if you look at this guy (Issachar): His birth, is very shady, the negotiations was not a nice descent one; his father's Prophecy concerning him is that he is going to be a Slave.

But in this Passage (1 Chronicles 12:32) he is not a slave. He is actually Providing Guidance and Leadership.

And the Bible says: He had Understanding of the Times.

So, something happened between what Jacob (his father) said should be the DESTINY of Issachar the REALITY of Issachar.

His father says: He is going to be a band of slaves; here in 1 Chronicles 12:32, they have Understanding of the Times.

That simply means: Sometimes what is Determined about you can be CHANGED by YOU.

Sometimes, what has been SPOKEN concerning you can be ALTERED.

And in this moment of Destiny, when Israel is shifting Seasons; Issachar is the one that has Understanding of the Times - Although Jacob said he is supposed to be a Slave.

I came to announce to somebody (even as you read on the Label of DMC) - It has been said about you that you will not make it, that you will be a slave forever; but in this SEASON, a People of Understanding are going to emerge from us - Amen!

So, something happened; now: If you look at the Passage carefully, it talks of two (2) interesting things:

The SONS of Issachar and the HEADS or the Chiefs of Issachar.

The HEADS or the Chiefs are two hundred (200); but the SONS is the whole Tribe.

When you read through the Passage (the whole Passage) especially if you look at the Hebrews words used to describe them.

Issachar is the only Tribe whose Officers was designated by the Title 'HEADS'.

The others have 'Leaders', but they are not called 'Heads' - Issachar's Leaders are called 'Heads'.

I believe there are some importance to attach to this!

They are not 'Heads' only in terms of Leadership, they are 'Heads' also because they are THINKERS.

... They are Heads also because they are THINKERS!

So, out of a supposed Band of Slaves, emerged THINKERS.

What changed them from the expectations of Jacob (for them to be Slaves) to Reality where they are Leading with Knowledge is because the New Generation of Leaders - who were THINKERS; and it is this Group who went out to turn the Kingdom over to David.

So, it is very Possible for People to decree that you will be a Slave, and you turn that Prediction around because you have a HEAD.

Somebody says: I HAVE A HEAD, I can THINK!

Because Issachar could THINK: they had Understanding of the Times.

They could read what was happening, they discerned what was happening, they had clarity of focus about this Season of Transition from Saul to David and they knew what Israel ought to do; they knew not what they as a Tribe ought to do; but what the whole Nation ought to do.

So, in essence: this very insignificant Tribe became the Influencers of National Thought because they knew what Israel ought to do.

... Very Interesting!

SO WHAT WAS THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS?

If you know what to do, then you must do what ought to do!

You cannot say: Oh, I understand the Season, I understand the Season that we are in; and act in a way that does not conform to the Season that you are in.

And we see from Issachar: His birth, very dubious, the Prophecy by his father (concerning him) not encouraging, the Reality, very different from the Prophecy because he had Understanding of the Times!

I believe we can rewrite History, we can change Outcomes, we can change Projections because we have Understanding of the Times.

Now, when you go to Verse 40 of the Passage we are looking at (1 Chronicles 12:40):

There is something said about Issachar again, with other Tribes - including Zebulun (that is the Tribe of his Younger brother).

"Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen —provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel".

An Army is gathering to go and make David, King. And there are thousands of People!

And if you know anything about an Army: An Army marches on his stomach - They need food!

People are happy that the Season has changed, but they made no Provision; the People who made (based on the Change of Season) is Naphtali, is Issachar and is Zebulun.

And I can say clearly, that I believe that Issachar influenced them because in this Change of Season, you must make Provisions for the Season.

You cannot say there is Change and your Action does not reflect that!

So, if there is a Change in Season, if the kingdom is turning over to David; and an Army is gathering; then there must be Practical Solutions Provided.

And Issachar was right there - Providing the food for the Army, making sure there is Provisions. Making sure that this Assignment becomes a Reality.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO US?

It means that, knowing that there is a Change in Season - is one (1) thing; Making Provisions for the Change in Season is another thing!

It is possible for us to theorize and say: if things are going to Change, things are going to be different but do nothing about it - Make no effort, and hope that by just talking about it, it will be well for us!

You know sometimes you can see something, and even talk about it but not Partake of it simply because you did not Plan ahead for it.

So, is there a Change in Season?

... I believe so!

I believed our world is in such a Change of Season. There is a Transition. And this is my conviction.

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You don't need to believe it but I believe it:

1. And I believe that if we join together, it will work out well for us - Amen.
2. I believe that the band of Slaves - The band of People whom the world says would be Slaves are coming this time, to Change the cause of History.

And they are not coming with weapons of war (as others came with); hey are coming with the Understanding of the Times.

Africa has never been known as a Place of Knowledge and Information, and Science and Technology. We have been known as People with Energy, People with Vibrant Culture: We dress colourfully, we have Art, we have Physical Structures and more so.

That era is coming to an end! - A New Band is coming from this Place. Our strength will not be muzzled. It will not just be Athletes: Winning a hundred metres (100 M) Race. Boxing and beating People up - It is going to come because they have HEAD, and they have Understanding of the Times; and they will know what the world ought to do!

The People who know what the world ought to do, are the People who lead the world.

And that (my Friends) is where I believe this Change of Season is leading us.

I believe God is bringing us into a New Opportunity. And in this New Opportunity, those who were condemned or spoken of as Slaves, are going to come into this Season and show direction for the rest of the world.

But it is going to come because they have HEAD - We have Head.

... May God give you Understanding - Amen!

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Somebody put your hands upon your head and say: "Lord, give me UNDERSTANDING!"

May God give you Understanding - Amen; May God give me Understanding - Amen; May God give Our Nation Understanding - Amen.

I want my Nation to be a Nation of Understanding; I want Africa to be a Continent of Understanding.

I don't want our Greatest achievement to be Athletes, Sports, Boxing, Wrestling.

Our Greatest Achievement should not be Giraffe, Lion, and Elephants - Who live in our Continents.

Our Greatest Achievement should not be what Nature gave us.

Our Greatest Achievement should be what UNDERSTANDING has given us!

Men of Issachar: Men of Africa, Women of Africa: the Seasons have Changed.

And God is bringing us Heads of Understanding; in our homes, in our Businesses, in our Churches. Heads of Understanding.

That is what Changed this Group - They moved from a Group without a Positive Destiny; to a People of a Positive Destiny; a People of clear Destiny, a People who went out and made a difference.

And I don't know about you, I believe we can also rise like Issachar.

Nobody expected much from them - Not much is said about them.

Infact, when you read through the Bible, not much is said about them.

But in this Epochal time, this Major Transition in the life of Israel: they stood TALL because they had Understanding of the Times.

And may God give us People of Understanding that recognized the Significance of the Times they were in - Amen.

At the beginning of the Covid Pandemic, I said this Season is a SET UP for our Continent (Africa).

It is Set Up for the Shifting of Kingdoms - People who have been drawers of wood, drawers of water - Slaves to the world; are going to SHIFT BACK into gear.

Because there is something happening here that is going to equalise and level the Playing Fields in our world.

And if we go in with Understanding, we are going to turn over this world into the direction that it should go.

And I Pray that Africa will not miss her Day of Visitation - Amen.

It cannot be Business as usual.

We cannot just use Muscle Power to win the Battles of life; we cannot use rude force to win the battles of life - We are going to use Delicate Thoughts, Delicate Thinking, Clarity of Thoughts, Clarity of Understanding.

And that is one of the things I want to speak to every Christians: It is great that we Pray. We Pray a lot!

And during this time, all of us have Prayed.

But as we Pray; the Number One (1) thing that we should be Praying for, is Understanding.

And if our Prayers becomes: Lord, give us Understanding. Give me Understanding; Give my Pastor Understanding; Give my father Understanding; Give my mother Understanding; Give my children Understanding - If that becomes our Obsession and Preoccupation; eventually, we are going to see the answer to Prayer of Understanding of the Times.

... People who know what ought to be done at every time!

We are the New Issachar of our Generation. You are the New Issachar. God will give you Understanding in whatever Fields that you are in, in whatever Industry you Participate in, in whatever efforts that you put in.

If you are a Pastor, that is your Field. If you are not a Pastor and you are an Industrialist, that is your Field. If you are a Farmer, that is your Field. If you are a Lawyer, that is your Field. If you are a Doctor, that is your Field!

Whatever Fields that you are in, we are not just supposed to be, "Low Level Players" in the world; God has ordained us to be "Top Players".

And the key to that, is to be like the People of Issachar: They had Understanding of the Times: They went into battle, what they simply had is Understanding.

... Can you imagine that?

If you were in that Battle Field, and you saw People with Spear, some with Sword and some with all kinds of weapons of war and then this one (1) Tribe comes - they are holding nothing!

Then you ask them: Where is your Weapons?

It is in our HEAD!

What are you going to fight with? - It is in our Head!

You would look at them and despise them. And say: Oh, they have lost it. They don't even know what a battle is.

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The Bible says: They knew what Israel OUGHT TO DO.

In other words, they became the Leaders of Thought of the whole Nation in that Particular Season.

It is Possible to win with Understanding; it is Possible to win with Knowledge; it is Possible to win with Wisdom.

May God cause you to win - Amen. May God cause us to win - Amen. May the Lord lift us up to the Place, where in this battle in our world, we will become LEADERS.

If you are ready to be in Power, just Stand Up wherever you are. (Standing up is a Sign of alertness). And lift up your hands.

And just talk to God, and tell Him: Lord, in this Season, may I become a "Major Player" in the world.

If you are in Trade, you must be a "Major Player" in Trade.

If you are in Agriculture, you must be a "Major Player" in Agriculture.

A "Major Player" in the world - Not just in whatever Town you are in but a "Major World Changer"!

Because in this Season Transition, the Hand of the Lord is upon you - Amen.

... Just talk to the Lord!

And ask the Lord to open your eyes to Opportunities.

COVID is an opportunity; it has caused havoc, it has caused pain, it has caused death but within it, there are Opportunities.

And if we keep our eyes only on the havoc, we can never see the Opportunities.

Just Pray and say: LORD, help me to see the Opportunities, help me to see the Doors You have opened. Help me to see what You are doing. Help me never to miss it.

Now I want you to put your hands on your head, and I want to Pray with you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father I Pray for everyone under the sound of my voice (and those reading now on the Label of DMC); as you did for Issachar - With a dishonourable birth; and with a damaging Prophecy upon his life. At the crucial time he rose up with Understanding.

And I Pray for everyone, whose hands are upon their heads, that in this crucial time of World History; You will overturn the Negativity of their Past, and give them Understanding for this Season.

And may you cause these men and women to break Barriers, to break Pains, to break the Yokes of Slavery, to break Inferiority, to break Limitations.

May you be Breakers in your Generation.

And may the Lord use you Mightily, and Powerfully in your Time and in your Season.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



16TH AUGUST, 2020 - TOPIC: IT'S A NEW SEASON - PART TWO (2)

**ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE BY DR. MENSAH OTABIL
(GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)**

TEXT: EXODUS 5:20-23; EXODUS 15:22-25 AND NUMBERS 14:2-3

I am going to continue the Message I started last week, when I titled the Message "IT'S A NEW SEASON."

DMC NOTES: YOU CAN ACCESS THE FULL TEXT OF THE PART 1 OF THIS SERIES ON THIS LINK:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Its-A-New-Season-Dr-Mensal-Otabil>

And we talked about the sons of Issachar, who had understanding of the Times and knew what Israel ought to do.

And today I am doing PART TWO (2) of: IT'S A NEW SEASON.

When we say a New Season, obviously, it means there is an Old one.

So anytime we talk about the New Season, we are referencing a Change in Seasons.

And when there is a Change in Season, there must of necessity, be a Change in ATTITUDE.

One of my memories as a child, was in Primary School - When I was in Middle School; in those days, one of the Prized Possession for the Boys and Girls was to become a 'Bell Boy' or on rare occasions a 'Bell Girl'.

But mostly, it was a job given to the Boys.

And this was a Pupil who would go and ring the School Bell at certain times, to indicate a Change in the School Period.

And normally when there was a Change in the School Period, they would go round and ring the Bell.

And usually when they rang the Bell, they would announced: "Change Lesson Please!

It simply means: When that happened, the Teacher would move from the Subject he or she is teaching, to the next Subject.

And one of the things that happens when there was a Change of Lesson - When the Bell is rung was that the Teacher move from one Subject to the other.

The first (1st) thing the Teacher would do, is to CLEAN everything that is on the Blackboard. Everything that the Teacher wrote from the Previous Lesson is wiped out from the Blackboard, and a New Lesson is about to be taught.

I believed that our world is the Place where a "Changed Lesson" is taking Place. And the Blackboard or Whiteboard, or whatever board is been WIPED OUT.

And some New Things are about to be written.

Some New Attitudes must be learned and we have to learn them, in order to function effectively in this New Season that we have entered in.

Our World's Blackboard is being CLEANED. Our world is going through some Major Changes: and what you learned yesterday may not be valuable today.

As a matter of fact, what should be an advantage to in the Previous Season may not be an advantage to you in a New Season.

When we were in High School, we sometimes move from the classroom to the Sports Field for Physical Education.

So, you may have been very Good in Mathematics but when the Season Change and you have to go and Play Football or run around the School field; you may be a very Poor Student in that.

So, one time you are exceptionally Good, another time you find yourself becoming a Liability!

So, in a New Season, something similar happens: One moment you are at the Top of your game, another moment, you are finding yourself struggling to catch up!

And so, we are going to look at some things in the Bible; to help us to bring this understanding to focus.

When Seasons Change, what used to work "FOR" you, could work "AGAINST" you!

... That is the difficult thing about a Change in Season.

What used to work for you, what used to be your Strong Point, may actually turn out becoming your weakest.

And so, as we are excited about a Change in Season, we also must be Mindful about this - We make the right adjustment that God wants us to make.

So, we will look at Israel, and how they related to God. And I am going to Present: THREE (3) CASES of their relationship with God.

And we are going to draw some Conclusions and then we learn some Lessons.

... We are going to look at:

1. How Israel related to God - WHEN GOD WAS DELIVERING THEM FROM EGYPT.

2. Then we are going to look at How they related to God, WHEN GOD HAD JUST BROUGHT THEM FROM EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS.

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3. Then we are going to look thirdly, at: how they related to God, WHEN GOD WAS PREPARING THEM TO ENTER INTO THE PROMISED LAND.

... And then some interesting things that I want you to Pay attention to.

So, let's start with the first one;

1. WHEN GOD WAS DELIVERING THEM FROM EGYPT.

And the Passage I am going to read is from Exodus 5:20-23.

And this happens when Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and demands that he let the People go.

And Pharaoh is so annoyed, he is so incensed; that he intensifies the affliction of the People.

So naturally, the Israelites were very upset with Moses and with God because now they are suffering worse than before.

And so they approached Moses and Aaron.

And so let's read the conversation: Exodus 5:20-23 (NKJV);

20 Then, as they came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who stood there to meet them.

21 And they said to them, "Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us."

22 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me?

23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.”

So, the People came, they complained to Moses. And then Moses complains to God.

And then, in Exodus 6:1, God responds:

"Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a Strong Hand he will let them go, and with a Strong Hand he will drive them out of his land.”

So, they complained to Moses, Moses complains to God, and then God ACT against Pharaoh!

So, their complain is working! - God is not angry with their complains; they complained, Moses complained, and GOD ACT.

If you were there observing, you would say Wow! - That is an interesting thing.

You know if you want God to do something for you, you COMPLAIN - and God ACT!

And God act AGAINST Pharaoh and not against THEM - I want you to note that!

So that is the first (1st) case I want you to note: God is bringing them out, He wants to deliver them. As their situation is getting worse for them, they complain to God. And then God Acts against Pharaoh.

And after that, there were ten (10) Major Plagues that God brought against Pharaoh.

2. WHEN GOD HAD JUST BROUGHT THEM FROM EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS.

Then, when they entered the wilderness, they had no water.

And then they got water. And then later they found out that it is not Good for Human Consumption.

... So, they used the Method they had learnt - COMPLAINS!

Exodus 15:22-25 (NKJV);

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.

23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were BITTER. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

25 So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them.

So, when God had delivered them, things go bad. They complained, God Acts against Pharaoh, and God delivers them!

They got to the wilderness, they want water then they got water. It was not Good for Human Consumption; the complained to Moses; Moses complains to God, and they get water.

So, by this time, if you were an Israelite, you will just begin to Notice a Pattern - Complaining to get results.

... This thing seems to be working!

Exodus 16:2-4; this time, they are HUNGRY and they used the Tried and Tested Method.

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

They COMPLAINED, God gives them water; they are hungry, and God rains bread from Heaven for them.

Now, if you were in their company, by now the Principle has been Tested and Proven: The way to get God's attention is COMPLAIN, and He will solve your Problem for you.

I am sure the Israelites think: Now we have the Blueprint of how to survive in dealing with Jehovah - When you are in trouble, COMPLAIN - and God will ACT!

... That is a lesson they have learned.

But the BELL is about to be RUNG; and there is going to be a CHANGED LESSON.

And when you have Studied the Bible for a while, you would get to understand that: God actually responds to FAITH and not to Doubt!

... Because when we complain, we are DOUBTING God.

But for some reasons, at these Seasons of their lives, DOUBTS seem to work! Doubts and Complains seem to get God's attention. God seems not to mind their doubt at all.

And I believed they are in a certain Season of their lives - They are in what I consider as "A BABY SEASON" of their lives!

They are a New Nation, they have just been delivered; they are babies in the sight of God.

And isn't that how babies behave when they want food? - They cry, they throw tantrums, they fall to the ground and they throw a force and the mothers respond!

The fathers sometime don't respond that quickly but the mothers do!

So, at this Stage, Israel through their experience and through God's Dealings with them, they have learnt a Major Lesson.

And the lesson is: If you want God to act for you, if you want things to go on well for you, if you are not happy with something, COMPLAIN, throw a tantrum force and God will ACT!

It works for Israel; it even works for Moses because when they complained against Moses, Moses complains to God - and God ACTS.

... That is the LESSON!

3. WHEN GOD WAS PREPARING THEM TO ENTER INTO THE PROMISED LAND.

Now they are about to enter into the Promised Land, and God wants to Prepare them for the Promised Land.

And this is very important, because the reason why He took them from Egypt is to take them to this Land.

Now He wants them to get into this Land.

And something happened there - Almost similar to the Lessons they have learnt in the Past.

God told Moses to send twelve (12) Spies to go and see the Promised Land. And then the Twelve (12) Spies went and they saw the Promised Land and came back:

Ten (10) of them, gave a very, very "Gloomy Report" to Israel - They told them: Listen folks, it is not Possible, we cannot enter the Promised Land.

... So the whole Nation is discouraged!

But two (2) of them - Joshua and Caleb said: Well, we saw the Land, we believe God will give us the Land.

And the People were offended that some People had a Positive Vision for the Nation. And so they said: We don't want that; we want Gloom!

And they get back to what they know: They start complaining, they are angry - They are angry at God, they are angry at Moses, they are angry at everybody!

So, let us read how God responded this time in Numbers 14:2-3 (NKJV);

2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

3 Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

Now, if you have been studying Israel - This is a very rare Lesson! It is complains they have mastered, majored in.

Because if you Pay attention, it is similar to what they said in Exodus 16:3: Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt."

So, whenever they are in trouble, this is how they complain - And when they complain this way, God ANSWERS them!

So they realized, well: You know situation is bad; let us do what we know how to do!

... So they complained again!

In Numbers 14, they complained the same thing - Used the same words. But look at how God responds to them - in Numbers 14:26-29:

26 And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

27 "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

28 Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:

29 The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

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So, God set out to eliminate the whole Generation of plPeople (Twenty (20) Years and above) for doing the SAME THING that got them results in the Past.

In the Past, it got Pharaoh eliminated; in the Past, it got them water; in the Past, it got them food - This time, it got them death!

So, something has Changed! - It is a CHANGED LESSON!

God says: I am not going to deal with you the same way I used to deal with you in the Past!

So let's ask ourselves: *WHAT HAS CHANGED?

HAS GOD CHANGED?

No! - He is the same God.

HAVE THE PEOPLE CHANGED?

No! - These are the same People of Israel, not Philistines.

... God has not Changed, the People have not Changed!

Has the People's Method Changed?

No! - It is the same Method they have been using from Egypt through wilderness.

So, WHAT HAS CHANGED?

... THE SEASON!

... The SEASON has CHANGED!

Now, they are about to enter into the Promised Land, to be Responsible Owners of the Property God has Promised them.

And God says: You are not going to use the same thing you used as BABIES, when you have become ADULTS.

So, when we say, "IT'S A NEW SEASON", it has serious repercussions for all of us.

It means that something we think works, may not work!

1. Some Lessons we learn in the Past, and have Mastered; may not be useful.
2. Something that used to be an advantage to us may be a disadvantage to us.
3. What is allowed and celebrated in one Season, could be rejected and Punished in another Season.
4. What got you results yesterday, may not get you results today.

So, I am excited about future. I know you are but some of you are scared.

But we are not going to live in the future the way we lived in the Past because when the Season Changes, Attitude must Change.

It is almost like leaving Ghana during December wearing light shirt and trousers (because it is warm here) to go to London in December.

You move from HEAT in Ghana, when you get to Heathrow Airport, you will realize: Although you are the same Human Being and you are on the same Earth but you have moved from one Season to another.

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And your shirt has now become a liability. If you don't have Winter clothing, you could freeze to death!

It is the same Earth, same Human Being but the Seasons have Changed.

What used to be an Advantage, is no longer an Advantage.

Most of you; who are a little older would remember that on Sunday, the 4TH of August, 1974; Ghana changed from driving on the left side of the road to driving on the right side of the road.

And those of us who were alive then, remembered all the advertisements that went out at that time.

When we used to drive on the left side of the road, having a Right Hand drive car, was an advantage. Because it helped you to see clearer - if your car was a right hand drive Car.

But overnight - One Sunday, we moved from driving on the left side of the road, to the right side of the road (which we still do).

... And having a car that was Right Handed, was now a liability.

You have got to have a LEFT HAND drive Car - to ride on the right hand side of the road.

So, overnight, those who had cars that seemed to be at Advantage to them, were now liabilities. Something that had worked for them for years, was a liability!

Can you imagined: If somebody had imported so many of those cars to sell; all of a sudden, they are not appealing because Overnight, Seasons have changed and what used to work is not working any longer.

So what am I saying?

I believed that the era we live in, is Presenting us a similar Season.

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Year 2020 is a CHANGED LESSON!

It is a Season's Change - COVID 19 did not create it. It only accelerated something that was already happening.

So, what Probably would have taken us generally about ten (10) or twenty (20) years to get in to; we have now been ushered in Speedily, Quickly, Instantly.

And in the Season, some things that worked for so long are not working!

One (1) of the things I have seen happening this time is People who spent a lot of money building Office Blocks for Companies to use (as Rent) are having difficulties.

Just last year (2019) that seemed to be the Best Real Estate Investment - for most People.

Overnight, People are working with Laptop, Phones and iPad at home! And Offices are now a liability!

... So, Investment in that Hard Building doesn't seem to work!

It is not the only thing that doesn't seem to work.

Can you imagine if somebody had spent all his money, all his investment to say that the Hotel Industry is the Best Industry in the world?

And finally, built his Hotel last year. And finally, opened it at Christmas last year (2019) waiting for the Christmas Market and the New Year Market; And hoping for the Easter Market.

.. And all of a sudden, no Hotels!

Or can you imagine somebody who started his Airline Business last year; spent all his Savings just to start an Airline?

Then just overnight, it is not working!

There is a Change in Season.

Listen, something that was as Predictable as much as Possible last year, may not be working for you this year!

So, normally when things change, you can decide - YOU WON'T CHANGE!

And there are very confident People; who believed that they can weather the Season and the Season will adjust to them.

For those I would kindly say that: That approach is not the Smartest!

The Season doesn't adjust to you; you adjust to the Season.

The interesting thing about Israel though is that - When God finally got a Generation that did not complain; and it took Him forty (40) years or about that to get a Generation that had to UNLEARN the OLD Lessons, and LEARN a New Lesson.

When He finally got that, in three (3) days, they went to the Promised Land and they took over the Promised Land.

And they took over Jericho, and then went on and won almost all their battles.

So, what seemed so difficult became so easy; because they adjusted the Lesson.

And when they ADJUSTED the Lesson, they started WINNING.

So, sometimes what it takes to WIN is not as DIFFICULT as it appears.

So, THREE (3) MAIN THINGS I WANT CONCLUDE WITH:

... Based on everything I have said.

I believed that we are entering a Season of ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT and ADVANCEMENT.

I believe with all my heart that after CHAOS, would always come CONSTRUCTION.

After CHAOS, would always come something NEW.

God created ORDER out of Chaos: "The Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, LET THERE BE LIGHT! And there was Light." - Genesis 1:2-2 (NKJV).

God moved from Chaos to ORDER; from darkness to Light; from destruction to Construction.

So after every System of Destabilization comes an ERA OF STABILIZATION; and of Growth, and of Increase, and of Abundance.

So, I believed that we are getting there. I believed it is going to happen. Whether you want it or not, it is going to happen.

It is a Change Lesson, it is a Change in Seasons.

It does not need your cooperation for it to happen.

It will happen in spite of your lack of cooperation. So it is better that we just do it!

So I believed that we are going to Advance, and we are going to Develop.

And for everyone who is listening to me or reading now on the Label of DMC: You are about to enter a better Season of your LIFE - A More Prosperous Season, a Greatest Season, a More Flourishing Season - Amen.

... It is going to HAPPEN!

You must have lost so much, but you are about to GAIN SO MUCH!

So, if what you built have been destroyed - it is sad but something BETTER is about to be BUILT AGAIN in your life - Amen!

You are about to enter a New Promise; that I can say with every CERTAINTY.

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But TWO (2) THINGS MUST HAPPEN - If we are going to BENEFIT from the New.

And I believed (just from my observation) that these two (2) things are important. That if we are going to really seize the New Season.

1. We must Develop SELF DEPENDENCE.

Everything we need for our survival must be WITHIN our reach - Both as a GROUP and as INDIVIDUAL.

So, as a Nation, everything we need for our Survival must be within our reach. We cannot Outsourced Survival.

And as Individual, as a Business Person; everything you need for your Survival must be within your reach.

That is the most Important Lesson!

Because if this thing has taught us anything, it is that: There comes a time when all Nations SHUT DOWN!

And if you don't have Capacity to survive by yourself, you are dead!

So, for everybody who is thinking of the Next Season, this is a Lesson!

2. That at the same time when we are becoming SELF DEPENDENT; we have to become MORE EFFECTIVE at working with People.

That Linking Up with People is going to be very much important. But this Linking Up is not going to be done Physically - So, what we used to do in one (1) Place together, we must learn to do in a different form.

And this Lesson is going to continue: whether it is Church, it is Business.

... Even our Education - That Transition has taken Place!

And we have to find effective ways of doing the old things we used to do in the New Way.

If we can adjust, then like Israel, we will enter the Promised Land.

But if we insisted on using the same Old Lessons; we may be very Good at it, but it may not work for us.

So, I am speaking to this Nation, I am speaking to Africa, I am speaking to Churches, I am speaking to Businesses, I am speaking to Individuals: That some things that used to work for us, may actually work against us in this New Season.

... Next week when I do PART THREE (3) of "IT'S A NEW SEASON" - I will go a little further in that direction.

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DMC NOTES: Our Sincere Apologies relaying this Message late but we will surely Cover Up and Release in the Coming Days!

But today, I just want you to get this Principle: "When there is a Change in Lesson; when there is a Change in Seasons; What you were a Master of in one Season, may not EQUIP you EFFECTIVELY for the Next Season."

That means: No matter how Good you are; you must learn New things. All of us must learn New Things.

It may sound scary, but it is not that scary. We can learn them.

As a matter of fact for Israel, they had a man called Caleb, who was eighty five (85) Years old! Who learned the New Things and survived in the Promised Land.

So, you can still be OLD, and NEW. You can be Old and Fresh.

And I Pray in this New Season, you will not miss your Visitation.

That when the Abundance come you will not miss it. When it is a time to REBUILD, you will not miss is - Amen.

For some of you who have struggled for years; you are about to rise in a way that will shock yourself - Amen.

For some of you who have lost SO MUCH in this time; you are about to receive a FULL RECOMPENSE: Good Measure, Pressed down, and Shaken together, and Running over - Amen!

... That is the way of the Lord God you serve!

And He will Bless you abundantly, He will increase you abundantly, and He will cause you to redeem everything to the Full.

I just want us to spend a little time Praying, before we close today.

And I just want you to ask God to help you to learn everything NEW that you must learn.

Just say: Lord, I am ready to learn, I am ready to Change, I am ready to do it differently. I am read Lord, help me.

Give me a learning heart. A heart that is open to New Things. A heart that is yielded to you. And a heart that will not fight and RESIST the New thing that You are doing in my life.

CLOSING PRAYER:

So Father, we Thank You this morning for reminding us (through Your Word): That what used to work yesterday may not work now. What we used to get result yesterday may not get results now.

But You remain the same God yesterday, today and forever!

And we trust You to open our hearts; Teach us New Things, and help us Lord to be Part of the New Thing that You are doing in this New Season of our lives.

In Jesus' Name we have Prayed - Amen and Amen and AMEN!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



30TH AUGUST, 2020 - TOPIC: OUR COMMUNION WITH CHRIST



TEXT: LUKE 22:7-12

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Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!!

Shall we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you ready? - SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

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Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

And we give God all the Praise and all the Glory for bringing us into His Presence this morning.

And you may be seated wherever you are or reading now on the Label of DMC - As we honour God for the life that He has given to us.

So, my Message today is Titled: "OUR COMMUNION WITH CHRIST."

And my Text is going to be found in Luke's Gospel 22:7-12 (NKJV)

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat."

9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"

10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.

11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'

12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."

Do this Passage opens with the Preparation for the celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egypt - It was a seven (7) day's Feast that was celebrated by the People of Israel. It began with the Passover Night.

And the Bible calls it the Passover because on that day (at the first Passover); Destruction PASSED over the children of Israel.

It is also called Passover, because that was the time they MOVED and began the Exodus from Egypt into the Promised Land.

1. On that Night (the first Passover of Israel), Four Hundred and Thirty (430) years stay in Egypt came to an END.

2. On that Night, years of Slavery and Bondage and Oppressions against Israel came to an END.

3. On that Night, Israel received a Reward for all the years of Service they had rendered to Egypt without been paid.

4. Overnight, years of Servitude was Rewarded - Financially Rewarded.

5. Overnight, years of Bondage was reversed;

6. Overnight, Places that had become home and a Place of Restriction for four hundred and thirty (430) years changed.

So, the Passover was a very Significant Time for Israel - And this was what the Feast of Unleavened Bread was all about.

On the the first (1st) Passover Night, God instructed the Israelites to kill a lamb, use its blood at their doorposts, and eat the flesh of the lamb, and eat Unleavened Bread: To show that they were quickly about to get out of bondage.

So, anytime we think of Communion, we must have this image in mind: The image of DELIVERANCE, the image of God's Separation, the image of God's Reward and God's Blessing and God's Deliverance for us.

And God instituted it for Israel.

And this Feast is what Jesus is asking His Disciples to go and Prepare for them to celebrate.

The Disciples came to Him to ask for arrangements for celebrating the Passover.

This is something that all Jews did; and they had to go to Jerusalem, from wherever they were, to go and celebrate.

And the reason why the Disciples came to Jesus to ask for Preparation was because Jesus was not from Jerusalem, He was from Galilee. And Galilee was a distant from Jerusalem - Actually, a Village.

And Jesus and His Disciples had moved from Galilee, now to go to Jerusalem. And He was not the only one who would do that!

Many other People would move from different Parts of Israel and congregate in Jerusalem. And because there was all these massive gathering;

It is almost like having huge International Conference in Africa - People would have to make Hotel arrangements, Accommodation arrangement, for where they would celebrate or Partake of whatever it is!

And so they were asking Jesus: Have You thought of arrangements for the Passover?

And Jesus gave them strict Instructions for Preparation.

And some would see this as Supernatural Thing that Jesus did, but it was not Supernaturally.

It just tells you that He was a very Methodically, Planning Person.

He had Planned ahead, where the Passover should be, He had Booked a Place, He had made Preparations for how direction would be made to that Place and He had set everything in order!

Just because we believe God for something does not mean we should be half hazard and reckless in the way we manage our lives.

And Jesus shows us: We can be full of Faith and full of Planning at the same time - He PLANNED for where the Passover will be celebrated.

And Peter and John were sent to go and Prepare the Place in a hurry.

Normally, what will happen if you are a Jew and there was Passover - If you are Peter and John, will you get the Passover Lamb.

And supposedly they went to town and bought a Passover Lamb - That is what they were going to eat in the evening, to celebrate the event.

And then they would take the Lamb to the Temple.

And when they take the Lamb to the Temple, the Lamb would be killed at the Temple; the blood would be used to sprinkle the Altar in the Temple.

Then later on, the Lamb would be roasted and its meat would be given to the People who had brought the Lamb because that is what they are going to eat in the evening.

... These are all very important!

And then in addition, they would go and get bitter leaves and some bitter herbs. And then they would get Unleavened Bread. And they will get some spices;

They would put them all together and then go back to the Place that Jesus had arranged for them meet.

So, the Disciples of Jesus then sat down, according to this OLD TRADITION.

And the Disciples had no idea what was going to happen.

For them, it was a Passover - This is the first (1st) day of the Passover. What they have done as Jews, all their lives.

It is normal Passover celebration - They knew what to do, they knew where to get the Lamb, they knew how to do all these sacrifices.

... They went out and they sat at the Table with Jesus.

Now, the Jews believed that the Messiah was going to appear on the Passover - That was their expectation!

Because the first (1st) Passover from Egypt - that was when they were delivered.

So anytime they celebrated the Passover, it was also in expectation for the Coming Messiah.

So, Jesus did all these elaborate Plans together!

And then they sat.

And when they sat to eat; they had gone through all the rites (as a Jew would do).

Then He did something totally different from every Passover - Nobody had experienced this, nobody had done it before.

Jesus, began to REDEFINE the Passover; He began to do it in a totally strange manner!

And that is what we read in Luke 22:19-20.

After they had done the traditional thing, look at what He did:

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

... Now, this is what they normally did. The head of the family would do that!

Then this is what He said: "THIS IS MY BODY which is given for you; DO THIS in remembrance of Me."

Jesus Christ is saying: This is no longer a deliverance from Egypt. This is totally different: THIS IS MY BODY which is given for you; DO THIS in remembrance of Me."

Verse 20: Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This Cup is the NEW COVENANT in My blood, which is shed for you.

By doing that, Jesus says: What you have been expecting all these years, since Moses delivered you from Egypt, has now happened here.

"I Am the Bread, I Am the life. My Blood is the blood. It is no longer the blood of the Lamb (that delivered you from Egypt).

This is the Blood of the Lamb that has delivered you from the Old Covenant into the NEW Covenant.

Jesus became the Sacrifice of the Passover.

And if you know your Bible well, it was after this that Jesus took His Disciples to Gethsemane - He went to Pray, He was arrested on the Passover Night, because He was the Passover LAMB.

He was arrested on Passover Night, just hurriedly. Throughout the Night, He went through Judgement, and the next day, He was nailed to the Cross - To bear the sins of the whole world.

Jesus, at this Supper, became the fulfilment of the Promise of hundreds of years of Practice.

He Proclaimed Himself to be the Lamb of God. And He Proclaimed the Lord's Supper of the Communion, to be the New Celebration of His Disciples.

So today, when we Partake of the Holy Communion; we are reenacting something that Jesus Himself did.

And I am going to focus on two (2) things for our Celebration today:

Jesus said: Do THIS in REMEMBRANCE of Me.

You know, many times we Partake of the Communion and we forget about Jesus - We think about ourselves;

We remembered ourselves. Sometimes we remembered something in our Past. Sometimes we remembered a Church Tradition - Practice that we have grown up with.

But, Jesus says: When you come to the Communion, your Mind should be on Him;

... Do THIS in REMEMBRANCE of Me.

The word REMEMBER is very interesting - Because if you look at it in the English Language, there are two (2) words there: 'RE and MEMBER'.

RE and MEMBER! MEMBER simply means different Parts.

So, Jesus says 'REMEMBER'.

The opposite of REMEMBER is DISMEMBER.

When you DISMEMBER, you take different part and SEPARATE them.

When you REMEMBER, you take the Parts and put them TOGETHER AGAIN.

Jesus says: When we come to the Communion, we should not DISMEMBER Him; we must REMEMBER!

In other words: You put all the Parts of Jesus, and bring it together into one WHOLE.

... Jesus Christ the Healer, the Deliverer, the Baptiser. Jesus Christ the soon Coming KING - we REMEMBER Him!

We remember His Life, we remember His Miracles, we remember His Sufferings, we remember His Death, we remember His Resurrection.

Each time you take the Communion: If you are sick, He will heal you. If you are a sinner, He would make you righteous. If you are down, He will lift you up. If you are in a storm, He will still the Storm. If your enemies are coming against you, He will be your Deliverer. If men want to condemn you, He will say: Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more!

This is the Jesus we are REMEMBERING: and we want Him to be Present at our Table, we want Him to be Alive at our Table. And we want Him to be Active in our Lives.

On that day, Jesus took the Bread - representing Himself. And He broke it.

The Bible says: His Body was BROKEN. And literally, the Body of Jesus Christ was broken in many Places.

They Placed a crown of thorns on his head - To BREAK the muscles on His head, the flesh on His head.

The Bible calls it: The Chastisement of our Peace was upon Him.

When they broke His head, when we take Communion; He puts the head together.

In other words: Whatever has disturbed your Peace; whatever has broken your Peace, whatever had disturbed your mind, whatever is a disturbance to you, whatever is a worry to you, whatever is an anxiety to you - That makes you feel you are losing your Mind, He will put your Mind back together!

... We remember Him as the One who PUTS our Mind together.

The Bible says that His back was WHIPPED - His back was broken.

Not with simple cane as we know them but this thing that eats your flesh - It breaks your back.

And He was given those stripes on His back; the Roman Soldiers would normally give you thirty nine (39) of those lashes.

And each one would break His back.

But when His back was broken; anytime we celebrate the Communion, He is Putting our back together.

The Bible says: By His Stripes we are healed.

Where He was broken, we are been put together.

I don't know what sickness has broken you, what the enemies have sent against you to destroy you - It may be a sickness in your stomach, it may be in your heart, it may be in your blood, it may be in your bones. It may be somewhere in any organ of your body. If it had been torn apart by sickness, Jesus is REMEMBERING - He is putting it back together (Amen).

And by His stripes, you are HEALED - Amen.

There is HEALING, in Jesus Christ this morning or as you are reading now on the Label of DMC.

His Hands were broken, and nailed to a cross.

His Feet nailed to a Cross - So, He could not move wherever He wanted to go.

But today, because He was NAILED, you will be released - Amen!

And whatever had nailed you in life and stock you in a Place and told you: This is how far you would go, you cannot go any further; I want you to know that Jesus Christ that we are REMEMBERING is coming to you - Amen. He says He is getting you OUT of the things that had NAILED you, and you are coming out - Amen.

Somebody says: I AM COMING OUT!

His Side was broken.

And the reason the Bible says: They Pierced His Side with a Spear, it struck His heart - It BROKE His heart.

But in the Communion, He comes to give help to the broken hearted.

If you have been broken hearted - Your heart has been broken, your heart is bleeding, you have been badly treated, you have been betrayed, you have been denied. Somebody you trusted has just turn you in, and Pierced you so badly, you have feel you can't break again, you can't survive; I have Good News for you, this Morning or as you are reading: As you REMEMBER Jesus, He will heal your broken hearted; He will put the pieces back again, and He will make you Whole - Amen.

Whether it is your Peace of Mind that is broken, He will make you whole - Amen.

If it is your Side, your back, your body that is broken; He will make you Whole - Amen.

If you have been Nailed somehow in life, and you cannot get out - He will set you Free - Amen. And if your heart is broken; this same Jesus will be your Healer - Amen.

And anytime we Partake of the Lord's Table, we REMEMBER - We are Putting all of these together: The Chastisement of our Peace, the Healing of our bodies, the Deliverance from everything that holds us back, the broken hearted of our lives.

And if you eat the Communion with Proper Understanding, you will Partake of Him and have deliverance - Amen.

This morning or as you are reading now on the Label of DMC, let Jesus Christ put you BACK together. Let Him put the Pieces back together!

In 1 Corinthians 11, the Apostle Paul, reminding the Corinthians Church of what Jesus did says in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same Night in which He was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My Body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My Blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come."

The Communion is a REMEMBRANCE and it is also a PROCLAMATION.

A Proclamation is a Statement you are making.

So, anytime we Partake of the Lord's Table, we are making a Proclamation; we are also making a Declaration.

We are Proclaiming the Lord's death, we are Proclaiming the Lord's Victory because it was in DEATH that He gave us Victory; it was in DEATH that He gave us life.

So, when we Proclaim the Lord's death, we are also Proclaiming our Life, our Deliverance, our Resurrection, our Return!

So today, we REMEMBER the Lord, and we make a Proclamation. We are making an Announcement.

Whenever you Partake of the Holy Communion, you making an Announcement that: That I am Delivered - My PEACE is restored to me, my HEALING is received; my DELIVERANCE come, my BROKEN HEARTED is healed.

... That is the Proclamation we are making!

As we think on all of these, as we REMEMBER the Lord, and as we Proclaim it:

1. We REMEMBER His Power to Heal, and we Proclaim it.
2. We REMEMBER that He gives us Peace, and we Proclaim it.
3. We REMEMBER that He delivers us from bondage, and we Proclaim it.

So, when we Partake of the Holy Communion - You put the bread into your mouth, and you eat. And then you take that cup and you drink: You are making a Proclamation; you are Remembering and making a Proclamation.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

6TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: "WHAT IS RUNNING AFTER YOU?"

ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE BY DR. MENSAH OTABIL

(GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)



TEXT: GENESIS 16:6-8

Amen and Amen and Amen!

Let's keep standing, as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you ready? - SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

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In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

Today, and next week, I will be doing a two (2) Part Message.

There are two (2) different Forces and Factors, that enable each one us, to make Progress.

They are usually called: The PULL and the PUSH Factors - One Pushes you from behind; the other Pulls you from ahead.

One is what is running away from you, the other is what you are running after.

So, I am going to talk about these Two (2) Factors of life - that help us to make Progress.

And I trust that for each one of us, we can make Progress in our lives and we can move forward.

You have Probably heard of: "The LEGEND of the Lion and the Gazelle."

And for those of you who don't know what a Gazelle is: A Gazelle is a kind of Antelope.

And it READS:

"Every morning in Africa, a Gazelle wakes up and knows that it must run faster than the fastest Lion, or it will be KILLED.

Every morning a Lion wakes up, and knows that it must run faster than the slowest Gazelle, or it will STARVE to death."

It doesn't matter whether you are a Lion or a Gazelle; */when the sun comes up, you better start RUNNING.

And that is what I am going to allude to, or what I am going to address in my Message for this week and next week.

Whether you are a Lion - Pursuing something; or you are a Gazelle - running away from something: Everybody has to run in order to make Movement and Progress.

So, I have Titled my Message today: "WHAT IS RUNNING AFTER YOU?"

In other words: What are you running from? What are you fleeing from?

Do you feel the Pulse of a Lion trying to get you? Do you have any sense of need to avoid been caught by something negative?

Is there something negative or destructive in your Past, in your family, in your own life; that you feel: if you don't make Progress, it will catch up with you and destroy you?

Each one of us has a sense of danger - It could be something in your family, it could be something that you have seen happen to other People.

People who have nothing RUNNING after them, usually live life without a sense of Urgency.

They could be very good academically, and yet they have no sense of urgency to do anything significant.

They can come from a Good family, from a Good home, but never do anything significant; because they don't have anything that is PUSHING them from behind, to cause them to MOVE!

But I trust God, that He will help you to Position yourself; even the DANGERS of your life, can become the MOTIVATION of your life.

What you HATE can become your INSPIRATION; What you have seen NEGATIVELY in your family, can be the DRIVING FORCE of your family.

To move in life, you must do something that you are so DETERMINED, to run away from.

And so today, my question is: What are you running FROM? Or what is running AFTER you?

I am going to talk about FOUR (4) RUNNERS in the Bible - Four (4) People who ran in the Bible.

And I hope u can finish all four (4) today. If I don't, I will continue next week.

1. The first (1st) one is a Lady, and she is called HAGAR.

And she was a woman running away from CONSEQUENCES.

Her Story is in: Genesis 16:6-8 (NKJV)

6 So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

7 Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

She said: "I am fleeing from the Presence of my mistress Sarai."

HAGAR was Running! - And what was she running from? She was running from CONSEQUENCES

... Somebody say: CONSEQUENCES!

CONSEQUENCES are the results of things you have done.

Hagar accepted to be Part of an arrangement that backfired!

She slept with her Boss' husband, and she became Pregnant!

It seemed like a Good deal from the beginning, because it seemed like everybody was same the same page: Sarah was on the Page, Abraham was on the Page.

