

# DR. MENSAL OTABIL

## COMPILED 2021 SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGES

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



Compiled by

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# 2020/2021 CROSSOVER SERVICE

DR. MENSAH OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)

TOPIC: FRUITFULNESS

JOIN PASTOR  
**MENSA OTABIL**  
ONLINE & ON-AIR

A portrait of Pastor Mensah Otabil, a man with glasses and a white patterned shirt, smiling and holding a book.

# CROSSOVER

**31<sup>ST</sup> DEC. 2020 • 10PM - 12:30AM**



   @mensaotabil @icgcchrist [centralgospel.com](http://centralgospel.com)

DATE: 31ST DECEMBER, 2020

TEXT: PSALMS 46:1-5 AND GENESIS 8:18-22

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Tonight is the night of nights.

Tonight we are Privileged by God's Grace, not only to live through a Year, but to live through the Most Turbulent Year of our living memories.

Many People from this day will call this Year (2020) as one of the Most Unusual Years of our lifetime; and we have lived through it, and we have survived!

And we give God the Praise and the Glory and the Honour for Pulling us through and bringing us through.

And if He has done it for us in 2020, He will do it for us in 2021 - Amen.

... Somebody shout Hallelujah - Hallelujah!

Psalms 46: 1-5 (NKJV) will be my Opening Scriptures:

1 God is our refuge and Strength, A very Present Help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the Earth be removed, And though the Mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the Mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the City of God, The Holy Place of the Tabernacle of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

I will read the Verse 5 again:

"God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn."

... JUST AT THE BREAK OF DAWN!

You will be moved, God will help you - "Just at the break of Dawn."

In just about fifty seven (57) Minutes from now, we will be ushering in a Brand New Year!

And today, as we wait for the BREAK OF DAWN of a New Day and of a New Year; we are confident that God is our Refuge and Strength; and He will help us at the BREAKING OF DAWN.

Last Year, about this time, we gathered to Thank God and to seek His face for this Year that we are ending. We entrusted ourselves into His Hands.

... And the time we gathered, Coronavirus was a very distant word in China Land.

We had no expectation that it will so impact our world and our lives so profoundly, as it has done!

But when we gathered, without any sense of future; we still trusted God and we Thank God who kept us in 2020.

The third (3rd) stanza of the hymn: AMAZING GRACE says:

"Through many dangers, toils and snares;  
I have already come,  
'Tis Grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And Grace will lead me home.

... GRACE has brought us thus FAR; and Grace will lead us on.

The same Grace that brought us through 2020 will be the same Grace that takes us through 2021 - Amen.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have come and we will continue to move on!

We are convinced that God has already gone ahead of us in 2021; He has made a way for us in the Year and throughout the Year - Amen.

This year (2020) we have experienced God Personally.

And I'm sure each one of us has a story to tell because generally, each Year is mixed of events.

Sometimes, the events weigh heavily towards one side of Happiness; and other times; one side of Sadness.

For some of us, 2020 has been the BEST of times! For others, it is the worst of times. And for still others, it is a MIX of both.

There are People reading this message today on the label of DMC who have gone through the Valley of the Shadow of death; some have been hurt, you have been wounded, you have been knocked down, gone through sickness, buried loved ones, had to say goodbye to acquaintances.

Some of you have been left alone, heart has been broken. And there are those who said you will not make it because of all that has happened to you this Year.

But in spite of ALL the stuff that you have been through, you can stand and still say "I AM HERE!"

... Somebody say: "I AM HERE!"

Being 'HERE' means God is not FINISHED with you. It is Grace that has brought you this FAR, and Grace will lead you ON.

And then, there are those People who looked back at this Year and rejoice for ALL the Good things that has happened to them.

For some People; this is the Year they found God and got Born Again. Some People have experienced the Power of God in Unusual ways.

Some have gotten HEALED, some have encountered an accident and they are still alive. Some got a job this year, some were infected by the virus and recovered.

Some gained Promotion on the job, some built a house for the first time! Some bought their first Car, some landed a Big Career breakthrough. Some got married in the midst of ALL the lockdown, some had their child (children) this Year 2020.

For those People also who rejoiced in 2020, God is not finished with you - Grace has brought you this FAR, and Grace will take you ON.

The same Grace that gave you a Good Year in 2020, will give you a BETTER Year in 2021 - Amen

So, for whatever your story tonight; as we gather to say GOODBYE to this momentous Year called 2020, we can all agree that GOD IS GOOD.

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And we can all say: To God be the Glory, Great Things He has done!

Somebody say: "TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE."

"Through many dangers, toils and snares; God has been with us."

From everlasting to everlasting the Name of the Lord is to be Praised!

And so today, we have gathered as God's children - From our homes, in the Presence of the Lord or reading on the label of DMC: to give THANKS.



And so, we give THANKS TO YOU OH LORD: in all the Pains and sorrows of 2020 - Lord we give You Thanks!

In all the uncertainties and all the worries of 2020 - Lord will give You Thanks!

In all our trials and tribulations in 2020, Lord we give You Thanks!.

In all our Joys and our laughter, Lord we give You Thanks!

For all the Miracles and the Deliverances of 2020, Lord we give You Thanks!

For all the Victories and Achievements of 2020, Lord we give You Thanks!

If this is your Testimony, and you can give Thanks to the Lord; why don't you clap your hands and shout to God with a voice of Triumph!

We give Thanks when we are sad and we give Thanks when we are excited; We give Thanks when there are tears in our eyes and we give Thanks when laughter feels our lips.

We Thank God because He is God all by Himself; and He keeps us and He watches over us. And we Thank Him for everything that we have gone through and we Honour Him for everything that we have gone through; because it is in THANKSGIVING that we see the Glory and the Power and the Majesty of the LORD.

... So we give You THANKS LORD!

Next year 2021 by this time, we will gather again and we will Thank the Lord again.

I said: Next year 2021 by this time, we will gather again and we will THANK THE LORD AGAIN.

If you believe that, why don't you say Amen to that - Amen!

Oh, shout a Mighty Amen to that - AMEN!

The same God who delivered all these in Year 2020 will deliver us in the Coming Year 2022. The eyes that has seen the end of 2020 will also see the end of 2021 - Amen!

For the Past forty (40) Years as a Pastor and as a Christian Leader; I have led People into the New Year. I have been conducting Services like this for forty (40) Years.

It is one of the most Sacred Duties I have as a Pastor; and I don't take this lightly at all - Leading People into a New Year.

Because the New Year is Heavy Duty; and we can't take it lightly! We can't enter haphazardly - We have to enter Consciously, Deliberately and by Faith.

And that is why I take this moment very seriously because I know you take it seriously too. Because your hopes are tied to Next Year.

And you have no idea what is coming - but you are facing it.

I take it so seriously, that I start Planning for this event around the Month of July - when we are having our Prayer and Fasting - That was when I started Planning for this night.

So what we do here didn't just start tonight; it started long ago; as we Prayed and sought the face of the Lord as to which direction He would want us to go.

Because by July, you have actually lived much of the Year - You have crossed more than half.

Now you have to think of the New one coming.

And each Year I spend time Praying to God to give me a sense, an idea of what we should be doing.

... And that is where the Theme for the Year comes!

In 2020 our THEME has been 'EXCELLENT'.

And in the midst of Covid, the Lord had helped us to EXCEL and rise Above every limitations.

So the Year of EXCELLENCE is coming to an end but our Spirit of Excellence is not ending and an Attitude of Excellence is not ending.

So, don't throw EXCELLENCE away with 2020. We will still have to be EXCELLENT.

In 2021, our THEME is FRUITFULNESS.

... I love that: FRUITFULNESS!

By the middle of 2020 when we started Praying during the forty (40) days of Power.

I just knew that is what God was whispering into my heart.

And so I was quite certain that we are going to have a year of FRUITFULNESS.

WHAT IS FRUITFULNESS?

Fruitfulness is the action or the Process of bearing fruit or being abundantly Productive.

Fruitfulness is simply to be FULL of fruit; bearing Spiritual Fruits; being Creative with our Ideas and bringing things into being. And increasing ABUNDANTLY on every sides.

And to help us to situate this concept of Fruitfulness into our Present-day situation; I'm going to take you to the Book of Genesis.

In Genesis 8:18-22 - It is a story about Noah.

You know the story of Noah?

One fine day, he heard an instruction from God to go and build an Ark; because there was going to be Rain.

And he was supposed to convince People to go into the Ark!

Noah spent about one hundred and twenty (120) Years on that endeavour: Preaching, Warning, Building an Ark.

When the time came, nobody joined him except the animals and his family members.

So, he goes to the Ark with himself and his wife, his three (3) sons and their wives - Eight (8) people! And animals in Pairs.

And then the rain started - A deluge of rain! Water from above and water from beneath overwhelmed the Earth, and everything that had been built was destroyed.

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If you read the Bible Prior to Noah, how the world was in a state of Industrial Development. Metal Works were being done; Musical Products were being developed, Animal Husbandry, Buildings.

It seemed as if so much was happening in the world: Schools have been built, great things were happening!

And then all of a sudden, the flood comes and wipes everything away.

Everything! - Buildings gone, Technology destroyed, Teachers destroyed.

How do you start your world after everything is gone? - Devastations!

So, Noah comes out of the Ark, and he makes an offering and God speaks to him.

And I want us to watch what God speaks to him - Genesis 8:18-22 (NKJV):

18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the Earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the Altar.

21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his Youth; nor will I again destroy every living things as I have done.

22 "While the Earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."

Tonight we are like those who stepped out of the Ark after the flood;

I am aware that the danger of the coronavirus has not fully Passed. We still have to maintain our vigilance, Protect ourselves from infections, keep Protocols.

However, every Human Being who lives through 2020 - Stepping out of one of the devastating years in our modern life; the effect will not end this Year; it will continue to 2021 and for many Years, because so much has gone wrong.

So after they emerged from the Ark WHAT IS NOAH TO DO?

... When he sees all the devastations!

Yes, he has his wife, he has his sons; but he had Cousins, he Probably had brothers and sisters and friends who were all gone.

You don't just Rejoice because you survived; you also look at all the losses that had taken Place.

...But Noah's attitude was Thanksgiving!

So, when he stepped out of the Ark, in spite of ALL that has been lost, he made a Sacrifice to God.

And that is why at the end of every Year, in spite of everything that has happened, we still Sacrifice to God and we THANK HIM, and we HONOUR HIM.

... It is Part of why we are here at the Crossover Service.

After the Lord received Noah's Thanksgiving, He gave him a Promise and a Sign - A RAINBOW!

And then He told him that: While the Earth remains there will be Seedtime and Harvest.

Then later on in Genesis 9:7, God is still speaking to Noah.

And this is what he said: "And as for you, be Fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the Earth And multiply in it."

I don't know about you but I like the Phrase "AS FOR YOU".

It means, even if nothing is Fruitful; as for you, you must be Fruitful - AMEN!

That is the word that God wants to give us in the YEAR OF FRUITFULNESS: We don't know what 2021 will upload on the Earth, but as for us we would be Fruitful - Amen.

Covid may still be around and it may still be wrecking some havoc, but as for us, we would be Fruitful.

Some Businesses may fold up and we may hear some News in the Business World that would chill our heart, but as for us, we will be Fruitful.

Somebody say: "As for me, I will be FRUITFUL!"

1. And even though we don't have all the Resources we need, as for us we would be Fruitful.
2. And even though People may try to pull us down, as for us we would be Fruitful.
3. And even though evil spirits and evil people may hate us, has for us, we would be Fruitful.
4. And even though many People may be complaining around us, as for us, we would be Fruitful.
5. And even though Economy of Nations will be in crisis, as for us, we would be Fruitful.

... Somebody say: "As for me, I would be FRUITFUL".

That is what God said to Noah - There is devastation, you don't see anything happening. But as for you Noah: don't go about complaining, BE FRUITFUL!

So, today, I tell you that there will be tough times in 2021, but as for you, you would be Fruitful.

1. You will face challenges in 2021, but as for you, you would be Fruitful.
2. You may hear things that scare you, but as for you, you must be Fruitful.

In the mountain, we will be Fruitful; in the Valley, we will be Fruitful; in Dry Season, we will be Fruitful; in Raining Season, we will be Fruitful.

... Because, as for us, we would be FRUITFUL.

Though a lot has been lost, as for you; you are going to be Fruitful.

... And I see you becoming Fruitful - Amen.

I see you bearing Fruit on every sides; I see you becoming Productive; I see things coming against you and you breaking through them - Amen!

I see you standing Tall and defiling the circumstances of life! - Life will not whip you, life will not put you down, life will not destroy you - Amen.

... As for you, you will be FRUITFUL.

Today we are like Noah - We have stepped out of the Ark into a devastating world.

All around we see evidence of destabilization; but the Lord says to you: As for you, BE FRUITFUL!

He said to Noah: You came from the Ark, don't hide in the ark, don't spend the rest of your life hiding. You have to come out of the Ark and be FRUITFUL.

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So how did NOAH RESPOND to this CHALLENGE from God?

... This challenge from God which doesn't seems to respect his troubles!

God says: Noah, no matter what has happened, as for you, all I want from you is to be FRUITFUL.

Genesis 9:20, this is what it says: "And Noah began to be a farmer, and he Planted a Vineyard".

Why? - Because God says be FRUITFUL.

1. And Noah began to be a Farmer.

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He understood that FRUITFULNESS requires that he has to do something

I like the word 'BEGAN.' "... he began to do it." He started!

Why does the Bible say "he BEGAN TO BE A FARMER?"

Because Prior to that, all that he has been doing is building an Ark. He was not a Farmer - All he knows is building an Ark.

He has been doing it for one hundred and twenty (120) Years; he has been a Preacher for one hundred and twenty (120) Years.

... That is all he knows!

Now, there is nobody to Preach to (laughing)!

Everybody is gone - Only his wife and children left. And I'm sure he has Preached all his Sermons to them.

... The animals are not going to listen to him anyway!

There is no Carpentry.

So, he began something NEW: Something he hasn't done before, something he was not familiar with, something that was not in his Previous life; he began to do it

So, I challenge you in the year of FRUITFULNESS; you will begin to do something FRUITFUL.

He couldn't go on and live all his life in the Ark, and say: Well, this is my Safe Place. I'm going to live for the rest of my life in the Ark!

He had to resume his life.

And I tell each one of you reading this on the Label and DMC; it's time to come out of the Ark and resume your life! It is time to resume your schedule, it is time to resume going to Church (in Person).

Come out of the Ark because we have to Begin.

If you believe God has called you to be Fruitful: Begin the Process, Begin Again

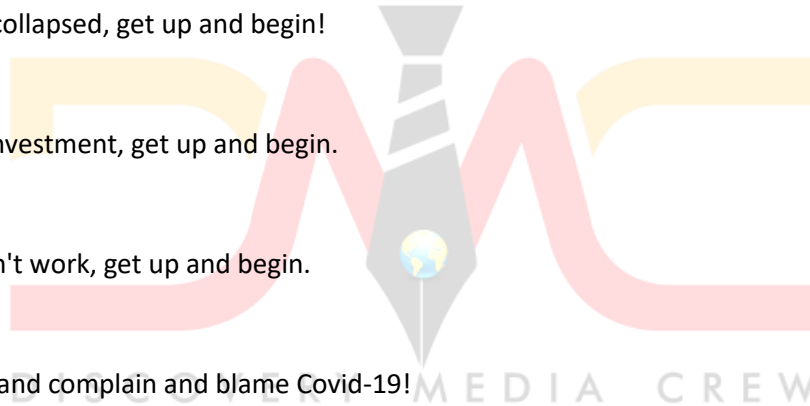
1. You were knocked down, but get up and begin!

2. Your Business collapsed, get up and begin!

3. You lost your Investment, get up and begin.

4. Something didn't work, get up and begin.

... Don't just stay and complain and blame Covid-19!



Noah BEGAN! - He had to learn a New Skill; he had to start a New Process; he had to do something he hadn't done before!

If it means beginning to go to School again - Go; Learning a New Trade? - Learn it; Learning a New Skill - Learn it; Reading something New? - Read it.

... But don't sit down and complain.

You are too talented to complain; you are too loaded to complain.

Everybody has an excuse to fail; but refuse that excuse!

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1. Even if you feel: "I'm sick" - As for you, you would be Fruitful.

2. "People have disappointed me" - As for you, you would be Fruitful.

That is what God said to Noah; in spite of everything that has happened - As for you, all I want from you Mr. Noah, is to be Fruitful.

... So he began to be a Farmer.

2. And the Second (2nd) thing is that HE PLANTED A VINEYARD.

He understood that FRUITFULNESS requires PLANTING something.

Plant your Vineyard, Plant your Dream, Plant your Will of God, Plant your Fields.

God will construct New Things in your life and He will Repair things that need to be repaired - Amen.

In 2021, may God help you to build New Things in your life - Amen!

May you Plant again, may you Build again, may you Repair again, may you be Restore - Amen!

A building may not take a day to accomplish; but you have to begin.

And many of us have things we need to build - Such as our Marriage; it needs to be built or repaired; Children need to be built and repaired; Careers need to be built and repaired; Finances needs building and repairing.

In the YEAR of FRUITFULNESS: May we be like Noah - We are going to BEGIN!

Maybe you have been successful in 2020, begin something NEW. Don't just hold on to your success and Glorify God for 2020 because 2021 is not 2020.

And just like we were Shocked in 2020, you have no idea what 2021 will bring.

But whatever it is bringing: Mr. 2021, whatever you are bringing - As for us, we would be FRUITFUL.

Whatever the world will go through, as for us we will be FRUITFUL; we will begin AFRESH; we would Plant and we will PROSPER - Amen.

As we enter the New Year, may the Lord make you FRUITFUL - Amen; may the Lord cause you to INCREASE - Amen; may the Lord cause you to ABOUND in everything - Amen.

If you are down, you will RISE - Amen; if you are weeping you will LAUGH - Amen; if you were mocked, you will be CELEBRATED - Amen; if you were confused, you will have CLARITY - Amen.

If in 2020 everything left, everything is coming back to you in 2021; because as for you, you would be FRUITFUL.

We refuse not to be Fruitful and we will be FRUITFUL at EVERY LEVEL - We will be Fruitful Spiritually (by the Fruits of the Spirit); we will be Fruitful with our IDEAS; we will be Fruitful with the Fruits of the womb; we will be Fruitful with the work of our hands; we will be Fruitful at EVERY LEVEL - Amen.

Whatever FRUIT you need, may God make you FRUITFUL - Amen. And may the Lord cause you to be FRUITFUL - Amen.

Maybe you have tried and tried and tried and it had not worked. But in 2021 as for you, you would be FRUITFUL - Amen.

That is the Word I have in my heart to bring to you that God has for you - You will be FRUITFUL.

As God said to Noah, he says to you today: AS FOR YOU YOU WILL BE FRUITFUL - Amen, Amen and Amen.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



PROPHETIC DECLARATION FOR YEAR 2021 BY PASTOR (DR) MENSAH OTABIL

JOIN PASTOR  
**MENSA OTABIL**  
ONLINE & ON-AIR



**CROSSOVER**

**31<sup>ST</sup> DEC. 2020 • 10PM - 12:30AM**



**f t y @mensaotabil @icgcchrist centralgospel.com**

In the Year 2021; your Labour will Produce Results: You will abound in Fruits; you will receive Divine Stimulations of your bread.

Receive Supernatural Intelligence. Where there is chaos, you will create Beauty.

The Lord will Skillfully guide your hands - Receive the "Creative Touch"; the "Craftsman Touch" in the Name of Jesus Christ.

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Receive the Anointing of the Lord's Favour.

In the Year 2021; you will Excel through Favour. The Lord will set His eyes upon you; He will select you out of many.

In this Season, the Lord will Pour upon you the "Treasures of the Deep" - You will find Silver, you will find Gold.

Your Gift will bring you to Prominence.

By the works of your hands; you will be recognised, you will be lifted, you will be celebrated.

The Lord will set a "Table of Honour" before you, He will Shine His Light on you.

So, I declare over your Life: Fruitfulness, Increase, Abundance.

Your Life will be Full and Complete

In the Year 2021; the Lord will Set you Apart for Honour in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The Lord your God blesses you with these Generational Blessings. They will Purse you throughout this Year and that will be your Portion.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Abel; your Sacrifice will find favour with God.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Noah; you and your family will be delivered from destruction.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Abraham; you will be Great and your name will be Great.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Sarah; you will bear Fruits in your Old Age.

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The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Isaac; the Lord will make Room for you.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Jacob; you will Prevail over the Night and receive your Blessings.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Joseph; you will be Remembered and Rewarded.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Moses; you will be a Deliverer to your People.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of David; the Lord will Subdue all your enemies before you.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Elijah; He will answer you by Fire.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Daniel; He will shut the mouth of every Lions that roar against you.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Esther; you will sit upon the thrones with Kings.

The Lord blesses you with the Blessings of Mary; all who knows you will call you Blessed.

And above all; may the Lord blesses you with the Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ: Salvation, Healings, Deliverance, Blind eyes open, the Lame walking, Deaf speaking, Demons cast out, Storm Still, Walking on water, Bread multiplied, the Dead raised, Resurrection, Power, Abundant Life, the Lord blesses you with Righteousness and Peace and Joy, Wisdom, Might, Power, Glory - On this First (1st) Day of January 2021.

You have entered into a Season of God's Watering - The Lord will watered you.

You have entered into a Season of God's Planting - The Lord will Plant you.

You have entered into a Season of God's Fruitfulness - The Lord will cause you to abound in Fruitfulness.



May the Lord watch over you and may His Grace rest upon you.

May His Favour rest upon you.

May His Goodness rest upon you.

And may He watch over you from this Day (1st of January) to the 31st of December of this Year (Year 2021). And you will exit the Year at the end of December 2021 to Year 2022.

I speak Life to you; I speak Health to you; I speak Strength to you, I speak Wisdom to you, I speak Favour and Increase to you - On every sides, in every Way in Jesus Name - Amen.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord lift up His Countenance upon you and give you a Space.

May the Lord causes His Light to be upon you and establish you.

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This Year, may you Experience Supernatural Favour, Supernatural Strength, Supernatural Wisdom, Supernatural Increase on every sides.

In Jesus Mighty Name - Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

3RD JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: I WILL BE FRUITFUL.



**TEXT: PSALMS 1:1-3**

AMEN! Please join as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS:

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Are you ready to make your DECLARATIONS? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my sun and shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The righteous are like trees Planted by the waters - bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I'm going to Preach a very brief Message I have Titled: "I WILL BE FRUITFUL."

Our Main Scripture for this Year, that undergirds our Message of FRUITFULNESS is Psalms 1.

So, I will Preach from Psalms 1:1-3.

I will focus on verse 3.

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Psalms 1:1-3 (NKJV):

1 Blessed is the man (or woman) Who walks not in the Counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the Path of Sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, And in His Law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its Season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall Prosper.

Just to give you a background: This is the first (1st) Psalms.

It talks about the Person whose life is Blessed or Celebrated by God.

And in verse 1, it tells us what not to do; Verse 2, it tells us what to do.

Verse 1 says: Don't hang out with these kind of people. "Don't be friends with the Ungodly, with the scornful and with the sinners."

And then in verse 2, it says: In Place of that, meditate on the Word of God and follow the Word of God.

But the verse 3 tells us: THE BENEFITS of doing verses 1 and 2

The Verse 1 says - Don't hang out with some People; Verse 2 says - Study the Word of God, meditate on it.

Verse 3 says - This is the RESULT, this is what happens when you Study the Word of God.

... And as a matter of fact, the Verse 3 is the basis for all that we are doing this Year (2021).

And so I read the Verse 3 again:

"He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its Season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does SHALL PROSPER."

So there are FOUR (4) CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FRUITFUL LIFE - And I will walk through the Four (4) of them with us today.

When we OBEY GOD and MEDITATE on His word, He makes us FRUITFUL

1. And this first (1st) Sign is that we will be like TREES PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATERS.

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The Fruitful Life is the life that is likened to a TREE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATER.

The term "RIVERS OF WATERS" refers to an Irrigation System.

So, when He says: "RIVERS OF WATERS" here, it doesn't mean that there are many Waters necessary.

... But it means that the land has water irrigating it.

In the Dry Lands of the Old Testament where the Psalms was written - Especially the Land of Israel, there was a lot of wilderness.

It didn't have a large environment as we have here, where it rains all the time; with so many Rivers!

They didn't have so many Rivers, and it didn't rain frequently.

... It still doesn't rain frequently there!

And so to say - For Farmers to make things grow for them in that region, they would dig wells, and have water in wells. And draw water from the Wells and create Irrigating Systems.

... They will create different Paths for the water to flow through.

When the water comes from the Well, it flows through different Paths.

... And that is what the Bible calls: "RIVERS OF WATERS."

It's not just one Stream, it's several Streams; Irrigating an area.

And so the Bible says: When we OBEY GOD, He makes our lives like a Tree that is CONSTANTLY Irrigated.

The Good Thing about the Tree that is by the River of water is that it always has water.

The thing is, in Israel it doesn't rain frequently.

But when your land is Irrigated, even in the Dry Season, there would be water because there will always be water at all times and every time.

And that is how God wants our lives to be: That CONSTANTLY, we will be Irrigated by the Word of God.

So, this teaches us that: When we are FRUITFUL, we are RENEWED BY GOD'S WORD.

God's Word is the Rivers of water that flows into our lives Planted on His Word, in His Word and around His Word.

Now, what most of us don't know about the DECLARATION we made (above); and which we shall be making throughout this Year 2021; they are all Scriptures based.

There are about fourteen (14) Scriptures that I used to compose what we say.

So, when we make this DECLARATION, we are not just saying words out of our head, IT IS SCRIPTURE BASED.

... Every Statement is Scripture Based!

Because we have to be like a tree that is Irrigated by the Word of God - The Word of God is our WATER, the Word of God is our LIFE, the Word of God is our STRENGTH.

This Year, spend time in the Word of God, Meditate in the Word of God, allow the Word of God to renew you and to give you life!

Even when there is hopelessness outside us, the Word of God must Irrigate us and give us the Strength to go on.

That's why we Declare that: "AS FOR US, WE WOULD BE FRUITFUL".

It may be hard out there, but the Irrigating System we have inside us; the Word of God says: AS FOR US, WE WILL BE FRUITFUL.

And so, the FRUITFUL Person is like a TREE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATERS.

... That's the First (1st) - They are RENEWED by God's Word!

2. The Second (2nd) thing that the Passage says about the FRUITFUL LIFE is that: "THEIR LEAVES DO NOT WITHER."

... Because they are always WATERED, they don't DRY UP - Even in Dry Seasons, they are still Fresh.

"LEAVES" in this Passage, can be likened to ACTIVITIES - The things we do!

So, the Bible says: When we are Planted in the Word of God, we never get tired; and we don't get weary, and we don't dry up!

When others become weak and faint because of the hard, Dry Season; the trees Planted by the Rivers of water is Fresh.

And when we are Planted in the Word of the Lord, that is what it is - You are constantly fresh in the Lord!

And this Year, may God keep you FRESH! and alive, and Active, and never drying up - AMEN!

You don't start in January, and loose energy by March. You do don't start in January and loose energy by September.

We are to be Strong in January, in February, in March, in April, right through to November, December. And by December we are CHARGED UP for 2022.

... Because our LEAVES NEVER WITHER.

May your leaves never wither - Amen! May God give you the Strength to keep going, and keep going and keep going - Amen.

You may be hit, but you will Rise again - Amen; you may fall, but you will Get Up - Amen; you may face opponents, but you will defeat them - Amen. Because your leaves never dry up.

And that is because those who are FRUITFUL, are REFRESHED by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the One Who RENEWS our Strength, He Renews our strength! - Our LEAVES NEVER DRY UP.

... And may your leaves never dry up - Amen!

You know, many times when we go through hard times, People's leaves dry up; People Just get tired; they get weary: "I don't know what to do again! Oh, I'm tired! Life is so Hard."

Life has been Hard: It was hard before you were born, it is hard whilst you are alive, it will be hard after you are gone!

Life has never been easy- It was not easy for the People in the Bible. It was not easy for the People who lived hundred (100) years ago; who didn't have a Cellphone (laughing)!

And People who didn't have Watercloset, and People who didn't have Deep freezers, and People who didn't have Fridges; but they lived!

You know, in the Past, when People had Children, they would have so many children - Sometimes thirteen (13), seventeen (17) Children. Just one man, one wife - seventeen (17)!

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And the reason why they had seventeen (17) Children is because they budgeted for losses! As hard as it sounds, that is it!

Because, you could lose about seven (7) Children, you could lose ten (10) children.

So, they have seventeen (17); if they lose twelve (12), they would still be left with five (5). That's why people had a lot of Children.

But now, even when you have one, God keeps the one (1). When you have two (2) - He keeps them!

We are living a far better life but they had a hard life!

Life has never been easy on this Planet but the Grace of God is sufficient for you!

And that is why I Declare to you: Your LEAVES WILL NOT WITHER - Amen; you will not give up, you will not bow, you will not surrender, you will not cry, you will not put yourself down - Amen.

... YOUR LEAVES WILL NOT WITHER - Amen!

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Somebody say: "MY LEAVES WILL NOT WITHER, I WILL BE FRUITFUL; I AM PLANTED BY THE WATERS - MY LEAVES WILL NOT WITHER."

Our LEAVES will not wither! In 2020 our leaves did not wither. We did not wither.

That is why we did not take IMPOSSIBILITY as Part of our Vocabulary; that's why we do not Glorify HARDSHIP. And we don't Glorify DIFFICULTY;

... Because our LEAVES MUST NOT WITHER!

No matter what comes against you, you would still be fresh - AMEN.

I said: You would still be FRESH - Amen!

So, No. 1 - He is like a Tree Planted by the WATERS.;

No. 2 - The LEAVES DO NOT WITHER;

3. THEY BEAR FRUIT IN SEASON.

... FRUIT BORNE IN SEASON!

FRUIT represent Results! And this is very important.

Sometimes when you read these Passages in the Bible, you just read them, and you don't understand the Geographical contexts within which it is written.

In those days, and sometimes even in these days; a Tree can be STANDING, and not bearing fruit because it has been denied of water!

And because it has been denied of water, the leaves are dried up!

So, when it is the Season, it doesn't bear fruit.

I have seen Mango trees that do not bear fruit during Mango Season because they are dry!

Something has happened to the tree; and the Season when it should bear fruit - The Season comes and goes, and it doesn't bear Fruit.

But the Bible says that when you are FRUITFUL; in the right Season you would bear FRUTS.

And the reason why they bear fruits in their Season is because their leaves are always FRESH; And the reason why their leaves are FRESH is because they are Planted by the WATERS.

... The word of God, the Holy Spirit STRENGTHENS YOU.

So, when it is your Season, you would bear FRUIT.

The FRUITFUL Person Produces results. When it is time; they are rewarded for their Labour

So, you would not just be a STANDING tree, you would be a PRODUCING TREE;

You would not just show up in the world, you would Produce Results;

You would not just have a Business in Name, the Business would Prosper.

You would not just have a MARRIAGE in Name, the Marriage would be Happy and Joyful.

You don't Just want to have an appearance of something; you want the thing to Produce the Result it was intended to Produce!

You would PRODUCE FRUITS IN YOUR SEASON - Amen!

And the FINAL thing it says about the FRUITFUL LIFE (according to Psalms 1:3) is that:

4. THEY PROSPER IN ALL THAT THEY DO.

... We will Prosper in ALL that we do - Amen!

The Fruitful Person Produces Results in ALL AREAS OF LIFE - They Produce Spiritual Fruits, they Produce Natural Fruits.

Every Area of their life is Fruitful - Every area!

We don't want a situation where one area of our life is Fruitful; another area is not Fruitful.

So, you are doing well Spiritually, but you are not doing well Financially.

You are doing well Financially, but your health is not doing well.

Or your Health is doing well, but your Marriage is not doing well.

You Marriage is doing well, but your children are not doing well.

The Fruitful Person must be an ALL ROUND FRUITFUL PERSON.

So the Passage says: Whatever he does shall Prosper.

... WHATEVER HE DOES, SHALL PROSPER!

\*This year (2021), I want to believe God with you that EVERY AREAS of your life would PROSPER - Amen.  
There would be NO DEFICIENCY in your life - Amen!

Every Area of your life: Your Spiritual Life would be Fruitful; your Home life would be Fruitful; your Health would be Fruitful; your Financial life would be Fruitful; your Business would be Fruitful.

Whatever you do, would be Blessed.

Why? - Because you are Planted by the Waters.

That is the source of the FRUITFULNESS - You are Planted by the Waters; you are IRRIGATED by the Word of God, you are STRENGTHENED by the Holy Spirit.

... And whatever Season comes your way, you would be Fruitful.

I don't know what Season 2021 would bring; but we would be FRUITFUL - Amen.

2021 may be a Dry Season for the World, but as for us, we would be Fruitful - Amen.

It may be a Hard Season, but we would be FRUITFUL - because that is our Portion.

... IN THE YEAR OF FRUITFULNESS, WE WOULD BE FRUITFUL.

Somebody say: "I WILL BE FRUITFUL!"

"Whatever he does, PROSPER:" - They remain Successful ALL AROUND.

1. The Righteous Person is like the tree Planted by WATERS; they are RENEWED by God's Word.
2. The Righteous Person's Leaves do not WITHER, because they are REFRESHED by the HOLY SPIRIT.
3. The Righteous Person bears FRUIT in Season, because they are REWARDED FOR THEIR LABOUR.
4. And the Righteous Person Prospers ALL AROUND in what they do; because they remain SUCCESSFUL ALL AROUND!

May that BE YOUR PORTION FOE 2021 - Amen!

May you be a FRUIT-LADENED Tree! You would be WEIGHED DOWN with so much Fruits - That you would need SUPPORT for some of your branches.

... Because the tree would so much ladened.

We have a Particular Mango tree in our home. It's a very, very Physically challenged tree - Very short!

But when it comes to Producing, I tell you that Mango tree Produces and some of the Mangoes are lying on the ground. So we have to always hold up the branches.

May you be like that tree - Your FRUITS would be so much, that you would need support to contain the Blessing of Lord that is coming your way!

May the Lord INCREASE you on every side, PROSPER you on every side - Amen!

May the Word of God be the WATERS for you; may the Word of God NOURISH you; may the Word of God REFRESH your Spirit - Amen.

When People are drying up, may you be FRESH, may your LEAVES never WITHER; May God be your Strength, may He give you Wisdom. May He give you a WAY OUT of every situations - Amen.

\*When you are stuck in a Place, may God cause you to JUMP OVER - Amen! When a door is SHUT, may He open New Doors for you - Amen! When People think you are down, may you RISE UP again - Amen!

... Your LEAVES WILL NEVER WITHER.

And may you bear FRUIT and be REWARDED; may the Reward be SEEN IN YOUR LIFE - Amen.

May 2021 be a Year of REWARD FOR YOU - Amen!

May you come into a Season of REWARD - Amen.

When you have done so much Good and have forgotten; May you be REWARDED - Amen.

Every seeds you have done for the Kingdom of God, may you be REWARDED - Amen. May you begin to see FRUITS on your Season - Amen.\*

\*And may that FRUITFULNESS touch every aspects of your life - Amen.

Every areas of your life will be FRUITFUL: In your Marriage, in your Health, in your Business, in your Spiritual Life.

Every areas of your life will be Flourishing; in Jesus' Mighty Name - Amen and Amen!

Lift up your hands and say with me: Heavenly Father, Thank You that You have made me like a Tree, Planted by the Waters.

I declare today: My leaves shall not wither. I will bear FRUIT in every Seasons - Amen.

... In every Seasons I will be FRUITFUL - Amen.

And whatever I touch, whatever I do, wherever I am; I will PROSPER, I will be SUCCEFULL - Amen.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

And give God Praise somebody - It's your Year of FRUITFULNESS. And you are going to enjoy Fruitfulness on every side - Amen.

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!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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10TH JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.



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**TEXT: GALATIANS 5:19-23.**

AMEN! Please join as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of FRUITFULNESS:

Are you ready to make your DECLARATIONS? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

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Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

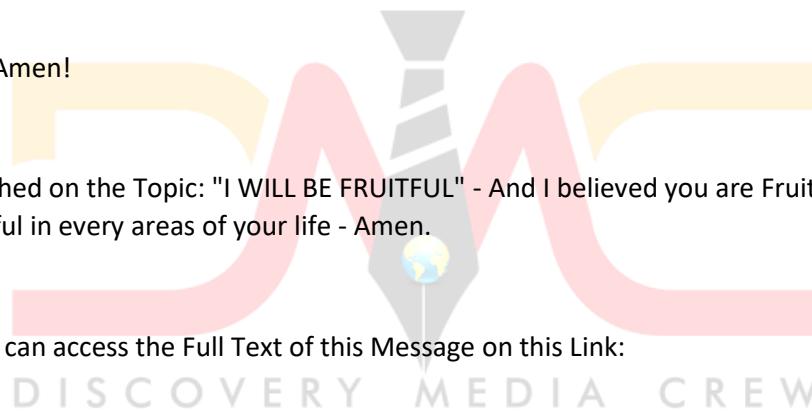
So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Last week I Preached on the Topic: "I WILL BE FRUITFUL" - And I believed you are Fruitful and God is making you Fruitful in every areas of your life - Amen.

DMC NOTES: You can access the Full Text of this Message on this Link:



<https://discoverymediacrew.com/I-Will-Be-Fruitful-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

I trust that the Lord will cause you to Produce Results in every aspects of your life - Amen; that you will Plant, you will Build and you will Harvest to the Glory of God - Amen!

So today, I'm speaking on one of the most important areas where we need to be Fruitful.

Fruitfulness in this one area will give you a Testimony to the world, that you are truly a child of the Most High God.

So I'm speaking today on: "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT."

If you Pay attention to the DECLARATION we made (above) - Getting to the conclusion, it says: "My Spirit bears FRUITS of Righteousness,"

And that is what we are addressing today: "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT."

... Many of you have heard the Phrase before, and we are going to explore it!

Galatians 5:19-23 (NKJV) will form the basis of our discussions this morning.

And it reads:

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 Gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

'THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT' is set out in opposition to the 'WORKS OF THE FLESH';

"The Works of the Flesh" are numerous but inconclusive; as you can see in the Passage - "AND SUCH LIKE:"

There are Seventeen (17) WORKS set out within the Passage (Galatians 5:19-22). But not conclusive.

Any of these aforementioned WORKS are Works of the Flesh.

So, if you look at the Passage you will find that the "Works of the Flesh" is set out in PLURAL; while the 'FRUIT of the Spirit' is set out in SINGULAR.

So, the FRUIT of the Spirit is not a Plural word, it is a Singular word. And the WORKS of the Flesh is Plural.

Basically, it means that the Fruit of the Spirit is not something that you can choose or pick - It is one (1) Manifestation of the Spirit.

And the WORKS are many and continue to be many in MANIFESTATION.

The Greek word that is used and translated as WORKS mean something that you put energy into; something that you put effort into.

And as most of you might have had the experience: The WORKS of the FLESH require work.

... I know you don't want to respond to that!

Anybody who is committing adultery knows it takes a lot of effort to commit adultery - A lot of Planning, a lot of Skimming, a lot of lying, a lot of hiding.

By the time the act is over you are exhausted and afterward continue to work to hide your Sins.

The same way; fornication, murder and all the WORKS of the Flesh.

But that is not what we are talking about!

Although I can sense your nervousness as you are reading now on the label of DMC. You say Pastor, Please leave it there.

I will come on it one day!

Since we are talking about the FRUIT of the Spirit, I will focus on the Fruit of the Spirit.

The word that is used and describe as FRUIT in the English is from the Greek word "Capus".

And "Capus" is used not only in relation to the Spirit but it is used to describe all kinds of fruit from a plant, or from a tree - It simply means the RESULT of an Action.

And as I said, note that the word FRUIT is in Singular - FRUIT of the Spirit and not 'Fruits' of the Spirit.

... The Fruit of the Spirit.

So, in the context that it is used in this Passage:

1. It means something that is PRODUCED.

So when you say the Fruit of the Spirit, it means something that the Spirit PRODUCES.

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A Fruit naturally, comes out of something - Fruits don't just appear, they appeared on something.

So there is always a relationship between the fruit and the thing that produced it - An orange fruit for example is produced from an orange tree.

So, there is a relationship between the tree and what it is Producing.

So, when you say the Fruit of the Spirit, it is the Spirit making the Production - NOT the flesh but the SPIRIT that is PRODUCING the FRUIT.

2. Secondly, the word FRUIT also means something that is REVEALED.

... A fruit is not hidden, it is seen!

You can also attest to it: Fruits are seen!

You are walking by, you see a mango tree and it is bearing fruit.

It is evident you can see the fruit of an orange tree, even if it is a root bearing fruit - When you uproot it you will see the fruit.

It is something that is REVEALED.

And because the fruit is seen:

3. It can be JUDGED.

You can judge it to determine whether it is a Good Fruit or a Bad Fruit - Fruit that is useful or useless.

So fruit can be JUDGED; It is something that is REVEALED.

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Now if you take note of the Passage, Apostle Paul in the Scriptures is saying that those who Produce the Fruit of the Spirit: "Against such there is no Law."

That simply means there is no Law against such People.

Nothing can be against you when you Produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

No Law, whether it is in the Old Testament or even in the New Testament can come against you when you Produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

So, when we Produce the Fruit of the Spirit, we are stepping out of the Law, from the condemnation coming against us; to create its MANIFESTATION upon our lives - Something that has no argument against it.

So just a couple of questions we need the answer:

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Basically, the Fruit of the Spirit is a Character of Christ that is Produced in the Believer.

If Christ is truly in us, then this is His CHARACTER; The Fruit of the Spirit is the real Proof that Christ is in US.

So, when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour; read the Bible, we Pray, we go to Church; we Worship, we Sing, we Dance;

All of these are Good!

But none of them shows that you are a Christian.

What shows you are a Christian is the Fruit of the Spirit.

Not our dancing or Prayer (as Good as they are); not even Speaking in Tongues - The Manifestation that when we are Christians, is the Fruit of the Spirit.

It's the Character of Christ Produced in the Believer!

When Christ comes to live in us, He imparts His Character in us.

It is similar to what happens in a Piece of metal, nail or pin gets attracted to a block of magnet - If you have conducted that experiment before.

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There is an attraction!

The Piece of metal goes to where the Magnet is and it's attracted by the Magnet.

And when they stay in contact for a very long time the nail or the pin rubbing against a Magnet, it is glued to the Magnet.

After sometimes, the nail itself becomes Magnetic, and then it is also able to magnetize other things.

The Magnet imparts what it has to the nail.

That is what happens when we are connected to Christ; when we stay with Him for a very long time - Over time we acquire His Properties, we acquire His Character, we acquire His Nature.

The Fruit of the Spirit is a Character of Christ manifesting in the Believer.

And it is not only the Character of Christ manifesting in the Believer; the Fruit of the Spirit is a Character of the Believer REVEALED to the world.

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The world knows we are Christians by how much of Christ we REVEAL.

Not when Churches are full and it is Good! - I will rather Churches our full than Drinking Pubs, Nightclubs being full.

So, the People are going to Church in their numbers (that is Good) - If People are attending Churches in numbers, that is Good. Churches are full on Sundays, that is Good!

But that is not all there is; something must happen to those who are going to Church.

If they are encountering Christ and the Character of Christ in them manifested must be revealed to the world - People must say that we are a different kind of People!

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We are their co-workers, we have their Cousins, we have their brothers, friends, wives and husbands; but that is not all.

They are to see that something in our life is different from the rest of the world - It is a Character of the Believer REVEALED to the world!

So, the question you want to ask yourself in this YEAR of FRUITFULNESS is:

WHAT DOES THE WORLD SEE IN ME WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME?

When I am in the office and I am working and I tell everybody: "I go to Church, I'm a worker, I attend all Church Program: Is that all that they see? Or there is something else they see that shows you are a Christian?

And what they see must be the Character of Christ REVEALED to them - So People can say of a truth, this Person is a Christian.

Not because you brag about it but because you demonstrate with your Character.

So, if you are a Christian Boss and you are seducing People in order to give them a job; whose Character are you really revealing? - The Works of the Flesh or the Fruit of the Spirit?

... Of course that is not the Fruit of the Spirit.

If you are a Christian and you are in a Marriage, and your Marriage is not different from an Unbeliever, what Fruit are you showing? For the Fruit of the Spirit is important.

It is not enough for us to claim the blessings of God, the favour of God, the breakthrough of God, and turn around - Which are all Good!

Oh, you must manifest Christ and the world must see that we are Children of God!

And the Lord Jesus Christ warned us very clearly in Matthew 7, when he talks about Prophets.

Although we attempt to apply it only to Prophets, but it applies to every Believers - Not just Prophets.

He said: Beware of False Prophets!

So Jesus Christ is saying what they Produce shows who they are.

So, if somebody is Prophesying and Preaching and manifesting the WORKS of the Flesh, then it means it is of the FLESH, this not the Spirit.

Because, by their FRUIT you will know the tree that they are of!

If you are driving by and you see a tree that you can't identify (maybe it is night); you can't tell what tree - Whether it is an orange or a mango or a pear or a guava tree.

But then you look at the FRUITS and you see mangoes, then you will know that the tree is a Mango tree.

If you look at the Fruit, it is an orange Fruit; I can't see the tree well but the Fruit shows that it's an orange tree!

In the same way, Jesus says if you can't tell whether a Person is of God or not, check the FRUIT.

And the FRUIT He is talking about is THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

In Matthew 7:17-20, Jesus says:

"Even so, every Good tree bears Good fruit, but a Bad tree bears Bad fruit. A Good tree cannot bear Bad fruit, nor can a Bad tree bear Good fruit. Every tree that does not bear Good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

And Please, don't just apply this to Prophet, apply this to yourself: "By their fruits they would be known."