And it seemed like, this is an arrangement that would work!

So they said: Go ahead and do it.

So she slept with her Boss' husband.

And after that, it changed the whole dynamic of the relationship.

She moved from being the "Most Favoured Staff", to the "Most Despised and Persecuted Staff".

... And CONSEQUENCES caught up on her.

Now, Hagar thought that she was only a victim of what she was asked to do - You know, she thought: I was asked to do it.

So, she couldn't understand why? You asked me to do something, now you are Punishing me from it.

.. It is called CONSEQUENCES.

Even if you had the Permission to do it; if it was wrong, it would catch up on you some time!

And so here, she starts running!

And this is her life Mission - Run away as far away from the Consequences of your Past as you can.

And when she ran, she ended up in a dry Place.

There are People who are running in life - They try very HARD, but all they are doing is: Something happened in the Past that they want to leave behind in the Past. And that is making them to RUN.

The driving force of their life, is to move as far away from the Past, as Possible.

It could be something you did in school, that keeps haunting you. It could be something that happened in your childhood, that you are running away from. It could actually be the home that you came out from that you are so ashamed of.

And every waking morning, you want to keep a distance between your Past and where you are!

... And that is what Hagar was running FROM.

Eventually, she ended up in a Good Place. But her whole life was full of a journey of ending up in desert, in dry Places, near Mercies, almost dying.

It ended up well, but it was DIFFICULT JOURNEY!

She was running from the Consequences of her Past.

There are many of us who are like Hagar - something in the Past is trying to catch up with you. And you are determined: I am not going to let this thing catch up with me.

So, all you are doing is RUN! And running from Consequences.

So, my question to you (if you are Hagar): What is running after you? What are you running from?

Is it something from Secondary School? Something from Primary School? Something from your home? Something from your family? Something from your Past that you did?

And you just want to make sure that it doesn't CATCH UP with you!

It keeps you running; it may get you to a desert, but it keeps you running.

So Hagar is the first (1st) we encounter in the Bible - Running in life. And what she is running from is CONSEQUENCES.

2. The Second (2nd) Runner that I want to Introduce you to is a man we all JEPHTHAH.

Jephthah was running from REJECTION.

He felt the Poison of family coming against him, and he started running.

His story is in the Book of Judges 11:1-3.

And this is what it says:

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a Mighty man of Valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

2 And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.

3 Then Jephthah fled from his Brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

Interestingly, JEPHTHAH means OPENER - Somebody who opens things.

But it looks like his life was closed. He was born out of the wrong circumstances - He didn't choose it!

He wasn't like Hagar, who was a Participant in the Process.

Jephthah was not a Participant, it was a decision made by his father. He had no clue of it. His father was a married man, and his father went out of his Marriage and went to a Prostitute!

... I am not sure whether there was any form of Protection at that time!

But the deviance with the Prostitute ended up in Pregnancy. And out of that came JEPHTHAH.

So, he gets born, and one day he realizes: I am born from a MISTAKE.

My father made a mistake; went to the wrong kind of woman and gave birth to me.

And there are People who are born, out of such circumstances.

You are NOT a mistake, but the circumstances were a MISTAKE.

Because God never makes MISTAKE with People He creates; but the circumstances are a mistake!

So, as the children grew up, the other sons (the Mrs' Children) said to Jephthah: Listen, you have no inheritance in this family. You are not Part of this family.

You don't belong to us, because our father made a mistake - Went to a Prostitute. Your mother is the wrong kind of woman to give birth to a child. So you have no inheritance here.

... And he started RUNNING!

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What was he running from? From REJECTION - A sense that he doesn't BELONG!

And there are many Jephthahs in this world - Who are running, because they feel a sense of REJECTION; because feel the world has rejected them, their home has rejected them, People don't respect them.

... And so they are RUNNING!

And Jephthah started running and he when he ran, the Bible says: He bounded together with WORTHLESS MEN.

In other words: People who were REJECTED as he felt. He made company with them, and they went about raiding.

But the first (1st) description of Jephthah, before his Problem pop up is that: He is a Mighty man of Valor.

In other words: This is a courageous man. He is a man of Potential; but he suffered rejection. And the rejection is driving him to the wrong crowd.

And there are many People running in life: They get up in the morning, they are hustling and they are running. And they are doing all kinds of stuff.

And you ask them: What are you doing? What Problems are you trying to solve?

... Simply because, somewhere in their PAST, is a rejection!

So, sometimes when People who are in the state of Jephthah - And they started running, they go against the expected norms; they develop and cut a BAD BOY image. Or a BAD GIRL Image for themselves.

They only want to go against Society, family, friends, authority figures, who have rejected them.

The only thing is that: For anything they do; although they are doing it against a family. They are always looking to that same Place for Approval.

... They look to the People who rejected them - for Approval.

Now, if you know the story of Jephthah; he became a BAD BOY! And then his People got into trouble. And they called him, to come and LEAD them.

... This is the man they rejected!

"The stone that the builders rejected, has now become the head of the corner!"

But his sense of rejection never stopped - He was still running, he was still trying to achieve something with his life. But he always felt, HE DIDN'T BELONG!

So, when they were going into battle, he made a rash, unexpected, undemanding PROMISE to God: "God, if You give me Victory, I will sacrifice anything that POPS out of my house to You!"

And when he returned with Victory, the first thing that Pops out of his house to come and celebrate him; is his daughter.

He had to sacrifice his daughter (his family) for his achievement because he felt rejected!

The sad thing with People who are running from rejection, is that that end up hurting a lot of People and destroying a lot of People - And destroying even the People they love because they never feel accepted.

... Because it keeps them RUNNING!

Jephthah was a Runner, and he was running away from rejection.

I don't know whether that is your story. It does not mean you will not become great because some is the People who achieved the greatest in life, are the 'Insecure People'.

Because, very 'Insecure People', DON'T MOVE.

They are happy, they never do anything.

That is why when you look at most families:

I. The first (1st) Generation that came out of HARDSHIP, becomes Successful!

II. Their child, who enjoy the Success, are not able to replicate the success because there is nothing running after them - There is nothing that makes them to stand up, and start running.

... They always feel, life will be good!

Everybody needs something to run after them.

But you have to be careful where it will chase you to.

... Which is what I am going to talk about next week!

HAGAR was running from Consequences. It made her want to achieve something.

JEPHTHAH is running from Rejection - It made him want to do something with his life. But the rejection was a Driving Force of his life.

For People like Jephthah, in any effort they make, they take unnecessary risk. They put everything on the line, just to Succeed.

The Jephthahs of this life end up succeeding, but in the Process, they also destroy People dear to them.

... Like Jephthah destroyed his daughter.

My question to you: What is running after you when you get up in the morning and you go to work; or you go for your Business? What is the thing that is pushing you to do that?

Is it because you are running from the Consequences of your Past? Or you are running from Rejection?

... Quite a number of RUNNERS in the Bible!

3. The Third (3rd) Runner was DAVID.

David was not running from Consequences; he was running from EVIL CONSPIRACIES.

He felt the weight of a whole Political System coming against him and it made him RUN.

Anytime David got up, he had to run.

And he was running from an evil trap that has been set for him - People who wanted to get him.

1 Samuel 19:18-19 (NKJV). And we read these words:

18 So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

19 Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!"

David was thrust into Leadership at a very Young age - Very Talented Young man: Talented Musician, Talented fighter Warrior, a very Passionate man, very Sensitive man.

... He had all the 'Goods' together!

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One moment he was a Shepherd, the next moment he was in King's Palace - married to King's daughter - It looked like all of a sudden, he has broken through!

But when you rise up quickly in life and you are that Talented; you are going to have People wanting to destroy you very early.

So, very early in his life; as innocent as he was, he realized he had become the target of the KING, and Palace' CONSPIRACY.

And he had to run from the King, who is intent on taking his life.

And there are Runners like that!

Many of us are running because we feel somebody is out to get us - You are Talented, you are Gifted, and somebody is determined to KILL YOU before your time.

And I am not talking about witchcraft killing (which is the one you don't even have to be afraid of) - It is the real killing. When somebody wants to really kill you in. Somebody wants to destroy you. Somebody is fighting against you, somebody is running after you because you are Gifted, you are Talented, you are Rising very high and they want to STOP you from Rising. And they set their eyes on YOU, to destroy you.

... And that is what caused DAVID to run!

And if you read the Passage, he ran to Samuel. And the moment he ran to Samuel, information went to the

Because when the King is running after you, he has everything at his disposal.

He has FBI, he has CIA, if he is American. He has BNI, if he is Ghanaian,. He has KGB, if he is Russian.

He has People everywhere who will spy on you, Report on you, Show them where you are. And they will try to get you.

So, David had nowhere to HIDE: he was running from one cave to the other, from one hiding Place to the other. Everyday of his life was a movement. But he kept going!

Eventually, that RUNNING, made him run to God. And eventually, he ran to his Destiny.

So, you may be HAGAR - who is running because of the Consequences of your Past.

You may JEPHTHAH - Who is running because you are rejected in life.

You may be DAVID - Who is running because there are People out there to GET YOU.

I don't know whatever it is. But whenever you wake up in the morning: Something is Motivating you to RUN;

You don't want SARAH to get you; you don't want your FATHER'S CHILDREN to rejoice over you. And you don't want KING SAUL to destroy you.

So I ask you today: What is running after you? What are you running from?

If you tell me: "Pastor, nothing is running after me. I am just living my cool life" - Then I will tell you - YOU ARE GOING NOWHERE!

If you don't feel any sense of Urgency to depart from something, to move from someone; you may be Talented, you may be Gifted but you will make very little Progress.

It is not enough to have Vision, and be driven by Vision - You must also be driven by some Insecurities, something that doesn't make you rest because you know that: if I REST, it will eat me up!

For some People: It is running away from the Poverty of their family; Running away from the bad Influence of your Parent and you are determined, I am going to be DIFFERENT.

*... You are a RUNNER!"

Somebody say: I AM A RUNNER!

4. The Fourth (4th) and final Runner is a man called JONAH.

JONAH was running from RESPONSIBILITY.

He felt: Called to do something he did not want to do - So he was running!

Jonah 1:10-11 (NKJV):

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

Sadly, JONAH was running from the RIGHT THING.

He was running from his "True Mission" in life.

He did not like the Assignment God had given to him, so he wanted to run away from it - he wanted to do something else!

And there are People that God has Called and given a Mission to. And they know what their life is about; but they just want to do something else.

So, they wake up in the morning, and they tried to be somebody else; they try to do something else!

Some are running from the responsibility of FATHERHOOD.

Unfortunately, there are People who give birth to children and RUN from their children. Mothers who are running from their children - Responsibility is too hard them.

Others are running from a Calling from God - The hand of God is upon them, God has called them, God wants to use them but they are RUNNING!

And if you running from the Calling of God, like JONAH; you can run, but you can't HIDE.

Yes, you can run from Saul because he is King only over Israel. You can go to Philistine land or go to other land but where do you go to when you are running from the RULER OF THE UNIVERSE?

If you go to any Island, He is there! If you flee Earth and go to live on the Moon, He will find you! If you go to live on Mars, He will find you! You go to live on Jupiter, He will find you!

Wherever you go, He will find you: if you leave this Galaxy and go to another Galaxy, He will find you! If you go to the ends of the Universe, He will find you!

Because the SPAN of Eternity is before His GAZE - You cannot run from the Presence of GOD.

... BUT, there are People running!

And for some People it is not just a Calling from God; it is something they know they must do.

The weight of Responsibility is on them and they are RUNNING. And they don't want to be that; they don't want to take up that responsibility.

Some are firstborns in their family, and there is a WEIGHT of Responsibility as a firstborn. And they feel it is too much - Too much PRESSURE.

So, they are running in the opposite direction.

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And that is what they get up in the morning and run after: That is a Lion running after them!

If you are a HAGAR, the Lion you are running away from is the Consequences of the action of the Past.

If you are a JEPHTHAH, the Lion you are running away from is the Rejection you feel all around you.

If you are DAVID, the Lion you are running away from is the Conspiracy of POWERFUL People who determined to destroy you.

If you are JONAH, the Lion you are running away from is your True MISSION and Assignment in life; which you think is too BIG for you!

So, the question I want to ask you today is: What is Running after you? And what are you running away from?

Everybody is running.

Look behind you:

I. What makes you get up in the morning to go hustle?

II. What makes you get up in the morning to want to go and do something great?

III. What makes you get up in the morning to achieve something?

IV. What makes you wake up, to get results?

It is important for each one of us to know what we are running from.

I know what I am running from - It is Personal, I am not going to tell you.

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But whatever is RUNNING AFTER YOU, can be the Greatest Motivation for your Progress in life.

I have told the story many times: When I was Young, in our neighbourhood there was a man who had Mango tree. He had quite a number of Mango trees. And normally, he lived alone. He had Mango trees, and the Mangoes would be ripe.

... And the biggest temptation for us kids (at that time) was Ripe Mangoes.

And this man has a hedge around his house and a gate.

And we tried to find a way through the hedge to go to his house; and 'Deliver him' from his Mangoes.

And one day, we were there, trying to do our job - Picking Ripe Mangoes. Some of us on the trees yelling at each other. Then, we heard bark of a dog!

We never saw the dog, we just heard the bark. And then, we started running!

... I guess the dog was running after us.

And when we started running, People were calling their Mama, People were calling whatever they were calling.

Some went through the gate, some went through the hedge. And I was one of the last to go!

I was on top of the tree. So, I was one of the last ones to go!

And when I got to the hedge; for some reason (I cannot fathom up till now) - I jumped the hedge!

I was not a High Jumper, I have not jumped anything that high before but that day, what Pursued me, helped me to jump!

So, whatever is Pursuing you, will HELP you to JUMP!

But you don't jump into danger; you have to jump into SAFETY.

You don't run into the Wilderness, you have to run into the Pools of water.

You don't run into your enemies; you have to run to the LORD. Like David, you have to RUN.

But you have to run in the right direction - And whatever Pursued you, will never catch up with you - Amen. It will not destroy you - Amen. It will not eat you up - Amen!

You will not become a victim of life - You will become a Victor of life.

You are going to Jump, you are going to Rise, you are going to Fly. You are going to make Progress in your life.

So, when you look at what is running after you, the only thing it must tell you is: I have a Motivation to do.

The only that will make it catch up with you is if you are a JONAH.

Thank God it will catch up with you!

And when it catches up with you; it will redirect your energy, and take you on another Mission.

If you are DAVID, Saul can't catch up with you - because you will keep going!

If you are HAGAR, your Past will not destroy you!

If you are JEPHTHAH, no matter who hates you and does not believe in you, you will still reach the Goal God had set before you.

Because they run after you not to eat you up, but to INSPIRE you; to help you so you could rise up to soar to Greater Heights and do things that you never thought you could do.

WHAT IS RUNNING AFTER YOU?

... Let's Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Thank You that You are the Source of our Help - You are our Shelter!

You are our Hope, You are our Defense - You are the One in whom we trust!

Some trust in Chariots, but we will trust you; like DAVID - we run to YOU. We run to the Rock that is Higher than us!

And I Pray committing everyone who is running, who is MOVING Lord, into Your hands: May You guide their efforts, may You drive in their direction.

And more than everything else, may You give them a VISION of what to run into.

In JESUS' Name - Amen and AMEN!

Hallelujah!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: "WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING FOR? (2)

ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE BY DR. MENSAH OTABIL

(GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)



TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 9:11

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Let's rise up together wherever we are (or reading now on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE in this very Special Year of Excellence.

... Are you ready? - SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

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By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has Shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen.

Give God Praise wherever you are and you may be seated, in God's Presence.

Last week, I started talking about PUSH and the PULL factors of life and I am continuing my Message.

Last week Topic was "What is Running after you?"

DMC NOTES: Kindly avail yourself the Full Text of the Message referenced above on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/What-Is-Running-After-You-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

And today, my Message is titled: "WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING FOR?"

... It sounds better when it is spoken faster: "What are you Running for?"

It is a question I want to ask you and it is a question I want you to ask yourself: WHAT AM I RUNNING FOR?

What am I HUSTLING for? - Because I used the word RUNNING: to mean the efforts we make to move on in life.

... Some call it the hustle!

Each one of us runs - We do something!

There is a running around in our lives.

Just take a stand at any busy intersection in a City, and you will see people moving up and down. And sometimes you wonder: "Where are they going? And what are they trying to achieve?"

To go on with my Message, I want you to remember "The Legend of the Lion and the Gazelle" that I mentioned last week.

And I will repeat it. DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

And it says: Every morning in Africa - And I suppose in every Country where this takes Place; it may not be a Lion and a Gazelle but something in Particular takes Place!

"Every morning in Africa, a Gazelle wakes up and knows that it must run faster than the fastest Lion or it will be KILLED.

And every morning, a Lion wakes up, and knows that it must run faster than the slowest Gazelle, or it will STARVE to death."

It doesn't matter whether you are a Lion or a Gazelle; when the sun comes up, you better start RUNNING.

And that is how our life is: Sun up, to sun down, we are running!

We are either a Lion - trying to catch something, or a Gazelle - making sure nobody catches us.

But whichever you are; the PUSH Factor and the PULL Factor of life, affect us.

Last week we looked at four (4) kinds of Runners:

1. We talked about HAGAR, who was running from the Consequences of her Past.
2. We talked about JEPHTHAH, who was running from Rejection;
3. We talked about DAVID, who is running from Evil Conspiracies;
4. And we talked about JONAH, who is running from Responsibility and God's Plan for his life.

It is important you figure out why you are running in life. And to determine whether the race you are on, is leading you in a Productive Direction or not.

And it is important to ask yourself:

1. Why am I in so much hurry?
2. Why am I doing all this hard work I am doing?
3. What am I Pushing for?
4. What am I trying to Achieve?

It is always a blessing to see God use our disadvantages to DRIVE us in life.

However, we could also be wrongly driven in different directions.

The Book of Ecclesiastes 9:11 has this to say. And the writer of Ecclesiastes says:

"I returned and saw under the sun that —

The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them ALL."

Swiftiness, Speed, is not always an advantage when the TIMING is wrong and if the opportunity has been misused.

So, many times we are running, but TIMING is wrong! And many times you are running, but it is not our TURN to run!

And that is going to form the basis of my Message.

Because today we are going to look at two (2) kinds of Runners:

1. One who runs with a MISSION.
2. And the other who runs WITHOUT a Mission.

And my Passage is going to be from 2 Samuel 18.

The background to this Passage is about: David and his son, Absalom.

Absalom had led a revolt against his father David. And so a Civil War had ensued! And in the Process David has to leave Jerusalem, and Absalom temporary becomes King.

And in the Civil War that ensued, David's son, Absalom was killed in Battle.

And now a Messenger has to go and deliver a Message to David - That his son (Absalom) who rebelled against him has just been killed in the battle.

So, who is the Messenger who is going to take this Message - Who will run with such a Message to David?

And you have to understand that: First, when King Saul was killed, the Messenger who carried the Message to David that King Saul had been killed, was killed by David!

And then Saul's son Ish-bosh-eth, who tried to rebelled also against David - after Saul died, was also killed.

And the one who took the Message to David that Ish-bosh-eth had been killed, was also killed!

So, it looks like carrying Messages of these Nature can be very hazardous to your health.

So, who can give such a Message to David.

So, Absalom is dead in battle - One side it is a Good News! But knowing how David had responded in the Past; who is going to tell David that you have WON, but your son is dead?*

... Very delicate Message!

And that is the background to what we are going to read in 2 Samuel 18:19-23 (NKJV);

19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run now and take the News to the king, how the Lord has avenged him of his enemies."

20 And Joab said to him, "You shall not take the News this day, for you shall take the News another day. But today you shall take no News, because the king's son is dead."

21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran.

22 And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." So Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, since you have no News ready?"

23 "But whatever happens," he said, "let me run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.

There are TWO (2) KINDS OF RUNNERS here:

1. The first (1st) one is called AHIMAAZ. That is his name!

His name actually in Hebrew means: My brother is rough' or 'my brother is angered'

... Whether his name indicates his Personality, or his not, is another story.

But it Publicly shows that he is highly tempered - Hot Tempered Driven Personality.

He is a Person you would call an "Action Man" - He is a Person who always wants to do something.

And the Passage describes Ahimaaz as a son of Zadok. Zadok is a Priestly Flock.

... If his father is a Priest, then he also is a Priest.

And in Israel, the Priestly Family is a very highly considered family.

So, you would say that he is from the right kind of family.

2. Secondly, he is a Faster Runner than the other fellow who is being sent the Message.

He is very, very Good Runner - He has got SPEED, he is SWIFT.

3. Thirdly, he is a Trusted Messenger of David.

Because if you read 2 Samuel 15:35-36; you realized that this was not the first time that he has carried Messages for David - It was something that he did!

In 2 Samuel 17, he carried Messages to David.

... So, this is a man with a trusted record of carrying Messages.

If you read 1 Samuel 17:15-17 (NKJV);

15 Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised.

16 Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, 'Do not spend this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily cross over, lest the king and all the People who are with him be swallowed up.'"

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed at En Rogel, for they dared not be seen coming into the city; so a female servant would come and tell them, and they would go and tell King David.

So, this Ahimaaz - He is a Courier for David; so he is Smart, he is a Priest, he has got Speed, he is Trusted, he has got experience.

... He is the Right Man for the Job!

So, if you were assessing the situation at the moment; David has not heard the Message. It is a delicate Message. It has to get to him quickly!

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This is a trusted Messenger - Ahimaaz. He has done it all the time. David knows him, his father is a Priest, he has got speed.

Everything seems to indicate that for this moment, Ahimaaz must go on this Mission.

... Yet, he is not sent, he is not Picked.

The race is not to the SWIFT all the time. Sometimes People who seems to have EVERYTHING together may be be JUMPED OVER!

And, there is Second (2nd) Runner!

The second (2nd) Runner is called THE CUSHITE.

... It is a description, it is not a name!

His name is not mentioned - He is just mentioned by his Tribe or by the way he looks: He is 'The Cushite.'

Literary it means "A Black man - He is a man with no name."

He is supposedly Trusted, because he is around in the Corridors of Power.

So, there is a Crisis and this is the first (1st) time we are hearing him being called to Service.

"Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran." 2 Samuel 18:21

He has two (2) Things that Ahimaaz doesn't have:

1. He has a MISSION,

2. And he has a MESSAGE.

... A Mission and a Message.

But he does not have SPEED, he does not come from a Royal Family, he does not come from the Priestly Flock, he does not even know the short cut of the terrain and he is not addressed by name.

So if you look at these two (2) People;

- AHIMAAZ: He is known by name. His Parenthood is right. He has got Speed, he has got Pedigree, he has got the Credentials.

... He should send the Message!

- THE CUSHITE: No Pedigree, no name, he does not have the speed, does not know the terrain so well.

... But he is called to do the Job!

The race is not always to the SWIFT; there will be an opportunity that comes, that does not favour the most Highly Qualified.

He (The Cushite) has the Message, he is the man for the hour.

There are those who run in life because they have a Message and a Mission.

And then there are those who run in life because they just can't stand still - They needed to be seen. And Ahimaaz was like that! He is an Action Person. He can't Stand Still.

And I want you to listen to Ahimaaz' Statement. He says: "Let me run now..."

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... This is the spirit of ENTITLEMENT.

Then he says: "But whatever happens, Please let me also run..."

... That is the spirit of COMPETITION.

This guy (Ahimaaz) says: The Message must be given, and I am going to give the Message.

Joan says: You will not give the Message, because it is above your PAY GRADE.

... It is beyond you.

Why? - Because the King's son is DEAD!

And history shows: If you don't have what it takes to carry this Message, you will get into trouble!

So, although you are qualified, you would not go!

But he says: Whether I have a Message or not, I would go!

There are People like Ahimaaz in our world - Those who runs because they just can't accept that some races are not theirs to run.

They just feel: I must also be there! They are the 'WANNA BEES'.

They want to be in the midst of things. They want to be where the action is.

So, when something is happening: Whether they are supposed to do it or not; they do it anyhow!

A lot of 'Ahimaaz' in this world - RUNNING simply because they want to be seen.

And Ahimaaz also represent those who run because they want to OUTRUN OTHERS.

Somebody is doing it, they say - I will BEAT him. I will do it better! I can be better.

And they will give you their Pedigree: I know this guy, when we were in school - when I was first (1st) he was LAST.

I come from a rich family, he is from a Poor family. I have done this before, he has never done it before. I can beat him.

The fact that you can BEAT somebody, doesn't mean you are called to the FIGHT.

The race is not for the SWIFT, and the BATTLE is also not for the Strong!

There are those who run because they CAN'T allow others to SHINE. They always have to SPOIL IT for somebody else.

And there are People like that; and I hope you are not one (1) of them?

I hope you are not one (1) of those who RUN because:

1. You can't stand that it is somebody's turn.
2. You just can't stand that somebody you think is inferior to you has got an opportunity you don't have.
3. You can't stand that somebody you think you are better than has a door opened.

And if you are Ahimaaz - you are running without a Mission and without a Message - Very fast and very talented but going nowhere!

... So this is how the race is Set Up!

And Joab, the General for David's Army said: Listen Ahimaaz, we know everything about you.

But Ahimaaz said: Whether you like it or not, I am RUNNING.

So eventually Joan says, RUN!

It is those kinds of Permission when they give you, you don't take it. You are forcing it and you are told: Okay, if you want to go, go ahead and do it.

... It is going to be a long time, great efforts but you are going to achieve NOTHING.

So, let me ask you a question - Between these two (2), for the race you are running now: Are you an Ahimaaz or the Cushite?

Are you running Purposely because you are supposed to run? Or you are running because you can't stand the Person who is Winning?

You can't stand the Person you think you are better than, who seems to be doing well - If he can do three (3) I can do ten (10). If he can do ten (10) I can do hundred (100)!

... I know him, I am better than him, I can beat him.

And there are many People running races like that - Life is an incessant competition!

Even when there is no competition, they will Invent one!

I. Somebody buys a pair of shoes, you must buy a better one.

II. Somebody buys a car, you must buy a nicer one.

III. Somebody builds a house, you must get more bedrooms than he has!

Your whole race in life is to say: I can't allow the Cushite to RUN, I must also run!

There will come a time when there will be a Message for Ahimaaz - A time another message will come and you will be given the opportunity.

... But this Particular one, is not for you!

May God HELP YOU: not to run, because somebody else is Running!

... So let's see the OUTCOME:

So, there are two (2) People running - If you look at it: When Ahimaaz is told to to RUN; although the Cushite took the lead. Ahimaaz knew the shortcut of the terrain.

... He has been doing it all his life!

And so he uses a shortcut, he runs faster, and he overtakes the Cushite.

So, you will think: Oh, he has overtaken, and this guy is going to win the Prize.

Let's see the OUTCOME - 2 Samuel 18:24-29 (KNJV);

24 Now David was sitting between the two gates. And the watchman went up to the roof over the gate, to the wall, lifted his eyes and looked, and there was a man, running alone.

25 Then the watchman cried out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is News in his mouth." And he came rapidly and drew near.

26 Then the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "There is another man, running alone!" And the king said, "He also brings News."

27 So the watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and comes with Good News."

28 So Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, "All is well!" Then he bowed down with his face to the earth before the king, and said, "Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!"

29 The king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what it was about."

Can you imagine? - He said: I saw the crowd gathering, but I don't know what it was all about. But I wanted to RUN!

It is like those days in Ghana when we used to queue up for everything.

Sometimes you go to a Place, and People have QUEUED UP!

And you don't know what the queue is about, you join the line.

And then you get to the end, you realised that they are selling something you don't need.

There are People joining line, and queue and running. And when you ask them: Why are you running? They say: I saw the crowd gathering, but I didn't know what it was about.

David says: If you ran this FAST, and you have no MESSAGE, turn aside and stand here.

May that never be your Portion - That after you have run effectively in life, you are told: Stand aside, because you carry nothing - You were just competing with somebody.

... Alright! (Continue with 2 Samuel 18)

30 And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

31 Just then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "There is Good News, my lord the king! For the Lord has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you."

32 And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?"

So the Cushite answered: "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!"

33 Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your Place! O Absalom my son, my son!"

I want you to note how the Cushite delivered the Message to the King - He knows that those who have carried such Messages in the Past get in to trouble.

So, when he is asked: What is happening? Is the young man Absalom safe?

He did not say - The boy is killed. He did not say: I saw him with my own two (2) eyes - The boy has been killed. Because People who gives such direct Messages to David get into trouble.

He said: Oh King, may it happen to your enemies as it has happened to that BOY! - And the King got the coded Message.

He understood the delicateness of the moment and he gave the Right Message.

The King knew Absalom had died but death had not been mentioned.

... And that is why this guy was the Right for the Job!

He doesn't have Speed, but he has the Wisdom for the hour, to deliver the Right Message.

When you see somebody running, don't just run after them: They may operate at the Wisdom Level you don't have!

They may not have your Certificates, they may not have your Degrees, they may not have your Pedigrees; but for this race, they have something that you don't have!

Ahimaaz was told: Stand aside! He has run so long, he has run ahead. He has the best family, he has lots of Past Successes; yet, he is told: 'Step Aside!'

But the Cushite: He ran, his life is spent. The King gets the Message, the deed is done! He came second (2nd) but he was FIRST (1ST)! He came behind, but he delivered the result.

That is why in life you don't just struggle with People who are already running; because they may be running with the Message.

You RUN the Race that is set before you, and you finish it WELL.

And when you FINISH IT WELL, your Message would be delivered.

The Big Question is: WHY WAS "THE CUSHITE" CHOSEN?

- Was it a Set Up for his Failure?

- Was it a Set Up for his Death?

They just sent him because they know, this guy is going to be killed - Let's send him!

... It is a Possibility!

Because sometimes People may Set you Up for Failure and Push you into a Zone where they think you may be destroyed.

But God can use that Set Up for His Appointed Time!

And do you know the number of times they wished you would fail?

... They think you will fail, you will not amount to anything.

I have lived a little bit of this life and I have seen People who were Set Up for Failure, being Appointed by God for Destiny.

I have seen People whose Bosses Set them Up: put them into the wrong office, into the wrong Department - Just to destroy them.

... And God turned it around!

Maybe that is what you meant for the Cushite.

They say, somebody is going to die today because by experience, David is going to kill the fellow.

Ahimaaz is too PRECIOUS; the Cushite is dispensable - He is a Black man. He is Dispensable!

. . But God used that Set Up to His Glory.

That is why, in life you don't always complain about People Setting you Up - In their minds they would say: You are finished, we have got him! No way, this is the End.

But in God's Mind: This is the Race that he must run; this is his Appointment! This is something he or she alone can do!

May God Set you Up for Success - Amen!

... I said: May God Set you Up for Success - AMEN!

You may not be running as fast as everybody; but you will deliver your Message - Amen. You will deliver your Mission - Amen!

Your Appointment, your Destiny shall Manifest - Amen!

In conclusion; the Message to every CUSHITE - And by Cushite! I mean People who are nameless. You haven't done much:

But there will come a moment in your Life, when God will Pick you up for something UNIQUE.

... And when the time comes - Be like the Cushite.

When Joab said run, the Bible say: He (Cushite) bowed himself and ran! - He doesn't have speed, but he RAN. He does not know the terrain well, but he RAN. He doesn't come from the right family, but he RAN. People have Set him Up for failure, but he RAN.

Forget about People's motives, forget about what they want to do, forget at their Agenda - Just RUN the race set before you because you going to RUN, and you are going to deliver the Message.

... Somebody say: I AM A CUSHITE!

And to the CUSHITE Nations of the world (Ghana and Nigeria included):

We may not have the speed of the other Nations.

We may not know and understand the terrain like the other People;

We may not have done this before!

But there will come a time in our Destiny, in our History; a moment of Destiny. It may look like a SET UP for Failure but it will be a Divine Appointment - Amen.

And I believed with all my heart, with everything within me; that: This Pandemic; which seems like a Set Up for destruction, is going to work for our Advantage - Amen.

Is it any wonder that those who said there will be dead bodies littered all over Africa cannot understand what is happening because it is CUSHITE TIME!!!!

And it may be a Set Up that was supposed to destroy us but it will be for our Divine Visitation, for our Glory - Amen.

We just have to run and keep running, and keep running - the RACE that is Set before us!

May the Lord grant us the Spirit that came upon this Cushite that made him he RAN!

Even when it seems like somebody was trying to send him on a wrong Mission - He RAN.

Even when it seems he did not know the terrain well and did not have the Speed.

Even when he was overtaken, he did not give up to say: Well, I am last. I am not going to run again. He kept running and running from behind.

... The first Person was told to stand behind.

If you not have a Message (as Ahimaaz); you are going to be told "STAND ASIDE:"

"You have done well to run FAST, but this race is not to the SWIFT; it is for those who have TIME and OPPORTUNITY working on their behalf."

May the Lord give you the Wisdom to discern that your moment - IN TIME; and to go know when the Grace of God is upon you - to RUN THE RACE, to finish it well, to Glorify GOD.

... Just stand up and lift up your hands to God:

And I want you to talk to the Lord - And I want you to just ask the Lord to HELP YOU, in the Race that is Set before you! To Help you, to Help you!

It may seem like a Set Up for Failure, but it will turn into our ADVANTAGE, in the Name of Jesus -Amen!

Ask God to help you to SEIZE the Right moment:

I. Not to run other People's races!

II. Not to be among those who ALSO run! - A wanna be! A copy cat.

But to do that which is Set before you, in the Name of Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father we come to You, fully confident that You have Good Plans for our lives, and Destiny for our Assignment.

Although men may seek to manipulate the events of our lives; You will SET IT UP for our Glory!

Because Your Word says that: ALL things are going to work together for our Good, because we Love You.

May this Season of our lives, Set us Up for SUCCESS; Set us Up for Message, set us Up for Achievement.

We may come from behind, but we will carry a Message!

We may not know the terrain well, but we will carry a Message!

May we run our Race EFFECTIVELY, to Your Glory Lord; in JESUS' Name!

... And if you believe you are a CUSHITE for this moment, say: Amen - AMEN!!!!

Hallelujah! We give You Praise Lord and we give You Glory. In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



20TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AFTER?



TEXT: GENESIS 19:17, 2 KINGS 2:4, PHILIPPIANS 3:12-15, HEBREWS 12:1-2.

Amen and Amen! Shall we rise on our feet (wherever you are) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE? SAY WITH ME:

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Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

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As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!!! And Amen, and Amen and Amen.

May the Lord speak to you and Minister life to you; and may His Words bring Guidance and Direction to each one of us - Amen.

As you know, I started Preaching a Message originally, I had thought that it will be a two (2) Part Message. But I had to break it up a little. And it has become a three (3) Part Message. Today is the concluding Part of it.

And I said from the beginning that there are two (2) Powerful Forces that enable each one of us to make Progress -Two (2) very Powerful Forces:

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There is the PUSH Factor, and there is the PULL factor - One PUSHES us from behind. And the other PULLS us from ahead. One is what is running after us, and the other is what we are running after.

So in Part one (1) of my Message, we asked the Question: "What is running after you? "

And if you didn't read that Message, I encourage you to go and read it on the Label of DMC - "What is running after you? " on this link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/What-Is-Running-After-You-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

And we looked at some of the disadvantages that Pursued us in life. We looked at four (4) Biblical Characters and the Negatives that Pursued them but which encouraged them to move on in life.

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In Part two (2); we asked the Question: "What are you running for?"

And if you didn't read that Message, I encourage you to go and read it on the Label of DMC - "What are you running for? on this link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/What-Are-You-Running-For-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

And we looked at two (2) kinds of Running: Those who run with a Message or a Mission and those who run without any Mission - They just run because others are running.

... And I hope none of you is like that!

And today we are asking a Third (3rd) Question - Which is related to the PULL FACTOR of what is Pulling us up.

And the Question is: WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AFTER?

Remember, Part one (1) is: What is Running after you? and this one is: WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AFTER?

I spoke about the Legend of the Lion and the Gazelle in Part 1 (What is Running After You) - One is Pursuing and the other is being Pursued.

In Part one (1); I made this statement that: "People who have nothing running after them usually live life without any sense of Urgency."

They live life comfortably, because:

I. There is nothing Threatening their life.

II. There is nothing that is Pursuing them.

III. There is nothing that makes them to get up and feel that: If they don't MOVE, they are going to Perish!

So, there is no sense of Urgency in their life.

Today, in relation to our Statement, or our Topic of: "WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AFTER?"

This is a Second Statement I will make: "The People who don't have something they are running after, usually live life without any sense of Mission."

People who have nothing running after them have no sense of Urgency. People who are not running after anything have no sense of Mission.

A sense of Urgency, helps you to move QUICKLY; and a sense of Mission helps you to move PURPOSEFULLY.

It is great to be FAST; but to move, you have to know what you are moving for, or where you are moving to.

So we are going to look at Four (4) Examples in the Bible, of People who Pursued a Target and achieved it.

And we are going to relate to different aspects of what they did in their lives.

1. The first (1st) Character we are going to look at, is not a very nice Person in the Bible, but he is important for this Message.

... And that is LOT. Abraham's Nephew - Lot.

And LOT is important because he didn't LOOK BACK.

If you are going to run after something, you don't have to look back. You have to look ahead, you have to look forward.

Lot had a lot of Problems (I think that is why he is called Lot) - He had a lot of Problems!

He made a lot of mistakes in his life, in his choices: He choose the wrong location to live in, a wrong neighbourhood!

And so made a lot of mistakes in his life.

But today, we would not look at all the wrong things that he got wrong. We are going to look at one (1) thing that he got right:

And that is the fact that he NEVER LOOKED BACK.

When Lot and his family were rescued from Sodom and Gomorrah. They were instructed to run to the mountains - and NEVER LOOK BACK.

Genesis 19:17 (NKJV) reads:

"So it came to Pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the Plain. Escape to the Mountains, lest you be destroyed".

They had been delivered from great catastrophe - A City they had lived in; a Place they thought was going to be a Place of Prosperity, had become the Symbol of Debauchery in the world.

God is now destroying their home - He sent Angels to go and rescue them because Abraham had Interceded for Lot.

And then Lot and his family were PULLED from Sodom and Gomorrah.

The instruction is: 'Don't stay in the Plain, go to the Mountain and DON'T LOOK BACK!

DON'T LOOK BACK: If you are going to run for something; the first (1st) thing I want you to know - You don't have to look back, you have to keep looking forward.

But something happened on the journey as Lot and his family are moving towards the Mountain - escaping from Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 19:26 (NKJV);

"But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a Pillar of salt."

HOW DO WE KNOW LOT'S WIFE LOOKED BACK?

Because nobody is supposed to look behind. How could Lot know?

Now, if the wife was walking BEHIND him (Lot) he wouldn't have known that she had looked back!

... Because everybody is going forward!

If she looked back and she was BEHIND; you wouldn't have noticed. And the record would not be there that she looked back.

So, for that record to be there; for Lot to know that his wife had looked back - She had to be one of two (2) Positions:

Either she is walking BESIDES him, or she is walking AHEAD of him - Definitely not behind him!

So, can you image a man who is supposed to look back; he is walking with his wife. He looks side ways and sees that the wife has looked back, and the wife becomes a Pillar of Salt.

Or the wife is ahead of him, and the wife looks back - Lot sees it, and then the wife becomes a Pillar of Salt.

Can you imagine? - Think of it! The extreme discipline it would require for Lot not to look back.

A man of great discipline - Somebody close by you (Your wife); You are on a journey with her, she looks back, right besides you, and she is a Pillar of Salt.

And he says: I will NOT look back!

... That is extreme Discipline!

Or if he was ahead, he said: I will not look back!

And that is why I Picked him! He made a lot of mistakes, but he knew how to focus into the future.

If you are going to run after anything in life, you have to learn this Discipline from Lot: I WILL NOT LOOK BACK!

Somebody say: I WILL NOT LOOK BACK!

Unfortunately, some times in looking forward, you have left some People behind.

Sadly, People who are frozen in time, People who refused to Pursue any Agenda; sometimes, have to be left behind.

Then, I am not talking about ignoring and abandoning People simply because they are in trouble.

... That is not what this is about!

Or you are just leaving your wife because you don't love her, or you have seen a New Girl.

... That is not what we are talking about!

We are talking about when you are focused on something; and you and somebody are focused on it and unfortunately, the Person looks back!

It is like friends who are both escaping a bad habit - They are escaping Sodom and Gomorrah.

It could be your friend you used to drink with - And you are both escaping Alcoholism; or you are both escaping Drugs; you are both escaping Prostitution, or Robbery, or Abject Poverty.

You and your best friend, you say: we are going to make it in life. We are going to stop drinking, we will not do drugs again.

And you are going on this journey; and your friend decides: I am going to go back to Drugs: I am going to go back to Alcohol. I am going to go back to Prostitution.

You have to be like Lot and say: Although he is my best friend, I am not going to look back because I am running AFTER SOMETHING.

And when that happens, sadly, you don't have to join the one who LOOKED BACK.

The tragedy of life is that many of us are where we are because we have joined somebody who looked back.

We went back to somebody, we went back to a relationship that was going nowhere and we are stuck inside, Frozen in Salt like Lot's wife.

When God gives you a Vision in life, or a New Hope in life, DON'T LOOK BACK!

No matter the temptation, DON'T LOOK BACK.

Lot's view (his Vision) was the Mountain of Safety - And he had to FOCUS on it!

So if you look at Lot's life, there are Two (2) Things driving him:

- The FIRE behind him;

- And the Mountain ahead of him.

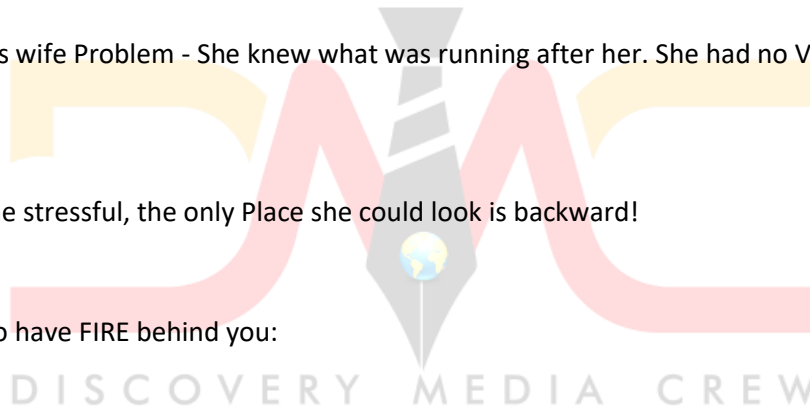
The FIRE is Sodom and Gomorrah - that is the PUSH Factor. He has to RUN from Sodom and Gomorrah.

But if that is all he is doing and there is no Vision - he will LOOK BACK.

And that was Lot's wife Problem - She knew what was running after her. She had no Vision of where she is escaping to.

So when it became stressful, the only Place she could look is backward!

It is not enough to have FIRE behind you:



I. You must look to the MOUNTAIN ahead of you.

II. You must have HOPE ahead of you; you must have VISION ahead of you.

So that when you escape the PAST, there is a Place that you are going to.

Somebody say: I AM NOT LOOKING BACK!

And for some of you:

I. God has delivered you from Alcohol - DON'T LOOK BACK!

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II. He (God) has delivered you from Drugs - DON'T LOOK BACK!

III. He (God) has delivered you from Bad Company - DON'T LOOK BACK!

IV. He (God) has delivered you from some friends who are in Sodom and Gomorrah, who are there to destroy your life - DON'T LOOK BACK!

If you go around and achieve your Vision, you have to be like Lot - YOU DON'T LOOK BACK!

2. Second (2nd) Example - He is a better Person than Lot.

ELISHA is the Person who couldn't be discouraged - He was determined to go for something, you couldn't discourage him.

It's not just enough not to look back, but you have to determine: I WILL NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

Elisha was a man who was discouraged by everybody around him!

Do you feel that everybody around you is trying to discourage you? Everybody is trying to put a stumbling block on your way?

There are times in life when you get to a situation where almost everybody around you is trying to discourage you.

Your friends are discouraging you, your Parents are discouraging you, some times, even your Pastor is discouraging you.

And that was true of Elisha - Everybody was discouraging him.

He started his Mission under a Senior Prophet called Elijah.

But Elijah had a way of always discouraging Elisha, every steps of the way. And he tried to stop him in every way.

So in 2 Kings 2:4 (NKJV) we read:

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, Please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel".

But Elisha said: "As the Lord lives, and as your Soul lives, I will not leave you!"

... So, they went down to Bethel.

Four (4) times on this journey, Elisha was discouraged:

He was discouraged by Elijah; he was discouraged by the Sons of the Prophet - from Gilgal to Bethel, to Jericho to Jordan.

... Every steps, he was discouraged!

But his eyes were fixed on something. He had moved from something to the Other.

He wanted something; he had a Vision.

What was Elisha looking for? Why was he not discouraged in life?

2 Kings 2:9 (NKJV);

And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?"

Elisha said: "Please let a "Double Portion" of your spirit be upon me".

Now, when I read the Bible, I try to imagine what is going on.

And when I read this, I just feel Elijah's Question is a Question of frustration.

It is not that he wanted the man to have a "Double Portion"; but the guy had followed him and followed him - Never Quitting.

So, finally he said: What do you want?

... It is a Question of frustration: What do you want from me?

He said: I want a "Double Portion" of your Spirit.

So why was Elisha never discouraged?

It was because he had set his heart - I am going to have a "Double Portion", I will be Significant, I will rise up, I will be used of God, and I will do Greater Things than Elijah is doing.

And if that is your Vision, then no one can discourage you.

WHAT DO YOU WANT IN LIFE?

... Is it a double portion?

If you want happiness, a Good Marriage, then nothing is going to discourage you in your Marriage!

If you want your children to do well, then nothing is going to stop you from raising Godly children.

And if you want to Prosper, nothing will stop you from Prospering because life is full of discouragements.

If you are one of those People who get discourage when you are discouraged; you will go nowhere!

Because life has Specialists in discouragement - They are Called, Ordained and Anointed to discourage you.

Every steps of the way, they are going to discourage you - It could be your Parents, it could be your Boss, it could even be your Pastor!

But Elisha said: I will not be discouraged.

WHY? - Because I want a DOUBLE PORTION in my life!

So, even if:

I. My Boss is discouraging me, I will not be discouraged.

II. My friends are discouraging me, I will not be discouraged.

III. Even if a Prophet discourages me; I WILL NOT BE DISCOURAGED!

... He wanted a "Double Portion"!

Elisha's Push Factor in life was discouragement - The more People discouraged him, the more he moved ahead.

But the Pull Factor for him was the "Double Portion".

There was something running after him! Everybody discouraging him! But that is not enough. There is also something he was running AFTER.

He had seen something he wanted, and he had determination that he will not be discouraged!

Are you like Elisha? Or are you where you are because somebody discouraged you?

Sometimes you talk to People, they say:

I. Oh, no one believes in me! - But believe in yourself.

II. Nobody encourages me - Encourage yourself!

III. Even my Parents did not take me to school - Take yourself to School!

IV. All my friends are telling me that I can't make it - Then tell yourself 'I can make it!'

What are you sitting there for? Whom do you expect to encourage you?

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Have you employed a Paid Encourager? Have you recruited and Encourager in your life?

If you haven't, then nobody owes you encouragement.

The Bible says: "And David encouraged HIMSELF in the Lord!"

... Nobody owes you encouragement!

If you are tired, and you want People to clap for you before you run, you would collapse.

If you are hoping that one day - Somebody would hold your hands and say: I believe in you.

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Listen to me: You are on the wrong Planet!

Maybe, it happened on Pluto, which is degraded from the Planet! May be it happened on Jupiter. But here on Planet EARTH, we don't have many Encouragers.

... All of us were discouraged!

I remembered when God called me to Ministry and I told my BEST FRIEND (at that time) what God had said to me: He said to me: 'You are a FOOL!'

And I don't blame him because what I was doing, looked foolish - It didn't look sensible.

And a Good friend was telling me: You are a fool.

That is a Good advice.

But, I was not discouraged, and I was not angry! And I am not angry at him!

All I am saying is: If you are looking for People to clap for you to Perform; you are on the wrong Planet.

Go and look for your own Planet and settle there. And recruit your Cheerers and Praise Singers and settle there.

But here on Earth, it is full of discouragement. But you have to be like Elisha - I have have set my eyes on the "Double Portion", and even if my Boss says I shouldn't go with him, the Sons of the Prophet are saying I shouldn't do it; I know what I am looking for - I WILL NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

Somebody say: I WILL NOT BE DISCOURAGED!

Because is you are running after something, you have to be like Lot: "I will not look Back!"

You have to be like Elisha: "I will not be discouraged!"

3. Third (3rd) example is PAUL - The Great Apostle. He didn't stop pressing on!

Philippians 3:12-15 (NKJV) these are Paul's own words;

12 Not that I have already Attained, or I'm already Perfected; but I Press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I Press towards the Goal for the Prize of the upward Call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

... As many as are mature must think like this - Forgetting those things which are behind!

Paul was driving towards something and he was driven by what was ahead of him.

He called it: The Prize of the Upward Call of God in Christ Jesus.

And he kept that ahead of him - He knew what it WAS; and he said he has not attained it, but he will PRESS towards it!

*And to Press toward this thing he called the "Upward Call" of Christ, he had to put everything behind him."

He had to put Success behind him; he had to put Great Spiritual experience behind him; his Great Vision behind him; great Accomplishments behind him; Persecutions behind him; Hunger behind him, Distress behind him; Nakedness behind him.

In other words, for Paul, Success and Failure made no difference to him - They were ALL BEHIND HIM.

There are People who are so swollen headed that they can't enter the door God has opened for them.

Their head is too 'big' by some Success they choked!

So Paul calls it a 'Goal'. And he said: I have not attained it and I am going to get it.

... And nothing could stop Paul from getting it.

He couldn't be discouraged, Prophecy didn't stop him.

In fact, there were Prophets who came, told him he was going to suffer Pursuing that and he said: I will still go!

In Prison, he Pursued it, out of Prison, he Pursued it. On the ship, he Pursued it - Until, in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV). This is what he said:

7 I have fought the Good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the Crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

How did he know he has finished the race?

How can you know the race you have finished, if you don't know the Finishing Line?

So when Paul set out, he knew what he wanted to achieve. He knew where God wanted him to get to. And when he got it, he said: Now, I have crossed the Finishing Line, if God takes me, I am ready!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO?

... For Paul, it was what he called the "Upward Call" of God.

He had a lot of PUSH Factors. And the greatest thing that was a Push Factor for Paul; Motivating him; driving him, from his Past that he didn't like was what he did as a Persecutor of the Church; especially in the Martyrdom of Stephen.

And it always drove him!

It made him feel that he was insufficient, he was unworthy.

Just really disturbed him that at one time in his life, he Persecuted the Church and Participated in the killing of Stephen.

... And that was his PUSH Factor!

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But what was PULLING him ahead was not what he did to Stephen; it was the "Upward Call".

You have to have something driving you from behind, or something Pulling you from ahead.

And Paul calls it: The "Upward Call" of God in Christ Jesus!

... And he was kept PRESSING ON!

We have to Press on through Success; which is very difficult to Press on because Success is a Place we all want to settle at!

You get to a Place where everything is cool, you just wish: Oh, I wish life would end - This is my final Place.

But you have to move on. You have to keep moving on. You have to Press on and Press on because beyond your Success, there is something more.

Beyond your achievements, there is something more; beyond your imprisonment there is something more; beyond your Pain, there is something more. Beyond your nakedness there is something more

... And Paul says: I Press on!

Somebody say: I AM GOING TO PRESS ON!

So, Lot tells us: 'Don't look back' - We don't look back when we are following our dream.

Elisha tells us: 'Don't be discouraged!'

Paul tells us: Keep Pressing through.

4. And the Fourth (4th) and final example - What better example than the LORD JESUS CHRIST Himself?

... He did it all, with Joy.

That is how he have to do it all; in running after something - We don't do with with bitterness and anger. We do it all, with Joy.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV);

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a Cloud of Witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 LOOKING UNTO JESUS, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, who for the Joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the Right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus Christ shows us that what we are running after should give us Joy - Even if it is accompanied by Pain; the end results should be something that brings us great Joy.

It is like a mother going through labour to have a child - It is Painful, but she is waiting for the first (1st) cry of her Baby.

And when she hears the first (1st) cry, the Pain is no longer the most important thing - The Child is important!

For the Joy that was set ahead of Him, Jesus Christ endured the Cross, and He despised the shame.

Sometimes, life can be very bitter. Life has a way of surprising everybody and throwing bitterness our way, Pain and sorrows all our lives!

But there must be something in your life you are looking for, that brings great Joy.

And for Jesus Christ, the Bible says: For the JOY that was set ahead of Him, He ENDURED the cross.

Endured means He allowed it.

And He is now seated at the Right Hand of the Father.

That was the Joy that was set before Him: The Redemption of Mankind. Deliverance of Souls from the hands of the devil.

... And He did it with Joy.

The Cross is not the Joy, Trial by Persecution is not a Joy, being whipped is not a Joy, having a Crown of Thorns on your head is not a Joyful Thing - That is Painful.

But all of those Pains must be compensated by a Joy that you are looking forward to.

SO WHAT IS THAT JOY YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO?

Ultimately for us Christians, the Joy is being with the Lord Jesus Christ - Living for Him on Earth and living for Him in Eternity.

That is our Greatest Joy.

But aside from that, there are also things on Earth that gives us Joy:

I. The Joy of seeing your children doing well.

II. The Joy of seeing your life becoming a Blessing to People.

III. The Joy of doing something with your life that the world is blessed by.

So, People go out there and say: But for so and so, I would not have done this. But for so and so, I would not have achieved that!

IV. The Joy of standing behind and watching God use your life to be a Blessing.

That Joy allows the Pain to be Tolerable.

And today I Pray that: No matter what you are going through, the Joy of the Lord will keep you running - Amen.

... So, what have we learned today?

1. Like Lot, we will not Look Back!

And I Pray you will not look back - Amen.

Even if the Person close to you looks back - You can go to your old neighborhood or old classmates, and see Good friends who looked back;

Went back to a lifestyle that you and them were running away from. And they got frozen. And you see what God has done. When you and see them, don't look back!

2. Like Elisha, we must refuse to be discouraged.

Even if the People are our Superiors, they must not discourage us.

3. Like Paul, we keep Pressing on, even when we seems to be the most successful People - We still keep Pressing on.

4. And like our Lord Jesus Christ, Himself; We do it all with Joy.

Before we close I just want to give everybody including those ones reading now on the Label of DMC: If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Personal Saviour, we just want to Pray.

Because the Greatest Joy in life that you must Pursue is to have JESUS CHRIST as your Lord and Personal Saviour.

And if you are here or reading now on the Label of DMC, and you don't know Christ Jesus as your Lord and Personal Saviour, I am going to lead you in Prayer.

And we are going to Pray that Prayer. And you are going to invite Jesus into your heart!

... Bow down your head with me, everybody:

And if you truly want Jesus Christ to come into your heart, I am going to lead you in Prayer.

But I want you to say this Prayer with sincerity in your heart.

And everybody join me in this Prayer. Say with me:

Heavenly Father, I come to You today, just as I am. I am a sinner. I cannot save myself. Today, I ask You to save me.

Wash me and cleanse me. My whole life is to Please You, to Honour You, to Serve You and to be with You forever.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN AND AMEN!

GOD BLESS YOU!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



27TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: THE BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT



TEXT: MATTHEW 26:27-28, MARK 14:24 AND LUKE 22:20

Amen and Amen. Hallelujah!

Let's rise up together and let us make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this year of Excellence.

Wherever you are, join us in this Declaration of Excellence; as we reaffirm that 2020 whether it likes it or NOT, is the Year of Excellence. Amen!

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

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Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and AMEN!

Today I am speaking briefly on: THE BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT.

Anytime we Partake of Communion, we are reminded of the Body of Christ that was broken for us as well as His Blood that was shed for us.

And Jesus told us to do this, IN REMEMBRANCE of Him.

Anytime we are doing this, we are bringing Him into FOCUS in our lives.

And not only Mentally remembering Him, but also Spiritually, making Him real in our lives.

And that is why we believed that anytime we Partake of Communion, the Power of God is Present to Save, to Heal and to Deliver.

And whatever your Problem is: Jesus is the answer, and He will give you the Solution today - Amen!

I am going to read three (3) Passages from the Gospels - from Matthew, from Mark and from Luke - All speak about this same Event;

Matthew 26:27-28, Mark 14:24 and Luke 22:20

Matthew 26:27-28 (NKJV):

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

28 For this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Mark 14:24 (NKJV):

And He said to them, "This is My Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many.

Luke 22:20 (NKJV):

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in My Blood, which is shed for you.

And I read all those three (3) accounts, just to reaffirm the Statement that Jesus made - With little differences as the Writers put it.

But two (2) Statements are clear. And they are: My Blood and the New Covenant.

Matthew says: 'Shed for the remission of sins;'

- Mark says 'shed for many;'

- Luke says 'shed for you!'

It's clear: the Blood was shed for the remission of sins, for many, and for you!

It is for us individually, it is for all of us together - the Blood of Jesus was shed!

1. So, I want to just comment on the phrase: "MY BLOOD."

And that simply states that this is not the Blood of animals, but of Christ.

And the reason why Jesus said: This is My Blood, and not just the blood, is because what He was doing was remembering something that had happened in the Past.

In the Old Testament, when the first (1st) Passover was instituted, there was blood.

But it was the blood of animals; of sheep, of goat!

And when it was applied, yes, it brought redemption; but it was the blood of animals.

Jesus says: What you are about to enter into is not going to be mediated by an animal; it is going to be My Blood (The Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ)!

2. The second (2nd) Phrase I want you to note is: "NEW COVENANT".

... God's New way of relating to us!

Whenever there is New Covenant, it Presupposes there is an OLD Covenant.

The Old Covenant is Passing away, the New Covenant s coming.

Now, anytime we read about the Institution of the Lord's Table, in the Gospels, we note that it happened during the time of the Passover.

But when Jesus is serving this, He said 'This is the NEW COVENANT'.

The Old Covenant did not take Place at Passover; the Old Covenant took Place on Mount Sinai.

So, the Lord's Table signifies two (2) things: The Passover from Egypt, and then the Covenant that was Signed between God and the People of Israel.

Now, He is saying that - In the Old Covenant, blood was used - Yes! It was the blood of bulls. But in this New Covenant, it is the Blood of Jesus Christ.

So, anytime we come to Partake of the Lord's Table; not only are we experiencing a Passover, we are also reenacting a Covenant - God is bringing us into a Covenant.

For so many People (and maybe for all of us) Blood stands for violence! - So, when we say 'don't shed blood'; it means 'don't be violent'.

So, how come for us Christians, blood doesn't means violence to us - It means life?

It is the quality of the Blood that was shed for us, that changed the blood from violence to Salvation.

And this is what 1 Peter 1:18-19 says:

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 But with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

The Blood of Jesus is what SECURES our Redemption.

And in this Passage, there are two (2) important things said about our Redemption:

1. First (1st) thing is that, it is INCORRUPTIBLE.

That word 'Incorruptible' means it never diminishes in Power.

It never changes in Power; it does not diminish in effectiveness; it is pure, it is uncontaminated, and what it did when Christ first offers it, it still does today when we Partake of the Lord's Table.

It was the Gospel Singer (Andrea Crush) who SANG:

The Blood that Jesus shed for me way back on Calvary,
That Blood gives me Strength,
It will never lose its Power;
It reaches to the lowest Valley,
It climbs to the highest Mountain.

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I don't know how low you are today, I don't know where the lowest Valley is but the Blood of Jesus comes to you wherever you are!

And no matter how high, the Blood of Jesus comes to you.

... That Blood NEVER loses its Power!

It is INCORRUPTIBLE; it does not change in Quality, it does not change in Power, it does not change in effectiveness.

So, whenever we Partake of the Lord's Table, it is this Incorruptible Blood that we are Partaking of - It is a Blood that never loses its Power!

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If it worked on the Last Supper, it works now! If it worked on Calvary, it works now! - Because it is Incorruptible.

2. The second (2nd) thing that Peter states about the Blood of Jesus (in verse 19) is that - IT IS PRECIOUS.

Not only is it incorruptible; the Blood of Jesus is PRECIOUS.

That means, it has the highest VALUE. It is more PRECIOUS than Silver and Gold. It is more PRECIOUS than all the wealth in the Universe.

And it is Precious because of Who shed it.

It represents the LIFE OF CHRIST - the Blood of the Son of God that was shed for us - His Precious Blood.

You can always tell the value of a thing by how much you Paid for it.

I don't know about you, but some times when you go shopping; you go to a shop and you pick something, maybe a pair of shoes. You like the leather (you smell the leather) it's nice. You like it, you like the colour.

But you turn the sole of the shoe to your face, and there is a small white Paper there.

And on that white Paper is written an amount - it's the Price of the shoe!

And many times you look the shoe, you like it on top.

But when you look at the bottom; you see the Price - You look to the left and to the right; and you quietly drop the shoe and move on.

... Because the Price is beyond what you can PAY!

But that Price is not put there arbitrary; that price is telling you that the cost of this leather, the workmanship, the effectiveness, the Brand Equity - All of that gives it this Value.

And if you pay that amount, then you have the shoe!

So, what you Pay, determines the Value that has been put on the object.

So, for God to purchase us - He had Silver, He could have used Silver. And that could be expensive; You are a Silver bought Child of God!' But He did not use Silver!

He had Gold - I mean you could have been a Golden Child of God. But He didn't use Gold!

He had the blood of bulls. Yet He didn't use bulls - Then you would have been a Bull Child of God!

He had Angels (I don't know whether the Angels have blood or not). But He didn't use their blood.

He used His Own BLOOD; the Blood of the Son of God.

And God is saying: That is the PRICE I PUT ON YOU! That is how much VALUABLE you are!

And the Bible calls it: The PRECIOUS Blood of Jesus!

If the PRECIOUS Blood of Jesus was used to Purchase me, then I am also a PRECIOUS CHILD OF GOD.

The same VALUE of the Blood, Passes on to ME!

And if Christ shed His Blood for you, WHAT ELSE WILL GOD NOT DO FOR YOU?

... He shed His PRECIOUS BLOOD for us!

You don't Value yourself based on whether you are a man or a woman. You don't value yourself based on who your father was or who your mother was. You don't value yourself based on your Academical Education and Qualifications;

Maybe you have School Cert (Certificate) and that is all you have. Or you have OND (Ordinary National Diploma) Certificate and that is all you have. Or you have a Bachelor's, a Master's or a PhD - Nice Degrees!

But the Value God puts on you is not a PhD, it is not a Master's Degree, it is not a Bachelor's Degree. It is not your father's name.

The value He puts on you is the BLOOD OF THE SON OF GOD!

And that is how much God Values you -DON'T sell yourself CHEAP because God Paid a HIGH PRICE for you! And He thinks you are WORTH IT.

The PRECIOUS Blood of Jesus was shed for us. And He reaches to the lowest Valley and goes to the highest Mountain.

That means if God finds somebody in the gutter - A drunkard in the gutter; no hope in life, despised by all People.

But when the Blood of Jesus goes down to that gutter and touches that drunkard, instantly that Person is Precious in the sight of God.

Because the Precious Blood of Jesus reaches to the Lowest Person and to the Highest Person.

May the Blood of Jesus reach you wherever you are, touch you in your Valley; Minister life to you in your Valley, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

The Blood of Jesus is Powerful, and does many things for us - According to Romans 5:9:

"Much more then, having now been Justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

1 The Blood of Jesus JUSTIFIES us before God!

Because of the Blood of Jesus, we have Passed from wrath into Peace of God.

Justified means to be Judge RIGHT; to be Presented RIGHT before God

The Blood of Jesus Present us RIGHT before God - Justifies us before God.

... Not only that;

2. The Blood of Jesus grant us ACCESS before God .

Hebrew 10:19-20; "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus, by a New and Living Way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,"

The Blood of Jesus is our PASSWORD to the Presence of God.

... And not only that;

3. The Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ gives us VICTORY over Satan.

Revelation 12:10-11 say: "Then I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, "Now Salvation, and Strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the Power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our Brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their Testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death".

The Blood of Jesus gives us Victory over Satan's Power.

This morning and as you read this Message now even on the Label of DMC:

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I. Every Satanic Power that comes against you, is Broken - Amen!*

II. Every ACCUSATION that comes against you is Broken - Amen!

III. Every WRATH that has risen against you is Broken - Amen!

Because the Blood of Jesus JUSTIFIES us before God.

The Blood of Jesus grants us ACCESS before God.

The Blood of Jesus give us VICTORY over Satan and ALL his activities.

4. And the Blood of Jesus SPEAKS BETTER THINGS for us.

Hebrews 12:22-24 says:

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of Angels, to the General Assembly and Church of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the Spirits of Just Men made Perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the Blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

The Blood of Jesus speaks better things for us!

Now, why does the Bible say that: "The Blood of Jesus speaks better things than that of Abel?"

Because after Cain had slain Abel, God came to Cain and says: 'Where is your brother?'

... And you know his answer!

And God says: The blood of your brother is crying out to me!

In other words, after Abel was killed by his brother, his blood (his LIFE) was looking for Justice.

And God says: I need to talk to you Cain, about it.

So, the blood of a man who is killed, seeks for vengeance! The blood of People who have been unfairly treated, seek for recompense.

Many times when we look into History, we see all kinds of Evil done.

And people will say - The blood of their ancestors are looking for Vengeance or for Justice or for Recompense!

But the Blood of Jesus doesn't look for Justice and Judgement, and Recompense;

The Blood of Jesus looks for Mercy and Forgiveness and Blessing and Increase.

So, when the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed, Judgement did not come into the world. REDEMPTION came into the world and it is a better thing!

When the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed, God didn't go out looking for those who crucified Him - to Punish them; He went looking for those who crucified Him, to SAVE them, to deliver them, to give them Life.

And that is why the Scriptures says: "The Blood of Jesus speaks BETTER THINGS than the blood of Abel".

And that is why sometimes I get rather fascinated when People use the Blood of Jesus AGAINST the enemy.

In a particular Prayer Expression - 'The Blood of Jesus is smeared on your face'.

... And we think that is a Punishment!

But when the Blood of Jesus smeared on somebody: There is Peace, there is a Passover! There is Protection.

So, when you are telling your enemy: 'I smear the Blood of Jesus on your face'; you are saying - God Protect him.

Basically, that is what you are saying!

Remember, on the day of the Passover; wherever the Blood was, God said: I will PASS OVER!

The Blood of Jesus does not destroy our enemy - The Blood of Jesus speaks BETTER THINGS than the blood of Abel.

And it is a Good Thing that you tell your enemies that: The Blood of Jesus be on them because it means that you are Protecting them.

And it is Scriptural because the Bible says: We should Pray for our enemies.

But I know that your intention was not that they do well; your intention was that the Blood would do them bad!

I have heard People Pray, and they would say: 'I inject you be the Blood of Jesus (laughing)!'

Well, if you inject somebody by the Blood of Jesus; you are giving them LIFE, you are giving them HEALTH, you are giving them PROSPERITY, you are giving them ABUNDANCE.

Why? - Because the Blood of Jesus is not like the blood of Abel which seeks for vengeance and recompense.

... The Blood of Jesus speaks BETTER THINGS - It speaks Life!

And may the Blood of Jesus be UPON YOU - Amen!

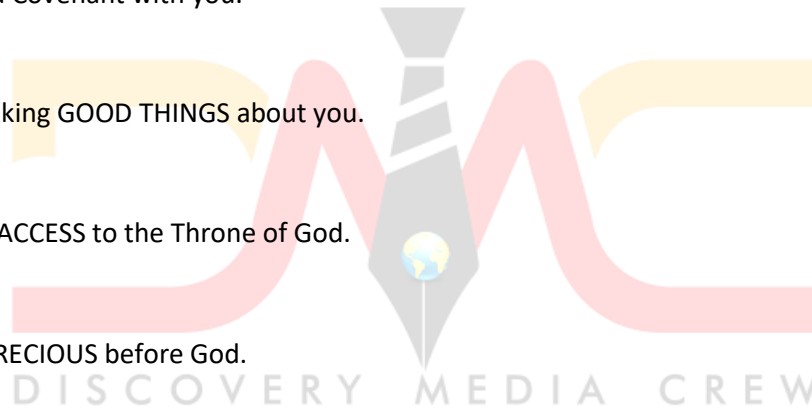
May the Blood of Jesus be upon your FACE - Amen.

It is a sign that you are Blessed, that you are Protected, that God's Life is upon you.

Because the Blood of Jesus speaks BETTER THINGS!

So, when you Partake of the Holy Communion, remember all of these:

1. That God is in a Covenant with you.
2. That He is speaking GOOD THINGS about you.
3. That you have ACCESS to the Throne of God.
4. That you are PRECIOUS before God.



5. That the Blood is reaching you wherever you are.

And there are People reading this Message on the Label of DMC, who are sick; there are those who are tired - But the Blood of Jesus will reach you wherever you are - Amen!

If you have been assigned unto destruction; May the Blood of Jesus come upon you, deliver you from every Assignments of the wicked one - Amen.

Jesus said: "THIS IS MY BLOOD."

But He didn't just say: This is my Blood; He said: this is My Blood IN THE NEW COVENANT.

And let me speak briefly about the New Covenant that this Blood brought us into.

Hebrews 8:6 says:

"But now He has obtained a more Excellent Ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a BETTER Covenant, which was established on BETTER Promises.

... A Better Covenant!

Why is the New Covenant BETTER than the Old?

1. It was the BLOOD of Jesus that was used.

In the Old Covenant, the blood of BULLS was used.

In the New Covenant, the Blood of CHRIST is used.

Of course, the Blood of Christ is FAR SUPERIOR to the blood of BULLS.

So it makes the the Covenant a BETTER ONE - a Better Covenant!

2. It is established on BETTER PROMISES

What does the Passage mean by "BETTER PROMISES?"

It does not mean that God is making better Promises to us;

It is the Promise of the Promised Son.

When the Old Covenant was made on Mount Sinai, the children of Israel made a Promise to God.

God said, 'Thou shall not (repeatedly)!'!

And they made a Promise, they said: ALL that the Lord has said, WE WILL DO.

.... That is the Promise.

And on that Promise that 'they will DO!' God says: I am establishing a Covenant with you, because you have Promised that you will DO whatever I say.

... And you and I know, they did not do it.

So, it was a Promise that was not reliable.

But in the New Covenant, there is a Promise. And that Promise was not made by us because if we made that Promise and God depended on our Promise; then it will be like the Promise of the Israelites on Mount Sinai.

But this Promise was made by Somebody else who said: Father, not my Will, but Your WILL be done!

*And on the Promise is Submission; the Faithfulness of Christ, the Commitment of His Promise;

God says - I will make Covenant with Your Followers.

So, when God looks at us, He does not look at our Faithfulness, our Promise. He looks at the Faithfulness and the Promise of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And that is why the Bible says: "A New Covenant is established upon a Better Promise!

The One Who made the Promise is more RELIABLE.

And so, whilst we are FAITHLESS, He remains FAITHFUL. When we are Weak, He is STRONG. When we cannot, He is ABLE. When we are down, He is our LIFTER.

Because the Promise is not base on us, it is based on Jesus Christ!

And because it is based on the Lord Jesus Christ, God will Heal you - Amen!

Based on the Lord Jesus Christ, God will Prosper you - Amen!

Based on the Lord Jesus Christ, God will Save you - Amen!

Based on the Lord Jesus Christ, God is e Lifter up of your head - Amen!

If God was to depend on you, there is nothing Good you can expect from Him!

But Thank God, He does not depend on you, He **DEPENDS ON JESUS!** - A Better Covenant; Better Promise.

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And because it is better Covenant and a Better Promise, the Bible says: It offers us a **MORE** Excellent Ministry.

A Ministry - God's Power that is more Glorious and more Beautiful.

And as you partake of the Holy Communion, may everything in the Blood of Jesus Christ minister LIFE to us - Amen.

May every chain be broken - Amen!

May every sins be Forgiven - Amen!

May the wrath of God depart from us - Amēñ!

May every Satanic agenda be destroyed - Amen!

May God cause you to Rise Up - Amen!

May the Blood of Jesus be like a mark on your head - Amen!

And may every destruction PASS OVER you - Amen!

May the Blood of Jesus give you a BETTER LIFE; DELIVERANCE and REDEMPTION o every sides - Amen!

Today, may the Healing Power of Christ reach you wherever you are now or as you read on the Label of DMC - Amen!

May the Lord cause you to be LIFTED UP to be the Head and not the Tail; in the Name if Jesus - AMEN!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

4TH OCTOBER, 2020 - TOPIC: FAITH TO BECOME - PART 1



TEXT: ROMANS 4:16-21

Well, let's keep standing, as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hand has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

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I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and AMEN!

And you may be seated in the Presence of God wherever you are joining us or reading on the Label of DMC.

Well, this morning, I am going to do a two (2) Part Message - I'll start this week, I will continue next week.

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And I have Titled it: FAITH TO BECOME.

Many times we associate Faith with Praying to RECEIVE answers from God.

So, when we talk about Faith - we are always thinking of RECEIVING something from God.

And it is true; Faith can be used in PRAYER to RECEIVE something from God.

But, Faith can also be used in another way: Not to receive something from God, but to BECOME SOMETHING.

And that is what I am going to focus on between this week and next week.

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And my Primary Text is from the Book of Romans 4:16-21

This Passage is making a reference to the life of Abraham. And it gives us some indications as to Abraham's Faith, and how it worked.

... And I want you to pay attention to the reading of God's Word.

Romans 4:16-21 (NKJV).

6 Therefore it is of Faith that it might be according to Grace, so that the Promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the Faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the Presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

18 Who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he BECAME the father of many Nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

19 And not being weak in Faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the Promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in Faith, giving Glory to God,

21 And being fully convinced that what He had Promised He was also able to Perform.

Abraham did not simply Pray to RECEIVE something from God; he Prayed to BECOME SOMETHING for God.

So, the verse 18 said: He BELIEVED, so that he BECAME.'

... He didn't just believe to RECEIVE; he BELIEVED to BECOME!

And that is a very interesting observation:

That we can have FAITH to RECEIVE something from God. But we can also have FAITH to BECOME SOMETHING for God.

The word 'BECOME' is from a root word that means "BE MADE." - To BE MADE or to turn INTO SOMETHING.

... To BE MADE or to turn INTO!

So, when we say that somebody has FAITH to BECOME; it means they have FAITH to be TURNED INTO something else.

Or FAITH to BE MADE into something else.

Abraham used His FAITH to be MADE into another Person - He was TURNED from one (1) state to the other.

And there is a BIG DIFFERENCE between using your Faith to RECEIVE something from; and using your Faith to BECOME SOMETHING.

There is a difference between using your Faith to receive Forgiveness of sins; and using your Faith to BECOME the Righteousness of God.

... Two (2) different things!

There is a difference between using your Faith to receive HEALING from sickness; and using your Faith to BECOME Healthy.

Many times when People are using their Faith, they are using their Faith for God to HEAL them from a sickness.

... That is RECEIVING something!

But we can also use the Faith to BECOME Healthy. That is, 'you DON'T get SICK.

... Two (2) different things!

There is a difference between using your Faith to PROSPER; and using your Faith to BECOME PROSPEROUS.

A Person who uses his Faith to Prosper, will Prosper ON and OFF; but the Person who BECOMES Prosperous, doesn't prosper ON and OFF - He is CONSTANTLY in a state of Prosperity.

Faith is not just about RECEIVING; but Faith is also about BECOMING!

... Somebody say: I WILL BECOME!

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So, when we use our Faith to receive, we receive something; but what I am talking about is, BECOMING SOMETHING.

So, when you look at ABRAHAM and his FAITH; your mind tells you - Abraham was believing God for a CHILD (Isaac).

But the Passage says: Abraham was not believing God for a CHILD; he was believing God to BECOME a FATHER OF MANY NATIONS.

... They are two (2) different things!

If you are believing God for ISAAC; you only get Isaac! If you are believing God to BECOME A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS; you'll get more than Isaac!

And today I want you to know: God just doesn't want to GIVE YOU something; He wants you to BECOME somebody.

... Somebody say - I WILL BECOME!

So, Abraham's eyes were not only on RECEIVING a son; he wanted to BECOME a father!

No wonder, if you read the story of Abraham - after Sarah died (in Genesis 25); Abraham married again!

At this time he would be about one hundred and twenty five (125) years; and he had SIX (6) SONS extra!

Why? - Because his eyes were not on receiving one (1) son, his eyes were on BECOMING a father of many Nations.

In all, he believed God; and his FAITH MADE him BECOME!

... Somebody say: I WILL BECOME!

So, each one of us has a Prayer Point. And I don't know what your Prayer is.

Maybe you are Praying that God will Heal you, because you are sick!

Maybe you are believing that God would Prosper you, because you are Broke!

Maybe you are believing that God would give you a husband or a wife, because you are Single!

But for a moment I want you to think about this:

That the God who can GIVE you, can also make you BECOME!

- He doesn't just want to give you Health, He wants to make you HEALTHY.

- He doesn't just want to just give you Money, He wants you to be PROSPEROUS.

- He doesn't just want to give you a Breakthrough, He wants you to be MIGHTY.

... He wants you to BECOME!

Somebody say: I WILL BECOME!

So let's look at THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM (a bit close):

1. First (1st), look at who Abraham was at the time that God appeared to him and spoke to him.

This is who Abraham was, this is what life had made him. This is what his experiences had made him.

And each one (1) of us has something that life has made us because life can be very brutal, you know!

Life can be very, very, very Brutal and it can make you become something that you don't want to be!

In Abraham's case: Life had made him Old!

... That's the first (1st) thing - he was OLD.

Time was against him! It seemed as if the window of opportunity for life had been shut on him.

It's a scary thing, to wake up one (1) day and just realize that time is against you.

Just to realize that time has Passed you by, and you don't have time!

Especially when you think: Oh, I can do something. And you say, when I am forty (40) years! - By Forty (40) I would have done this.

And then you look back - you are seventy (70)!

... Forty (40) has gone - thirty (30) years ago.

And what you wanted to do at Forty (40) you haven't done at Seventy (70)!

At that time, you say time is against you!

That was Abraham's case - he was OLD; Time was against him!

2. The Second (2nd) Thing the Passage says is that: Abraham's BODY was "DEAD".

... His body was "DEAD!"

That means although he was Physically alive; he was not Energetic.

He didn't have the same Strength, he didn't have the same Vigour, he didn't have the same Energy.

Not the same body he had when he was Younger and he had NO CHILD - He had not fathered a child!

... And so this is what life had made him.

And I don't know what life had also made you - If you are listening to me or reading now on the Label of DMC - Maybe you also feel your own time has run out for you.

Probably when you were twenty three (23) years old you were so very hopeful of life! And now you are looking at yourself and you are sixty seven (67) years!

And you are wondering: TIME has Passed me by and I didn't even noticed it.

I was talking to somebody who was eighty (80) years old and I said: How do you feel at eighty (80)?

He said: Pastor you know, one day you are Young, and then the next you are eighty (80)! - It is almost as if you didn't notice it, and Time catches up.

So, Abraham is in this situation where all of sudden he realizes - I AM OLD!

... Maybe you feel that way!

Maybe for some of you, life has made you BITTER - You are angry with yourself, you are angry with People you feel have maltreated you.

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You feel WEAK like Abraham; you feel DEAD, you feel not ENERGETIC, UNINSPIRED. And nothing is coming out of you - Life is almost becoming a regret.

Or, you feel insecure - You are so scared about the future; Or you feel sick or sad; or a failure or poor.

Life has a way of DAMAGING all of us - It hits us, time goes against us, things don't work out well.

... This was where Abraham was!

In the midst of what life has made Abraham, God comes to Abraham, and God gives him a PROMISE!

And the Promise that God gave him was: I have made YOU a FATHER of many Nations.

God didn't say: ABRAHAM, I am going to give you a son.

... That is not what He said!

We think that is what He said. We think God said 'I WILL GIVE YOU A SON.'

God didn't say that!

God said: I have MADE YOU a Father of many Nations.

God said 'MADE'.

In the Original Language, the word 'MADE' means: To SET IN PLACE; or to ARRANGE for something to happen.

So, you are OLD, Time is AGAINST you, NOTHING is working for you; but I have SET THINGS in motion for you to BECOME a FATHER of many Nations.

I don't know about you: But I believed that God has MADE YOU; He has set things in MOTION; He has put PLANS IN PLACE for you to BECOME SOMEBODY.

Somebody say: I WILL BECOME!

So in essence, what God is saying to Abraham is: I have put in Place all that is REQUIRED for you to BECOME a FATHER of many Nations.

He didn't say, I will DO IT simply for you; but, I have MADE YOU! I have SET IT in Place; I have put EVERYTHING required in Place, for you.

So Abraham is going to PLAY A ROLE;

Now, if you read the original Promise that Romans Chapter 4 is quoting; read it in Genesis 17:4-6.

I want you to listen carefully to what God said in the three (3) verses.

And God said something DIFFERENT in each Verse;

4 "As for Me, behold, My Covenant is with you, and YOU SHALL BE a father of many Nations.

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I HAVE MADE YOU a father of many Nations.

6 I will MAKE YOU exceedingly fruitful; and I will MAKE NATIONS of you, and Kings shall come from you.

I want you to note the sequence of the Message he (Abraham) is receiving:

Verse 4: 'YOU SHALL BE, - is Future Tense.

"YOU SHALL BE a father of many Nations."

... This is God's Plans!

He said: Abraham, this is what you will be - "YOU SHALL BE a Father of many Nations."

God wants you to BECOME!

God wanted Abraham to be SOMEBODY, to be SOMETHING.

Somebody say: I WILL BE!

Verse 5 says: I HAVE MADE YOU - Past Tense!

I HAVE MADE YOU - is Past!

In other words: You WILL BE because I have MADE YOU.

Your Destiny is in the Future, but my Assignment has already occurred in the PAST.

I HAVE MADE YOU the Father of many Nations; and you SHALL BE in the future.

Verse 6: 'I WILL MAKE YOU' - It's a Continuous Tense.

So, the three (3) Tenses that Abraham is believing him:

First (1st) - God said: I have MADE YOU - Past. So you WILL BE in your future.

And from now till your future, I WILL MAKE YOU.

- So, there is a PROCESS God is going to take you through:

- There is something He has ESTABLISHED in the PAST;

- And there is something you are going to BE in the FUTURE.

There is a FUTURE for you; it is SETTLED in the PAST; and God is taking you in the PROCESS.

... YOU SHALL BE!

Somebody say: I SHALL BE!

I don't know whether that is good English or not; but that is GOOD FAITH.

Say: I SHALL BE; because I HAVE BEEN MADE.

That is what God says; "I have MADE YOU, so you SHALL BE, and I will MAKE you EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

How are you going to be a Father of many Nations?

I will make you Exceedingly Fruitful.

So there is a PROCESS of Exceedingly Fruitful that is going to end up in Abraham BECOMING the Father of many Nations but it is all based on the fact that 'GOD HAD ALREADY MADE HIM.'

... I have MADE YOU the Father of many Nations!

God doesn't just want to give you trickles of Blessing; He wants to MAKE YOU a BLESSING.

He doesn't just want you to receive a Blessing; He wants to MAKE YOU BLESSED.

He doesn't just want to Promote you; He wants to MAKE YOU the HEAD.

He doesn't just want to give you Healing; He wants to MAKE YOU HEALTHY.

I have MADE YOU! And because of that, YOU SHALL BE - Amen!

Now, Abraham has two (2) things he has to deal with:

SCENARIO NO. 1: What LIFE has MADE HIM - he is OLD.

TIME is against him, his body is 'DEAD'; He has no NO CHILD.

... That is scenario No. 1.

SCENARIO NO. 2: I have MADE YOU, and you SHALL BE. And I will continuously MAKE YOU Fruitful.

Abraham had two (2) Options:

Either to say: Hmmm! I like what you are saying oooo; but look at me - I still have no child, I am already OLD, I am going nowhere!

... But that is not what he did!

Between the two (2) options, he chose one (1).

So let us look at whom Abraham believed - Either he believed himself or he believed God.

At every point, you have to choose whom to believe - You either believe what Life has MADE YOU, or what GOD has MADE you.

And the Passage says: And Abraham BELIEVED God! He fixed his Faith on God: As the One Who REVIVES the Dead (He gives life to the dead);

And He calls the things which do not exist as though they exist; He brings nonexistent things into Existence.

... He (Abraham) BELIEVED GOD.

There is something God has MADE in you, that you must BECOME.

May be your mind is fixed - Oh God give me this, Oh God give me that!

And you are looking at the items; When God is looking at PERSON HOOD - your Personality. He wants to MAKE YOU something!

When God MAKES YOU the HEAD, nobody can bring you down.

When God MAKES YOU the PROSPEROUS, Poverty will be afraid of you.

When God MAKES YOU the HEALTHY, sickness runs away from you!

But if all you are doing is believing God for one (1) ITEM at a time; one (1) Child at a time; it is going to take you a long time in your journey.

But when you believe God to be a FATHER; then you having children becomes normal.

That is what God is saying to Abraham: 'I don't want you to just believe for one (1) ITEM at time; I want you to Believe to BECOME SOMETHING.

So that out of what you have BECOME, you will Produce EVERYTHING that is needed at every Phase.

So Abraham believed God!

Let us look at what Abraham did?

The Bible says that "Contrary to Hope".

"Contrary to Hope" simply means, when there was no hope, he had HOPE.

When it was hopeless, he had HOPE. When it was hopeless, she had HOPE.

Can you say: 'When it was hopeless I has hope?'

In other words, when the case was Bad, Bad, Bad! Abraham decided - I still trust God! I will be a Father of many Nations.

I will BE! I don't have a child now, I WILL HAVE!

So, by some Method, he had the first (1st) one - Ishmael. Then he said: well, maybe I am the father of many nations now.

God said, No! That's not it - Sarah is going to Produce one (1).

He (Abraham) said: I taught Hagar is Young. It's an easy Miracle to believe.

God said: No, Sarah the Old Lady!

When you are Old, a Miracle includes an Old Person.

... Contrary to hope, you must have HOPE.

So, Sarah has a child - But God didn't say 'I will give you two (2) children; He said: I will MAKE YOU a Father of MANY NATIONS.

Two (2) children are not going to make NATIONS!

So Sarah dies; then Abraham said, well, I am still a Father of many Nations. He went to marry again (Keturah).

... I am sure she was a Younger Person.

Six (6) sons! Abraham what happened? You couldn't even believe for one (1); now you are Producing six (6)!

WHY? Because he has BECOME!

When you BECOME, what you couldn't receive as an Individual, you are able to Produce in SEQUENCE.

May God cause you to BECOME - Not just to receive Prosperity, not just to receive Abundance, not just to receive Healing but to BECOME Healthy.

And Abraham BECAME the Father of many Nations; according to the Word of the Lord.

I don't know about you; I just feel to encourage somebody that God wants you to BECOME.

You must BECOME GREAT, you must BECOME MIGHTY, you must BECOME STRONG, you must BECOME BLESSED - Amen!

You should BECOME Ala Blessed Person so that BLESSING could follow you.

You must be the HEAD, you must be HIGHLY FAVOURED. You must be ABUNDANT; so that you can receive ABUNDANCE.

There is Faith, to receive one (1) thing from God and there is also Faith, to BECOME something for God.

And if you Trust God to make you BECOME, then it is very easy for you to RECEIVE.

So today I ask you: "WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BECOME?"

... NOT what you want God to do for you, but what you want to BECOME.

1. Do you want to be a BLESSING to your Generation?

2. Do you want to be Influential?

For Abraham, he BECAME the FATHER of many Nations - A Nation that came out of his children and his Children's children.

Ishmael's Descendants - Many Nations!

Isaac's Descendants - We know them (ISRAEL)!

And the Six (6) other Boys - they also became Nations - And for your information, most of them became African Nations!

For all know - You are one (1) of them because Keturah was a Black Woman and she produced those children - six (6) of them!

So for Abraham, you have a Nation from Ishmael, from Isaac and from Keturah. And in their children and their children's children.

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If you look at the sequence truly, he BECAME the FATHER of MANY NATIONS.

And not only Physical Nations, but Spiritual Nations as well.

Because the Bible says: "Those who are of Faith in Christ, they are the children of Abraham."

So, if you look at it; in every Nation of this world, there is a CHILD of Abraham in that Nation - In every Continent, on every Island, in every Place; there is a Descendant of Abraham.

... Either a Physical Descendant or a Spiritual Descendant.

And all because he moved from believing God for a THING; to believing God to BECOME.

And when he BECAME, then things started FLOWING out of him - Blessing flowed out of him, Abundance flowed out of him, Children flowed out of him. It touches children, it touches children's children, it touches generations after him because he has BECOME.

When you BECOME, nobody can change your status any longer. You BECOME that for the Glory of God!

So, I don't know what you want to BECOME. Maybe you want to BECOME:

- A Mother of many Nations;

- A Father of many Nations.

... Think about it as we go on.

ALTAR CALL

But as we are getting ready to Pray, there is something else you must BECOME.

A man came to Jesus Christ at Night (he is called Nicodemus). He started talking to Jesus. And said Jesus: You are a Great Man, you are a Great Teacher; Nobody can do the things that you do.

And Jesus said: Except a man BECOMES Born Again!

... Not just have your sins forgiven - It is Possible to have your sins forgiven, and NOT become Born Again.

"Except a man BECOMES Born Again; he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

So, this morning, some of you need to BECOME children of God. You need to BECOME Born Again!

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Not just have your sins forgiven; not just go to Church; not just love God; not just for God to love you but you must BE in actuality - A CHILD OF GOD.

So whilst we are Praying and talking to God, if you want to give your life to God and be Born Again; just talk to God and say: I want to BE Your Child. Not just forgiving my sins - I want to BE Your CHILD.

And we trust God that this morning, you will BECOME Born Again!