So, the question is: WHO PRODUCES THE FRUIT?

There is a big debate as to whether the 'SPIRIT' in this verse is the Spirit of the Believer or the Holy Spirit.

In other words, Who Bears the Fruit, is it the Spirit of the Believer or the Holy Spirit?

So, when we say: "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" is it the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of the Believer?

The Lord Jesus answered that question in John 15:5:

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Here Jesus is talking about the VINE, the BRANCH and the FRUIT; and normally, when you look at a Tree and its Branches; you see them as one and the same.

But for the Purposes of this, Jesus talks of the differentiation:

The VINE is His stem, and He says: "I am the vine." The BRANCH is the Believer.\*

And the FRUIT therefore, comes from the Branch (from the Believer);

... But Jesus also says: "Without ME you can do Nothing".

That means the FRUIT is not only commissioned by the Believer, it is also through the Spirit of Christ.

So, answer to the question WHO BEARS THE FRUIT is:

The Spirit of the Believer in UNION with the SPIRIT of CHRIST.

... The BRANCH is joined to the VINE.

And it is because it is joined to the VINE, it Produces FRUIT

... "Without ME you can do Nothing."

To Produce the Fruit of the Spirit therefore is not an hard work; you know I talked about the WORKS of the Flesh - The effort it takes to SIN.

But what Produces FRUIT is not hard work; IT IS SUBMISSION.

Once we submit to Christ He is free to manifest in our lives.

Whereas as it takes WORK to Produce the Works of the Flesh; it takes GRACE to Produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

... "Without Me you can do Nothing!"

And all the work He said we should do is - ABIDE IN ME.

... Stay with Me, trust Me, believe in Me.

So, you don't go through your life squeezing your face and say: "I'm determined, I will never SIN."

That is just you trying not to sin. Because if you are going to do it by yourself, YOU WILL SIN.

But if you are going to trust Jesus Christ and stay close to Him, then you will find that day by day, He gives you the Strength to bear THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

... It's not of you or your Strength- IT IS OF GOD.

It is not something for us to boast in, it is something for us to thank God for because it is by His Grace that we manifest the Fruit of the Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit is Produced together; you don't Isolate them.

You cannot say: "As for me, I like Joy (because my wife is Joy). I don't like longsuffering; I'm Impatient, I can't wait for anything - I want it now.

Well, Longsuffering and Patience are also FRUIT of the Spirit.

You can't say: "As for me I like Faith and Faithfulness, but I don't like Gentleness.

Because where I was raised, from where I came from, nobody is Gentle - "If you are Gentle People will take advantage of you."

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... Well, the Fruit of the Spirit is Gentleness.

Gentleness is not a Weakness; Gentleness is Sensitivity to other People.

I have said it before, that when you are given something delicate - Like you are carrying a crate of egg in your hand or you carry a lot of eggs in your hand; you are very GENTLE with the eggs, you walk gently, you are careful when you hold it.

Why are you Gentle?

It is not because the egg is Strong - No! it is because the egg is WEAK and you are STRONG. And you are trying to Protect it with your STRENGTH.

Protectiing something that is WEAK; that is what Gentleness is all about!

Gentleness is using your Strength to Protect what is Weak.

Husbands, you are Strong - Protect your wives.

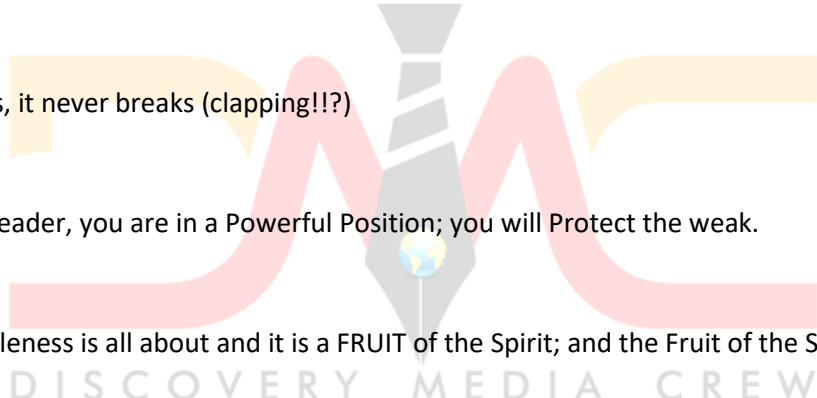
... I will say it again for the avoidance of doubt: Husbands, you are STRONG, protect your wives.

Somebody says: "If you are GENTLE, the wives will think they are stronger than you".

The egg never thinks it is STRONGER - It appreciates the Strength that is Protecting it:

So, it never cracks, it never breaks (clapping!?)

When you are a Leader, you are in a Powerful Position; you will Protect the weak.

That is what Gentleness is all about and it is a FRUIT of the Spirit; and the Fruit of the Spirit of the Believers as well. 

The Fruit of the Spirit matures as we mature in Christ. As we grow in Christ the Fruit of the Spirit matures in us.

Like every Fruit, a Fruit can be unripe, and ripe - So there are People who Produce the Fruit of the Spirit but it is UNRIPE Fruit of the Spirit.

And the Bible says: "When you eat an unripe fruit your teeth will be set on edge."

It is like somebody who loves you, but is insensitive. So he can visit you at 5:00am in the morning.

Why are you here?

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"Oh brother, I love you, I was just Praying for you last night and I felt I should come and share Fellowship with you."

5:00am? - He is in love, but you have to be mature!

So, sometimes, he shows LOVE which sets People's teeth on edge; sometimes he shows JOY which set People's teeth on edge.

Like somebody is bereaved; somebody goes there and say - REJOICE, hallelujah! Jesus is LORD.

... That is true, but it is immature Joy.

It is going to set People's teeth on edge!

So the Fruit of the Spirit must not be Produced just in its RAW, UNRIPE Stage; you have to mature into the Fullness of Christ so that when it is manifested, it can be consumed and it can be a Blessing. (clapping!!!)

My Final Scripture, Exodus 28 33-34; it is describing the garment of the High Priest.

The High Priest had a Garment called the Ephod and this is how it is described:

"And upon its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around".

... This is the description of the Ephod of the High Priest.

And the High Priest Ephod; it was like a tonic, it is like almost similar to what I'm wearing (flowing Babriga).

And here, it is not like a jacket. This is a Garment that has a Place where you put your head.

Now at the helm of the Garment of the High Priest, there was an embroidery that is applied.

And the Passage says the High Priest Garment will have pomegranates and a bell.

Pomegranate is a FRUIT, a bell is fabricated (a Golden Bell).

And you have it all around.

So all around you have FRUITS and a GOLDEN BELL all around it!

And one (1) of the reasons is so that the BELLS doesn't jump into each other. The bells ring when the High Priest moves.

... And they don't have to be making noise and hitting each other!

So, each Bell has a FRUIT, and so all the bells are making a unique sound together and they don't make a noisy sound that cannot be discerned.

... And that is why they have a FRUIT and a BELL.

The Pomegranate speaks of a Godly Character REVEALED in us.

The BELLS represent God's GIFTS demonstrated through us.

So for the GIFT that God gives us - Which is the bell; there must be a FRUIT to cushion it.

For every GIFT, there is a FRUIT



If you are "Supremely Gifted" by God but there is no Fruit of the Spirit showing in your life; you Produce something that People do not like.

It is not that you don't have a GIFT, it is just that you don't have the FRUIT to insulate it from making an "Indiscernible Sound".

So, if God gives me GIFTS (whatever the GIFTS are) - Whether it is Speaking in Tongues or Healing or Prophecy or Word of Knowledge or Word of Wisdom; all of this GIFTS will be supported by FRUIT.

You will see in the GIFTS of the Spirit, as set out in 1 Corinthians 12; and the FRUIT of the Spirit, as set out in Galatians 5:21-22; there are Nine (9) GIFTS and Nine (9) GIFT.

One (1) GIFT, one (1) FRUIT - All around!

And this is how the Apostle Paul describes when we have been given to the FRUIT - 1 Corinthians 13:1:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of Angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

Speaking in Tongues (GIFTS) and Love (FRUIT).

So, Paul is saying: if I have the GIFTS and I have no FRUIT, I become a sounding brass a tinkling cymbal".

What does that mean?

It means I am making a lot of noise, but I'm not Producing Sound.

So if God has GIFTED you - There are some of you who are Gifted by God. You are Gifted so well by God: You see Visions, you Dream, you Pray for People and things happen; but your characters are Bells around the end of the garment; everywhere you go a lot of noise but nobody really senses Christ.

I mean, if your GIFT has the FRUIT of the Spirit, then People will hear your Sound - not just a noise.

It is "Discernible Sound", it is music, it is harmony, it is blending, it is a blessing.

Unfortunately, there are many People with GIFTS, no FRUIT.

And when you do that, People actually MOCK your Gift, they diminish your Gift.

... Because there is no FRUIT.

So for every Believers; God has called us not only to be GIFTED, but to be FRUITED.

For every Believers, you must Produce the Fruit of the Spirit - We must Produce: Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Kindness, Goodness Gentleness, Faithfulness and Self-control.

So, ask yourself: How much of the FRUIT is in my life? How much of my life shows: LOVE? How much of my life shows the Peace of God, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control?

This is not a List for Pastors - This is a List for EVERYBODY who has Christ as their LORD and Saviour.

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In this "YEAR of FAITHFULNESS"; as we set out to BUILD things, to PLAN things, to do MIGHTY things; let us begin right, with the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

Because, where there is the "Right Fruit", your mind will bear Fruit, your hand will bear Fruit, your Talent will bear Fruit, and all of that!

And your Talent must match with the Fruit of the Spirit to become the Greatest Testimony for Christ Jesus, in this YEAR of FAITHFULNESS - Amen.

And may the Lord make us a Testimony, make our life a Testimony - Amen!

Wherever we are as Pastors, as Congregation Members, as Business People, as Corporate Leaders, as Politicians, as Teachers, Doctors Nurses - Wherever we function; may God help us to PRODUCE FRUITS that identifies us truly as children of Most High God - Amen!

Let us Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER.

Heavenly Father, we Thank You this morning for Your word to us. And we Thank You for the challenge You Present to us.

And we know Lord, by ourselves we cannot PRODUCE FRUIT because we don't have what it takes!

But because we are Planted in Christ Jesus; because we are the Branch of the VINE, we have the ability.

So, help us Lord to get rid of the WORKS of the FLESH manifesting in our lives.

That wherever we go, the aroma of Christ would be spread abroad!

That wherever we go People will see us; they will see our FRUIT and they will Glorify our Father Who is in Heaven.

Make your Fruit be manifested in each one of us Lord, and may Your life be seen in our offices, in our homes, in our School, in our Churches.

Wherever we go, let the Character of Christ demonstrate His Presence in our midst.

... In Jesus' Name we Pray - AMEN!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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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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17TH JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: ABIDING IN CHRIST (PART 1)



TEXT: JOHN 15:1-8

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AMEN! Please join me as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS:

Are you ready to make your DECLARATIONS? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Last week I spoke about the "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" and we didn't spend time to go into all the FRUIT of the Spirit and their manifestations.

... But we spoke about them in GENERAL.

DMC NOTES: You can access the Full Text of Last Sunday Message on the Link:

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<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Fruit-Of-The-Spirit-Mensa-Otabil>

Today we will look at how we get to Produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

And I will do a two (2) Part Message that I have Titled: "ABIDING IN CHRIST."

It is in ABIDING IN CHRIST that we will bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

My Opening Text will be John's Gospel 15:1-8.

... These are the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

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1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

8 By this My Father is Glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My Disciples.

This is the last of the seven (7) Statements that Jesus made about Himself, when He described Himself as: "I AM" - I AM the Bread of Life, I AM the Light and so on.

This is the last one where He says: "I AM THE VINE."

And in this Teaching, Jesus is using the analogy - Something to compare with; to teach about His relationship with us. And the Analogy He uses is that of the VINEYARD.



I know that in Ghana, we don't grow a Vineyard here; but you can imagine another tree in Place of a VINEYARD or a VINE.

And Jesus talks about the VINEDRESSER - Whom He says is His Father.

And then He talks about the TRUE VINE - Which He says is Himself.

And then He talks about the BRANCHES - Which He says are the Disciples.

And then He talks about the FRUIT, which is what is Produced.

Now, normally when we are looking at the Scriptures, it is important to know that when there is an analogy like this in the Bible, we don't overstretch its meaning.

Because every analogy is teaching something very, very Specific. There is a main truth!

... So you don't try to use every Part to become a Message!

Now, in the right (8) Verses that I read today (John 15:1-8) the word "FRUIT" is used six (6) times in the Passage; and the word "ABIDE" is used seven (7) times.

So, you can see that FRUITING and ABIDING are very, very Predominant in what Jesus is Teaching today.

So, I would want to define the word ABIDE and then we will take it from there.

So what does it mean to ABIDE - When Jesus says ABIDE IN ME?

It is not a word we frequently used in our normal conversation - You don't tell your friend 'abide with me.'

... But it is an English expression!

## SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. It means first, to REMAIN in Place; to STAY without departing.

So, our Christian life is not an in-and-out experience - It is not an off-and-on experience. When we make a commitment to the Lord, we STAY with Him.

So, when Jesus says: "ABIDE IN ME", He says STAY or REMAIN in Me without departing.

Once you choose Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you must ABIDE in Him, you must REMAIN in Him.

You don't come in one day and next time you are out there in the world doing something totally different from your Faith in Christ.

... So ABIDE means to remain in Place!

2. Secondly, "ABIDE" means to CONTINUE in Place; to Endure, to Progress, to Grow.

So, when He says: "ABIDE IN ME", it is not just Staying, but also Growing, Maturing, becoming better.

We remain in Him and will CONTINUE in him; we REMAIN in Him and we GROW in Him; we stay in Him and we MATURE in Him.

So, that is what it means to "ABIDE" - To bear Christian Fruit therefore, we must ABIDE IN CHRIST.

And we only bear Fruit when we are ABIDING in Christ, when we STAY in Him, and when we GROW in Him. When we CONTINUE in Him.

Because we cannot just Hope to be Fruitful by getting things!

Our Fruitfulness must be by being more Christ-like and bearing Fruit for Christ.

... We bear Christian Fruit when we ABIDE IN CHRIST.

Now if you look at Verses 4 and 5 of the Passage (John 15:4-5):

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear Fruit of itself, unless it abides in the Vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much Fruits; for without Me you can do nothing."

So, it is a two-way thing - It is not just "Abiding in Christ", He must also be abiding in us - When we are in Him, He is in us.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ therefore, is a two-way relationship - We live in Him and He lives in us.

In John 14:20; Jesus says: "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

So, Jesus Christ established the relationship He wants to have with us - He wants us to be in Him, and He wants to be in us.

Of course, if you have the branch of a tree - whether it's a Vine Tree. In this instance, since most of us are more comfortable with the mango tree or maybe an orange.

The branch of the mango tree is in the tree but that is not all. The tree is also in the branch.

So, there is a relationship that is continuous between the tree and its branches - The tree flows into the branch and the branch is flowing into the tree.

And that is how Jesus Christ wants us to relate with Him - "I in them and they in Me." We are in Him and He is in us.

These are two (2) important thoughts:

1. The first one is CHRIST IN ME.

CHRIST IS IN ME:

When we say Christ is in US, it means that He shares in our lives; He is Present in our lives, He is Present with us here on Earth.

Although Jesus is not Physically Present with us, because of our Union with Him, He is Present in our lives.

In our Earthly walk, we are never alone, we are never Christless - He lives in us, He moves in us and we have our being in Him.

He is not a bystander in our lives.

When we go through the fire He is in us; when we go through the storm He is in us. When People fight us, He is in us.

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... He never departs from us!

Christ is in us, He is Present with us here on Earth! And not only is He in us, we are also in Christ.

"I am in Christ." - That means I share in His Life, He shares in my life.

And when we share in His Life, His Strength becomes our Strength, His Ability becomes our Ability, His Wisdom becomes our Wisdom - Whatever we can do He empowers us to do!

So, we are in Him!

Not only that, He is also in us.

And because we are in Christ, He is Present in our lives. And we are Present with Him in Heaven - We share in HIS HEAVENLY LIFE.

Christ in us and we are in Him; that is a truth you must always remember as a Christian.

Christ is in me and I am in Him; He lives in me I live in Him. He is the Vine I am the Branch. It is not a branch that is outside of Him, it is a branch that is IN HIM.

SO HOW DO WE GET TO ABIDE IN CHRIST?

... I'm going to give you FOUR (4) WAYS in which we ABIDE in Christ.

1. We Abide in Christ first by ACCEPTING CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.

... That is the first step to ABIDING in Christ!

1 John 4:15 says: "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

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This is where everything starts - When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

And by now, you should know that accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour is more than going to Church; it is more than being a Good Person.

It is a conscious Personal decision every Human Being must make at one Point of our life.

To accept that what Jesus did on the Cross was for them: His Death was for them, His Resurrection was for them.

In His Death we have forgiveness of sin; in His Resurrection we have New Life.

And when we accept that, we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Personal Saviour.

And when we accept Christ, He comes to live in us!

To Abide in Christ, we must accept Him as our Lord and Personal Saviour.

It is Good to go to Church, it is Good to be a Nice Person; but that is not accepting Christ as your Lord and Personal Saviour.

You have to accept that His Death forgives you of your sins and his Resurrection gives you a New Life.

And when you accept those two (2) things, you have Him as your Lord and your Saviour.

Do Abide in Christ by ACCEPTING HIM as our Lord and Saviour.

2. We Abide in Christ by allowing HIS TEACHINGS TO ABIDE IN US.

1 John 2:24 says: "Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."

Accepting Christ as your Lord and Saviour is the first step; but the TEACHINGS of Christ must ABIDE IN US.

And the Teachings of Christ; you will find them in the Gospels as well as the Epistles that the Apostles of Christ wrote.

... Mostly what we call the New Testament.

His Teachings must SETTLE in us, His Teachings must ABIDE in us: do He comes to live in our lives.

His Teachings come into our lives when we Read it and we allow it to SETTLE.

And the reason I say the Word of God must SETTLE is: "It is one thing reading the Word of God it is another thing letting it Settle in you".

That means: It must settle ALL your arguments!

When you are determining what to do, the basis for determining what to do should be what Christ taught.

So, no matter how angry you are against somebody and how much you want that Person out of your life and dead; if Christ says you must forgive him or her, that word must SETTLE.

You cannot let your emotions settle your issues.

If we are going to bear Fruits for Christ, then let His Word settle your issues. Whether it is in the way we run our lives, in the way we run our families, the way we run our Businesses; the Word of Christ settles ALL arguments for us.

Until we come to that Point in our Faith, we cannot bear Fruit for Him.

If you can say: Well, Jesus says it, but I don't feel like it. Jesus says it, but I don't think that is what I want to do; as for this I will THINK about it.

When Christ SPEAKS, we don't think about it, WE DO IT.

So, we must ACCEPT Him as Lord and Saviour; His word must SETTLE in our heart.

3. We Abide in Christ BY DOING WHAT HE COMMANDED US TO DO.

1 John 3:24 says: "Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."

And I know that keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ are very difficult; the most difficult thing in this world is following Jesus.

That is very difficult! Because everything Jesus says is opposite to the way we want to live our lives.

I. Our lives are based on Selfishness, His life is based on Selflessness.

II. Our lives are based on Taking, His life is based on Giving.

III. Our lives are based on Vengeance, His life is based on Forgiveness.

IV. Our lives are based on Doing what Pleases us, His life is based on "Not My Will but Your Will be done!"

So, when we try to follow Jesus Christ, we try to go against everything about us.

That is why it is very easy for us to say we are Christians but never living in anywhere near Christ!

But if He is going to Abide in us, then we must keep His Commandments - And DOING His Commandment is difficult.

The only way we can do the Will of Christ is to see Him as our Master and we as His slaves.

The early Apostles understood that, that is why when you read the Epistles, Paul calls himself: 'A Bond Servant.' Peter will say "I am a Servant of Christ." Even James who was a Physical brother of Jesus called himself: 'A Bond Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Why did they describe themselves as Bondservants?

Because until you take that Posture, the Word of Christ cannot be obeyed by you.



So the question is: ARE YOU A SLAVE OF CHRIST?

YES, we must be as Christians because that is the only way you can OBEY without question.

So, when He says forgive, and everything in you wants to slap the Person back; you cry 'Lord I don't want to forgive him or her, but I forgive.'

That is a Slave, a Bondservant! - Everything in me doesn't want to do it, but AT THE WORD!

Until Christ's Word is our command, and we see ourselves simply as a Slave - Do what He says; we CANNOT Abide in Him. And you will not bear Fruit.

... So we ABIDE in Him by doing what He commands us to do.

4. We Abide in Him BY LIVING AND WALKING IN GOD'S LOVE.

1 John 4:16 says: "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

Jesus clearly taught that WALKING IN LOVE was the mark of Christianity.

These days you will think that other things are the mark of Christianity.

Of course, sometimes People think that POWER is the mark of Christianity.

... But that is not what Jesus said!

Jesus said by this they shall know that you are my Disciples, BECAUSE OF LOVE.

The life of the Believer must be characterized by LOVE at all levels: Life in Church, in our Marriage, in our Business - In EVERYTHING, we must Walk in Love.

You must Love the Lord with all that we have, you must Love all the Believers as Brothers and Sisters and we must Love People with the Love of Christ.

Not too long ago, Christians used to call each other Brothers and Sisters - These days you don't hear much of that!

We used to call each other Brother so-and-so, Sister so-and-so - because there was supposed to be Love.

We seems to have moved away from that ethics now!

So the question is: If you are Married; is the Love of Christ in your Marriage?

You know People think all kinds of things about Marriage - Sexual Compatibility, Mental Compatibility, and all of that but never the Love of God.

It is not just about Compatibility, it is about the Love of God!

If you have the Love of God, there is no way your Marriage will not work. There is no way the Love of Christ can be Present in a Marriage and conflict is Present at the same time.

... The two don't work together!

No matter all the Compatibility you learn, if we don't learn to walk in the Love of God, nothing works for us!

How can People know that we are Disciples of Jesus?

Because we have Love one for another; we don't cheat one another, we don't defraud one another, we don't crook one another.

The Church must be House of Love and not "Each for himself and God for us ALL".

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And that is how we BEAR FRUIT.

If you want to be FRUITFUL, walk in Love, obey the Commandments of Jesus.

The Word of God dwells in you and let Christ dwell in your life - That is the only way we bare Fruit.

Let me close with John 15:16.

Jesus said something interesting there:

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

TWO (2) THINGS I want to Highlight:

1. The first one is that Christ Chose us and appointed us to be FRUITFUL.

That is the reason why He chose us, that is the reason why we got Born Again - To be FRUITFUL.

We are appointed to be Fruitful.

Fruitfulness is based on only trusting the Lord; to work out His Purposes in our lives.

But then, Jesus Christ said something very, very radical to us:

2. Jesus says that the Father answers Prayers of those who are FAITHFUL.

Listen to Him again (John 15:16): "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My Name He may give you - Such that whatever you ask the Father He gives it to you.

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Jesus linked answer to Prayer to FRUITFULNESS.

I have never seen it in that way - It shocked me!

And this Verse is very Pivotal, because every Promise Jesus gave for answered Prayers (we read everywhere else in the New Testament) is conditioned on this!

So, if you read for example Matthew 7:8 that says: "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Who is the 'EVERYONE' who asks and receives?

Does it mean that any Person at all can go and say Father do this for me and it will happen?

... Is that how God answers Prayer?

This 'EVERYONE' must be read in the light of John 15:16 - "Whoever BEARS FRUIT - whatever he asks the Father, would be given".

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In other words, everyone who asks and receives, is everyone who BEARS FRUIT.

The "Fruitless Christians" will not only be Fruitless in their relationship with God, but their Prayer life will also be Fruitless.

When Jesus says in Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you Pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Does it mean that Christians can live anyhow, work anyhow, behave anyhow, hate People, be destructive - and then come and say: "According to Mark 11:24: Whatever I ask, I shall receive?"

NO!

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This verse must be interpreted in the light of John 15:16 - "Whoever bears fruit, whatever he asks the Father, it shall be given to him.

The reason why we quote all these Prayer answering Verses and we don't have answers is because we are Fruitless.

The Scripture is not a Mechanical Tool - The Principles of God are not Mechanical; you can't just live anyhow and Pray to God and expect Him to hear you.

When Jesus says in John 16 23-24 - "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My Name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My Name. Ask, and you will receive, that your Joy may be Full."

It must be seen in the light of John 15:16 - "Whoever bears FRUIT".

So that every "Whoever" that Jesus is Promising this Prayer answering to, is not just "Whoever"; but the Believer who ABIDES in Him, who is bearing FRUIT.\*

He is the one Jesus is Promising that: "If you bear fruit, if your life reflects Me, then whatever you ask the Father, He will do it for you".

WHY IS THAT SO?

Because Praying in the Name of Jesus is not simply saying the Name of Jesus; it is not just adding the Name of Jesus to your Prayer: "Father, I want to travel, I want to go to America, I want to go to Hong Kong, I want to go to Paris, I want You to Promote me, I want you to make me the Managing Director of our Company, I want you to give me 1 Billion, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

And just because you Add: 'In Jesus' Name' - God must be obliged to do your wishes for you.

Is that how prayer works?

No! - When we are Abiding in Christ and we are Praying in the Name of Jesus; it implies that we have become so aligned with Christ, with His Nature, with His Spirit so that every request we make is in conformity with His Will.

And when we are so much in touch with Him, that every request we make is in conformity with His Word; then whatever we ask, He will do it for us!

And you can't live anyhow and use the Name of Jesus.

You can't just think that if you can bamboozle your way with God; work hard and talk enough Tongues, cry in enough Tongues and stamp your feet enough.

God will be so 'intimidated' He will answer your Prayer - NO!

The only way He answers your Prayer is because you are in the Vine and the Husbandman (the Vinedresser) has pruned you. And after he has pruned you, you bear much FRUIT.

... Anyway, that is what I will be Preaching on next week!

And because of that, He gives you the Permission: "Ask whatever you want and I will do it".

Why does He give you the Permission?

Because when you are so in Him, whatever you ask for is not Selfish, it is not Self-centred, it is not Vanity - Whatever you wish for is what Christ wishes for; and because of that your Prayer in His Name is guaranteed one hundred Percent (100%) Answer.

Do you want to have more of your prayers answered?

... Then ABIDE IN CHRIST!

Instead of learning how to Pray on a Mountain or receive an impartation or receive a Mantle; or use Olive Oil and pour on yourself - ABIDE IN CHRIST.

If you Abide in Him, He says you will bear fruit. And because you bear fruit, whenever you ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you!

Do you wonder why you Pray one hundred (100) Prayers and ninety nine (99) are not answered?

Have you ever wondered why you Pray, Pray, Pray - they don't get answered?

... You are not ABIDING; you are not bearing FRUIT.

You are trying to armtwist God, you are trying to hijack Him.

And some People want to give God threats - "if You don't do this Lord, then I'm not worshipping you again, You are no longer Jehovah".

And so? It's as if the moment you say that God will say "if I don't answer this guy then I will no longer be God."

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He was God before you were born, before your father was born, before your mother was born, before your grandfather and your great-grandfather were born.

And He will still be God after you die; He will be God in the days of your grandchildren, great-grandchildren!

You think you can threaten God to answer your Prayers? Where did you get that idea?

Our prayers are answered because we ABIDE in Him and we BEAR FRUIT in Him.

And may the Lord help each one of us to be "ABIDING Christians", who are "Fruit Bearing Christians"; then we will see the Father answering our Prayers; so that His Name will be Glorified!

Not so that you will go and brag to other People, but that His Name will be Glorified.

Let's bow down our head!

ALTAR CALL

The way to ABIDE IN CHRIST is to ask Him into your heart.

And if Christ is not in your heart you have to just Pray and ask Him to come in.

And so I just want to lead you in a very Simple pr Prayerayer to invite Jesus Christ into your heart; to become your Lord and Saviour.

Wherever you are reading this message on the Label of DMC, just put your hands up on your heart and say this Simple pr Prayerayer with me.

And say:



Heavenly Father, today I come to You just as I am. I am a sinner, I cannot save myself.

I Thank You Father, that Jesus Christ died for me on the Cross of Calvary, He took away my sins. I believe in Him and I accept His forgiveness.

I Thank You Father that Jesus rose again from the dead and He is Alive forevermore; to give me New Life.

I believe in Him and I accept Him.

And so I Proclaim today that Jesus Christ is my Lord; and I commit to live all my life to serve Him, to Please Him and to Honour Him.



... In Jesus' Name I Pray - AMEN.

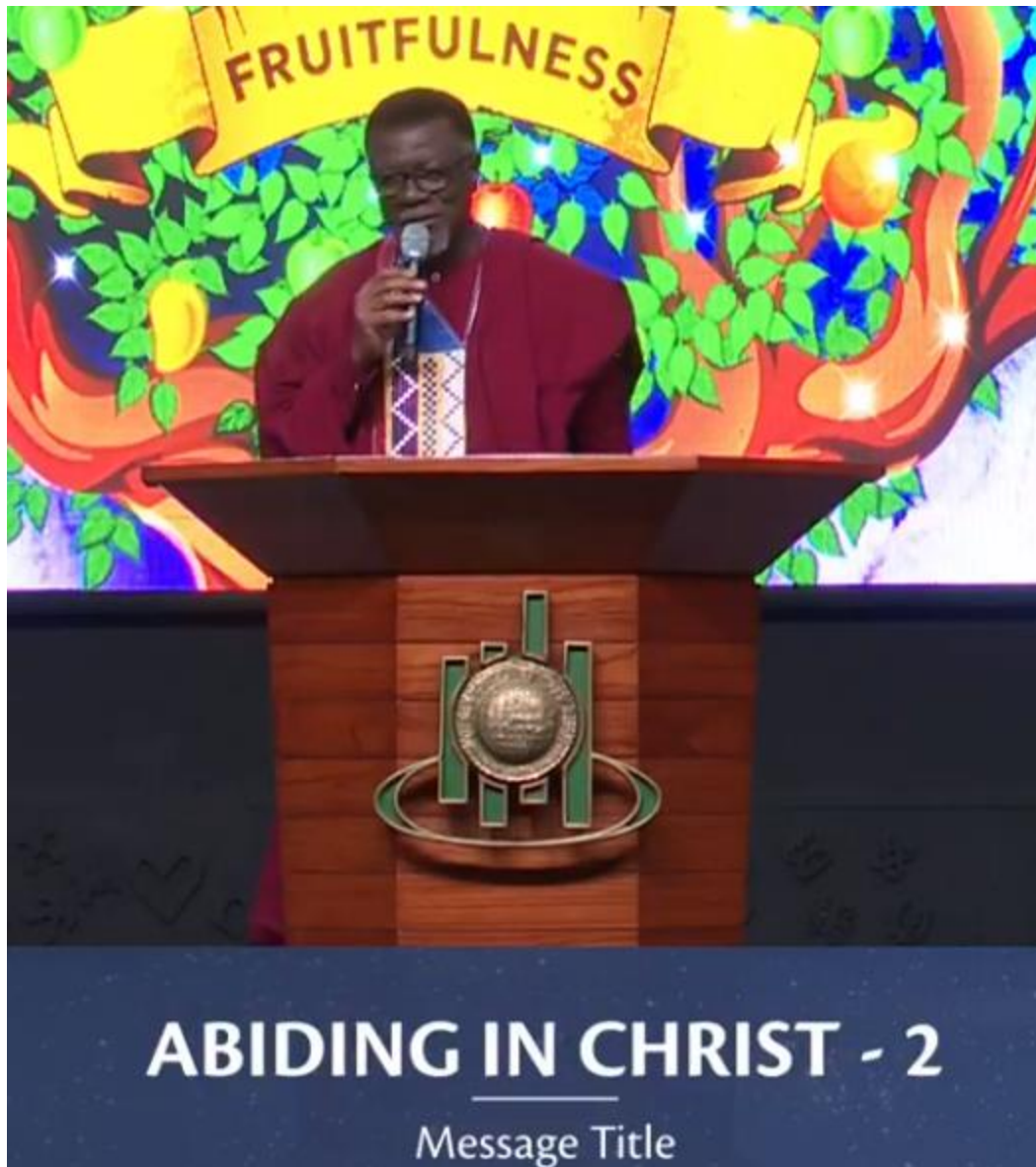
And if you really meant that Prayer in your heart, you are now ABIDING IN CHRIST.

You have started a Process - Let His Word STAY in you; OBEY Him, BEAR FRUIT for Him.

Then your Prayer will be answered because you BEAR MUCH FRUIT - Amen!



24TH JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: ABIDING IN CHRIST - PART 2.



**TEXT: JOHN 15:1-6**

AMEN! Please join as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS:

Are you ready to make your DECLARATIONS? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

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The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters - bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

It's great having you join us today. And I trust you are experiencing God's Favour and Protection.

The last couple of weeks have been interesting, not in a Good way.

But we have seen an upsurge of the COVID-19 Disease and we have seen a lot of infections and a lot of illnesses and very, very sadly, some deaths.

So, before I Preach this Morning, I just want to Pray for People who are infected (wherever they are) or reading from now on the Label of DMC.

They could be your family Members, they could be your friends. Could be somebody watching us Online or reading now on the Label of DMC, from any Part of the world.

We serve a God Who is more than able to heal the sick and we serve a Saviour Who is a Great Healer and a Great Physician.

And no weapon formed against you shall Prosper.

And wherever the infection is, we come by the Authority of the Name of Jesus, trusting Him to Touch you wherever you are - Amen!

If you are reading now on the Label of DMC, and you are Infected, we are trusting God to touch you right now. If you have a relative who is Infected, we are trusting God to touch them this morning.

All of this Nation (Ghana or Nigeria), all over this Continent (Africa), all over this World - We are trusting the Healing Power of God to touch many People today - Amen!

The Scripture Root for HEALING for the Christian is always what God says.

People don't get Healed because they Prayed so Hard; we don't get Healed because the Man of God is very Anointed.

... We get Healed Because God has PROMISED IT.



Our Faith is not just in a Man of God; neither is our Faith in our Prayer but our Faith is in the Faithfulness of God and His Word.

And so I'm going to give you the Scriptural Foundation; and upon that AUTHORITY, we are claiming Healing for everybody - AMEN!

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV), it says:

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our Peace was upon Him,

AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

This is the Promise that God gave through the Prophet Isaiah, concerning the Messiah; that: He would BEAR our griefs, our sorrows, our Pains, our sicknesses, our diseases;

... And that by HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

That means the Messiah would be WHIPPED - And in His whipping, we have our Healing.

... That is the BASIS of our Healing.

Matthew 8:16-17 - It talks about Jesus Christ and it says:

When Evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a Word, and Healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the Prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

The Scripture is telling us that Jesus HEALED People and the reason why He Healed People is because Isaiah had Promised that He Himself took our sicknesses and our infirmities.

In other words, there is a Promise in Isaiah: Even Healing that took Place in the life of Jesus, was in fulfilment of Scripture.

Finally, 1 Peter 2:24 - And Peter is talking about Jesus Christ; he says:

"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - By whose Stripes you were Healed".

The reason why we can ask God for Healing, is because Jesus was beaten with stripes. "And by His Stripes, we are Healed."

We are Healed from every Infirmities, we are Healed from every Afflictions, we are Healed of Viruses, we are Healed from Bacteria; we are Healed from Cellular Sickesses, we are Healed from Bone Diseases.

... We are Healed of ALL INFIRMITIES.

And so this morning, on the basis of the Word of God, we want to Pray for everyone who is afflicted, who has a neighbour, a friend who is inflicted. And we just want to trust God for their Healings.

And for you reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, I am confident you are not afflicted in any way.

But you may know somebody close to you who is sick and that God is going to touch them.

If you know of someone who is sick, you can Stand in Gap for them as we Pray - Put your hands on yourself and that is an extension on that sick Person.

You may not even know the Person Personally; but you have just heard that so and so has Covid-19; or that so and so is sick. And you just want to Stand in (in the name of that Person) by Faith.

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And if you are sick by yourself, you are going to Stand in for yourself!

And everybody who is Standing in for somebody who sick; or you are sick - Just put your hands on your body.

The reason we say put your hands on your body - Jesus says: "They shall.lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

And although we may not be able to lay hands on you; your hands laid on you is an extension of the Hands of Jesus Christ reaching out to you!

Your hands laid on you is an extension of the Hands of Jesus Christ reaching out to your loved ones, your friends who are sick.

Today, all across your Home, in the Hospital; all across this World - everywhere People are responding in Faith:

We are trusting God for Massive Healings to take Place.

Massive Healings, because of the Promise of Jesus Christ: "Himself, took our Infirmities, and bore in His Body our diseases."

... What you carry in your body, Christ has already carried!

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THOSE HAVING COVID 19 AND SICK GENERALLY.

And Father, we on the Basis of the Scriptures; that Jesus Christ; the Saviour of the world Himself.

Not an Angel, not His mother, not His Father; "Jesus Himself bore our Infirmities, and bore our Sicknesses and bore our Diseases."

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So Father, we consider that every Afflictions of COVID-19 has been BORNE by the Lord Jesus Christ.

He carried it on His Own Body: by His sufferings. There is no need for any other Person to suffer.

And on the basis of the Scriptures, on the basis of the "Finished Work" of Christ, and on the basis of what He had accomplished; I come and lay a demand on Your Promises of Healing, Heavenly Father.

On behalf of our world, On behalf of our Nation, On behalf of our friends, On behalf of our Family, On behalf of our Church Members, On behalf of our People who are inflicted by this dreaded diseases.

In the Name of JESUS CHRIST, the Redeemer, the Healer, the Deliverer. I reach out and Pray for you right now - By the Authority in the Name of Jesus:

And I COMMAND Covid-19: with its Symptoms with it's Manifestations, with his dreadful Afflictions, with every form of damaged it is doing on your body.

I command it to CEASE and desist NOW, in Jesus'Name!

And I command every Pains to cease in your body right now.

And I Command every Symthoms to leave your body.

Ànd I command every Afflictions to leave your Body!

And I command that the Healing Power of Christ touches you wherever you are that your breathing becomes normal right Now!

That God DELIEVERS you from restlessness, in the Name of Jesus!

Every Manifestation that has afflicted you, I Command you to be Healed right now by the Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ "Who Himself took our Infirmities and bore our Sicknesses."

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I command your friends HEALED, your family members HEALED, your relations HEALED. I Command your Church Members HEALED, your Office Workers HEALED, your Colleagues HEALED, in the Name of Jesus!

Your Parents HEALED, your Grandparents HEALED, your children HEALED, your Uncle HEALED, your Auntie HEALED, your Cousins HEALED. Every relation of yours be HEALED.

And may the Healing Power of Christ travel to them; outside Jurisdiction of Ghana, into other Nations of the world.

In every Parts of the world, wherever this Prayer is PLAYED or read on the Label of DMC, on TV, on Social Media: may the Healing Power of Christ attend and HEAL the sick and bring Life and Health and Deliverance to the People of God.



In JESUS' MIGHTY NAME we have Prayed - Amen!

... And everybody say Amen - AMEN!!!!

And so Lord, we consider it DONE, by the Authority which is in the Name of JESUS.

Let's give Jesus Praise and Honour and Adoration.

Please be seated, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

We Thank You Lord, that Jesus HEALS. And He Heals to the UTTERMOST - Amen!

Well, I'm going to continue my Message Titled "ABIDING IN CHRIST (PART 2)"

DMC NOTES: You can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 in the Link below:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Abiding-In-Christ-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

It's obvious, I will not be able to complete this, because we spent much time in Prayer.

But I will go as far as I can go, and then we will pick up again.

John 15:1-6 (NKJV) - This is Jesus speaking:

1 "I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear Fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears Fruit He Prunes, that it may bear more Fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear Fruit of itself, unless it abides in the Vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much Fruits; for without Me you can do nothing."

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Last week, I said that this Statement of Jesus was a Metaphor or an Analogy.

Jesus is using the Vine and the way it is, to speak about something.

And there are two (2) Levels of Application of this Passage:

1. The first (1st) relates to the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The VINE that Jesus is talking about is God's Planting - Something that God Planted.

Because, He said: "My Father's the Vinedresser."

VINEDRESSER simply means the Gardener - The One Who is Planting the Vine and taking care of the Vine.

He said: God is the One Who has Planted the Vine.

That VINE in the first instance, represents ISRAEL.

ISRAEL as a Nation, represents God's Chosen Nation - God's Planting! And under the Law (the Old Testament), every Jew therefore, was a Branch of what God has Planted.

So, if you were a New, you were the Branch that God has Planted.

If you would look at the Passage, Jesus did not described Himself just as 'the Vine.' He didn't say: 'I am the Vine.'

... He says "I am the "TRUE VINE".

That is very important! Because He was comparing Himself with something else - "I am the "True Vine"; and my Father is the "Husbandman" or the "Vinedresser"."

So if there is the "TRUE VINE", then there is a Vine that is not the "Real Vine".

And Jesus is saying: Yes, Israel was God's Planting, I am the "Real One" and they have to be Planted in Me!

So, the two (2) Branches that Jesus talks about - The Fruitful and The Unfruitful.

... We will start with the Unfruitful.

WHO THEN IS THE UNFRUITFUL BRANCH?

When Jesus says: There are branches in Me that do not bear fruit - Who are those Branches?

When Jesus came, His Message was first to Israel - They were the BRANCHES of the Vine. However, many of them did not receive Jesus Christ as Lord.

And so, they are the Branches that DID NOT bear Fruit.

The Branches that did not bear fruit (in the immediate) refer to Jews who rejected Christ as their Redeemer.

In Jeremiah 2:21 we read, God says about Israel: "Yet I had Planted you a Noble Vine, a Seed of Highest Quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate Plant of an Alien Vine?"

That is how God described Israel - "An Alien Vine".

And that is why He says: "I am the 'TRUE VINE'." Because, by the time Jesus came, they had departed from Him.

... So He refers to the Jews who did not receive Him as Lord!

2. But there is a second (2nd) Application to it.

And this has to do with: Those who Profess Christ, but DO NOT live for Him.

It speaks to those who say they are Christians, they say they are in the Vine; but they are not Producing anything to show that they are in the Vine.

Jesus Christ Himself alluded to that in Matthew 7:21-23; when He said: Many will come and say Lord, Lord, I did so and so in Your Name.

"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not Prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many Wonders in Your Name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who Practice Lawlessness!'

So, there are those who PROFESS Christ, but they do not live for Him - They are the Branch that does not bear Fruit.

So the Branch that does not bear fruit, are those Children of God who do not Abide in Christ, who do not believe in Christ - They don't Produce fruit.

Then those who say 'Jesus is my Lord;' but they do not also Produce any Fruit.

These Category of People are the Unfruitful Vine - And the Bible says they will be cut off.

That's how the Father treats those who are not truly in Christ - He cuts them off!

"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned" - John 15:6

So, for us Practically; it means it's Possible to go to Church, to be Part of Christian Activities. And still not be in Christ.

And these days, there are a lot of People who go to Church, not to connect to Christ, but to connect to the Man of God.

I hear the Phrase often (and People use it often): "I TAP into your Anointing." "I Tap into your Grace - Not to Christ! But they are telling the Man of God, 'I TAP into you'".

Are you in a Man of God or in Christ? Whom are you in? Whom are you tapping from?

If you are the Branch, whom are you receiving from? Is it from Christ or from a Human Being?

If you are receiving simply from a Man of God, and not from CHRIST; then you are the Branch that does not bear Fruit.

So each one of us must be careful, that our Christianity does not just become, attendance of Church.

... We have a lot of that!

Seeking for a Miracle, seeking for Breakthrough, seeking for Wealth; but never connecting to Christ.

There are even some People who wants to immediately start Speaking in Tongues - just to blend in.

Christianity is not just about blending in; it's about BELONGING to Christ.

Blending into a Church! - Being accepted, being just a Born Again. You must be CONNECTED TO CHRIST.

So, for everyone reading this Message on the Label of DMC, I want you to ask yourself this question:

"Is Christ truly my Lord? Is Christ truly living in my heart? Have I truly given my heart to Him? Am I truly a Christian or just a Church Goer? Am.i following Christ or a Preacher? Who is my Saviour?"

It gets scary the kind of accolades People give to Preachers now. And you wonder if we say all of that about a Man of God, what do we say about the GOD Who made the Man?

And unfortunately, there are some Preachers who call all the ATTENTION to themselves and want the Faith of the People to be IN THEM, and not in Christ.

And we have to be careful: No human Being died for you! No Human Being can say: "Myself took your Infirmities and bore your Diseases."

Only One Person can say that - And His Name is JESUS CHRIST, the Son of the Living God. He is the Source of our Faith, and He is our REDEEMER.

So, the UNFRUITFUL BRANCH represents:

I. The Jews who did not connect to Christ;

II. It also represents those who PROFESS Christ and are not connected to Him.

What about the FRUITFUL BRANCH?

1. The Fruitful Branch represents the Jews who connected to Christ as their Lord and Saviour; as Redeemer.

Because, as you know, there were many who accepted Christ:

At His BIRTH, the Shepherds received Him; the Prophetess Anna in the Temple; Simeon, Zacharias, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Disciples of John.

And then so many thousands came to Believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

... They are the Fruitful Branch.

So first, He speaks to the Jews who are connected to Christ. But it goes beyond that!

2. The Fruitful Branch are also those who Profess Christ and LIVE FOR HIM.

They are CONNECTED to Him; they are bearing FRUIT to His Glory!

They have come to Christ, something has Changed in their lives.

We used to sing a Song in the Past (I haven't heard it sang these days).

It says:

"GREAT CHANGE, GREAT CHANGE, SINCE I WAS BORN AGAIN;  
THE THINGS I USED TO DO,  
I DO THEM MORE."