And if you are believing God for anything else, may the Lord cause you to BECOME, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

Let's say this PRAYER TOGETHER wherever you are you - Watching me, listening to me or reading now on the Label of DMC. Just say with me:

HEAVENLY FATHER, I THANK YOU THAT JESUS DIED FOR ME. HE IS THE SON OF GOD. AND I BELIEVE IN HIM, AS MY SAVIOUR, AS MY REDEEMER; TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD.

AND I BELIEVE IN CHRIST FOR SALVATION - TOTAL SALVATION. I BELIEVE IN CHRIST FOR HEALING AND FOR HEALTH. LET ME BE HEALTHY! LET ME PROSPER; LET ME BE PROSPEROUS! LET ME GO AHEAD AND LET ME BE THE HEAD!

I DECLARE TODAY: I AM BLESSED OF GOD. I AM FAVOURED OF GOD. I AM THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL. I AM THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE.

AND I RECEIVE TODAY - TO BE WHOM GOD SAYS I AM!

IN JESUS' NAME -AMEN!!!

If you truly believe that, why don't you give God some PRAISE wherever you are (reading on the Label of DMC).

And THANK God that you are Who He says you ARE. You haven't just received Salvation - YOU HAVE BECOME.

I am BLESSED, and Nobody can change it!

I am FAVOURED, and nobody can change it.

... They may hate you, they may fight you, they may criticize you; but when you are BLESSED, it is Irrevocable, it is Immutable, because it is your NATURE for BLESSING to flow out of you.

And you are one (1) of those People - You are BLESSED, and you can't help it but BLESSING will flow out of you!

In Jesus' Name -AMEN and AMEN and AMEN!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



11TH OCTOBER, 2020 - TOPIC: FAITH TO BECOME - PART 2



TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:12

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Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

And you may be seated in God's Presence wherever you are joining us or reading on the Label of DMC.

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I am doing Part Two (2) of my Message which I began last week: "FAITH TO BECOME (PART 2)".

... The Concluding Part of my Two (2) Parts Message.

Last week, we looked at Abraham. We looked at his journey of Faith and we established that:

Abraham exercised Faith - NOT just to receive a son, but to BECOME a Father of many Nations.

That God is not just interested in giving us things, He wants us to BECOME something!

And I trust that each one (1) of us would become:

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1. what God says WE ARE.

2. And we would become WHOM He says WE ARE.

3. And we would RISE to the place that He has APPOINTED for us!

DMC NOTES: You can get to read the Full Text of the Part 1 of the Series on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Faith-To-Become-Part-1-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

Today, we would look at a verse we have looked at a few times - Especially this year under our Theme of Excellence;

And it's in a Chapter of the New Testament - that sets out what I considered to be: 'The Mindset of the Apostle Paul.

Philippians 3:12 (NKJV). And this is what it says:

"Not that I have already attained, or am already Perfected; but I PRESS ON, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also LAID HOLD of me".

That one (1) verse captures very clearly, the Mindset of the Apostle Paul - It tells us how he views life, in relation to his Purpose here on Earth.

And we can sum up the statement of Paul or his Mindset, in two (2) Statements:

1. The first (1st) Statement is: "Christ has made me WHOM I should be.

And how do we come to that conclusion?

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Because he said; ... That for which Christ Jesus has also LAID HOLD of me.

What Paul is saying is that there is something - "Christ has MADE ME (something!)"

And the Picture here, that I want you to have in your mind, is that: Christ has TAKEN HOLD of you

Then He says - This is what I have MADE YOU.

And that is what Paul is saying; Christ has LAID HOLD of me.

That Phrase 'LAID HOLD' could also be interpreted as 'ARRESTED me'. He has 'CAUGHT me and MADE ME something.

... Christ has LAID HOLD of me!

So, what Paul is saying is: Christ has made me WHOM I should be!

2. The second (2nd) Statement is that: "I must BECOME whom Christ has MADE ME."

... Christ has MADE ME something, I MUST BECOME that!

So, Paul said: I Press on, that I may LAY HOLD of it! He has LAID HOLD of me, and I must LAY HOLD of what He has laid hold of!

So, his determination in life, his push in life was not to GET something, but to BECOME the Person that God says, he is!

... And that should be our endeavour - We must know what we have been MADE; and we must BECOME what we have been made!

God is not just interested in GIVING us things;

... Yes, He GIVES us things!

But He wants us to BECOME something!

For Abraham, he had to BECOME the father of many Nations.

And for Paul, he says: I must BECOME what Christ has LAID HOLD of me.

So we see that Paul's Faith was like that of Abraham - BOTH of them, wanted to BECOME!

... THE FAITH TO BECOME.

When we have the Faith to BECOME, we can say that:

- 
1. If Christ has LAID HOLD, I must become held
 2. If Christ has made me Triumphant, I must become Triumphant.
 3. If Christ has made me a Sweet Aroma, I must become A Sweet Aroma.
 4. If Christ has made me More Than a Conqueror, I must become More Than a Conqueror.

That is what Paul is saying - Whatever He has LAID HOLD of me, is what I WANT TO BE.

... It is the FAITH to BECOME!

And in God's Mind, there is something He has made YOU; and you MUST become that!

You must PUSH, you must PRESS ON, you must FOCUS, you must WORK HARD to BECOME whom you have been MADE to become!

Because what we BECOME, determines what we do.

- What I BECOME, determines what I DO;

- WHOM I am, determines how I ACT;

- Who I AM, determines what I HAVE.

Now with that in mind - Having established that foundation; I want to take us to a Statement in the Psalms that Jesus Christ referred to, and the Apostle referred to a couple of times - And it is Psalms 118 (It is Part of what is known as the HALEY PSALMS).

The Haley Psalms were Psalms of Praise, and it starts from Psalms 113 to 118 - And Psalms 118 is the end of the Haley Psalms.

And when you read the Psalms, normally, you will get to know whom God used to write - whether it is David or somebody else.

But this Psalms 118 does not declare who wrote it - Some believed that it was written by David;

And I tend to believe that it was written by David; because the language is very 'Davidic.'

And some believed David wrote this Psalms when he was ascending the throne as King!

And others think this Psalms was written when Judah had returned from exile.

But whether it was David, or it was written later; the truth is: The Holy Spirit INSPIRED it and it has relevance to us!

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And the whole of Psalms 118 is important. But I am just going to focus on Verses 21 to 23;

But before I read these verses (21 to 23); I am just going to pick selected Verses of Psalms 118 to give us a Picture, so that Verses 21-23 can make sense to us.

So I will be reading randomly, certain Verses of Psalms 118 - Just listen to it.

Psalms 118;

5 I called on the Lord in distress; The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

8 It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man.

10 All Nations surrounded me,
But in the Name of the Lord I will destroy them.

13 You pushed me violently, that I might fall, But the Lord helped me.

14 The Lord is my Strength and song, And He has become my salvation.

Now with that in mind, I read to you where I am focusing - Psalms 118: 21-23

21. I will Praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my Salvation.

22. The stone which the builders rejected Has BECOME the Chief cornerstone.

23. This was the Lord's doing; it is Marvelous in our eyes.

... I will read the verse 22 again:

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"The STONE which the BUILDERS REJECTED Has BECOME the CHIEF Cornerstone."

Now, if you read Psalms 118 a bit closely (from verse 10-12) he speaks about being surrounded on every side.

And then in verse 13, he says: "You PUSHED me violently.

So, I want you to get the impression very clearly - the Psalmist say; "I have been surrounded on every side."

And then the next verse he says "You PUSHED me violently.

So it is obvious, the People who had surrounded him, are the ones who PUSHED him violently;

... That he might fall.

And then in verse 22 he says: "The STONE which the BUILDERS REJECTED Has BECOME the CHIEF Cornerstone."

So, when he talks about the REJECTION (in the context of this Psalms) is not the CASUAL rejection; it is a rejection based on verse 13, - "You PUSHED me violently.

So the rejection is a VIOLENT rejection. It gives the impression of someone who has been VIOLENTLY rejected.

Now, What is a VIOLENT REJECTION?

A VIOLENT REJECTION is like when somebody puts something very nasty, slimy in your hand.

You know what to do? You just THROW it away

... That is the impression that he wants us to have!

The Stone which the Builders rejected, was not just put aside quietly; it was PUSHED aside VIOLENTLY.

So the Psalmist is saying that; I have been REJECTED; and I have been rejected VIOLENTLY.

I don't know about you: There are People who have been rejected; they have been rejected VIOLENTLY - But you are about to BECOME something!

And if we look closely at the Psalms, in the Verse 22 (Psalms 118:21).

I want you to take note of two (2) things:

1. The STONE.

... Somebody say - 'The Stone!'

The Stone represents an individual seeking to find his Place.

Because a stone cannot be a building; it must be JOINED to others to BECOME a Building.

But the Psalmist says: 'I am a Stone.' I am looking for my Place; I need to play a role, I need to become significant.

And there are many of us who feel like a Stone: We need to connect to something, we need to achieve something, we need to become something.

But then, the STONE is dealing with the BUILDERS.

The BUILDERS there refer to those who determine which STONE is SUITABLE - The BUILDERS are the ones who select the STONE.

They have the idea of what is right for a Purpose, and what is not right for a Purpose.

Their Opinion will either give you VALUE or DEVALUE you.

And the BUILDER determines where to Place a STONE.

I want you to get this: The Psalmist sees himself as the STONE.

And he says: 'That which I am is subject to a BUILDER.

And the BUILDER determines whether I have value or NOT; whether I FIT, or not!

The BUILDER can represent anything.

The BUILDER could be the Family System, could be the School System, could be the Workplace, could be a Political System.

The STONE is looking for RELEVANCE;

... But the Builder REJECTED him!

The STONE wants to be Part of a building; but the BUILDER rejected him!

*In other words:

1. The Person who has Power to determine your usefulness, threw you away!

2. The Person who has Power to determine whether you FIT or not; looked at you and said you don't fit.

... And violently throws you away.

Now, there are all kinds of Builders in life.

They are what I call

- The EXTERNAL Builders, and

- The INTERNAL Builders.

The EXTERNAL are those who are threatened by your Gifts.

Those who measure you wrongly, and those who are already determining that their Favourites should win.

And so they reject you because, they already FIX the Winner!

But sometimes, it is not just the External who is rejecting us; but we OURSELVES (The INTERNAL) can do things to reject ourselves.

- We don't give out BEST;

- We don't VALUE why we have;

- And some times we are NOT READY yet.

So if you look at the Passage, there are two kinds of Stones:

1. The first (1ST) one is what I am talking about - The REJECTED STONE.

... And that REJECTION comes from the BUILDER.

The STONE is REJECTED in a Building Process;

Not considered FIT to be used!

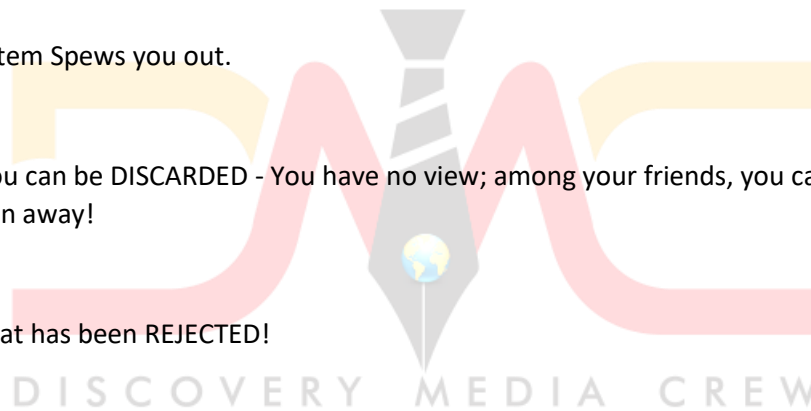
You know, life has a way of discarding People.

Some times you go to School, and the School System DISCARD you - You have no value.

... The School System Spews you out.

In your Family, you can be DISCARDED - You have no view; among your friends, you can be DISCARDED - VIOLENTLY thrown away!

It is the STONE that has been REJECTED!



And many of you are STONES that have been REJECTED.

... But that is not the only stone here;

There is also the ELEVATED STONE.

The ELEVATED STONE is the DOING of the Lord

Now, when you look at the Psalms; something very interesting is there. It says: "The stone which the Builders rejected

Has become the Chief CORNERSTONE."

The BUILDER who rejected the STONE cannot be the same Builder who makes the STONE a CORNERSTONE.

... Because the Rejector is not the Acceptor!

So the Rejector tells the STONE: You are not FIT and throws it away! - 'You cannot be Part of what I am building.'

Then you look back, and you see that this same STONE (that has been REJECTED) is now the CHIEF CORNERSTONE in the same BUILDING, where he was REJECTED.

So, somebody took what was rejected, brought it back; and without the Builder's Permission;

Position the Stone in a Place of advantage.

The STONE rejected by men, is now set as a CORNERSTONE.

The word 'CORNERSTONE' is in Hebrew. It can be interpreted in two (2) ways:

1. First (1st) it can be interpreted as a Foundation Stone (A Cornerstone).

... But that is not the only interpretation;

2. Sometimes it is translated as the 'CAPSTONE'.

That means afterall the Building has been put together;

It is the stone to be Put on the Building to showcase the Building.

So when you look at the Building, the first (1st) thing you see is the CAPSTONE.

... And I believed that is what the Text has in mind!

It is not a Foundation (that is hidden); but a CAPSTONE - that is OBVIOUS.

One moment, VIOLENTLY thrown away! The next moment PLACED in a Place of PROMINENCE.

And then the Psalmist says: "This is the DOING of the Lord, and it is MARVELLOUS in our sight."

Somebody who was rejected is about to BECOME.

You will BECOME the Capstone, the Advertisement, the Sign Board, the Measure of Success; because God TOOK you and PLACED you - Amen!

The STONE that the Builders REJECTED, will BECOME!

... Somebody say: I WILL BECOME!

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When God takes you - Where man had REJECTED you, or man THREW you away; God will PLACE you - Amen!

*When you BECOME whom God says you ARE; He will PLACE you where He says you will be - Amen!

It is the FAITH to BECOME a CORNERSTONE.

And today, I just brought you a very simple word:

That God has APPOINTED you to be a CORNERSTONE.

... Somebody say: 'I WILL BECOME A CORNERSTONE!'

A CORNERSTONE is a stone that is set in PROMINENCE - On TOP of the Building.

For you to become that, we have to be like ABRAHAM: Considered not the words and the actions against you:

1. You will hear words of Rejection; People will dismiss you; but don't dismiss yourself.
2. Your School may dismiss you, you may Fail your examinations. You may find other People who get all the right Passes and you get all the right Failures;

But you must not consider that; because Abraham did not consider his dead body, or the deadness of Sarah's womb; he considered the Faithfulness of God.

Faith to BECOME - starts when you don't allow what People REJECT of you to get inside you.

Because there are People from Rejected Families; there are People from Rejected Backgrounds.

There are people whom everybody takes a look at, and say: 'You are Good for Nothing!'

If anybody ever told you that: 'You are Good for Nothing'; I am here to announce to you; you will BECOME the CORNERSTONE.

If somebody said you were a Failure; you will BECOME a CORNERSTONE.

If life rejected you; If you are about to BECOME a CORNERSTONE.

*The STONE which the Builder Rejected; the STONE That the School Rejected; the Teacher Rejected, the Parents Rejected, the Brothers Rejected, the Friends Rejected;

Everybody looked at you and said: You are not it!

But you are about to BECOME - God's Signboard, God's Advertisement, God's Display!

And when People will look at you, they would say: 'How was the man who was REJECTED, able to STAND in this Place?

And you can only answer in one way: 'This is the DOING of the Lord, and it is MARVELOUS in our sight.

... May God do a Marvelous work in your life - Amen!

May God do something Marvelous in your life; that when People look at you, the only explanation they can give is: "This is GOD - Amen!

They cannot Praise a Builder, they cannot Praise your School, they cannot Praise your Teacher; they cannot Praise the Government, they cannot Praise the Political System, they cannot Praise somebody who is Powerful.

The only thing they can say is: 'This one, was REJECTED; and This one is God's Signboard.

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The only way this could ever happen, is the DOING of the Lord, and IT IS MARVELOUS in our sight.

Somebody is about to come from Rejection, to BECOME the CORNERSTONE - Amen.

Somebody is going to be Pulled out of Rejection, and set in Place - Amen.

1. Consider NOT the words of REJECTION; they are the words of man.
2. Consider NOT those who threw you away; they are Human Beings and they are not God.
3. Consider NOT those who said you can amount to NOTHING because they are just People.

The BUILDERS may reject you; the BUILDERS may think you have no Value;

For some of you: Even your own Father said you have no VALUE; your own Mother said you had no VALUE, your own Husband said you had no VALUE; your own Wife said you are USELESS but God is going to take the STONE that was REJECTED by the BUILDER, and put it in Place of Prominence as CORNERSTONE.

He will bypass the BUILDERS and SET YOU UP - Amen. (Repeatedly).

Somebody say: I WILL BECOME A CORNERSTONE!

... You will BECOME it!

And you must have FAITH to BECOME a CORNERSTONE.

You must have FAITH that: "God will MAKE ME that which Christ has already established me to be!"

He says: "I am the HEAD and not the tail." And I am going to be the HEAD, and not the Tail.

The Bible is full of CORNERSTONES, who started as Rejection:

1. JOSEPH - was because of his DREAMS.

But he became a CORNERSTONE of his family!

The STONE his brothers rejected, became the Chief CORNERSTONE.

Maybe you have become the STONE that your brothers and your sisters and your classmates rejected;

Joseph was REJECTED because he dreamt too much! He was a Day Dreamer; thinking BIG. He was ambitious!

And sometimes People REJECTED you because your 'mouth' is too BIG; your Vision is too BIG - You think you are better than other People so they throw you away.

But Joseph became the CORNERSTONE for his family.

2. MOSES was REJECTED because he didn't belong.

He didn't belong to Pharaoh's house, and the Hebrews also, didn't accept him.

You know, the man who didn't have a location.

He was REJECTED as a Ruler and as a Judge; but he became the CORNERSTONE of his Nation.

The BUILDERS rejected him; but the Lord took him, and made him the CORNERSTONE.

And when he returned, they had to accept him - He had been made God's CORNERSTONE.

Maybe your Nation has rejected you, but God will make you the CORNERSTONE - Amen

3. JESUS CHRIST was REJECTED by the world.

But He became the CORNERSTONE of the world!

Can you imagine that the Bible says: 'He came to His own, and His own did not RECEIVE Him.'

∴ JESUS, rejected!

The Pharisees, great Religious Leaders said He had no place;

Sadducees, great Intellectuals - n!No place!

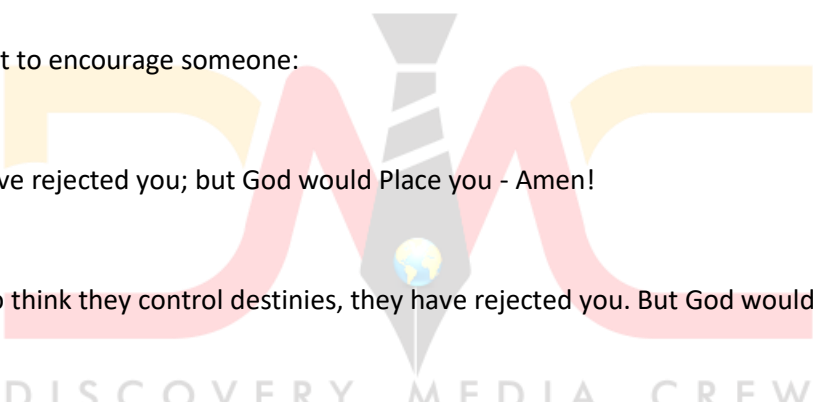
The Scribes, great Writers - No Place!

The Ordinary People - No Place!

But God has given Him the Name that is above every other names.

Rejected by the Builders; but PLACED by God.

So I came here just to encourage someone:

- 
1. The Builders have rejected you; but God would Place you - Amen!
 2. The People who think they control destinies, they have rejected you. But God would Establish you - Amen!
 3. Consider not their Rejection; consider not the VIOLENCE with which they treated you.
 4. Consider not the words of ABUSE and INSULTS that they mentioned when your name comes you.

Because God is about to Make you the CORNERSTONE;

Not hidden in the Foundation, but DISPLAYED at the Top of the Building - The CAPSTONE.

The STONE which they didn't want anybody to see, is now God's Advertisement.

Somebody say: I WILL BECOME GOD'S CORNERSTONE:

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1. In my Family, in my Workplace, among my Schoolmates, among my Friends;

2. In my Nation, in my world, I will BECOME a CAPSTONE, CORNERSTONE to the Glory of God

My life, will be a TESTIMONY to the Nations of the world - Amen!

They would see me, and say: "This is the DOING of the Lord, and it is MARVELOUS in our sight."

May God DECORATE you, and SHOWCASE you to the world - Amen.

May God AMPLIFY you and make you a TESTIMONY - Amen.

May He PICK you from REJECTION; and PLACE you in HONOUR in Jesus' Name - Amen!

If you believe that say Amen - AMEN!!!!

Say: I AM A CORNERSTONE TO MY GENERATION!



CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Thank You for every life that feels REJECTED; and we Pray that they would find their Place in Christ JESUS, the Chief CORNERSTONE, the Saviour, the Redeemer.

And if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, I just want to lead you briefly to Him.

Say with me: LORD JESUS, I ACCEPT YOU! YOU WERE REJECTED BY MEN. BUT I ACCEPT YOU AS MY LORD AND MY SAVIOUR.

I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD; THAT GOD RAISED YOU FROM THE DEAD.

AND I DECLARE YOU AS MY LORD AND MY SAVIOUR. THANK YOU.

In Jesus' Name I Pray - Amen and Amen!

God Bless you for Listening and reading on the Label of DMC. And I trust God for all of you:

That the Lord will Place you as a CORNERSTONE, wherever you are - Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



18TH OCTOBER, 2020 - TOPIC: FAITH TO REFUSE - PART 1



TEXT: HEBREWS 11:24-26

Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

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I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

And you may be seated in God's Presence wherever you are joining us or reading on the Label of DMC.

Today, I want to consider another aspect of Faith which I Title - "FAITH TO REFUSE".

Or if you want to be more dramatic: Faith to Reject.

And I will do it in two (2) Parts. So this is PART 1 of FAITH TO REFUSE.

When I talk about "FAITH TO REFUSE", it is the ability to reject wrong labels on your life.

It is the ability to reject being stuck in a place that God had not Purpose for you.

And it is the kind of Faith that Moses exercised in order for him to fulfil his Destiny.

And our Text would be taken from the Book of Hebrews 11:25-26.

If you are familiar with the Book of Hebrews Chapter 11; it is what is called "The Faith Hall of Fame".

Because the whole of the Book of Hebrews Chapter 11 is about Faith - It defines Faith, and then it shows us examples of Faith, mainly from both the Old Testament - Running through lives of people who lived by Faith.

So, Hebrews 11:25-26 (NKJV)

... And let us hear the reading of God's Word:

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the Passing Pleasures of sin,

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

I would want you to note three (3) words - Each occurring in each of the three (3) Verses above.

- In verse 24, note the word 'REFUSED';

- In verse 25 'CHOOSING';

- And in verse 26 'ESTEEMING'.

REFUSE, CHOOSE, ESTEEM.

In the Bible, there is an account of Egypt. And that is where Moses was!

... And there is a real historical Egypt.

However, many times throughout the Bible, Students of the Bible see Egypt also as a Symbol of Oppression or a Symbol of the World System.

So, in my Message today; I want you to see Egypt in that sense - As a World System, or as an Oppressive System.

... That is what Egypt was to Moses!

Moses was born in Egypt, a Nation that oppressed his people. And you and I are born into an Oppressive World System that also wants to keep us down!

But we are here to REFUSE and to REJECT being kept down.

So, our Passage today deals with Moses and how he REFUSED something that was supposed to be a blessing for him.

By faith Moses, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

To REFUSE simply means: To say NO to something.

Many of us know how to say YES, and have never learnt how to say NO.

But there are certain things in life that we must learn to say NO to!

And by FAITH, Moses was able to say NO - To Pharaoh's daughter.

And the Passage says that Moses was able to say NO, "When Moses became of age."

"By Faith Moses, when he BECAME OF AGE, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,"

The Phrase "BECAME OF AGE" is very important; because this 'became of age' (for Moses) happened when he was forty (40) years old.

... That is when he became fully aware of himself!

The Phrase "BECAME OF AGE" means when he reached Maturity - When he got to Maturity.

When he left Childhood and came to Maturity, he BECAME OF AGE!

Interestingly, when you read the Original Language; the Phrase 'became of age' also means: To discover your Greatness.

So, when Moses became of age, he discovered his greatness; he found that his life was far BIGGER than just becoming a son Pharaoh's daughter.

And no matter how great your Parents are, you must discover your Greatness beyond your Parentage.

At some Point in our lives, each one of us must seek an Identity greater than just being 'the child of so and so!'

Your father may have achieved Greatness, your mother may have achieved Greatness; but when you BECOME OF AGE, you must seek your own Greatness.

And that's what Moses was born in to.

Or he grew up in a very Prestigious environment; but when he BECAME OF AGE, he discovered his own Greatness!

May God help you to discover your Greatness - Amen!

And the Book of Acts gives us some clarity as to how that happened.

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Acts 7:23 says: "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel".

"... It came into his heart."

That Phrase is another way of saying: IT DAWNED ON HIM; he became AWARE, or something BURNED in his heart.

When Moses reached this age, something KICKED inside him, and told him: YOU ARE BIGGER THAN THAT, MOSES! YOU ARE BETTER THAN THAT, MOSES! YOU ARE GREATER THAN THAT, MOSES!

Something touched him, and he knew that he had something to do with his life.

And there are moments on our lives when each one of us must COME OF AGE, and realise the Purpose of our lives!

Now, if you know the story of Moses; when Moses was a child there was a decree that was made by a Pharaoh of that time that every male child should be killed.

That was not the decision Moses made, it was made by Pharaoh.

And his Parents made a decision for him: "That he was a Good child, he was a handsome child - and he would not die!"

And the Bible says: 'They hid him for a long time and Prevented him from been destroyed'.

Then when it was impossible to hide him, his Parents took him to a Place where he would be discovered by Pharaoh's daughter.

They knew where Pharaoh's daughter went to have her bath; and they took Moses, put him in a basket, put him in the river and waited, to see what would happen.

... And Moses was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter.

So, his Parents made the decision for him - A Good one!

Then Pharaoh's daughter discovered Moses, and made a decision that she would not allow this boy to be killed!

... But she would raise the boy as a Prince of Egypt!

So, she made a decision also, for Moses.

So far, good decisions are being made for Moses!

His Parents had made a Good Decision for him; Pharaoh's daughter had made a Good Decision for him. Then when Moses came of age, he had to make a Decision for himself!

No matter the decisions that have been made for you; there comes a time when you have to make your own Decision!

... And he CAME OF AGE!

And Mose had grown with a label - And the label was "PRINCE OF EGYPT".

... That's his title - 'PRINCE OF EGYPT'.

If you lived in those times, I am sure there would be servants walking around him, and calling him 'Prince of Egypt'.

And Probably, there were umbrellas on top of him, with people carrying him.

He was the Privileged Boy - That was his label, that was his Title.

But his Mission was not PRINCE OF EGYPT.

His Mission was 'DELIVERER OF ISRAEL'.

So, he had a label that said: 'You are a Prince'; but his Mission was DELIVERER.

There are times when your label doesn't fit your Mission.

What you are called doesn't fit what you are called to do!

How people see you doesn't fit how God sees you!

And there are times when, a label you have inherited does not fit you.

For Moses, the label seemed to be a Good one! But some of us have grown up with some label that does not fit our Mission.

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And today, I came to tell you; you can REFUSE the wrong label.

So, for everyone with a "Self Limiting Label": Something people say about you, something that people have imposed on you - They may have done it with Good Intention; but it's a limitation to your Mission.

... May God set you Free - Amen!

In the Bible you find many people who inherited a wrong label, but their Mission was Greater:

1. If you were JEPHTHAH, the label on your life says: 'Prostitute Son' (if you will be blunt). But the mission on your life says: 'The Lord's Warrior'.

So life says - You are a harlot son, but the Mission on your life says you are a Mighty Warrior.

2. If you were JABEZ, the label on your life says: 'You are a child of Pain.' But the Mission on your life says 'Possessor of a Large Territory'.

So, you have to choose the Label or the Mission

3. If you were PAUL, the label on your life says: 'Persecutor of the Church'. But the Mission on your life says: 'Planter of Churches'.

4. If you were DAVID, the label on your life says: 'Conceived in Iniquity'. But the Mission on your life says: 'The Man after God's heart'.

5. If you were ESTHER, the label on your life says: 'Orphan Slave Girl'. But the Mission of your life says: 'Queen and a National Influencer'.

6. If you were GIDEON, the label on your life says: 'Timid Farmer'. But the Mission on your life says: 'Mighty Man of Valour'.

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I don't know about you: If there is a label upon your life that does not fit your Mission, you have to REJECT IT!

Somebody say: I REJECT IT!

And there are some people who have been wrongly labelled.

Maybe you made a mistake once (in your life time) and have determined that is who you are for your lifetime!

Maybe you made a mistake in Secondary School, and people want to make it your 'Time Mission' but you have to REJECT IT!

It was a mistake in the Past, but it was not your Destiny! - God has an Assignment for you, God has a Destiny for you.

... You will FULFIL IT - Amen!

When you grow up as an African, you inherit a label: 'Third (3rd) World'. But your Mission is not third (3rd) world.

My mission is not Third (3rd) World - My Mission is a "WORLD CHANGER"; my Mission is a "GLOBAL INFLUENCER".

... That is your MISSION!

The world may call you THIRD (3RD) but you are FIRST (1ST) on God's mind!

So, Moses had a label: 'PRINCE OF EGYPT'. It seemed like a Pretty Good one! But the Mission was greater than 'Prince of Egypt'.

In fact, if he had remained Prince of Egypt, we would never of heard of him. But he took on the Mission 'Liberator of God's people - Israel'.

And we are still talking about Moses, because he moved from the Label to the Mission!

So What did Moses do, when he BECAME OF AGE?

There are Three (3) Main Things he did:

1. He REFUSED the wrong Label.

"By Faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter" - Hebrews 11:24.

He did it by Faith!

He REFUSED to be called by a Label that was not his Mission. He stopped living by his childhood fear.

Fear had been Part of Moses' life:

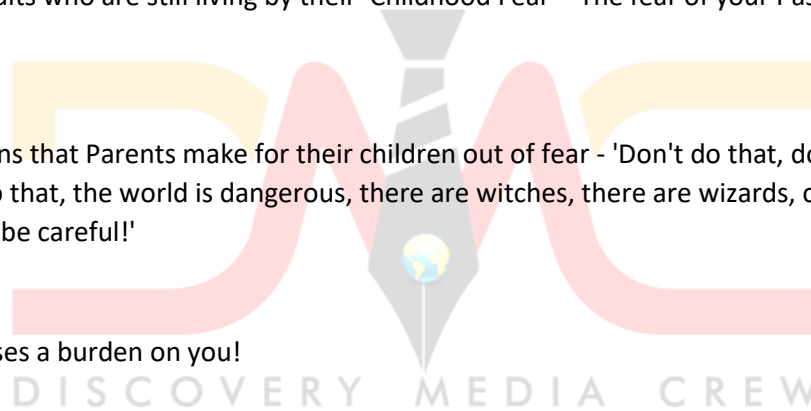
I. It was fear that landed him in the Palace of Pharaoh.

II. It was the fear of his Parents that dictated all the choices they made for him.

And there are adults who are still living by their 'Childhood Fear' - The fear of your Past has your Potential.

There are decisions that Parents make for their children out of fear - 'Don't do that, don't drink that, don't aspire to do that, the world is dangerous, there are witches, there are wizards, our family is hard, things are tough, be careful!'

... And that imposes a burden on you!



The fear of your Childhood has become a Limitation of your future

I came to announce to somebody: It is time to REJECT the FEAR of your CHILDHOOD.

In the midst of witches you will Prosper - Amen!

You can't live your life looking to see which Aunty is coming after you; which Uncle is coming after you; what System is coming after you!

You have to live your life - Looking at the Vision God has for you, the Mission ahead of you and fulfilling Destiny.

Someone say: I REFUSE THE WRONG LABEL!

He stopped living by his Childhood Fear and he stopped living a life of lie! - Moses life was a LIE for forty (40) years.

... He was called an Egyptian, but he was a Hebrew.

There was a time that, that Pretense Probably saved his life! But at this Point, it had no Point.

And there are some people who had continued to live a life of lie - You boasted of a School you didn't attend; you Pride yourself in Grades you didn't have; you Pride yourself to have Passed Test that you failed; you Point to houses that are not yours; you Point to relatives that you are not related to.

.. All to boost your Self Esteem!

But a time has come, when you are of age; you have to come out as you are!

... 'I am not an Egyptian' Moses said! I'm a HEBREW.

It may have helped you to deal with issues in your Past but it is no longer helping you, because you cannot continue Pretending to be who you are not.

You cannot continue running away from the Mission that God has given to you; because it seems dangerous for you.

Moses REFUSED the wrong Label.

And there are people who must refuse the wrong Label:

I. Somebody just saw you once, and conclude, this is how far you will go!

II. Your Teacher just mark one Paper of yours, and told you, you are not smart.

Maybe he marked your Term Paper, and told you you are not smart, you cannot achieve much, you don't have the intelligence.

III. Somebody saw you failed on one area, and tells you ti be careful of that area that is not your ability!

And you imprison yourself in a wrong Label; when God has called you in a Mission greater than the Label of your Fears and the Label of your Limitations!

May God set you Free - Amen; may you stop living a life of lie - Amen; may God give you the Victory - Amen!

Somebody say: I REFUSE every wrong Label.

Moses did not only REFUSE a Label;

2. But he CHOSE God's Mission.



"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the Passing Pleasures of sin" - Hebrews 11:25

For Moses, it was a very tough choice because the Label he was rejecting and what he was choosing; it seemed like he was moving away from something Good, to something Hard.

But Moses accepted his Divine Calling, and he acted in line with God's Mission.

He actually started doing something about it.

People didn't accept it; he tried to act like a Liberator not like a Pampered Prince!

When God had a Mission for you, it will always conflict with the Label that has been put on your life!

The Label on my life (when I was growing up) is not the Mission I'm living out now!

If I had lived by the Label on my life, I would be no where near Pulpit; I would be no where near Preaching - Because when I was young, I wasn't brilliant! I wasn't a smart Student, I was Borderline.

You know what Borderline is?

I remembered one time in our School, when you failed, you repeated or you were thrown away!

And my name was just on top of the red line - Mensah Otabil (right there)!

And if somebody had just added one more mark, I would go beyond the Red line.

But you see, my Mission is not based on how I am assessed in the classroom because my Destiny is BIGGER than my Report Card.

My Report Card may say 'Borderline Average, you can't do much but my MISSION is GREATER than that!

And I had to choose God's Mission for my life.

I had to choose! And it's amazing what happens when you choose God's way!

All of a sudden, you become Intelligent! All of a sudden, you become capable! All of a sudden, the Fear that made you Underperformed is gone.

And you are now Performing, and Over-Performing.

WHY? - Because you REFUSED the wrong Label and you have CHOSEN the Mission of God.

May God HELP YOU - Amen!

Moses chose God's Mission for his life.

How could Moses do that? How could he make such a choice?

... That's the Third (3rd) Point;

3. He ESTEEMED God's Mission.

Because the Bible says: "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward" - Hebrews 11:26

He saw God's Mission as more SIGNIFICANT;

He compared the Mission that God had for him with the Label that Egypt had given to Him, and he said "What God has for me, is BETTER!"

... And he expected his rewards from God.

There are people living in their forties, and their fifties, in their sixties. I dare say - there are seventies and eighties and lives they are living as adults, is based on a Label that was put on them when they were children.

When they were children they were called: 'You are a Bad Boy, you are a bad Girl' maybe because they went behind the house to smoke.

And all of a sudden everybody says: 'He is a bad Boy' because he smoked something. Or she is a Bad Girl because she went to do something with somebody - She was caught with a boy behind the house; under a tree. Just caught with a boy. A silly boy anyway! And all of a sudden everybody says 'you're a bad Girl'.

And the sad thing is, you grow up saying: 'As for me, I am bad oh.'

You have accepted a Label based on one tiny mistake you made as a child.

And everybody says you are a sex addict, you are a drug addict, you are a drunkard, you are weak because of some Label, some Mistake of your Childhood.

And there you are, struggling at forty, struggling at fifty, struggling at Sixty. Because you cannot shake this Label off you.

Today, I came to announce Deliverance to every Captives: By FAITH, you will REFUSE the wrong Label - Amen.

To some of you, the Label has been, 'Small Boy', 'Small Girl'.

I remembered when I started working - I was quite young but I was working.

And there was one of the Staff Members - A Senior who just decided, he had to call me 'Small Boy'.

And for whatever reason, I am not competing with you. I was just much younger than him and every time he will call me 'SMALL BOY'.

One day I summoned the courage, I said: Sir, I am not a small Boy. Why are you calling me 'Small Boy?'

He said, you are a small Boy! And he didn't change it!

And then years later, I went to Preach somewhere in the United States, and he was there. And he came to see me after!

And he said, oh my Boss.

Sir! I said, when did this small become my Boss?

But you know, there are people who want to belittle you, they will call you names. Even when you reject it, they will call you because they want you to accept your weakness, your inability, incapacity. They want to put you under their feet!

But I came to announce to somebody: God has a Mission for your life, and you will REFUSE IT!

Pharaohs daughter said: I found you in the River - Moses I saved you, without me you are nothing! Without me you are going nowhere! You are my BOY, you belong to Egypt, you belong to me. This is your future.

Moses says: Thank you for all you did for me! I appreciate it but my Destiny is not limited to where you want me to be. I REFUSE to stay under your Shadow!

And by FAITH, Moses CHOSE something better and Greater!

If you are an adult living in the shadow of your Youth; I came to announce Liberation to you!

If you are living a life, based on a Label that was put on you when you were twelve (12) years old; you didn't know any better! - They said you were a nice girl, and an Area Boy kissed you, and you didn't know how to kiss! And then your Big Brother caught you. And then everybody in the area says you are a Bad Girl!

And they used the words I don't want to use - it doesn't befit you!

And you are an Adult now, and you still think: I am unclean, I am not worthy, I cannot be used by God. I cannot do anything great because somebody labelled me in my Youth!

... May God Deliver you - Amen!

Or maybe you started a class and you repeated the Class; and repeatedly it three (3) times. But you finally scaled through after repetitions and repetitions - So it becomes a Label on your head. 'You are SMART!'

I came to announce to you, that Label can be Rejected, and you can be somebody. And you can do something for God and for yourself.

Or maybe you went through a stage in your life; you Served! You were a houseboy, you were a house girl, you just served people.

And somebody has decided, you cannot Progress beyond that - This is who you are for life: Because you served, because you cleaned somebody's house or helped them. And they feel you cannot go beyond that!

I came to announce to you: There was a moment when you were a child. But when you COME OF AGE - when you become like Moses; Moses REFUSED and he CHOSE a better way!

Today God wants you to choose s better way!

And if you want to exercise your Faith to REFUSE, you have every right to refuse it!

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You refuse Small Boy.

You refuse Third World.

If there is a Label that we must refuse as Africans, as Black people; it's THIRD WORLD NATION.

Third World Nation, Under developed - People treat us as if we can't help ourselves. They have to come up to help us before things can happen for us.

If they don't help Africa - Africa is dead! Africa cannot survive. Africa is the burden of the world!

... WE REFUSE THAT LABEL!

And if God has shown us during this Pandemic, that the Label of the world does not stick on us!

They said we are going to die lie flies; the world was Perplexed,: 'How are we going to handle Africa?'
How are we going to handle those people who can't help themselves?

They can't help themselves, what kind of medicine will cure, oh Africa!

Who is Standing?

And the people who said they can handle themselves; they had the first wave of the virus, they couldn't handle it; second wave, they can't handle it!

And they are watching; what happened to those people?

.. It is called SIGN.

God gave us a Sign - To say Africa, the days of wearing the Label of Third World, of Weak, you can't do it, you can't make it, somebody must help you, if they don't help you, you are dying;

God says: Africa, the days are over! You have COME OF AGE!

And we choose the Mission of God; we are the Redeemers of the world. We are at the Top of the world. We are the head and the tail. We are Above, we are not beneath.

Because like Mose, we REJECT the wrong Label and we CHOOSE the Mission of God.

Lift up your hands with me:

For everyone struggling with the wrong Label, I don't know what Label you are struggling with. I don't know what you did that has trapped you.

CLOSING PRAYER

As from today, I speak into your spirit man; I speak a Release, I speak Freedom into your spirit, into your mind, into your heart;

I go back into your history, into your youth - in Primary School, in Secondary School, in University;

And I declare that every Label upon your life, in your neighbourhood, in your family, that has limited you, is broken today, in the Name of Jesus!

And may God set you free. And may you be like Moses, rise up to full your God given Mission, in Jesus' Name.

... And everybody say - AMEN!



Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

25TH OCTOBER, 2020 - TOPIC: CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST



TEXT: HEBREWS 3:1

Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of fantastic Excellence.

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... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

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By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

And you may be seated in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus wherever you are joining us or reading on the Label of DMC.

My Message today is Titled: "CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST. "

Jesus Christ, amongst many things, is our High Priest.

We know Him as the Saviour of the world, we know Him as the King of kings, we know Him as the Lord of lords, we know Him as the Healer.

But there is another role of Jesus Christ, sometimes we forget; and that is His role as a High Priest.

... And that role is still ongoing this time!

Our Text is taken from Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV):

"Therefore, Holy Brethren, Partakers of the Heavenly Calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,"

... Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our CONFESSION, Christ Jesus.

That word 'CONFESSION' there means what we believe as Christians.

The High Priest we believe in (as Christians) is Jesus Christ.

And it is a very significant statement, because it talks about what Jesus did, and continues to do for us in our time.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest now! - It's a role that He was ushered into after His death and Resurrection.

He is not a High Priest unto Himself; He is a High Priest unto us!

So, HOW IMPORTANT is the ROLE of the HIGH PRIEST?

Why do we need a High Priest?

What does a High Priest do?

And so, I am going to take a little time to explain: WHAT A HIGH PRIEST DOES.

And to get that, we have to understand that:

The ROLE of the High Priest originated in the Old Testament; it was established as Part of the Old Covenant.

And if you read the Books of Exodus and Leviticus, you will see a lot of Roles for the Priesthood and the High Priest.

The High Priest was the most Senior Priest in the Tabernacle and in the Temple.

And the first (1st) High Priest in the Bible was AARON - Aaron was the brother of Moses!

And from then on, the Role of the High Priest Passed on from various people throughout the story of Israel.

When you look through the Bible, there are different terms that are used to refer to the High Priest;

He is simply called the PRIEST. Other times he is called the ANOINTED PRIEST. Or the PRIESTHOOD among his Brethren.

Sometimes he is called the CHIEF PRIEST. And then other times he is called the HIGH PRIEST.

But all those terms indicate that there are Priests. And under the Law there were many Priests.

If you know your Bible well, you know that the PRIEST came from the TRIBE OF LEVI. But Particularly from the FAMILY OF AARON.

But amongst all the Priests, one of them was the Senior Most. And he is called the HIGH PRIEST.

WHAT DOES THE HIGH PRIEST DO?

I will talk about Three (3) Things that the High Priest did in the Old Testament and we will bring it to what Christ does for us.

1. One of the most significant is that: The High Priest MAKES SACRIFICES for the people.

This is one of the important Task of the Priesthood of the Old Testament.

And the High Priest being the most Senior Priest, would be the one who made most of the Sacrifices for the people.

The life of Israel was based around Sacrifices to God. And God dealt with them based on their Sacrifices.

And the High Priest was a very important Player in that!

And the biggest Sacrifice he made was made on the day of Atonement - Where he had to go to the Holiest of holies to Present the people before God.

So the High Priest makes Sacrifices for the people.

2. The High Priest REPRESENTS the people before God.

So, when the High Priest goes before God, he doesn't go alone (by himself); he goes with the people.

And how can the people go with him when he is alone?

Exodus 28:29 tells us how the people get to be with the High Priest when he is before God:

"So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of Judgment over his heart, when he goes into the Holy Place, as a Memorial before the Lord continually."

... When he goes into the Holy Place, as a Memorial before the Lord continually.

So, whenever the High Priest went to the Presence of God, he went alone - But the Bible says he went with the names of the people.

How did he do that?

The garment of the High Priest was designed that it had a breastplate - something at its chest area.

And on the breastplate was written the names of the Twelve (12) Tribes of Israel. All the twelve (12) of them were written on his chest.

So, when he goes to the Presence of God, he goes as a Person, but he carried the whole Nation with him.

So, there is something he is doing as an individual, but in doing it, he is representing the people before God.

So, when the High Priest went and Prayed before God as a Person, he wasn't the only one Praying; the whole Nation was Praying with him.

WHY? - Because their names were written on his chest (on the breastplate).

That is very important when we come to the New Testament - To see what Christ also did for us: So, He represents the people before God; he carries them wherever he goes. He carries them to Presence of God.

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3. The High Priest RELEASES God's Blessing on the people.

So he takes the requests of the people to God, and he takes Blessing from God, to the people.

And so he stands between God and the people: He takes their requests to God, and then takes the Blessing from God to the people.

Leviticus 9:22-23; this is an account of after Aaron had made sacrifices. And the Bible says:

"Then Aaron lifted his hand towards the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and Peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the Tabernacle of

Meeting, and came out and BLESSED the people. Then the Glory of the Lord appeared to ALL the people,"

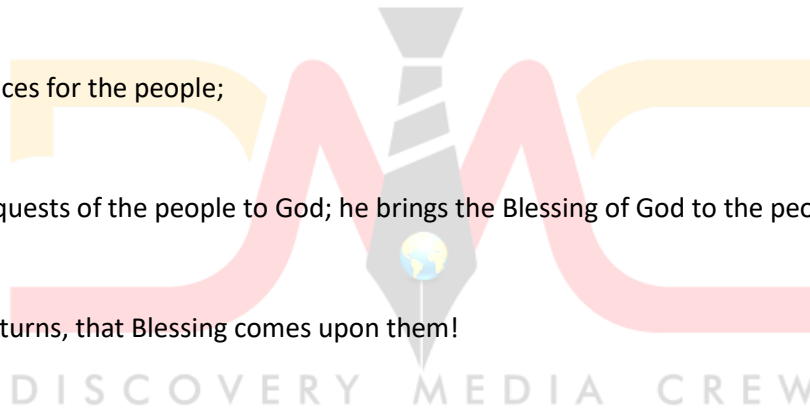
I hope you see what's happening? - He goes ALONE with the requests of the people; and then he comes out!

And when he comes out, he doesn't come alone. He comes with Blessing from the Presence of God, for the people.

And so the Bible says here: He comes and RELEASES the Blessing. And as he releases the Blessing, the Glory of God comes upon ALL the people.

So the High Priest plays a very important Role:

- He makes Sacrifices for the people;
 - He takes the Requests of the people to God; he brings the Blessing of God to the people.
- ... And after he returns, that Blessing comes upon them!



And the Blessing God gave the High Priest, the specific words to speak_ to bring Blessing to the people is in Numbers 6:24-26:

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be Gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you Peace."

And these words, when he spoke them upon the congregation, brought the Blessing of the Lord upon them.

And that is why: When I am dismissing a Service, I speak these words because these are the words that God said we should speak over the people to Bless them:

...The Lord bless you and keep you

So, the Role of the High Priest in the Old Testament was a Shadow of what Christ was going to do for us.

Everything you see the High Priest doing in Old Testament, was telling us what Christ would do when He comes because the Bible says, the Old Testament was a Shadow of things to come.

When the Bible says that something is a Shadow, it means that it Precedes you!

It is almost like when you are where there is light, and it throws a shadow.

And if I was walking in front of you, the first thing you see would be my shadow before I come!

And when you see my shadow, it tells you: 'I am coming!'

And that is what the Bible says the Old Testament was - It was a Shadow; it tells us somebody is coming.

... And that Person who is coming, is Jesus Christ.

So, Aaron was a Shadow of things to come; The Sacrifices he made, was a Shadow of things to come; the Blessing he gave, was a Shadow of things to come.

But the real High Priest came later on after Aaron. And His Name is Jesus Christ. - And He is your Lord and your Saviour!

... So, let's go to the New Testament.

Hebrews 9:11-12:

"But Christ came as High Priest of the Good things to come, with the Greater and more Perfect Tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His Own Blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained Eternal Redemption."

1. The first (1st) thing the Passage says about Jesus Christ and His Role as High Priest, is that: He is the High Priest of GOOD THINGS TO COME.

... I believe GOOD THINGS are coming to you this morning - Amen.

Wherever you are reading this Message on the Label of DMC; if Christ is your High Priest, GOOD THINGS come to you - Amen!

Because when He is Ministering, He doesn't Minister condemnation; He Ministers GOOD THINGS.

2. And then it says: His High Priest is GREATER, and He offers Sacrifices in a BETTER TABERNACLE.

I wish I had time to explain all of these. But these are very Powerful Statements.

Aaron, as High Priest went to a Tabernacle made with hands and look at the Glory and the Power that came with it!

But Christ entered a Tabernacle that was not made with hands; the True Tabernacle, the Heavenly Tabernacle.

That is why the Bible says He is a GREATER High Priest, and He offers a More PERFECT Sacrifice.

So, He is a High Priest of GOOD THINGS to come!

WHAT DID CHRIST DO?

... Three (3) Things;

1. First (1st), like the Old Testament High Priest, He also ENTERED the Most Holy Place.

And the Passage says, He entered it once for all

Now, in the Old Testament, the High Priest enters EVERY YEAR.

So, if Aaron goes to the Most Holy Place this year, next year on the day of Atonement; he would go - Every Year he has to go!

But Christ did it ONCE, and concluded it.

... And He doesn't go and come, go and come!

Because He offered a ONCE AND FOR ALL PERFECT SACRIFICE.

Why did Christ go only ONCE, and He doesn't go again?

2. Because He entered with His Own BLOOD.

The Sacrifice He made was not of goat, and bulls and calves; because the life of a goat cannot be a Propitiation for the Atonements of a Human Being.

... A Human Being is of a higher value than a goat.

What they did in the Old Testament was Temporary; What Christ came to do is PERMANENT.

He entered with His Own BLOOD; the Blood of Jesus Christ was higher than the value of man!

In other words, he PAID and OVERPAID what was required for us to be saved.

And when He PAID, and He PAID it so well, that there was nothing else to be Paid every year.

That's is why Christ doesn't have to die Yearly; He died once and for all and settled the case for ever!

And the Bible says, as a result; He OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION.

... Not a Short Term Redemption, not a Part-Time Redemption, not an On and Off Redemption; but ETERNAL REDEMPTION.

That is why when you give your life to Jesus Christ, you don't get saved and unsaved, Born Again and unborn again; made clean and unclean.

No! What God has cleanse, let no man call unclean.

When He saves you and REDEEMS you, it is an ETERNAL REDEMPTION.

Jesus Christ did the same thing that Aaron did, but He did it Higher!

Aaron goes to the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Tabernacle in Heaven - The True Tabernacle; and offered His BLOOD as a Sacrifice for our sins - And He did it ONCE and FOR ALL.

And He is not going to do it again. He will not come again to die for the sins of Mankind. He has done it, and it is Permanent.

Hebrews 8:1-2 says: "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens, a Minister of the Sanctuary and of the True Tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man."

... We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the Throne of the Majesty.

Jesus Christ our High Priest, on the day He died, on the day He Resurrected, Presented Himself to the Father: Offered Himself as a Sacrifice; offered His own BLOOD, in the Heavenly Tabernacle once and for all.

And when He went, just as Aaron enters the Holy of holies (with Israel with him); Jesus also entered with US.

That is why the Bible says: We DIED with Him, we are RAISED with Him, we are SEATED with Him.

Why? - He did it alone, we were not there. But he CARRIED US in His heart; He CARRIED US and we entered the Holy of holies with Him.

... We got Forgiveness with Him, we are Raised with Him, we are Seated with Him!

The Shadow of the Old Testament is fulfilled in the Reality of the New Testament.

What Jesus Christ did, He didn't do for Himself, He did it for ALL.

We were with Him in his Death, we were with Him in His Resurrection, we are with Him in His Authority.

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Hebrews 10:11-13:

"And every Priest stands Ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."

He is talking about the Old Testament Priests: They offered the same sacrifices, over and over again.

If you took a goat today, and next time you wanted forgiveness, you have to go and take another goat and they will make a sacrifice.

If it is a sin offering; and you don't do one offering and be free forever - You keep doing it over and over!

And so, under the Old Testament, they were making sacrifices literally, around the clock because people sin around the clock!

So, constantly the Priest is making Atonement for the people, and then on the day of Atonement, the High Priest goes and does the Big Sacrifice.

And then another year, he goes again and makes another sacrifice with a goat!

So, that is what the Bible means: "And every Priest stands Ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."

But this Man (which man)? JESUS! This Man,

"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool."

When Jesus had finished His work, the Bible says: 'HE SAT DOWN'.

When somebody does something very serious and he sits down; he simply wants to tell us: 'FINISHED!; assignment "COMPLETED"!

And the Bible says He sat down waiting till ALL His enemies are under His footstool.

There is nothing more Jesus is ever going to do for you:

I. He is not going to Heal you - He has HEALED YOU.

II. He is not going to Forgive you - He has FORGIVEN YOU.

III. He is not going to give you Freedom - He has GIVEN YOU FREEDOM.

There is nothing more He is going to do!

If you are going to ask Him: Lord Jesus, Please do this for me; He is not going to do anything again for you because He FINISHED what He had to do and SAT DOWN.

So somebody says: Well, if He has finished what He is doing and He has sat down (and I'm in troubled); Pastor it means my case is beyond JESUS.

It means that maybe He didn't finish doing this!

But if you look at the Passage, it answers your question.

From that time when He finished making the Sacrifice He SAT DOWN waiting (for what)?

... Till ALL His enemies are made His FOOTSTOOL.

So He is not doing it again, He is waiting and capturing His enemies and putting them under His footstool.

But guess what? He is not the only One who SAT DOWN!

The Bible says: "We are SEATED WITH CHRIST in Heavenly Places."

We are SEATED WITH HIM!

... So when He sat down, we also sat down.

So, in God's reckoning, my friends; your case is COMPLETED!

In God's mind: Your Healing has been DONE; your Breakthrough has been DONE. Everything you need has been DONE!

Then what is left? -

Wait! -Because He is going to bring everything under your feet;

You don't get up when He hasn't finished putting everything under your feet!

Now, maybe sickness is not under your feet but it is going to be under your feet!

... Just WAIT, God is going to put it under your FEET.

Maybe you look at it: You say Oh, I don't have Prosperity, I don't have much.

Wait! Because He is going to put it under your FEET.

Oh, I am fighting this battle, the devil is fighting me.

Wait! Because He is going to put it under your FEET.



Don't get up! Don't be worried, don't be anxious - Just WAIT!

Because He has finished the job and He is in the Process of bringing everything under your Feet.

I came here to tell you: God is bringing things under your FEET! All He says is: Sit down and WATCH! Sit down and trust Me!

The Problem with us is: We don't like to sit down. We don't want to rest in the Lord; we don't like to take things easy.

When God says: Sit down! We say Lord No! I have to do it myself.

I think if we have the Permission, we will go into the Holy of holies ourselves!

But He says: It is DONE! I Am sitting down. I am Waiting.

In other words, when Jesus Christ finished His work, He completed everything that is required.

But there is a battle to be fought to actualize what He has done.

And that is where we sit and trust Him and see Him bring everything under our feet.

The Legal case is settled; whatever is needed for your Healing is settled; whatever you need for Salvation is settled!

That is why when a sinner needs to be saved, we don't say: Well, we are making the Altar Call; come and give your life to Jesus Christ;

And then you come forward to give your life to Jesus Christ.

We say: "Lord Jesus, they have come. Can You please go to the Cross again and die because there are New people for You to save"

... Okay! He has died for you people, now you are saved!

Is that what we do? - No!

We reckon that He has completed the work of Salvation and these people are the New people He has brought them into His Family.

And all that we do is to wait for Him to bring the sinners home, one at a time!

Some get saved today, some get saved tomorrow, some get saved next ten (10) years.

But we don't ask Jesus to die again - We just wait till He brings everything under His feet.

He has Healed you, He has made you well, there is no Prayer you can Pray for Healing beyond what Christ has done.

He has done it by His Stripes.

You don't tell Him: Lord, look at my sickness, please go back and take more lashes. - No!

"Be His Stripes, WE WERE HEALED" - FINISHED!

Now, we are waiting as He brings that sickness under our feet. And we wait and watch Him subdue every sickness and every diseases and every infirmities and every Pains, and every distress under our feet!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

To read other Messages on the Coverage of DMC MediaCrew so far this Year and beyond; kindly visit our Website: <http://discoverymediacrew.com>.

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And I can assure you that you will be glad you did as it will avail you first hand access to comprehensive reports on the various Messages of Pastor E.A Adeboye and other Men of God!

It is outrightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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RE

ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE BY DR. MENSAH OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)

TOPIC: FAITH TO REFUSE - PART 2

DATE: 1ST NOVEMBER, 2020

TEXT: GENESIS 14:18-23

Amen! - Let's keep standing (wherever you are reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to Shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossoms.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

Today, I am doing PART 2 of a Message I started two (2) weeks ago. Titled - FAITH TO REFUSE (this is the PART 2).

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 of this Series via this Link below:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Faith-To-Refuse-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

We know that:

I. Faith is essential for us to RECEIVE from God.

II. And Faith is essential for us to BECOME what God wants us to be;

III. And Faith is essential for us to PULL DOWN strongholds and see Miracles.

But in this two (2) Parts Message, I am focusing on: FAITH that does not just receive, but REFUSES (or REJECTS).

Sometimes we need FAITH, to refuse something!

In PART 1, we looked at Moses - Who by Faith, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He REFUSED a wrong Label and a wrong Mission.

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In this PART 2 today, we are going to look at ABRAHAM - Who also had Faith to REFUSE.

And the story is in GENESIS 14:18-23 (NKJV);

... Just to give you a little background to this story:

Abraham lived with his Nephew called Lot. And as their businesses grew; their cattle grew and it was necessary for them to separate!

And Abraham gave Lot the first option; and instead of Passing on his Uncle's option, he took it!

And he exercised the first option and he chose what he considered "the most fertile land around." And that is the land of Sodom and Gomorrah.

And he went to live there for some time. And there was a war, and some Kings - five (5) Kings; came against Sodom and Gomorrah and other Towns or Cities around!

The five (5) Kings were able to conquer Sodom and Gomorrah and the other Towns and took people captive.

And that's what happened in those days - if you are conquered, they take you Captive to go and sell you as slaves.

So they took the people captive (including Lot). And not only did they take the people captive; they took all the Properties captive and ran away!

So somebody came to tell Abraham that: Lot your Nephew has become a victim in this war, and he has been taken as a slave: and his family, his Property of his Town or City -:Everything is gone!

Abraham was not a Soldier, but he put together three hundred and eighteen (318) people and decided to go and fight those who have come to conquer his Nephew's Town.

And God gave him the Victory - Abraham won.

And when he won, he won the Victory - Not only to get Lot out, but all the Nations that had been conquered, he took the people free, liberated their slaves and got their Properties back!

And now, Abraham is the New Champion! - He has won the Great Victory, he is returning!

And when he is returning, he was met by two (2) Kings - One called Melchizedek (we would not say much about him today) and then another King!

And both Kings made an offer - And we are going to read how Abraham responded.

So, Genesis 14:18-23;

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the Priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of Heaven and Earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

... This is where Tithing Started.

21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the Goods for yourself".

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth,

23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'.

Two (2) Kings came to meet Abraham:

1. Melchizedek King of Salem.

Melchizedek brought bread and wine and a Blessing for Abraham!

2. Then after Melchizedek, is King of Sodom.

Now you have to remember: Melchizedek King of Salem had not been Part of this drama.

In other words, his country had not been attacked. He had not lost anything.

He just came with a Blessing to Congratulate Abraham.

But the King of Sodom - His property had been taken, and he had lost so much and he offered things to Abraham and Abraham REFUSED them.

And for us to understand why Abraham REFUSED them - I mean, he has worked hard for it, he had conquered.

Why is he REFUSING a Blessing?

So we are going to look at: THREE (3) OF THE STATEMENTS THAT ABRAHAM MADE.

And we will examine each one of them.

And to address them appropriately, as to why - ABRAHAM HAD FAITH TO REFUSE THEM.

1. The First (1st) thing Abraham said was: "I HAVE RAISED MY HAND TO THE LORD."

Now that Phrase: "I have raised my hand to the Lord" means: "I HAVE MADE A VOW TO GOD".

That Practice is still in vogue now - When you have to swear to an oath, you go to a Court. Or you go to swear an oath into an Office - They will tell you, lift your hand and you raise your hand, and put the other hand on a Bible, or some other Sacred object, and you take your Vow!

So, it was happening at this time - Abraham did the same thing: He RAISED his hand to God.

... So, Abraham took a Vow.

The implications of that statement that: "I have raised my hand to God" is that Abraham had made an Oath in the Past.

Before he set out to fight the battle with five (5) Kings who had captured his Nephew - Lot; HE MADE A VOW.

He didn't make the Vow AFTER the battle; he made it BEFORE.

He said: "God, I am going to this Battle. In this Battle I make this Vow."

So that is very important - he made this Vow BEFORE the Battle.

But it also mean that the Vow he made to God was still in FORCE.

Abraham did not say: "Well, I made a Vow to God. Now the situation has changed, I have to change the VOW."

He made a Vow in the PAST, and now the Vow was still in FORCE.

After the Battle, Abraham is saying: "Before I went out to do this Battle, I made a Vow. And that Vow is till working now."

It is very important! - A Vow in the Past, but still having effect now.

So that's the first (1st) Statement Abraham made: "I HAVE RAISED MY HAND TO THE LORD."

2. Second (2) Statement Abraham made: "I WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING THAT IS YOURS."

So, that is the Vow he made! - He made a Vow to God and said, "I will not take anything that is yours."

Why did Abraham make that Vow?

We will get to know later (to try to examine why he made that Vow).

He is going to Battle, his Nephew Lot has been captured with his wife and children, Properties have been taken from his City and from everybody;

And Abraham is going to attempt a rescue. And he says: Lord, when I go to this Battle and win, I will not take ANYTHING from these people.

And he made that Vow before he went into Battle!

That Vow was a Self Imposed Limitation; or a Self Imposed Restraint.

Abraham placed an EMBARGO on himself - He stopped himself from doing something. And he itemised what he would not take, to include: A thread to a sandal strap.

In today's language, if Abraham was making such a Vow, he would not say a thread to a sandal strap.

He would have said: "I will not take a PESUA" (if it was Ghana);

"I will not take a PENNY" (if it was British). If it was America - "I will not take a CENT." If it was Nigeria - "I will not take a KOBO."

So, Abraham is saying: "I am not going to take ANYTHING." *I will not take a thread, I will not take a sandal strap.

I will not take a Pesua, I will not take a Penny, I will not take anything!

Can you imagine, he is going in to Battle, he doesn't even know what will come out of it - What if God gives you so much?

And he says - I will not take ANYTHING out of it.

*... That's the Vow he made!

And when he said it, he actually Specifically directed that Vow to the King of Sodom. He said, I will not take ANYTHING that is YOURS, your Majesty!

It was specifically directed to the person and situation he was involved in. It was not just a rule.

... He took bread and wine from Melchizedek.

So, Abraham is not saying: I'm not going to take anything at all; but I am not taking anything that is yours - Your Royal Highness, King of Sodom.

... That's interesting!

So, why would Abraham, before he even know the outcome of a battle make a Vow to God?

And say; God, when I go to this Battle, I am not going to take anything from the King of Sodom. I ma not going to take ANYTHING from him.

He answers it: LEST YOU SHOULD SAY, 'I HAVE MADE ABRAM RICH'.

Abraham is saying: I am not going to take ANYTHING from you, so that in future; you wouldn't take credit for my success.

I am not going to take ANYTHING from you, because I don't want you one day, to take away God's Glory from my success.

When Abraham said: I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'.

There is an implied statement in there!

And the implied statement is that: Abraham knew that he would be RICH.

He knew he would be Rich; he knew he was destined to be Rich. He had full confidence in how his future would work out!

In fact, in Genesis 13:2 the Bible says: "Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold."

This is before Chapter 14.

So, already, he had Prospered; but he would Prosper MORE. And he was careful who should get the Glory for his Prosperity.

And so he said, King of Sodom: before this Battle, I made a Vow to God, I will not take a PESUA, a CENT, a KOBO, from your hand.

Because I don't want you one day to stand somewhere and say: "I MADE ABRAHAM."

Because I know, GOD WILL MAKE ME - And I don't want a man to say, he made me!

So Abraham, didn't want to deny God the Glory for his riches!

He was determined, that nothing would happen to take away God's Glory from what would happen to him in the future.

I mean, when you read the Bible, and you read this - You will say: Why did he make such a Vow concerning the King of Sodom?

Well, something of these things are not directly explained because the next verse did not say "BECAUSE (and then tell us why he did it)"

So, you have to read the Scripture to get a sense of why Abraham would make such a Statement.

So let's look at WHY ABRAHAM WOULD REFUSE?

And this why I believed he REFUSED - Two (2) things:

1. THE SOURCE OF THE OFFER - Where the offer was coming.

Because he said to the King of Sodom: I will not take ANYTHING that is yours!

... He didn't say I won't take anything from anybody else.

But you - King of Sodom, I am not taking ANYTHING from you!

The SOURCE of the offer was that Sodom (as we know) was associated with EVIL.

Maybe Abraham did not want to Associate his future Prosperity with an EVIL SOURCE.

Although he is already rich, he didn't want this one act to come and mess up the Testimony that God is going to give him in the future!

So, he says - Even before the Battle had been determined. Whilst he is going in; he says: God, I know you will give me the Victory, I know that You are going to give me everything;

But I am not going to take ANYTHING from the King of Sodom.

Why? - I believed the SOURCE!

But that is not a Perfect answer! Because there were other people that Abraham took gifts from, who were not the best of people;

Like Abimelech (in Genesis Chapter 20) who wanted to take Sarah - Abraham's wife from him!

He wanted to steal Abraham's wife; and later God went to warn him. And the man gave gifts to Abraham, and Abraham accepted.

Now, if you can accept gifts from a man who wanted to take your wife; then it means he was a bit accommodating.

So, the first (1st) reason could be the SOURCE.

But there is a second (2nd) reasons.

2. If the SOURCE was evil; the Second reason is: The CIRCUMSTANCE of the offer.

... And that I believe, was the MAIN REASON!

Sodom had already lost so much! And I believed Abraham said: "I will not take ANYTHING from the King of Sodom because he didn't want to take undue advantage of Sodom's Calamity.

The people of Sodom had suffered a lot at this time - Their City was attacked, destroyed; their Citizens and Goods taken away from them.

And if you read the Passage (especially Genesis 14:10) - There is an indication that their King might even have died in the Battle.

So this King who is making the offer is a New King who had come in after the first King had died when they were attacked.

If that is the case, it would then seem as if Abraham was taking advantage of them!

Abraham looked at it as if 'these people are at the Lowest Point of their life - They have lost everything; their King had died, citizens have been killed.

I am there to go and deliver them; and I am not going to take advantage of the situation to make myself rich. Lest one day somebody would say: Oh, Abraham destroyed others in order to become rich! He took advantage of other people who were down, in order for him to rise up.

... Abraham Pulled people down to get up!

I believe, that is the reason why he said: "I am not going to take ANYTHING from the King of Sodom. "

Because if you look at the case Properly in Verse 21 (Genesis 14:21) - The King of Sodom said: Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, *"Give me the persons, and take the Goods for yourself".

So, he is saying: The people whom you have gone to rescue; give them to me, and take the goods!

Why is he saying that? - Because he doesn't deserve either!

Because in those days whenever you go to war, whatever you captured is yours!

So, when Abraham went, rescued the people; it means actually - Not only are the people the Property now of Abraham; the King himself, is a property of Abraham!

Because he (Abraham) has now come to rescue them. And not only that; all the items that were rescued, were for Abraham!

So, Legitimately, Legal; Abraham is the owner of the people and the Goods!

He has earned it by right, by hard work to the PERIL of his LIFE!

If anybody should say: I worked for it, I laboured for it, I sweated for it, I did everything for it, it's Legal.

... It is ABRAHAM: the goods are his, the people are his!

So, the King says: I know they are yours; but just give me the people - so we go and start afresh. And keep the goods!

And Abraham says: I am not going to take ANYTHING from you; because, before this War, I have made a Vow to God "That I would not take ANYTHING from you!"

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SO WHAT IS FAITH TO REFUSE IN THIS MATTER?

"FAITH TO REFUSE" is believing so much in the future God has Planned for you; that you refuse to get there by any means necessary - Including destroying or taking advantage of others!

So, there are certain times that God would give you an advantage in life and you must REFUSE IT.

... That's FAITH TO REFUSE.

What Abraham did is very similar to what David did when he had the opportunity to kill King Saul..

David knew he would be King of Israel; he had been Anointed King! As a matter of fact - The Bible says an evil spirit was now upon King Saul.

And to make matters worst, King Saul was Pursuing David, to kill him!

Now, David had an opportunity to kill King Saul so that he become King. And he REFUSED TO DO IT!

He REFUSED to become a King at the expense of killing King Saul.

David had FAITH TO REFUSE.

Elisha gave direction for the healing of Naaman. And he EARNED his reward!

Naaman brought rewards and Elisha REFUSED IT; Because he said it was not time yet for him to accept such things.

So, there are times when it seems as if everything is to your advantage. But, your success is going to totally destroy another person - And you should REFUSE that kind of success.

It is called "FAITH TO REFUSE."

Abraham said King (of Sodom): I am going to give you back your people. And I am going to give you back the Goods.

Because I know I would be great in the future and I don't want somebody to come and say; Abraham, oh you know why he Prospered? - Because he went up there and he impoverished the people of Sodom, and he took everything from them - That is why he was rich!

He says, I Vowed to God: I will never do that!

So let me ask you a few questions:

1. If you knew that God would make you rich, would you steal to get rich?

2. If you knew that God would lift you up in life; would you like to bring somebody down in order for you to rise up?

3. If you knew that your Church or your Business would increase and grow and become mighty; would you attack others and what they have built in order to grow yours?

Because if you truly have Faith in your future, the choices you make, would determine your Faith.

If you knew that God would give you a beautiful family life - Your own husband, your own wife; give you a decent family, give you a good home;

... Would you take somebody's Partner for yourself?

I am not going to desire an Answer from you. I would say it again;

If you knew that God would give you your own Partner; Would you take somebody's Partner away from them?

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If you knew God has a Glorious Future for you; would you say ugly things about someone else, in order to get FAME and POPULARITY?

Abraham knew God would make him Rich; he knew as for riches - I WOULD BECOME! And it is not this time with Sodom that would make my future prosperity.

And he was able to look at King of Sodom and said:

1. First (1st) of all, you are a BAD MAN - Leader of evil people.

... That's number one (1)!

2. Secondly, you are at the lowest level of your life - You have lost everything! And God has used me to redeem you!

But I am not going to take advantage of what God has used me to do: I am going to allow you to keep everything you have, and go on with your life.

*Because I know.

God is going to make me great, and Richer than you!*

And I don't want history to come back and say I became Rich because I destroyed you!

It is called FAITH TO REFUSE.

... Abraham knew that!

So the question you want to ask yourself:

If you were David and Saul was harassing you. And now you can kill him to become the King; WOULD YOU KILL HIM?

... Or you have Faith to REFUSE that opportunity.

I. Do you have Faith to Refuse to destroy your enemy?

II. Do you have Faith to Refuse to take advantage of someone in a Vulnerable situation?

III. Do you have Faith to Refuse to pull down someone, so you can take their Position?

IV. Do you have Faith to Refuse to repay evil for evil.

What if you truly believed that God is taking you somewhere; WOULD YOU TAKE SHORT CUTS?

In Part One (1) of this Message we saw that Moses REFUSED a wrong Label.

And today, we see Abraham REFUSING to take advantage of a Vulnerable person!

At some point in your life, in my life: we must have FAITH TO REFUSE.

Although it may seem as if Oh, this is a Good opportunity - I have to take advantage, I don't know when anyone is going to come for it!

Listen to me: the God you serve is the Ancient of Days; the same yesterday, today and forever. New Mercies come every morning!

Why do you think if this one PASSES, God will not show you another mercy? And God would not open a better door for you?

Why do you limit yourself to only one (1) moment in History - as the only moment God can Bless you?

Abraham had FAITH TO REFUSE!

*But let me stretch this Message a little further - In application; and apply it to us Africans;

If we believe in the Greatness of Africa, we must have FAITH TO REFUSE wrong Labels on us;

Like Moses, like Paul - underdeveloped! And all the other labels.

We must not call ourselves by it, and we must REJECT it when we are called by it!

If we believed in the greatness of BLACK PEOPLE, we must have FAITH TO REFUSE to see ourselves as VICTIMS - in every situation.

Blaming the world for EVERYTHING that goes wrong with us! We must have FAITH to REJECT Victimhood.

If we believe in the greatness that God has placed in our LAND, in our Continent; we must have the FAITH to REFUSE to sell that wealth CHEAP - or for nothing.

... Because there is a Market for it!

And if we believed in the greatness of our PEOPLE; we must have FAITH to REFUSE to destroy them!

Because if we believed that the greatest Asset of a Nation is its people; then we must have FAITH in the people and NOT DESTROY them.

If we believed in the Greatness of our citizens, we must have FAITH to REFUSE looking up constantly to Foreign expense.

... Even if they seems to have the Answer!

We should not let China or America or Great Britain or Germany or Canada or any other Nation say: They are the REDEEMERS of Africa; they are the ones who helped us - We were the helpless people! And we were so down they came to pick us up!

We must REFUSE THEM that Testimony!

Abraham said: I refuse you King of Sodom; the Testimony of saying "I made Abraham Rich!"

And Africa must say: We REFUSE you China - the right to say REDEEMED Africa".

We REFUSE you Canada - The right to say "we REDEEMED Africa."

We REFUSE you Germany - The right to say "we REDEEMED Africa."

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We REFUSE you Great Britain - The right to say "we REDEEMED Africa."

And we REFUSE you America - The right to say "you made us who we ARE!

We want us as a Nation, as a people, to stand somewhere Five (5) to twenty (20) Years from now and say: LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US (AFRICANS)!

But for us to do that, we have to be like Abraham; we have to say: I REFUSE to accept what you are offering mW now;

Because I believed TOO MUCH in my Destiny; I believed too much in where I am going.

Do you believe in where you are going? Do you believe in where God is taking you to?

Do you believe God has a husband for you? A wife for you? prosperity for you? Abundance for you? Peace for you? greatness for you?

So you believed you are the head and not the tail?

If you believe that; then you are not going to try to bring somebody down; take from somebody; destroy another person - in order to get it!

And Abraham believed he would be rich; and he said I will not do this - lest you would say: "I have made Abraham rich."

WHY? Because I would be RICH!

If this opportunity passes, I would still be Rich! If I don't destroy you, I would still be Rich! If I don't STEAL from you, I would still be Rich! If I don't bring you down, I would still be Rich.

And I have so much Faith in God, that I would let this one GO!

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I will let this one GO: because I have FAITH in my Future, in my Prominence, in my Destiny!

And today I came here to encourage you; God has a great Destiny for you;

And you must have so much FAITH in Him : That you REFUSE anything that will destroy the testimony that God wants to give you in the future.

... Lift up your hands to God - like Abraham. And say with me:

Heavenly Father, I know the Plans You have for me. They are for Good and not doe evil;

I know the GREATNESS You have for me, it is for GOOD and not for evil;

I know You would Prosper me; I know You would Bless me; I know You would make me Happy; I know You would make me Joyful; I know You would cause me to ABOUND;

So I REFUSE any offer that will destroy my Testimony; I Vow to You Oh God - That when You have done it, all the Glory would be yours.

When You have done it, You would deserve all the Glory;

When You have done it, the whole world would say: This is the doing of the Lord, and it is Marvellous in our sight.

May the Lord give you a Testimony that the whole world cannot RESIST - Amen!

And when men see it and women see it, they would say: Look at what the Lord has done for him and for her.

Your Testimony is coming - Don't rush for it; it's coming. YOU WILL BE IT!

And God would make you, whatever it is - You will be IT. And you will get there, and you will be all that God has caused you to be!

And your Testimony will go to the Lord God - Jehovah - Amen.

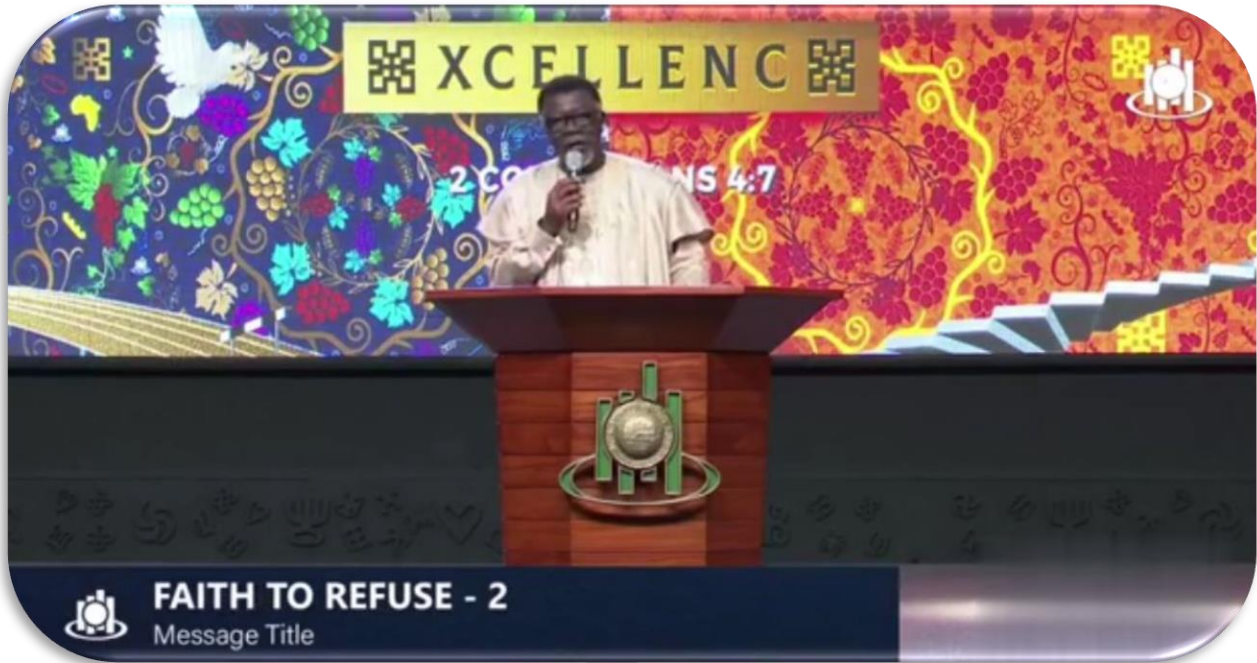
... Are you ready for that?

Give God some Praise right now. Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



1ST NOVEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: FAITH TO REFUSE - PART 2



TEXT: GENESIS 14:18-23

Amen! - Let's keep standing (wherever you are reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY? DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to Shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

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I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossoms.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

Today, I am doing PART 2 of a Message I started two (2) weeks ago. Titled - FAITH TO REFUSE (this is the PART 2).

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 of this Series via this Link below:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Faith-To-Refuse-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

We know that:

- I. Faith is essential for us to RECEIVE from God.
- II. And Faith is essential for us to BECOME what God wants us to be;
- III. And Faith is essential for us to PULL DOWN strongholds and see Miracles.

But in this two (2) Parts Message, I am focusing on: FAITH that does not just receive, but REFUSES (or REJECTS).

Sometimes we need FAITH, to refuse something!

In PART 1, we looked at Moses - Who by Faith, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He REFUSED a wrong Label and a wrong Mission.

In this PART 2 today, we are going to look at ABRAHAM - Who also had Faith to REFUSE.

And the story is in GENESIS 14:18-23 (NKJV);

... Just to give you a little background to this story:

Abraham lived with his Nephew called Lot. And as their businesses grew; their cattle grew and it was necessary for them to separate!

And Abraham gave Lot the first option; and instead of Passing on his Uncle's option, he took it!

And he exercised the first option and he chose what he considered "the most fertile land around." And that is the land of Sodom and Gomorrah.

And he went to live there for some time. And there was a war, and some Kings - five (5) Kings; came against Sodom and Gomorrah and other Towns or Cities around!

The five (5) Kings were able to conquer Sodom and Gomorrah and the other Towns and took people captive.

And that's what happened in those days - if you are conquered, they take you Captive to go and sell you as slaves.

So they took the people captive (including Lot). And not only did they take the people captive; they took all the Properties captive and ran away!

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So somebody came to tell Abraham that: Lot your Nephew has become a victim in this war, and he has been taken as a slave: and his family, his Property of his Town or City -:Everything is gone!

Abraham was not a Soldier, but he put together three hundred and eighteen (318) people and decided to go and fight those who have come to conquer his Nephew's Town.

And God gave him the Victory - Abraham won.

And when he won, he won the Victory - Not only to get Lot out, but all the Nations that had been conquered, he took the people free, liberated their slaves and got their Properties back!

And now, Abraham is the New Champion! - He has won the Great Victory, he is returning!

And when he is returning, he was met by two (2) Kings - One called Melchizedek (we would not say much about him today) and then another King!

And both Kings made an offer - And we are going to read how Abraham responded.

So, Genesis 14:18-23; DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the Priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of Heaven and Earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

... This is where Tithing Started.

21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the Goods for yourself".

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth,

23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'.

Two (2) Kings came to meet Abraham:

1. Melchizedek King of Salem.

Melchizedek brought bread and wine and a Blessing for Abraham!

2. Then after Melchizedek, is King of Sodom.

Now you have to remember: Melchizedek King of Salem had not been Part of this drama.

In other words, his country had not been attacked. He had not lost anything.

He just came with a Blessing to Congratulate Abraham.

But the King of Sodom - His property had been taken, and he had lost so much and he offered things to Abraham and Abraham REFUSED them.

And for us to understand why Abraham REFUSED them - I mean, he has worked hard for it, he had conquered.

Why is he REFUSING a Blessing?

So we are going to look at: THREE (3) OF THE STATEMENTS THAT ABRAHAM MADE.

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And we will examine each one of them.

And to address them appropriately, as to why - ABRAHAM HAD FAITH TO REFUSE THEM.

1. The First (1st) thing Abraham said was: "I HAVE RAISED MY HAND TO THE LORD."

Now that Phrase: "I have raised my hand to the Lord" means: "I HAVE MADE A VOW TO GOD".

That Practice is still in vogue now - When you have to swear to an oath, you go to a Court. Or you go to swear an oath into an Office - They will tell you, lift your hand and you raise your hand, and put the other hand on a Bible, or some other Sacred object, and you take your Vow!

So, it was happening at this time - Abraham did the same thing: He RAISED his hand to God.

... So, Abraham took a Vow.

The implications of that statement that: "I have raised my hand to God" is that Abraham had made an Oath in the Past.

Before he set out to fight the battle with five (5) Kings who had captured his Nephew - Lord; HE MADE A VOW.

He didn't make the Vow AFTER the battle; he made it BEFORE.

He said: "God, I am going to this Battle. In this Battle I make this Vow."

So that is very important - he made this Vow BEFORE the Battle.

But it also mean that the Vow he made to God was still in FORCE.

Abraham did not say: "Well, I made a Vow to God. Now the situation has changed, I have to change the VOW."

He made a Vow in the PAST, and now the Vow was still in FORCE.

After the Battle, Abraham is saying: "Before I went out to do this Battle, I made a Vow. And that Vow is till working now."

It is very important! - A Vow in the Past, but still having effect now.

So that's the first (1st) Statement Abraham made: "I HAVE RAISED MY HAND TO THE LORD."

2. Second (2) Statement Abraham made: "I WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING THAT IS YOURS."

So, that is the Vow he made! - He made a Vow to God and said, "I will not take anything that is yours."

Why did Abraham make that Vow?

We will get to know later (to try to examine why he made that Vow).

He is going to Battle, his Nephew Lot has been captured with his wife and children, Properties have been taken from his City and from everybody;

And Abraham is going to attempt a rescue. And he says: Lord, when I go to this Battle and win, I will not take ANYTHING from these people.

And he made that Vow before he went into Battle!

That Vow was a Self Imposed Limitation; or a Self Imposed Restraint.

Abraham placed an EMBARGO on himself - He stopped himself from doing something. And he itemised what he would not take, to include: A thread to a sandal strap.

In today's language, if Abraham was making such a Vow, he would not say a thread to a sandal strap.

He would have said: "I will not take a PESUA" (if it was Ghana);

"I will not take a PENNY" (if it was British). If it was America - "I will not take a CENT." If it was Nigeria - "I will not take a KOBO."

So, Abraham is saying: "I am not going to take ANYTHING." *I will not take a thread, I will not take a sandal strap.

I will not take a Pesua, I will not take a Penny, I will not take anything!

Can you imagine, he is going in to Battle, he doesn't even know what will come out of it - What if God gives you so much?

And he says - I will not take ANYTHING out of it.

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And when he said it, he actually Specifically directed that Vow to the King of Sodom. He said, I will not take ANYTHING that is YOURS, your Majesty!

It was specifically directed to the person and situation he was involved in. It was not just a rule.

... He took bread and wine from Melchizedek.

So, Abraham is not saying: I'm not going to take anything at all; but I am not taking anything that is yours - Your Royal Highness, King of Sodom.

... That's interesting!

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So, why would Abraham, before he even know the outcome of a battle make a Vow to God?

And say; God, when I go to this Battle, I am not going to take anything from the King of Sodom. I ma not going to take ANYTHING from him.

He answers it: LEST YOU SHOULD SAY, 'I HAVE MADE ABRAM RICH'.

Abraham is saying: I am not going to take ANYTHING from you, so that in future; you wouldn't take credit for my success.

I am not going to take ANYTHING from you, because I don't want you one day, to take away God's Glory from my success.

When Abraham said: I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'.

There is an implied statement in there!

And the implied statement is that: Abraham knew that he would be RICH.

He knew he would be Rich; he knew he was destined to be Rich. He had full confidence in how his future would work out!

In fact, in Genesis 13:2 the Bible says: "Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold."

This is before Chapter 14.

So, already, he had Prospered; but he would Prosper MORE. And he was careful who should get the Glory for his Prosperity.

And so he said, King of Sodom: before this Battle, I made a Vow to God, I will not take a PESUA, a CENT, a KOBO, from your hand.

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Because I don't want you one day to stand somewhere and say: "I MADE ABRAHAM."

Because I know, GOD WILL MAKE ME - And I don't want a man to say, he made me!

So Abraham, didn't want to deny God the Glory for his riches!

He was determined, that nothing would happen to take away God's Glory from what would happen to him in the future.

I mean, when you read the Bible, and you read this - You will say: Why did he make such a Vow concerning the King of Sodom?

Well, something of these things are not directly explained because the next verse did not say "BECAUSE (and then tell us why he did it)"

So, you have to read the Scripture to get a sense of why Abraham would make such a Statement.

So let's look at WHY ABRAHAM WOULD REFUSE?

And this why I believed he REFUSED - Two (2) things:

1. THE SOURCE OF THE OFFER - Where the offer was coming.

Because he said to the King of Sodom: I will not take ANYTHING that is yours!

... He didn't say I won't take anything from anybody else.

But you - King of Sodom, I am not taking ANYTHING from you!

The SOURCE of the offer was that Sodom (as we know) was associated with EVIL.

Maybe Abraham did not want to Associate his future Prosperity with an EVIL SOURCE.

Although he is already rich, he didn't want this one act to come and mess up the Testimony that God is going to give him in the future!

So, he says - Even before the Battle had been determined. Whilst he is going in; he says: God, I know you will give me the Victory, I know that You are going to give me everything;

But I am not going to take ANYTHING from the King of Sodom.

Why? - I believed the SOURCE!

But that is not a Perfect answer! Because there were other people that Abraham took gifts from, who were not the best of people;

Like Abimelech (in Genesis Chapter 20) who wanted to take Sarah - Abraham's wife from him!

He wanted to steal Abraham's wife; and later God went to warn him. And the man gave gifts to Abraham, and Abraham accepted.

Now, if you can accept gifts from a man who wanted to take your wife; then it means he was a bit accommodating.

So, the first (1st) reason could be the SOURCE.

But there is a second (2nd) reasons.

2. If the SOURCE was evil; the Second reason is: The CIRCUMSTANCE of the offer.

... And that I believe, was the MAIN REASON!

Sodom had already lost so much! And I believed Abraham said: "I will not take ANYTHING from the King of Sodom because he didn't want to take undue advantage of Sodom's Calamity.

The people of Sodom had suffered a lot at this time - Their City was attacked, destroyed; their Citizens and Goods taken away from them.

And if you read the Passage (especially Genesis 14:10) - There is an indication that their King might even have died in the Battle.

So this King who is making the offer is a New King who had come in after the first King had died when they were attacked.

If that is the case, it would then seem as if Abraham was taking advantage of them!

Abraham looked at it as if 'these people are at the Lowest Point of their life - They have lost everything; their King had died, citizens have been killed.

I am there to go and deliver them; and I am not going to take advantage of the situation to make myself rich. Lest one day somebody would say: Oh, Abraham destroyed others in order to prosper! He took advantage of other people who were down, in order for him to rise up.

... Abraham Pulled people down to get up!