And normally when we sang that Chorus, then we will add:

## ALL THE THINGS WE USED TO DO THAT WE DO THEM NO MORE

Because Christianity must Manifest in a Change of Life.

So the question you have to answer is: "Since you gave your life to Christ, are there things you used to do, that you do no more?"

If you used to fornicate, do you do it no more? Or you used to fornicate when you didn't know Christ and after you know Christ, you are still fornicating?

You used to commit adultery when you didn't know Christ; after you know Christ, you still commit adultery.

You used to steal when you didn't know Christ; after you know Christ, you still steal?

You used to lie when you didn't know Christ; after you know Christ, you still lie.

... Then, where is the CHANGE?

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All of us should be able to say: The things I used to do, I do them no more!

The girls I used to chase, I chase them no more!

The men I used to chase, I chase them no more!

The lies I used to tell, I tell them no more!

The gossip I used to gossip, I gossip them no more!



Because if you are the BRANCH, He says He will come for FRUIT Inspection; not LEAF Inspection - FRUIT Inspection!

And when He comes, He is going to look for evidence of the Vine.

And the Evidence of the Vine is that its Nature is bearing fruit.

So, when we ABIDE IN CHRIST, something we used to do; we will do no more!

And what does the Vinedresser do to the Fruit-bearing BRANCH?

Does he clap for them and say: Well done!

No, No, No! - He cleanses them, He Purges them so that they will bear more Fruit.

In other words, when you start bearing fruit as a Christian, God will start working on your life, in such a way that you would bear more fruit.

He will Purge you, He will cleanse you; He works on us to bear much Fruit - Because the Father's desire is that we will be Fruitful Christians.

But not only Fruitful, we will bear MUCH MORE FRUIT.

So there's a difference between bearing Fruit, and bearing Much More Fruit.

So, if I am Holy, God wants me to be Holier.

If I am Good, He wants me to be Better.

If I have stopped Committing adultery Physically, He wants me to stop committing it Mentally also.

If I have stopped Committing it Mentally, He wants me also to go to other Level of Righteousness.

So, when God comes in, Your life Pleases Him; He doesn't Part you on the back. He calls you to a Higher Level of Righteousness.

He is ALWAYS Calling us HIGHER - Because we have to bear the Purer and the Best Fruit for Him.

So, some of us may say: Oh Yes, the things I used to do, I do them no more. But we have to add: "The thoughts I used to think, I think them no more".

Because after we have overcome the 'doing', we have to overcome the 'Thinking'.

The things that tempt me, tempt me no more! The things that occupy my mind, don't occupy my mind any longer.

... Because I am Planted in Christ!

When He comes into our lives, we BEAR FRUIT; and when we bear Fruit, He PRUNES us so that we may bear MUCH FRUIT.

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So, ARE YOU A FRUIT BEARING CHRISTIAN?

... It's a question!

I know you are meditating on that question - Very Deep: "Are you a Fruit bearing Christian?"

What is your Fruit? How many things can you say: You don't do now because of Christ?

And how many things can you say: You do now, because of Christ?

How many things can you say: 'I have put away because I belong to Jesus?' "And this is what I have put ON since Christ came into my life."

Because for each one of us, there must be something to that we have received from Christ, that we can't give up!

So, WHY IS THE FRUITFUL BRANCH PRUNED?

1. To Flourish better in the Vine.

The Branch should Flourish more through the Vine; more of Christ flowing through us, more of His Love! He must increase in us, and we must increase in Him.

When we INCREASE in Him, we DECREASE in ourselves.

... So, He Prunes us so that we can FLOURISH.

2. He Prunes us so that we become MORE FRUITFUL.

The more of Christ we receive, the more fruit we bear for Him.

HOW DOES GOD PRUNE US?

When God want to Prune us, what does He do? - TWO (2) WAYS:

1. He Prunes us by Cleaning us with His WORDS.

Jesus says: "You are cleansed by the Words that I speak to you."

So when God is Pruning us, the Pruning Knife is HIS WORD.

His Word is our Light, the Word is our life!

And as we submit to the Word of God, it cuts off all the wrong things out of our lives.

... So He cleanses us with His Word.

Whenever you go to Church, or you hear the Word of God, and you feel it's CUTTING you - You are being PRUNED.

You heard the Pastor Preaching and you say: "Hey, this one cut me oohh!"

Don't be be angry, it's Pruning because it's God cutting something out of your life!

... He uses His Word to cut you.

Anytime you read the Bible, and it cuts your heart - God is Pruning you; and He is using His WORD.

3. And then, He also removes ANY UNFRUITFULNESS that is in our lives.

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Anything in our lives that keeps us from becoming More Fruitful: it includes the things that we have made our gods - He will take them away from us!

You think your car is your god? Your home is your god? Your good looks is your god? Don't let anything compete with GOD in your life!

- He removes everything that we have made our god;

- He removes everything that we trust in instead of HIM;

- He removes everything that misleads us (makes us go astray);

- He removes anything that hinders our Spiritual Growth:

Bad habits, bad influences, He will CUT THEM OUT OF OUR LIVES.

WHY? - So that we may BEAR FRUIT.

Sometimes you find that there are People who will quarrel and fight you and then leave you alone.

Many at times it's God removing them from your life; because they are a BAD INFLUENCE on you!

The Person you travel with and go to funerals with all the time; and go and drink - God will start stirring that relationship up to broken. So, you will not go to that funeral and drink again.

... It is God's Pruning Process!

Certain friends who lead you astray, God is going to remove them out of your way - AMEN.

... I don't know whether you like it or not!

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But if you bear Fruit, God will REMOVE those People out of your way; so that you will BEAR MUCH FRUIT.

4. In the end, God's Greatest desire is that ALL OF US (who say Jesus Christ is our LORD) would be Properly PLANTED IN HIM - LINKED UP TO HIM.

That His Life would flow through us; the Life of Christ would flow through us!

That when the Life of Christ flows through us; what comes out of us would be FRUIT that LOOKS LIKE CHRIST.

And when God sees that we are showing Signs of being CHRIST-LIKE, then He will start removing EXCESS BAGGAGE from our lives in cutting them.

His Word would become SHARPER than any two-edged sword; cutting asunder EVERYTHING that is taking away your focus from the Lord - So you will BEAR FRUIT.

And remember: He says it is when you bear MUCH FRUIT that you will ask the Father WHATEVER YOU WANT, and He will give it to you.

God is not in the business of answering the Prayers of FRUITLESS Christians; because He doesn't answer Prayers to show off your FRUITLESSNESS.

He wants when He has answered your Prayers; when People get close to you; they will see Christ ON YOUR LIFE.

Not that you will give a BIG TESTIMONY of what God has done; and People get to you and see the devil in your life.

Then you are not a Testimony of CHRIST; you are a DISGRACE to the Gospel.

God WANTS YOU TO MANIFEST CHRIST!

...And may that become our Chief Fruitfulness in 2021:

That Christ will be Manifested in every Areas of our lives - Amen.

Let's Pray!

Just talk to the Lord and ask Him to make you Fruitful for Him - If you are a Believer;

If you are not sure whether Jesus is in your heart, ask Him to come into your heart; to forgive you of your sin, to be your Lord, to be your Saviour, to live for Him.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father this morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC by whatever Time Zone you are, we ask that You will help us bear FRUIT that brings Glory to God.

That our lives would Manifest Christ; our Speech, our Thoughts, our Actions would ALL Manifest Christ.

That wherever we are, People will look at us and say: INDEED, Christ lives inside of me!

... INDEED, Christ lives inside of us!

May You Oh God, help us to bear Fruit that Honours Jesus Christ; and causes Him to be MANIFEST to the whole world.

And we Thank You Lord, for the Great Change that You bring to our lives.

In Jesus'Name - Amen and AMEN. Hallelujah!!!!



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!

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Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

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## 31ST JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: THE WORDS OF OUR SALVATION (PART 1)



TEXT (S): MATTHEW 18:11, JOHN 10:9, ROMANS 1:16

AMEN! Let's rise up together as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD

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shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today, I am starting a SERIES that will be a bit Unusual because I I will Preach those Series ONCE a Month

And so, every Communion Sunday, I will do subsequent of this Series.

So this is the PART 1 is this Series.

I have Titled it "THE WORDS OF OUR SALVATION."

And I will be Preaching it throughout the Year - On Communion Sundays.

So we Probably would do Parts 1 to 11, or Parts 1 to 12 - I'm not sure whether I will do it in December, or do something else (The last Sunday of December)!

But definitely, we are going to do it throughout the Year - "THE WORDS OF OUR SALVATION".

Many words are used to describe our Salvation. And each word refers to the same Experience; but the words are different!

Words like: Born Again, New Birth, Redemption, Saved, Sanctified, Justified, New Creation, Elect, Chosen, Saints.

... All of these words are used differently, but they refer to one and the same Experience!

And what I am going to do this Year, is take these words and explain what they mean to us as Christians; so that we will be Strong in our Salvation.

Because there are many Christians who know Christ as LORD; but who are not FIRM, in the Foundation of their Faith.

So, I'm going to use the Communion Sundays to address this Important Subject of the: THE WORDS OF OUR SALVATION.

I will begin today with three (3) Scripture Readings - Matthew 18:11, John 10:9 and Romans 1:16.

And I will read them very quickly; so you just have to note of the Verses and I will read them:

Matthew 18:11, Jesus says: "For the Son of Man has come to SAVE that which was LOST."

John 10:9, Jesus says: "I am the Door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be SAVED, and will go in and out and find Pasture."

Then Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to SALVATION for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

So in these three (3) Passages, we read the word 'SAVED' twice; and the word 'SALVATION' once (in Romans). But they are all from the same Root word.

And since my Series is going to be about "THE WORDS OF OUR SALVATION"; I will just take a little time to explain what Salvation is?

The Geek word for Salvation is 'Soteria'.

And it is a word that we find used many times either in the "Verb form" or the "Noun form", throughout the New Testament.

But the word was first introduced in the Old Testament; and it was used to refer to ALL kinds of Deliverance.

And in the New Testament, it is used to describe our Deliverance from sin.

SO WHAT DOES SALVATION MEAN?

Basically, it means 'GOD'S DELIVERANCE.'

So, when a Person says: 'i am SAVED' or 'I have Salvation' - it means that God has DELIVERED me!

But God can deliver us from many Things - He can deliver us from shame, He can deliver us from disgrace, He can deliver us from traps that have been set for us; He can deliver us from our enemies.

But, when we talk about SALVATION (in this sense), we are not just talking about Physical Salvation.

There are three (3) Things that we mean that God has Delivered us from:

1. First, is that - God has Delivered us from SATAN'S CONTROL.

When a Person says: 'I am SAVED, or I have SALVATION', it means that they have been Delivered from Satan's Control.

The Power of Satan to rule over their lives and their desires is broken.

A Person who has SALVATION is NOT under Satan's Control.

A Person who is SAVED is NOT under Satan's Control.

2. Secondly, it means: DELIVERANCE from our SINFUL NATURE.

And this Sinful Nature is not just the sins you commit each day, or once in a while.

... I hope you don't do it everyday!

I am not talking about the frequent sins; but the NATURE OF SIN that was brought to all of us, through the SIN of Adam and Eve.

Sometimes, that Nature of sin is called "the ADAMIC Nature". It is also called 'The OLD MAN' in the New Testament.

But God delivers us from the Sinful Nature.

That is what Salvation is: DELIVERANCE from Satan's Control, Deliverance from the Sinful Nature.

What Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden has no Power over the Person that is SAVED.

3. Thirdly, it is Deliverance from ETERNAL DAMNATION.

That means you are not going to go to Hell, or suffer Second death.

So when a Person says: 'I am SAVED, or I have SALVATION in Christ' - this is what it means:

It means God has Delivered me from Satan's Control, God has Delivered me from my Sinful Nature, and God has Delivered me from Eternal Damnation.

So you cannot be SAVED, and be afraid of going to Hell. Because you are Delivered from Eternal Damnation; from the Sinful Nature and from Satan's Control.

... So that is what SALVATION is, in a jiffy.

Today, we will focus on the first (1st) of our WORDS OF SALVATION.

And the very Popular one that most People use - The Phrase "BORN AGAIN."

Why do we use this Phrase - 'BORN AGAIN' to describe our SALVATION?

... And that is what we will Explore TODAY.

It is a term that was first used by Jesus Christ Himself, in the New Testament.

He used the term to show Nicodemus how to enter the Kingdom of God.

And Jesus first used it in John 3:3:

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, UNLESS one is BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

'UNLESS' - That means there is no way you can SEE the Kingdom of God, except you are BORN AGAIN.

Remember: 'BORN AGAIN' is another Phrase that means SALVATION.

So SALVATION and BORN AGAIN, are not two (2) different things; they are the same thing.

But the Phrase 'BORN AGAIN' is used to describe SALVATION; and help us to see it in the light that Jesus is Presenting it to us.

So, BORN AGAIN! - In the Greek, the word 'BORN' is 'Genahu'.

Genahu simply means, to be BORN.

And then the word that is translated 'AGAIN' is 'Anoten'.

Anoten means AGAIN or from ABOVE.

That word is an interesting word, because it means two (2) things - It means 'AGAIN' or 'ABOVE' or 'HIGH'.

And that is why when you read the New Testament, sometimes, you find some Translations would say:

"Except a man be born from ABOVE, or born from on HIGH; and other time it says BORN AGAIN."

Because 'Anoten' means Again; and it means from on HIGH or from ABOVE.

So, when we say a Person is "Born Again", it means that they have been BORN AGAIN.

Sometimes, we call it 'The NEW BIRTH'; Other times we call it 'REBIRTH'; Other times it is called 'SECOND BIRTH'.

So, whether it is Second Birth, Rebirrth, New Birth; it is all BORN AGAIN. And it all means SALVATION. - Alright?

So, somebody cannot ask you: "Are you BORN AGAIN or SAVED?" Or, you are SAVED, but you are not BORN AGAIN. Or 'I'm Born Again, but I am not SAVED.'

If you are SAVED, you are BORN AGAIN; if you are Born Again you are SAVED. If you are saved, you have Salvation!

And if you have SALVATION, it means that you are Delivered from Satan's Control, from your Sinful Nature and from Eternal Damnation.

SO WHAT IS IT TO BE BORN AGAIN?

We know what it is in the Greek; but WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

1. To be Born Again is a SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

Remember, Nicodemus asked Jesus: "Do I have to go back to my mother's womb to be born a second time?"

And Jesus was surprised that a brilliant man would ask such an unbrilliant question.

... It is a SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

We are born into this world by Natural Birth! Each one of us was born Naturally, by our mother. And that Birth made us Part of the life on this Earth.

But this Birth is SPIRITUAL!

John said: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

It's a Spiritual Birth - It doesn't take Place Physically; it takes Place Spiritually.

First, to be Born Again is a Spiritual Birth!

2. Secondly, it is a HEAVENLY BIRTH.



Our Natural Birth took Place on Earth; but this Birth takes Place in Heaven.

Though a Person who is Born Again lives on Earth; they are BORN FROM HEAVEN.

... That is why they are Citizens of Heaven.

The Birth your mother gave to you made you a Citizen of the Earth. But this Birth makes you a Citizen of Heaven.

It is the HEAVENLY BIRTH.

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

In other words, a Person who is Born of the Spirit, you can't tell where they come from on Earth!

Because that birth is not from the flesh, it comes from the Spirit; it comes from Heaven, it is the Heavenly Birth.

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If a Person is Born Again, they belong to the Earth (and they may be Africans); but, they have been Born Again from Heaven.

It is called the Kingdom of God; and it is sometimes called Heaven.

3. It is a NEW LIFE given by GOD.

And this is very important!

Because many times People say: "But all Human Being are God's children."

... We are all God's children!

In fact, there are all sorts of Music that talks about - "We are all God's children." We are all from God - created by God. We are all God's children.

CREATED BY GOD is not the same as CHILD OF GOD.

All of us are created by God - We were all created by the same God: Whether you a Black man, you are a White man, you are a China man you are an Indian, wherever you come from!

Whether you are a Male or a Female, you are tall or short; whether you are deformed or not deformed; whether you have any Sickness or no Sickness.

No matter who you are; every Human Being was CREATED BY GOD.

... But not every Human Being is BORN OF GOD.

I will explain it very easy; and I try to use Analogy to try and explain things.

Two (2) of the Greatest Artists who ever lived in my estimation (and I think it's correct) would be: Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

... These were the Greatest Artists!

And then there are others. But these two (2) Stand Out!

Now, every Paintings or Sculpture Pieces, made by Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci is Precious!

Every Paintings, there is no one they had done, that is not Precious!

Every WORK that these two (2) People have done, is HIGH VALUE.

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And almost all of them are PROTECTED, SECURED and most of them cannot even be sold. Their Value is so HIGH, you can't BUY THEM.

... And they are showcased in the Museums.

If today, somebody discovered a work of Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo, anywhere in the world - By the way, these Guys died over Five Hundred (500) Years AGO!

But if you discovered any work of theirs today, immediately, that work becomes Priceless.

Why? Because of who CREATED it - Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci CREATED IT.

Because of the CREATOR, the Creation is PRECIOUS.

Because of who the Person are: Who Michelangelo is or Leonardo da Vinci is; whatever they Produce, is PRECIOUS.

But none of the Paintings have the life of Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci.

So, if Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo had a child;

... And by the way, none of them had a CHILD.

But is they had a child - Produced by them. The child Produced by them would not be seen as the Painting Produced by them!

Although both are Produced by him: One is a WORK he has Produced, the other has his Life in him, and that has been BORN BY HIM

Both Produced by Him, but the VALUES are not the same!

... Are you following what I'm saying?

Now, that is how it is: God Created ALL HUMAN BEINGS; and because of Who God is, everything He Created is VALUABLE.

Whether it's a Dog, it's a Mouse, it's an Antelope, a River, the Sun, the Moon, the Stars and Mountains;

You can't abuse the CREATION OF GOD; because God made it! - Especially those He made in His Own IMAGE.

But the fact that we are made in His IMAGE, does not mean He has given BIRTH TO US. His Blood, His Life, is NOT in us!

So, in this world, there are People CREATED by God - ALL Human Beings are PRECIOUS because God created them!

But there are SPECIAL PEOPLE on this Earth; who, apart from being CREATED by God, have been BORN BY GOD.

And those People are the ones the Bible says - Have been BORN AGAIN:

Not by their mother, but by their Father Who is in Heaven, has given BIRTH TO THEM AGAIN.

And those People have a VALUE that the other Creation DO NOT HAVE

... Because the Life of the FATHER is in them!

So, when we say a Person is Born Again, it goes beyond being CREATED BY GOD; it means God Himself has given BIRTH to that Person.

John 1:12-13 says: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the RIGHT to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name: who were BORN, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the Will of man, but of GOD."

"... BORN, not of blood, nor of the Will of the flesh, nor of the Will of man, but of GOD."

When we say a Person is BORN AGAIN; their mother didn't give birth to them again; their father didn't give birth to them again. And they didn't give birth to themselves again.

The ONLY ONE Who gives the SECOND BIRTH is the One Who CREATED ALL THINGS - Jehovah God Almighty.

He GIVES BIRTH to People, and they become CHILDREN OF GOD.

Those who are BORN AGAIN therefore, have been BORN OF GOD.

So when we say a Person is BORN AGAIN:

- It means they have experience a SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

- It means they have experience a HEAVENLY BIRTH.

- It means that God has given THEM His Life - A NEW LIFE!

Being Born Again therefore, is not an "Ordinary Thing" - It is a "Heavy Duty Thing"

That of all the things God has CREATED, there are People that He INDWELLS; He lives within them!

... So how do we get it?

HOW DO WE GET THE SALVATION OF BEING BORN AGAIN?

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Because if it is so Good, everybody would say "I WANT TO GET IT!"

How do we get it? How is it made available to us?

1. First, remember: IT IS A GIFT (Christ PAID for it).

A GIFT is something that is given to you out of the Goodwill of the Giver.

HOW DO I GET IT? - It is a GIFT! It has been Paid for.

Romans 6:23 says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

... Being Born Again is a GIFT.

You say Wow! This great experience is a GIFT? - YES, IT IS!

... ALL GIFTS have a Price Tag.

Normally, when you give Gifts to People, you have to remove the Price Tag. (I hope you do that)?

But once in a while, somebody gives you a Gift, and then you see the Piece Tag - Because ALL GIFTS have a Price Tag!

ALL GIFTS COST SOMETHING: But the cost of the Gift is not PASSED on to the Receiver of the Gift.

If somebody says: "This is a Gift for you, it's one thousand Cedes. Give me the one thousand back!"

That's not a Gift (Laughter) - It is a Trade!

But a Gift means, it has a Price but somebody has PAID the Price and giving you the Gift, without you PAYING for the Gift.

That is what we mean that the Salvation of being Born Again is a GIFT: IT HAS A PRICE! But we didn't Pay the Price.

And if you want to Pay the Price, then it is no longer a GIFT. And if you get it, then it is not SALVATION.

2. Secondly, IT IS BY GRACE - You can't EARN IT!

This is what separates Christianity from all other Faith.

Every other Faith, Religion, tells you: You must do A, B, C, D and give you a long list of things you must do (and continue doing) to attain Salvation or whatever it is that you have to attain to.

In Christianity, you don't EARN IT; it is by GRACE - It is not a reward for something you have done!

Ephesians 2:8-9 says: "For by Grace you have been saved through Faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the Gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

We don't go to Heaven because we are Good People; we don't become Children of God because we have done Good Things.

Good work makes us Good Human Beings; but becoming a Child of God is GIFT that God gives to us.

So it is Possible to be a "GOOD" Human Being, but not a Child of God.

A 'GOOD' Human be Being, DECENT - but not a Child of God.

Nothing we do is enough to merit our SALVATION.

NOTHING!

There is nothing you can do - The Price is so HIGH, that there is nothing we can do to get it.

So, the only way that we can get it is for God to give it to us as a GIFT; Because the Price is so HIGH.

It's so HIGH, so EXPENSIVE, you can't PAY for it!

So, the only way you can get it, is for you to RECEIVE it as a GIFT.

Our Salvation is so EXPENSIVE, that it can only be given as a GIFT.

... So, how do we get it?

3. SALVATION IS IN CHRIST.

It's in Christ!



We don't find Salvation or Become Born Again by following down a Set of RULES and REGULATIONS. It is not a CHURCH CREED.

It is in a MAN - and His Name is JESUS. He is our SALVATION.

SO HOW DO WE GET IT IN CHRIST?

I will run through them quickly:

1. First, Believe in what He did for you.



That Jesus Christ DIED in your Place.

In His DEATH, He suffered the Punishment for our sins.

In His RESURRECTION, He defeated Satan and broke His Power over us.

Christ has made it Possible for all of us to have NEW LIFE.

And we must Believe that! We must believe He has done it.

2. Ask Him to Save you.

Although being Born Again is available to all, and it's free; we ask for it.

It's like when you go to a Shop and they say: "Buy two (2), get one (2) free!" The two (2) you buy, you Pay; the one (1) you get Free, is Free!

Usually, you have to ask for the one (1) which is Free - You are not PAYING for it, but you ask for it!

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Salvation is Free, but you must ASK GOD. You must go to God and say: "Father, I want my free Gift." You ask for it!

We must ask for it ourselves! People cannot ask for it for you; I can't ask for it for you, your Parents can't ask for it for you, your children cannot ask for it for you.

... You must ask for it, yourself because, it is your Gift.

And when we ask, we must accept CHRIST as our ONLY Lord and Saviour.

So, you don't say - Jesus is my Lord, but this one too is my Lord!

Once you believe in Jesus as your Lord, then no other Person offers you Salvation.

So, you can't believe in Christ and believe in something else at the same time!

ONLY Jesus can save! Once you accept Him, you accept Him ONLY, as your Lord. And after you have accepted Him, you live the rest of your life for Him.

In a nutshell, this is what being BORN AGAIN is all about! If you want to explain it to somebody, follow this Teaching and Explain it.

Don't tell somebody: You have to go to Church everyday; you have to stop drinking, you have to stop smoking, you have to stop chasing the women.

These are all things that People must do!

But that would not earn them Salvation.

You can stop doing all the bad things, you will just be a 'GOOD Man' or a 'GOOD Woman.' But not a Born Again Person.

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... Because being Born Again is a GIFT.

Point People to the GIFT and the GIVER of the Gift, not the works they must do because by the works, no one can be SAVED. It is a FREE GIFT!

... That is the Message of Christianity.

ALTAR CALL

So today, if you want to receive this GIFT, wherever you are reading this Message now on the Label of DMC; I just want to lead you in a very Short Prayer for you to ask for your GIFT.

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So everybody, just bow down your head!

And if you want to Pray for Christ to come into your heart to receive Salvation; I'm just going to lead you in these words.

But let them be your own words as you ask Jesus to be your LORD.

Say with me: HEAVENLY FATHER, I COME TO YOU TODAY, JUST AS I AM. I AM A SINNER, I CANNOT SAVE MYSELF.

SO I ASK YOU FATHER, FOR THE GIFT OF SALVATION, BY GRACE: CHRIST HAS DIED FOR ME, HE HAS PAID THE PRICE FOR ME.

AND TODAY, I RECEIVE DELIVERANCE FROM THE POWER OF SATAN. I RECEIVE DELIVERANCE FROM MY SINFUL NATURE. I RECEIVE TODAY, DELIVERANCE FROM ETERNAL DAMNATION.

AND I ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS MY ONLY LORD AND MY SAVIOUR. AND FROM TODAY, I LIVE ALL MY LIFE TO PLEASE JESUS - AND HIM ALONE.

I THANK YOU FATHER, FOR ACCEPTING ME.

IN JESUS' NAME - AMEN AND AMEN!

GOD BLESS YOU!

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!

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7TH FEBRUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: WHAT TO SAY, WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO SAY.



TEXT: HEBREWS 13:5-6

Amen! - Let's keep Standing where we are as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS - in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live and move and have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Well, this morning I want to Prepare us and bring us a Word of Encouragement, in the Season that we are living in.

Many are afraid, and in times like this, we have to WATCH what we say and what kind words we use.

So that whilst stating the facts, we must be MINDFUL not to use our own words as WEAPONS against ourselves.

Because the Bible says in Proverbs 18: 21 that: "Death and Life are in the Power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."

... DEATH and LIFE are in the Power of the TONGUE.

And you have to be mindful of what you SAY: "Words contain Spiritual Powers, words create Atmosphere, words Construct Destiny."

God created ALL THINGS with His WORD, and God's Word HOLDS all things.

We WIN with our words, and we LOSE with our words!

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So today, I want to address our words in a situation like this.

My Message is Titled: "WHAT TO SAY, WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY."

Actually, I was going to Title the Message: "What to say when you have nothing (Sensible) to Say." But I thought you would be OFFENDED.

... Although I have spoken it in, anyway!

Because these days, many People have become 'FUNERAL ANNOUNCERS' and there is so much going out there - That if you are not careful, you will be PARALYZED by Fear - before a Virus ever gets to you!

So, what do you say, what do you do in circumstances like this?

Because as Believers, we OVERCOME by our words!

Our words are not just Vocabulary; but they are WEAPONS in our mouth!

... And we must be careful of what we SAY.

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV). And it reads:

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

... I will REPEAT from Part B of Verse 5.



For He Himself has said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

There are TWO (2) CONCEPTS that I want to Point to you and bring to your attention.

1. The First Concept is that GOD SAYS SOMETHING.

If you look at the verse, it says: "For He Himself has SAID."

... That's the First Concept - GOD SAYS SOMETHING.

It is a "Declared Word" of God!

In the Scripture, we hear God speaking.

And when God speaks, He SPEAKS to REVEAL His Will - God's WORD reveals God's WILL.

"He Himself has said." When God says something, He reveals His WILL, He reveals His INTENTIONS, He reveals His DESIRES.

... GOD SAYS SOMETHING!

2. Then the second Concept I want you to Pay attention to is: WE ALSO SAY SOMETHING.

... I say what GOD SAYS.

So the Scripture says: He Himself has Said; "So we may BOLDLY SAY."

God says something, we ALSO SAY SOMETHING;

For He Himself has said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may BOLDLY say: "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

When God SPEAKS, He is literally putting words in your mouth; He is giving you something to SAY.

So God's Word IN MY MOUTH, must agree with HIS WILL; or God's Word in my mouth AGREES with His Will.

Jesus taught us a Very, very Vital Principle - VERY VITAL!

In the Lord's Prayer, He said when you Pray, you say:

"THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH, as it is IN HEAVEN."

Two (2) Things are happening there:

I. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH - That's one aspect!

II. AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.



God's Will is done in Heaven; but that WILL should be done on Earth!

So what makes God's Will DONE ON EARTH is when we PRAY - and say the same things that He is saying.

... God's Word in my MOUTH, AGREES with His WILL.

Now, I want to take you just on a little journey because this Passage in Hebrews says: GOD HAS SAID: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

... It is quoting what God has said!

So the question you should ask yourself is: "WHERE DID GOD SAY THAT?"

Because the Passage says, God has said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Where did He say it? And to whom did He say it?

We are going to find out where God said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you"; and to whom He said it?

There are Two (2) Instances I will bring to your Notice:

1. The first (1st) one is GENESIS 28:15. - This is God speaking to Jacob.

And He says: "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

So when the Writer in Hebrews says God Himself has said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

This is what He is addressing; when God said to Jacob: "I WILL BE WITH YOU."

At this Point, Jacob was alone in his life. And he is fleeing from danger.

And if you know your Bible a little bit, you will realise that Jacob's brother (Esau) had sworn to kill him. His brother said: "I'm going to kill you!"

So Jacob is running, because somebody wanted to KILL him!

... It is not a Virus; it is a brother.

Sometimes a brother can be a Virus!

... No, your brother is not a Virus!

So, Jacob is fleeing for His Life!

God speaks to Jacob when he is fleeing and says: "Jacob, I AM WITH YOU."

And what does that tell us?

It tells us that God is with us when our lives are threatened.

"I AM WITH YOU" - No matter what is threatening your Life. It could be a brother, it could be a health challenge, it could be a Virus.

But God says: "I AM WITH YOU" - I will Protect you!

... He is with us when our lives are threatened.

2. The Second (2nd) Instance when God Promised "I Will not leave you, He said it to Joshua, after Joshua had taken over the Leadership of Israel.

In Joshua 1:5, this is what God said to Joshua:

"No man shall be able to Stand before you all the days of your Life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."

"... I will not leave you nor forsake you."

At this time, Joshua is not like Jacob! - Jacob is running away from a threat; Joshua is running into Battle.

And so God is saying, He is with you when you are going into a Battle.

\*When you are running from danger He is with you; when you are running into danger, He is with you!

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU - When you are trying to avoid trouble;

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU - When you are getting into trouble.

... God never leaves us, at any Point in time!

And what is so important about this is that when God said this to Joshua, Moses had died.

Moses had died!

The great Moses, the one who saw God in the Burning Bush, who came and liberated them!

... The one Joshua had followed, had died.

And Joshua had to now go and face danger without Moses! - And God said to Joshua: "I AM WITH YOU."

... Mose is not here, but I AM HERE.

And I just want to Pause, and make a little comment on this:

It is Valuable and Useful and Beneficial to learn from People's experiences; and it is WISE to take Precautions, because of credible information that helps us to be safe.

So when somebody tells you his experiences, and how he has suffered, and what went wrong. Or when you hear something has gone wrong with somebody; It is Good to learn from it; it is Good to take Precaution.

However, it's fearful and self defeating, when we allow other People's situation to make us feel Vulnerable and Weak.

It's like years ago, I was having a conversation with somebody; and the Person we talked about had Passed away.

And the fellow said: "if People like that have Passed away, then what happens to People like us?"

So, it is almost like Joshua would be saying: "if Moses is gone, then I Joshua, what can I do?"

That's why God says: "Moses is gone, but I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.

DON'T see somebody's experience as your experience - Learn from it, take Precaution from it: but don't be bound in the fear.

Because somebody has gone through something does not mean you will go through it also!

Your Faith in God must be yours, and not based on somebody's experience!

Because you don't know everything about everybody!

... So God says to Joshua, I hear!

And I want to tell you this morning - GOD IS WITH: He is with you when you are running from danger, He is with you when you are facing danger!

He is with you.

He has said: I will not LEAVE you nor FORSAKE you.

So these are the two (2) instances where God says: "I will not leave you nor forsake you.

- He says it to Jacob, when he was running away from danger;

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- He says it to Joshua, when he was running into danger.

Both instances, God says: I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.

So, when the Writer of Hebrews comes and say, For He Himself has said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

These are the two (2) Instances he is referring to: To Jacob - I will not leave you nor forsake you; to Joshua - I will not leave you nor forsake you.

One is running AWAY from threat; the other is running INTO threats!

These Promises, were not made to the Writer of Hebrews.

NOTE: The reason why I said: "The Writer of Hebrews" is because there is a doubt as to who wrote the Book of Hebrews.

I think it was Apostle Paul who wrote it because the Language is very 'Pauline.'

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But in the New Testament, Apostle Paul starts his writing with Name 'Paul.'

But in the Book of Hebrews, it doesn't start with 'Paul' - So there is a doubt whether it is Paul or not.

Whether it is Apostle Paul or Peter (or anybody who wrote it): somebody wrote it - Inspired by God.

And that Person, God did not tell that Person: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

God said it to Jacob and said it to Joshua.

But this Person speaks the Word of God, which was spoken to somebody for Himself!

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Because, what God has said in His Word is for you, also.

Then he says, God said: "I will never leave you nor forsake."

Then I may boldly say.

... Somebody say: "I have something to say!"

Now, anytime somebody Post you something on WhatsApp, or you see something on Facebook; WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!

Don't say: "We are dead ooo!" "We are finish oooo!"

Hey, what can we do? You can do something!

Because God says: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say. "DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW"

WHAT CAN WE "BOLDLY SAY?"

In Hebrews 13:6, it says: So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Now this Phrase - "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

That is quoted in Hebrews 13:6. It didn't start from Hebrews, it starts from the Psalms! - Psalm 27:1 (that is what Hebrews is quoting).



And Psalms 27:1 says: "The LORD is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the Strength of my Life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

... This was a Psalms of David.

And there is a suggestion that David wrote this Psalms during the rebellion against Him by his son Absalom.

And if you read through the whole Psalms, he says other things.

And I will quickly quote some of the things he says in Psalms 27.

In Psalms 27:8, David says: When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

Now, how can David seek the face of the Lord? - Because God Said it!

... What we say is based on what God says!

Psalms 27:10 says: "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me."

Psalms 27:13 - "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the Goodness of the Lord in the land of the Living."

I don't know about you, but you will see the Goodness of the Lord In the land of the Living

Psalms 27:14 - Wait on the Lord; Be of Good courage, And He shall Strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

God's Word is times Past, gives me something to say, in this Present Time!

He has said: "I will not leave you nor forsake you." So we can BOLDY SAY: the Lord is my Strength and my Helper, whom shall I fear?"

I. So, when you DON'T KNOW what to say; what you say must be SCRIPTURAL.

So when you don't know what to say; say what the Bible says.

... What we say must be SCRIPTURAL.

II. Not only must it be Scriptural, it must HONOUR GOD.

III. And what we say must be what we DESIRE.

IV. Don't say what you don't want to happen; SAY what you want to HAPPEN!

"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; I will see the Goodness of the Lord in the Land of the Living."

So, I'm just giving you some Guidelines as to how to comport your Faith in these Times.

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Definitely wash and sanitise your hands; wear Double or Triple Mask. And if anybody tells you it's not a Sign of Faith; that is up to them!

Socially distant (if need be)! Don't go and throw a Birthday Party - This is not a time for it.

You will have a time to Party; you will have another Birthday next Year - By which time this Virus will be out. And by then you can have the biggest Party from North to South!

... But this is not the time for it; it's just common sensical.

But in addition to all of that: WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!

Don't kill yourself, before the Virus gets to you!

And don't open the door for attack to yourself!

That is why you must say what God says:

"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; the Lord is my Shield, the Lord is my Deliverer, the Lord is my Protector, the Lord will keep me Safe. I will see the Goodness of the Lord in the land of the Living."

That is your Language!

So in Conclusion, I'm going to give you three (3) Patterns of Speech.

And they come from the Scriptures - Everything is from the Scriptures.

And by the way, all the Declarations we do before I start Preaching; they are ALL in the Scripture.

.. It is not Mensa Otabil's words, it is the Scriptures.

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Every Part of our Declaration is referenced - There is over fourteen (14) Scriptures I put together to create that Declaration.

Because our words are Nice, but they are not Powerful.

It is the Word of God in your mouth that has the Power.

That is why when Satan tempts Jesus, Jesus doesn't say: "Hey, get away from there, I don't want you!" He would say: "IT IS WRITTEN."

Even the SON OF GOD quoted the WORD of God.

Your word may be nice; you may have nice Poetry but not Powerful - The Power is: "God has said it, so I can BODLY SAY IT."

So let me give you three (3) and then we close: What GOD SAYS and what WE SAY

1. HE HAS SAID: "When you Pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,

Nor shall the flame scorch you" - Isaiah 43:2

So I BODLY SAY: "Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler

And from the Perilous Pestilence" - Psalms 91:3

The Lord will deliver me from every traps, and from every Pestilence.

2. HE HAS SAID: "If My People who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and Pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" - 2 Chronicles 7:14

So I BOLDLY SAY: "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my Praise" - Jeremiah 17:14

... So if you are sick, this is your Prayer!

For everyone who has been afflicted by this Virus, I say to you: THE LORD IS YOUR HEALER - Amen!

And over this Land of Ghana (and Nigeria by extension): I SAY HEALING TO THE LAND - Amen!

I SAY HEALING TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD - Amen!

I SAY HEALING TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD - Amen!

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I SAY HEALING TO YOUR FAMILY - Amen

3. HE HAS SAID: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall Glorify Me" - Psalms 50:15

So I BOLDLY SAY: "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears" - Psalms 34:4

... So these are what God says, and what WE SAY.

And you can pick these and make them your Declaration throughout the week!

When somebody gives you information and your head is spinning and your heart is racing and you feel like saying something very, very nonsensical - SAY WHAT GOD SAYS!

Instead of saying: "We are all going oooo!"

You and who are going (laughing)? - Don't include anybody!

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But You will NOT DIE! You will live to declare the Glory of God.

The Lord is your Helper, the Lord is your Strength, the Lord is your Shield, the Lord is your Deliverer, the Lord is your Salvation. And He will deliver you!

We will go through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and we will fear no evil; because THOU ART WITH ME!\*

Yes, we are going through it. It will be scary; when you look around, you will hear things that will make your heart beat.

But He has said: "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

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Whether you are running away from threat, or you are running into danger: "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

\*This morning I just came, to Wake up your heart that your GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE.

He is still a Saviour, He is still a Redeemer, He is still a Healer, He is still a Protector, He is still a Provider.

And HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU!

Rise up with me! And lift up your hands to Heaven and say:

LORD GOD JEHOVAH, YOU ARE MY DWELLING PLACE, YOU ARE MY SHIELD, YOU ARE MY PROTECTOR.

TODAY, I BRING MYSELF UNDER YOUR COVERING. COVER ME, DELIVER ME, KEEP ME SAFE.

BY YOUR WORD, I DWELL IN SAFETY, MY FAMILY DWELLS IN SAFETY. AND I WILL GO THROUGH THIS VALLEY.

BUT NO EVIL SHALL BEFALL ME, BECAUSE YOU HAVE SAID: "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

SO I BOLDLY SAY: "THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH, THE LORD IS MY LIGHT, WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO ME?"

IF GOD BE FOR ME, NOTHING CAN COME AGAINST ME LORD. SO I DECLARE VICTORY TODAY LORD.

IN JESUS' NAME - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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14TH FEBRUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: A NEW KIND OF LOVE



TEXT: MATTHEW 22:34-40

AMEN! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

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The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my sun and shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today is Valentine's Day! And it's a day that is set aside for the Celebration of Love. And People do all kinds of stuff.

I was checking my Christian Calendar, and I realised that the Greek Orthodox Church today is also 'Zacheous Sunday'.

So, you can actually call it Valentine or Zacheous Sunday - depending on how you look at it.

But I'm going to focus on the Valentine aspect of it!

So I have Titled my Message for today: "A NEW KIND OF LOVE."

Love of is one those words that is used very, very frequently but also misunderstood and many times, misapplied.

The Christian Faith is based on LOVE - From its beginning to the end. And much of our lives, we all aspire to love People or to have People to love us.

But in the Process of living this Love, many times we get disappointed, we get hurt. And something that is supposed to make us better, ends up sometimes, making our lives worse.

... So, 'A NEW KIND OF LOVE' is what we are talking about.

Let's start with a question that was asked Jesus. In Matthew 22:34-40:

And I will read Matthew 22:34-40 - Let us hear the reading of God's Word:

34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

35 Then one of them, a Lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

36 "Teacher, which is the Great Commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your Soul, and with all your Mind.'

38 This is the First and Great Commandment.

39 And the Second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 On these two Commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Before we go into the Text to work on it, first let's Define LOVE very quickly:

And I will define LOVE very, very simply, as: INTENSE affection and Loyalty.

You may have different definitions for it. I tried looking up so difficult to settle on one. So this I thought, captures the idea quite well.

So, when we say we love somebody or we love something; it means that we have an intense affection or a deep affection for it. We care for it, and we are committed to it!

... And this is how I would define LOVE, in my Message today.

Now let's look at the Text - Mathew 22:34-40:

... Then one of them, a Lawyer, asked Him a Question:

So this is a question coming from a Lawyer. It's quite a serious question. It's not a simple question.

And the Passage says: "The Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees."

If you read before the Text, the Sadducees came to Jesus asking Him a question relating to Resurrection.

And they asked about the woman who ended up marrying Seven (7) brothers. And they asked: "In the Resurrection, who would be the husband?" And Jesus answered that question.

By the way, the Sadducees didn't believe in the Resurrection - So this was a Test Question!

When they finished and Jesus had disposed of them; the Pharisees also came, and they elected a Lawyer among them; to ask Jesus a very tough question.

They asked Jesus, they said: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Now I want you to understand the question: "The Greatest Commandment in the Law?"

... And the 'LAW' there, is "The Law of Moses.

So Jesus answered the question, and He talks about the Law and Prophet in Mathew 22:37-40.

He said that: "This is the basis of the answer".

He spoke about Two (2) Things: Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your Soul, and with all your Mind."

Note how we are to Love the Lord - We are to Love the Lord with ALL - Not Part!

All of our heart, Soul and Mind; totally and completely.

And this Love is absolute - It is Love that doesn't hold back!

And so Jesus says: If you want to know the Great Commandment of the Law; "You shall love the Lord your God with everything you have in your heart, in your mind, in your Soul".

And Jesus calls it: "The First and Great Commandment."

In other words: "This is the Big One."

If you really want to love the Lord, this is Big One - You love the Lord with everything you have; everything you have got!

Then He mentioned a Second One: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR.

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And He qualifies: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

So this Love is relative: The First One is: "Love the Lord your God with everything you have."

And the Second One is: "Love your neighbour - Relative to the way you Love yourself.

That implies that the First (1st) step is: You love God, you love yourself, and you love your neighbour as yourself.

... Basically, that is the Progression!

This is what the question was: "Lord, what is the greatest in all the Commandments?"

... Or, what is the Greatest Commandment?

"You love the Lord your God with everything you have; you love your neighbour as yourself."

Remember, Jesus is answering a Particular Question - 'The greatest in the Law.' Not in the World, not everywhere - but in the Law.

So He is answering, according to the question!

The Question then that we would ask is: 'What if a Person doesn't love himself?'

Because, if I'm supposed to love People as Myself; and I hate Myself. It means I'm going to hate People. If I destroy Myself, I'm going to destroy People.

But Jesus says, this is what the Law says: 'You love the Lord, you love your neighbour as yourself.'

Now, Jesus didn't make up this Rules; because the answer He gave is found in the Law.

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Deuteronomy 6:4-5:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your Soul, and with all your Strength."

This is what Jesus was quoting. He didn't make it up! He was quoting the Law: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with everything you have.

... This is the Foundation of the Law!

And then in Leviticus 19:17-18; the Bible says: "You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your People, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

So this is the Law!

In the Law God says: you love the Lord your God, and you love your neighbour as yourself.

... And that is how Jesus answered the Question!

And it's important that as we try then to understand Love; there are different kinds of Love.

And I will talk about THREE (3) DIFFERENT KINDS.

1. The first (1st) kind of Love is "The Love that SEEKS to fulfil its own Need."

Or what you call SELF LOVE - Love for yourself;

It is the Love that seeks to be happy for itself

It is the kind of love you have when you eat your favourite meal and you say: "Oh, I love this Meal."

You are not showing love to the Meal because you are eating it; but when you say 'I love this meal'. You just mean 'I love myself because I'm the one enjoying this Meal.

Or you listen to a Piece of Music and you say "Oh, I love this Music!"

You are not showing love to the Music; you are showing love to yourself.

You are just saying that this 'Music satisfies me; so I love it!'

When we express this kind of Love, it is the benefit we get that makes us love it.

So in reality, it is SELF LOVE.

Sometimes, People express that even in Worship - They say "Oh, I love God."

And the reason why they say they love God is because: 'This God is too Good ooooo.'

So what if He is not Good, are you going to love Him? He does Good stuff for us!

So that's the First (1st) Kind of Love - It is not towards somebody else, it is towards YOU.

When you show that to God; you are not loving Him with all your heart, with all your Soul, with everything in you;

You are loving Him because He makes you feel Good.

Alright? That's the first (1st) Kind!



2. The Second Kind of LOVE: Is Love that fulfils EACH OTHER'S NEEDS.

It involves Obligation; it requires that you reciprocate in an act of Love.

In the first (1st) kind of Love, if you love your food - Your food doesn't love you back. If you love the Music - It doesn't love you back.