I believe, that is the reason why he said: "I am not going to take ANYTHING from the King of Sodom. "

Because if you look at the case Properly in Verse 21 (Genesis 14:21) - The King of Sodom said: Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, *"Give me the persons, and take the Goods for yourself".

So, he is saying: The people whom you have gone to rescue; give them to me, and take the goods!

Why is he saying that? - Because he doesn't deserve either!

Because in those days whenever you go to war, whatever you captured is yours!

So, when Abraham went, rescued the people; it means actually - Not only are the people the Property now of Abraham; the King himself, is a property of Abraham!

Because he (Abraham) has now come to rescue them. And not only that; all the items that were rescued, were for Abraham!

So, Legitimately, Legal; Abraham is the owner of the people and the Goods!

He has earned it by right, by hard work to the PERIL of his LIFE!

If anybody should say: I worked for it, I laboured for it, I sweated for it, I did everything for it, it's Legal.

... It is ABRAHAM: the goods are his, the people are his!

So, the King says: I know they are yours; but just give me the people - so we go and start afresh. And keep the goods!

And Abraham says: I am not going to take ANYTHING from you; because, before this War, I have made a Vow to God "That I would not take ANYTHING from you!"

SO WHAT IS FAITH TO REFUSE IN THIS MATTER?

"FAITH TO REFUSE" is believing so much in the future God has Planned for you; that you refuse to get there by any means necessary - Including destroying or taking advantage of others!

So, there are certain times that God would give you an advantage in life and you must REFUSE IT.

... That's FAITH TO REFUSE.

What Abraham did is very similar to what David did when he had the opportunity to kill King Saul..

David knew he would be King of Israel; he had been Anointed King! As a matter of fact - The Bible says an evil spirit was now upon King Saul.

And to make matters worst, King Saul was Pursuing David, to kill him!

Now, David had an opportunity to kill King Saul so that he become King. And he REFUSED TO DO IT!

He REFUSED to become a King at the expense of killing King Saul.

David had FAITH TO REFUSE.

Elisha gave direction for the healing of Naaman. And he EARNED his reward!

Naaman brought rewards and Elisha REFUSED IT; Because he said it was not time yet for him to accept such things.

So, there are times when it seems as if everything is to your advantage. But, your success is going to totally destroy another person - And you should REFUSE that kind of success.

It is called "FAITH TO REFUSE."

Abraham said King (of Sodom): I am going to give you back your people. And I am going to give you back the Goods.

Because I know I would be great in the future and I don't want somebody to come and say; Abraham, oh you know why he Prospered? - Because he went up there and he impoverished the people of Sodom, and he took everything from them - That is why he was rich!

He says, I Vowed to God: I will never do that!

So let me ask you a few questions:

1. If you knew that God would make you rich, would you steal to get rich?
2. If you knew that God would lift you up in life; would you like to bring somebody down in order for you to rise up?
3. If you knew that your Church or your Business would increase and grow and become mighty; would you attack others and what they have built in order to grow yours?

Because if you truly have Faith in your future, the choices you make, would determine your Faith.

If you knew that God would give you a beautiful family life - Your own husband, your own wife; give you a decent family, give you a good home;

... Would you take somebody's Partner for yourself?

I am not going to desire an Answer from you. I would say it again;

If you knew that God would give you your own Partner; Would you take somebody's Partner away from them?

If you knew God has a Glorious Future for you; would you say ugly things about someone else, in order to get FAME and POPULARITY?

Abraham knew God would make him Rich; he knew as for riches - I WOULD BECOME! And it is not this time with Sodom that would make my future prosperity.

And he was able to look at King of Sodom and said:

1. First (1st) of all, you are a BAD MAN - Leader of evil people.

... That's number one (1)!

2. Secondly, you are at the lowest level of you life - You have lost everything! And God has used me to redeemed you!

But I am not going to take advantage of what God has used me to do: I am going to allow you to keep everything you have, and go one with your life.

*Because I know.

God is going to make ms great, and Richer than you!*

And I don't want history to come back and say I became Rich because I destroyed you!

It is called FAITH TO REFUSE.

... Abraham knew that!



So the question you want to ask yourself:

If you were David and Saul was harassing you. And now you can kill him to become the King; WOULD YOU KILL HIM?

... Or you have Faith to REFUSE that opportunity.

I. Do you have Faith to Refuse to destroy your enemy?

II. Do you have Faith to Refuse to take advantage of someone in a Vulnerable situation?

III. Do you have Faith to Refuse to pull down someone, so you can take their Position?

IV. Do you have Faith to Refuse to repay evil for evil.

V. If you truly believed that God is taking you somewhere; WOULD YOU TAKE SHORT CUTS?

In Part One (1) of this Message we saw that Moses REFUSED a wrong Label.

And today, we see Abraham REFUSING to take advantage of a Vulnerable person!

At some point in your life, in my life: we must have FAITH TO REFUSE.

Although it may seem as if Oh, this is a Good opportunity - I have to take advantage, I don't know when anyone is going to come for it!

Listen to me: the God you serve is the Ancient of Days; the same yesterday, today and forever. New Mercies come every morning!

Why do you think if this one PASSES, God will not show you another mercy? And God would not open a better door for you?

Why do you limit yourself to only one (1) moment in History - as the only moment God can Bless you?

Abraham had FAITH TO REFUSE!

*But let me stretch this Message a little further - In application; and apply it to us Africans;

If we believe in the Greatness of Africa, we must have FAITH TO REFUSE wrong Labels on us;

Like Moses, like Paul - underdeveloped! And all the other labels.

We must not call ourselves by it, and we must REJECT it when we are called by it!

If we believed in the greatness of BLACK PEOPLE, we must FAITH to REFUSE to see ourselves as VICTIMS - in every situation.

Blaming the world for EVERYTHING that goes wrong with us! We must have FAITH to REJECT Victimhood.

If we believe in the greatness that God has placed in our LAND, in our Continent; we must have the FAITH to REFUSE to sell that wealth CHEAP - or for nothing.

... Because there is a Market for it!

And if we believed in the greatness of our PEOPLE; we must have FAITH to REFUSE to destroy them!

Because if we believed that the greatest Asset of a Nation is its people; then we must have FAITH in the people and NOT DESTROY them.

If we believed in the Greatness of our citizens, we must have FAITH to REFUSE looking up constantly to Foreign expense.

... Even if they seems to have the Answer!

We should not let China or America or Great Britain or Germany or Canada or any other Nation say: They are the REDEEMERS of Africa; they are the ones who helped us - We were the helpless people! And we were so down they came to pick us up!

We must REFUSE THEM that Testimony!

Abraham said: I refuse you King of Sodom; the Testimony of saying "I made Abraham Rich!"

And Africa must say: We REFUSE you China - the right to say REDEEMED Africa".

We REFUSE you Canada - The right to say "we REDEEMED Africa."

We REFUSE you Germany - The right to say "we REDEEMED Africa."

We REFUSE you Great Britain - The right to say "we REDEEMED Africa."

And we REFUSE you America - The right to say "you made us who we ARE!

We want us as a Nation, as a people, to stand somewhere Five (5) to twenty (20) Years from now and say: LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US (AFRICANS)!

But for us to do that, we have to be like Abraham; we have to say: I REFUSE to accept what you are offering mW now;

Because I believed TOO MUCH in my Destiny; I believed too much in where I am going.

Do you believe in where you are going? Do you believe in where God is taking you to?

Do you believe God has a husband for you? A wife for you? prosperity for you? Abundance for you? Peace for you? greatness for you?

So you believed you are the head and not the tail?

If you believe that; then you are not going to try to bring somebody down; take from somebody; destroy another person - in order to get it!

And Abraham believed he would be rich; and he said I will not do this - lest you would say: " I have made Abraham rich."

WHY? Because I would be RICH!

If this opportunity passes, I would still be Rich! If I don't destroy you, I would still be Rich! If I don't STEAL from you, I would still be Rich! If I don't bring you down, I would still be Rich.

And I have so much Faith in God, that I would let this one GO!

I will let this one GO: because I have FAITH in my Future, in my Prominence, in my Destiny!

And today I came here to encourage you; God has a great Destiny for you;

And you must have so much FAITH in Him : That you REFUSE anything that will destroy the testimony that God wants to give you in the future.

... Lift up your hands to God - like Abraham. And say with me:

Heavenly Father, I know the Plans You have for me. They are for Good and not for evil;

I know the GREATNESS You have for me, it is for GOOD and not for evil;

I know You would Prosper me; I know You would Bless me; I know You would make me Happy; I know You would make me Joyful; I know You would cause me to ABOUND;

So I REFUSE any offer that will destroy my Testimony; I Vow to You Oh God - That when You have done it, all the Glory would be yours.

When You have done it, You would deserve all the Glory;

When You have done it, the whole world would say: This is the doing of the Lord, and it is Marvellous in our sight.

May the Lord give you a Testimony that the whole world cannot RESIST - Amen!

And when men see it and women see it, they would say: Look at what the Lord has done for him and for her.

Your Testimony is coming - Don't rush for it; it's coming. YOU WILL BE IT!

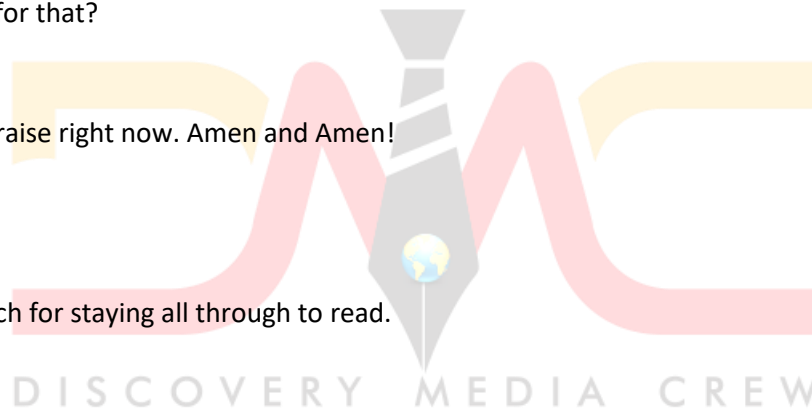
And God would make you, whatever it is - You will be IT. And you will get there, and you will be all that God has caused you to be!

And your Testimony will go to the Lord God - Jehovah - Amen.

... Are you ready for that?

Give God some Praise right now. Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



8TH NOVEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: FAITH TO RECEIVE - PART 1

TEXT: HEBREWS 11:11

Amen! - Let's keep standing (wherever you are reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

Whether you see it or not: 2020 is our YEAR OF EXCELLENCE.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to Shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

Today, I am speaking on - FAITH TO RECEIVE (PART 1).

Because FAITH is not only about BECOMING, it's not also only about REFUSING; but Faith also enables us to RECEIVE.

And in this Part 1; we are going to focus on a woman who is Popular in the Bible, but usually not mentioned much.

... And that is SARAH.

And I am going to focus my teaching on her.

And my Text is from Hebrews 11:11. And Hebrews Chapter 11 talks about FAITH. It defines FAITH; and then it talks about all kinds of people who had Faith, and then different kinds of FAITH that people had.

But in verse 11 (Hebrews 11:11) this comment is made about Sarah; a woman who is always ignored when it comes to Faith.

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We treat her as if she were a woman of unbelief because of her suggestion to her husband about Hagar.

This is what Hebrews 11:11 (NKJV) says about Sarah. It says;

"By Faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him Faithful who had Promised."

.. I love that!

Now, many times when we talk about Faith, we focus on Abraham. It's almost as if Sarah is a Passenger on the journey.

... But Sarah was a Major Player in the story of Abraham and God's Promise to him.

Sarah had been married to Abraham, when God called Abraham. God spoke to Abraham directly; Sarah did not hear God speaking to her!

But her husband (Abraham) came to her and said - Whatever term they used at time; whether it's Honey, or Sweetheart or Bone of my Bone: "God has spoken to me; God said we should leave where we are; from the hare of the Chaldeans and go to a Land He is going to show us.

And Sarah did not hear that, only Abraham heard that! Abraham believed God; Sarah believed in Abraham!

She didn't hear from God, she heard from her husband. And believed that her husband was right, and she left with the husband, to go and look for this Land that God has Promised them.

Then another time, Abraham said to Sarah: God has spoken to me again. He says I'm going to be the father of many nations. And I would be blessed.

... He didn't speak to Sarah, He spoke to Abraham.

Sarah said to her husband: if that is what God said to you, I believe it too.

... I believe what you say God has spoken to you about.

Then another time Abraham comes and say: Sarah, guess what?

When we were living the Hare of the Chaldeans your name was SARAI; But last night, God said your name is now SARAH.

She says: I didn't hear from God, but if you say "God Said", I believe.

So, if you look at the journey of Sarah and Abraham; Abraham is the one who HEARS from God; who BELIEVES the Word of God, who has Faith.

And then he tells his wife and the wife believes him because that's the husband! And he's a Man of God, and I believe what he says.

So all these time, Sarah is not hearing from God!

... This is very important!

Now one of the Major things that God said to Abraham was that: Abraham would have children. And that his children would be like the stars in the sky and like the sands on the Seashore!

Naturally, being Abraham's wife, Sarah believed that she would be the woman that would Produce the children of Abraham.

And then she waited, and waited and waited and nothing was coming out of this Promise.

So, after a long time, Sarah began to put one and two together. And she said to herself, by the way: Abraham was the one God spoke to, not me! Abraham was the one God says would become the father of many Nations.

So, if I cannot help Abraham to become the father of many Nations; then I should find a way, for Abraham to become the father of many Nations.

... Because the Promise is to him (Abraham) and not to me!

So Sarah (with Good intentions) worked out an arrangement for Abraham to become the father of many nations.

Abraham had a child: God says, "GOOD EFFORTS" BUT WRONG!

This is not what I want; Sarah is the one who is going to have the child.

So now, Sarah is stuck - She hasn't heard from God, her husband is the one who has heard from God; and now it looks like she's 'TOO OLD' to fulfil the Promise of God.

So, that is where the verse (Hebrews 11:11) we just read comes in:

"By Faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him Faithful who had Promised."

"... By Faith Sarah herself!

Say with me: 'Sarah HERSELF!'

Now if you wanted just to make a sentence, you can say: "By Faith Sarah believed God."

But the Passage adds a Qualifier to Sarah. It says: "Sarah HERSELF".

So, it is making a very important statement about Sarah here. It's a unique statement about Sarah - Sarah HERSELF.

She used to have Faith, but her Faith was in what Abraham said God had spoken to him about but now, Sarah HERSELF!

Somebody say: Me MYSELF!

Because there comes a time when you by YOURSELF must have Faith.

Not through somebody, not for somebody but you YOURSELF.

SO WHAT DOES "SARAH HERSELF" MEAN?

1. It means that she did not depend on Abraham's Faith.

She came to a Point where she had to have her own Faith in God.

She has spent much of her life tagging along her husband's Faith.

Many of us tag along the Faith of somebody else.

People tag along the Faith of their Pastor. They believe in the Faith of their Pastor, they believe in the Faith of a Prophet, they believe in the Faith of a Man of God, they believe in the Faith of a Woman of God.

There is somebody whose Faith they believed in - They believed if that Person Prays, God would hear. If that person says it is so, it so!

That's what Sarah had been doing for so long without any result. So now, she HERSELF had to have Faith.

And she did not depend on Abraham's Faith.

2. It also means She BELIEVES GOD'S PROMISES to her.

Not just God's Promises to Abraham, but to Herself (Sarah).

All along it's Abraham who hears from God, and comes to tell Sarah.

But now Sarah BELIEVES that the Promises are not only to Abraham, but to her as well.

You have to Understand, the Bible is not written for your Pastor. The Bible is written for you as well.

The Word of God is not for the Man of God; it is for the children of God.

And every child of God has a right to believe the same Word of God that the Pastor Preaches from.

She believed God's Promises were for her as well, and not for her husband alone.

3. She ACTED on God's Word BY HERSELF.

She had to do the things necessary for the Word of God to manifest in her life.

SO HOW DID SARAH HERSELF HAVE FAITH?

How did she have it? Where did she get the Faith from?

The Bible says that Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

Abraham's Faith came because he heard from God - God spoke to him to leave his Homeland; God spoke to him that he would be the father of many Nations;

Abraham BELIEVED what God had said to him.

... And that's how he got Faith.

Faith doesn't come by squeezing your face!

Some people believe, if you can be 'STUBBORN' enough - That's Faith.

There is a BIG difference between Stubbornness and Faith.

Some people say: You are brave - He is a very brave man; he has a lot of Faith.

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No, there's a big difference between Bravery and Faith.

.. Faith is not bravery, Faith is not Stubbornness.

Faith is simply believing what God has said is True and relying on it.

So, without the Word of God, there is no Biblical Faith.

For Faith to be active in the life of a child of God, the Word of God Has to be heard.

Now remember, Abraham is the one who keeps hearing God, and so he has Faith.

Sarah hasn't heard from God - So she doesn't have the RAW MATERIAL to develop Faith.

Until something happened in Genesis 18:9-15; three (3) Personalities visited Abraham. They were on their way to Sodom and Gomorrah to bring Judgement to the two (2) Cities.

But they stopped over at Abraham and Sarah's house; because they were welcomed into the house!

And God speaks through these three (3) Personalities, what went on.

Because this is where Sarah HERSELF had Faith from.

Genesis 18:9-15 (NKJV):

9 Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent."

... I can almost imagine he Pointed - "Here, in the tent."

But he didn't call her to say - "Sarah, come and hear!" He just said "Here, in the tent."

10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son."

... What was she (Sarah) doing? - Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.

For the first (1st) time, Sarah had opportunity to hear what Abraham hears.

Every time, it's only Abraham who hears. But this time, she brings her ear close to find out what these men are talking to my husband about.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, (Don't we know it?) well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

... She's past the age of childbearing, but she heard it.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my Lord being old also?"

13 And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'

14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid.

And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

So for the first (1st) time, Sarah heard the Promises of God.

You may not think it is important! But for Sarah, this is the first (1st) time she's heard how Abraham gets his Messages.

Because Abraham would normally come and say: God spoke to me. God says I would be the father of many Nations. God says my children would be like the stars in the sky;

God says whoever curses me, He would curse; God says whoever blesses me, He would Bless; God says He would make my name great!

... Sarah never heard any of these things!

So, if she had not been in the tent listening, it would have been Abraham who would have come to her and say: "Sarah, by the way, the Lord says through the three (3) Visitors who came; that you are going to have a child."

But for the first (1st) time - Abraham does not have to report the Words of the Lord to Sarah. Sarah HERSELF heard the Word of God.

THE TWO (2) RESPONSES OF SARAH.

1. The First (1st) Response is: BEMUSEMENT and WONDER.

The Promise of God was just too Good to be true. It was so shocking and mind blowing, that she burst out LAUGHING.

Her laughter was not a laughter of UNBELIEF; it was a laughter of SHOCK.

It is the kind of laughter that comes from Positive Disbelief.

WHAT IS POSITIVE DISBELIEF?

Positive Disbelief is somebody tells you something that's so Good, and you say: "YOU ARE LYING."

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Now, when you say: 'You are lying' you don't mean to say really the person is lying.

You are literally saying: "This thing is so Good, please I beg it's not a lie.

... I hope you are not lying to me?

But it's so Good; I believe it so well. Please, I hope it's not a lie?

That's what's going on with Sarah! - She is not laughing because she thinks it cannot be; No! She thinks Whaaaa! After all these years, would I embrace a Miracle?

... So, that's her first (1st) response!

Then the Lord said to Abraham: "Why did Sarah laugh?"

Have you noticed that in all this conversation the Lord is not speaking to Sarah?

The Lord is speaking to Abraham - Sarah is listening; so she HEARS what God is saying.

... Although it is not specifically spoken to her!

So, sometimes, you can hear the Word of God, spoken to somebody and you can gatecrashed into it! You can receive it for yourself.

2. So the second (2nd) Response is SERIOUSNESS and FAITH.

The fact that her silent laughter and her inner thoughts were revealed to her, made her realised:

"This Promise is not a JOKE! I'm not being teased; I'm not being given something that doesn't work."

... And she launched unto it!

So the Bible says in Hebrews 11:11: "By Faith Sarah herself also received Strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him Faithful who had Promised."

... So, Sarah moves from being BAFFLED by God, to BELIEVING God.

I'm going to show you HOW SARAH'S FAITH WORKED

And I'm going to show you three (3) things in the Passage:

... So let's see how Sarah's Faith Worked.

1. The Bible says: "By Faith Sarah herself also received STRENGTH."

... Received Strength!

Her body was RENEWED - This is what the Faith does for her.

Please Note what the Bible says and what the Bible doesn't say.

The Bible didn't say: "By Faith Sarah received a Child."

... That's not what the Bible says!

Obviously, that's what our minds tell us the Bible is saying.

But the Bible is saying a totally different thing;

What she received by Faith is not a Child; What she received by Faith is STRENGTH.

And this is very important! - Sarah received STRENGTH.

The word that is translated STRENGTH in that Passage in the Greek Language is "DUNAMIS".

DUNAMIS is the ability to do something.

So her Faith didn't give her the child; the Faith gave her the ABILITY.

Because many times when we talk about Faith; we think Faith will give us what we are believing for; but Faith gives us the ABILITY.

By Faith, Sarah HERSELF received STRENGTH

What does that mean?

It means that at certain Point in her life (as the Passage describes it) her body is not in a Good shape. She is Past conception, Past delivery.

You know what?

God is not going to use that body to Produce a child because He would have to violate His Own Natural Laws.

So Sarah's Faith, the first (1st) thing it does, is to TOUCH the body of Sarah and REINVIGORATE her body - So that her body which did not have the CAPACITY to conceive; now is RENEWED to have the CAPACITY TO CONCEIVE.

... Because Faith starts a Process!

The first (1st) thing - Sarah RECEIVED STRENGTH.

2. The Second (2nd) thing, SARAH CONCEIVED.

She conceived! She could now form and grow Seed.

The challenge all along for Sarah was that: Her BODY could not Conceive.

... But now, by Faith - her Body CONCEIVED.

3. And then the third (3rd) thing you would note is: SHE BORE A CHILD.

... I like that!

She could deliver what she had CONCEIVED; she BORE a child!

She did not RECEIVE the child; Faith did not give her the child;

Faith conditioned her body to be able to Conceive and Produce a child.

And I'm going to make a very important statement about Faith; because this tells us something very, very fundamental about how Faith works.

Because many times we think that: "When I have Faith, I would get what I asked for."

But Sarah did not get what she asked for through her Faith - She got the ABILITY to Produce what she was asking for.

... Faith gives us the ABILITY!

So this is the statement:

"FAITH DOES NOT MOVE MOUNTAINS; FAITH GIVES US THE ABILITY TO MOVE MOUNTAINS."

You say, Pastor, what are you talking about? Because we have heard that Faith moves Mountain!

But Faith doesn't move mountains; Faith gives us the ABILITY to MOVE MOUNTAINS.

So, when I have Faith, the Mountain would still be there; but God would give me the ABILITY to move MOUNTAINS.

You say: Pastor, what is the Scriptural basis for that?

I'm not going to make such a statement without giving you the Scriptural basis.

Matthew 17:19-20; this is when Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration - An Epileptic Boy is brought to the Disciples, and they couldn't do much about it.

... Jesus comes and cast out the devil.

And this is what the Scriptures say:

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your UNBELIEF; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have Faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

So, two (2) questions I want to ask you - What is MOVING the Mountain?

1. Is it the Faith?

2. Or is it what you Say?

The Passage doesn't say it's the Faith that moves the Mountain;

It says - "If you have Faith ..., you will SAY."

So, Faith gives you the ABILITY TO DO something.

Faith is in your heart - What you SAY out of your mouth is what is going to MOVE the Mountain.

Sarah did not receive a child by Faith; she received the STRENGTH to conceive. And it is by the Process of the conception that the child was born.

Faith gives you the ABILITY to do; it gives you DUNAMIS; it gives you POWER.

DUNAMIS is where we get the English word "DYNAMITE".

... When I have Faith, I have ABILITY.

For example: "I need money" (who doesn't)? And I have Faith that God would give me money.

And I say "Father, I believe Your Promises to me that You would bless me, You would supply all my needs.

... And I quote all the Scriptures!

So what's going to happen next? Is money going to rain down on me? - No!

Because the Scriptures tells us, "That He gives us the POWER to get wealth."

So, Faith would not give you the money, but Faith would give you the POWER, the ABILITY, the DUNAMIS - To get wealth.

You are believing God for a child?

Faith would not give you the child but Faith would give your body the CONDITION to Produce a child.

That is what Faith did for Sarah.

"By Faith Sarah herself also received Strength to CONCEIVE seed, and she BORE a child when she was PAST THE AGE, because she judged Him FAITHFUL who had PROMISED."

Your counting God Faithful gives you the ABILITY to get the things that you are desiring for.

So Faith gives us the ability to do something: And that is THE FAITH TO RECEIVE.

We Believe it, we Say it; we Believe it, He Empowers us; we believe it, He gives us the ABILITY, we believe it, He gives us the STRENGTH.

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And there are many of us who are BELIEVING God for something:

Maybe you are believing God for a house - You say: "Oh God, please give me a house!"

You are just walking on the street one day, and a house will just come from Heaven (BOOM)! "I AM THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER."

... That's not what's going to happen!

You say God: I need a house and I believe You. And you quote all the a Scriptures.

What would God do for you? What would your Faith do for you?

Faith will not give you a house; Faith would give you the POWER to build the house.

It would give you the Power to build the house; the ABILITY, the wherewithal.

Whatever is required for you to be able to Build the house; Faith would draw it to you and You would build THE house.

What I like about that Passage - about Sarah; it says "Sarah BORE the child." It was a PRODUCT from her.

But it came because Faith renewed her BODY, and gave her the ABILITY to.

There are many things God wants to do in your life; and what Faith is going to do is: it's going to give you the ABILITY.

Something that you have Past - Everybody says oh, his time is over!

Faith would RENEW you; Faith would give you the ABILITY; Faith would give you what it takes!

Faith would cause your body that is dead to be alive!

Faith would cause your Hope that is dead to be redefined.

FAITH give us the ABILITY to do what God wants us to do.

And when we understand Faith that way, we will do MASSIVE EXPLOITS.

When you read the Bible you will see the accounts of people who acted in Faith to see the things that God wanted to do.

Faith will not move the Mountain; but Faith would give you the ABILITY to move MOUNTAINS.

By Faith, you would say to the Mountain: be moved, and it will move!

That means that when I have Faith, and don't use the ABILITY Faith gives me, then I would not get the result I am looking for.

Before we close today, the greatest thing we can use our FAITH TO RECEIVE is to receive JESUS CHRIST to come and live in our hearts.

When Christ comes to live in our hearts, He gives us the ABILITY to become the sons of God.

Faith brings Him into us, and He gives us the Power to become the sons of God.

... It is the same Principle!

ALTAR CALL



So, if you are reading this Message now on the Label of DMC: and you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour:

I will just say this: God sent His Son JESUS, he came to die for YOU - He died for your SINS, and ROSE again from the dead so that Salvation would be yours.

And if you believe in Him, He gives you Power to become a child of God:

"As many as believed in Him, to them He gave the POWER to become the sons of God.

Wherever you are reading now on the Label of DMC; today is your day of Salvation.

And if you want Jesus to come into your heart, you are going to activate your Faith by the words you speak.

You shall say it, and Christ would give you the Power to become a child of God.

If you want to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, just lift up your right hand as an indication that you are ready to make this Decision:

And say with me: HEAVENLY FATHER, I COME TO YOU JUST AS I AM; I AM A SINNER, I CANNOT SAVE MYSELF. BUT I THANK YOU, THAT JESUS DIED TO SAVE ME FROM MY SIN. AND HE'S ALIVE AS MY REDEEMER AND MY LORD.

AND TODAY, BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS, I RECEIVE THE POWER TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD. I RECEIVE JESUS INTO MY HEART; AND I DECLARE THAT I AM BORN AGAIN, I AM A CHILD OF GOD. I WILL FOLLOW JESUS ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE. NO TURNING BACK.

I THANK YOU FATHER FOR ACCEPTING ME, IN JESUS' NAME - AMEN!

If you did Pray that Prayer, Faith has given you the Power to become a child of God.

And you can boldly say: I am now a Born Again Christian. I am Born of God, I am a child of God; Old things are passed away, and behold all things are become New.

May the Lord cause your Faith to activate Power in your life, ABILITY in your life, DUNAMIS in your life;

And cause you to do things by YOURSELF - through FAITH in the Word of God.

In Jesus' Name. - Amen and AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

15TH NOVEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: FAITH TO RECEIVE - PART 2



TEXT: ACTS 3:4-8 AND ACTS 14:8-10

Amen! - Let's keep standing (wherever you are reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to Shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

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I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

Well, today I'm doing PART 2 of my Message: "FAITH TO RECEIVE."

Last week, we looked at how SARAH received strength to conceive by Faith.

We noted that Sarah had lived much of her life depending on what God had told her husband - Abraham.

She knew the Promise of God had been made to her husband; but she did not have a DIRECT word of God for herself. And her whole life, she had depended on the Faith of her husband.

However, in Genesis 18:10, she hears a DIRECT word of God to her - When God indicated that she was going to conceive and have a child!

And this is the first (1st) time that Sarah had heard a direct word of God to her; not through her husband.

And we anchored our Message last week on Hebrews 11:11, that says:

"By Faith Sarah herself also received Strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was Past the age, because she judged Him Faithful who had Promised."

Sarah received STRENGTH to conceive Seed; she didn't receive a CHILD.

... She received STRENGTH to conceive a child!

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 Message on:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Faith-To-Receive-Part-1-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

And so, the main Pieces of my Message from last week and this week (in this two (2) Parts Message) is that: "FAITH gives us the ABILITY to do THINGS."

Faith does not usually do things for us; but gives us the ABILITY, the STRENGTH to do those things.

It enables us to do things by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.

And that is why when we exercise Faith for something; we must ACT OUT OUR FAITH.

We must do something in line with our Faith - because "FAITH without WORKS is DEAD!"

... Dead Faith is Faith alright; but it is DEAD!

And so Faith must always have a corresponding Action!

Sarah acted out her Faith!

And today, we will develop the same concept a little further.

And at the end of this Message, I would want you to determine to do something about what you have Prayed about.

If you have Prayed about something; have Faith for something.

By the time I finished this Message, what I want you to take away with you is that you are going to do something about your Faith - you are going to act it out.

For example, if you believe that God is going to Protect you from the Coronavirus, you must ACT OUT your Faith.

How are you going to do that?

You are going to wear your mask, and sanitize your hands.

If you believe God would Protect you, your actions must correspond with what you believe.

If you believe God is going to Prosper the work of your hands, then you must act out your Faith.

What do you do?

You must have work of your hand! You cannot believe God would Prosper the work of your hand, and do nothing.

If you believe God is going to give you Peace, you must act out your Faith.

How do you do it?

You must be anxious for nothing. You cannot trust God for Peace and be worrying at the same time!

Your action must correspond with your Faith.

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... Sarah received Strength to conceive!

So, our Physical Actions must correspond with our SPIRITUAL BELIEFS.

And today, we would look at two (2) Case Studies:

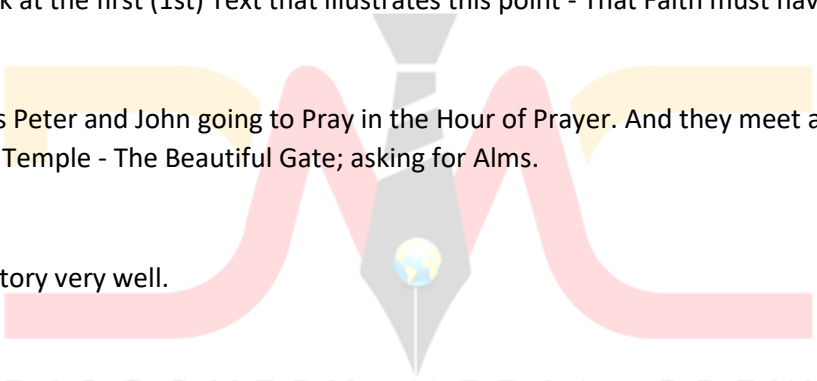
And those two (2) Cases Studies are both in the Book of Acts.

THE FIRST (1ST) CASE STUDY: ACTS 3:4-8

And we would look at the first (1st) Text that illustrates this point - That Faith must have ACTION.

ACTS 3:4-8; This is Peter and John going to Pray in the Hour of Prayer. And they meet a man who is lame at the Gate of the Temple - The Beautiful Gate; asking for Alms.

... We know that story very well.

Acts 3:4-8 (NKJV);  DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and Gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

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

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the Temple with them —walking, leaping, and praising God. Amen!

It's a story we are familiar with, and have Probably heard many times it's retold!

Many times when we see the Miracles in the Bible, we see them as one old thing working.

That means we see them as Old Miracles that happened - One Act of God.

And that is true!

However, this Act of God can be broken down.

And that's what I'm going to do today: I'm going to segregate different things that happened in this Miracle.

And we can see the various sequences of Events that led to the man Walking and Leaping.

1. The first (1st) we want to see is - Peter told the man "LOOK AT US.

He was FOCUSING the man's ATTENTION.

Peter and John paid attention to the man; they focused on him and also asked him to focus on them.

Now, this was Probably not the usual way People related with this man.

And I think some of us can relate with that because sometimes we see People beg for money by the way side in some parts of our Cities.

And when you want to give money to any of those People, you don't tell them to look at you.

Normally, you just drop whatever you have, you don't even bother to look to the face of the Person. You just drop whatever you have and move on.

But Peter didn't do that!

Everybody has By-Passed this man into the Temple. But Peter says: No Sir! "LOOK AT US."

... So, he is capturing the man's attention.

So, to receive anything by Faith, we must focus our attention.

We cannot be unfocused in Prayer.

Even if you are Praying, you can't just be Praying - Your Pray must have a focus.

If you have Faith, your Faith must have a FOCUS - Faith for what?

PAY ATTENTION! DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

When the Word of God is been spoken, Pay attention because we cannot receive anything by Faith without paying attention.

... So that's the first (1st) thing we see.

2. The Second (2nd) Thing we see in the story is EXPECTATION.

... In his attention there is EXPECTATION.

The Bible says: The man looked at them expecting to receive something.

Probably he was expecting to receive money because that is what he normally gets.

But his sense of anticipation was high. He was looking at them expecting to receive something.

To receive anything by Faith, we must have a sense of EXPECTATION.

We must focus - Pay attention; we must have EXPECTATION.

Our Expectations opens us up to receive what God has for us.

Many times People go through their life with no expectation.

Even after they have Prayed; they have no expectation that what they have Prayed for, is going to happen.

There is no sense of anticipation; they are not looking forward to anything, they look down in a so, so manner - hoping that things would happen.

... But here we see EXPECTATION.

The first (1st) is Paying ATTENTION; the second (2nd) EXPECTATION.

3. The Third (3rd) one is a rather big word (but I can't avoid it) - INVOCATION.

Peter said: "In the Name of Jesus" - INVOCATION!

There is ATTENTION, there is EXPECTATION, there is INVOCATION.

What is an INVOCATION?

An Invocation is a call on a Higher Authority to act in a situation.

So, Prayer is a form of INVOCATION - We are invoking; we are making a demand!

So, Peter said: "In the Name of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth."

... The use of the Name of Jesus is an INVOCATION.

When we call on the Name of Jesus, we make Him Present in a situation.

To receive anything by Faith, it must come through Christ.

God expresses His Grace to us through Christ.

Every Miracle we receive is a result of what Christ accomplished for us through His Suffering, His Death, His Resurrection and His ongoing Ministry.

We don't receive by ourselves based on our efforts and based on our own Power - We receive through Christ, by His Grace.

So, there is ATTENTION, there is EXPECTATION, there is INVOCATION;

4. The Fourth (4th) is COMMAND.

... Or we can call it INSTRUCTION.

..."RISE UP AND WALK!"

The Command was made in the Name of Jesus.

At this point, when Peter said: "RISE UP AND WALK"; we can safely say that: The Power of God to heal the man had been deployed.

To receive anything from the Lord, we must hear His INSTRUCTION.

Faith is a response to God's Word.

It is not just a response to courage; it is a response to God's Word!

And when you look at the Ministry of Jesus, He usually instructed People to do something.

I. The first (1st) Miracle He did - When He turned water to Wine; He told the People "FILL THE POTS" with water.

... "FILL THE POTS!" - That is an INSTRUCTION.

II. He told Peter: "LET DOWN YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH!"

III. He told the Blind Man: "GO WASH IN THE POOL."

IV. He told the Lepers: "GO SHOW YOURSELVES TO THE PRIEST."

V. He told the man with the Withered Hand: "STRETCH FORTH YOUR HANDS!"

VI. He told the man who was Paralyzed: "RISE UP AND WALK!"

VII. And even to a dead Lazarus, He said: "COME FORTH!"

You realised, that everything or most Miracles of Jesus were acted out through an INSTRUCTION or through a COMMAND.

Because Faith must always respond to a Command.

Faith is not just courage, or having been braved; Faith is acting on the Word of God.

So today:

I. I tell you: RISE UP FROM DEFEAT.

II. I tell you: BE HEALED, in the Name of Jesus!

III. I tell you: PROSPER in the midst of your enemies.

5. Then the last thing we see here is THE ACTION.

".. He (Peter) took him (the Lame man) by the right hand."

The taking by the right hand is not a Spiritual act; It is a Physical act but based on what the Lord has done Spiritually.

... And this is where I want you to Pay close attention to!

FIVE STEPS:

- Attention
- Expectation
- Invocation
- Command or Instruction

- And the Action!

By the time Peter said: "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, RISE UP AND WALK" - The Power to heal had been DEPLOYED.

... But the man was still sitting down.

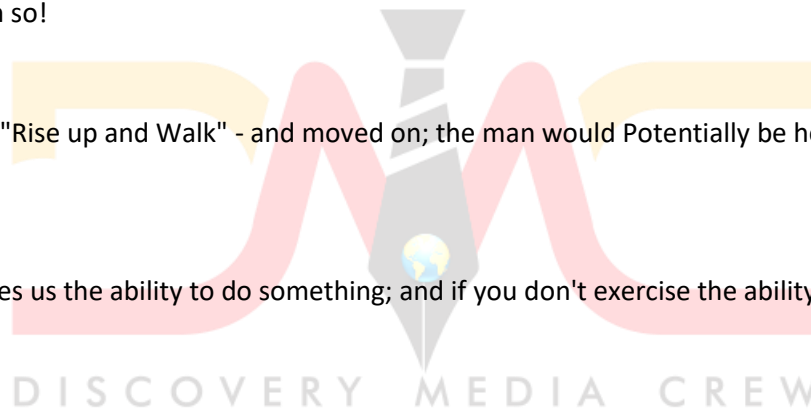
So, what if Peter had ended with the INVOCATION and a COMMAND: "Rise up and Walk!" And then Peter walked on into the Temple?

Would the man had experienced healing?

... It doesn't seem so!

If Peter had said: "Rise up and Walk" - and moved on; the man would Potentially be healed; but actually not healed!

Because Faith gives us the ability to do something; and if you don't exercise the ability, you would still be where you are.



If Sarah had not exercised the ability, she would not be Pregnant.

This man was healed, and still sitting down.

And the Bible says then Peter took him by the right hand!

After he had done all the Spiritual Stuff: He had Commanded him "in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise up and walk" - The man is still sitting down!

So Peter took him by the right hand - That is not Spiritual, that's Physical. And he lifted him up!

And if you follow the sequence of what happened; the Bible says: Immediately, his feet and ankle bones received Strength.

When did that happened?

When Peter held him by the right hand and lifted him up!

... Immediately, his feet and ankle bones received Strength.

Potentially, he had received a Miracle; but actually, it had not manifested because the Physical action needed to manifest the Miracle has not taken Place!

"... And he, leaping up, STOOD and WALKED."

So, I want you to look at the sequence: "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, RISE UP AND WALK."

Has the Power of God being released? - YES!

Has the man being Healed? - YES!

Is he looking like a healed man? - NO!

Why? - Because he hasn't done anything to correspond with what has happened to him.

So, Peter says: We can't leave this man here!

Because, if we leave him here; he is going to sit down there; although he was healed.

So, they took him by the right hand, lifted him up! And the Bible says: he LEAPED UP!

And the moment he LEAPED UP, his feet and ankle bones which were weak received Strength.

Then he started WALKING and LEAPING - There is a Progression!

So what do we learn from this?

That it is Possible for God to bless you with something and you not manifest it.

Could it be: Peradventure; Could it be that God has already answered your Prayer? But you are not doing what you ought to do for the answer to manifest?

Could it be that God had already given you the Ability to do what you are asking for? But you are not corresponding with your Action?

When Jesus said to Peter: "Launch out your nets for a catch!"

The Launching of nets is not a Spiritual Act -it is Physical.

But if Peter had not launched the Physical thing, there would be no fish to catch!

The fish would be Present in the water, but there would be no action to harvest them.

So, sometimes when we Pray, God starts the Spiritual Process; but we don't correspond with our actions.

So Faith must have an ACTION:

I. Sarah and Abraham had to ACT OUT their Faith for Isaac to be conceived.

II. Noah had to ACT OUT his Faith by Building an Ark to preserve the remnant.

If he hadn't done that Physical act, the Spiritual Promise of Preservation would not happen.

III. David had to ACT OUT his Faith by throwing a stone at Goliath.

If he had stood there and just doing mouth Phrases to Goliath without releasing that stone; he would not have had the Victory.

IV. Ruth had to ACT OUT her Faith by Putting on her best clothes to meet Boaz.

A husband had been Promised her; and the Bible says she washed, anointed herself (that means Perfumed her body), put on New clothes, and went to Town!

What if she had said: Well, what God has given me, He has given me. It doesn't matter how I dress; it will come to me?

When I was growing up, there was a saying that was very popular: "THE THING FOR YOU NEVER LOSS."

In other words, whatever is meant for you would come to you.

May I beg to DIFFER? - The thing for you can be LOST.

The thing that God has given to you can be LOST; the Promises that God has given to you can be LOST.

Actually, God can bless you and you will not manifest it.

V. Esther had to ACT OUT her Faith by going to make a request from her husband (the King).

VI. Peter ACTED OUT his Faith by throwing out the net!

Faith gives us the ability to do things!

That's all I'm trying to get across to you: That Faith gives us the ability to do things.

And for most of us, God had already answered our Prayer but you are still sitting at the Gate; hoping that His Power would lift you up, to make you leap.

... He has already HEALED you, you have to do the RISING.

He has already BLESSED you, you have to go and do the work.

He has already PROSPERED you, you have to go and start that Business.

He has already OPENED the door, you have to enter in.

He has already given you the HUSBAND, you have to put on nice clothes.

He has already given you a WIFE, you have to start being nice.

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Men, they say I Proposed to Ladies they turn me down. Check your character!

... Your harsh words may send People away!

Faith requires corresponding Action.

The Action must correspond to what we had believed for.

SECOND (2ND) CASE STUDY: ACTS 14:8-10.

It's a situation very similar to what we read (in the first Case Study) but a little difference!

8 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had Faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

Similar but different! - And I'm going to draw your attention to three (3) things:

The man heard Paul speaking - We are not told what Paul was speaking about. We don't know whether he was talking about Healing, or for People to have Faith in God.

But whatever he heard Paul saying was enough to build Faith in him!

1. The first (1st) thing we learn is that: GOD'S WORD PRODUCES FAITH IN US.

Paul spoke the Word, and the man had Faith in what Paul was speaking about. Because prior to Paul being in Lystra, he had been in a city called Iconium.

And the Bible says: In Iconium; God worked Miracles through Paul - That's in Acts 14:3.

The Bible says: "Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing Witness to the Word of His Grace, granting Signs and Wonders to be done by their hands."

So, from Iconium they came to Lystra.

Probably, Paul was talking about what had happened in Iconium, in Lystra.

He said listen: This is what God did in Lystra - God did this, God did that!

Maybe that is what he was speaking about; but we are not told! - I'm just assuming.

So, whatever the Message was; the man who is lame in his feet; he had never heard about Jesus before; never heard the Gospel before.

Listening to Paul talking about this fantastic things about the Rabbi, this Jesus - Who died, and He Rose again. And appeared to people, and Ascended to Heaven, He is still at work, and He is healing people.

And this man is listening; and something started boiling inside of him!

2. So the Second (2nd) thing is that: FAITH GIVES US THE ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING.

... That is my Main THESIS for this Message!

Because the Bible says that Paul looked at the man intently and saw that the man had Faith to be healed.

He had Faith to be healed; Faith gives us the ability to do something.

He had Faith to be healed; but, he was still down.

Can you imagine?

The man has Faith to be healed, but he was not healed!

Is it Possible you have Faith to do something, but you are not doing it?

... You have Faith to do it, but you are not doing it!

So, at this Point: Paul is speaking, the man is listening. Paul looked at the man, he said: this man has Faith to be healed.

But the man is lame; sitting down because Faith has not being acted out.

Then Paul said to him with a loud voice - In other words, he shouted this one out: STAND UP STRAIGHT ON YOUR FEET!"