But in this kind of Love, it is Love that you GIVE and you GET loved back!

... It fulfils each other Needs!

It is a kind of Love that you would call "Scratch my back, I scratch your back!" "Hand go, hand come!"

And most Human Relationships are based on this Love - "You do me, I do you!"

It is love that says: "If you want me to be nice to you; be nice to me!" "If you want me to treat you well; treat me well."

In most human organizations; even among a Band of Thieves; there is that kind of Love!

If you would study the Mafia, it is there! If you study every society, it is there!

You do me, I do you; you treat me well, I treat you well; you are faithful to me, I'm faithful to you; you are loyal to me, I'm loyal to you!

This is the kind of Love that is based on RECIPROCITY.

So the first one, you are getting the BENEFITS - You don't really care about the other Person.

Second one, you are GETTING the Benefits and you GIVE the Benefits to somebody else.

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3. The Third (3rd) Kind of LOVE Is the Love that SEEKS to fulfil THE NEED OF OTHERS.

... It seems to fulfil the Needs of others!

It does not love because it wants a Reward; it is Love that reaches out to other People.

It is Love that goes beyond itself; it is on the instinct of "Self Preservation".

So, when we read for example in John 3:16, where it says: "For God so LOVED the world that He GAVE ..." It is referring to this kind of Love!

"Whilst we were yet sinners, Christ Died for us." - Romans 5:8. It is referring to this kind of Love!

... The Great Love with which God loved us!

So, three (3) kind of Love:

1. The first one: You love it because it makes you feel Good;
2. Second kind: You love it because it LOVES you back;
3. Third kind: You love it because you WANT to love it. And it is not coming to you, it is GOING OUT OF YOU.

It is a Love that goes out of you to something, and there is no guarantee that you will get it back.

So we have to really figure out which kind of Love we are operating in:

1. Is it the first one - Where we are satisfied?

2. Or the second one - Where we make somebody happy, somebody makes us happy?

3. Or the one - Where we are only FOCUS on making the other person happy?

And which one of these three (3) is God's Love?

Is it the first, the second or the third?

... I suggest to you it's the Third (3rd); but I'm going to go to the Scriptures to look at it.

Remember, when Jesus answered the question of the Pharisees, He said: 'You shall love your neighbour as YOURSELF.'

How many of you really believed that you love your neighbour as yourself?

How many of you really think that: 'Loving your neighbour as yourself' is the highest Kind of Love?

Many People would say well, that's the highest Kind of Love.

Remember I asked a question - If you are supposed to love your neighbour as yourself, "What if you hate yourself?"

Then you will hate everybody because you love your neighbour as yourself!

Is there any Love Higher than Loving your neighbour as yourself?

Let us listen to Jesus again - Jesus gave what He called 'A NEW COMMANDMENT.'

The first answer He gave to the Pharisees was related to the Law. But then, He gave a NEW COMMANDMENT.

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And this New Commandment is in John's Gospel 13:34-35.

Listen to Jesus: A NEW commandment I give to you.

... Now if He is giving a NEW One, it means there is an OLD Commandment.

The Old Commandment says: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

He is about to define the New Commandment.

"A New Commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My Disciples, if you have love for one another."

What is the difference between the Old Commandment and the New Commandment?

The Old Commandment says: "You love your neighbour as yourself"

The New Commandment says: 'You Love one another as i have loved you.' - Not as yourself!

The Old Commandment is 'you Love your neighbour as yourself.'

So if you hate yourself, you are going to throw hatred to the world!

The New Commandment says: Your love is not even dependent on you! You are not the Example of Love, you are not the Standard of Love.

JESUS IS THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LOVE; Christ is the MEASURE of our Love!

You love as I HAVE LOVED YOU. - That is a Big One!

So, if you think to love your neighbour as yourself is the highest; Jesus says this is the New one; You don't love your neighbour as yourself, because I DON'T TRUST YOU.

If you hate yourself you are going to spread hatred; if you are insecure you will spread insecurity; if you are mistreated, you will mistreat People.

If you love your neighbour as yourself, then if your neighbour slaps you, you are going to slap him back.

... Yes, Equal Love!

Love your neighbour as yourself - Slap me I will slap you back! - Same I do you!

Hit me I hit you!

... "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus says, you don't love your neighbour as yourself; you love your neighbour as I have loved you.

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So, He is the measure of our Love; and He is the Model of our Love - He is the Example!

... You love as I have loved you.

So, those who do not love themselves have no excuse here - You cannot say: 'Nobody showed me love, so I cannot show any love.'

Jesus didn't say you should love your neighbour as yourself - that's the Old Law.

But the New Commandment says: "You love your neighbour as I have loved you."

So, even if you don't have the capacity for Love, your Standard has been set - And Christ is the Standard!

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So, How do we Love as Christ loved?

Ephesians 5:1-2 says: "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in LOVE, as Christ also has LOVED us and given HIMSELF for US, an offering and a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

So how did Christ Love us?

Well, according to this Passage: "As Christ also has LOVED us and given HIMSELF for US, an offering and a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

So the Love of Christ is in two (2) Ways:

1. First, it Surrenders - "Christ gave Himself for us."

When Christ Prayed to the Father: 'Not my Will, but Yours be done' - He was surrendering Himself.

So when He says: 'You are to love as I love'; then it means that our love must be a love of SURRENDER.

... Not your Will, not my Will, not what I want - It is not Self Preservation!

Jesus actually surrendered for People who would later spit on Him, mock Him, reject Him, brutally wound Him, Crucify Him.

That's His Love!

Did they Reapond kindly? - No!

What did they do?

They insulted Him! And they Nailed Him.

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And as they were nailing Him, He demonstrated that Love by saying: "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they do."

This is not Love your neighbour as yourself.

If it is love your neighbour as yourself, Jesus would have said: "Father remember them and Crucify them too."

"... As they have done to me, so must it be done to them!"

But the New Law is higher than the Old one that says: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

The New Law says: You are to Love your neighbour as Christ has loved you.

That means that you are going to love People who are spitting on you!

I know you are all going to say: 'Hey, I'm not a door mat oooo.' 'You can't treat me like that oooo'. 'If you face me I will face you oooo.'

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That's the OLD Law!

The New Law is: LOVE AS I LOVED YOU.

You see, it's easy for me to Preach this (Laughter)!

Do you think my Natural Feelings is to Preach such a Message? - No!

That is not my Natural Feelings.

My Natural Feelings is: 'If you do me, I double do you (laughing).' If you slap me, well, you get Double Slap!

But when we become Christians, we don't live for ourselves any longer.

We live for the One Who died for us!

And He says: LOVE AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

So it means that you are going to love People who are Crucifying you!

Do I like that? I don't like it. Do I wish God would change His mind? I wished so!

Would He? - No!

I have no option but to ask for His help, and for His Grace to help me to Love as Christ loved.

It is a Love that SURRENDERS.



But not only that:

2. It is a Love that is SACRIFICIAL.

"By Offering and a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Christ made Himself a Sacrifice to God.

He bore the Punishment for a sin He did not commit; He died a Death He didn't deserved; so that the Just Demand of our Redemption would be met!



He made Himself a Sacrifice - Wooooow!

You know, this Christianity is not easy oooo! It's not just singing and dancing and going about saying: 'I am now Born Again.'

That is not what Christianity is all about!

This is it: Jesus says: "By this, they would know you are my Disciples.'

And I'm just Preaching the Bible. If I wrote the Bible, I would not put this in.

... Guaranteed, it would not appear.

I would say - The world is a dark Place; People are bad. And when they 'bad you' you 'bad them!'

But I didn't write the Bible! This is God saying: This is His Standard!

So, be imitators of God - You love as Christ loved.

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How? - Surrender and Sacrifice. This is in Ephesians 5:1-2.

Now, with that in mind; in Ephesians 5:1-2; then you can understand the whole of Ephesians Chapter 5.

Because when you go down in Ephesians Chapter 5, you would read words like:

"HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, AS CHRIST LOVED...

Not as your father loves, not as your friend loves

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her, that He might Sanctify and Cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word" - Ephesians 5:15-26

So by the time men are insisting on: "My wife MUST SUBMIT" according to Ephesians 5:22-24.

Read Ephesians 5:1-2!

It is SURRENDER and SACRIFICE, before SUBMISSION.

By the time a man is saying: "My wife MUST SUBMIT to me"; he should have learned to LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH.

How? - By Surrender and Sacrifice.

Let me guarantee you this:

"If you Surrender and Sacrifice, SUBMISSION will be a Natural consequences."

The Bible never told men to DEMAND that their wives submit to them - The Bible told men to love their wives as Christ LOVED and gave HIMSELF.

I don't see your face Properly, but I'm looking at your face! I can't tell whether you are angry with me or smiling. So I'm trying to go beyond the look on your face!

It's a NEW KIND OF LOVE.

And if we really ask God for help and Grace to love as Christ wants us to; I believed that every Christian Marriage would succeed. And every Christian Relationship would work.

The reason why it is not working is because we operating in the Law: "Love me I love you, you don't love me, I don't love you! Hit me I hit you. Do me I do you."

But that's the Law!

Jesus says: 'A New Commandment I give to you; you shall love as I have loved you.' And you shall love your neighbours as I have loved you.

Somebody had the audacity to ask Jesus: "WHO THEN IS MY NEIGHBOUR?"

And the way Jesus answered the Question - He started with a long Story;

"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain Priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he Passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the Place, came and looked, and Passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion."

Then He asked: "So which of these three (3) do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" - Luke 10:30-37

Now when you hear that, it may not sound strange to you!

But you see, in the Jewish world, your Neighbour is your Tribe's man; your neighbour is a Jew. Nobody else outside your Community could be your neighbour.

... Your neighbour is somebody who is in your 'GROUP.'

And Jesus in the Good Samaritan Story shows - Your Neighbour can be outside of your GROUP.

In other words, in Christianity, we don't love People because we belong to the same Group with them; we love People, even those who are Outside our Group.

And when we love them, we love them as Christ has loved us.

HOW DID HE DO IT?

He SURRENDERED and He SACRIFICED.

Now I know that this Valentine's Day there will be all kinds of Messages on Marriage, Love and Sex (all of that)!

And how to buy chocolates for your spouse, how to buy Flowers and how to dress nicely and make each other happy. Decorations! They we not dealing with the reality.

This is all movie Decorations - Hollywood and Nollywood and what have you. Decorations!

The Real Love that sustains everything, from Marriage to every other relationship is this one - The New Commandment that you shall love as I have loved you.

Is that easy? - No!

Is that Possible? - Yes!

How is it Possible? - ONLY through dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Constant Dependence on the Holy Spirit, Trusting God, asking God for Grace!

\*When you are faced with People you would rather knock than Love - "You say Father, I will tell you my feelings: I think he deserves a Double Slap."

And I'm about to give him a slap! But You say I shouldn't! I didn't say it, You said it Lord - SO HELP ME. Because if You leave me alone, this guy would suffer!

That is what it means to SURRENDER: "Not my Will, but YOUR Will be done!"

When nothing in us wants to love; but because the Master says it; we Surrender..

And we ask for His Help, and we ask for His Grace. And the Holy Spirit comes; He floods our hearts, and He lifts us up!

And He gives us capacity to do something that is beyond us Naturally.

Because this Kind of Love is not human. It is Divine. And it is only Possible through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

So why don't we talk to the Lord and ask Him to help us to LOVE AS HE LOVES.

Just Pray for a moment, talk to the Lord in Prayer: In your Marriage, in your relationships - Wherever you are.

... That you would Love AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US.

CLOSING PRAYER



Heavenly Father we come to You today, knowing that in our own Self, we don't have what it takes.

We don't have the Strength, we don't have the ability, we don't even have the Capacity!

We don't have the Example, we don't have the Temperament, we don't have anything in us that would make us Love as You want us to.

So, we Surrender to You Lord today; that You would help us by Your Holy Spirit:

Pour Grace into our heart, Pour Your Love into us and give us the Capacity and the Ability to Love as Christ has loved us.

In all our relationships, let Christ be Glorified; Let Him be Honoured; Let Him be Magnified, Lord!

In Jesus' Name we Pray - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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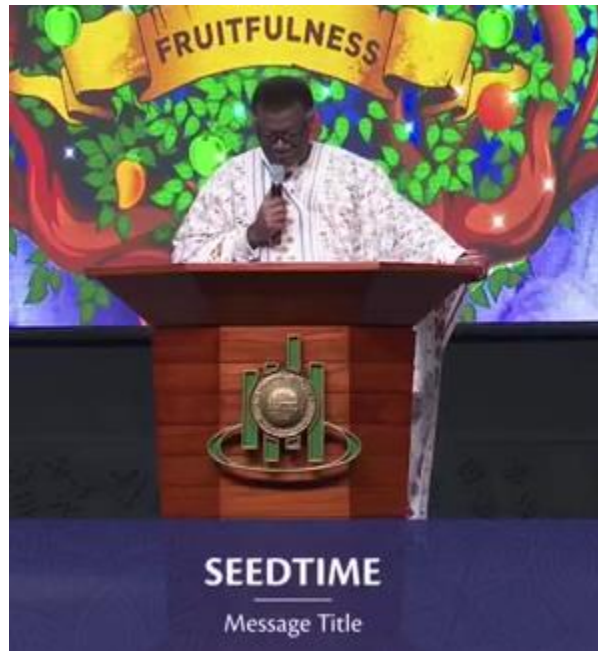
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## 21ST FEBRUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: SEEDTIME



**TEXT: GENESIS 8:22**

AMEN! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters - bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

We are still in the Year of FRUITFULNESS. And my Message today is Titled SEEDTIME.

And my Opening Text is from Genesis 8:23.

And this is God speaking to Noah, after the flood. And He says:

“While the Earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest, Cold and Heat, Winter and Summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

This is a statement God made to Noah, but He was not just Speaking to Noah. He was Speaking to the Earth, and He was speaking to all Humanity.

This is after the Flood - So much had changed, so much had been disrupted.

And God affirmed to Mankind that whilst the Earth remains, the Seasons of life will not cease. And He begins by talking about SEEDTIME and Harvest.

These Seasons did not originate after the Flood, they didn't start after the Flood - They were there before the Flood. But after the Flood God affirmed them, confirmed them to be so.

That while the Earth remains, there will be SEEDTIME and Harvest.

So today we are focusing on SEEDTIME.

WHAT IS SEEDTIME?

SEEDTIME is basically and simply time for sowing seeds.

Every Culture in the world (Ghana and Nigeria included) has a time on their Farming Calendar, when SEEDS are sown in expectation of the Harvest.

So, in Ghana or Nigeria for example, we have for our main grains and staples; we have two (2) main Seasons for Sowing SEEDS.

We sow seeds just before the Rain, in the first Raining Season - which is coming in a couple of Months! And then secondly, before the minor Raining Season - Which is around September/October.

These are Seasons for SEED sowing.

So, in Ghana or Nigeria; we have two (2) SEEDTIME Seasons!

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In many Cultures, they have their own SEEDTIME Season - Some before Spring, and before Autumn. And different Countries go through their own Seasons.

But, there is always a time for sowing Seed. Because God says: "For as the Earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest time SHALL NOT CEASE."

So SEEDTIME is a universal concept.

And God says two (2) Things about SEEDTIME that I want to bring to your Notice:

1. First, He says, SEEDTIME NEVER CEASES.

It shall not cease! - As long as the Earth remains, SEEDTIME WILL NOT CEASE.

The Time and the Season and the opportunity to sow seeds will not cease.

... That's the first (1st) thing God says.

2. Second (2nd) thing He says about SEEDTIME, is that: SEEDTIME LEADS TO HARVEST.

It's a Divine Law: "SEEDTIME LEADS TO HARVEST." So Seedtime is always related to Harvest.

Sometimes we call Seedtime and Harvest as 'SOWING and REAPING.' - Reaping is the HARVEST, Sowing is the SEEDTIME.

So, Seedtime requires SEED SOWING. And every Seedtime requires a SEED.

So we need to define WHAT A SEED IS.

Because if there is a Seedtime, there has to be Seed Sowing!

AND WHAT IS A SEED?

And I will give you Three (3) Identities for SEED:

1. The first (1st) is that - THE SEED IS A SOURCE OR THE BEGINNING.

That is Place we begin from.

Everything has a beginning - Trees have their beginning, Animals have their beginning, Human Beings have their beginning. Products and Inventions all have their beginning!

The beginning is what is called the SEED. - Wherever it began from, that is the SEED - the Source!

2. Secondly, A SEED IS POTENTIAL - Undeveloped Capacity.

A SEED is what you are capable of becoming, but have not become yet!

A SEED is what you will be, which you are not NOW - Potential.

Seeds are usually not impressive until their Potential is fully manifested!

That is why it's very easy to ignore a Seed or despise it, or eat it.

A Seed is a Masterpiece which is just a Sketch.

For those of you who are Artist, you know that the greatest Painting or Artwork starts with a Sketch. And then it's developed from there!

And in other disciplines, it is so! That Sketch is the Seed of the Masterpiece.

A Seed is a Building that is now a Drawing Plan

A Seed is a King who is now working as a Servant

\*A Seed is a Big Church which is now meeting in a Classroom (like we did thirty seven (37) Years ago)!

DMC NOTES: The ICGC Church was founded on the 26th of February, 1984 - Meaning that the Church is 37 Years Old this Year. From the entire Discovery Media Crew, we fondly rejoice with the Pastorate, Workers and Members on the 37th Year Anniversary of the Church.

A Seed is Factory which is now operating in a garage

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A Seed is a Major Invention that is now an Experiment

So What do I mean by A Seed?

First, it is the SOURCE - The Beginning;

Second, it is POTENTIAL. It is something that can become something, but has not become it!

So when you hold in your hand, a grain of corn which is a Seed. It is a Corn Plantation!

Potentially, it can grow to become something Big; but it had not done so yet.

... A Seed is a Source, it is a Potential;

3. Thirdly, A SEED IS LIFE-GIVING - it's able to PRODUCE.

That's the most fascinating thing about a Seed! It is that it's alive, and it has capacity to give life.

A Seed may look DORMANT, but it is not DEAD. It may look DULL, but it carries Life within itself. It carries within itself the POWER to Perpetuate itself!

A Seed is able to overcome all odds; in the right environment it will survive all odds.

Normally, we Plant seeds in the ground. But they don't stay in the ground; they lift themselves up from the ground, break through the soil.

Sometimes they dislodge stones; sometimes they dislodge rocks. I have seen Seeds grow on Termacs with coal tar on them!

The Seed had got the Power to Produce life; and it has got the Power to rise no matter what is sitting on top of it.

So, when God says there is going to be a SEEDTIME, He is talking about, there is going to come a time when you are going to start something - A SOURCE!

You are going to start something that has POTENTIAL and something that is LIFE-GIVING.

So to Produce the Harvest, we must start with something - It may be small, but it is the beginning of the Process!

The Source of Mighty Rivers are usually a trickle - From a well or from a Spring.

Similarly, the Source of the Mighty Things God wants to do in your life is going to start very small - It may look like a trickle, it may look like insignificant but that is your Seed.

And when the SEEDTIME come, the tiny thing must be Planted.

The Source of Great Things can be a small thing: like a daily routine of Praying - One Minute every hour:

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I. It could be a daily routine of reading a Chapter of the Bible everyday;

II. It could be a daily routine of Investing a small amount of money everyday;

III. It could be a daily routine of Faithfully Giving to the Lord.

Because a Seed is not a Big Thing; it's a small thing that is Planted.

... And I don't know what small thing you have in your hand

But that small thing in your hand has got the Power at Seedtime to Produce the Harvest.

Every groundwork that God does in our lives, starts from a Source, from a Seed.

Galatians 6:7, "Do not be DECEIVED, God is not MOCKED; for whatever a man SOWS, that he will also REAP."

God honours the Law of Sowing and Reaping - God honours that Law!

He's not mocked, He honours the Law of Sowing and Reaping.

HOW DO WE MOCK GOD?

We mock God when we have not Planted the Seed, but we are looking for the Harvest.

Or when we Plant a Particular Seed, but we are looking for a different harvest - That is mocking God!

Don't mock God, and don't deceive yourself.

... So that's the first thing!



2. Second thing you will note from this Passage (Genesis 8:22) is that:

The Law of Sowing and Reaping affects everything.

When God said to Noah: "As long as the Earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest shall not cease."

He was talking basically about Agriculture.

But when we look at Galatians 6:7, it says: "Whatever a man sows ..."

That means that same Principle that works in Agriculture, works with whatever!

So just like a Farmer takes a grain of Corn, Plants it and reaps a Harvest. In Ghana or Nigeria, we Plant it around April and reap a harvest in August!

It affects Agriculture, but it's not limited to Agriculture. Because Galatians says 'Whatever'.

This same Principle of Farming affects every areas of our lives - It affects our Marriages, it affects our Finances, it affects our Talents, it affects our Professions, it affects the way we Build Churches, it affects the way build Nations. It affects everything.

... Whatever a man sows (woman too)!

It's a Universal Principle. It affects every areas of our lives: Our Spiritual life, our Relationship, our Finances - Whatever!

So in a Year when we are talking about FRUITFULNESS, we don't reap Fruits from the Air.

... We reap Fruits out of Seeds that have been sown.

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So God says: As long as the Earth remains; as long as you and I are alive. He will always give us opportunity to sow Seed.

SEEDTIME will never end!

And He will give us opportunity to Harvest - Those Seasons will never end.

So if you miss it today, you will get it tomorrow - To sow Seed, there will always be a Season to sow Seed.

Psalms 126:5-6 says: "Those who sow in tears shall reap in Joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing Seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him."



There are FOUR (4) PRINCIPLES I want to touch on before we close - based on Psalms 126:5-6.

1. The first (1st) Principle we learn from that, concerning Seedtime is that: SOWING IS SACRIFICIAL.

"Those who sow in TEARS". Not sow in Joy, but sow in tears.

It's a time of TEARS when we are sowing Seed. It's not a Time of Joy.

When it's Seedtime, a Farmer works hard without any harvest.

If you go to any Farming Community; when it's Seedtime, the Farmers go to the farm everyday, and come with Nothing!

They go everyday and come with Nothing - They go to sow.

And most Seedtime are also Hunger times!

If you go to most Farming Communities, the Seedtime is a hunger time; it's a time when the little you have is sown in the Field.

In Ghana or Nigeria, Seedtime (by March/April) is hunger because the Harvest that came around December has been eaten.

And the Farmers in the Farming Communities Place what they have leftover for their Fruitfulness in the next Farming Season they have to choose whether to EAT it, or PLANT it.

So every time he goes out sowing, he comes hungrier because Seedtime is TEARS TIME.

Spiritually, when it is Seedtime, we Pray a lot without Answers. You are Investing Prayer, but you get no response.

Financially, when it is Seedtime, we invest without any Returns. Or we give Offerings without any Breakthrough.

In our Marriages, when it is Seedtime, we Sacrifice to much; make so much adjustment without any apparent benefits.

Sometimes you wonder: 'What am I gaining out of this?' I'm making all the Sacrifice, I'm making all the changes but nothing is coming out of it.

That is what SEEDTIME IS: You go forth with TEARS.

... EVERY SEEDTIME IS HARD TIME.

So that's the first thing you are going to recognize about your Seedtime.

If you want quick Harvest, and you think eating your Seed is Harvest, you will never have a Fruitful Season.

A Seedtime is TEARS TIME!

2. The second (2nd) Principle you learn is that: SOWING MUST BE DONE CONTINUALLY.

"He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him."

Our Natural inclination is that, when we do something Good, we want to see the result Instantly. We expect one act to give us the Harvest we desired.

However, Seedtime must be done Continually - So the Farmer gets up, and goes the next day - Comes empty, goes the next day! Goes next day.

In our Spiritual Seedtime, we keep Praying, and Interceding - day in, day out without seeing anything.

If you are at that time when you are Praying and Nothing is coming out - You are sowing Seed. And you don't get discouraged when you are sowing Seed.

There will come a time of Joy, but the Seed sowing time is not the time of JOY. If you want Joy instantly, you will stop sowing Seed.

Sometimes even in Marriage People say: 'I have tried all the things that I can do but I can't see any Result.' - Keep Sowing!

I have been Kind, I have been Nice, I have been Generous. I smile, I smile, I smile - Keep Smiling!

I encourage, I encourage; nothing comes up - Keep Encouraging!

Because when it is SEEDTIME, you Continue!

3. Third (3rd) Principle of Seedtime: SEEDTIME REQUIRES COMMITMENT.

"He that GOES FORTH;" Not goes backward. Full Commitment!

You don't go backward because you can't see the fruit of your labour.

In a season Fruitfulness, remember we have a Seed, remember we are sowing the Seed. It must be done Continuously and there has to be Commitment.

4. And the fourth (4th) Principle is what we are all looking for. It's that: SOWING PRODUCES THE JOY OF THE HARVEST.

The Passage (Psalms 126:5-6) says: "Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,"

In other words, it is a Predictable as Day and Night; it is as Predictable as when you go to sleep at night, you know that morning will come!

If you sow the Seed, you will Harvest because it's a Divine Principle.

If you want to Harvest, you sow the Seed; if you sow the seed, you will Harvest!

In between sowing Seed and Continually going Forth, bearing Precious Seed, shall doubtless come again Rejoicing.

Now many of us want to sow today, and reap tomorrow - We see it in the way People live their lives! All of us make that same mistake.

So we hear something especially since last week was Valentine. People are getting all kinds of tips about how Marriages should work.

And People give all kind of advise: 'Oh, if you are a woman, your husband is not minding you; just do this, just do that; Cook this and Dress that way!'

... And you dress that way and you cook that way, and Nothing happened!

Because, between Seedtime and Harvest is - CONTINUALLY.

Or the husband heard all kind of tips: If you buy this, you help your wife and do that. And call her Sweetheart and Honey. You call her Honey, and the result you get back is not Honey.

Or you buy something and there is no appreciation - You say 'i bought this and there is no appreciation.' - CONTINUALLY!

Or there are People in Church who say: 'I want a Breakthrough'; so they give a Big Offering. And hope that tomorrow there will be a Breakthrough - And then there is no Breakthrough!

I have heard People say: 'I Tithed there is nothing!'

And if you watch them - They are in between hardship. When life is Hard, they Tithe, they give their Firstfruit and whatever. And believe that next week will be great.

No, No, No! - It is not how it works: He that Continually.

It's not ONE TOUCH - Result - It is CONTINUALLY.

You want to be Rich? You invest a little money; then you go and take out the money for a Funeral. Invest a little money, then you go and take it, you use it for a Party.

Yoi Invest a little money! There are People who Invest money, and every Year they take the money out and blow it.

Continually: That means there are Investments you will not touch for the next thirty (30) years.

For all of you who have Providence Funds (Pension Funds); you must keep it at least for Thirty (30) years, before you start withdrawing.

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... That is when your Harvest will come!

But you have to keep Giving and Saving, and Investing Continually. And you are crying - Sowing! Crying, Sowing; Dying, Sowing, Broke, Sowing.

Then one day, you come forth with Joy, with your Harvest - That is what the Bible teaches!

So, in a Year like this - When we say this is a Year of Fruitfulness. The Fruits you are reaping this year, would be from Seeds you sowed Ten (10) Years ago.

There is no Magic Fruitfulness happening oooo - Don't go and say 'Pastor Otabil says it's a year of FRUITFULNESS.

Getting Fruits from where? - GOD IS NOT MOCKED!

The only Fruit you reap this Year, is what you have sown in the Previous Years.

But the Good News is that: You can sow Seed for future Growth also.

There are results you are going to get this Year, based on TEARS from five (5) years ago.

You have been working and working. And then one of your Business blossoms.

And then the People say: 'All of a sudden the guy has Prospered.'

.. It's not 'all of a sudden'. Nothing happens all of a sudden.

It's almost like seeing a tree bear fruit and you say 'Oh, all of a sudden, the Mango is ripe'.

It's not all of a sudden: it was Planted some Years ago. It grew, it bore flowers but you didn't notice the flowers. When the Fruit was green you didn't notice it.

It was when it got ripen you saw it!

Because most People only recognize Harvest Time!

\*That is when they go begging for other People's Harvest: 'Can you give me some of your Harvest?'

Yeah, I can share with you my Harvest of today - Which we should all do!

But my Harvest for today (which I shared with you) becomes your Seed for tomorrow.

Because I may be in my Harvest Season, but you are in your Seed Season.

So many times when People give you their Harvest, you must Plant it for your own Harvest.

"SEEDTIME and Harvest shall not CEASE." - This is Jehovah Almighty speaking!

As Predictable as there is DAY and NIGHT; Predictably, your efforts will yield Results - Amen.

The little steps you take, Potentially, will become Great - Amen!

The little efforts you Start, but never give up on them, Potentially, will become Great - Amen.

In every areas of your life - Whether it is in your Marriage - Everyday you say 'Thank you, Thank You, please.' It will Produce Results - Amen.

But for most People, what they start mistaking the Thank You after one week; they say "if you don't mind me, I won't mind you too" - CONTINUALLY!

Some People give an Offering: one-week, two-week - It is working - Continually!

"He who goes forth weeping, Bearing Seed for Sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him".

So, what am I saying?

It is Seed Time!

... It is time to start a fresh Seed that will give you results in the next Harvest Season - By the next ten (10) years. Something that will give your children the Results. Or your grandchildren, the results.

Because there are certain things you do, you never eat the fruit of it - Only your grandchildren would eat the fruitS.

You INVEST for them, you ACT for them, you PRAYED for them. You BELIEVE for them - That is the Seed you are sowing now.

And even if you would not be there to enjoy the fruits, you must sow the Seed so that Generations after you, would eat the fruits - Amen.

It is not too late to start sowing the Seed.

Let us Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER.

Heavenly Father we Thank You, that Your Word is alive and Strong in our hearts.

Your Word is the Seed that has been Planted in our hearts.



We Pray Father that everybody hearing these Words or reading now on the Label of DMC, would have something ignited in their Spirits.

That from now, You start a Process that would lead to a Harvest.

That You would cause Lord, to sow Seeds in our Spiritual life, in our Marriages, in our Relationships, in our Finances, in every areas of our lives;

That we will not be Mockers of God and Decievers of ourselves. Lord, we will be Planters of Seed, and Harvesters of Fruits.

May our efforts today, yield the Fruit that brings Glory to Your Name.

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In Jesus'Name we Pray - 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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## 28TH FEBRUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: THE ICGC MESSAGE.



**TEXT: MARK 16:15-16 AND MATTHEW 28:19-20**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:



The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters - bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today we want to talk about: THE ICGC MESSAGE.

... And it's important - because every Church has a Message.

So what is the Message of ICGC? What do you expect to hear - What do you expect to hear when you become a Member of this Church?

Our Message is based on the Commission that Christ Jesus gave to the Church. People call it "THE GREAT COMMISSION."

But whether Great or not, it is the Assignment that Jesus Christ left for us!

And you can find them in Mark 16:15-16. And then Matthew 28:19-20.

So, Mark 16:15-16:

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and Preach the Gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

That's is the Assignment Jesus gave to His Disciples - Both the Disciples with Him at the time and subsequent those who came to follow Him later.

... And we are those who came to follow Him later.

He said "Go into the world and Preach the Gospel.

In Matthew 28:19-20, we have the same Message - but Presented a little differently.

19 Go therefore and make Disciples of all the Nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the Age." Amen.

So this is the Commission that Jesus Christ gave to His Church.

You can summarise it with two (2) Phrases:

1. PREACH THE GOSPEL - Not just 'Preach' but the Gospel.

... And I will Define the Gospel a bit later!

So, Jesus committed a certain Message to us and that Message is called the GOSPEL.

The Gospel is from the word GOOD NEWS.

So the Gospel is basically, God's Good News. Not Bad news, but Good News!

And that's the Message Jesus Christ told us to Preach.

So whatever we Preach, it must be Good because the Message of the Gospel is Good News.

... So the first is: PREACH THE GOSPEL.

## 2. DISCIPLE THE NATIONS.

"Go therefore and make Disciples of all the Nations,"

All people, all Ethnic Groups that involves Teaching and Meeting in various locations.

When we are fulfilling the Assignment of Jesus, it will include: \*Preaching the Gospel and Discipling.

Discipling requires, Teaching, Training - So that the People who have heard the Gospel, can be trained to live the life of Christ.

That is the Assignment of the Church: Preaching the Gospel and Discipling the Nations.

In Romans 1:16, Apostle Paul talks about the Gospel in this way. He says:

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the Power of God to Salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

... The Gospel is the POWER OF GOD.

WHAT DOES THE POWER OF GOD DO? - It brings SALVATION.

The word Salvation means to DELIVER.

So wherever the Gospel is Preached, there will be DELIVERANCE.

Help, Wholeness, comes to People, because of the Gospel.

So, the Commission of Jesus Christ is based on the GOSPEL.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

There are many things People call the Gospel but what is the Gospel?

We don't define the Gospel; Jesus defined what the Gospel is - And that is the Message.

And that is one of the reasons our Church is called, 'CENTRAL GOSPEL' - We focus on the Gospel of Jesus Christ Himself and the Message He said we should Preach.

We cannot just manufacture our Message. Our Message must be the Center of the Gospel - CHRIST and what He spoke about.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT THE GOSPEL IS?

Well, Jesus Christ Himself told us what that Gospel is, in Luke 4:16-19 (I will read 18-19);

This is the first (1st) Sermon Jesus Preached after His Temptation. He came from the Wilderness, and this is the first Sermon that He Preached.

And in it, He Defined what the Gospel is. And the Message of the Gospel.

Luke 4:18-19:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me

To Preach the Gospel to the Poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To Proclaim Liberty to the Captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at Liberty those who are oppressed; To Proclaim the acceptable Year of the Lord.”

That is the GOSPEL:

1. It is the Message of GOOD NEWS to People who are deprived.
2. It brings HEALING to those whose hearts are broken.
3. LIBERTY to those who are Captives and oppressed.
4. SIGHT or VISIONS to those who have no Vision;
5. And the "Acceptable Year of the Lord."

The Phrase 'Acceptable Year of the Lord' is God's Favour upon People.

That is the Gospel!

And what Jesus said in Luke 4:18-19 is referenced in Isaiah 61:1-3.

So this is the Gospel.

Anytime the Gospel is Preached:

1. The Gospel is not insulting People.
2. The Gospel is not putting fear into People.

Because you don't see that in the Proclamation of Jesus Christ!

3. The Gospel is not blaming People for your Problems!



The Gospel has been defined by Jesus Christ. And that is the Message.

Jesus Christ clarified the Gospel in John 10:10 - "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy."

So anything that is Killing, Stealing and Destroying, is not the Gospel.

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." - That is the Gospel.

Fear, threats, anything that makes you feel that something has been taken away from your life, your life is not complete - It is not the Gospel.

It may be Preached in Church, it may be Preached by a Preacher, it may be Preached but the Gospel has already been Defined - Not by us, but by the Master Himself.

He says 'I have come, not to take away from you; but that you may have life and have it More Abundantly.'

If I have to summarize the Message of the Gospel, I would summarize it as: Abundant Life For All.

That I believed, is the Message of the ICGC - 'ABUNDANT LIFE FOR ALL.'

And so when you come here, what you hear, would be: ABUNDANT LIFE FOR ALL.

People say: 'Why don't you criticize the way People dress, and talk about witches following People?'

Because I don't see that in the declaration of Jesus.

I see Him saying: When I come into your life, you are going to have Life, and you are going to have it in Abundance.

WHAT IS THIS ABUNDANT LIFE FOR ALL?

I will quickly run through seven (7) Components of it:

1. SALVATION FROM SIN.

Christ reconciles all People BACK TO GOD - He welcomes the Outcasts.

In the Message of Salvation from sin, we let People know that no matter who they are: Christ can save them and make them Brand New People.

... That's Salvation from sins.

2. FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION.

The Message of the Gospel is freedom from Oppression.

Jesus taught about setting the captives free; but Christ liberates from everytYhing that holds us down.

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So our Message is to encourage People to break out of every Spiritual or Mental shackles, that holds them down.

Whether it is inferiority, whether it is fear - Fear of Ancestors, fear of witches, fear of wizards.

The Message of the Gospel is Freedom from Oppression; not Bondage to Oppressions!

Any Message that puts you down and makes you feel bound to Forces of Darkness, is not the Gospel.

... It may be Preached in the Church, but it's not the Gospel.

### 3. VICTORY IN LIFE.

Life has got Mountains, has got Problems, has got difficulties;

But the Message of the Gospel says: We are Victorious because of Jesus - That is the Gospel.

Life does not defeat us - It doesn't mean there will be no challenges. There will be challenges, there will be hardship; but we are Overcomers!

... That's the Gospel.

### 4. The Gospel gives us SOUNDNESS OF OUR BEING.

It offers Health and a Sound Mind; Healing and a Sound Mind.

The Gospel says that we can embrace all that Christ has made available to us through His Atoning Work.

Anybody who hears the Gospel, must be made well. Wellness is part of the Gospel.

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### 5. The Gospel CONTAINS PROSPERITY for honest Labour.

Jesus said the Gospel is for the Poor. I don't know about you; if somebody tells you that you will be poor for ever, that's not Good News!

The Poor can be made Rich. The Poor can Prosper - It is Part of the Gospel: Prosperity for honest People.

\*And that's why we encourage People to discover their Strength, their Talents: and use them in life.

And we talk about things to help People to Prosper because it's the Gospel.

The Gospel does not create Poverty; it delivers from Poverty.

6. The Gospel is LEADERSHIP FOR OUR SOCIETY.

If we are going to Disciple the Nations, it means we are the Salt of the Earth and the Light is the world; we are the Examples to the world.

We encourage People to Showcase Christ wherever they find themselves.

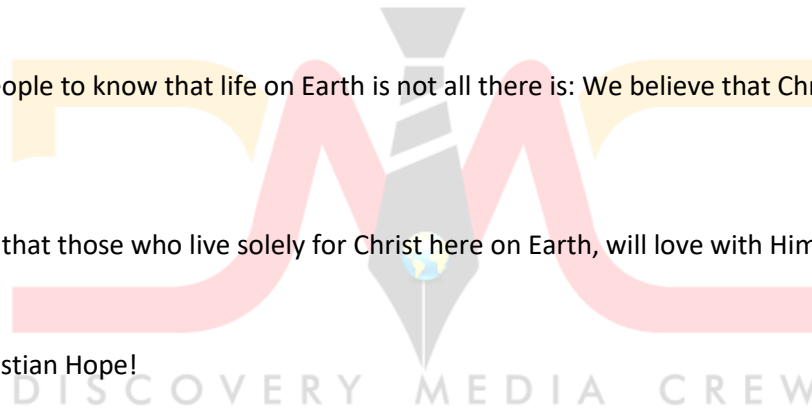
7. And Finally, the Gospel is OUR ETERNAL HOPE IN CHRIST JESUS.

... It is life everlasting in Christ.

We encourage People to know that life on Earth is not all there is: We believe that Christ will come again.

We also believed that those who live solely for Christ here on Earth, will love with Him in Eternity.

... That is the Christian Hope!



So SEVENFOLD Components of the Gospel of Christ:

- Salvation from Sin,
- Freedom from Depression,
- Victory in life,
- Soundness of being,
- Prosperity for the honest Labour,
- Leadership for our Society, and
- And Eternal Hope in Christ.

If you are connected to ICGC, you are guaranteed that the Messages you hear, will have these Seven (7) Components involved in them.

One aspect or the other, is always going to be Preached, so that we can live the Abundant Life that Jesus Christ has brought to us.

"I have come (He says) that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

And we commit as a Church, that throughout the Years; this Gospel shall be Preached by us: Without wavering, without doubts and without let down!

So help us God - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



## 7TH MARCH, 2021 - TOPIC: WAITING



**TEXT: JAMES 5:7**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

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The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

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So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Two (2) weeks ago I spoke on "SEEDTIME". And I'm continuing my Teaching along the line.

DMC NOTES: You can get to access the Full Text of the Message Titled SeedTime on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Seedtime-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

My Message today is Titled "WAITING".

So I will go back to the Verse I began with (2 weeks ago - 21st of February, 2021) - Genesis 8:22: "While the Earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and Summer, And Day and Night Shall not cease."

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We are focussing mostly on the first Pair - That is: "SEEDTIME and HARVEST".

And we described SEEDTIME as a time for Sowing Seeds.

... It's clear enough!

And every Culture has a Seedtime - A season the Seeds are sown.

And Harvest is the time to reap what you have sown.

Now, when you read the statement, it talks about Seedtime and Harvest. And you get the impression (although mistaken): That immediately you sow a Seed, you will Harvest!

But in between Seedtime and Harvest, there is another season called "WAITING TIME".

So "WAITING TIME" is the time between Seedtime and Harvest.

When you have sown your Seed, when you have done the right thing and you are expecting a Good result;there is a "Waiting Time"!

And that is what I am focussing my Teaching on today!

James 5:7 will be my Anchor Scripture.

"Therefore be Patient, Brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the Previous Fruit of the Earth, Waiting Patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain."

Now, the immediate context of this Passage is related to the Coming of the Lord! And anytime I am dealing with a Scripture, I have to be true to the Scripture.

... You can't just take a Scripture and butcher it just anyhow.

So, you have to always Understand the Context within which a Passage of Scripture is declared.

The context is: THE COMING OF THE LORD.

The Apostle James is encouraging the Christians of his time (definitely, of our time as well): To Wait for the Coming of the Lord!

Now, in telling them to Wait for the Coming of the Lord.



James used an Analogy - The Analogy of a Farmer who has Planted his Seed, and is waiting for his Harvest.

This is how James puts it - He says: "See how the farmer waits for the Previous Fruit of the Earth, waiting Patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain."

So, what James is basically saying is: Just as a Farmer waits for the Fruits, we must also wait for the Lord.

However, for my Message today, I am not focusing on the Coming of the Lord - I am focusing on the Analogy James uses: "See how the farmer waits for the Previous Fruit of the Earth, waiting Patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain."

Now, if you read James' statement, in the context of Genesis 8:22, which says: "There is Seedtime and Harvest"

James is saying: between Seedtime and Harvest, there is WAITING.

So, whenever we sow a Seed (whatever that seed is); and we expect a Harvest from God; there is a Season (though not mentioned Present!)

And that Season is THE WAITING SEASON.

Many time People sow a Seed, and instantly, expects an Harvest.

And in the Passage in James, The Apostle James used the word 'WAIT' twice - He used it twice!

SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WAIT?

He said we should wait Patiently!

The Bible says we should Wait - What does it means?

I will give you two (2) Ideas;

1. First, it means: TO REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE.

When a Person is Waiting, they remain where they are.

- It can be Physically staying where you are.

- Mentally staying where you are.

- Spiritually staying where you are

Now, staying where you are is not an excuse to be lazy or doing Nothing and just hoping that everything would be fine - No!

It is about taking a Positive Steps in a direction; and remaining committed to the direction you are moving in.

So, when we say somebody is WAITING; it means that they are doing the same thing; they are committed to the same Process.

... Wait is remaining where you are!

2. Secondly, to Wait is to Look Forward to something.

- To have a sense of Expectation.

- To be in Preparation for something to happen.

- To have Hope.

A Farmer has hope for a Harvest. And if he has no hope for a Harvest, they will give up on their Harvest.

Similarly, if we have no hope that Jesus is Coming again, we will give up on Him!

And when you sow any Seed, if you have no hope that God will give you Fruits, you will give up on the Seed.

So Waiting is to remain where you are, and to look forward to something.

Now, with that in mind: we know what Waiting is; we know where we are, and we are looking Forward to something!

With that in mind, I will read the Passage again from James 5:7.

And it says: "See how the farmer waits for the Precious fruit of the Earth, waiting Patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain"

So here, he is talking about the Farmer. And you can just put yourself in that Position that you are the Farmer.

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A Farmer is the Person who is sowing the seed.

That's the Farmer!

And there are two (2) mentions of Wait:

1. First, the Farmer is Waiting for the Precious Fruit of the Earth.

That is waiting for The Result. Or waiting for The Harvest.

After Planting the Seed, he Waits for the Fruit.

When we sow something, for example - Giving of First Fruits, Payment of Tithes, etc but they have to Wait!

WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

They are Waiting for the Harvest, they are Waiting for the Blessing, they are Waiting for God to give result to what they have done!

.... But that is not the only 'WAIT' the Farmer is waiting for!

The first Wait, he is waiting for the Precious Fruit of the Earth.

But then, there is the Second Wait:

2. He is Waiting Patiently to Receive the Early and the Latter Rain.

The Early and the Latter Rain is Process: Waiting for the Process to be completed, so that you can receive your Harvest.

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So, what we learned from the Passage is: We Wait both for the Fruit and the Process that will Produce the Fruit.

If I have sown a Seed, I expect God to give me the Harvest between the time I sow the seed and the time I receive the Harvest - I MUST WAIT!

What am I Waiting for? - I am Waiting for the Harvest!

But that is not all I am waiting for because the harvest doesn't just happen!

For the Harvest to happen, there had to be Rain. It has to be watered, it has to be developed, it has to grow.

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So I am waiting for the Harvest, but I am also waiting for the Process that will Produce the Harvest.

If you don't know how to wait for both the Harvest and the Process, you will abandon your Harvest.

So, James is saying 'the Farmer, he Waits for the Harvest. But whilst waiting for the Harvest, he is also waiting for the Rain.

It's almost like when you are going to Plant Corn. Let's say somewhere in March, you Plant Corn. The moment you Plant Corn, you start thinking of June, July, August; when you are going to reap your Harvest.

... Maybe you have even budgeted for your Harvest.

So that's your first waiting: you are waiting that what you have Planted would Produce Fruit.

But what you have Planted would not just Produce Fruit; there has to be Rain.

So you must also learn; not only to wait for the Harvest, but also for the Rain!

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The Rain is the System - The process that God puts into Motion, so that your Harvest will come.

James says that the Husbandman or the Farmer waits both for the Harvest and the Rain that Produces the Harvest.

To explain that concept further, we read from Galatians 6:9:

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due Season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

In Galatians 6:7; he had said: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap"

Now if you only look at Verse 7 (of Galatians 6), it just tells you that whatever a man sows, that he will reap!

But when you now come to Galatians 6:9, between Sowing and Reaping, there is something.

What is that? It says "Don't be weary while doing Good; for in Due Season we shall reap, if we do not lose Heart."

So, you don't just sow a Seed and reap; you reap in a Season that Galatians calls 'THE DUE SEASON.'

WHAT IS THE DUE SEASON?

The Due Season clarifies the Principle of Sowing and Reaping.

So whatever we sow, we reap in Due Season.

Have you ever seen Somebody sow something very bad; somebody does something bad and People say 'You will reap what you have sown?'

... Have you had such Experience?

Or as they say in our Part of the world: "God will Salary you (Laughter)!"

So, somebody does something, we say: You will reap!

And sometimes the Person does something bad and you expect that immediately, something bad will happen for him to see that what he sowed is what he has reaped.

But have you also noticed that, the People do something bad and judgement doesn't come instantly?

And sometime you get disappointed! You say Ha, he has sown, he must reap!

It is because in between Sowing and Reaping; there is a Waiting Period.

And what are you waiting for? - For the DUE SEASON!

In the same way, Somebody does something very Good, and expect that next week, Good Thing will happen!

And then next week, Nothing Good happens and then you wonder 'but I did Good last week.'

It is because you don't just sow and reap. When you sow, you reap in Due Season.

One of the things that bothers a lot of Christians when they Give; especially when they Give an Offering.

Because we use the language: "Sow a seed." they believed that if they GIVE this Month, they will Prosper this Month!

Or somebody say, trust the Lord and Give - The Lord will bless you abundantly. And the moment you Give, you are expecting a Harvest.

But in between the Sowing and the Season of Harvest; there is Waiting.

... And Reaping takes Place in Due Season.

WHAT IS A DUE SEASON?

I'm going to give you THREE (3) DEFINITIONS of a Due Season:

1. A Due Season first, is the Right Season.

The Opportuned Time! The season when things happen.

For Example, when I sow Corn at the begining of a Planting Season, I will Reap at the Harvest Season.

If I sow Corn in March, I'm not going to reap it in December; because that's not the Due Season. I'm going to reap it around June or July; because that is the Due Season - The Right Time!

Similarly, God also has Appointed Times and Seasons, for things to happen.

Let's say for example; a child who is Nine (9) years: and Jesus says those children have more Faith than adults.

And a child comes in and say "Oh God, our help in Ages Past. God, give me a car." And he has all the Faith.

... Will God give him a Car? - No!

Why? - Because it's not the Due Season for him to have a Car! He doesn't have the Maturity to handle a car - Although he has asked for the Right thing, God will answer that Prayer in Due Season.

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When is the Due Season? - When the Right Time comes!

When is the Right Time? - When he reaches maturity!

So, there are things you Pray for now, you would not received; because there is a Season for you to be ready for the answer.

And until you are ready for the answer; God holds on to your Harvest in Due Season.

... So the Due Season is the Right Time!



2. Secondly, the Due Season is the Fullness of Time.

Fullness of Time is a very interesting concept. Let me use the Agricultural Example:

You sow Corn (since I started with Corn, I might as well, continue with Corn). And you sow them all on the same day.

Do they all mature the same day? - No!

So, although all are sown the same day, the Fullness of Time differs!

You go to your Farm, you realised some of them are mature, then you go next week, others have mature. In fact, some mature a Month after!

But they were all Planted the same time - Because their Fullness of Time is not the same.

Let me use another analogy: PREGNANCY.

Two (2) women - married (not girl friends); become Pregnant on the same day not by the same man!

By their husbands on the same day! Are you going to say that because they became Pregnant on the same day, they will give birth on the same day? - No!

... Because the Fullness of Time is not the same.

A group of People go to School, they all graduated on the same day. Are they going to find job the same day? - No!

Why? - Because there is something called the Fullness of Time.

And the Fullness of Time for me is not the Fullness of Time for you!

The Bible says, when I sow Seed, God is going to give me my reward in Due Season. And the Due Season is my Fullness of Time.

So, I cannot say: "We started at the same time, we must end at the same time. It doesn't work that way!"

There are People you go to school with, they will have an early Fullness of Time before your own Fullness of Time.

And that is why the Bible says: 'We don't get weary whilst waiting.'

Why? - Because the Due Season is not the same for everybody.

The Due Season is the Right Time. And the Right Time is the Fullness of Time.

3. Thirdly, the Due Season is the Complete Process.

... That's a very important one!

It means that all the Processes must go through.

For Example, if I Planted a Seed, but it didn't germinate; I will not have a Harvest.

For me to have a Harvest: the Seed must go through germination, it must grow at certain rate. And go through that Process.

And it is when I have gone through all the Process, that I get my Harvest.

Paul puts it this way: "I have Planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." - 1 Corinthians 3:6

There are different Processes - He does something, something else happened and then the Harvest comes!

Many times there is a Process our Seed must go through - If I Plant a Seed, I must water it. I must remove the weeds. I must make sure that birds do not come to eat my fruit before it's time.

I must Protect my Seed. If I don't Protect it, in Due Season, I would not have completed the Process and there will be no Harvest for me.

Is it possible for a Person to do the Right Thing, and not have to Harvest? - YES!

... Because the Farmer didn't endure to go through the Complete Process.

That is why we don't get weary, we don't get tired, we don't give up! We don't surrender. We don't say, oh, I have waited and waited, this thing is not happening. I give up!

If you give up, there will be no Harvest.

So what does it mean?

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It means that between the Time you start the Process and the Time Harvest shows up; you do not lose heart while Waiting for the Due Season. - You don't lose heart!

And every Seed we Plant has a Due Season for Maturity.

It could be a Business Seed, it could be a Financial Seed, it could be even in a Relationship - Maybe a Marriage.

You are having Problem with your husband, somebody tells you: 'Go home, before your husband gets home, dress this way, put on that Perfume; the Marriage will be fine and the Problem will be solved!'

And you go home, you dress nicely, you put on your Perfume. Your husband comes, he doesn't notice it (laughter)!

... Then you say: Ha, that thing doesn't work.

But if you believed, you have hope of a Harvest; the next day you are going to do the same thing. And the next day, you are going to do the same thing!

Why? - Because the Due Season requires a Process.

So you started a Business and you believed "God will bless it, God will Prosper me."

And then you start the Business, you are struggling and struggling!

There is a DUE SEASON! - So you don't give up through your Struggles; you stay on course!

You are Giving Financially, and you trust God to bless you. You believed God will bless you next Month.

But next Month comes, there is no Breaking, and there is no Through.

What do you do? Do you give up? - No! There is a Due Season.

And what do you do? - You keep on with what you are doing, until your Due Season comes!

When we started our Church, we went through a whole Process of frustration; being kicked, being sacked from one Meeting Place to the other.

We were sacked so much, I became an Expert at looking for Meeting Places. I knew every nook and Cranny of Accra - Looking for Places!

Sometimes we Meet in a Place, the next week we are sacked.

Did God call us? - Yes! Were we in God's Will? - Yes!

What were we doing? - We were Sowing.\*

When are you going to reap? - In Due Season!

But what must you do before the Due Season? - Don't Faint!

And some of you are Fainting - You have abandoned the Process. 'The WAITING is too much!'

It's like somebody who goes to an Office to meet somebody. And he is given an Appointment at 1 O'clock. He gets there at 9 O'clock, he was given a chair to wait on.

And he starts waiting from 9 O'clock up till 12 O'clock. And finally, he says "I'm fed up! I'm leaving!"

And 5 minutes after he left, the door opens! All the three (3) hours of waiting is wasted.

Jesus gave a Banquet, the ten (10) Virgins couldn't wait (they all fell asleep). Five (5) didn't Prepare for the Bridegroom and they couldn't go with Him!

I don't know what you are going through. We are not 'Virgins'; but are we Foolish?

Are you a Foolish husband? Are you a Foolish Wife? Or a Foolish Businessman? Are you a Foolish Pastor?  
Are you a Foolish Person?

AND WHY DID HE CALL THEM FOOLISH?

Because they didn't anticipate the Wait!

They expected that when they got there, the door will open.

May I just let you know: The doors don't open; they wait and they open in Due Season.

And if you start the Process, you are going to stay through to the Due Season and the door will be Opened!

One of these days when you have no expectation, something will hit you 'BOOM!'

Then you will wonder 'WHY DID IT HAPPEN?' You have been Planning for it for the last twenty (20) Years.

And today was your Due Season!

One of these days you will be working somewhere and a door that has been locked for so many years 'BOOM!' Opens!!!

And you ask: 'What did I do? I haven't done anything.' You have been doing something for Five (5) years.

But this is the Due Season for it to Open.

There is a Waiting Time between the Seedtime and the Harvest

And we must not be weary in the Waiting Season!

... Next week I will talk about the HARVEST TIME.

SEEDTIME, WAITING TIME and HARVEST TIME - That's how it works!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

## 14TH MARCH, 2021 - TOPIC: HARVEST TIME - PART 1.

TEXT: GENESIS 8:22



Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Well, we have talked about "SEED TIME", and we have talked about "WAITING TIME".

DMC NOTES: You can get access to the Full Text of the two (2) Previous Topics on our Website:  
[www.discoverymediacrew.com](http://www.discoverymediacrew.com)

And today, I'm talking about HARVEST TIME - PART 1 because I will cover the subject of "HARVEST TIME" in two (2) Parts.

... I will start today and then I will conclude Next Week (God's Willing).

So let's get to our Foundational Text in Genesis 8:22 (NKJV). And it reads:

"While the Earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest, Cold and Heat, Winter and Summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

There is "SEEDTIME" (the Passage says) and there is "HARVEST". But, we also considered that HARVEST does not immediately follow SEEDTIME.

That after the Seedtime, there is a time (though not spoken of in the Passage): There is a "WAITING TIME" before the Harvest.

And if you miss the "WAITING TIME", the Harvest may not be alright for you!



... But today, we will focus on the HARVEST.

SO, WHAT IS A HARVEST?

What does that mean when we say it is Time for you to HARVEST?

Remember it's the Agriculturally Terms which has other Applications - Spiritual Application as well.

WHAT IS A HARVEST?

... A Harvest is:

1. The result or outcome of an Action or Effort.

And this is related to the effort of Sowing Seed and the result or outcome that comes from the action.

2. A Harvest is the Season when Ripened Crops are gathered.

This is related to Timing; there is always a Timing, regarding Harvest.

Harvest Time does not just occur at anytime; there is a time for it!

3. A Harvest is the Process of gathering Crops.

This is related to activities we undertake in a time.of Harvest.

Now, if you look at the three (3) Definitions, there are three (3) words that I want you to pay attention to:

- RESULT

- SEASON, and
- PROCESS.

So a Harvest is a RESULT, a Harvest is a SEASON and a Harvest is a PROCESS.

And for today, I will focus on RESULT and SEASON.

... And Next Week I will focus on the Harvest as PROCESS.

But today, we will look at the Harvest as a RESULT and a SEASON.

We have already considered Galatians 6:7-8, that says:

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

A Harvest can be a Prize for something Good we have done ( a Reward); or it can be a Retribution.

... It can be a Punishment for a wrong action.

So, depending on what you sowed, your Harvest may be Good or it may not be Good!

God, sometimes gives us a Harvest for things we have not done or Seeds we have not sown.

In other words, you can reap a Harvest that is not a result of your own seed;

I. It could be the result of a Previous Generation Seeds, efforts they made that benefits you!

II. It could be Prayers your Parents made, Investments your Parents made, or other People have made that Benefits you!

Sometimes you enter an "Easy Harvest Field", because those ahead of you Ploughed it for it!

And then sometimes you enter a "Hard Field", because those ahead of you, left it Fallow.

So, what People do for others or ahead of others would determine whether the Field they were Ploughing in is a Tough one or an Easy one!

So, the Field you are Sowing in today may be a Hard and a Dry Field and that will affect the Harvest that you have.

... And you will get it a bit better, as we go on!

Luke 10:2, Jesus speak to them and the Bible says: "The Harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His Harvest."

I always like to stay with a Context and explain it. Because I am going to apply this in a different way.

In this Context of this Passage, Jesus is applying the Principle of Harvest to Soul Winning.

Because the Principle of Harvest, as I have said over and over again; is an Agricultural Principle. But it applies to different aspects of our lives.

And Jesus is applying it to Winning Souls; I am applying it to getting Results in your life.

... I hope you understand that

So, the Principle is the same, Application is different!

Jesus says: "The Harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore Pray the LORD of the Harvest to send out laborers into His Harvest."

I want you to note the Phrase: "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST".

So, God is THE LORD OF THE HARVEST. He Superintense over the Process of the Harvest.

When I sow a Seed: whether it's a Financial Seed or an Action I have taken, or Investment I have made; or whatever Process I start the Seed level to Produce a Harvest;

There is One Who rules the Harvest. And that is the LORD - "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST".

... God is "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST."

Now, if God is "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST"; WHAT DOES HE DO AS "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST?"

I will give you three (3) Things that God does as "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST?"

1. He determines the size of the Harvest.

... This is so critical.

In 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, Apostle Paul speaking he says:

"I Planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

So, then neither he who Plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."

... GOD IS THE ONE WHO GIVES THE INCREASE.

The word 'INCREASE' in this Context means, the extent of Growth.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus indicated that a Harvest can be thirty (30) folds, sixty (60) folds or hundred (100) folds.

Not all Harvest are the same! - We don't get the same outcomes from the Lord.

So, we can all sow, but the Lord of the Harvest, determines the size of the Harvest.

Just like in the Parable of the Talent; the Lord determines who gets one (1) Talent, Two (2) Talents, Five (5) Talents!

God blesses each one of us; our Fields and our Harvest are not the same.

God blesses all of us; but the Size of our blessing is not all the same.

The Lord of the Harvest determines the size of the Harvest.

That is why, if you go comparing what God has blessed you with, with another Person; you vexed your Soul.

Because, although we put in all efforts, the Lord of the Harvest determines the Harvest!

Let's say my effort is 2 Kilograms of efforts. And you also put in 2 Kilograms of efforts. It doesn't mean we will all get a Harvest of 20 Kilograms.

The Lord of the Harvest may determine: I get 5 Kilograms of Harvest, and you get a 100 Kilograms of Harvest!

WHY? Because He is the LORD of the Harvest!

It is not so much of your Seed alone, but there is One Who determines the Outcome.

So He determines the Size of the Harvest!

2. He appoints the Times of the Harvest.

Jeremiah 5:23-24; But these People has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed.

... Forget about that - You haven't revolted and departed!

They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its Season. He reserves for us the Appointed Weeks of the Harvest."

....God reserves for us the Appointed Weeks of the Harvest.

In the Harvest, God appoints the Season of Harvest!

Let's say for us, the Season of Harvest (just for the Purposes of illustration) is June and August. That's the Season.

... But God appoints the Weeks.

Whether my Harvest comes First Week, Second Week, Third Week, Fourth Week, Fifth Week!

So, not only does He determines the Size of the Harvest; He determines the Weeks of the Harvest.

Some People's Harvest come earlier than other People; and the Size differs.

3. The Lord of the Harvest Prepares People for the Harvest.

He is the One Who sends People to the Harvest Field. He gets us ready to Harvest what He has Prepared for us.

When the Lord ready the Harvest for me, He will already ready me for the Harvest.

When God sends me to my Harvest - and it is mine; you cannot take it from me!

"My Harvest is my Harvest, your Harvest is your Harvest; you cannot take my Harvest."

When God Prepares and sends me to the Field; He equips me for a Particular Harvest and I receive it!

And you may find People competing with you in your Harvest Field; but Harvest Field that has been Prepared for you is yours!

They may fight you, they may resist you, they may contend with you, they may undermine you;

But the Harvest Field has been Appointed by the Weeks (by the Lord of the Harvest), to your Credit and it is yours.

And that is why you don't get scared because People are fighting over you, over something that God has given to you!

Because, God is the Lord of the Harvest: He Appoints the Size of the Harvest, the Weeks of the Harvest and the Labourers of the Harvest.

And if it is my Field, and He Appoints me the Labourer for that Field; you can go to Hell and back, you can talk to everybody you know in the Universe; and the Harvest is still mine.

WHY? Because there is the LORD OF THE HARVEST!

And He has Appointed me as a Labourer on this Harvest Field; and you can't take it from me!

When God gets a Harvest ready, He also gets a People ready for the Harvest.

In Matthew 13, Jesus indicated in a Parable - The Parable that we normally call 'The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares' - Matthew 13:24 downwards.

Jesus told a Parable, and the essence of the Parable is to indicate that a Harvest Field can be mixed.

Because a man sowed Wheat in his Field; and an enemy sowed Tares in his Field and created confusion in the Harvest Field.

In Matthew 13:30, this is what the Lord of the Harvest says:

Let both grow together until the Harvest, and at the time of Harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

This is so important (I don't want you to miss is): In your Harvest Field, the enemy can misdirect a Harvest.

You say, 'Pastor, what do you mean by that?' Sometimes as we wait for the Lord to give us what we have desired of Him:

The enemy can Present something that looks like a Miracle.

It looks like - This is what I have been Praying for. It may be a Business Opportunity, a Career Opportunity, a Relationship Opportunity.

It looks like it, but it is Tares!

And if you don't have the Patience to wait, you are going to Harvest something that is not your Harvest!

\*And each one of us have had those experiences: We thought the Lord has given us something. We took it, we even Testified about it!

And realised the thing was just misery. It wasn't from the Lord! - It wasn't Wheat, it was Tares.



So you have to be very careful; in every Harvest Field, we require Discernment.

Not everything that looks like your Miracle is a Miracle.

... It happens in every way!

You are Praying for a Business Opportunity and a door opens! And you rush into it and you realise, it didn't lead to a Good Place; it led to a Bad Place!

You Prayed 'Lord, give me a husband.' "Something" shows up (Laughter) and you grabbed it!

'Something' shows up! It looks like the answer to your Prayer, but it is not.

Because the enemy can confuse your Field of Harvest!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE ENEMY IS CONFUSING YOU?

Anything that puts a Spirit of "HASTE" in you; that doesn't allow you to Pray about and Wait - BE CAREFUL OF IT!

Because the Spirit of the Believer is not a 'Hasty Spirit.'

"He that Believes in the Lord shall not make Haste" - Isaiah 28:16

Any opportunity that opens and says: "Hey, if you don't take it right now, you will miss it forever!" - BE CAREFUL, CAREFUL, CAREFUL! It may be Tares! And you will Harvest something that will hurt you.

People have Testified of Miracles that were not Miracles; People have Testified of Breakthroughs that were not Breakthroughs; People have Testified of God's Favour, and it wasn't God's Favour - It was all Tares in their Harvest Field.

And the reason why they couldn't discern is because they had a "Hasty Spirit".

The Lord of the Harvest told the Labourers - Wait! Because the true nature would show very soon.

... Wait! Because the true nature would show very soon.

Then you can separate the tares from your true Harvest.

When God blesses you with something, He doesn't give you Hastiness about it.

It doesn't mean: Be slow or don't be quick; but anything that makes you feel like you have to do some Extra Quick to get something; otherwise it would not be there!

Be careful about it! It will Pierce you with sorrows and hurt you so bad because it looks like wheat, it is Tares.

It takes Patience, Discernment and Waiting on the Lord to see the Right Harvest.

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STAGES OF A HARVEST.

A Harvest goes through severally Stages - four (4) of them:

So let's say, you are a Christian, you have been Sowing Seed, you have been Giving, you are Tithing Faithfully, you are Giving your Offering, you are Praying, you are Fasting.

Those are all Seeds you are Sowing.

You are Sowing Seeds of Prayer, Seeds of Fasting, Financial Seeds. You are Serving in the House of the Lord. You are being kind to People!

Those are all Seeds! All of these Good Things you are doing. And then you are Waiting because God says He will Reward you. And, He starts Rewarding you.

There are four (4) Stages of the Reward that we are going to discuss today.

And it's based on a Parable Jesus told. And the conclusion of the Parable is in Mark 4:28-29.

You have worked hard, you are intelligent and what you have worked for is beginning to show results.

Previously, He talked about a man who had sown in his Field. And this one is talking about how the Harvest starts.

Mark 4:28-29; "For the Earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the Harvest has come."

So here is a Person who has sown in his Field; there is a blade, there is the head, there is the full grain in the head and there is the ripened grain.

But I want you to note at what Point He says: 'The Harvest has come!'

... He doesn't say it at the beginning; He says it at the end!

So let's Walk through the four (4) Stages:

1. First (1st) is the Blade.

The Blade is a Sign of Possibility.

What does the Bus mean by the Blade?

... Definitely, it doesn't mean the Blade that we cut with.

The Blade is the blade of Grass. Anyone who has sown corn can easily Understand this!

As a kid, and as most children of my age at that time, I had a Corn Farm.' You sow the corn of two (2) grains into the ground.

And normally, after three (3) days, the Blade shows up. The Blade - That's the first indication that your Seed is working. Your effort is Producing Result.

But it's a Blade. It's not a Harvest.

And when you see the Blade, it just tells you - 'Your effort is working.' And there is a Possibility, it will be Successful.

You Rejoice to see the Blade, but you don't Harvest the Blade.

Neither do you go round, bragging to everyone about the great things God is doing in your life if all you are seeing is a Blade.

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Because there are People who share 'Premature Testimonies.'

They only saw a Blade and rejoiced: Oh, God has done it.

It's a Blade!

And if you don't manage that Process well, you can introduce enemies to consume your Blade.

Rejoice in your heart! But Wait because God is not finished with you yet.

The Blade is simply an indication that what God gives you is going to work!

... Just to illustrate it a little further:

It's like in a Marriage Relationship. It's like when a Gentleman tells a Lady: "You are the most beautiful woman I have ever met." You are the sugar in my tea! You are the butter for my bread.

Or Vice Versa - tohe Lady tells the man (though it doesn't happen often)!

But Ladies, Gentlemen; when somebody tells you that, it's a Blade; it's not a Marriage!

The Harvest has not come! Don't go Singing: "THE THING I DIDN'T EXPECT HAS HAPPENED." - NO! Don't go telling everybody 'Oh, God has done it!'

... He will do it! But it is a Blade.

Don't Testify Prematurely when God has not completed The Process.

So that's the first level - The Blade.

You go out there, you put your Contract out. Somebody gives you a Promise; and say: "Oh, young man I'm going to help you. Young Lady, this Contract will go through." It's a Blade!

2. Second (2nd) Stage: "THE HEAD".

The Head represents Structure without Substance.

It's better than the Blade - It has Structure.

If you have grown corn before, you can understand this - It's when the cornhead had grown on the side of the Plant.

It has Nice Golden hair coming out of it - Like a blonde Person! It looks beautiful. Sometimes it looks bulky.

But, if you Harvest and open, it will be empty. There will be not even one grain on it. It's just a head with hair and Nothing else.

So Jesus is saying: there is a Blade. Then you begin to see the thing growing and taking structure.

In a Marriage Relationship, it can be likened to the man saying: "I Love you!"

Now, he is not saying, you are sugar in Cocoa or Tea. But he says: 'Oh, I love you with all my heart.

... It's Good to hear that! But it's not a Harvest.

And all of you who rush ahead to declare a Harvest; you know that sometimes you can be solely disappointed.

Because you may find that, that statement doesn't have more deeper meaning to the Person as it is to you.

3. Third (3) Stage: "THE FULL GRAIN in the Head".

This is when the Blade had now become a Stock: it has Produced the Head. Now the Head has Substance - There is corn on it. It's not just a Promise, it's not just a Structure. It is Substance.

In a Marriage Relationship, it can be likened to an Engagement. It is very close, but it is not a Harvest.

4. And then the Fourth (4th) Stage: "The RIPEN GRAIN".

That is the Harvest that is ready! It is Growth that is Full, the Season is right.

But when the Grain ripens, immediately, it's put in the sickle because the Harvest has come!

The "Blade" was not a Harvest; the "Head" was not a Harvest; the "Full Grain" of Corn on the Head was not a Harvest - They were all Processes leading to the Harvest.

It is only when the corn has ripened on the Head that Jesus says, He puts in the sickle.

WHY? - Because the Harvest has come.

When God starts to Bless you, we must allow the Blessing to Mature.

You don't Harvest the Blade, You don't Harvest the Head, You don't even Harvest the Head with Corn on it - You Harvest at the right time, when the Process has completed.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

I have tried to apply it to Marriage. But it applies to every other areas of our lives.

1. If you are a Pastor, you go through that: The Blade, the Head, the Grain and the Ripe Harvest.
2. If you are a Businessman - You go through that. You start Well, you make an Investment, you start working so hard and you see things beginning to Flourish.

It's not your Harvest - You have to Protect the Blade. You have to keep the wild birds away from the Blade.

And you work Hard; that is not the time to start living Good. When you get the Head, that is not the time to go flex! When you see Substance, that is not the time to flex.

There will come a time to flex! There will come a time for you to shout. But you don't shout ahead of Time!

Because one of the things People do when God starts blessing them; they attract enemies they can't fight.

And sometimes you Testify to People who would destroy you! You open your secret to People who have no interest in your Harvest.

... Because you have no idea who wants to steal your Harvest.

You Testify ahead of Time, they will steal the Field from you.

So you Wait till the Harvest is ready, and God says 'Now, take it!' - And at that time, no one can Stop you.

The Field is Ready, He has sent Labourers to the Field. You can't stop that!

... But before that, you can be Stopped.

So, where are you in your Harvest Season?

- Are you at your Blade Level?

- Are you at the Head Level?

- Are you at the Full Grain Level?

- Are you at the Full Mature Stage Level?

Next Week, I'm going to talk about: "HOW TO HARVEST WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO YOU."

Let us Pray!



## CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Thank You that You are the Lord of the Harvest.

For every areas of our life, there is a Process and You watch over the Harvest.

You determine the Size of our Harvest; You determine the Size of our Blessing.

You determine Lord, the Weeks of our Harvest.

You also determine the Stages - You give us Wisdom, not to Harvest Tares with Wheat.

May you grant Oh God, every child of Yours, that has served You Faithfully, whose heart is right towards You; never to miss the Harvest Time; never to Harvest Tares instead of Wheat; never to Harvest a Blade, instead of the Ripe Grain.

And grant us Oh God, a Patient Spirit; not

A "Hasty Heart"; that we can Wait until the Harvest has fully come.

So that we can put in the sickle to reap that which You have Prepared for us.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen!

God Bless you!

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!

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## 21ST MARCH, 2021 - TOPIC: HARVEST TIME - PART 2.



**TEXT: JOHN 4:35**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today is exactly one (1) Year of going Virtual due to the LOCKDOWN.

So, in a Season when it seems like everything is dark, God still does Wonders!

That simply tells you, that God's Harvest Time can sometimes come in an unexpected way - When something seems to be disrupting you, it may be the Harvest Time for you!

Because God is able to use situations that were designed for our disadvantage to work to our Advantage.

So today, I'm doing HARVEST TIME - PART 2.

We have been talking about SEEDTIME, WAITING, HARVEST - PART 1. And this is the second Part of HARVEST TIME.

DMC NOTES: You can get access to the Full Text of the three (3) Previous Topics on our Website: [www.discoverymediacrew.com](http://www.discoverymediacrew.com) and the following Links:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Seedtime-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

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<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Waiting-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Harvest-Time-Part-1-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

John 4:35 (NKJV):

Do you not say, 'There are still four Months and then comes the Harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for Harvest

Jesus is speaking to His Disciples about Harvest. And in this situation, He is talking about: "THE HARVEST OF SOULS."

And Jesus says: You think it is about four (4) Months more, for the Harvest!

And when he says: "Four (4) Months more, for the Harvest;" He meant the normal Harvest Season - The Agricultural Harvest Season.

But then He says, "LOOK, because the Harvest has come!"

So Jesus is Contrasting the Normal Season of Harvest with this New Season of Harvest.

We learn from this Passage that:

1. WE MUST RECOGNISE OUR HARVEST SEASON.

There is a time for Sowing, there is a time for Watering, there is a time for Waiting. And then there is a time for Harvest.

... And we must recognise when that Season comes!

And then we learn from this Passage that:

## 2. WE MUST NOT PROCRASTINATE, IN THE SEASON OF HARVEST.

It's not in the next four (4) Months. It's not in the next four (4) Years.

When God opens a door or Harvest, we must SEIZE the moment.

I don't know about you, but when I was Young, I used to say (and I think must of you used to say it too);  
"When I grow up I will be So and So;"

"When I grow up, I will be a Farmer, when I grow up, I will be a Doctor. Or when I grow up, I will be a Policeman!"

Now, it's Good for you to say that, when you are twelve (12) years old!

But when you are Forty (40) years old, and you still say: "When I grow up, I will be a Farmer, when I grow up, I will be a Doctor. Or when I grow up, I will be a Policeman" you definitely have missed your Harvest.

Because there is a time to expect something to happens; and there is a time for you to live in those things happening.

So when it is Harvest Time, we don't Procrastinate!

We don't say things like: "When God gives me opportunity, if God opens the door." - He has opened the door. You have to go in and Harvest!

Harvest Time sometimes will appear at the time you don't expect: You have to lift up your eyes and see that the Harvest is ready.

Luke 10:2-3, Jesus speaking, He said to them: "The Harvest truly is great, but the Labourers are few; therefore Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out Labourers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as Lambs among wolves."

Jesus used the Analogy of Harvesting to teach about Soul Winning in the Kingdom of God.

He used the Natural Process to teach a Spiritual Truth.

But what Jesus taught about Harvesting is not limited only to Preaching to win souls; it also has application to how we reap the Seed we have sown into our barns.

And in this Passage, Jesus showed His Disciples how to reap a Harvest; and He taught something very interesting. He stated: The Harvest is Great.

When there is a Harvest Time, God opens great opportunities for us.

That Phrase: "THE HARVEST IS GREAT" - means the Harvest is READY. It is available, it is open. It offers you Opportunities.

"THE HARVEST IS GREAT" also means - the Harvest is RIPE. It is ripe, it is mature: it has gone through all the circles of Maturation.

... It is in its FULLNESS.

And "THE HARVEST IS GREAT" means the Harvest is rich. It's in Abundance; huge Rewards.

When God brings us to a Harvest, He brings us to a Harvest that is ready, that is ripe, that is rich.

But like I said: It may not have come at a time when you were hoping it would come.



Because sometimes you Pray and Pray for something to happen; and then when it happens; you find, you are not ready!

Because that is exactly what Jesus is talking about: ""THE HARVEST IS GREAT."

And then He talks about Challenge: "The Labourers are few."

... Great opportunity, but Challenge!

God opens the door, but we don't have what it takes - "The Labourers are few!"

Isn't it interesting that in the midst of GREAT, we are dealing with few? - Great opportunity, few Labourers.

It's like being in a room with a high Shelf that you cannot reach. You can see it, but you can't get to it.

"The Harvest is Great, but the Labourers are few.

And then He talks about CHALLENGE: "the Labourers are FEW."

...GREAT opportunity, but CHALLENGE.

God opens the door, but we don't have what it takes - "the Labourers are few!"

Isn't it interesting that in the midst of GREAT, we are dealing with FEW? GREAT opportunity, few LABOURERS.

It's like being in a room full of Gold sitting on a high Shelf that you cannot reach - you can SEE it, but you can't get to it.

"The Harvest is GREAT, but the LABOURERS are few."

What does that mean "The LABOURERS are FEW?" It means:

1. YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

A Harvest will put Pressure on you and your Staff - More People are required at Harvest than at Sowing.

Why is that so? - Only one (1) Person can sow a Field; but that one (1) Person cannot reap the Harvest of the Field.

So, if you have, let say five (5) Acre land, and you are Sowing corn on it. One (1) Person can sow on all the Field.

He can go out there and Plant because all he needs to do is make a joke and drops couple of Seeds in there - And that's it!

But when Harvest comes, the three (3) Seeds of corn has now become a thousand on each Stock.

And so, what is required to Harvest, is greater than what is required to Sow.

And that is why Jesus says: "The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Labourers are few."

It means that many times in life, you may be the one that Planted the Seed (God used you alone); but when your Harvest comes; you are not going to do it alone.

The danger with a lot of People is, they say: "Well, I was here, I Planted the Seed. I was here from the beginning."

And when it is Harvest Time, they want to do it all by themselves! They don't want to bring in other hands; they don't want to bring in other People!

Your Harvest Time will require that you reach out to other People to come and help you to Harvest.

... The Harvest is GREAT, but the LABOURERS are few!

Don't be Narrow-minded at Harvest Time! You need to be Broad-minded.

2. Secondly, it means: YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT EXPERIENCE.

A Harvest will put Pressure on what you know; when the Harvest requires Sophistication.

Let's say, when you start on your own; you know, you do very well. You sow Seeds, God brings increase.

And then your Harvest Time brings you into a totally new world. Where things like the way you communicate becomes important. Even your dinner table manners is important.

At the time when you were Sowing, that was not important. But when greatness comes, you are exposed to a New world, and you need better Experience.

So "the Harvest is great, the Labourers are few": you need more People, you need to grow your experience.

3. And thirdly, YOU NEED TO GROW YOUR TOOLS.

You don't have the needed Tools - A Harvest will put Pressure on your Resources.

The tools required to Harvest corn is not the same thing needed to Harvest coconut. When the Harvest requires different tools, you go for different tools.

When the Harvest requires bigger Vessels, you must go for bigger Vessels.

One of the things we learned last Year, when there was a shutdown was: "How do you do Church when there is nobody Present?"

All my life I have Preached before a congregation - That's what I have done!

I have done that for about Forty (40) years.

As a matter of fact I will say that, in the most Part of my life; I have always Preached before a large congregation - Worldwide, everywhere, thousands of People gather to hear me.

... That's my experience! Those were the Tools I had.

And I'm used to Preaching and watching People because every Preacher, when there is a communication between you and the People; you can tell when they understand you and when they don't understand you. And so you can simplify something you are saying.

So People will get you better because it tells from People's eyes.

... Those are skills I have used for decades.

And then all of a sudden, I have to Preach to a larger Audience (by the way)!

Larger than the ones I have Physically. Larger but I can't see their faces.

And I have to determine whether they are listening or not; whether they are understanding or not; whether I am making sense or not and be able to reach out to them effectively.

That is a harvest! But, the Labourers are few.

The skill is not the same: what I used to do differently has changed.

And a lot of Pastors were very, very destabilised by that.

I felt, whether you are ready or not, the Harvest has come!

And I had to learn to Preach to the Camera. And do it in such a way that People can get what I'm saying when I have never done that before!

You can complain about the Harvest; you can complain about the difficulty but every Harvest Time has a Timeframe.

And when the time Passes, you can't Harvest again.

And many of us here, God has opened big doors for us, but we don't know how to work with People - Everybody you work with, you sack, you fire.

God has given you a big Harvest, but you can't work with People, you can't work with Labourers - And everybody you work with, you mistreat.

If you are going to enter your Harvest, you have to learn to work with People, live with People, treat them well, Pay them well, make them a Part of your Team.

You have have to learn New Tools, New Technology; you have to acquire New Experiences.

Why? - Because the Harvest of Great. God has opened big doors, you can't go in with a small mind - You can't!

If the door is large, your brain, your thinking, your capacity must also be large.

You cannot act in your Harvest Season as you were in your Sowing Season.

But Jesus then introduces another Problem in the Harvest Season. He says: "I send you as Lambs among wolves."

Sometimes when Jesus speaks, you wonder - Why did Jesus say that?

Because the normal thing is, you don't send Lambs among wolves. It's almost like a death sentence.

Jesus says, it's your Harvest Time - The Harvest is great, the Labourers are few. But to complicate it further, "you are Lambs going to wolves".

What does that mean? - It means your Harvest Season will expose you to Enemies.

Your Harvest Season will expose you to Hostility, to Competition, to Enemies. Because if you know anything about wolves and Lambs, one eats the other!

And Jesus says: You are the Lamb, and you are going to be endangered in your Harvest Time.

Because when your Harvest Time comes, and you start harvesting big things - That's when big wolves also appear.

When you are doing small things, the wolves have no interest in you. But when you tried doing something big, enemies you haven't seen for years would pop up!

You are going to deal with enemies you never imagined; you are going to deal (depending on your Harvest) with enemies of High Places - Global Level Enemies; Governmental Enemies.

I'm not talking about that little witch - that's an easy one.

I'm talking about Conspiracies at High Levels.

When your Harvest is so great, the People feel threatened and are going to do everything to knock you off.

That's what Jesus says: "If you want a Harvest, get ready for wolves."

That's why a lot of People leave their Harvest untouched. God opens the door for them, and they say woow: Too many enemies.

As for me, I don't want too many enemies oooo. I don't want People to hate me.

... Then you will be a Permanent Sower, who never reaps.

Permanently sowing, but never reap because anytime it's a Harvest Time, wolves are going to show up.

People are going to try to sabotage you.

And let me talk to most of you who are Business People, and doing Business at the High Level:

Sabotage is normal; don't come and say: 'People are sabotaging me.'

Go and read what your Master said! - I didn't write the Bible. This is Gentle Jesus Meek and Mild.

Jesus Christ the Son of God says in your Harvest Time, I'm going to release you as Lambs (not as wolves) - to wolves.

How can a Lamb survive against a Wolf? - Very few!

Wolves hunt in the Night; Lambs eat in the Light.

In other words, the Weapon of the wolves is Darkness. The Defense of the Lambs is the Light.

So, when you are a Christian, and you are out there competing with wolves; shun the works of darkness and stay in the Light.

And when you stay in the Light, you will be Protected. No matter how voracious the wolf is; the Light of the Power of God and His Words will deliver you.

Wolves are Territorial - They mark their territory: They eat in territories, they attack in territories.

Lambs, they don't have territories - The territory of the Lamb is the territory of the Shepherd.

Wherever the Shepherd take the Lamb, that is where they are going to feed.

So, whilst your enemy is territorial and trying to fight you over this and that; just watch your Shepherd because He is going to move you from territory to territory; from Place to Place!

In your Harvest Time, People may try to stop you, but the Lord is Good to lead you from Victory unto Victory; from Territory unto Territory and give you Strength.

That's why He says: "I sent you as Lambs among wolves." It's not a disadvantage. It's a totally New Way of operating.

Because sometimes People may be fighting with you over one Territory; but all that you should do is just watch your Shepherd.

He navigates you to another Green Pastures that the wolves have never seen before.

And whilst they are fighting over that, and destroying one another, you are here in your Open Fields enjoying the abundance of your Lord.

In your Harvest Time, you keep your eyes on your Shepherd. He is leading you as your Shepherd; and you keep your eyes on Him.

For some of you, you are fighting a Territorial Battle. But if you would paused for a minute and pay Attention; you will just see God is Pointing you to another field.



Sometimes, if you are not careful, you will be stuck fighting battles with People who are going nowhere!

... But the Shepherd will take you somewhere.

In your Harvest Time, the Harvest will be great. The Labourers will be few. You need to bring in Labourers: you need to work with People, you need to bring in People, you need to coordinate well.

You need to expand your experience, you need to seize the moment and you need to trust the Shepherd to lead you in the Light; into New Territories.

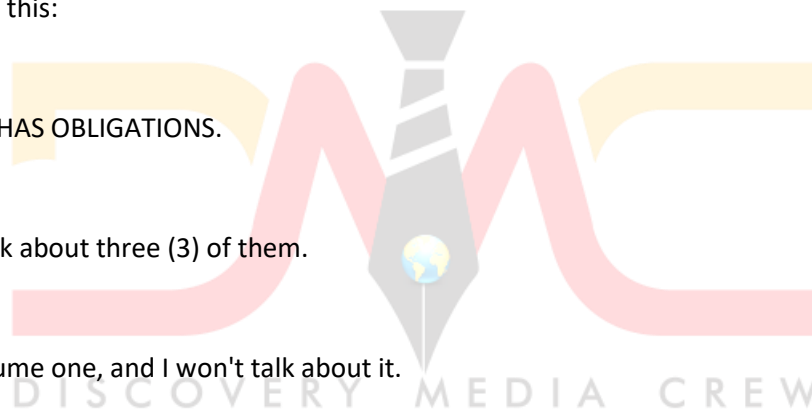
The wolves would be there, but they cannot stop you!

Let me close with this:

"YOUR HARVEST HAS OBLIGATIONS.

... I'm going to talk about three (3) of them.

I am going to assume one, and I won't talk about it.



But I'm going to talk about three (3) things that are important obligations during your Harvest Time.

What I assume (which I won't talk much about) is that: "Every Harvest Time will Favour you."

It will benefit you!

When you harvest during your Harvest Time, it benefits you.

So, you sow a Seed, God blesses you, it's going to impact you. You are going to eat of the fruit of your Labour - That's normal.

But, Three (3) Obligations I want to bring your attention to:

1. In your Harvest Time, First, you have to learn to give to the Lord.

Many times, during Harvest Time People are so overwhelmed by what they are grabbing, that they forget God.

Leviticus 23:9-10; And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the Land which I give to you, and reap its Harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your Harvest to the Priest.

God is saying, when He has blessed you with a Harvest, remember to honour Him with what He has blessed you with.

Don't be so overwhelmed with what God is giving to you in a Harvest Season that all you do is to expend it on yourself.

2. Second, in your Harvest Season you Give to the Poor.

Leviticus 23:22; When you reap the Harvest of your Land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the Poor and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God."

What God told Israel to do is: During Harvest Time (when they went to Harvest their Field), the corners of their Field; you don't reap them.

You reap Part of the middle and you leave the corners because that is what the Poor (who have nothing) would come and benefit and take something.

That is what Ruth was doing in the Farm of Boaz and ended up with other Fringe Benefits.

But there has to be gleanings.

And the Principle is simple: That whatever God blesses you with, the Poor (People who don't have) must benefit from it.

So, as you honour God for what He has blessed you with; remember also the Poor - People who don't have, People who are disadvantaged, and help them.

And I will say: Help the Poor in such a way that you wouldn't need to help them again the Next Year.

In other words, help them in a way that gives them Independence.

Not dependence on you everyday coming to you for money. But help them in such a way that they can now build their own lives, generate their own income and don't need gleanings again from you the next time.

Because if all that happens is: 'Every Year the Poor comes to you'; you are not helping them how to sow and reap themselves - They have to learn how to sow and reap!

3. So, give to the Lord, give to the Poor. And the next one is very important: You start Sowing all over Again.

Whatever you gave to the Harvest, you have to go back and start the Process. Reinvesting - Starting the Process all over again because it's a circle.

"As long as the Earth remain, Seedtime and Harvest shall not cease."

So, you don't reap and Stop; You reap and Sow for the next Season because the Circle must continue.

Every Harvest Season gives us Seed to start all over again.

Alright! Before I close today, I just want to encourage everybody who believes that they have entered their Harvest Season.

Maybe you feel that there are too many wolves in this Harvest Season and so you are afraid.

Some of you have abandoned the Harvest God gave you and some of you, you see the opportunities are great, but you don't even have the Staff, you don't have the Technology, you don't have the ability, you don't have what it takes to take hold of your Harvest.

I just want to stand in agreement with you in Prayer. If you are in that situation, you say:

I have come to my Harvest, but there are too many wolves.

I have come to my Harvest, but I don't even have the Personnel.

I don't even have the Technology.

The opportunity is there, but I don't have what it takes (the Resources) to take hold of this Harvest.

I believe the Lord of the Harvest is also able to appoint Labourers for you!

And so I just want to stand in Prayer with you and stand in agreement with you.

For everybody who believes they have come to their Harvest Field and they feel like there are too many wolves, or they don't have what it takes:

Just stand with me wherever you are reading this Message on the Label of DMC, as we Pray.

I don't know what door God has opened for you. But I stand today by the Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, who said there will be wolves, and I Pray with you.

So just put your hands on your heart as we Pray in Agreement:

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, for every child of Yours who has entered their Harvest Field but who is faced with wolves; be their Shepherd, be their Protector, be their Deliverer, be their Helper, in the Name of Jesus.

I Pray Father, that Your Children will not be eaten by wolves.

Though the Enemies may be voracious; You the Lord You are Mighty in War!

So Father, Arise on behalf of Your Children, and Push away every wolf from their Harvest Field.

And Father, teach them to trust You and to stay in the Light and Walk in the Light.

And Father, show them the vast opportunities that You are giving to them. Not to be discouraged by the Battles they are fighting.

I Pray for you in the Name of Jesus that the Lord of Host will fight your Battles for you and give you the Victory and cause His honour to be Established in your life!

May the Lord give you Wisdom in your Harvest Season, to bring in the Labourers that God is sending your way.

To learn the New Experiences, to bring in the People, the New Technology.

And may the Lord introduce you to People, to Connections, to People in High Places, that will link you to Resources so that your Harvest will be fully taken.

May the Lord honour His Name in your life; and in this Your Season of Harvest may you Experience Supernatural Help, beyond anything you have imagined.

In Jesus'Name - Amen and Amen!

If you believe that, say Amen - AMEN!

God Bless you!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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28TH MARCH, 2021 - TOPIC: THE KING IS COMING



**TEXT: MATTHEW 21:4-14.**

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Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Matthew 21:4-14; it is the Story of the first (1st) Palm Sunday.

And the earlier Verses talk about People crying Hosanna to the Lord Jesus Christ.

And from Verse 4 it says:

4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet, saying:

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you,  
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

6 So the Disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

7 They brought the Donkey and the Colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Hosanna in the highest!"

10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

This is how Matthew records the events of the Triumphant Entry of Jesus Christ to us.

\*And I just want to Highlight Four (4) Main thoughts from these Verses, about the King who is coming to us:

"THE KING IS COMING - and His Name is Jesus.