I'm sure the loud voice Probably shocked the man; and he leaped and walked.

But he had already been given the ability to leap up! He only needed somebody to shock him into leaping.

A Miracle had already taken Place while he was sitting down!

The ability that Faith gives us must be ACTED OUT.

Sarah's Problem with Abraham is that: We are too old to ACT OUT what is required for conception.

And that is what she was laughing about: My husband (Abraham) and I - we are too Old.

... But apparently, they did what had to be done!

Faith without corresponding action is dead.

So, if you believe that God is the One Who has opened a door for you; then don't do anything unwise to shut the door!

So, if for example you believe: I'm going to succeed at this Interview; God has given me the job.

But you dress shabbily, and you go and sit at the Interview and you give very, very sarcastic answers:

What's your Work Experience? - "It doesn't matter!"

What Salary do you expect when you come to work here? - "Whatever you think!"

Because you believe God has given you the job; so you are acting snobbish!

Actually, your action shows you don't believe God had given you the Job; Because if you believe God has given you the Job then you are going to comport yourself!

... Because you know: "God has given it go me!"

As I always say: "If you believe God would keep you safe; when you are travelling - PUT ON YOUR SEATBELT."

Because Putting on your seatbelt is a Physical Act to demonstrate: "I believe God will keep me safe."

Not Putting on your seatbelt is saying: "I don't believe God will keep me in safety."

Because many times we think that: If you have Faith, you must be reckless; you must be snobbish.

As we say in Ghana: "You must act by heart." because I have Faith!

Faith is not acting recklessly; Faith is acting carefully in correspondence to the Word of God.

Noah had to spend One hundred and twenty (120) years constructing an Ark; because he believed God would rescue him and his family.

Why didn't he say: "God would save me - boat or no boat!" But he had to do something.

If you believe God has blessed you; act Blessed.

If you believe that job you have was God's Blessing to you; then don't do anything silly that would make you lose the job!

If you believe your Marriage is a Blessing from God; - KEEP IT.

If you believe that Man was a Blessing from God, RESPECT HIM.

You believe that WOMAN is a Blessing from God, LOVE HER.

You cannot say: God gave me this Man, I don't care if he goes out, he will come back!

That is not an "ACT OF FAITH"; it is an Act of silliness of senselessness.

You are not being a Person a Faith!

Oh, as for this, I believe God has given it to me, no matter what it is all mine.

It's not yours, until your ACTIONS correspond with your FAITH.

TWO (2) CASE STUDIES: both of them were HEALED but sitting down!

1. The man at the Beautiful Gate - HEALED! But sitting down. He had to be LIFTED up!

... A corresponding Action!

2. The man at Lystra - He was HEALED, but he had to be COMMANDED to ACT in correspondence with what he BELIEVED.

Is it possible that you have been SABOTAGING your Miracles?

Is it possible you have been FRUSTRATING the Grace of God with your reckless behaviour?

Is it possible that God opened doors for you and you SHUT them?

Is it possible that everything you have been Praying for, God has ANSWERED but your Mindset is: "If God has given it to me, it will come any way? So you act nonchalantly!

... Once in a while, I need to throw in these words (Laughing!)

If you BELIEVE it, ACT it OUT.

If you believe it, then He says: RISE UP AND WALK!

If you believe He has opened the door then GO IN!

If you believe that Promotion is yours, be wise about it!

If you believe that Lady is the One God has Promised you, don't mistreat her!

If you believe that man is the man God wants you to marry, then don't act rudely to him!

Let your Actions AFFIRM your FAITH; because Faith without corresponding ACTION is DEAD.

I believe, from now till the end of this year, there will be massive doors opened - Amen.

God is going to open the windows of Heaven over your life - Amen.

God is going to bring UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITIES - Amen.

God is going to let People come into your way, on assignment for your Destiny - Amen.

God us going to make you encounter People you never thought you would be able to encounter - Amen

And Please, when that time comes, do the right thing:

Don't mess it up! Don't mess up your Miracle; but take hold of it!

Lift up your hands to God everybody. And say with me:

Lord, HELP ME - With Wisdom, with Courage, to do the right THINGS; in correspondence to my FAITH.

Give me the right ACTIONS, complete my FAITH with the Miracle that You have given to me.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN and AMEN!

And may the Lord help each one of us, not to miss our Day of VISITATION, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

29TH NOVEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: "CHRIST THE BREAD OF LIFE."

TEXT: JOHN 6:32-35

Amen! - Let's keep Standing (wherever you are reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME:

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to Shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my Mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts;

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen and Amen and Amen!

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So, for my Exaltation, we are going to focus on: "CHRIST THE BREAD OF LIFE."

And it is a way in which Jesus Christ identified Himself in John's Gospel 6:32-35;

... And I read the Gospel:

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

This conversation between Jesus and the People, took Place after Jesus had fed five thousand (5,000) People with five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fish.

It is the Miracle of Jesus that is recorded in all the Four (4) Gospels; because there were so many People Present, and so many People experienced it, so many People saw it.

It was an Unavoidable Miracle of Jesus Christ.

After Jesus had fed five thousand (5,000) People, with five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) small fish; the People wanted to make him King by force!

... It seems as if People wanting things for FREE didn't start today (laughing)!

So, they were very happy that Jesus had Provided them with bread; and they thought, if He was King, if He was in Government; what a Good Government it would be!

And Jesus knowing their intentions, departed to a Mountain to Pray - So they didn't see Him for a while!

In the night, Jesus walked on water to go and find His Disciples who were struggling on the Sea of Galilee.

The next day, the masses - The People who had been fed, were still looking for Jesus because free bread is quite an attractive inducement!

So, they found Jesus, and told Him: Jesus, we have been looking for You. Where have you been?

And Jesus said: well I know why you are looking for me: You are not looking for me because of the Signs or the Miracles; you are looking for me because I gave you BREAD TO EAT.

And Jesus then speaks to them about the Bread.

And the People said: Well, we know that our fathers ate bread in the wilderness here - They are talking about the Manna!

And Jesus said: Yes I know! But this BREAD that I will give to you is more than what you ate in the wilderness.

So, there is a conversation going on between Jesus and the People: First (1st) the BREAD they ate. And now they think that, maybe this was like what they ate in the wilderness.

You know what they ate in the wilderness? - They ate Manna for forty (40) Years!

So, they are figuring out: If God gave them Manna for forty (40) years; and this is just Day One (1); then we have a long way of bread eating!

And so they said: Jesus, give us MORE of the bread.

Then Jesus says to them: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.

And this is the beginning of the many Statements of Jesus Christ where He is identified as "I AM" - I Am the Bread of Life!

He later said: I Am the Door, I Am the Good Shepherd, I Am the Way. And so on and so forth.

But here He says: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.

So, what Jesus is saying is: The Bread of Life is a PERSON - It is not food; it is not a Commodity.

The Bread of Life is a Person, and it is Jesus Christ! - He is the BREAD OF LIFE.

Now, Jesus did not also say: I HAVE the Bread of Life!

In other words, He doesn't POSSESS the Bread of Life; He is actually THE BREAD OF LIFE.

So, to Partake of what Jesus gives (of the Bread of Life); you don't wait for Him to give you something - YOU PARTAKE OF HIM!

Jesus IS the BREAD OF LIFE!

And so, we would discuss a bit about: "WHAT THE BREAD OF LIFE IS - in the context of the Passage we just read (John 6:32-35).

1. The first (1st) thing we note about the BREAD OF LIFE, is that: THE BREAD OF LIFE IS DIVINE.

Jesus said: "This is the True bread that came from HEAVEN."

It is not Earthly, it is not Carnal, it is not Physical - IT IS DIVINE and it is SPIRITUAL!

... Jesus calls it: "The True Bread."

And Jesus contrasted Himself with the bread that God gave Israel in the wilderness - They ate that for forty (40) years and it was Physical Bread.

But Jesus said: "I Am the BREAD from Heaven - This is DIVINE BREAD."

This BREAD is God's SOLUTION to Human Problems.

The Bread of Life is Heaven's Solution to all Human Problems.

In Christ Jesus, God reached out to us and gave us the Solutions we are looking for ourselves.

So, it's a DIVINE BREAD - That is the first (1st) thing we note about the quality of the BREAD OF LIFE.

It's not something Physical that you go out to buy in the Market!

2. The second (2nd) Quality about the BREAD OF LIFE (that Jesus talks about) is that: IT SATISFIES FULLY.

Jesus says that: "He who EATS of this BREAD, shall never HUNGER, nor THIRST."

... If you eat it, you will never hunger or thirst!

It's very interesting that He adds THIRST to it - When He is talking about BREAD - Because BREAD is not water!

But He is saying that: When you EAT of the BREAD OF LIFE, there would be no NEED in your life that would not be SATISFIED - He meets ALL of our NEEDS.

Naturally, when we eat bread, we THIRST!

Because if you have tried it before - If you get a big loaf of bread, and you munch on it. Afterwards you need to push it down with some liquid! - You have to drink some water.

But Jesus says: If you eat this Bread alone (without water); you would not Hunger and you would not THIRST.

Jesus satisfies EVERY NEEDS of ours! He FULLY satisfies us.

And when He meets all our Needs, there is nothing else that we need that He doesn't SUPPLY.

He meets our Needs, for Self Esteemed; He meets our Needs for Significance; He meets our Needs for Wholeness for Completeness, for Wellness.

Spiritually Needs, Physical Needs, Mental Needs - Jesus FULLY SATISFIES!

And when you EAT of Him; there is no NEED in your life that He cannot satisfy.

We don't only come to Him just simply for Salvation of our Souls, but He fulfils every Needs of ours.

So the Bread of Life is DIVINE; the Bread of Life FULLY SATISFIES.

3. The third (3rd) thing about the Bread of Life is that: IT IS FOR ALL - It is for EVERYBODY.

Jesus said that: The Bread of Life gives LIFE to the WORLD - Not just for a few People; He gives life to EVERYBODY!

We are reminded of what Jesus Himself said about His Mission in John 3:16: "For God so loved the WORLD ..."

Not - For God so loved Ghana and didn't love Togo; or God so loved Togo and didn't love Nigeria; or God so loved Nigeria, and didn't love America.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER;

... Whosoever is whosoever!

I. Whosoever means anybody - Whether you are tall (I shouldn't say short - some People don't like it) - Vertically challenged!

II. Whosoever is somebody who is LONG in height and not long in height.

III. Whosoever is somebody who is NARROW in body size and not narrow in body size.

Because this time you have to be very Politically correct! You can't call People with what they don't like.

But the Bread of Life is for ALL - He is for everybody: Whether you are Black or White, whether you went to School or you didn't go to School; whether you're a Male or Female;

WHOEVER you are: Jesus satisfies EVERY NEEDS OF OURS. And He feeds ALL who come to Him!

If you look at the Miracle of the Feeding of the five Thousand (5,000) - Everybody was fed!

There was nobody who would say: Oh, I sat down, waited for my turn but I didn't get my bread!

Everybody was fed, and there was left over!

God is able to bless you to a left over, to a running over; with EXTRA that you can't even contain.

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God satisfies to the FULLEST, Jesus satisfies to the FULLEST and He SATISFIES ALL!

There is no Need you have, that is beyond JESUS; there is no Problem you have, that is beyond JESUS.

And when He satisfies you; He satisfies you till there is NO MORE ROOM and then there will be a RUNNING OVER.

David said: "My cup RUNS OVER!"

And in the Miracle, there were "Left Over Baskets" of what had been blessed.

God is not a God of Scarcity - He is the God of ABUNDANCE. He doesn't bless us small, small, small: because some has to be left over for the next day!

When we were kids (I don't know whether it's the same for everybody's family) but everything was very, very small.

The Bread is SLICED (they don't break it). And Margarine (butter) was SCOOPED very small.

And you have to manage to spread it! The spreading is your responsibility. The sugar is measured in cubes - You get your Portion; whether it is enough or not, that's your palaver!

The Milk - they Punched the holes in the Milk Tin; and out dispensational quantity into tea spoons. And if it's not enough - that's up to you!

But that's not who Jesus is - When He pours, He pours the thing; and when He cuts, He gives you everything.

He gives your life all the Sweetness, He gives Blessings in Abundance! Your cup would RUN OVER - and there would be CUP FULL.

He gives life to ALL, He SATISFIES all, He FEEDS all who comes; and there is NO STINGINESS with His Blessing.

What a Mighty God that we serve!

Thank God: He is not like my father or my mother who had to deal with SCARCITY.

But I serve a God who has no SCARCITY; and He can do ALL things - by the FULL MEASURE.

I don't know about you, but that's an exciting thought that God has NO SCARCITY, and He is not measuring your Miracle in TEA SPOON!

... Oh yes! He's not measuring my Miracle in Tea spoon

God doesn't cut one (1) slice of Miracle - You take this! - He gives me MORE, until I want NO MORE.

Until we say: LORD, there is no more room. Feed us Lord! Fill my cup until there is no more room!

He is THE BREAD OF LIFE. He gives Life to ALL!

The Bread of Life is ETERNAL; He endures to everlasting LIFE. He is ETERNAL.

What He gives to us is not short term, it's Long Term; It is Eternal and He offers us Life, in the Natural and Spiritual worlds.

He offers us life, in THIS LIFE and the world TO COME - It's Eternal.

When God Touches our lives, it's LONG TERM; when He Saves our Souls, it's LONG TERM.

We are not just saved temporarily, waiting for another Installment, waiting for an Upgrade or an Update.

When He saves us, it's complete and it suffice in this life on Earth, and life beyond Earth.

... The Bread of Life is ETERNAL!

The Bread of Life is DIVINE, the Bread of Life Fully SATISFIES, the Bread of Life is for ALL; the Bread of Life is ETERNAL.

So WHAT MUST WE DO WITH THE BREAD OF LIFE.

What does Jesus want us to do with the Bread of Life?

In John 6:51, Jesus says: "I am the "Living Bread" which came down from Heaven.

If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever; and the Bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Another word for 'My FLESH' is 'My BODY.'

"... The Bread that I GIVE, is My BODY."

Now, if you follow how this conversation is going, Jesus gave them Bread by multiplying five (5) loaves of bread - They thought that 'this is MANNA.'

So, they improved it from the Bread to the Manna!

And they think: Well, it lasted for forty (40) years in the wilderness. We probably are going to have forty (40) years of Bread Supply from this Gentleman!

Jesus says: No! I'm not going to give you another Bread like I gave you in the wilderness; neither am I giving you what your fathers ate in the wilderness - "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE!

... It's not even about the Bread, it's about Me!

And now He's telling us the Part of Himself - which is the BREAD. And He says that is His BODY.

... His BODY is the Bread!

So, what are we supposed to do with His Body?

He says He gives LIFE to the whole world.

If He gives His LIFE, what MUST BE DONE with what He has given?

And He says: "We must EAT the Bread of Life!"

That statement became a stumbling block to many of Jesus' Followers because they really couldn't figure out what Jesus meant by "EAT MY BODY."

Some took it literally!

But you and I know that's not a literal statement!

Because in life, we use thoughts like somebody speaks to you and say: "This is Food for Thought."

It doesn't mean that the thought is Food.

It simply means, this is something I need to spend time to think about and assimilate inside me.

So we say: It is Food for Thought!

The Metaphor Jesus Christ is saying: "My Flesh is Bread"; doesn't mean "COME AND BITE ME."

That is not what He says!

There are verses in the Bible that talks about the Word of Christ as Food.

1 Peter 2:2 says: "As newborn babes, desire the Pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby,"

The Word of God is called MILK.

Psalms 119:103 says: "How sweet are Your Words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 15:16: "Your Words were found, and I ate them, And Your Word was to me the Joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your Name, O Lord God of Hosts."

So HOW DO WE EAT THE FLESH OF JESUS?

... THREE (3) WAYS, and then we close:

1. To FULLY ACCEPT what Jesus says about Himself.

If we are going to eat His Flesh, we have to ACCEPT FULLY what He says about Himself.

He says: "I AM!"

In whatsoever He says 'I AM' we have to ACCEPT IT.

We have to ACCEPT He is the Bread of Life; He's our Satisfier, He is all that we Need.

We must FULLY ACCEPT what Christ says about Himself.

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... That's the first (1st step to eating His Flesh).

2. Secondly, we must FULLY RECEIVE the Fullness of Christ into our being.

Not just Fully Accepting, but FULLY RECEIVING the Fullness of Christ into His BEING.

He did not give PART of Himself, He gave ALL OF HIMSELF.

In John 1:16; it says: "And of His Fullness we have all received, and Grace for Grace."

We cannot receive Grace for Grace if we are just receiving Part and not the WHOLE THING.

I. He FULLY offered Himself for our Salvation; and that is BREAD we must EAT and SWALLOW.

II. He fully offered Himself for our DELIVERANCE from the Power of Sin. And this is Bread we must EAT and SWALLOW.

III. He fully offered Himself to TRIUMPH over all Principality. And this is Bread we must EAT and SWALLOW.

IV. He fully offered Himself to make us ACCEPTED of the Father; and that is the Bread we must EAT and SWALLOW.

V. He fully offered Himself to Purchase our HEALING; this is Bread we must EAT and SWALLOW.

VI. He fully offered Himself to POVERTY, that we might be MADE RICH. And this is the Bread we must EAT and SWALLOW.

EVERYTHING He is, we must ACCEPT it and FULLY assimilate it;

He is our Hero, He is our Leader, He is our Provider. He has Triumphed over Principality and Power;

... And Nothing shall by any means hurt you!

To EAT what Christ offers, we must:

- ACCEPT what He says about Himself;
- RECEIVE His FULLNESS into our being.

3. And finally, we must ALLOW Christ to MANIFEST HIMSELF through us.

His Love, His Beauty, His Glory, His Truth, His Power, His Authority - ALL must be seen in our LIVES.

So, each time we Partake in the Holy Communion we remind ourselves of Who the BREAD OF LIFE is.

May be you have forgotten who the Bread of life is; at the Holy Communion we remember Who the Bread of Life is:

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I. He is the DIVINE BREAD that came from Heaven;

II. He is the Divine Bread that SATISFIES every Needs of ours;

III. He is the Divine Bread that reaches out to EVERYONE - EVERYWHERE. And does not limit HOW FAR He can take us;

IV. And He is the Divine Bread that is ETERNAL - This Bread NEVER EVER ENDS.

... And we receive ALL OF THAT into our lives.

Each time you Partake of the Holy Communion, think of the Bread of Life: as you put that Bread into your mouth, think of the Bread of Life that was given to you to Satisfy you.

I don't know what Needs you are hungry for, what Needs you are thirsty for.

I don't know what you are desiring God to do for you; but the Bread of Life FULLY SATISFIES.

CLOSING PRAYER.

May every Needs of your life be SATISFIED: May every HUNGER be satisfied; may every THIRST be satisfied.

May He be your Bread of Life; May He be give you Water, may He give you Life, may He give you Strength, may He give you Hope, may He give you Healing, may He give you Prosperity, may He give you Abundance, may He give you Peace of Mind;

May He Deliver you from Oppression, may He trample Satan under your feet. May He cause Principalities and Powers to bow before you.

May He cause you to wax Strong and be Mighty; may He cause you to bring Giants down.

May He give you Victory in every areas of your LIFE!

Whatever your hunger is, whatever your thirst is, whatever your desire is; Jesus FULLY SATISFIES; and may He satisfy our NEED!

In 1 Corinthians 10:16, it says: "The cup of Blessings which we bless, is it not the communion of the Blood of Christ? The Bread which we break, is it not the Communion of the Body of Christ?"

As we Break the Bread and Partake of it; May He - the Body of Christ be FULLY RECEIVED by us!

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As we eat that Bread, may we Spiritually receive Him in all His FULLNESS, into our Lives.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



6TH DECEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.



TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:12

Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

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... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME: Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am set apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

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I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus Name - Amen! - Hallelujah!

... Please be seated!

Last week we focused on "CHRIST THE BREAD OF LIFE".

DMC NOTES: We can access the Full Text of this Message on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christ-The-Bread-Of-Life-Mensah-Otabil>

And this week we will be looking at: CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

And as we consider Christmas and we think of all the lights, that People turn on in their homes.

And I hope you have some lights in your home, around the streets and in your shop.

Now the reason why we have the light is because JESUS IS - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, has come into our world.

Our main Text is from John's Gospel Chapter 8 verse 12 (NKJV):

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

These words of Jesus Christ were spoken during the Feast of Tabernacle.

... That is what Bible Historians tell us.

And it was spoken in the Temple in Jerusalem, around a Place in the Temple called the TREASURY.

And it is in this Place that Jesus spoke these words.

Because if you look at John 18:20 it says: "Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in Synagogues and in the Temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing."

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And the reason why this is important is because that Place that is called The Treasury is where the offering is taking in the Temple.

That Place had two (2) massive Gold Stands or Lamp Stands.

The Lamp Stands had light on them. and during the Feast of Tabernacles, these two (2) big Lamps, we are lit after the evening sacrifice.

And it is said that when the light were lit (remember the Temples were on a Hill); it will literally brighten the whole of the City of Jerusalem.

And the reason why they lit those Lamps during the Feast of Tabernacle was to remember the Light that God Provided for Israel when they were in the wilderness.

Because the Feast of Tabernacles celebrates God leading Israel through the wilderness.

Remember at that time they were living in Tents and moving from Place to Place.

... And that is what the Feast of Tabernacles hearsness.

And during that time, the Bible says there was a Pillar of Fire that led them.

So, in the Feast of Tabernacles they would lit up the Lamps the show the Light of God that led them.

It is against this background, Jesus Christ standing there with those light shining - Jesus says: "I Am the LIGHT of the world."

In other words, it is Great that you had the Pillar of Fire in the wilderness, but the TRUE LIGHT has come to you. And I Am the LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

So this statement of Jesus was very dramatically spoken and the right time in the right context.

- So let us do a little definition of what Light is:

- And then what it represents;

- And then we will look at what darkness is - What it represents;

... And then we will take it from there!

SO LET'S DEFINE LIGHT.

WHAT IS LIGHT?

Generally speaking light is illumination; all brightness from an energy Force.

Light is always Produced from some form of energy - It could be fire or it could be a chemical reaction but there has to be some form of energy that Produces the light.

And whenever we see light, we always want to find out the source of the light.

If for example you are in your home and you see light somewhere - Some Place that is bright; you will always want to go and find out why is that area bright?

Because whenever there is light, there is a source that is Producing the light.

Light doesn't Produce itself, it is Produced from a Source.

The Major Source of light on our Planet, as you know is the Sun.

And the sun shines and gives us light in the daytime.

In the Night we imitate the sun by turning on our bulbs, to light up our Place.

... So Light has a source.

In the Bible, light is used to represent several ideas, and I will just talk about three (3) of them:

1. Light is used to represent GOODNESS.

When we talk about light we are talking about things that are Good - Good works, doing the works of God.

So life begins from God Himself as His ATTRIBUTES.

In the book of Genesis; that is the first thing you see - When God was introducing Himself, God said: "Let there be Light and there was LIGHT."

... So Light has to do with God's Work of GOODNESS.

2. Light has to do with LIFE.

Being connected to God, having Vitality, being energized, bringing things to life.

Normally; when you read the Bible and you see references to light - It means something Good is being talked about. All LIFE is being talked about.

3. Light has to do with KNOWLEDGE.

... The ability to rightly appreciate God's work!

Knowledge is not just having information: It is the ABILITY to recognise God's work. The ability to be able to tell the difference between things

When God created the light, He saw that the light was DIFFERENT from the darkness. And He separated them, and named them differently.

THAT IS KNOWLEDGE! - The ability to distinguish between things.

Knowledge helps us to create DISTINCTION.

When Jesus says I Am the Light of the World, these ideas would be implied in what He said:

I. That means everything Good in the world comes from Me.

II. If you want Life, I am the LIFE because light is life.

III. I Am the "True Source" of knowledge. If you want to know the truth I Am the TRUTH.

SO JESUS SAYS "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."

By saying He is the Light of the World, Jesus also says: *"He who follows Me shall NOT WALK In darkness, but have the light of life."

In other words; Jesus as Light is contrasted from darkness. He is DIFFERENT from darkness. He is not darkness - HE IS LIGHT!

SO WHAT IS DARKNESS?

1. Darkness is the ABSENCE of illumination

... Darkness is basically the absence of Light.

Light has a Source but darkness has no Source.

Darkness only manifest when light is not there!

So, what that means is basically the absence of light!

When light comes; darkness has to FLEE. When light is taken away darkness occurs.

Where does darkness comes from? - IT HAS NO SOURCE.

... So darkness is the absence of illumination.

In the Bible; darkness refers to sinfulness - doing evil works!

Light affects to Godliness - Doing the works of God.

2. Darkness also is used to refer to DEATH.

Lost of our Being and Vitality.

Disconnection from God create death.

3. Darkness is also used for IGNORANCE.

... Unable to appreciate the work of God.

So, Jesus the LIGHT of the World says: "If you follow me, you will not walk In Darkness".

Darkness is in the world and following Jesus helps us not to walk In Darkness.

And the reason Jesus says He is the Light of the world is because - And that we must follow Him is because; our whole world lies In Darkness.

... This whole world lies In Darkness - Just as the whole Earth was in darkness before God said: "Let there be Light!"

Darkness is the Natural state of the Earth.

If you leave the Earth to itself it will be dark. The only thing that makes them different is the Presence of God who brings Light.

Where we live our lives Naturally and do things as we want, it is In Darkness!

The only time there is a difference, is when God comes on the Scene - it brings Light to our world.

... So the whole world lies in Darkness!

Ephesians 4:17-18 says: "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;"

That description is a very, very unpalatable description, but it is describing the world as it is.

Our world thus seems so sophisticated - Lies In Darkness!

And there are four (4) Manifestations of that Darkness:

I. Alienation from God.

This is where darkest starts from - When Mankind is far away from God; chooses to disobey God and to deny him.

More and more seen in our world! - People WILLFULLY choosing to be alienated from God.

More and more we are seeing People who are Pushing God away!

Sadly, sometimes even in the Church, God is being PUSHED away! - People have come to believe in "Men of God" rather than in the "God of the Men".

We believed in the word of our Pastor, rather than the Word of God.

... God is gradually being PUSHED AWAY, even from the Church.

Government are Pushing God away!

They only use His Name just for gaining some favour.

But truly there is a Alienation from God.

The Darkness of this world is alienation from God.

When you go to the so-called 'DEVELOPED' world, SOPHISTICATED Society - Who cannot deal with the virus by the way!

You go to Europe, you go to America, you go to all these Countries; God is being PUSHED AWAY!

The first (1st) form of Darkness is when you PUSH GOD AWAY - We are Alienated from Him.

II. That results in BLINDNESS of Heart.

When we turn away from God, we are unable to sense His Presence - So much so that is God stood in front of us, DRESSED IN BRIGHT RED, we wouldn't see Him.

If God shows up in the Sky and says: Hey, I am God, we will still say hey it is a "Statelight".

Blindness of heart doesn't make you recognise things even when they are right in front of you because believe it is a choice!

And so when we have blindness of heart God's hand will be at work, and we deny it.

We will give the Glory to something else - We give it to Science, we gave it to the Moon, we give it to somebody else.

Blindness of hearts doesn't make us to recognise God.

III. DARKENED Understanding.

Darkened Understanding is when we Pervert knowledge.

Instead of using Knowledge to be closer to God, we are using Knowledge to run away from Him.

It is amazing the kind of knowledge our world is developing - The Technology, Artificial Intelligence.

But if you watch each one of them; it is designed to take us away from God.

The more knowledgeable the world is becoming, the more it is declaring independence from God.

And that is why Jesus said: "The whole world is in Darkness, and He is the Light."

IV. FUTILITY of Mind.

Futility of mind is when you think you are so smart but you are not. When you think you know everything, but you don't.

The other time in our home, we had some ants invade a Part of our home, as it happens - as we go to the dry season, ants looking for water, and unfortunately we don't like them coming to our home looking for water.

So, my wife called me and drew my attention to the ants and said I should get rid of them - As wives always command their husbands to do!

So, I decided to obey!

I got a spray and I sprayed them.

And whilst I was spraying the ants, my wife kept making sad sound; I said you asked me to kill them.

The ants had no idea there is a difference between their world and ours. I mean they have their own lives which I don't understand. They are living their lives looking for water.

I just sprayed them, took tissue and cleaned them out!

And as I was doing that, a the thought struck me and I ask myself: What if there is a Being somewhere Who is like me and we are like 'Ants' to Him - And He can also SPRAY US?(laughing)

All of a sudden I kept thinking, Looking at the size of our Planet Earth, in relation to our Solar System, in relation to our Galaxy - The Milky Way Galaxy.

The Earth is like a speck of sand and the Milky Way Galaxy is supposed to be one in billions of Galaxies.

So, in the large scheme of the Universe we are not even ants.

So, can you imagined if there is Somebody Who created the Whole Universe, and we stay on this Planet Earth, we try to figure Him out. And because we say, we can't see Him, we don't believe in Him.

Those ants couldn't see me, but sure when I sprayed them they believed in me (laughing)!

Can you imagine People going to a laboratory to fix God? Using artificial intelligence to analyse God, Using Telescope? - It's almost like those ants looking for a Telescope; we want to see this Big Being in our room.

They actually think the room is theirs!

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They Probably think I am intruding in their room; but they are intruding in mine!

The futility of the mind of the ant is the futility of our mind - When we look at everything and we say: THERE IS NO GOD, I don't believe in God, I don't think He exists.

Oh yeah He does! He does - One day HE WILL SPRAY (laughing)! Because He has appointed a time to judge the whole world.

The futility of our mind is when we think we are so smart we can figure out God; but we have no idea what we are talking about.

Even in our most sophisticated mindset we are like those ants in my house and human beings we are like that in God's House, in this Universe.

We are so Proud, we are very arrogant in the futility of our minds - We don't need anybody we can live our own life.. And then a tiny virus comes to tell us you can't live your own life!

... It's not even a big virus. I mean what if the virus was BIG?

This tiny thing, with all our Science and Microscope, all our Development and all the PhD, all the Research Institutions, can't figure it out!

And now we are half clothed with mask - Still it doesn't strike us that there is some BIG GUY somewhere that we have to be HUMBLE BEFORE and OBEY.

Jesus says: He is THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; and He is not just the Light of the world. John 1:6-9 says:

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a Witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the "True Light" which gives Light to every man coming into the world."

Jesus is the "True Light":

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I. He is BRIGHTER than the Pillar of Fire that led Israel through the wilderness.

II. He is BRIGHTER than the light that were lit during the Feast of Tabernacles.

III. And He is BRIGHTER than the Noon day Sun - As the Apostle Paul discovered.

Jesus is the True Light! Outside of Him our knowledge is like that of an ant.

AS TRUE LIGHT, WHAT DOES JESUS DO!

... Four (4) things and then I am out of here;

1. It DISPELS the Power of Darkness

John 1:5 says: "And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

The word 'COMPREHEND' means resist or stop it!

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When the Power of the Light of God is manifested, Darkness cannot stand it.

Have you ever turned on light, and the darkness says I am not going? Has it ever happened? You enter your room and there is Darkness; you turn on your light and the darkness says 'No I can't go?'

The moment the Light comes, Darkness has no other thing to do than to DISAPPEAR.

"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

Every Darkness in this world, every demon, every devil, every Power, every Satanic Manifestation: when the LIGHT of Christ comes in; it has no other option but to DISAPPEAR.

The Light is shining in your darkness!

And I don't know what Darkness is around you; Darkness in your family, the darkness in your home, the Darkness in your body; but turn on the Light and He will DISPEL the darkness;

JESUS is the LIGHT of this World! Not only does he dispel the darkness;

2. He DELIVERS from the Power of Darkness.

Colossians 1:13 says: "He has delivered us from the Power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love,"

We are delivered from the Power of Darkness - I don't know whatever Darkness is holding you down, Jesus is the DELIVERER.

... He comes and He sets you free!

It may be a bad habit - It is so Strong: It held your father, it had your uncles, it held everybody in your family.

But Jesus is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD, and when He comes in DARKNESS LOSES ITS CONTROL!

... He DELIEVERS from the Power of Darkness!

You know, we Africans, we have a Specialty in the fear of the Power of Darkness. We have a collective African PhD in the FEAR of the Power of Darkness!

But there is a Power greater than ALL POWERS - His Name is JESUS. He is the LIGHT of this World!

You switch Him on; Darkness has to release its Captive. He Delivers from the Power of Darkness!

I Proclaim Deliverance to be free from every Power of Darkness; from every Assignment of Satan in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

3. He DISSEMINATES the Knowledge of God.

He SPREADS out the Knowledge of God, DISTRIBUTES the knowledge of God.

2 Corinthians 4:6 says:

"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

When you are a "True Believer" in Christ, there is a knowledge of God and a certainty you have, that no Unbeliever has.

Do you remember when you got Born Again and you were wondering: "So all these were there and I didn't know?"

It is the LIGHT of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

There is a knowledge in this world that is SUPERIOR to every knowledge in every Scientific Journal; it is SUPERIOR to every knowledge in every Research Centre; It is SUPERIOR to every PhD Thesis.

It is the knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ.

... Because that knowledge is the "True Knowledge":

It is not "Futility of Mind" - It is the knowledge of God! The knowledge of the Awesome One, the Creator of the Universe.

He is MAGNIFICENT ENTITY that we can't even figure out because you are just like ants!

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But when His Light comes, we get glimpses of Him; we get to have an awareness of Him.

And not only, that we are able to use His KNOWLEDGE; and then we see His Power at work in us; and we who are nothing become something; we who have no Power become Powerful; we who were down are lifted up; we who are not Noble are used for Nobility!

Because of the Dissemination of the Knowledge of God.

May you receive the LIGHT of the Knowledge of God - Amen!

... And not only that! Finally,

4. He DESIGNATES us as LIGHTS of the world.

... He calls us the Light of the world!

He now says: "Because you are Mine, you join me in being the lights Matthew 5:14 says: "You are the light of the world. A City that is set on a Hill cannot be hidden."

You will not be hidden because you are a City that is set on a Hill - Amen.

... JESUS the Light of this world!

So, this Christmas when you see those Christmas lights, they are not just for decorations; they are telling us and reminding you - Two thousand (2,000) Years ago: God turned on the LIGHTS for our world!

By stepping into our world in the form of a baby two thousand (2,000) Years ago; because two thousand (2,000) Years ago; the LIGHT SWITCH-ON and darkness was DEFEATED, Satan was destroyed.

And we can walk in the Light of the knowledge of God in the FACE OF JESUS CHRIST.

I don't know whatever Darkness is trying to hold you; today, the LIGHT of God will set you free - Amen!

JUST LIFT UP YOUR HANDS TO GOD and just say Lord fill me with Your LIGHT.

Ask Him to fill you with HIS LIGHT, fill your MIND with His Light, your HOME with His Light, your MARRIAGE with His Light, your BUSINESS with His Light.

Let Your Light Oh God SHINE into my life; let Your Light oh God DISPEL the darkness in my Mind; the darkness in Body, the darkness in my Relationship.

Despel it oh God! JESUS LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Just talk to Him: Ask Him to dispel every Darkness! And ask Him to fill you with the Light of the knowledge of God; not just Scientific Knowledge not just Textbook knowledge.

But the "True Knowledge" of the KING of the Universe - The LIGHT of the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, in the face of Jesus Christ.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, LIGHT of the world.

Thank You for coming to our world. Thank you for turning on the LIGHT. Thank You for stepping into our lives.

And for everyone who has asked you today Lord: DISPEL the darkness, DELIVER from Darkness, DISSEMINATES the Light of the Knowledge of God.

And Thank You for making us the Lights of the world.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN and AMEN!

Well, let's celebrate Jesus! If you truly believe you are the Light of the world;

Wherever you go this week LIGHT will be there - Amen!

And no demon can stand before you because you are a representative of the GREATEST LIGHT in the Universe - AMEN

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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And I can assure you that you will be glad you did as it will avail you first hand access to comprehensive reports on the various Messages of Pastor E.A Adeboye and other Men of God!

It is outrightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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13TH DECEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: CHRIST OUR LIFE GIVER.



TEXT: JOHN 10:10

Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME: Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus Name - Amen! - Hallelujah!

... Please be seated!

We are centering on CHRIST. We have spoken about: CHRIST THE BREAD OF LIFE AND CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD;

DMC NOTES: We can access the Full Text of these Messages on these Link:

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<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christ-The-Bread-Of-Life-Mensah-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christ-The-Light-Of-The-World-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

And today we are talking about "CHRIST OUR LIFE GIVER."

And my Main Bible Text is going to be John 10:10 (NKJV).

This is Jesus speaking, He Says:

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more Abundantly."

Jesus made the statement when He was comparing His Mission with other False Messiahs -

Because there were many who had come before Jesus claimed to be the Messiah; even this time there are People who still claim to be Messiah.

Jesus calls them "False Shepherds" and He likened their works to the work of a thief.

And Jesus says their works (as thieves) is to kill, to steal and destroy. But Jesus (as the "Good Shepherd") has come that we may have life and have it more Abundantly.

Now many times People use the Scriptures to characterize the Thief as Satan; but in the context of this Passage, Jesus was not directly talking about Satan.

... Indirectly, YES, but not directly!

Directly the THIEVES He is talking about here are the "False Shepherds", "False Messiahs".

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But there is a Logic to it - And the Logic is that:

1. The "False Shepherd" is like a THIEF.
2. And the "False Shepherd" is a Messenger of Satan.
3. And Satan's work therefore is like a thief. And his work therefore, is the work of a thief.

So, basically that is the Logic!

But directly, Jesus is talking about People who bring "False Messages" to us.

And then Jesus talks about His Mission - He says: "I HAVE COME, that you may have life and have it more Abundantly".

I'm going to ask four (4) Questions and then I'm going to Answer those four (4) Questions based on the Passage we have just read.

1. So the First (1st) question I will ask; which I will attempt to answer the question is: WHAT IS ABUNDANT LIFE?

Jesus says: "I have come that they may have life and have it more Abundantly."

There is something called "Life More Abundant" or "Abundant Life"; in other Places in the Scriptures. It is also called "Everlasting Life". And sometimes it is also called Eternal Life".

Eternal Life, Abundant Life, Everlasting Life: are ALL talking about the same kind of life.

It is not a Quantitative Life it is a QUALITATIVE LIFE.

So, when Jesus talks about "Eternal Life", He is not just talking about leaving for a very long time - That is not what Eternal Life is. But it is having a GOOD QUALITY LIFE.

So, there are four (4) things that characterized "Eternal Life" or "Abundant Life":

I. Abundant life is life that is IN CHRIST. It starts with Salvation in Christ.

And when we to talk about Abundant Life as a life that is "IN CHRIST", it is like a well of water - Having a Well that you can draw water out from, or water out of.

Life that is IN CHRIST, is ABUNDANT LIFE.

II. Abundant Life is life that IS FULL.

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And when we say a life IS FULL; it means it is PURPOSEFUL, it is not Empty!

It is Possible to have life, and have an "Empty Life"; And there are People who are living an "Empty Life"
- THERE IS NOTHING IN THEIR LIFE:

Nothing gives them satisfaction, their life does not fulfill any Great Purpose - An empty life.

But Abundant Life is a life that is in Christ, a life that is FULL!

When we liken it to water, it is like a Spring of water that bubbles to the top.

Salvation is like a well of water, the "Full Life" like a Spring of water that bubbles to the top.

III. Abundant Life is Life that is OVERFLOWING.

... It is a Life IN CHRIST; it is FULL, and it is OVERFLOWING.

It is a Life that cannot be STOPPED, it FLOWS and it touches People's Life.

And when we you look at it in the sense of water, it is like a river overflowing its Banks.

So, it is like a Well, it is like this Spring - Peace like a river that is overflowing its Bank.

Jesus says: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more Abundantly."

... The Life that touched People!

If your life never touches People, People are not blessed in the Life in you; then there is no Overflow.

But God gives us, not just a "Full Life" but an "Overflowing Life"; so that somebody else can say because of you my life is Arranged, because of you, I am Blessed.

... That is the Life Jesus came to give to us!

IV. And finally, Abundant Life Is life that NEVER ENDS.

It is connected to Jesus Christ, and so never comes to an end. And in that sense it is like an Ocean.

An Ocean has no beginning, it has no end - It just keeps flowing.

- So Abundant Life is Life that is IN CHRIST: - It is like a WELL

- It is Life that IS FULL - It is like a SPRING

- It is a Life that is OVERFLOWING - It is like a RIVER

- And it is Life that NEVER ENDS - It is like AN OCEAN.



Jesus says the thief when he comes, will take away from you; but when I come to you this is what I add to you: I give you life IN ME, Life that is FULL, life that is OVERFLOWING and life that NEVER ENDS.

And may God cause our lives to OVERFLOW and TOUCH People's lives and be a Blessing to many People
- Amen!

"... I have come that you may have LIFE."

So that is the Life that Jesus wants us to have.

2. Second question: WHERE IS THIS LIFE FOUND?

Jesus says: "I have come that you may have life and have it more Abundantly" - WHERE IS IT?

Where is the Abundant Life? Where do we go looking for it? Should we go the Outer Space for it? Should we go to a High Mountain for it? Should we travel to some Places for it?

Where is this Life found?

John 5: 26 says: "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,"

WHERE IS THIS ABUNDANT LIFE FOUND?

1. Well, this Passage says it is FOUND IN THE FATHER - Because the Father has life in Himself.

God the Father does not owe His Life to anyone; neither did He receive His Life from another!

He is LIFE itself - HE IS THE ORIGIN OF LIFE.

... "For as the Father has life in Himself".

So, if we are going to find Abundant Life, and it is with the Father; but that is the Problem because if it is with the Father (God), and He is in Heaven; how does it get to us?

Because it is Life that must get to us!

And the Passage says it is with the Father - and it must get to us.

2. The Abundant Life is FOUND IN CHRIST.

So, He says: "For as the Father has Life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have Life in Himself."

Christ is GIVEN life in Himself!

... The Father has life and the Son has life also.

Now when you read this statement it can be a little troubling because, if Jesus is God, why does the Father has to grant Him Life? Because He must have life!

Well the reason is very simple - When Jesus was coming to Earth he shed all His Glory as God, DOWN, and He became man!

But when He became man, He had to be given the Life of the Father; and it wasn't given to Him for Him to have. It was given to Him for Him to GIVE.

Because He is the One who is going to give us the Life of God; and God put that Life in the man Jesus

The Man Jesus carries the Life of God so that the man Jesus can give the Life of God to all men.

God became man, so that ALL men can become like God.

And in Christ is the meeting Place between God and man!

The Life that was granted to the Son was not for the Son to keep - It was Life given to Him for Him to share with us.

"The Father has Life in Himself, the Son has Life in Himself."

John 1:3-4 says: "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was LIFE, and the life was the Light of Men."

"... In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of Men."

So, when Human Beings want to receive Light and Development and a "Better Life"; they find it in Christ.

Christ has the Eternal Life, He has the Abundant Life.

So now we know what Abundant Life is, we know where it is.

But the fact that you know where something is doesn't mean you will get it.

We can all know where the money is but it doesn't mean you will get it.

We all know (that's Probably not true) that when you go to the Vault of the Bank of Ghana there is a lot of money in there!

... That is where Printed Money for Ghana is kept?

But the fact that you know where it is doesn't mean you will have it.

So, we know what Abundant Life is, we know who has it; but it doesn't mean we have it!

We don't know how to find it - How are we going to find it?

So, my next question tries to address that.

3. HOW do we get Eternal Life or the Abundant Life?

We know WHAT it is, we know WHERE it is - HOW DO WE GET IT?

1 John 5:11 and 12 . And this is what it says: "This is the Testimony that God has given us Eternal Life and this Life is in His Son; he who has the Son has Life, he who does not have the Son does not have Life."

So, we know:

1. What Abundant Life is - It is Life IN CHRIST, it is a FULL life - It is AN OVERFLOWING life, it is a life that NEVER ENDS.

2. We know where it is - *It is with the Father and it is with the Son

Now, HOW DO WE GET IT?

So 1st John 5 is telling us HOW TO GET IT; there are three (3) Important Statements in 1 John 5 that I want you to take note:

1. First (1st), it says that God has GIVEN US Eternal Life.

In other words, God has made Eternal Life available to us: He has not hidden it from us, He has not denied us Eternal Life - He has offered it to us.

So, if God has given us this LIFE; this Abundant Life, this Eternal Life, this Overflowing Life, this Good Life; where is it, if He has given it to us?

2. The Second (2nd) Statement says: This life is in His Son.

So Eternal Life or Abundant Life is in CHRIST.

It is in Christ - It is not in a Man or Woman of God; it is not in our Good Works, it is not in our Church, it is not in Jerusalem, it is not in Prayer, it is not in Fasting, it is not in Tithes and Offerings!

So, when you want Eternal Life or Abundant Life, you don't get it because you are Tithing and you are giving the Offering; as Good as it is - That is not where to find Eternal Life.

It is not in your Church - it is good to come to Church; I am happy to see all of you in Church and all of you joining us Online. But it is not in going to Church!