1. The first (1st) thing we noticed about this King Who is coming, is that: HE IS COMING TO WHERE WE ARE.

The Prophet Zachariah had Prophesied that your King is coming to you.

The King does not wait for to come to Him, He comes to us!

Jesus was fully aware of what was needed. And what was needed was for the Salvation of Souls.

And He came to those who needed the Salvation: He didn't wait for those who needed Salvation to go to Him.

... He came to those who were in need of Salvation.

So the first (1st) thing that we note about Jesus Christ, is that He is the King Who comes to us!

Normally, it is the Subjects who go to the King! They go to Pay homage.

I have never heard of any of the Major Kings in our Part of the world, who go to their People - It is the People who go to the King to Pay homage, to bow down and to serve the King!

But Jesus does the opposite - He is the King Who comes to us.

And that shows His Humility; that shows His Lowliness.

He comes in humility and He comes to serve: He is the Serving King!

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2. The Second (2nd) thing that I want you to note about Jesus, is that: HE COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

"Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord."

When you come in the Name of the Lord, you don't come arrogant.

When you are doing something in the Name of the Lord, you do it with Humility.

You cannot come in the Name of the Lord and be Pompous.

In the days of Jesus, Kings did not ride Donkeys; they rode Horses.

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But this was a King Who rode Donkey - To say that, although He was coming in the Name of the Lord, He was coming with Humility.

And the reason was because His Kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom was of God.

"Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord."

And for us, it also means that anytime we do something in the Name of the Lord, there is Blessing attached to it when we come in the Name of the Lord!

... He is a King Who Comes to us; He is a King Who comes in the Name of the Lord.

3. HE IS THE KING COMING TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

He comes to us, He comes in the Name of the Lord, and He comes to His House!

When Jesus arrived Jerusalem, there were many Places He could have gone to.

But first (1st), He came into the Temple of the Lord.

Jesus called that Temple, 'My Father's House, the House of the Lord, the House of Prayer.'

And it is very interesting that Jesus called the Temple: the House of Prayer, also, My Father's House.

Because many times, People don't see the Temple as the House of the Lord. They see the Building! But Jesus saw the Building as the House of God.

So, when we talk about God's House, first of all: it is a Building, dedicated for the worship of God.

I. So this BUILDING is the House of God.

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Why? - Because it is dedicated to Him!

A Night Club is Dedicated to clubbing!

A Hospital is dedicated to the sick!

A School is dedicated to educating People!

Parliament House is dedicated to Political Activity.

The Church is also Dedicated but it is dedicated to God.

Every Building has a Purpose: and the Purpose of a Church Building is God.

So the Church is the House of God! But the House of God is not just a Building.

II. The House of God is also a People.

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Jesus said: "Where two (2) or three (3) of you are gathered together in my Name, I Am there."

So, the House of God is a Building because it is dedicated to God. But it is not just a Building, it is a People who belongs to God.

The People who have Jesus Christ in their heart, they are the People who are dedicated to God.

III. And then thirdly, the House of the Lord is a Person who is dedicated to the Lord.

So, it is a Building, it is a People and it is a Person.

The Bible says that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

So, I AM the House of the Lord. We are the House of the Lord. This is the House of the Lord.

But it starts from the Person, to the Group and to the Place where they meet to honour and worship the Lord: and Jesus comes to that house!

And when He went to that House in Jerusalem, He Cleansed the house!

And that tells you that anytime Jesus comes to the House of God; or comes Home; He comes to clean the house.

... And He doesn't want to clean the house to spoil the house.

Because many times, when People read about Jesus Christ going to the Temple, they only see the overturning of things in the Temple; but they don't see that he was making the Temple a better Place; He was making the Temple serve its Purpose.

Jesus said: "My House is the House of Prayer;" but you have changed the Purpose. So He comes to renew the Purpose of His House.

I. When He comes to that House, He comes to Renew us, so we can serve Him better.

II. When He comes into our hearts, He comes to renew us, so we can serve Him better.

III. When He comes to us as a Group, He comes to renew us so we can serve Him better!

He is the King Who comes to us; He is the King Who comes in the Name of the Lord; He is the King Who comes to the House of the Lord.

4. And finally, He is the King who is coming to heal and restore us.

After Jesus had gone to the Temple and clean it up, the Bible says:

"Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the Temple, and He healed them" - Matthew 21:14.

So look at Him (Jesus), He is coming.

The Bible says: "Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord."

... He is the King Who is coming!

How does he come? - He comes in the Name of the Lord!

Where does He come? - He comes to the Temple.

TO DO WHAT?

I. To Heal those who are in the Temple;

II. To Restore those who are in the Temple;

III. To Impact the lives of those who are in the Temple;

And this morning or as we read now on the Label of DMC; we are the People that He has come to heal.

Blessed is He Who has come to the Temple - His Name is JESUS!

What has He come to do? - He has come to Prepare us!

... So He can do what? - So that He can Heal us and Restore us and Touch our lives.

"Blessed is the King Who comes to us this morning!"

Jesus has come to Church today! He is in the House today; and He is in the House, for the Purpose of Preparing us.

I. And if there is anything He needs to throw away, He will throw away!

II. If there is anything to be Cleansed, He will cleanse!

III. If there is anything to get rid of, He will get rid of it!

IV. And after that, we would see His Power, His Hand stretched out to Heal us.

... So we don't we Pray for a Month and say:

LORD Jesus, come in and take away everything in my life that does not Glorify You.

Clean Your House, Wash Your House. Overturn everything in my life that is contrary to Your Purposes.

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Why don't you invite the King into His House?

Why don't you invite the King into your life, into your body, into the Temple?

Come Lord Jesus! Come O King Jesus! Come and Heal, come and Restore, come and Set Free.

We Thank You LORD, and we give You Praise!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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4TH APRIL, 2021 - TOPIC: JESUS IS NOT IN THE TOMB.



**TEXT: JOHN 20:1-8**

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Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I want us on this Resurrection Morning, to acknowledge that Christ is indeed risen from dead. And this morning, it's a Great Joy to remember the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and to join Christians of all Persuasions, who today remembered that Jesus Christ is risen from the grave.

And we Thank God for the Power of His Resurrection, which is still available to us in our time and in our day.

This morning, as we remember the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, I want to just share a few words with you, as we honour the day.

My Message today is Titled: "JESUS IS NOT IN THE TOMB."

It's a very obvious statement, for the Season because it announces the reality of this morning.

And it focuses on what happened in the tomb of Jesus, on the day of Resurrection.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the center of our Christian Faith. It is the Basis for our Beliefs, and our Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

No other Beliefs System (in our world) is based on the Resurrection as Christianity is.

And the Resurrection in Christianity is a Historical Reality - In other words, it happened actually!

It is not something we say metaphorically or Allegorically or Analogically but it is something that we declare Historically and in reality: That Jesus Physically, rose again from the Dead.

... He died, He was buried, and He Rose again.

My Text is going to be from the Record of St John Gospel 20:1-8.

As you know, there are four (4) Gospels in the New Testament; each one telling the Story of Jesus, and giving us details that help us to get the complete Picture of what happened.

Of the four (4) writers, John was the only one who was Present at the Tomb of Jesus.

Matthew was not Present - He saw the Resurrected Christ later; and Mark was not Present; Luke was not Present.

But John was directly Present at the Tomb!

And that is why his record is very important for our consideration this morning.

... So, this is an account of John, which involves himself!

John's Gospel 20:1-8 (NKJV):

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,

7 And the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a Place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

Now John in this Passage - Especially in the Book of John; described himself as: 'The other Disciple, whom Jesus loved.'

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He doesn't mention his name directly; but he is Present in the narrative.

In this writing, the word "SAW" is used Four (4) times; and it is going to form the basis of my Message today.

Mary saw something, Peter saw something, John saw something - And each one of them drew a different conclusion from what they saw.

And we are going to look through how this works.

1. The first is what Mary saw: MARY SAW THE STONE ROLLED AWAY.

The Passage says that she rose up on the first day of the week, before it was light. When it was still dark.

So this would be late dawn; Probably around 5 O'clock or thereabout; depending on the time frame of the Middle East.

... But it was not night!

And Mary went out to the Place where Jesus had been buried. And the Passage says that she saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Now, if you would note the word "SAW" is used there!

And because we read the Bible normally in English, sometimes we don't get the real meaning in the Greek Language.

But in the three (3) instances I'm going to talk about, the word "SAW" is rendered differently in the Greek Language; with a different word everytime!

So in English, it is "SAW". But in Hebrew, it is not the same word used.

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In the first instance, the Greek word is 'Blepo'. That is a Rhema - The Root Greek Word.

It means to LOOK AT and be aware of something.

That's means that Mary, when she got to the Tomb that morning, took a glance! - That is what the word means.

She took a glance; she just saw something. And what she saw was that the stone had been rolled away.

She didn't take time to examine what it was, she didn't go into the Tomb - She just saw!

She took a look, she was aware; and the moment she glanced that, she ran to the Disciples and went to report to them.

And this is Mary's Report! - "She said, they have taken away the Lord out of the Tomb, and we don't know where they have laid.

... They have taken the Lord from the Tomb.

Mary did not look inside the Tomb; she only saw that the stone had been rolled away but she drew her conclusion.

And her Conclusion is: They have taken away the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why did she arrive at that conclusion, when she hadn't gone in?

Because, in her Culture, the Tomb had to be closed all the time. Tombs are not opened; Tombs are closed!

It's like going to a cemetery today and seeing that the gravestones have been rolled away; or seeing the Tombs empty!

You would draw the same conclusion as Mary (without going in): That grave looters have come and taken the body away.

... Because, Tombs are not supposed to be open.

Although Mary did not know what was inside, the moment she saw the Tomb was open, she drew a conclusion that the body has been taken away.

She said, they have taken away the Body.

Who is 'THEY?'



'They' was not us; not we.

And she was reporting to Peter - The Chief Apostle (so to speak) and the other Apostles.

None of them was involved in the taking away of the Body.

So Mary assumed that somebody else has taken away the Body - Either some Grave looters or the Jewish Authorities or the Romans have taken away the Body.

That was her Conclusion!

But remember, her conclusion was based on simply taking a glance - She saw, but she didn't go further.

And it tells us something about sometimes; how we draw conclusions about the things we see! We see something, and instantly we decide: Oh, this is what it means; it may be a half truth! It may not be a Perfect Truth.

So, that's the first view we see from Mary - she saw, and she drew a conclusion:

"They have taken away the Body of the Lord; and she says, we don't know where they have taken him!

Now, after Mary announced that they have taken away the Body of Jesus, Peter and John rose up and started running.

It had to be a very traumatic idea to them: They have seen Jesus brutally crucified and now the Body is taken away, and they were running!

For the first time, they have no fear! They are not running away from Jesus; they were running to the graveside.

And as they (Peter and John) ran, John overtook Peter. He also went to the Tomb and he also saw.

... And I am not going to comment about his kind of seeing.

Because the same word that is described in John's first seeing (because John saw twice) is the same 'Blepo'. He also took a glance.

But then, Peter came in (although he was a slow runner); he came in, and he went straight into the Tomb.

And the Bible says, Peter 'SAW' - "Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a Place by itself" - John 20:6-7.

## 2. PETER SAW THE GRAVE CLOTHES NEATLY FOLDED.

So when Peter came, he didn't do what Mary had done, or what John had done - Take a glance;

... Peter went in and "SAW".

The Greek work that is translated as 'Saw' is 'Peril'. And it means to View Attentively.

It means to Pay attention!

So, he is not just glancing, he is examining what he is looking at.

Mary took a glance and ran away; John took a glance and stepped back but for Peter; he paid attention.

So, he saw. But he wasn't seeing as just taking a glance. He was seeing now, examining what was before him.

And Peter saw something very interesting - He saw that the burial clothes were folded!

So, as Peter was looking, he is seeing and he is Paying attention and he is making some deductions.

And what he saw is that the cloth that was around the body of Jesus was there, but it was lying in Place - It was folded in Place.

And it shocked Peter: 'Why will the clothes be folded in Place?

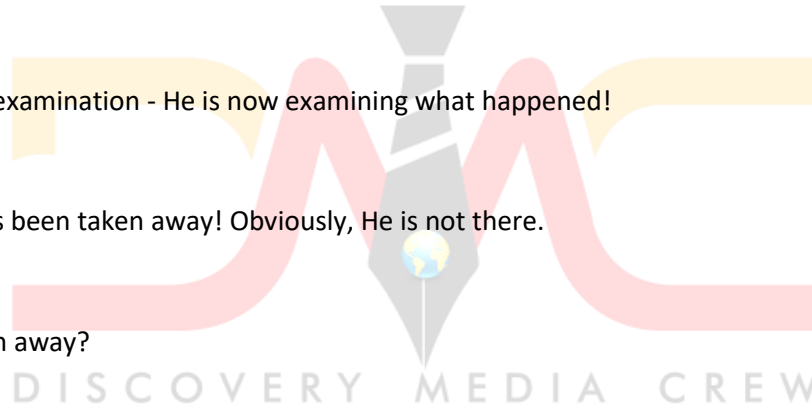
And then Peter saw that the head wrap, that they used to wrap the head of Jesus, was folded but separated from the main clothes.

So, if you were to imagine it now: It is the folded larger Piece of cloth; and then another folded Piece of cloth. But the smaller Piece of cloth (which is the head wrap) is not joined to the big one.

So this is Peter's examination - He is now examining what happened!

Mary said: He has been taken away! Obviously, He is not there.

But who took Him away?



1. Could it be the Romans?

If it was the Romans, would they be able to extract His Body without disturbing the cloth?

... Obviously, they can't!

2. If it is the Disciples who came to take away the Body, they would have taken the Body and the clothes together and run away because all of them would be Precious to them!

3. If it was thieves, they won't take time to fold the clothes.

Have you seen thieves who have come to a home; ransack the home and take time to Pack everything in Place?

You know, they throw your cloths around and fix everything back neatly before they left? - No, they have no Patience for that!

If Thieves came for the Body of Jesus Christ, they wouldn't fold the clothes and leave it there.

If the Romans came, they wouldn't do the same thing.

If it was the Disciples, maybe they would but they would have taken both the clothes and the Body.

So, this is what Peter is looking at.

And as he is examining this, he is making different conclusion from Mary.

They didn't just take the Body, something has happened to the Body: The Romans haven't taken it, Thieves haven't taken it, we didn't take it - WHO THEN TOOK IT?

Something I just want to bring to your attention is that, when you look at the evidences that Peter is examining before him; it tells you that the Power of God was responsible for this.

The Power of God is Responsible for Two (2) Things:

1. The Rolling away of the Stone, and;
2. The Resurrection of the Body.

But it shows different aspects of the Power of God.

1. The Rolling away of the Stone was the Power of God at work. But it was the Power of God acting forcefully.

... Because the Stone had to be forcefully rolled away.

2. But the taking or the Resurrection of the Body and the evidence before them, shows that the same Power of God (which is forceful) can also be Gentle.

And that should tell you that sometimes, God could move forcefully in your life; and sometimes He can move gently in your life.

He can Pack and fold clothes; and sometimes He can move Mountains out of your Way.

I don't know what your situation is: If it requires force, God will apply force; if it requires gentility, God will be Gentle with you!

But all of that is the Power of God in manifestation; moving away stone and gently Packing clothes to leave behind an evidence!

So, we see that the Rolling away of the stone was not for what?

The Rolling not the stone was so that we can see the evidence He left behind.

... That leads me to the third (3rd) 'SAW'.

3. The Passage says, JOHN SAW AND BELIEVED.

It says, "Then the "Other Disciple", who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed" - John 20:8.

Mary SAW, Peter SAW, John SAW! - Each one is making different observations.

I. Mary saw, she said: 'They have taken away the Body.'

II. Peter saw: He saw how well everything has been left behind - folded!

III. John saw (This is his Second (2nd) seeing), and he believed. He arrived at a Spiritual conclusion.

And the word (saw) that this translated from the Greek into English in John's case is 'Idon'.

It means TO KNOW AND TO UNDERSTAND.

Not just to glance, not just to examine; but to come to a Conclusion of Faith.

John came to a Conclusion of Faith by LOOKING.

WHAT DID HE BELIEVE? - He believed that JESUS IS ALIVE!

John just realised the Second (2nd) time: This is not the work of Man, this is not the work of the Romans, this is not the work of some fanatics of Jesus, this is not the work of the Jews!

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They disrespected His Body; they wouldn't have respected His clothes!

John's Conclusion is: God is at work here: THE MASTER HAS RISEN INDEED!

And at that time (without seeing the Body of Jesus) - Later on, Jesus was to show His Body to His Disciples.

But, even without the Body of Jesus, John believed - HE IS ALIVE!

And we are where John is! - We never saw His Body. We actually didn't see the grave clothes but we examined the Evidence of the Scriptures and we also come to the same Conclusion as John, without seeing the Body.

... That JESUS IS ALIVE!

How do we know? - Because the Record is Clear: This is the work of God. Jesus is Alive.

If JESUS IS ALIVE, then there are Four (4) Implications.

... And I am ending with these:

1. If Jesus is Alive, then it means HE IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS.

He said: "I will die, I will resurrect".

But not only that - He said: 'And I will come again.'

If His Death happened as He said; His Resurrection happened as He said; then His COMING will happen as He said.

You better trust what Jesus says - He says, the ridiculous and the Impossible, and they are made Possible!

I. He says things that do not make sense, and they make sense

II. He says things that you never see happen to any human being, and then it happens!

He was born of a Virgin - Never happens to anybody.

He died and rose again - Never happens to anybody.

And He is Coming Back Again - Never happened to anybody.

But when it comes to Jesus; CONSIDER IT DONE!

... HE IS COMING BACK AGAIN!

HE IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS - He is the Saviour of the world; He is the Resurrection and He shows it!

I don't know what you believe!

You may say: Well, my Religion doesn't believe in that. But if you look at this Evidence, you can come to only one conclusion:

'There is no other way to Salvation, except through Jesus Christ.'

You may be the Highly Educated Person, but you cannot controvert this Reality:

I. That Jesus is Who He says He is.

II. He is the Saviour of the World.

III. Jesus has Power over Death.

....That Powerful enemy had been conquered.

IV. And that Jesus gives Life to all who comes to Him.

... When we come to Him in Faith, He receives us, He makes us New.

Today, on this Resurrection Morning: WHAT DO YOU SEE?



Are you just taking a glance at Jesus? - There are many People who just take glance at Jesus - 'Oh yes, I go to Church; I'm also a Christian, I was also Baptized. I'm also confirmed - That's Mary Magdalene's View!

And then, there are those who say: Oh I read the Bible, I examine the Truth. I have read the Bible cover to cover. I do everything - They are examining like Peter!

But then we have to get to where John got to: HE SAW AND BELIEVED.

I. And until you get to that Point, you will just glance at Jesus, examine the fact; but never arrived at Faith.

II. And if you don't arrive at Faith, then every other observations you have made about Jesus, is inconsequential.

Because you have to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be Saved.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not Perish but have everlasting life" - John 3:16.

... That whosoever BELIEVES.

Not whosoever thinks, not whosoever go to Church; not whoseever has a Christian name.

But: whoever BELIEVES in Him should not Perish but have Everlasting Life.

And have you come to a Point where your heart has registered that Jesus is Who He says He is?

And this morning, as I Conclude:

My Message, I want to give the opportunity to everyone listening to me or reading this Message on the Label of DMC: Just having a glance of Jesus, or even examining the evidence doesn't end a matter with you. You have to know Him as your Personal Lord and Saviour.

And I'm going to lead everybody to Pray a very Simple Prayer.

#### ALTAR CALL

So, if you are there, and you are saying: Pastor, I go to Church, but I don't think I have really given my Life to Jesus. I don't think Jesus is really in my heart. I don't think I have really believed Him as my Lord and Saviour.

If you are in that Position and you want to be "Very Sure", that when Jesus comes the Second (2nd) time, you would not miss it. Or that if you should die, you would not miss Him.

If you want to be sure, then I want to Pray with you:

With every head bow and every eyes closed, in reference to God and just lift up your right hand wherever you are right now:

If you have lifted up your right hand, just Stand Up wherever you are.

God bless you for Standing!

With your hand lifted up, Put your other hand on your heart.

And I'm going to lead you in Prayer.

And everybody is going to join in this Prayer for Jesus Christ to come into your life.

Say with me: HEAVENLY FATHER, I come to You today just as I am. I am a sinner, I cannot save myself; have Mercy on me.

Today, I see Jesus with the eye of Faith. And I ask Him to come into my heart and change my life.

Lord Jesus, I believe in You, that You are the Son of God, that You died for me, that You rose again from the dead.

I ask You Jesus, come into my heart, save me, make me Your own.

From today, I belong to You. All that I have is Yours. All that I am is Yours.

Thank You for accepting me.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

\*If you Prayed that Prayer sincerely, you have arrived at where John was - Jesus Christ is in your heart today and you are a Brand New Person - Amen and Amen!

Let's honour the LORD one more time with our Clap!

JESUS CHRIST RESSURECTED, AND HE IS ALIVE FOR EVER MORE!

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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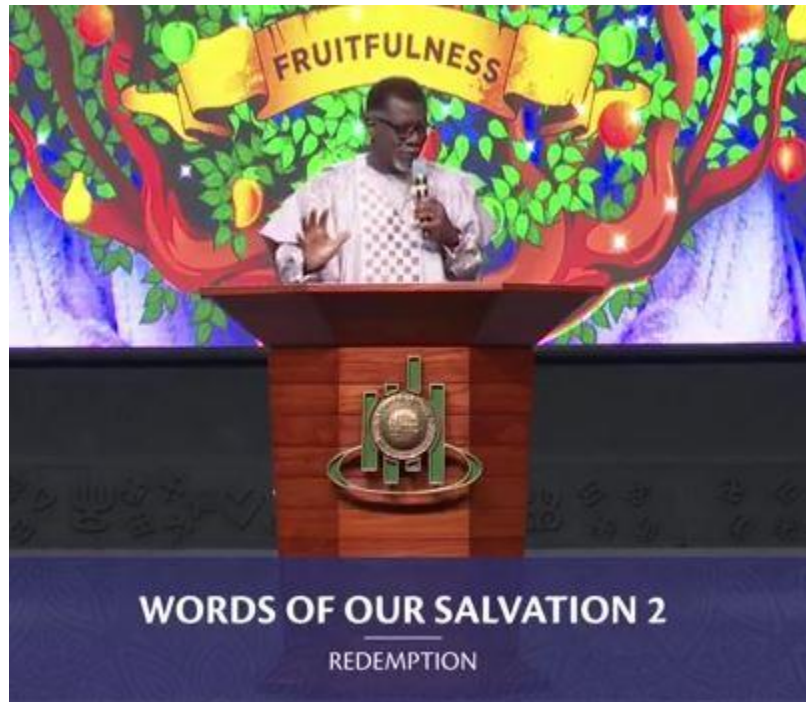
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## 11TH APRIL, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION PART 2.



**TEXT: ROMANS 3:23-24**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

PRAYER FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN BUSINESS.

Before I go into the Message of today, i want to Pray for those of you who are in Business; for recovery and for restoration. That God will give you a redefining advantage.

So, if you are a Business Person, just rise up wherever you are reading this Message now on the Label of DMC; and I will speak a Word of Prayer over your life and over the works of your hands.

I know some of you are coming from behind; but God will give you Advantage.

... And I Pray!

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Father, in the Name of Jesus the Risen Lord, I speak a Blessing and Your Blessings of Divine Advantage over Your Children.

As they go out there in the Business World, from Monday throughout, and especially in the coming week; I speak a Blessing of Advantage over them, and I Bless them with Favour, and with a Turnaround, and with Doors.

That which has been Shut will be open; that which had been Fruitless will be Fruitful; that which had been Dry will become watered, in the Name of Jesus!

May the Lord bless you with Advantage this week, as you enter your Business and work for the Lord. He will Prosper you and He will increase you.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen. Hallelujah!

I just felt I needed to do that prayer for you. And I believe God will give you an Advantage - Amen!

Today, my Message is Titled: "WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 2".

DMC NOTES: It will be recalled that the Part 1 of this Series was delivered on the 31st January, 2021 and you can get to access the Full Text on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

... And today, I will be focusing on REDEMPTION.

Redemption - That is the word most of us have heard. Churches are called by it, we sing about it and we are familiar with it.

Romans 3:23-24 (NKJV):

23 For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God,

24 Being justified freely by His Grace through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

There are two (2) big words in the Verse 24 - JUSTIFIED and REDEMPTION.

Justified will come later; but I will Pick on the word Redemption.

"Being justified freely by His Grace through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus".

SO, WHAT DOES THE WORD REDEMPTION MEAN?

\*The word 'REDEMPTION' is the Noun of the Verb REDEEM.

So I will define the Verb 'Redeem' and you can extract the Noun from it.

... That's a little English, don't worry about that!

So what does it mean to REDEEM?

Generally, the word 'Redeem' has ideas of Freedom and Liberty.

And I will give you Three (3) Concepts that come from Redeem:

1. REDEEM means to deliver from Harm or Evil.

We see this word used many times in the Bible, to refer to Deliverance from harm or evil.

For example, in Psalms 34:22, it says: "The Lord redeems the Soul of His Servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned."

God delivers us from harm and from danger

2. REDEEM means to buy back something that was Previously sold.

It describes the Process by which something that is lost (in a transaction) can be regained.

That is a Transactional word!

3. REDEEM means to be released from Bondage.



It is used to refer to God's Deliverance from Bondage.

And we read in Exodus 6:6:

"Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their Bondage, and I will REDEEM you with an outstretched arm and with great Judgments.'"

When the Bible says we are REDEEMED, these three (3) Ideas are Present:

That we are being delivered from harm of evil; we have been bought back and we have been released from Bondage.

So anytime you sing: 'I AM REDEEMED' or attend a Church that has 'REDEEMED' in it, these are what should come into your mind:

Deliverance from harm and evil; being bought back and being released from Bondage.

Why do we need Redemption? Why was Redemption necessary?

Redemption is necessary because of something that happened in the Bible.

And Romans 5:12 gives us an idea of what happened:

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned"

It's a very heavy Verse!

Through one man sin entered the world and death came with the sin. And through that one man, ALL sinned.

And we know that one man be Adam.

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Ede the, Adam's sin infected all of us.

Adam was the first man created in the Image of God. And he represented everybody who is created in the Image of God.

And when he sinned, or disobeyed God, or fell away from the Presence of God; when he was driven away from the Presence of God; it wasn't only for him, it was for all of us!

And so, all of us sinned! You say: I wasn't there, why should his sin affect me?

You see, Adam Played a very important Role - Adam was the Federal Head of the Human Race; or the Universal Head of the Human Race.

So, whatever happened to him, didn't happen to Him alone; it affected or infected all of us!

And I'm just going to use an Analogy to help you to understand how: ONE MAN'S SIN AFFECTED ALL OF US.

Now, most us know that since Year 2019, our world has been ravaged by the Coronavirus. Which causes COVID-19.

In the Process of this Coronavirus, about one hundred and thirty six million (136,000,000) People in every Nations of the world have been infected.

... Think about it!

Almost three Million (3,000,000) People have died.

And in addition to it infecting People, this Virus has changed our world, collapsed Businesses, disrupted Nations, done so much damages to Economies - It is Powerful!

So, how did so many People of all Nations become infected?

Where did the Virus started from?

And when we do the tracing of this Virus, those who Studied Epidermics will tell you, that eventually, you will get to what we call 'Patient Zero.'

'Patient Zero' is the first Person who was infected. And out of his infection the Virus entered the Human Race; has infected all of us and disrupted our world Profoundly.

... How? - One man got infected!

Adam was the 'Patient Zero' of sin. He was the first Person to be infected by sin and his sin didn't just affect him, it infected the entire Human Race.

Sin didn't just affect the Human Race, it changed the Earth and how it functions; and brought the whole of Nature under bondage and a curse.

... Because one man sinned!

And the sin of Adam introduced death to all. Because of Adam's sin, death came to all of Mankind.

Just like because of one man's infection - the whole world has been disrupted.

And this death is not just dying in a sense that someone is dead and buried (the cessation of life).

No, this death is disconnection from God and His Fullness.

Just like the absence of Light creates darkness; the absence of God's Life also introduces death! And this sin, subjected all of us to Bondage.

So what does that mean?

God created man to have Dominion but because of the sin of Adam, instead of having Dominion, we were dominated.

Dominated by not only Spiritual Forces, but even the Earth itself dominated us. Including animals, whom we are supposed to dominate.

Because, if I should shout 'LION!' People will start running but we were given dominion over it.

If a snake enters this room, we would scatter; but we were given dominion over it.

Because the sin of Adam disrupted the hierarchy of Dominion, those who were supposed to have Dominion, were dominated even by tiny things like mosquitoes!

Not only that; when God created man, we had dominion over Angels - That includes Demons (the Devil himself)!

But because of sin, those who were created to have Dominion, became dominated - And the Bible says, they became subjects to Bondage.

And the Bondage manifested in all kinds of control by Spiritual Powers, by Demonic Forces manifesting through the activities of Mediums, Necromancers, Witches, Wizards, Astrologers and all sorts of Spiritual Mediums dominating Mankind!

It is for this reason that we needed to be bought back because we were sold by one man, we had to be bought by One Man!

The Mission of Jesus Christ therefore, was to reverse the effects of Adam's sin and bring us back to God.

Under the Old Testament, Redemption was Practised in many ways. But when a Person was sold into Slavery, or their Property went into Slavery; and they needed to go and buy back their Property or buy themselves back from slavery to be Delivered; there were two (2) People who qualified to REDEEM:

1. The first (1st) was the Person Himself.

... If he can redeem himself, he redeems himself!

2. The second (2nd) is what is called 'A Kinsman Redeemer.

A Kinsman Redeemer is a relative of yours who can redeem you.

So, a Stranger cannot redeem you. You have to be redeemed by a relative.

So, either you can redeem yourself or a relative redeems you!

Those of you who have read the Book of Ruth remembered that Boaz who married Ruth was called 'a Kinsman Redeemer.'

What does that mean?

Those days, widowhood (unfortunately) was seen as Bondage because when her husband dies, she is not free to marry just anyone.

So, a relative close to the late husband, had to redeem her. And that is what the Story of Ruth is all about.

If you were in bondage, you either redeem yourself or a Kinsman - A relative will come and redeem you.

COULD WE REDEEM OURSELVES?

God gave Man a chance to redeem himself.

How did He do it?

He gave us the Law: Six hundred and thirteen (613) Laws! - And He said, use this to set yourself free.

So People tried!

And the conclusion of it was summarized by the Apostle Paul in the Book of Romans 7:21-25. It says:

"I find then a Law, that evil is Present with me, the one who wishes to do Good. For I delight in the Law of God according to the Inward Man. But I see another Law in my Members, warring against the Law of my mind, and bringing me into Captivity to the Law of sin which is in my Members."

And he summarizes it in verese 24; "O wretched Man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

\*Those who try to redeem themselves end up like this - "O wretched Man that I am!"

... Whilst I'm just trying to obey the Law, but the Law itself is just messing me up!

So, if you are trying to be your own Redeemer, that's how you end - You end in frustration, because you can't redeem yourself!

Now, if you can't redeem yourself, then your relative must redeem you.

... But, your relatives are all in Bondage.

Your father and mother are in bondage, your siblings are in bondage, your cousins are in bondage - Everybody is in bondage to sin!

So, there has to be a relative who can come and redeem us - Who is not subject to the same Bondage that we are subjected to.

WHO IS THE REDEEMER?

Well, we know the Redeemer - His Name is JESUS. He is called the Last Adam, or the Second Man.

Just like the first Adam took us into Bondage; another Adam had to come and deliver us - And His Name is JESUS.

And this is how Hebrews 2:14-15 Puts it.

It says: "Inasmuch then as the children have Partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself (talking of Jesus) likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the Power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

HOW DID CHRIST BECOME A KINSMAN?

He took on our Nature: He became us! He took on flesh and blood, so He can be related to every Human Beings.

And in that sense, Christ then qualifies as a relative because He had flesh and blood.

If He didn't have flesh and blood, He couldn't redeem us.

... He had to become us, to save us!

And so, He qualified as a Kinsman Redeemer - One of us who can set us free to fulfil the Provision of the Law: That the Redeemer must be like you!

Jesus became us, He took on our Nature - Not only did He take on our Nature, He took our Place in death. He died the death that was supposed to be ours.

And when we say that Jesus died that death that was supposed to be ours; it's not the norm dying that People die.

It is Eternal death. It is Eternal separation from God. The death that would have become the lot of every Human Beings in the end.

We call it: going to Hell, being in the Lake of Fire, being Eternally separated from God.

That was what Jesus came to take away so that when you die, you don't die for ever!

That's why there is a Resurrection for the Believer.

He took our Place in death, and He Paid to release us from Bondage!

Now remember, Part of Redemption requires that a Price should be Paid.

And the Price that is Paid must be equal to the object that must be Redeemed.

For example - And I hope this analogy doesn't disturb anybody who has done this!

So, let's say you want a Bank Loan. You go to the Bank and they say: 'We want collateral.' And you take your house and give it as collateral.

Let's say your house is worth a hundred thousand (100,000) Cedes (Ghanian Currency) and they give you a loan of eighty thousand (80,000) Cedes.

On the basis of that - eighty thousand (80,000) Cedes, which is the real value of your house now.

You get a loan and you are happy that 'I have a loan.' And then Payment time comes; you can't Pay!



We say that the loan has not been REDEEMED; and the house has not been REDEEMED.

Then the People who took your house say that 'if you don't come and REDEEM it, we are going to sell the house to REDEEM what you took.' So, come and redeem it!

... And you work work, but you can't redeem it.

Then somebody says; 'I will redeem it for you.'

But the Person cannot go and redeem your house lower than what was exchanged for because now, your house has been valued at eighty thousand (80,000) Cedes.

So, if he is going to Pay a Price, the Price must be "Equal To" the Price Value.

And if he Pays the Price that is equal to the Value, then the house can be redeemed.

... I hope you understand what I'm trying to say? - Alright!

So, that is where we were: We were in Bondage to sin.

How did we get there? - Adam took a loan and collateralized us and himself - The Human Race in that loan.

So Jesus had to come and redeem Mankind. But He cannot just go and say: 'I am the Creator of the Universe, come out let's go.'

No! That could be illegal.

And God cannot commit illegality - He is a Just God, and if He makes Rules, He must honour His own Rules.

He has made Himself subject to His Law!

God is not capricious; He doesn't act just anyhow. He acts in consonance to His own Regulations.

... So, God has to come and Redeem.

He say, there is nobody amongst those guys who can redeem them - So I will be the REDEEMER. I will go and do it.

But I cannot go and do it as God (Spirit), because these People are flesh and blood.

So, I have to become like them - Flesh and Blood; so that I can qualify as a Redeemer of my own Image.

If He is going to redeem His image, then the Price He Pays must be equal to His image.

SO, WHAT WAS THE PRICE THAT WAS PAID?

When God became a Man on Calvary's Cross, that Man gave up His life! But that was the image of God that was given up, and in His Blood.

When we talk about the Blood of Jesus, we are not just talking about Physical Blood; we are talking about His Life.

... He saved us!

So, our REDEMPTION is worth the Blood of Jesus.

1 Peter 1:18-19 says: "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like Silver or Gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot."

So, God has to Pay a Price for Man.

He has options - He created the Universe; He has to determine the Value of Man and what is equivalency to his Value.

He could look at Silver: He looked at all the Silver on Earth, all the Silver in the Universe - He says, that is not worth Human Beings.

He looked at all the Gold - Can Gold buy back Man? It's not Possible!

I was reading somewhere, that there is a Particular Planet (and Probably a couple of them). I don't know how these Scientists get these things. But they said, in the whole Planet is Diamond.

God considered that Planet to throw into the Equation, but He says Diamond can't buy Man.

The only thing that can buy a Man is something that is equivalent to the image of God.

Because Man is made in the image of God. Or, that is how he has been collateralized for.

And the only thing that can Pay, is the Image of God dying for Man; and that was what the BLOOD OF JESUS PAID FOR.

And what He Paid for was - EQUAL VALUE FOR EQUAL WORTH.

Man therefore, was Paid for with an Amount that is due to his Value.

And that is why the Bible would tell you: "You have been REDEEMED with a Price, don't cheapen yourself."

Because it costs so much, for you to be redeemed from the Power of sin.

Jesus, used His Life - Laid down His Life; God in the flesh, so that the image of God that was lost by the first Adam, can be bought back and be Redeemed.

So, when you say: 'I am REDEEMED', you are literally saying: 'I am VALUABLE' because what was used to buy me back was Valuable.

If you want to know how Valuable you are to God, check the "Price Tag" He Put on you.

And if you think God would go to that extent to redeem you, and leave you for "Little Witches" to come and mess you up; then, there is something wrong with your head!

If you think God would go to all that extent to leave you for a Wizard to hold your Destiny; you are joking because you have no idea who you are to God.

He would not go to that extent and leave you to the "Elementary Spirit" of this Earth to control you!

... I need to Close - So, let me end with this:

WHAT DID CHRIST REDEEM US FROM?

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I am going to talk about Three (3) of them, and then I will Close.

1. He Redeemed us from SIN.

Ephesians 1:7 says: "In Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His Grace."

2. He Redeemed us from the POWER OF DARKNESS.

Colossians 1:13, 14 and 17 says: "He has delivered us from the Power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

What He is saying is: When God delivered, He didn't leave the Property that had been delivered still in the hands of the one who held it Captive.

He delivered us and took His Property with Him, and conveyed him into a New Place!

We are Redeemed from one Place to the other! - Delivered from darkness to Light.

Many times when I talk to Believers I tell them: We have Power over the devil.

People say, Pastor, you don't know.

I know! In fact, I know more than enough. I know what Christ has done.

Except you are a Believer but you don't believe in what Christ has done. Then go and fight your own battle!

But you will end up like Apostle Paul said: "Oh wretched Man that I am."

But if you trust in Jesus Christ, then you have been BOUGHT; the Value Price has been Paid, nothing is owed on you - We have been redeemed from sin, redeemed from the Powers of darkness.

And finally;

3. We have been Redeemed from the CURSE OF THE LAW.

Galatians 3:13-14 says: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a Curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the Promise of the Spirit through Faith.

He has redeemed us from the Curse of the Law, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus,

Somebody say: "I am Redeemed from the Curse of the Law, I am Redeemed from the Power of Darkness, I am Redeemed from Sin!"

You are not going to Pay; the Price had been Paid, settled; Account closed and Property returned.

Final statement, then I close:

HOW VALID IS OUR REDEMPTION?

... Does it have Expiry Date?

Our Redemption is ETERNAL. - 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.

The Redemption that Christ obtained is Eternal.

In other words, when that Property was delivered; the sin of Adam took us in Bondage and He delivered us.

That Deliverance is Eternal - There will never be anytime again in Human History that Human Beings would be brought back into Bondage - Amen.

Because He Provided Eternal Redemption for us!

That, my friends, is what it means when you say: 'I AM REDEEMED'.

GOD BLESS YOU!

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## 18TH APRIL, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 3.



**TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today, my Message is Titled: "WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 3".

... And today, I will be focusing on NEW CREATION.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of Parts 1 (Focused on Salvation) and Part (Focused on Redemption) on these Links:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

Our Main Text for today is taken from 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV):

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation; Old Things have Passed away; behold, all Things have become New."

The Two (2) words - "NEW CREATION" are Present in this Verse; and it describes the life of a Believer.

... That when we get saved, we become NEW CREATION.

Those two (2) words are important.

And I will take time to define them today because the word 'NEW' may have different meaning for different People.

But the word 'NEW' as it occurred in this Verse is from the Greek work 'Kainos'.

'Kainos' means, something that is New in Nature and unprecedented.

... It is something of a kind not seen before.

There's another word in the Greek for New - it is 'Nous' - And 'Nous' talks about something that is recent.

To get the concept of 'NEW CREATION', I just want to talk about it using this illustration:

A friend invites you (as we normally do) and say: 'Come and see my New Car.'

And so you go to see your friend's New Car.

And then you see the New Car and it is fairly used - Maybe third hand, forth hand!

But when he was inviting you, he said: 'Come and see my New Car.'

... But the car you saw, was not New!

So, why did your friend say: 'Come and see my New Car' when he is using a Second or Third hand car?

It is because he is using 'NEW' in a different sense. He means, my recent car - The one which has just arrived.

He is not saying the car is NEW in Nature; but in sequence of time, the Car is New!

So, the two (2) different concepts of NEW: Something that means the Nature is New. Or it just happened!

When the Bible says, if any man be in Christ he is a New Creation, it doesn't mean it just happened. It means that something New has happened.

But sometimes, even something that is New in Nature may not be unprecedented.

Because when we say 'unprecedented' - As we use in 'Kainos'; it means that the thing was not there before and it has no history.

So for example; if this friend who invited you to come and see a New Car; invites you to come and see a car. You go see the car, and you see a fleshly-made Mercedes Benz K-5000.

It is Possible! Yes, there is nothing called Mercedes Benz K-5000. It's a 'Kainos'. It means unprecedented!

It is not a Mercedes Benz 200, which had been made. But this is a New Model, a New Specie that didn't exist, that has been fleshly made.

That is what the Bible has in mind, when it says: "You are a New Creation.

Not just recently made; but you didn't exist before! - A New class that didn't exist.

So, if any man is in Christ, he is a 'NEW' Creation.

... Remember - Not recent, but something unprecedented.

Then the word 'CREATION' comes from a Greek word 'Kitesis' - Which means: That which is made or a Class, a Being.

... Kainos Kitesis - NEW CREATION.

It refers to something that is brought into Being.

So, if you put the two (2) words together: WHAT IS A NEW CREATION?

A New Creation is a New and unprecedented class of Being.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ; he is a New and Unprecedented Class of Being.

He is something that didn't exist before, that has come into existence.

If anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation; not a "Renovated Creation", not a "Renewed Creation", not an "Upgraded Creation".

But a Brand New Creation that didn't exist, that had been brought into Being - New and Unprecedented.

That is a fantastic description of a Being because, if we say, for example - A Baby is born, we say 'That is a New Baby.'

But he is a Human Being!

And Human Beings are not Unprecedented - He is New, but he is a Human Being.

But when we say, a Person is a "NEW CREATION"; something that didn't exist before has been brought into existence.

'... If anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation;'

You have no idea, what happened to you the day you got Born Again - Something that didn't use to be, now is! WE ARE NEW CREATION.

To be a New Creation; we must be in Christ.

"Therefore, if anyone is "In Christ", he is a New Creation;

The phrase: "IN CHRIST" is so important!

Not, „In Church" - He didn't say: 'Therefore if anyone goes to Church he is a New Creation.'

He didn't say: 'Therefore if anyone likes Praying he is a New Creation.'

He didn't say: 'If your Pastor Prays for you, you become a New Creation.'

He didn't even say: 'Therefore if anyone reads the Bible he is a New Creation.'

Or, therefore if anyone receives the Prophecy, he is a New Creation.

Or, anyone who is nice, is a New Creation!

Because, sometimes you ask Christians: 'Are you a Christian, are you Redeemed, are you Born Again?'

They say: 'I go to Church!' These days I'm changing my life!'

He didn't say: 'Therefore anyone who tries to Change his life is a New Creation.'

He says: 'therefore if anyone is "IN CHRIST", he is a New Creation.'

Outside of Christ, you are Old; In Christ you are New!

To become a New Creation therefore, we have to be "IN CHRIST"; we have to belong to Him; we have to have His Spirit in us - We have to be a New Creation

Then the Passage goes on to describe the New Creation, and it says: "OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY."

Not, old things WILL Pass away. Or old things CAN Pass away or old things are PASSING away.

But, "OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY."

It's not yet to happen; it has happened and been concluded.

... "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation; Old Things... "

That word 'THINGS' means Nature and Systems.

If anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation; Old Nature and Systems have Passed away.

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They are not just being Passed away, it already happened! - "Old Things has Passed away."

So, what are the "OLD THINGS" that have Passed away? - Two (2) things:

1. The Adamic Nature in us.

The Old Nature that we were born with, Passed away!

The Nature of Adam is sometimes called, the Old Man.

Romans 6:6 says: "knowing this, that our Old Man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

When Jesus Christ died, your Old Man was crucified with Him.

On that Cross, He was not the only One being nailed; but the Old Nature of Adam was also been nailed to the Cross.

And not only that; the completion of sin in us, nailed to the Cross. Slavery to sin, nailed to the Cross!

The Old Man Passes away; the Adamic Nature Passes away - "... Old Things have Passed away."

And not only the Old Nature of Adam that Passed away.

2. The Dispensation of the Law Passed away.

Because the Law was also nailed to the Cross.

On the outside, you may look like the same Person. In fact, if you go and take a Picture of your 'Before Born Again days' and 'After your Born Again days'; you are the same Person.

Your fingerprint is the same, your name is the same - Probably, you changed that (I don't know) but you are the same Person.

But the Bible says, something has Passed away. And we are going to go deeper to what has Passed away.

... But it says, the Old Things have Passed away!

Sitting right where you reading this Message on the Label of DMC, if Jesus Christ is in your heart, Old Things has Passed away - It's gone!



And then it says, "ALL THINGS have become New"

So, when we become Christians: Old Things Passed away; All Things have become New.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT HAVE BECOME NEW?

1. The Spirit of Christ in us.

He is sometimes called a New Man, a New Spirit, the Spirit of God.

... Our body has become the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

So, the Old gone!

Which Old went? - The Old Nature of Adam.

The New came!

What is the New? - The Spirit of Christ.



... And not only the Spirit of Christ

2. But the Dispensation of Grace.

... God's Grace came into our lives!

So, when we are in Christ, we don't live by the Law, we live by Grace. The Law was given to Moses. But Truth and Grace came through Jesus Christ.

So, if this is such a Profound thing that has happened to us;

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## WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THIS NEW CREATION?

What does it look like? How do you identify the New Creation?

So I'm going to give you Four (4) Characteristics of the Nature of the New Creation;

### 1. The New Creation is a Spirit Being (not a Physical Being)

In John 3:6, Jesus says: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit."

The New Creation is a Spirit Being; not a Mental or Physical Being.

Now, one of the reasons why People can't really tell that they are New Creation, is because, they are still looking at their body.

Old things didn't Pass away: it's the same Old nose, same Old forehead, same Old height.

... So what Passed away and what came?

The New Creation is not a Physical Being; and it's not a Mental Being. Your Mind did not Pass away, and your body did not Pass away.

Because, if your Mind Passes away when you become a Christian, you will lose your Mind and you can't function again.

Can you imagine the day you became Born Again, everything in your mind wiped off! You won't even remember your name, you won't remember where your home is, you won't remember anything!

And you will be unable to live on Earth - So, your Mind remain the same.

Neither does your body Pass away - Because when your body Passes away, you are dead!

When God wants a New creation, He only touches the Place that He can replace without disturbing your existence.

So, Jesus Christ takes the Spirit and changes it. But the mind doesn't change, and the body doesn't change.

"Old Things have Passed away..." - It's the Spirit, not the Mind, not the body!

... So the New Creation starts as a Spirit Being!

2. The New Creation is Conformed to Christ.

He is built into the specifications of Christ. Romans 8:29;

"For whom He foreknew, He also Predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many Brethren."

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... He is a Spirit Being, Conformed to Christ.

Now, why is that important? - It is important because not all Spirit Beings are conformed to Christ.

Even the devil is a Spirit Being. Demons are Spirit Beings! There are all kinds of Spirits.

When we become Born Again, we become New Creation, we become Spirit Beings that are made alive!

But this Spirit Being is conformed to Christ; has the Nature of Christ in him and looks like Jesus Christ.

3. The New Creation is a Heavenly Being.

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1 Corinthians 15:49 says: "And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Heavenly Man."

If we bore the image of Adam, we bore the image of the Heavenly Man - Jesus Christ.

The New Creation is a Heavenly Person. Heavenly Being, living on Earth!

Our Spirit is seated in Heaven with Christ - Our Authority is in Heaven, we are blessed with all Spiritual Blessings Heavenly Places.

And that is why the Bible charges us to set our Minds on Things above and not on Things on the Earth.

4. The New Creation is Created in Righteousness.

Ephesians 4:24 says: "And that you put on the New Man which was created according to God, in True Righteousness and Holiness."

The New Creation is righteous! He has a Nature that is in right relationship with God.

Now, I know after hearing all of that, the next logical question is: If this is really true, How come we still do all the Things we do?

... I am a New Creation, Old t Things have Passed away - How come I still live the way I do? How come there are Believers who live as if Christ doesn't know them?

There are even Pastors who behave as if Christ doesn't know them.

So, if they are New, why do they behave in the Old?

... That is the crush of our Christian Life!

I want to use another Illustration - Just to help you get a Mental Picture of why it is so.

Let us just say there is an old car - It could be the old rounded Mercedes Benz 190 D (those of you who are young, you never met it).

But if you remembered, it was there in the 50's and 60's. And part of the 70's too - That's the Old Mercedes Benz.

Somebody gets a brand New Engine - Straight from the Mercedes Benz Factory; removes the old engine of the old Mercedes Benz 190D, take it out, and puts a New engine.

All things shall become New if you make the right connections to the engine;

But, if the connection to the engine, to the rest of the vehicle, is not renewed as well; that New Engine will not manifest in the condition of the car!

First, you need an ignition that is New - If it's rusty, the key is rusty, wires are not connected; when you turn on the engine, it will not start.

Is there a New Engine? - Yes!

Are you operating it? - No!

Why? - There is no Problem with your engine; there is a big Problem with your Starter.

Let's say you are able to get a Starter. But all connections to the Shaft to turn the engine, the Propellers rusty - Although the engine is working, the wheels will not turn.

And even if they get to the wheels and the tyres are flat: the engine is New, but it won't turn! And even when you turn it, and the seats have all now become metal springs; the vehicle may seem to be moving, but you can't enjoy it!

... That, my friend, is the life of the Believer.

When Christ came into our hearts; the Old engine thrown away - Behold, all Things New!

... Christ in you the Hope of Glory.

But, your Ignition: the words of your mouth, the meditations of your heart are still old. So, what you need to do is, you have to change the Ignition, so it can connect to the engine to the New Spirit.

You have to learn New things, understand new things.

That is why the Bible says: "We have to put on the New Man and be renewed in the Spirit of our Minds."

Because if you don't get renewed in the Spirit of your Mind, Christ will live in you, but it will seem as if Christ didn't know you.

And People will say: 'Are you really sure Jesus is in your heart?'

Oh Yes, the engine has changed but the ignition is still wrong, the shaft is still wrong, the tyre is flat and the seats in the Vehicle are Piercing you in the wrong way.

... Has there been a Change? Yes!

So, for the rest of our Christian Life, after the Old Spirit in us is taken away, and the New Spirit comes; the challenge of the Christian life is to renew our Minds to conform to the Spirit that is in us.

It is when your Mind is in conformity with your Spirit that your body is subject to the New Mind; that you are going to see the engine running back to life.

And People are going to see you and say: Oh, it looks like the body is Old but the speed in which this thing is going; it is not the Old Vehicle. Something New has happened on the inside.

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That's why we sing:

Something on the inside,

Working on the outside!

The Christian life is not an Automatic life. You don't receive Christ and instantly you are Perfect, instantly you have overcome every sin - No!

You have received Christ, behold all things have become New. But, there has to be renewal of your Mind and the subjection of your flesh to the dictates of the Spirit.

It is when we do that, that the engine and all the connections in the body are now in one Piece!

The engine is New, all the other parts are not New but they will be renewed.

Renewed means it's the same Old Thing, but you have to work on it and conform it so it can make use of the New Thing.

But the mind is not new, the body is not new (that's for another time)!

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SO, WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE NEW CREATION?

.... And I'm ending with this!

Because the Spirit is New - Kainos Spirit, a Brand New Spirit. But the Mind is Old, and the body is Old;

No matter what we do on this Earth, the Believer will always function below Capacity.

No matter how you renew your Mind (you can renew it to whatever level but you will still have a shortfall.

Whilst we live in this body (this flesh), we will still have a shortfall.

In the Spirit there is not shortfall, but in the body there is a shortfall. In the mind there is a shortfall.

The Purpose of our Christian Life - Coming to Church, going for Prayer Meeting, Studying the Bible. All of it is to conform the rest of your life to the New Spirit inside of you.

That's why we hear the Word of God, that's why we Study the Bible, grow in Grace and try to live Holy lives so that our bodies and minds would be conform to our New Spirit.

But there will come a time, in Revelation 21 (this is almost at the end of the Bible). This is what the Angel says to John about what happens to the Believers.

Revelation 21:4-5: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all Things n New." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

There is coming a time when God will Perfect the New Creation in the New world. But when He does that, He will wipe away all our Earthly Memories and Mindset.

And He will outfit our bodies with a brand New Body called a Glorified Body; and our Minds would be New, the Body New, the Spirit New.

And it is when we get to that Place that the Full Potentials of what happened to us at Salvation would be Manifested.

And that is why, Heaven is not just about going to sit down and sing 'Holy, Holy, Holy for ever because God will not go to the extent of outfitting us with such Capacity, just to sit and sing Holy, Holy, Holy!

The work of the Believer will now begin at that time: And the Bible says we shall Reign with Him and Rule over His Creation in every Spheres.



Because the Spirit and the Mind and the Body we have, will be able to function way, way, way beyond, what any human Potential and Capacity will.

Until that day: we have a New Spirit, we renew our Minds, we conform our bodies; so that the extent of the Spirit Capacity would begin to manifest in our lives.

That's when we will walk in Victory, that's when we will walk over serpents and scorpions. That's when we will walk over sickness and disease. That's when we will walk over every Power of the enemy.

Because if you don't renew your Mind and your Soul, your Spirit is seated above Principalities and Powers, your Mind is afraid.

Christ gives you Victory, but your Mind is scared.

So inside you is Victory, outside you is defeat.

The defeat is not from your Spirit, it is because your Mind has not comprehended what has happened.

This is how Apostle Paul puts it.

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has Prepared for those who love Him" - 1 Corinthians 2:9

You have no idea what is sitting on the inside of you - Your body is Old, but your Spirit is a Brand New Spirit!

May the Lord help us to walk in the Fullness of the Authority we have in our Spirit, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

GOD BLESS YOU!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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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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## 25TH APRIL, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 4.



**TEXT: ROMANS 3:23-26**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today, my Message is Titled: "WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 4".

... And I'm dealing with the word "JUSTIFICATION".

We have so far covered: BORN AGAIN or SALVATION (Part 1, REDEMPTION (Part 2), NEW CREATION (Part 3) and now we are dealing with JUSTIFICATION (In the Part 4).

DMC NOTE: Kindly find below to Links to access Parts 1 to 3 of the Series:

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<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

Our Main Text is from Romans 3:23-26 (NKJV):

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God,

24 Being Justified freely by His Grace through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 Whom God set forth as a Propitiation by His Blood, through Faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had Passed over the sins that were Previously committed,

26 To demonstrate at the Present time His Righteousness, that He might be Just and the Justifier of the one who has Faith in Jesus.

I want you to note the Verse 26, because I will emphasis it later.

It says:

... that He might be Just and the Justifier of the one who has Faith in Jesus."

The one who has Faith in Jesus is the one who is Born Again.

And to those People who have Faith in Jesus, God is Just and the Justifier (and I will explain that very shortly).

Let's Define the word JUSTIFY or JUSTIFICATION.

Justify is the Verb and Justification is the Noun but they are referring to the same concept.

But I Define the Verb - Justify.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO JUSTIFY?

When somebody says: 'I have Justified you' or 'you have been Justified.' What does it mean?

1. It literally means that you have been declared as Right before God.

... A Person has been declared as Right, before God.

For those of you who use Word Processor in your Computer, when you write a Sentence, a Passage, a Paragraph in Word Processor and you go to the Formatting: you Justify what you have written.

How many of you have ever done that on your Computer?

... You Justify what you have written.

What does it mean when you Justify what you already typed?

It means you have made it Straight.

So, when we say that God had Justified us, it means He has made us Right. He has clearly set us as Right.

So to Justify is to declare a Person Right before God.

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2. Secondly, to Justify is to be freed from Condemnation.

A Person who is Justified is not subject to condemnation. And that is what allows us (as Children of God) to enjoy all that God has made available to us.

When the Bible says that God has Justified us, it means He has made us Right; or He has declared us to be Right.

And then He has Freed us from condemnation - Everything that would condemn us in the end (at the Judgement), God has freed us from it.

It is the LEGAL STATEMENT - And I will show why it is a Legal Statement shortly.

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Note that God is both JUST and JUSTIFIER.

So God does not just Justify; in Justifying He must be Just.

Now, what does that mean?

It means that God cannot just say that a Person who is wrong is Right - He can't just say that!

Because if God is going to Justify a Person, the Justification must be Just.

He cannot look at Somebody who is Wrong and say the Person is Right.

For God to say that a sinner is Justified, He must do it in a Just way!

That is why God has to do so much in bringing Salvation to us.

Because He couldn't just save us anyway, anyhow, without breaking His own Law.

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So, He must be Just when He Justifies - Keep that in Mind!

Because it explains so much of what happens when we get Born Again.

Now, to understand how Justification takes place, I'm going to just give you; A PICTURE OF GOD'S TRIBUNAL OR GOD'S LAW COURT.

Because Justification is a Legal word - For that to happen, it Presupposes that there is a Legal System in Place, that God Justified us before!

So, this is how GOD'S TRIBUNAL looks like:



1. There is GOD ALMIGHTY, and God Almighty is the JUST JUDGE.

So, you could imagine a Court and the Judge is God Almighty - And the Passage says that He is Just.

GOD IS INFLEXIBLY JUST:

In other words, He doesn't bend His Rules.

God does not make a Rule and bend it at His Will - He is not Capricious!

... God is Inflexibly Just!

He keeps to His Words, He keeps to His Laws.

If He says the wages of sin is death; the wages of sin is death! And He is not going to change it.

God's Nature is always Perfect. Even for Him to show Mercy, He has to do it in a Just Way! He cannot just be arbitrary to do whatever He Pleases.

GOD IS THE JUDGE - We are all familiar with that.

We all know that God is the Judge. Don't we? - We do!

A Judge doesn't just sit in Court doing nothing; there has to be an Accused that is brought before the Judge. Somebody who has done wrong.

AND WHO IS THE ACCUSED IN GOD'S TRIBUNAL?

Us! Sinners - Human Beings who have sinned against God.

So, God is the Judge. He says: "I AM THE LORD." He is the Judge.

And then, there is the sinner - "I HAVE SINNED."

So that's the Accused - Sinners. Mankind (Womankind), Human Beings. 'ALL HAVE SINNED.'

And where do they Stand? - BEFORE THE JUDGE!

An accused Person, standing before the Judge can go scot-free, if there is no one Prosecuting him. If there is no one who is bringing a Charge before the Person, then the Person cannot scot-free.

So, in God's Courtroom there is God (the Judge); there is the Accused (the Sinner) and then there is the Prosecutor.

The Prosecutor has the job to Prove that God has the Just Right to Punish the Accused for their sins and banish them from His Presence.

It is the job of the Prosecutor to Prove that Accused standing here must be dealt with! - That's the Prosecutor's job.

God is going to determine the merit of the Case!

The Accused hopefully, has something to say.

Normally, when you go to the Law Court the Prosecutor would bring Witnesses to make his case.

So, in this case, there are three (3) Witnesses that come against the Accused Man.

1. The First Witness is the Law (the Law of Moses).

John 3:5-45, this is what Jesus said: I don't accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you - Moses in whom you trust!

When He says Moses, what does He mean?

It doesn't mean Moses as a Person, but it means the Law of Moses or what we call 'The Mosaic Law' - the Old Covenant.

... He says, the Law is an Accuser!

HOW DOES THE LAW ACCUSE US?

Well, the Law tells you what you should not!

For example, if you were speeding and you were caught and taken to Court; they have to read the Law you have offended.

If you beat somebody, hit somebody and you were taken to the Court, they have to accuse you with the Law!

They say, the Law says so and so and so! And you have committed assault or flattery (whichever that is)!

The Law is your Accuser! It is the first thing that is accusing us.

So, you stand before God - You have sinned: You didn't Worship the Lord your God with all your heart. You stole, you covered, you didn't make the right Sacrifice. Even your Garden was Planted with the wrong fruits.

There are Six Hundred and Thirteen (613) Laws in the Law of Moses - One would catch you somewhere!

So the things accusing you - first, is the Law!

2. Second (2nd) is your Conscience.

Romans 2:15 says: "Who show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing Witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)"

Has your Conscience ever accused you of something? Because sometimes the Law doesn't catch you, but your Conscience will catch you.

When you are by yourself, you say: Hmm! I shouldn't have done it. This thing I did is not Good. I shouldn't have said that - The way I insulted him.

The Law didn't get me, but Conscience got me! Because Conscience gets you where the Law doesn't get you.

There are certain things you do wrong, it is not in any way; but your Conscience tells you 'what you did was wrong!'

When we stand before God and God is looking for a Witness against the Sinner, the first is the Law. "Thou shall not...!"

Second, is your Conscience: that thing in your head that told you 'what you did was wrong!'

You saw your mother-in-law, and then you hissed!

No Law will catch you for that.

But Conscience will catch you. Is that not? You yourself know what you did to your mother-in-law was not correct.

So, the Law may even free you. But Conscience (the Second Witness), you can't escape!

When we stand before God, we are dealing with the Law, we are dealing with the Conscience and we are dealing with the third (3rd) one;

... This one is more deadly.

3. The third (3rd) Witness that did the Prosecution is SATAN.

Revelation 12:10 calls him, the "Accuser of the Brethren", who accuse them before God day and night.

Remember Jesus says, I don't accuse. So who accuses the Law? - Conscience and Satan!

Satan is going to Prove that he was there when you did it - He was an Eye Witness!

When you were looking, he was there. He actually told you to look. And he had a record!

So, he comes before God and says God, if You want evidence, this is the evidence - Look at him looking at that Woman, look at him looking at that Man, look at all that he was doing!

He shows up evidence, because he is the Tempted and he has the Proof of your sins right at his fingertips.

He starts narrating them from when you were in Kindergarten, and beating girls - He shows all of them!

You went to steal somebody's chewing gum, he shows it!

Satan was there, he records everything - because he is the Tempter.

So now, can you imagined you are standing before a "Just God". You come in: Law says you have broken the Law. Conscience accuses you; now, Satan accuses you!

And Satan is saying: 'God, You cannot free him, because when I sinned, You didn't free me; You cast me out from Your Presence Eternally.'

These ones, if You are Just - must also go through the same thing! Because all sin is sin! - "ALL have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God."

HOW CAN GOD JUSTIFY, WITH ALL THESE THREE (3) WITNESSES?

Can God say, I don't accept the Law? Then He is disobeying His Own Law.

Can God say, we don't take the Witness of Conscience? - No, He can't go against Conscience because He put Conscience in you.

Neither can He be Just, and say Satan, I don't accept your temptation. Because He accepted the first time when Satan tempted Adam and Eve; and chased them out of the Garden.

... So Satan is a "Valid Tender"!

Now, if we left it at that: A "Just God", a Man who is Accused and the Three (3) Witnesses, then there is no freedom for Man.

The only thing God would say is: Yes, according to the Law, according to Conscience, according to the Devil; you are Condemned to Hell.

But that is not where it ends! Because in the Courtroom, even if you can't defend yourself; the Court must Appoint somebody to defend you.

And we couldn't hire a Lawyer, so the Court appointed an Advocate for us - He is the Court Appointed Advocate, and His Name is JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus Christ, according to 1 John 2:1-2, He is an Advocate with the Father and He is the Propitiation for our sins.

The thing about Jesus Christ as Advocate is that He does not just represent or speak for us; He doesn't just speak for us, He actually takes our Place.

... He is our Advocate, but He is the Propitiation for our sins.

So, when Jesus Christ is appointed to defend you, He is not just coming to speak for you; but He is coming to take your Place!

He is one kind of Lawyer, who doesn't just speak for His Client, but take their Place.

Our only hope therefore, before God is our Lawyer - JESUS CHRIST. Because by ourselves we have no case - According to the Law, we have no case, according to Conscience, we have no case, by the Witness of Satan, we have no case!

I don't know any of you who can tell me: Pastor, with the Law, with Conscience and with Satan, I still have a case because I'm a really Good Person - Nobody!

Infact, if you tell me you have a case, it's just by saying that you have sinned because you would have told a big lie.

... And all liars shall find their Path in the Lake of Fire.

So, the Justification of Man at the Court of God cannot be achieved by the Man himself.

It cannot even be achieved because the Lawyers spoke for you because the Lawyers cannot undo his sin.

There is no Lawyer who is able to go to Court and undo your sin. He can only defend you - That you did it, but you were not looking when you did it.

You know, giving some other reasons but he cannot undo your sin.

But there is only one Person - JESUS CHRIST who is an Advocate and a Propitiation.

So, He can speak for you and He can actually undo your sin. And He can undo it by taking your sin upon Himself.

## HOW DOES GOD JUSTIFY US?

Proverbs 17:15 says: "He who justifies the wicked, and He who condemns the Just - Both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord."

If somebody is wicked and you Justify him; or if somebody is Just and you condemn him, the Bible says you are an abomination to God.

Now, the Law, Conscience and Satan Proves we are wicked! If God Justifies us; God Himself is an abomination.

... So How can He be Just and a Justifier?

Romans 4:23-25 says: Who was delivered up because of our offenses (Jesus was delivered up because of our offenses), and was raised because of our Justification.

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Two 2 things I want you to note:

1. Jesus Christ was delivered for our offenses.

That is, through His death, He was offered - He was made a Sacrifice to bear our offenses.

2. And then when He Rose Again, He brought us Justification.

That's a very interesting distinction of the Role of Jesus!



It means that just by dying for us; Jesus Christ did not Justify us by dying, He took our offenses when He died but He didn't Justify us.

... He Justified us when He Resurrected.

So, without His Resurrection, we would have been forgiven, but not Justified.

Is it Possible to be forgiven and not Justified?

Is it Possible for somebody who has sinned to be forgiven and the Person not Justified before God?

... Yes, it is Possible!

That is why He had to do both - He had to die to take our debts, and Resurrect to Justify us.

Without Justification we would be People whose sins have been forgiven; but Court would still condemn us.

How does that happen? I will give you an analogy:

Imagine there is a Man. The Man is called Mr. F.T. Adams (I hope there is nobody called F.T. Adams)!

But this Mr. F.T Adams dies, but he left a huge debt for his children - A debt his children can't Pay.

He left Property in their names, but everything is saddled with debt.

And the debt keep growing and growing, and Mr. F.T. Adams cannot Pay the debt their father left for them.

So the Creditors - The one who is owed decides that he is going to take everything that belongs to Mr. F.T. Adams - Take it from the children.

The children will be dispossessed.

He goes to court and gets a Court Declaration in his favour. A set time would come when every debts that was owed him would be recouped by taking everything from the children of Mr. F.T. Adams.

So, How is Mr. F.T Adam's children ever going to get their Inheritance back?

They don't have enough money, they are working for the debt.

Along the way comes a Twin Brother of Mr. F.T. Adams. He is called Mr. L.T. Adams (L.T for short)!

So he comes, he has no children. And he comes, he looks at his late Twin Brother's children who owed so much and cannot free themselves.

And he says to them, listen, I have no children, this is what my brother left. But I need to carry on the name of the family; and to make sure there is some Inheritance for our family.

... And I have no children to leave anything to.

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So L.T Adams sells everything he has, take the money; the Person who needs to be accounted for; who they owed lives in the United Kingdom (of all Places). He is in a different Jurisdiction!

So he takes the money, goes to the United Kingdom to meet this guy who is owed. Settles all the account.

So, at this Point you can say 'hurray! The children are free, the debt has been Paid!'

Is that not so?

But the Court case has not changed; because the Court does not know the debt that has been Paid - Although it has been Paid!

Let's say Mr. L.T goes to London, Pays all the debt and then he dies in London.

The day for the Court comes; the children of his late Brother would be condemned.

Not because the Price has not been Paid; the Price has been Paid, but there is no evidence in the Court that the Price has been Paid.

So, I hope you know who the first Adams is? - That is Adam of Eden!

And the Second Adams is Adam of Gethsemane - Otherwise known as Jesus Christ; Who is our Advocate.

He came to Pay for the sin of the first Adam and after He Paid, he died!

But if He remained dead, there will be no evidence before God's Presence that the Price has been Paid. And there will therefore be, only forgiveness, but no Justification.

And if there is no Justification, then you will be banished even for what you have been forgiven of.

So, Jesus Christ, in Paying for our debts, died! And if He had remained dead, our Salvation would be half done but He Rose Again!

WHY DID HE RISE AGAIN?

Because He had to come to the Court of Heaven to Prove that the Price has been Paid!

And so, when He Resurrected, the Bible says He went to the Presence of God; to the Heavenly Holies of Holies and said: "This is the evidence that the sin of the first Adam has been borne for; and the sins of his children are borne for. And because of that, I Present a case to the Judge!"

The Judge takes the evidence and He says:

1. Law do you have any case against this man? - No Sir! Because the Law was nailed in the Process.

2. Conscience, do you have anything to answer? - No! Because something else has come to replace it - He is called the Holy Spirit.

3. Satan, do you have anything to say? - No! Because I have been disarmed - Principalities, Powers are disarmed!

The Judge takes the evidence, He looks at man and says: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"

... That, my Friend, is what is called JUSTIFICATION.

Justification - Forgiven and discharged!

And the Court issues a Statement: "From now onwards, no one can accuse these ones of the debt their father owed because it has been Paid!"

And no Judgement at anytime in the future can condemn them; because this Payment settled that debt: ONCE AND FOR ALL.

So, when we stand before God in Judgement:

1. The Case the Law has against us was settled at Calvary.

2. The Case the Conscience has against us settled at Calvary.

3. The Case that Satan has against us settled at Calvary.

When God judges, He doesn't judge us to condemnation

And that is why, in the Judgement, Believers are not judged to determine whether they will go to Heaven or Hell; yes, we will go through Judgement but we will go through Judgement to determine the Merit of our Good, to determine your Reward in Heaven!

Unbelievers go through the Judgement, and the Law, Conscience and Satan has a case against them and they have no answer.

But Believers go through Judgement and they only are Assessed by their Works!

And that is where, some will get little crowns, some People will get, like headbands and some will get Majestic crowns in Heaven.

... Because God will honour you for all the Works you have done.

But in terms of where you spend Eternity, the Price was Paid on the Cross of Calvary and the Advocate brought the Receipt to God and Justified you; and God Justified you!

So, when a Believer says: 'I AM JUSTIFIED.' It doesn't just mean, my sins are forgiven - That is Part of it!

When a Believer says: 'I AM JUSTIFIED.' It doesn't mean I'm Born Again; it includes it, but it doesn't mean that!

When a Believer says 'I AM JUSTIFIED.' It doesn't mean I am a New Creation.

When a Believer says 'I AM JUSTIFIED', it means God has no case against me. He has set the case against me aside and has Legally freed me from condemnation.

And that is why the Believer doesn't go through life with condemnation at the back of his head because Christ has settled it.

We are Justified freely by the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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## 2ND MAY, 2021 - TOPIC: CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP (PART 1) - WHY DO WE GIVE TO GOD?



**TEXT: LUKE 12:42-43**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.



Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

This morning, I'm going to start doing a Series every First Sunday of the Month Titled: "CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP".

Now, when we attend Church Service, we Participate in a number of activities: We Pray, we sing, worship, we hear the Bible read, we hear a Message Preached from the Bible, we give an Offering, we Partake in Holy Communion and we Fellowship with other Believers.

... And in some Churches, other activities are included!

All of these things we doing in Church are not as controversial as only one - GIVING.

People have no Problem when a Church Prays, People have no Problem when a Church sings, worships and dances, and Preached, reads the Bible.

But, anytime it comes to Giving or Giving an offering, there is some discomfort!

And unfortunately, because of that discomfort, People are not able to fully express their devotion to the Lord!

So, in the CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP, I'm going to address Questions that People have about Giving an Offering.

I'm going to address Questions such as:

- WHY DO WE GIVE?
- WHAT DO WE GIVE?
- WHOM DO WE GIVE TO?
- WHERE DO WE GIVE?
- WHEN DO WE GIVE?
- HOW DO WE GIVE? And
- WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GIVE?

And that's quite a bit for the Year! And I will be doing it every first Sunday of the Month, as God helps me!

Today, my Message is Titled: CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 1.

And my Sub-Title is: WHY DO WE GIVE TO GOD?

It is Possible to do something Religiously in Church, without fully understanding the Biblical basis for why you do it!

Sometimes Christians are guilty of what we do - A lot of things!

But we are not able to determine why we do them.

So, I will address why we Give!

But let me start by defining what I mean by STEWARDSHIP.

And I'm going to read from Luke 12:42-43 (NKJV).

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that Faithful and Wise Steward, whom his Master will make Ruler over his household, to give them their Portion of food in due Season?"

43 Blessed is that Servant whom his Master will find so doing when he comes.

... It's interesting a Steward is also called a Servant.

WHO IS A STEWARD?

"A Steward is a Person employed to manage another's Property or Resources".

So, a Steward is not the Owner - A Steward is a Caretaker or an Agent of a Principal. Somebody that has been given responsibility and has to execute that responsibility.

That is a Steward!

Generally speaking, that is what a Steward is - "A Caretaker or a Manager of another Person's Resources".

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP?

... That's what I'm focusing on today.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP is how Christians manage God's Gifts and Resources.

It is the Practice of Systematic and Proportionate Giving of our Time, our Abilities, Material Possessions, based on our Conviction that these are things that God has entrusted to us to manage for Him.

Our Gifts, Opportunities, Time, Money, Abilities - All of these, are things that God gives to us, including our own lives. They are things that God gives to us to manage for Him.

If God gives us something, He gives us life, our life is not our own.

If He gives us Health, our health is not our own.

If He gives us money, our money is not our own.

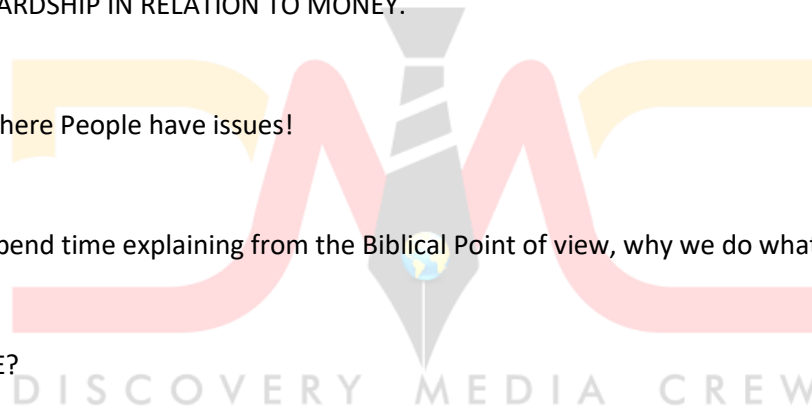
... They are things He had given to us to manage for Him!

Christian Stewardship is very broad; but to focus Properly, I'm going to focus for the time being on:  
CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IN RELATION TO MONEY.

Because that is where People have issues!

So, I'm going to spend time explaining from the Biblical Point of view, why we do what we do.

WHY DO WE GIVE?



... I'm going to give you six (6) reasons why we Give

Why does a Christian go to Church and Give an Offering - Why do we do that?

1. IT IS TO PROCLAIM GOD AS CREATOR.

... He owns everything in Creation!

Anytime we give, we are making an announcement that God is the Creator.

Deuteronomy 10:14 says: Indeed Heaven and the highest Heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the Earth with all that is in it.

We believe that God is the Owner. He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth. He owns everything! And as the Owner of all Resources, visible and invisible; we owe God Tributes.

If we acknowledge that He created all Things, and we are Living in His World; then we owe Him Tributes.

... Even if He doesn't demand it, we owe Him Tributes!

In Ghana (for example), we Practice several Land Tenure Systems.

So, you go to farm on somebody's Land and there is a responsibility you have towards the owner of the Land.

In some Places, after your crops have yielded, you have to divide the crops into three (3) - One goes to the Land Owner, and the rest two (2) belongs to you!

In some Places, you divide the crops into four (4); and in some Places, you actually do it fifty - fifty.

Why? - Because you are recognising that this Person is the Owner of the Land; and you owe him Tributes.

In fact, if you go to several Parts of our Country (Ghana), you will realised that even hunters go out to the forest to hunt, they give Part to whoever they considered to be Owner of the Land.

When we come to Give an Offering to God, we are Paying Tributes to God.

Why? - He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

In Haggai 2:8; God says: 'The Silver is Mine, and the Gold is Mine,' says the Lord of Hosts."

So, we recognise Him as our Sovereign God, as our LORD, and the One to Whom we owe Tribute.

If you truly believe this Earth belongs to God; if you truly believe your Life belongs to God; if you believe all Creation belongs to God, then you owe Him something!

You cannot recognise that and just go ahead and do nothing about it! - You are Farming in His Land, you are Working on His land, you are Producing on His land. So, you owe the Owner Tribute.

Anytime we give an Offering, we are saying: 'God, we recognise You as the Sovereign Creator of everything we have".

That is the first reason why we Give: TO PROCLAIM GOD AS CREATOR.

2. IT IS TO PROFESS GOD AS OUR PROVIDER.

He gave us everything!

Not only has He created the Earth, not only has He created the Heavens, not only did He create us; but, we also recognise Him as the One Who has Provided for us.

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In Genesis 24, there is a very interesting Story there - When Abraham wanted to get a wife for his son Isaac, he sent his Servant to go and look for a wife for Isaac.

And when his Servant got to the Place where the wife was, and he was introducing his Master Abraham; I want you to listen to what Abraham's Servant said.

Genesis 24:34-35; So he said: "I am Abraham's Servant. The Lord has blessed my Master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, Silver and Gold, Male and Female Servants, and Camels and Donkeys."

Abraham's Servant said, God has blessed my Master Abraham.

What is the evidence?

God had given to him flocks, herds, Silver, Gold, Camels.

Now, when Abraham's Servant said God has blessed my Master and given him flocks and goats, Silver, Gold, Camels;

Is he saying that God rained Camels from Heaven for Abraham? Is he trying to say Abraham was just sitting down and one day Camels came down, and flocks down and goats rained on him?

NO!

... Everything Abraham had, he worked for it!

He worked hard for it, he sweated for it. He fought sometimes for it.

So, this is his toil.

However, the servant of Abraham recognised, although Abraham was the toiler and the worker; the Provider is God.

Anytime we give an Offering to God, we are saying: 'Lord, not only do you own the whole of Creation; but everything we have in our hands is from You.

It doesn't mean we just receive them without working - We worked for them, we toiled for them; but because You are the Sovereign, everything we have, belongs to You!

So, we know that God is the Source of all our Resources; the Earth is His; our lives are His, our Gifts are His, our days are His, our Opportunities come from Him.

And all we did was use what was given to us: The Wisdom, the brains, the ideas.

If you are a Christian, anytime you Give, that is what you are saying - God, I acknowledge that what I have was Provided by You!

As a result, David says in Psalms 116:12-14 - "What shall I render to the Lord For all His benefits towards me? I will take up the cup of Salvation, And call upon the Name of the Lord. I will Pay my vows to the Lord Now in the Presence of all His People."

David says, if God has so benefitted me, what should I do?

I. He says, I will call upon His Name.

II. And then he says, I will give my Vows to God.

III. I will Worship Him by lifting up my hands. But not only that!

IV. The benefits He has given to me, I will give back to Him.

Why? - Because God is the Provider!

So, we Give because we are Proclaiming He is the Landlord of the Earth and the Heavens and we owe Him Tributes.

When we Give, we are Professing that, although we work hard and we labour, we recognize that it comes from God.

And whomever you recognize as the one who facilitated what you have; you give back to that Person.

3. WE GIVE TO PROVE THAT WE TRUST GOD.

... He has Promised to take care of us!



Every Giving is an expression of Faith in God.

I mean, it doesn't make sense for you to have money and give it away! Then, what are you going to live on? How are you going to survive? How are you going to make it?

Anytime you Give, you are saying: I trust God. Not only do I owe Him Tributes, but I trust Him.

Why do I Trust Him?

Because He has Promised to take care of me!

In Luke 6:38, Jesus says: "Give, and it will be given to you: Good measure, Pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

When we give, we demonstrate that God is our Source of Supply, and that He will Provide for us.

So, whenever you Give an offering, you are expressing that God is the Creator, He is your Provider, and that God will keep Providing for you - You Trust Him.

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Christian Principles are very different from the way the world thinks.

That is why People who don't know the Lord and have not submitted their lives to the Lord cannot know Christianity.

Christianity has Principles that go opposite the way we think:

1. In Christianity, we Live by DYING:

Jesus says, if you want to live, give up your life. Nobody teaches that!

2. In Christianity, you become Great by SERVING:

Whoever will be Great, let him be a Servant.

Who teaches that? - JESUS!

3. In Christianity we Lead by FOLLOWING.

4. And in Christianity, we Receive by GIVING:

In the Wisdom of the world, you receive by taking!

... In Christianity you receive by Giving!

In the Wisdom of the world, you live by trying to live; in Christianity, it is by dying!

It is in going down that we go up. It is in surrendering that we receive.

That is Christianity!

And if you want to follow Jesus, that is your mindset!

And when you have that Mindset, then Giving is logical because we receive by Giving.

... That is the logic of Christianity!

So, when we give, we are Providing evidence to the world that we Trust in God's logic, more than the Learning of the world.

In Matthew Chapter 6, Jesus talks so much about God's Provision.

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And He says in Matthew 6:26 -33:

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his Glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

When we Give, we are telling God: 'We trust You to clothe us, we trust You to give us food, we trust You to Provide for us, we trust You to take care of us.'

And He says, which one of you by worrying, can take care, by adding to his Stature?

... There are People who wish they would have a few more inches to their stature, and it has not happened!

4. WE GIVE TO PRESENT OUR HEART TO GOD.

... He sees our hearts in our Giving!

How does God know your heart?

In Matthew 6:19-21, He says:

"Do not lay up for yourselves Treasures on Earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your Treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Your Giving reveals your heart to God!

Beyond our necessities; we spend money on things based on how important they are to us.

We have necessities in life, such as:

Food, to keep us functioning, necessary clothing, a comfortable Place to live, Healthcare, responsibilities to our families - Spouse, children, wards.

... These are necessities!

Beyond these what we spend money on reveals the condition of our heart.

... So, we spend money on what is important to us!

If Pleasure is important to you, you spend your money on things that give you Pleasure.

If impressing People is important to you, you spend your money on things that will help you impress People.

If you lust after money, you spend your money on things that give you short cut to world - Like Gambling because you are lusting after money!

You spend money on something! Everybody spends money: People spend money on Sports, on Entertainment, on Luxury. Others spend money on weird life, on their environment.

Why do they do that? - Because that is what their heart wants.

Why will somebody spend money on Whales? I wouldn't leave a lot of money in my Will for Whales because they are not

on my heart!

I'm not going to spend money on some other things.

Why? - Because they are not on my heart.

So check your spending; it shows your heart!

If you want to show God your heart; you remember where Jesus sits when He goes to Church? He sits there watching what People are doing with their money!

That's how He could judge widow's heart, and tell His Disciples, this woman has the heart that loves God because she gave everything.

And then He checks the heart of People Pouring in monies, and He says, they have no heart for God because they are impressing!

The way you Give and what you Give to God reveals your heart to God.

Everyday Offering Time, God is watching your heart (I didn't say it)!

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus says:

"No one can serve two Masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

... Mammon is the Money god. You can't serve both at the same time.

5. WE GIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S WORK.

He had made us Labourers in His Field.

The reference is Exodus 25:1-8.

When God wanted to build a Place to meet His People, He told them to bring several things.

In Exodus 25:8; He says: "And let them make Me a Sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."

And He told them they should bring: Gold, Silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate (Exodus 25:3-7)

... Bring all of these, that I may dwell among them.

When God wanted to build, He invites People to Participate in what he wanted to do.

He Provided the Pattern of the building to Moses, but He called the People to Provide Resources to build the Pattern He had Provided.

Anytime we give (In the Church), we are Participating in God's work; we are becoming Part of God's work.

... And God's work needs to be taken care of.

In the Book of Matthew 28:11, there is a Story there, of what happened after Jesus resurrected.

The Jewish Leaders Paid bribe to the Guards who were there! - The first Witnesses of the Resurrection.

In fact, the first Witnesses were not the women, not Peter, James and John. None of the Apostles - It was Soldiers at the Tomb.

They saw what happened!

They went to report to the Chief Priest - 'Something amazing has happened today!'

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And they said: You can't spread that information. You can't tell anybody about that.

And they gave them money and said, keep quiet!

And if you need more money we will give you. And if it goes anywhere else, we will Pay our way; but we must make sure this News never comes out!

- How did they try to stop the spread of the Message with money?

- How do we counter it?

... It is to spread the Good News by spending Money.

When we spend Financially, we are Participating in God's work.

6. WHEN WE GIVE TO GOD, WE GIVE TO PLEASE HIM.

I mean, if you forget anything I have said today: Remember, we give: TO PLEASE GOD.

He enjoys the Sacrificial Giving of his children.

2 Corinthians 9:7: So let each one give as he Purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a Cheerful Giver.

... God takes Pleasure in a Cheerful Giver.

As Christian Stewards, we must live life totally committed to the Lord.

Does it mean that we can just live anyhow; and go to Church and think we can just give to God?

... No! Christian Stewardship is not bribery;

It is the Stewardship of your heart, of worship, of your devotion and everything you have; Proclaiming that God is Sovereign over your Life.

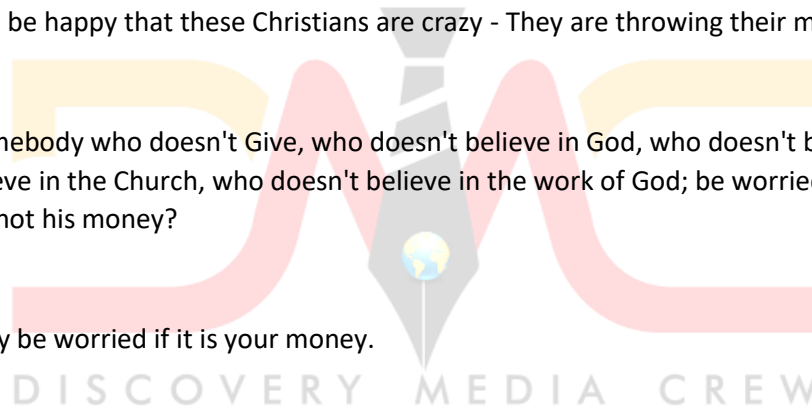
It is amazing how People have Problems when it comes to Giving. And the most important thing that amazes me is that the Problem is not from those who Give; it's from those who don't!

So, ask yourself: "Why should somebody who doesn't go to Church, who doesn't believe in God, who thinks Christianity is a scam; why should he be worried when Christians are Giving their money? And thinks Christians are throwing their money away!

They should even be happy that these Christians are crazy - They are throwing their money away!

Why is it that Somebody who doesn't Give, who doesn't believe in God, who doesn't believe in Christ, who doesn't believe in the Church, who doesn't believe in the work of God; be worried that People are Giving when it is not his money?

... You should only be worried if it is your money.



Could it be that their worry goes beyond just worry?

Could it be that there is a deeper worry, that the work of God must not go on, that God must not be honoured, that People must not Proclaim that God is Sovereign, People must not show that God is the One that Bless them?

Because they understand, every Giving is the Proclamation of God's Sovereignty, it is a Prove that we trust that God is the One Who Provides for us. That God is our Source, He will take care of us!

Is it Possible that the real hatred is that the People have Problems with God, not just with Christians?



Because I don't have Problem when Somebody supports Arsenal with his money. I don't have Problem of Somebody gives all his money to Chelsea.

I don't have Problem if a widow leaves all her money to a Cat.

I mean I should be worried: 'why should a Cat inherit money?'

Why don't People go on campaign against that: "DON'T LEAVE MONEY TO DOGS AND CAT."

Why are they not bothered!

And why do People have Problems only, when People Give in Church?

I suggest to you: It is not because they are concerned about the Church.

Yes, we know there are chaltants and People who misuse Church money but that is not the reason!

In fact, People don't care much about that because there are a lot of things that People throw away money after.

There are People who have stayed in Lotto for ten (10) Years.

They have won too miserable wings.

Do People complain about that?

There are a lot of Betting going on now - Do People complain about that?

Why do People have Problems only with those who give in Church?

The same Old Ancient Problem is what we have today: When Mary honoured Jesus with her fragrance, there was a Particular individual who was very upset.

And the Bible Commentary was: He was not upset because he loved Poor People. He was upset: 'Who is Jesus to be honoured this way?'

And that same Person started a Process to betray Jesus.

Guess what? - For Money!

... Thirty (30) Pieces of Silver.

Could it be that this hatred of Christian Giving is deeper than just Logic and common sense?

Because, in terms of Logic and common sense, it doesn't make sense!

... So I have given you six (6) reasons why Christians Give.

And if you want to find the reason(s) why you should Give an Offering, look at these Six (6) reasons.

- Do you think they are Biblical?

- Do you think they correspond with what the Bible teaches?

- Do you think it's just a Teaching to manipulate you?

- In your heart, do you really believe this is what should be the reason why you Give?

If you can come to that conclusion, then as a Christian, you have no excuse; but to be a Generous Giver in the House of the Lord.

Amen!

Now, I have not answered all the questions about: Where to Give, How to Give, What to Give? - I will be taking it one after the other.

Today, I just gave you the Reasons why we do what we do.

And if anybody should ever ask you: 'Why do you go to Church and Give Offering?' Give him or her these Six (6) Reasons.

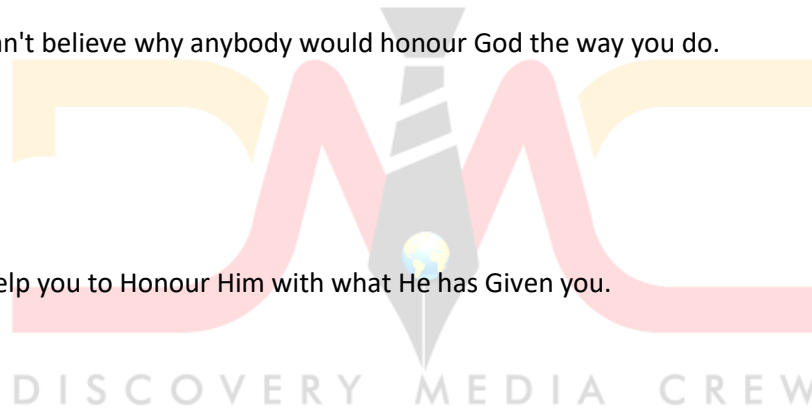
And if he is still not convinced, then you know that there is a deeper reason than just he is concerned about your well-being and future Prosperity.

It's just that he can't believe why anybody would honour God the way you do.

Let us Pray!

Just ask God to help you to Honour Him with what He has Given you.

CLOSING PRAYER



Father we Thank You that you OWN the Earth and You OWN us. And You OWN what we have.

And so Lord, in recognition of Your Ownership of our lives, we give to You out of the Resources You have blessed us with as Good Stewards of Your Resources.

And may You help us Lord, as Good Christians, to be Stewards of all the Blessings that You have given to us. And to honour You and to put you first, in all the affairs of our lives.