It is not in the Man of God - I am Preaching to you the Gospel, but Eternal Life is not in me.

You know sometimes, some of the difficulties I am beginning to see in a lot of People is Perhaps somehow - They have shifted Faith in God to faith in Man!

And it is a very dangerous trend in Christianity - Where Christ is removed and Man is believed.

But Eternal Life is not in your Good works - We do some Good works. But you don't find Eternal Life because you gave to Orphans.

You don't find Eternal Life because you Paid your Tithes, you don't find Eternal Life because you went to Church, you don't find Eternal Life because you are a Good Person.

You don't find Eternal Life because you Pray a lot, you don't find Eternal Life because you Fasted a lot, you don't find Eternal Life because you traveled to Jerusalem or read the Bible a lot.

The Scripture is clear: God has given us Eternal Life and this life is IN HIS SON.

... That is where it is!

3. So the Third (3rd) Statement that the Passage gave us: In consequences of the fact that God has given us HIS LIFE, and this life is IN HIS SON,;

So Third (3rd) Statement is logical: "He who HAS THE SON, HAS LIFE."

When we have Christ we have Eternal Life - To have Eternal Life we must have Christ.

Why? - BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS IN CHRIST!

That is the Logic of where we get Eternal Life from - THE LIFE OF CHRIST!

... Abundant life IS IN CHRIST!

Now let me use a very Crude Analogy; but it may help us to get it.

Oranges and other citrus fruits have Vitamin C (at least that is what we are told) - That oranges and other citrus fruits like tangerine, and lemon and unfortunately lime (Laughing) and grapefruits and all other citrus fruits have Vitamin C.

I don't know how Vitamin C looks like!

How many of you have seen Vitamin C? Have you ever looked at something that says: Hey I am Vitamin C?

No, we haven't seen Vitamin C!

But we believed that Vitamin C is in Orange Juice - Though we haven't seen Vitamin C.

It will not give me Vitamin C because I looked at the orange and said: Oh, they are beautiful oranges I love oranges - I will get no Vitamin C.

I don't get Vitamin C by putting an orange in the fridge. I don't get Vitamin C by cutting an orange into Four (4) quarters (as my mother used to do)! I don't get Vitamin C by smelling the Orange.

... I get Vitamin C by SUCKING the Orange!

So, you can say: God has given us Vitamin C and this Vitamin C is in an orange. He that takes in an orange has Vitamin C. Although he has never seen Vitamin C before.

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... Does that make sense to you?

So, God has given us Eternal Life - Have I seen Eternal life before? - No! Do I know how Eternal Life looks like? - No! Can I identify a Eternal Life and say that is Eternal Life? - No!

But God has Pumped His Son with Eternal Life; and when I want Eternal li Lifefe I don't ask Eternal Life to come to me; I only go and Partake of the thing that contain Eternal Life - And His Name is JESUS!

... He that has the SON has LIFE!

Now, there are People looking for Eternal Life and they are looking for it - Sometimes People just say: Oh, I like Jesus: He is a Good Man, He is the Greatest Philosopher of all times! Oh, Gentle Jesus meek and mild. Oh, I love Christmas.

... But that is just admiring the Orange

If you want what He has, then you have to receive Him INTO your LIFE! And to receive Him into your life is to BELIEVE that He is Who He is.

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I take an orange by putting it into my mouth and squeezing the juice out of it.

I think of Jesus by putting Him into my heart by Believing that He is Who He says He is; and declaring it with my mouth.

So, the Bible says: With the heart man believes, in the mouth confession is made.

If you believed that Jesus is the SON OF GOD, and that God RAISED Him from the dead, and you say it with your mouth - You have believed that Christ has come with you, and Eternal Life has come with you.

"He that has the Son has LIFE" - That is the simple Message of Christianity.

I. It is not about Good works - Although Good works are Good.

II. It is not about trying hard - Although trying hard is Good;

III. It is not about giving money to Church - Although giving money to Church is Good!

It begins by receiving Jesus Christ into our heart as your LORD and SAVIOUR

And when He comes He comes with what He carries:

- It is called ABUNDANT LIFE;

- It is called ETERNAL LIFE;

- It is called EVERLASTING LIFE;

- It is called THE GOOD LIFE.

Alright! The Last question;

4. HOW DO WE MANIFEST THIS LIFE?

If this life is in us, how do we get it to show? How do we get People to see that we have it?

If I have taken all the Orange, all the Vitamin C, what will be the proof?

We must manifest the Eternal Life - I can't have a thing and not manifest it and it is Possible to receive something but it doesn't show in your Life.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 says: "We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are Perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the Life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

... How many of you felt hard-pressed on every side especially in 2020?

Everybody say: "YET NOT CRUSHED!"

How many of you have felt Perplexed before? Have you ever been Perplexed?

Everybody say: BUT NOT IN DESPAIR!

Now look at what the Passage is saying - It is talking about difficulties, Hard Problems, Perplexing, being Pressed down, being Persecuted, being Struck down.

... But in all of these the Person is bouncing back!

"Hard-pressed on every sides, yet not crushed; we are Perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; Struck down, but not destroyed".

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Now this Person who is going through these, has something in the Person that bounces back.

So, imagine a Person who is being Pushed - You push him he falls, then he gets up!

He is in a boxing match and he gets all the blows from Mike Tyson, and all the other hard hitters.

And they are all giving him hard blows - One here the other there and he falls and he gets up.

Then they hit him again, he falls and he gets up. Hit him again, he falls and he gets up, hit him again!

After that one, People are going to say: "What is in that guy?"

Because there is something in him that helps the Person to bounce back!

And that is 2 Corinthians 4:10 - So let us read it again:

"We are Hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are Perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; Struck down, but not destroyed"

Why are we able to come out from all the hardship of life?

"Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the Life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

What does that mean?

Now this is the Apostle Paul who is speaking; and if anybody typifies that, he is talking about his Life.

There was even a time they stoned him, he was supposed to be dead but he came back.

And he says the reason is because: "I am conscious of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ."

And because "I am conscious of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ;" the life of Christ manifest in me.

What does that mean?

It means that when we identify with the death of Christ, we manifest His Life in our bodies.

Why is that so?

Because the Victory of the Believer is in the DEATH of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I. In His Death, He overcame all Principalities and Powers!

II. In His Death He destroyed every demonic entity.

III. In His Death He buried all our sins.

IV. In His Death He buried all our weaknesses.

V. In His Death He buried all our failure.

So that we can Manifest the life He has given to us in our bodies.

The Strength of the Believer therefore, is in the DEATH of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And in His Death we are More than Conquerors; in His Death we overcome

I. Because He died, you will not be destroyed.

II. Because He died, you will bounce back.

III. Because He died, nobody can push you and destroy you.

IV. Because He died, no demon from your family, no demon from hell, no power can destroy you. No curse of man, no incantation, no Divination can destroy you!

Not because you are a Nice and Wonderful Christian, or because you are a Nice and Wonderful Pastor, or because you have a Nice and Wonderful Church; you bounced back simply because you have the Life of Christ, who carries the Life of the Father;

And in His Death, He released His Life for you, so that His Life will be Manifested in you.

So, that when you are at the Point of death; His Life will be seen through you.

Never underestimate the Power of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ - The Power of the DEATH of Christ because it is in there that we have our Victory.

So, the Bible says we Manifest this Eternal Life, when we identify with the Death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Has Christ DIED for your sin? - Then Sin cannot destroy you!

Did Christ DIED for the chastisement of your Peace? - Then nobody can DISTURB your Peace of mind, nothing can disturb your Peace of mind.

Did He DIED for your Sickness and Infirmary? - Then, Sickness and Infirmary has no Power over you.

Did He destroyed Principalities and Powers? - Then Principalities and Powers does not have Dominion over you again!

We MANIFEST the life of Jesus Christ by ACKNOWLEDGING the DEATH of Jesus Christ.

So, we can also say:

I. In Year 2020, you had Pressed us on every sides, yet we are not CRUSHED.

II. In Year 2020 we were Perplexed, but not in DESPAIR!

III. In Year 2020 we had been Persecuted, but not DEPRESSED.

IV. In Year 2020, we were Struck down but not DESTROYED.

V. In Year 2020, somebody gave us a dirty blow, but we BOUNCED BACK!

Because Jesus Christ died, and He died for all our infirmities and all our weaknesses, so that this Abundant Life - which is in Him, might be manifested in our lives.

May the Life of Christ be manifested in you today - Amen! And may His Victory be manifested in you - Amen.

May you walk in the Power of the Resurrected Christ - Amen; May ABUNDANT LIFE flow out of you, in every circumstance of Life - Amen.

You have the Dominion, you have the Power, and you have the Victory.

Before I conclude; if you don't have the Son, you don't have Life - No Jesus, no Life; because this life is in Him.

And the way to receive Him is very simple and I am going to lead you to receive him; so that Eternal Life will come to you.

If you are reading this Message now on the Label of DMC; and you say: "Pastor, I want Jesus to come into my Life:"

Just lift up your hand wherever you are, and we are going to Pray one (1) Prayer together.

Everybody is going to Pray this Prayer to receive Jesus into our hearts.

Put your hand on your chest and say: HEAVENLY FATHER, I THANK YOU THAT YOU HAVE LIFE; AND I THANK YOU THAT YOU GAVE JESUS YOUR LIFE SO THAT HE CAN SHARE HIS LIFE WITH US.

TODAY, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, HE DIED FOR ME AND ROSE AGAIN FOR ME AND TODAY I PROCLAIM HIM AS MY LORD AND MY SAVIOUR.

I RECEIVE JESUS INTO MY HEART. LORD JESUS COME INTO MY HEART, WITH ALL YOUR LIFE: WITH ABUNDANT LIFE, AND MANIFEST THROUGH ME.

I THANK YOU FOR NEW LIFE, FOR SALVATION, FOR VICTORY.

IN JESUS' NAME - AMEN!

If you Prayed that Prayer, you have received Christ into Your life, and with Him comes the life that is MORE ABUNDANTLY.

May you walk in the VICTORY of Christ everyday of your life, in Jesus'Name - Amen and Amen!

God Bless you!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



20TH DECEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: CHRIST THE LORD.



BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 1:41-43

Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

... Are you READY? DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

SAY WITH ME: Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the Righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He Skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus Name - Amen! - Hallelujah!

... Please be seated!

We are centering on CHRIST.

*The last few weeks we have looked at: CHRIST AS OUR LIFE GIVER, CHRIST AS OUR LIGHT, CHRIST AS OUR BREAD;

DMC NOTES: We can access the Full Text of these Messages on these Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christ-The-Bread-Of-Life-Mensah-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christ-The-Light-Of-The-World-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christ-Our-Life-Giver-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

And today we end with: "CHRIST THE LORD."

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is at the core of our Christian Faith and life and it is one of the earliest affirmations that were made about Jesus Christ.

... At the end of my Teaching today, we will spend some little time PRAYING.

So let's start considering: THE FIRST THREE (3) MENTION OF JESUS AS LORD - in the New Testament.

1. The first (1st) Statement referring to Jesus as LORD (in the New Testament) is in Luke 1:41-43

41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

"... The mother of my Lord."

This is the first (1st) time that Jesus Christ is addressed as LORD - And it happened by the declaration of Elizabeth by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

At this time Jesus have not been born, but He is still LORD - even in the mother's womb.

... The first (1st) statement of Jesus as LORD.

2. The Second (2nd) Statement referring to Jesus Christ as LORD in the New Testament was made by Zacharias - The father of John the Baptist, Elizabeth's husband.

And it was made at the Circumcision of and Naming Ceremony of John The Baptist.

Luke 1:76 - And this is what Zacharias said:

"And your child, will be called the Prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to Prepare His Ways"

Zacharias notes that his son (John) will "Go before the the face of the Lord to Prepare His Ways"

In his adult life, John referred to this as his Mission.

And the Person he was Preparing the Way for is Jesus Christ.

... So what Zacharias meant was that Jesus is LORD.

This reference to Jesus as Lord also happened before He was born.

3. The third (3rd) Statement referring to Jesus Christ as LORD in the New Testament is by the Angel who announced His Birth to the Shepherds in the fields.

This Statement happened AFTER Jesus was born! The first two (2), BEFORE He was born.

And so, He is LORD BEFORE He is born; He is LORD AFTER He is born.

Luke 2:10-11;

10 Then the Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you Good tidings of great Joy which will be to all People.

11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the LORD.

So, the Angel called Jesus Christ the LORD; Zacharias called Him the LORD; and Elizabeth called Him the LORD.

In all the three (3) instances where Jesus is called the LORD, the "Greek Root Word" that is used is the same - They are not using different words; it is the same word LORD.

In Greek it is "Kurois"

The word 'kurois' is a very interesting word - Ninety Percent (90%) of the times in the New Testament; it is translated as LORD

A few other times it is translated MASTER, OWNER or SIR.

That means 'kurois' is translated in the Sacred Sense - Referring to Jesus as LORD; or some times He is referred to Master of the Home, Master of a Ship or something like that.

... And Jesus is called LORD

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SO WHAT IS THE MEANING OF 'LORD?'

.... I will give you THREE (3) Meanings of the word LORD.

1. It means the PRINCIPAL PERSON.

It means the Top Most Person, the One Who has the Ultimate Authority, the One at the Highest Level. He is Above All in the sphere that He operates in.

The LORD refers to the Principal Person or as we say in our Current Language; "The BOSS" - The Person who is at the Topmost.

2. LORD means the LEGITIMATE OWNER.

The Person who is the "True Owner" of something; the Proper Owner of something.

Where there is no challenge to the Person's Ownership - that Person is LORD.

... So, LORD is the Principal Person, he is the Legitimate Owner

3. LORD is the One Who has Control.

He says 'GO' and you go! He says 'COME' and you come! - As the Roman Centurion demonstrated to Jesus Christ.

So, when the Passage says that: "Jesus is LORD!"; It means that He is the Principal Person, He is the Legitimate Owner; and He is the One Who is in Control.

In the Old Testament God is called LORD many times; when the Jews refer to God as LORD - They were EMPHASISING their relationship with Him.

"GOD" means that He is the CREATOR, and LORD means they have a relationship with Him - He is their OWNER, He is their BOSS and He is the One in CONTROL of their lives.

So, when we say that "JESUS IS LORD" - We are establishing a Personal Relationship with Him.

In fact, if you study your Bible a bit closely, you will find that when God revealed Himself to Israel, He gave them Proper Names.

They could not Pronounce His Name, and so He substituted His Name with "LORD" - Which in Hebrew is ADONAI - "God is Lord".

Alright! - So Jesus is referred to as LORD: He is the PRINCIPAL Person, He is the Legitimate OWNER And He is the One in CONTROL.

So, I just want to talk about a couple of things about: THE LORDSHIP OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

1. The First (1st) one is that JESUS IS LORD AND GOD.

... That's a very important statement!

He is not just LORD, but He is GOD as well.

How do we know that?

John 20:28-29 - This is Thomas, after he had encountered the Resurrected Body of Christ.

And Thomas answered and said to Him: "MY LORD AND MY GOD!"

Jesus said to him: "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

So Jesus said: Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. And that is why you said "MY LORD AND MY GOD".

Thomas referred to Jesus as both LORD and GOD.

That simply means that Jesus is one with the Father.

Now, you have to understand that Thomas was a very critically minded Jew. He was an empiricist who is always looking for Physical evidence to support what you have said.

And he is the one who said unless I see Him Physically; I will not believe it.

And Jesus Christ said: Thomas you should have believed before seeing.

But Thomas also made us to understand that the Body of Christ that was resurrected was Physical. And Thomas tells us from the Bible that Jesus is one with the Father.

And believing in Jesus is the same as believing in the Father.

When I say I believe in Jesus Christ it means I believe in the Father.

Believing in Jesus is the same as believing in God the Father.

Jesus said: "He that has seen Me has seen the Father."

Relating to Jesus Christ is relating to God.

Jesus says: "No man comes to the Father except through Me; I and the Father are one."

He is one with the Father - Believing in Him is the same as believing in the Father.

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So that is the first (1st) thing I want to say: Jesus is LORD and GOD.

2. The second (2nd) thing I want to say is that: Jesus' Lordship doesn't end: HE IS LORD OF ALL TIME.

Because Lordship sometimes has expiring date. But the Lordship of Jesus Christ has no expiring date.

Revelation 1:8 - This is Jesus Christ speaking to John in the revelation that He gave to Him.

And this is what Jesus said: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty".

... “Who IS and who WAS and who is to COME, the Almighty.”

The Lordship of Jesus Christ WAS, IS and WOULD BE COMING.

There is no time in Human History that Jesus is not Lord - He is the Lord PAST, He is the Lord PRESENT and He is the Lord to COME.

He is the Lord over Yesterday, He is the Lord over Today, He is the Lord over Tomorrow.

He is the Lord over 2020, He was the Lord over 2019 and He will be the Lord over 2021.

His Lordship is NOT limited to any time frame - There is no expiring date to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

What He did yesterday, He will do today and He will do tomorrow - HIS LORDSHIP NEVER ENDS.

So Jesus is LORD and GOD, His Lordship NEVER ends. And;

3. The third (3rd) important Point I want to make is that: JESUS IS LORD IN ALL DOMAINS.

Now these are very important! - There are People who are lord, but they have expiring date.

There are CEO's of companies who are given a Contract, and after the Contract is renewed, that's the end. They are given the Contract, they are voted into Power, and then they also get out of Power.

There are People who become heads of families - They are heads of the family for a while and then they Passed away and then they are no longer head of Family.

But Jesus Christ is Lord AT ALL TIMES - He never dies, never gets voted out, and never vacates His Throne.

He is Lord in the PAST, He is Lord in the PRESENT, He is Lord in the FUTURE; and He is Lord in ALL THE DOMAINS.

Everywhere, He is Lord! - Everywhere He goes He is LORD, He is a Leader who carries His Power wherever He goes.

You know the President of Ghana is President of Ghana he is not President of Togo.

So, when the President of Ghana goes to Togo, he is not Lord over Togo. If he goes to Nigeria he is not Lord over Nigeria.

If the President of Nigeria comes to Ghana he is not described as the President of Ghana; he is still the President of Nigeria.

... His Lordship has GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES.

Even the President of the United States is only President of the United States. If he steps out to Ghana he is not President of Ghana.

The Queen of England is the Queen of England; she is not the Queen of Ghana. When she steps here we admire her but she is Queen of England.

... Because People's Domain and Lordship are LIMITED.

But there is a Lord whose Lordship is in ALL DOMAINS - His DOMAINS never ENDS!

Phillipians 2:9-11 (Oh I love this):

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every names, that at the mention of the Name of Jesus every knees should bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on Earth, and of those under the eyarth, and that every tongues should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.

He is Lord over ALL DOMAINS: Physical and Spiritual.

He is LORD over ALL OTHER lords - That is why He is called Lord of lords.

There are Lords in our world: There are "lords Spiritual", and there are "lords Temporal" or "lords Physical".

But all the other lords are under one LORD, and His Name Name is JESUS.

There are "Spiritual lords" that rules territories in the Heavens, and some rule over Nations. Some rule over Ethnicity and Families and Persons.

... But they all BOW to the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then there are lords who are "Physical Rulers" of Various Nations and various Domains on Earth - Some are lords in the area of Science, in the area of Education, Entertainment, Law, Military.

But they all BOW to the Name of Jesus! - Jesus is Lord in Heaven, He is Lord on Earth, He is Lord in the domain of Satan.

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In other words, when Jesus Christ enters Satan's Domain, He CARRIES His Lordship with Him. He doesn't leave His Lordship outside.

When Jesus Christ comes into your life, He carries His Lordship with Him. And does not leave it outside.

When Jesus Christ comes to your family, the gods of your family, the powers of your family, BOWS to the Name of Jesus.

Because He carries His Lordship with Him from Domain to Domain, from Kingdom to Kingdom.

Jesus shall REIGN wherever the Sun rises and sets.

His Kingdom rises and never sets; He is LORD in EVERY DOMAIN.

So, don't come and tell me: "Oh, the forces in my family are Powerful." - Let the Lord COME IN!

Because when He comes in, He brings His Lordship into your family, into your Kingdom, into your business, into your office.

Wherever He is, He is LORD in ALL DOMAINS; and He COMPELS all to submit to Him

Everybody submits to the Name of Jesus, every tongues confesses that Jesus is LORD: In this world, in the after world, in all languages, in all spheres - JESUS IS LORD!

He is Lord over China, He is Lord over every Countries of the world; He Lord over Russia, He is Lord over every Countries of the world; no matter their Religion, no matter their Faith.

Jesus is LORD in every Earthly territory - Even in Places where they say: "We don't want to hear His Name" - He is Lord there!

... Because you cannot RESTRICT Him from His Rulership.

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He is not like the lords who have boundaries to their Lordship - He is Lord Who is BOUNDARYLESS.

He is Boundaryless - So, don't create boundaries for Him, because He will not respect it.

You know, when Jesus Christ was on the Earth, the People wanted to limit Him: "Don't do this." He does it! "Don't heal on the Sabbath." He heals!

"Why are You doing it?" - I am LORD over the Sabbath!

You cannot change the rules, but I can change the rules; you have traditions that limit you, but no tradition can limit Me. I go where I Please, and I do what I Please.

WHY? - Because He is LORD in ALL DOMAINS.

4. And the final Point just to emphasize what I want to make is that JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONIC POWERS.

It is implied in the Previous Point I made that He is Lord of all Domains, but since you are Africans, I have to emphasize this one (laughing)!

Because Africans need this Special emphasis - That's why I am emphasizing it and making it the last Point.

Jesus is LORD over DOMINIC POWERS in whatever form they manifest, in whatever form they make themselves known. Whether as witches, as wizards, as Juju men or whatever form they come in.

Whether they come as Ghost of your Ancestors, or they come in as medicines that are not Pharmaceutical. Because in Africa we have NON PHARMACEUTICAL medicine. We THROW them! We throw medicines.

So, no matter what form the Demonic Manifestation is: JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONIC POWERS.

Luke 10:17-18; Jesus sent His Disciples to go out (Seventy (70) of them). And they returned and this is their Testimonies:

Then the seventy returned with Joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven.

Listen to their Language (you can image): "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name."

It means: We didn't expect it! We didn't expect this one. Because these People were like Africans (laughing); they also believed in demons Proper.

They believed in Demonic Powers and Manifestations and all kinds of things.

I don't care whatever it is - Whether a black cat, it may be a black bird, it may be a black snake, it may be a black lizard or a white one.

Whatever it is: JEAUS HAS POWER OVER ALL DEMONS.

And the Disciples said: Lord EVEN.

We sought Your Name, we sought Your Power. But we didn't expect that demons will bow to your Name.

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONIC POWERS - His Name allows Believers to also DOMINATE Demons.

I want you to watch what they Disciples said - They didn't say: Lord even the demons are Subject to You.

Of course they knew demons were Subject to Jesus Christ (they saw it). But they never believed demons could be Subject to them.

They said: "Lord, even the demons are subject to US in Your Name."

So the Lordship of Jesus Christ, CONFERS Lordship on the Believer also.

So that when we say: IN THE NAME OF JESUS; we exert the Lordship of Jesus Christ over demons.

And this Year and the coming Year, you will be able to say: "Lord, even the demons are subject to US in YOUR NAME."

And may every Demonic Entities be Subject to you, in the Name of Jesus - AMEN.

Alright! We are going to Pray. And so rise up with me.

You say: "Pastor I can Pray whilst I am sitting."

I know you can Pray whilst you are sitting. But rise up!

Rising up is a Sign that you are ready to do battle; you have put yourself in a Posture to win a battle.

PRAYER POINTS

1. The first Prayer Point - Jesus is Lord over the Past, the Present and the Future.

So you are going to Thank Him for 2020, and ask Him to use every experience you have had in 2020 for His Glory! And declare that nothing will work against you.

So much happened in this Year, but they will not work against us. God is going to covert everything to His Glory.

So, I want you to Lift up your voice, say: Heavenly Father; I declare that Jesus is LORD over my Past, Present and Future.

I ask You: Use every experience I have had in 2020 for Your Glory, in the Name of Jesus.

I boldly declare that nothing, nothing in 2020 would work against me in the coming Year (2021) in Jesus' Name - Amen.

... Now Pray your own Prayer - Talk to God.

In Jesus' Name we have Prayed - Amen.

... And everybody say Amen - AMEN!

2. The Disciples said: Lord, even the demons are Subject to us in Your Name."

So in the Name of Jesus you are going to bring every Demonic Activities against you under subjection. And declare the enemy is fallen.

Jesus said: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven." - The enemy is fallen!

So, I want you to Pray with me - Lift your hands and say: Heavenly Father; Thank You that demons are Subject to the Name of Jesus.

And so in the Name of Jesus, I bring every Demonic Activities around me under subjection. I boldly declare that Satan is fallen, in Jesus' Name.

... Begin to Pray your own Prayer.

In the Name of Jesus! We give You Praise - Amen.

3. Jesus is LORD OVER ALL DOMAINS.

So, you are going to ask Him to dominate your life in Year 2021 - With His PRESENCE and His POWER. And declare that everything in your life that is a KNEE would BOW before the Lord.

So, lift up your hands and say: Heavenly Father; Thank You that Jesus is Lord in Heaven, on Earth and under the Earth.

I ask You that You DOMINATE my life: Dominate my life with Your Presence, with Your Glory, with Your Power. I boldly declare that EVERY KNEES bows, in Jesus' Name.

... Begin to Pray your own Prayer.

In Jesus'Name we have Prayed - Amen.

4. The Final Prayer Point - Thomas asked to see a PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of the Lord.

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I want you to ask God to show you Physical Manifestations of His GLORY. And declare boldly that you will touch the Glory of the Lord.

So, lift up your hands and say: Heavenly Father; Show me Your Glory. Let Your Glory be Physically Manifested in my life.

I boldly declare that I will touch the Glory of God, I will Experience the Glory of God, the Glory will manifest in my life, in Jesus' Name!

... Just Pray on your own.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

CLOSING PRAYER

So Lord Jesus, we Proclaim You are LORD in ALL DOMAINS of our lives.

And we declare that You would RULE, You would DOMINATE, You would be LORD over every circumstances of our life would COMPLETELY BOW to Your Authority.

In Jesus' Name we have Prayed - Amen.

And everybody say Amen - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

27TH DECEMBER, 2020 - TOPIC: HOW TO BUILD IN 2021



TEXT: LUKE 14:28-29

Amen! - Let us rise together wherever you are (or reading on the Label of DMC) as we make our DECLARATIONS OF EXCELLENCE, in this Year of Excellence.

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... Are you READY?

SAY WITH ME: Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God shines forth. The Lord my God causes the righteous to shine forth as the Sun.

His Awesome Hands has formed me; His Creative Spirit inspires my mind. He skillfully guides my hands.

Therefore, I boldly declare: I am Set Apart for Excellence. The Ruler of the Universe has exalted my horn among the Nations. He sets my feet on high! In His Strength, I rise!

By Faith, I Press forward towards the Prize of my Highest Calling.

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I believe in my heart, and confess with my mouth: that Jesus is Lord! He is the Vine, I am the Branch; in Him I abide, in Him I Blossom.

As it is written: God, who commanded Light out of darkness, has shone His Light in our hearts.

We have His Treasure in Earthen Vessels. That the Excellence of the Power may be of God, and not of us!

In this Year, I commit to EXCELLENCE, I commit to EXCEPTIONALISM, I commit to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

In Jesus Name - Amen! - Hallelujah!

... Please be seated!

My Message today is titled: "HOW TO BUILD IN 2021."

And my major Text is taken from Luke 14:28-29 (NKJV).

And my focus will actually be on the Verse 28.

... And this is what it says:

28 For which of you, intending to build a Tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it.

29 Lest, after he has laid the Foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him.

... Not only the 'him's' are mocked; the 'her's' are also mocked sometimes.

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Jesus spoke this Parable, in reference to what is required of His Disciples.

Prior to saying this, He had talked about taking up the Cross and follow Him.

And He teaches that: For us to follow Him, we must count the costs - It's a full commitment. And that is the main Message of this Parable of Jesus.

And in Teaching about how to show commitment to our Christian Life, Jesus Christ taught timeless Principle that apply to other areas of our lives.

So, today for the Purposes of the Season we are in, I am not going to use this Verse to apply to Christian Commitment in a General sense; but I am going to talk about Committing to something SPECIFIC to do in 2021.

... And we are going to use the Principles of Jesus to address that!

In a Year of Fruitfulness, HOW SHOULD WE PLAN OUR LIVES? How do we face the next Year?

Some People would say: Well, because of how turbulent 2020 has been, I'm not even going to make any attempt to Plan.

It's important to Plan because it's only in turbulence that your Plans become effective.

It's almost like a Sea Pilot who is Piloting a Ship - When he is Piloting a Ship; the Ship is on turbulent water, there are waves.

The Pilot of the Ship cannot say: Oh, because of the turbulence of the waves, I'm not going to stir this Ship again!

It is because of the TURBULENCE that you need to stir the Ship.

So, because we live in uncertain times, and you cannot Predict what each Year has, we have to be Purposeful about our lives.

Because that is the only way we deal with the turbulence that comes to us.

So, I'm going to use this Statement of Jesus to give us: FOUR (4) STEPS FOR BUILDING SOMETHING GREAT AND USEFUL IN THE YEAR 2021.

And after I finish speaking, I'm going to give each one of us an Assignment - I'm going to give you Two (2) Assignments and you are going to do those two (2) Assignments and they will be marked next Year 2021 at this time!

*By the end of 2021, we would see whether your Assignment was worked on, or you just took the Assignment to your home; and when you are asked: "Why haven't you done the Assignment?" You would say: "But the Rat chewed my Assignment!"

... May that never be your excuse - Amen!

So let's listen again to what Jesus said in Luke 14:28-29:

"For which of you, intending to build a Tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him."

If we are going to BUILD IN 2021, if we are going to live a Fruitful Life; I MUST DECIDE WHAT I WANT TO DO.

... Everybody say: "I MUST DECIDE WHAT I WANT TO DO!"

This is where we all start: We start with a DECISION.

- You start with what YOU HAVE;

- You start with what YOU WANT;

- You start with HOW you want things to END UP FOR YOU!

... You start with a VISION.

Jesus Christ is talking about a Person who is trying TO BUILD; and Jesus says you start by: DECIDING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

So, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN 2021?

For you to be able to do that, you have to imagine how 2021 would look like; and the things that you want; how it will look like!

In this Parable, Jesus is talking to His Disciples, and to the crowd around Him.

And He asked them a very simple question: "WHICH OF YOU (wanting to build a Tower)"

In other words, this is what the People He was speaking to, could achieve.

"... Which you wanting to build a Tower."

If you want to do something UNIQUE in 2021; you start by DECIDING what you want to do.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?

To start, you have to imagine how it will look like.

In this Parable, it is somebody trying to build a Tower!

1. The FIRST(1ST) STEP is: TO KNOW WHY YOU WANT TO BUILD IT.

WHY DO I WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS PARTICULAR THING IN 2021?

... It must serve a rare Purpose!

The Tower that is in this Parable is not 'Tower' as we imagine it now!

Now, when we think of Tower, you may think of Electrical Tower, or Communication Pylon, or maybe a very, very tall huge monument.

... That's what we see as Tower!

But a Tower in the time of Jesus; for the People He was talking to, when He said 'Tower' - that's not what He was talking about - He was talking about a STORE HOUSE.

So, these are Farmers, and Jesus says: if you want to build a Store House - A Tower to store your Products from the farm.

So, everyone of them understood it.

This was something that was needed - If you are a Farmer, you need a Store House!

So, in order to determine what you want in 2021, it must be something that is necessary; something you need. You are not doing it to impress People; but something that solves a Problem for you!

"... Which one of you intending to Build a Tower!

And then, He didn't say: which one of you intending to Build "TOWERS" or Bridges but "A Tower" - one thing!

The most important thing for each one of us; for every Year, there must be one (1) Predominant thing we want to do!

I know there are a thousand things you want to do; ten thousand things - If I ask you: "What's your Vision for 2021?"

Some of you would write a whole manuscript of what you want to achieve.

But I want you to freeze all the things that you want to do into one (1) thing.

If I have to challenge you for one (1) thing you want to see next year (2021) in your life, WHAT WOULD BE THAT ONE THING?

Not ten (10), not twenty (20), not three (3), one (1) - A Tower, a Building, a Program, an Idea. Something Singular that you want to achieve.

What is the Singular most important thing you want to achieve in Year 2021?

Do you know that one (1) thing? If you don't know it, start thinking about it before you get into 2021.

You don't get into 2021 and start thinking of what you want to Build; you think about it before you get there - One (1) thing!

What is that Tower you want to Build? What is the Project you want to finish? What is that idea you want to accomplish? What is that Mission you want to accomplish?

What is that one (1) thing that you want to stand at the last Sunday of 2021 - In a time like this and say: "Oh, I achieved something in 2021." Yes it might be turbulent, yes it was difficult but this one (1) thing, this one tower, I was able to build!

What is that One Tower? You must decide what you want to do!

2. The SECOND (2ND STEP: YOU MUST INTEND TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

It is one thing deciding what you want to do, it is another thing is "having an INTENTION to make it happen."

Jesus said: "Which one of you INTENDING..."

You have to INTEND to make it happen.

How do we do that?

We must be Intentional about our choices - Be INTENTIONAL!

What does it mean to be 'Intentional?'

It means to be PURPOSEFUL - To do things because that is what you want to do.

That means, whatever we have to do to build that Tower, we must INTEND it. We must be Intentional about it.

We must be Intentional about how we want to use our TIME - You can't just use your time anyhow and hope that by some Divine Purposes, 2021 will work out well.

The One Who Rules the Universe says you have to be Intentional.

.. "Which one of you INTENDING".

Be intentional with your CHOICES:

We must be Intentional about what we listen to, we must be Intentional about what we read, we must be Intentional about who is in our Inner circle, we must be Intentional about where we go to.

... We must be Intentional about how we live our lives.

You are going to have a lot of opportunities to do many things in Year 2021, but you have to ask your self: "Do these things help me to build the Tower I want to build?"

The way I use my TIME, does it help me to build my Tower?

The People around me that I talk to every time, I have conversations with every time, whose wisdom I live on - Do they help me to build my Tower?

The things I listen to, the things I read, the music I listen to, the Stations is Tune to, the Sermons I listen to, the Speeches I listen to, the Magazines I read, the Online Portals that I go to read information; do they help me TO BUILD the Tower I'm intending to build?

If they don't, you have to be more INTENTIONAL - Don't just go through life hoping that things would happen.

... You have to be Intentional about your CHOICES.

And you have to be intense about your ACTIONS.

To be intense about our ACTIONS, that means that we have to be Passionate.

We have to be emotionally involved in what we are doing. We have to invest Emotion!

PASSION is the FUEL to drives everything! - It's your Petrol, it's your Gas, it's your Diesel.

If you use an electric car; it's your battery! - Without it, nothing is driven.

So, if we have to be Intentional, we have to be INTENSE.

Everybody say: "I MUST INTEND TO MAKE IT HAPPEN".

So you ask yourself: WHAT AM I INTENSE ABOUT?

What gets my blood boiling? What makes you sit up and focus on, without getting tired?

Anything you can do, and do for a long time; without getting tired and feeling bored; that's your PASSION.

For some People, their Passion is Football - They can watch their Football Team whether it is Manchester United (because these days nobody support Local Leagues). We have all become British and Spanians. It could be Barcelona, it could be Aston Villa (Laughing)!

What's your Passion?

If you can sit down and watch a Football Game for three (3) hours; and watch another one for three (3) hours and not feel bored; that's your Passion.

For some People, their Passion is Politics - They can eat Politics, drink Politics, swallow Politics, roast Politics, cook Politics, salted Politics, grill Politics, barbecue Politics, eat Politics and NEVER be tired!

That's their Passion!

If that's what you do, that's your Passion.

But the question you have to ask is: This Passion that I have, does it help me to BUILD the Tower I want to build for 2021?

Some People's Passion is Social Media Postings -:Every time they are Posting something. They eat something, they Post it. They smile, Post it!

It's a Passion - You do it and do it; you never get tired!

But, is it helping you to build the Tower you want to build?

... You have Passion for it; but is it helping you?

If you do what I call "AN ENERGY AUDIT"; you will find out what you are using your energy or your Passion for?

And you may find out that in 2021, you were so Passionate and so Energetic; but it didn't give you ANYTHING.

You cheered People who were earning one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) for Playing Football.

You cheered People who were earning twenty million Pounds (€20,000,000) for Playing Football.

You cheered People who were achieving something, you cheered somebody to win an Election but, you didn't achieve anything.

Why? - Because your energy was not focused in the right direction.

If you are going to build, you must know what you want to build. And you must INTEND to build it.

And the way to intend to build is to be INTENSE with your Action, with your Passion.

3. THIRD (3RD) STEP: I MUST COUNT THE COST FOR DOING IT.

You must KNOW what you want to do, you must INTEND to do it, and you must COUNT THE COSTS for it.

Everything worth having has a PRICE TAG on it.

This is not something new, you know it already.

The most Precious thing that God gave to us is our Salvation through Christ and it is free. But salvation came at a cost. It cost the Precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, the "Precious Salvation" was bought with the "Precious Blood".

Everything worth Anything, cost Something.

Following Choices is the best journey in the world but it is going to cost you taking up your Cross and following Him.

In the same way; everything we want to achieve has a Price Tag!

During this Christmas I know that most of you did some shopping but one of the refrains that most traders is that People are moving but they are not buying.

The Cities are full of People in the market and in the shops. The roads we are choked with Vehicular Traffic but no sales.

How can People be moving and going round shops but no sales?

The shop owners were complaining and what they said is: People come to the shop, they examine an item for a very long time and when they are told the Price of the item they would say in Ghanaian English: "I am going to come" (Laughter!)

They knew what they wanted they went close to it but they didn't have what is required to get it so they said: "I am going to come!"

And many times in life we know what we want, we go close to it, we are Passionate about it. But when we are told what it will take us to achieve it we say: "I am going to come!"

So, if you know what you want; you have intended you are going to get it, you have to know how much it costs. And to do that you have to assess if you have what is needed.

Do you have what it takes to build that Tower? Do you have it do you have the qualification for it? The education for it? The relationship for it? Do you have the finance for it?

Do you have it?

I do an assessment - Not that I decide not to Pursue the dream. No, no, no! But I look at myself, I assess myself and I say: "I can do it." Not that you will abandon it!

You have to be like the Ghanaian - "I am going to come!"

In other words for now, I don't have it but I am going to Prepare myself and the next time I come to the shop I will be armed to buy what I saw.

So, you are going to do an assessment to see that: There are some things you have, there are some things you don't have which you need.

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And that is why I am doing Assessment - You have to learn to MOBILIZE for what is NEEDED.

I don't have it now but I am going to mobilize to have it.

When you fall short of resources, you mobilize for more resources.

*So, if you want to build something: It may be building a business, it may be building a Good family life, building a Good Marriage. building a Spiritual Life, building a Prayer life.

Or maybe it could be a Physical building you want to build - Maybe your own home, maybe a facility for your business, maybe you need to expand your business from one (1) operation to ten (10) operations or five (5) operations.

That is what you want to do!

But then you realised: I don't have what it takes!

Don't just discourage yourself because "I don't have what it takes!"

You have to go and mobilize: go around and find ways to build capacity, to fulfill your vision.

Everyone who has achieved anything in life at one point didn't have what it took.

The dream is BIG, but capacity small. Don't abandon the dream because Capacity is small - Mobilize, Talk to People, learn, develop yourself. And like the Ghanaian: "You will go to come!" You will come back.

4. So, you know what you want, you are intentional about it, you have done your assessment; the fourth (4th) and Final Step: Jesus says after you have done all of that: YOU MUST COMPLETE THE BUILDING.

Building something or anything requires a lot of focus, requires a lot of hard work.

Jesus says: If we don't complete what we started we will be a laughing stock.

Have you ever laughed at someone who failed to complete something? Have you ever laughed at someone who failed to achieve something?

... To be honest you have, and I have!

We laughed at the Person who started a race very enthusiastically and ended up hopelessly last.

Don't we laugh at them? Even after fifty (50) years I still laugh at them.

I still remember a gentleman in my Middle School who used to run the mile. He was our Champion Miler. The man then in our School was the right (8th) round.

And he beat everybody in our School.

When we had a School competition and other People came in. And this Guy had in very very unique style. He goes very slow and opens up speed in the end. And in our School it works for all of us but in other School it didn't work.

So, we had our inter School competition in the Middle School and he ran and he was going very slow and we are very comfortable: Oh this guy will just speed up in the lap, he will just beat everybody.

Before we realised it, he had been overtaken one (1) round. We said, it has never happened before, we hope it's Good? And he was overtaken more than one round. The last minute he did what he could, but the other People too had speed at the end. And he was hopelessly last.

Our Champion was hopelessly last.

But up to this moment; it has been more than fifty (50) years or so; but I still remembered him and laugh.

Jesus said if you start and don't finish; your People would laugh at you.

Are you ready for People to laugh at you for fifty (50) years? - No!

.... So when you start finish it well.

You laughed at the Boxer who bragged so much about winning a fight, and got badly beaten and knocked out! And years after that we joke about him.

We laughed at the Person who set out from his house dress to impress, and later fell into a gutter.

Don't we laugh at them? - We do!

So, one day would somebody laugh at you: Oh, he said he would make it in 2021. But look at what happened! Oh, he said he would build; but look at what happened!

Please save your dignity don't let anybody laugh at you - So what you start to build, you must Finish.

So that Year 2021, next year about this time when I say let's check our assignment, you will come and say: "This is what I intended to do and IT IS DONE".

So, work and keep working.

We must continue working when things are going well, we must continue working when things are hard.

We must continue working when People encourage us; you must continue working when People discourage us; you must continue working when you feel on Top; we must continue working when we feel so Low.

If you want to be Fruitful and build that Tower you must keep working at it!

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And you must stay on course till it becomes a reality.

Next Year by this time, you would have achieved something substantial, something Great - Amen.

You will look back and say: Look what I have achieved, look to the level I have come to.

And it's because you had a clear Vision - "ONE THING" you want to do. - Not ten (10), not twenty (20) not fifty (50) - One Thing!

You were Intentional about it, you applied your Passion to it, focused on it, applied your Passion and you stayed until you completed it.

.... That's the MESSAGE

NOW ASSIGNMENT:

I want you to WRITE this and READ it every day in 2021;

FIRST (1ST) ASSIGNMENT:

According to Luke 14:28; THIS IS THE TOWER I AM BUILDING IN 2021

(And this is a dotted line there) and I want you to write what it is:

It could be Spiritual, Marital, Physical, Mental, Health, Academical - ONE (1) THING - not ten (10), not twenty (20).

What ONE (1) THING do you want to build and Testify to the Lord about; by the end of Year 2021?

Just "One Thing", not TOWERS; not something beyond your Power.

The People Jesus spoke to were People who could BUILD the Tower He was talking about - So you have to write down something you can build.

With some efforts, with some energy, with some force, with some drive and you will achieve it - It is within your means to achieve it.

It's just that you need to arrange resources Properly and target it.

So according to Luke 14:28: This is the Tower I am building in 2021

So, though I'm giving you an Assignment; it is an assignment to yourself.

SECOND ASSIGNMENT:

I am going to give you a Prayer Topic to Pray daily in 2021: From January to December; every day you are going to Pray this Prayer

... And this is the Prayer you will read daily:

HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE ME THE WISDOM AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO BUILD THE VISION YOU HAVE GIVEN ME FOR 2021.

.... That's Assignment number 2.

And you are going to use this Assignment to become Fruitful in Year 2021 - Amen.

Everyone of us will bear Fruit, there will be something you will hold in your hand Next Year about this time and say: "Look at what the Lord has done with my life; this is what I set myself to do and see what God has done!"

Everyone of you will have a Testimony; Covid or no Covid. Vaccine or no Vaccine you will achieve this - Amen!

We cannot Predict everything that will happen in the world; but we can Predict what we will do with our Lives, with our time with our energy with our Vision with our Purpose.

So, Next Year by this time you will not complain how hard the world has been; you will Glorify God for what He has done in your life - Amen.

And instead of People laughing at you you will be laughing and thanking God for what He has done for you - Amen.

Lift your hand with me everybody - As with the Heavenly Father, from today I determine to build for your Glory - Amen.

And I ask You Lord:

GIVE ME THE WISDOM AND THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO BUILD THE VISION THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME FOR 2021.

AND I DECLARE LORD THAT I WILL RETURN WITH TESTIMONY, WITH MY TOWER OF WHAT I HAVE BUILT I WILL GIVE YOU GLORY FOR IT.

AND ALL THE WORLD WILL REJOICE WITH ME BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WITH ME AND THROUGH ME

IN JESUS NAME - AMEN AND AMEN!

AND EVERYBODY SHOUT: I WILL MAKE IT IN 2021. I WILL ACHIEVE THIS ONE THING AND GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED IN JESUS' NAME - AMEN!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

ADVERT PAGE

Thanks for reading

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SIGNED

MOSES DURODOLA

CONVENER, DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