In Jesus' Name we Prayed - 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!

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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9TH MAY, 2021 - TOPIC: TWO (2) KINDS OF MOTHERS



**TEXT: EXODUS 2:1-10**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all the Mothers all over the Globe!

We trust that God's blessing will be upon all the Mothers - Amen. And we Pray for God's Presence upon you, upon your home, upon your children, upon your children's children - Amen.

And may the Lord bless the works of your hands and Prosper you in all that you do - Amen!

Well, today in recognition of Mothers, I am Preaching a Message related to mothers.

And I have Titled my Message: TWO (2) KINDS OF MOTHERS.

Maybe you will find yourself in one of the kinds and function effectively in these.

I am going to look at Two (2) Mothers in the Bible who defied all the odds to raise a baby who was born in a very dangerous time. Both mothers were mothers of the same child and both helped the child to fulfill his Destiny.

And in this Message, I will address Two (2) Questions - And I hope that we can find answers to these two (2) Questions:

## 1. WHAT MAKES A WOMAN A MOTHER?

That is the question we keep asking.

Because when it is Mother's Day, you don't know whether to wish it only to women who have children or to wish it to women who don't have children.

So, what makes a woman a Mother?

You will find an answer at the end of my Message.

## 2. WHAT KIND OF MOTHER HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO BE?

And I hope that by the end of my Message you find a Role to Play in this world.

\*The background of my Message is related to the story of Moses - Moses was born at a very dangerous Season; he was born at a time when it was unsafe for babies from his Race and from his Tribe to be born. He was a Hebrew, his Parents were Hebrews in Egypt.

And at that time before Moses was born, the Pharaoh of Egypt had made a decree that all Hebrew boys born should be killed. And that decree was up on the whole Nation - For a Hebrew boy to be killed at birth!

... It was in that environment of severe threat and challenge, and difficulty that Moses was born.

And we are going to look at his story from Exodus 2:1-10 (NKJV).

Let's hear the reading of God's Word:

1 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.



2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.

4 And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.

9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

10 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

... Very, very fascinating story!

It is amazing when you read the Stories in the Bible, that you have read from your childhood (from Sunday School); and all of a sudden they take on a different meaning as you read them again.

Well, just as a background - If you look at the Story, there are several women who Played different roles in this narrative.

1. The Midwives - Who were not mentioned in what I read but earlier on had been mentioned.

Who were charged to make sure that every Hebrew boy was killed and they defiled the King's Order.

2. There is Moses' Mother.

3. And there is Pharaoh's Daughter.

4. And then there is Moses' Older Sister - Miriam.

And each one Played a role interestingly, in a Story none of them is named. So they are just different People doing different things.

But I am going to focus only on Two (2) of the women and both were Mothers of Moses - One was his "Natural Birth Mother" and the other was his "Adoptive Mother".

And each of them Played a Significant Role in the life of Moses.

And we will look at each Person and what they did to Moses

1. MOSES BIRTH MOTHER - The woman who gave birth to Moses.

Her name was not mentioned here. But in Exodus 6:20; her name is giving as JOCHEBED. And Moses' father is named as AMRAM

So Jochebed; she gave birth to a boy and the Bible says that she saw the boy was beautiful.

That means that she treasured the baby she had given birth to.

She had a High Value for the baby she had given birth to; she treasured the baby and decided to do something for the baby.

What a conflict - That the birth of Moses would have introduced to his Parents - On the one hand, if you give birth to a child, there is great Joy and celebrations - that a child has been born. And at the same time, there is a decree from the King that the child must be killed.

So, you are not sure as a Parent whether to be happy because your child is born; or be sad because the child must not live.

But sometimes, children are born in these environments: where you give birth to a child as a Mother, you are so excited. But you look at all the circumstances surrounding the child and you are not so excited.

Maybe the father ran away when you were Pregnant. Or maybe the father of the child is not your husband.

And so you are happy that a child has been born, but at the same time there is trouble all around.

And that is the environment in which Moses' Mother gave birth to him! - Happiness that he has been born; sadness because the King had decreed that the child must die.

And so, Moses' Mother looked at her child, decided to defy the King. And so, although there is a Policy against keeping Hebrew Boys; she decided to go against it.

The Passage says that she hid her child!

And she hid the child from danger, she hid the child so that the decree will not get to him. And for three months she hid the child from destruction.

And I can imagine how the mother would have felt these three (3) Months! Because anytime soon Pharaoh's Officers would discovered that this child has been born and come and kill the child.

I am sure that there were others who were telling her: 'Listen, it is a wasted effort! Just let them kill the child and keep us free.'

I am sure that there were women of that time who just obeyed the Law and surrendered their children. There were others whose babies were discovered by Pharaoh's officers.

But Moses' Mother, for three (3) Months, managed to hide her child! The kind of things that mothers do to hide their children; Protect their children, Preserve their children from danger, from harsh world and from a difficult world.

... So she did that for three (3) Months, because he was a beautiful child!

But after three (3) Months, it was impossible for the child to be kept any longer - Probably, because his cries were getting louder or whatever the reason; but it was becoming too dangerous to hide the child.

So Moses' Mother decided 'I'm going to give my child a chance to survive' - If she keeps the child any longer, he would be discovered and killed; if she surrendered the child to the Officers of Pharaoh, instantly the child will be killed!

She didn't have much choice, but she had a slim chance.

So she decided instead, to put the child in a situation where somebody could have compassion on the child and she didn't know how that would happen!

So, she made an Ark - A Protective Small Basket, Protecting it from water. Put the baby in it. She didn't send the baby along the River; but kept the baby among the reeds of the River.

In other words, a Place where the water is not moving so the baby will stay in one Place!

That is what she did and she allowed her other daughter to stand by and watch what would happen to the baby.

This was a desperate move! - She didn't want the child to be killed but she was trying to give her child a chance.

And as you know, the child was discovered by the enemy's daughter (Laughter) - Oh, God has a sense of humour!

Maybe Moses' Mother did it Purposefully; maybe she thought 'if I put the child here by the Nile, this woman will discovered him.'

And maybe the woman had a reputation as a "Good Woman"!

We don't know why she put the child in that Place, to be discovered by that Particular woman.

Well, when he was discovered. Interestingly, Moses' Mother was given back her child to nurse him in the early years of the child.

So, she had the chance to nurse the child.

And whilst she was nursing the child, she was careful not to undermine the Destiny of the child.

So, she didn't hold on to what was her's - She Probably weaned the child for two (2) to three (3) Years; and when it was time she released her child!

Can you imagine the Pain of knowing this is my own child from my womb, but if I want this child to live I must deny myself my own instinct and allow this child to go to this woman to survive!

... So that is the first Mother - Moses Birth Mother doing all she can to Protect her child.

Then there is a Second (2nd) Mother: if you read Exodus 2:10, the Bible says then Moses became a son to her - So this is a Second Mother of Moses and that is:

## 2. MOSES ADOPTIVE MOTHER

There are several Ancient Traditions that gave her a name. But the Bible doesn't give her a name and identity. So, I will stick with the Scriptures and not name her by what traditions would have her called.

... The Scriptures only called her Pharaoh's Daughter.

Pharaoh is the one who said every Hebrew Male Child must be killed.

... That is the daughter!

And the Passage says that she comes, she sees the basket, she hears the cry of the baby, she opens the basket and she discovered the baby!

And when she heard the cry of the baby, the Bible says she had COMPASSION on the baby (Moses).

... She saw the baby, heard the baby cried and she had Compassion!

I. That simply shows you that Compassion is not only limited to Biology.

She didn't give birth to that child Biologically. She hadn't carry the Child for nine (9) Months.

... We don't know whether she had other children - The Bible is silent about it.

But she saw this baby that was not her Biological son, and she had Compassion on him.

You know, sometimes People tell us: "Women who have never had a child Biologically don't know what it is to care for a child or to love a child." - I beg to differ!

Because, all this woman showed was that: Even though you don't give birth to a Child Biologically, you can be a mother by Compassion.

The motherly instinct that Pharaoh's daughter felt towards Moses was as Strong as that which was felt by Moses' Biological Mother - Same Compassion!

So you don't have to give birth to a child before you feel Compassion to another baby - Motherhood is a Product of Compassion and not Biology.

And women who have not given birth before can show Motherly Compassion, as we see in the life of Pharaoh's daughter.

Interestingly, I have never heard anyone Preached about before about Pharaoh's Daughter. Never!

Until I started Studying this and I said: Wow! How come we have never Preached about it? - What a woman full of Compassion!

II. And she also Protected the child Moses from danger.

She defiled her own father's law, she defiled the Laws of her Country - What she had for Moses was so Strong that it overruled the Decees of her father.

The same thing that drove Moses' Birth Mother was driving both of them! - Both of them defied the King's Law.

One was a Natural Birth Mother, the other was an Adoptive Mother. But both had the same Compassion and the same Love for the child Moses.

Pharaoh's Daughter knew without any doubt that the child was a Hebrew boy - Of course, only Hebrews would have abandoned the boy.

She could have called in her Father's Executioners to kill the baby; yet she chose to Protect this child from the enemy which is her father and her father's Regime.

In God's Sovereignty she appointed a woman from the most unlikely Place to Protect the child and she Protected the Child from her own father; even in her father's house. She made sure the Child could be saved for forty (40) Years.

III. She Provided for the Child's Survival.

Since she was not a Nursing Mother, when she found the child she decided to get a Nursing Mother to nurse the baby.

... And it is very interesting that she chose a Hebrew Nursing Mother!

She could have chosen an Egyptian Nursing Mother and that could have been disastrous for the child. She knew if an Egyptian woman nurse this child, she has an obligation to kill this Child.

She knew the child was a Hebrew and she decided: 'I'm going to get a Hebrew woman to take care of this child!

Just look at the extent she's going to Protect this baby who is not hers Biologically!

IV. She Accepted Moses as her own Child.

The Scriptures says that Moses became her son - She Accepted to become a Mother to Moses.

Moses spent more time with Pharaoh's Daughter than he did with his own Biological Mother - He spent Probably two (2) to three (3) Years with his Biological Mother but the rest of his Years with Pharaoh's Daughter.

V. It was Pharaoh's Daughter who Named him not Moses Biological Mother.

And she named him in a very interesting way - And it was all Part of what she did to Protect this baby.

The name MOSES has double meaning - In Egypt it means 'Son'; in Hebrew it means 'Taken out of water.'

So, for the Egyptians his name make sense; for the Hebrews, his name make sense - Both of them are allowed him to live.



The Egyptians knew his name is alright - He is a son. The Hebrews also heard his name and his name was alright.

Because this Pharaoh's Daughter had a deep sense of Protection for this Child, and she used the wisest means - even in his name.

VI. And if you look at her although she was an Egyptian, she never tried to make the boy and Egyptian.

1. Could it be that Pharaoh's Daughter hated her Laws?
2. Could it be that she knew the father's Laws were not Just?
3. Could it be that though she was an Egyptian she hated the way the Hebrews were treated?

... It's very likely!

Because she raised Moses to honour his Hebrew Heritage, and Probably she might have been the one who sowed the Seed in Moses heart that: 'You are a Hebrew and you must one day go and Set your People free'.

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Could it be so? - It's Possible, because Moses never lived with Hebrews who would have told him to go and Set the Hebrews free.

The Bible says that God uses Humans Voice, and it is Possible it is her's that God used for Moses.

She doesn't get recommendations much, but then you have two (2) kinds of Mothers:

1. One gave birth to the boy and couldn't hold on to the Boy because of danger.
2. The other, in the midst of the danger took the Boy and raised him.

... Both Mothers of Moses!

So now, to my question: WHAT MAKES A WOMAN A MOTHER?

When we say: "Happy Mother's Day", who are we saying it to? Is it to Moses' Mother or Pharaoh's Daughter or to both?

I. Well, we see from the Story that both Mothers had Maternal Love for Moses.

II. Moses' Birth Mother defiled Pharaoh's Rules as an Outsider; Pharaoh's Daughter defiled her father as an Insider.

III. Both faced Risks for their Actions.

IV. If you talk about Compassion, both of them have it.

V. Both Mothers Protected Moses from danger - Moses' Mother Protected Moses in the Hebrew Part of the Town, Pharaoh's daughter Protected Moses in Egypt Part of Town

VI. Both of them Nutured and Raised Moses. They did it in different Phases of Moses' life.

And Moses' Birth Mother breastfeed him; Pharaoh's Daughter raised Moses to be a Prince.

One of the reasons why God raised Moses (I believe) is because he did not have Slave Mentality - Every Hebrew had been raised to think like a Slave.

Only Moses was not raised to think like a Slave but to think like a Prince, to talk like a Free Man not a Bound Man. He was not a Hebrew with the Hebrew Problem; he was Hebrew but he didn't have their Problems.

Because his Mindset was nurtured in a different environment and that was Possible because Pharaoh's Daughter brought him to the Palace and gave him a different Orientation.

VI. And both Mothers Released Moses for his Mission - Both of them didn't hold on to him.

When it was time for Moses to go and Set the People Free, he left Pharaoh's Daughter. And when it was time for him to go to the Palace, he left Jochebed - His Birth Mother.

SO WHAT MAKES YOU A MOTHER?

I believe that it is Maternal Love, Protection of the child, Nurturing of the child, and Releasing the child to his or her Mission.

... These are the Hallmarks of Mothers - And both Mothers of Moses - One, a Birth Mother and the other an Adoptive Mother fulfilled that.

So, does Pharaoh's Daughter qualified to be greeted with: Happy Mother's Day? - YES!

Does Moses' Birth Mother qualified to be greeted with: Happy Mother's Day?

Both Mothers can receive a Happy Mother's Day several thousand Years later.

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Second Question: WHAT KIND OF MOTHER HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO BE (if you are a Woman)?

... Just looking at these two (2) women:

I. God can make you a Mother of a Child by Birth.

And there are many women who have experienced that! - They will learn that sometimes you may give birth to a child while somebody else may raise the Child.

... And God can use different People to raise your Child.

II. But God can also make you a Mother of a Child you DID NOT give Birth to - like Pharaoh's Daughter.

... That is why her Story is told in the Bible.

1. So, you could be a "Step Mother" for a Divine Purpose - What if there is a Moses amongst your step children?

How would you help that Child in the absence of his or her Birth Mother?

2. You could be a "Foster Mother" by taking care of a relative's Child or a Child who has been left for you to discover.

There are more 'MOSES' who have been left all over this world - Abandoned, Scavenging in the Streets of our Cities, in neighborhoods, in Compounds.

Where are the Pharaoh's Daughters? - Are we going to leave them to be destroyed?

Are we to say because you didn't give birth to them we can't care for them?

So for every woman who has given birth to a Child, God Bless You - Amen!

And to every woman who has not given birth to a Child but has raised a Child, God Bless You - Amen!

And to every woman who has Compassion on another Child, God Bless You - Amen!

For every woman who is placed in a very Unlikely Circumstances - In a difficult Marriage, where you are to take care of children you didn't give birth to, God Bless You - Amen!

Because what you do, you are doing for the Lord. And who knows the General you are raising? Who knows the Prophet you are raising, the Servant of God you are raising?

And may the Child that God has Placed in your hand never die in your hand - Amen.

And may the Lord give you Compassion to Protect the Destiny of the children He has Placed in your hand - Amen.

May the Lord give you the wisdom to hold those children from the dangers of the Society, from Drug Addictions, from Alcoholism; from becoming Thieves, from becoming Vagabonds, from becoming a Problems for the Society - Amen.

May God give you the Strength to Protect your children from any of the dangers of this world - Amen.

Today we are not dealing with Pharaoh's Decree; we are dealing with all kinds of Decrees of drugs; we are dealing with Decrees of bad behaviour and all kinds of Decrees upon our Health.

And God is looking for Mothers like these Two (2) Mothers; who in the midst of danger ensured that their Child would survived and become a blessing to Humanity.

That I believe is the Call to every Woman - Whether you have a Child Biologically or you don't have a Child Biologically.

And may the Lord help you to Play these Roles effectively unto His Glory - Amen.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Pray for every woman: Those who are caught in a challenging situation as these two (2) women were.

May You give them the Compassion to do the Right Thing and the courage to do the Right Thing.

May You raise up Good Women whose heart goes beyond just their own children to touch other children.

May you raise women who will Care for and Protect their children from danger and may you give them the Wisdom to do it.

And for all women who raise up children under these circumstances, may You cause their cups to Overflow; that there will be no lack in their lives.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN!

And a Happy Mother's Day to all of you Women all over the world!

May the Lord give you the Strength to be like these two (2) Women - Amen.

God Bless You - AMEN!

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!

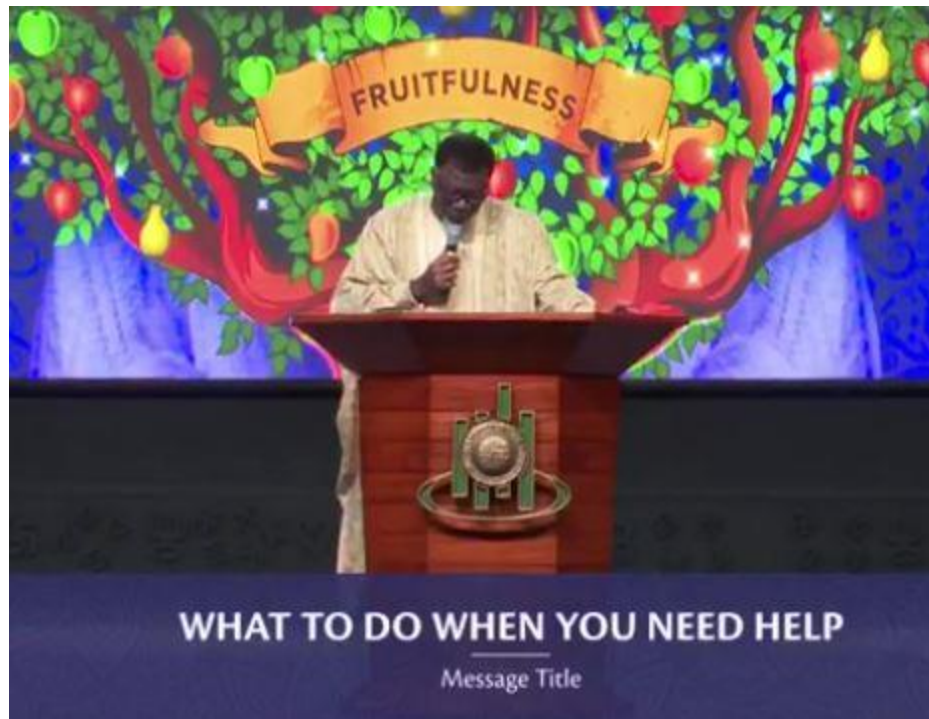
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COMPILATIONS BY:

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16TH MAY, 2021 - TOPIC: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU NEED HELP.



TEXT: PSALMS 91:1-3

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.



Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

No matter what life hits you with I believe in Christ there is Victory; there is Strength, there is Purpose, there is Direction! And God makes a way for us where there seems to be no Way.

So no matter what comes your way, God will lift you up and He will definitely raise you up - Amen!

Today, I just feel like bringing us a Word of encouragement that will help us to know what to do when times are not looking the best for us.

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So my Message is Titled: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU NEED HELP.

It looks like we are in a Season where constantly, we need Help. Because our world is going through its own gyrations: And that which was stable is unstable, what was firm is unfirm.

... But Christ is our Solid Rock and He is our Foundation.

So, I am going to Preach from Psalms 91 - And Psalms 91 is a very beautiful Testimony about Security in life. And I know that many People have adopted it as a favourite Psalm.

As a matter of fact as a Church (ICGC) we read Psalms 91 every Cross Over Service; when we are going into the New Year.

It is a Psalm that we read, and it speaks so strongly to us, especially in troubled times or in troubling times.

If you look at Psalms 91, it has a link with the Preceding one (which is Psalms 90) and then the subsequent one (which is Psalms 92).

So, Psalms 90, 91 and 92 have links together. And the language is together.

Psalms 91 does not Proclaim any direct Authorship; so we are not sure who the Author is. But we know the Holy Spirit inspired it.

Some say Psalms 90, 91 and 92 were also written by Moses. But we are not so sure. Whatever it is, God inspired the Psalms to be written for us in such a time as this.

Psalms 91 talks about things like hidden traps and deadly plagues; terrors at night, arrows by day, the stumbling over rocks, facing lions and snakes.

... And the more you read it, the more you feel like it is speaking about 2021.

So, I will read Psalms 91:1-3 and I will Preach from the first three (3) Verses of Psalms 91.

And it reads: Psalms 91: 1-3 (NKJV):

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in Him I will trust."

3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler

And from the perilous Pestilence.

As you read the Psalm, you read about Pestilence and all the things he talks about reminds us of the Pandemic we are experiencing now.

## 1. WHEN A CHRISTIAN NEEDS HELP, HOW DO THEY GET HELP?

And so I am going to walk us through what the Psalmist tells us that we should do.

He tells us where to go for Help when we need Help.

And the Psalmist talks about two (2) Places that we have to go for Help.

... And I believed that those Places are still valid to us.

I. The first Place to go for Help is: THE SECRET PLACE.

The Secret Place refers to being under God's Protection.

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When everything is unsafe and insecure we go to God's Secret Place - The place of God's Protection.

Other translations call it GOD'S HIDING PLACE.

The idea of the Secret Place is similar to our Modern Understanding of seeking Asylum.

You know when in the Political world, somebody feels that their life is in danger in one Country and they are being Pursued; normally what they will do is that they will run to another Country to seek Asylum.

... To seek for Protection, cover under that Country.

There was a time in Ghana that many People did that.

I hear there are still People who try to seek Asylum for whatever Purpose, I don't know!

But when People feel their lives are in danger, they go to a Place of Asylum.

Sometimes they go to an Embassy and ask that they be Protected by the Nation.

And that Place becomes their Secret Place; it becomes their Hiding Place.

So, the Bible says that when we need Help we don't seek Asylum in an Embassy or in another Country; but there is a Place we go to and it is God's Hiding Place. We go under God's covering and under God's Protection.

Where do we go for Help when we need Help? - We go to God's Secret Place!

II. And then the Psalmist talks about another place we go to.

And he calls it: THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY.

"Under the Shadow of the Almighty;" and the idea there is coming under God's Wings!

When we hear about all the things that are going wrong in our lives; when you hear bad News, when you hear that things are not stable. You must know where to go!

We go to God's SECRET PLACE and we go under GOD'S SHADOW.

The image is that of a mother hen whose chicks come to hide under the wings, to escape from danger and from harm.

However, God's Wings go beyond just the image of hen, under whose safety the chicks run to.

The centre of Israel's worship was the Temple or the Tabernacle. And what made the Temple or Tabernacle very unique was the Ark of the Covenant.

And in the Ark of the Covenant, there was a Prominent Figure of two (2) Angels whose wings were joined together; and under the wings of the Angels was a place called the MERCY SEAT.

So, when the Bible says, we come under the Shadow of the Almighty, that is where we come to - We come to God's Mercy Seat, under the covering of His Presence.

When life is hitting you, when things are coming against you, there is the Hiding Place, there is a Place of Covering, there is the Shadow of the Almighty, there is a Place of Shade - And it is God's Mercy Seat.

"He that dwelleth in the Secret Place of the Most High shall abide under the Shadow of the Almighty."

There is a Shadow to cover us, there is a Shadow to Protect us - It is God's Secret Place and it is God's Mercy Seat.

... So the next thing the Psalmist tells us is;

## 2. WHAT TO DO WHEN WE GET THE GOD'S SECRET PLACE AND GOD'S SHADOW.

- What do we do there?

- How should we conduct ourselves in God's Secret Place and under God's Shadow?

... He tells us two (2) things to do:

### I. WE MUST DWELL THERE.

You don't go to God's Secret Place and leave; you must DWELL there!

That word 'DWELL' simply means to sit in God's Presence.

So, when you get to God's Secret Place, you stop moving - You don't continue fretting, you don't continue being anxious when you get to God's Secret Place.

The thing about trouble is that, when you have trouble you start wandering - You just keep moving, and you move from Place to Place.

For some of us Christians, our wandering takes us from Church to Church; from Prayer Meeting to Prayer Meeting, from Prophet to Prophet, from Apostle to Apostle, from Bishop to Bishop.

So, one moment you hear: 'Oh, there is Help here'; you go there! The next moment you hear: 'Oh, there is another Powerful Man of God', you go there! There is some Help over there, you go there! And you keep wandering and wandering.

But when you find God's Mercy Seat, you stop wandering you sit, you settle, you Dwell.

The fact that you keep moving simply means you haven't found God's Secret Place because, if you find God's Secret Place, then there will be no need for you to keep moving and moving!

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The Passage says we Dwell in that Place! We don't keep moving when we get to God's Secret Place.

It is not a sign of Faith for the Christian to move from one Prayer Meeting to the other!

... It is okay if you have Prayer Meetings in your Church and you attend the Prayer Meetings.

But some of you have about ten (10) different Prayer Meetings you attend. Some of you have about fifty (50) Prophets - Prophet for Prosperity, Prophet for Deliverance from Accident, Prophet for Marriage Breakthrough, Prophet for this and Prophet for that!

And you go to this one for that, and you go to that one for this! You listened to this one for that and listened to that one for this! - It is not Faith, it is unbelieve! It means you are in trouble, and you are wandering.

But if you have found the Secret Place and God's Hiding Place you will Dwell.

II. And not only do we Dwell there, the Psalmist says that when we find the Place that God is, and come under His Covering; WE WILL ABIDE.

That means we will spend time there - "We will ABIDE under the Shadow of the Almighty."

You don't run from the Shadow of the Almighty, you Abide there!

As a matter of fact, the word that is used in Hebrew and the idea it conveys (of Abiding) is of one who is a Traveller who gets to a Place (maybe a Rest Stop) and then they unpack all their bags in that Rest Place.

In other words, saying: I'm not going another further, I have arrived at the Place. They unpack all their bags and settle.

God wants you to find a Resting Place and find a Safe Place. And when you get there you unpack all your burdens and rest there!

You don't go from one Place to the other carrying your burdens - You carry your burdens from this Prayer Meeting to that Prayer Meeting but still they are your burdens.

You carry your Problems from that Prayer Meeting and other Prayer Meetings and still you are carrying them - There is no unpacking!

But when we find God's Secret Place, His Shadow and His Place of Rest; we will DWELL there and we will ABIDE.

And may God give you that Place where you can DWELL and ABIDE - Amen.

... Then the Psalmist tells us;

### 3. WHOM TO TRUST.

When we get to that Place, whom do we Trust?

He says we Trust in:

#### I. THE MOST HIGH.

It is very interesting when you Study the Scriptures to see how words are used.

The Bible doesn't just throw words about because there is lack of Vocabulary.

... The Bible chooses words that are appropriate for what He wants us to understand!

The Most High means He is above All - God is higher than All others.

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When you trust in Him, you trust in the Most High: There is no higher Authority to report Him to; there is no higher Authority to command Him. No one can appeal to anyone higher than Jehovah Lord God Almighty!

So, when you Trust in the Lord you have trusted in the Ultimate Authority, the Highest Possible Authority. There is nothing above Him, there is no recourse beyond God. When you trust Him, that is it!

When you Trust a Human Being and he doesn't Perform, you look for his Supervisor. If he doesn't Perform, you look for the Managing Director, if he doesn't Perform you go to the Board. If they don't Perform, you take them somewhere else (laughs)!

... For there is always something above somebody!



But when it comes to God, He is the Most High; there is nothing above Him, there is no other recourse.

And because there is nothing above Him, nobody can countercommand His commandments - Nobody can counter Him!

When God says you are blessed, nobody can issue another verdict. Nobody can do that.

In a Law Court, when you are in the Lower Court and you get Judgement, you go to another Court. And you keep going and going.

With God, there is nothing beyond Him. And if He says to you: You are Blessed; you are Highly Favoured - Amen.

And nothing is beyond God to change that!

Definitely, not the devil because he is under His feet.

We Trust the Most High.



Can somebody say: "My Trust is in the Most High?"

II. And then, the Second (2nd) word that is used to describe God is: THE ALMIGHTY.

Almighty means that He is Stronger than ALL.

Almighty is a Warrior's Title - It means the Mighty Warrior or appropriately, the Mightiest Warrior.

The Psalmist uses a Human term to describe God, because Warriors are supposed to be People with Big Chest.

You know, we see all these People in Ghana we call Macho people.

Tthey have Big Chest, Big Muscles and sometimes they twerk them up and down - I just don't know whether to fascinate People or scare People.

But whatever it is, when you see a Big Muscle Person; even without them throwing a blow, you surrender. You just know 'I can't fight this guy.' You don't attempt to fight them because they are Big Chested.

Well, God Almighty means the Big Chested One.

In other words, there are Macho People with Big Chest; but when you see Jehovah's Chest, you will know that 'I dare not get into battle with this One; this One is wild, this One is brutal, this One is Awesome. He is the Mighty Chested One - The Great Warrior.'

And when we come to the Secret Place, we find that the Lord is a Man of War - That He goes to battle on our behalf; that He fights for us, that He fights our enemies. And because He fights for us, we don't need to fight!

If you want to fight your own battles do it. But when you come to the Shadow of the Almighty, and come to His Secret Place, you will find out that He is the Most High, He is the Big Chested One, He is the Mighty Warrior;

And you can REST in Him; then ABIDES under the Shadow of the Almighty.

So, we know where to go: We go to the Shadow, we go to the Secret Place.

We know what to do: We sit there, we ABIDE there, we DWELL there.

We know Whose Covering we have come Under: We have come under the Covering of the Most High God and the Almighty God, that should make us do something.

4. WHAT DO WE SAY WHEN WE GET TO THAT PLACE?

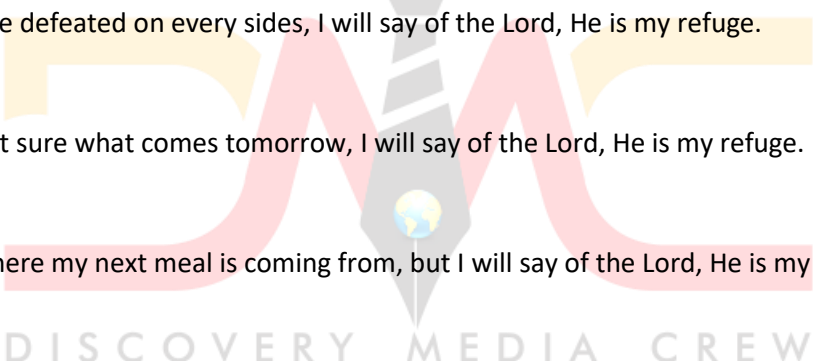
The Psalmist says: "I will say of the Lord He is my Refuge;"

I. I will say to myself the Lord is my REFUGE - The One Who Protects me.

When we Trust in the Lord, we must say words that Express our Trust. We must confess and boldly Proclaim that our Trust is in the Lord.

Many times we will be tempted to talk about our Problems; but we must learn not to belittle God before our enemies.

I will say of the Lord He is my Refuge:

- 
- A. Though I may be defeated on every sides, I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge.
  - B. Though I am not sure what comes tomorrow, I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge.
  - C. I don't know where my next meal is coming from, but I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge.
  - D. I don't know how this case with turn up, but I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge!

You have to be careful what you say in the Presence of the Lord because sometimes you come to that Place of Safety in God but everything you say is wrong:

"Lord, life is so hard, things are so bad because I don't think I can make it. I don't think there is Hope for me. I don't think there is any way out. I don't think this thing will be solved!"

Have you come to the Secret Place of the Most High? If you have come there, then what you say is not "I am in trouble!" What you say is, the Lord is my REFUGE.

And he says, 'I will say of the Lord is mine Fortress - The One Who defends me.'

Another name for Fortress is Stronghold - The Lord is my Stronghold.

The term 'Stronghold' for the People of Israel was very Strong because there were Natural Strongholds and there were Man-made Strongholds.

A. The Man-made Strongholds were the Walls that they built around the City; and the Towers that they built on the walls.

... That is the Man-made Stronghold!

B. But the Natural Strongholds were the Mountains.

And so they will say: "As the MOUNTAINS surround Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds me."

They don't see 'as the Walls surround Jerusalem'. They said as the MOUNTAIN. Because the Natural Strongholds are Stronger than the Man-made ones!

So, whenever People were in trouble and they want to escape from danger, guess where they go to? - To the Mountains!

Because, the Mountains were very High. And if you know how to hide in the Mountains, your enemies cannot find you.

If you read the books of the Old Testament, you will find that sometimes when People were trying to hide from dangers, they go to the Mountains.

David went to the Mountains when King Saul was against him.

In fact, even up to today, when Guerrilla Fighters want to hide from the bombs of the enemies, where do they go to? - The Mountains!

There is one Particular Person who used to hide in a Particular Mountain ranges; and all the intelligence of the world and all the bombs find it so difficult to get him

Why? - Because he was on the Mountains!

In fact, they only got him when he left the Mountains and went to his home.

So, when the Psalmist says the Lord is my Fortress, he is not thinking about walls that have been built. He means, the Lord is like the Mountains in whom I hide. He is my Fortress!

When you hide in the Lord, you are safe.

Yes, People may even get you in the Natural Mountains but when the Lord God is your fortress - Your Supernatural Fortress, your Supernatural Stronghold - They will Pursue but they will not get you; they will scout for you but they cannot find you; they will send Messengers to you, but they will not find you; they may through arrows at you by day or by night, but it will not hit you.

... Because the Lord is your Fortress!

I don't know who your enemies are that you are so scared of; because we in Africa we fear our enemies more than anything else, more than any Problems we may have.

And when we say enemies, we mean Human Beings who have Spiritual Antennas - Not from the Most High God but from the Most Low devil.

Although we trust in the Most High God, we are afraid of the Most Low One (the devil).

But the Lord is your Fortress, He is your Supernatural Stronghold; not Man-made, not Natural but supernatural! And He will Protect you - Amen!

I don't know what next the world will throw at you; but you have a Natural and Supernatural Protection in God - He is your Fortress, He is your Refuge.

... When we say the Lord is my refuge and my fortress;

## 5. WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM GOD?

What does the Lord do for us when we stay in His Secret Place and under His Shadow?

I. Now, if you take a look at Psalms 91; you will Notice that the Language in Verse 2 is different from the Language of Verse 3.

The Language of Verse 2 says: "He is my REFUGE."

In Verse 3, it says: "The Lord will deliver you".

The Language in Verse 2 is in first Person - He is the Person saying, I will say of the Lord!

Verse 3 is in Third Person - It is somebody else speaking to the one who said 'I will say of the Lord.'

So, it is not the Person speaking to himself - There is a voice of Authority. And that voice is a Prophetic Voice that comes from God.

When you say: 'The Lord is my refuge the Lord is my fortress' - He speaks a Prophetic Word to you: "Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the Perilous Pestilence."

Who said that?

It is not the One who said, I will say of the Lord. - This is a Prophetic Declaration from God. This is God issuing His Prophetic Words to come to you; to tell you: "Surely, the Lord will deliver you."

I believe that the Message you are hearing this morning or reading on the label of DMC, is in the tune of Verse 3.

It is His Word! It is The Word Himself speaking unto you, saying: Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the Perilous Pestilence.

... So, what do we expect from?

II. The Lord will deliver you from the SNARE of the FOWLER.

Some of these Bible words are a bit difficult to understand in Modern times.

What is a FOWLER?

A Fowler is a Trapper - One who sets trap to catch birds.

So that is a Fowler! - He sets trap for fowl.

The Snare of the Fowler is the trap that the Trapper sets to catch the bird.

And the word the Psalmist used is: "The Lord will deliver you as a bird from The trap that has been set before you."

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The Lord can deliver in two (2) ways;

A. He can either order your Steps so that you don't fall into the trap.

That is one way.

B. But even when you fall into the trap, the Lord is able to spring your feet from the trap.

I don't know what you are falling into; but the Lord will deliver you out of them - Amen

We used to sing a song in this Church:

My soul escaped as a bird,  
Out of the snare of the Fowler;  
The snare is broken,  
And we are escape.  
Our Help is in the Name of the Lord!

... My Soul escaped out of the snare of the Fowler.

I don't know what fowler is waiting for you tomorrow and next week; but your Soul will escape from it - Amen.

I don't know what fowler is waiting for you for the rest of 2021; but your Soul will escape from it - Amen.

Why? - Because:

1. We are in the Secret Place of the Most High.

2. We are under the Shadow of the Almighty.

3. We have taken refuge there.

4. We Abide there.

5. We Dwell there.

We said to ourselves, the Lord is our Refuge and our Fortress, therefore, we benefit from His Protection.

... Your Soul will escape - Amen!



III. And then He says: The Lord will deliver you from the Perilous Pestilence.

Other Translations - The Old King James Version says: The 'Noisome Pestilence.'

A Pestilence is a Piercing thing. It is almost like an insect with Piercing mouth or nose (whichever they use) that Pierces you!

And it is the symbol of things that make your Life Painful - They just hit you and bite you.

God says He will deliver you from every dangerous attack that is aimed at you - Amen!

So, you look behind you, there Attackers! But when you look to where you are; you are in a Safe Place!

And the Safe Place is called God's SECRET PLACE; the Safe Place is the SHADOW of the Almighty.

The Lord is the One under Whose Shadow you have come to take refuge.

You have been Pursued for so long; find REST in the Shadow of the Almighty. And when you get there, stop running - Settle! Be confidence in where God's Presence is.

And it is not in a Church, it is not in a Man of God, it is not in a Woman of God, it is not in a Pastor, it is not in a Bishop, it is not even in a Pope - It is in JEHOVAH!

... We take Refuge in Him, not in a Ministry!

You know these days, I hear People say things like: 'I tap into your Grace'. And they said that to a Man of God.

I hear People tell me: 'Pastor I tap into your Grace.'

My grace? What kind of craziness is that?

We tap into God's Grace - it is His Grace that is sufficient for us. It is in His Grace that there is Refuge - Not my Presence! I'm also seeking refuge!

You say 'Pastor, I want refuge from you.'

I am also running to the Lord! Why don't we run together to the same Place and Trust the same Lord; and be in His Presence and have safety in His Presence?

He that Abides - Not in the Shadow of their Church, not in the Shadow of a Ministry, not in the Shadow of a Man of God; but under the Shadow of the Almighty; in the Secret Place of the Most High.

... That is where we Abide!

And in all these Seasons, where things are gyrating and turning and turning; I just want to Point you to where you have to go to, so that you will find rest for your Soul and settle in the Lord.

Let your trust be in God; let Jesus be your Anchor - Trust in Him, settle in Him and He will deliver you from the Noisome Pestilence, and He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler.

... Let us rise together as we Pray!

Wherever you are now or reading this Message on the Label of DMC, the Psalmist says; I will say of the LORD...

So, I want you to begin to say of the Lord You are my Refuge, Lord You are my Fortress.

I don't know what is facing you, but this morning, God Jehovah is bringing your Deliverance!

Help is coming from the Presence of the Lord!

Just talk to the Lord, Pray: You are my Lord, You are Higher than the letters in my hand; You are Higher than the report I am holding in my hand.

Your Word is Greater than any force that speaks - So Lord I Trust in You. Lord, we hide in You, we choose to Trust in You because, You are Higher than any Authority anywhere!

Help is coming your Way - Just receive it! Nobody can take it away from you, in the Name of Jesus!

#### CLOSING PRAYER

So Father, we thank you this morning; You are our Help - "Our Help is in the Name of the Lord."

1. Our Help is in Jehovah the Lord God Almighty, the Most High God.

2. Our Help is in the Almighty - The Big Warrior.

And so we declare over our lives:

1. Favour has come to us; Deliverance has come to us.

2. There is Massive Answers to Prayers; there is turn around of situations!

3. I hear Testimonies coming to you; and I hear your voice testifying of God's Favour.

4. I hear you Testifying of God's Deliverance; I hear you celebrating God.

5. I see you dancing; I hear the Sound of Laughter from your mouth.

6. The Joy of the Lord coming out of your Mouth because the Lord is your Help, He is your Safety.

And so Lord, we declare all these Victory because we know Who You are!

And our Trust is resolutely fixed in You!

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen.

Give the Lord some Praise - Hallelujah!

1. As you shout, you are declaring Victory.

2. As you shout, Walls are coming down!

3. As you shout God is turning around the situations!

In the Name of Jesus, there is a sound of Abundance of Rain!

And we give You Praise Father!



In Jesus' Mighty Name we have Prayed - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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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!

Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

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## 23RD MAY, 2021 - TOPIC: THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE.

**TEXT: JOHN 7:37-39**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today is PENTECOST SUNDAY, and many People will wonder, "What is Pentecost Sunday?"

In the Hebrew Bible, Pentecost is an Annual Harvest Festival that occurs seven (7) weeks after Passover.

It is also known as the Feast of Weeks, or the Feast of First Fruit.

Pentecost Feast is one of the three (3) Feasts that God gave to Israel by which they worshipped Him or by which they come to meet Him.

There is Pentecost, there is Passover and then there is the Feast of Tabernacle.

... These are the three (3) main Jewish Feasts, where God met with the people.

But Pentecost was a very Special one, because during the time of Pentecost, the People would come with their Harvests, with their Firstfruit to come to Jerusalem to the Lord.

During the Period that is called, the Inter Testamental Period - You say, "What is Inter-testamental?"

It is the Period between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In that Period, People would call it the Silent Years!

The People of Israel developed another expression for Pentecost which was to commemorate the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

So, more frequently, Pentecost was celebrated to remember the Giving of the Law.

By the time Jesus was born, the Feast of Pentecost in Israel was basically a time to remember the Giving of the Law to Israel.

... It was also called a Time of Renewal.

On the Christian Calendar, Pentecost Sunday is counted fifty (50) days from Easter.

So, if you go and do your count, this is fifty (50) days from Easter. From Easter Sunday to now is fifty (50) days.

And that is why it is PENTECOST - It simply means the Fiftieth (50th)!

So Pentecost Sunday for us, is a time to commemorate the Coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Early Church; on the Day of Pentecost.

So I am Preaching this morning on the Topic: THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE.

Because the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost - We use that day to remember: living under the control of the Holy Spirit.

THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE!

So, I am going to start with a Statement that Jesus made about the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John, in John 7:37-39 (NKJV).

... And it reads:



37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Passage says that this statement Jesus made, was in reference to the Holy Spirit. Now I want you to note something on the Passage - It says "ON THE LAST DAY ..."



It gives us a time when Jesus made the Statement - The Passage says He made it on the Last Day of the Feast.

... That great day!

The Feast in question, is the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the third (3rd) Feast in Israel. Pentecost is the second (2nd) one, Passover is the first (1st) one.

So, on our Calendar, it will be Pentecost, Passover and Feast of Tabernacles.

During the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus made this Statement. And why did Jesus make this Statement?

Because during the Feast of Tabernacles, one of the activities that took Place was that everyday, the Priest would go and fetch water from the Pool of Siloam and go and Pour it at the Temple.

So, everyday People will go to fetch water, and go and Pour it - To signify that God was the One Who Provided water for the Israelites in the wilderness.

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It was also a way of Prayer by the People; and it was a time for them to remember God's Prophecy that His Spirit will move like water from the Temple to touch the rest of the world.

So, everyday of that Feast, they will go and fetch water and Pour it out. And Jesus Christ watched them doing that throughout the Feast.

Then on the Last day of the Feast Jesus stood up and said: "I Am the Living Water."

In other words, what you are doing is great! But I Am the real fulfilment of what you are doing - 'I Am the Living Water.'

So, on the Last Day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and said that He was the Living Water.

While People were going through the ritual, He was offering them the Reality.

And said that when we thirst for Him, we will receive the True water that He gave - That is the Holy Spirit.

The Three (3) Stages of the Holy Spirit Presence that we can find in the Statement of Jesus.

If we look at the Passage we read (John 7:37-39):

1. The first (1st) one is what I call THE INFLOW.

The Inflow is when you are filled with the Spirit.

Jesus said: If you are thirsty, come and drink!

So the Inflow is for those who come to drink of what He is offering - The Holy Spirit.

When we drink in the Holy Spirit, we receive His Inflow.

And if anyone is thirsty for the Holy Spirit today, you will receive an Inflow from Him - Amen.

2. The Second (2nd) Stage that we find in the Passage is what I call THE OVERFLOW.

The Overflow is when you are flooded with the Spirit.

He says that the Spirit becomes a River in us; that is when we receive an Overflow.

Something in us begins to come up to the top, and flow out as a river - The Overflow!

3. Then the Third (3rd) is what I call THE OUTFLOW.

The Outflow is when God allows us to Minister through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says the Outflow is when we flow like rivers of Living Water. The rivers of Living Water flowing out of us.

So, God the Holy Spirit comes into us, floods through us, flows out of us!

... He comes in, He fills you to the brim, and then flows out of you.

There are three (3) Stages: the Inflow, the the Overflow and the Outflow.

And the Holy Spirit does that for ALL Believers. He wants to come in, He wants to fill us to the brim and the He wants to flow out of us.

And today, may He flow out of each one of us - Amen.

Being Filled with the Holy Spirit and having a SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE, starts with the Inflow, the Outflow and the Overflow.

If we are going to live Spirit-filled lives, then the Holy Spirit must be in us, He must fill us, and He must flow out of us.

Jesus said so many things about the Holy Spirit. Most of those things He said them in the Gospel of John:

1. He said concerning the Holy Spirit, that He will ABIDE with you ever.

2. He said the Holy will TEACH you all things - John 14:26.

3. He says, the Holy Spirit will TESTIFY of Me - John 15:26.

4. He says the Holy Spirit will REPROVE the world of sin, of Righteousness and of Judgement - John 16:8;

5. He says the Holy Spirit will GUIDE us into all Truth - John 16:13.

6. The Holy Spirit will SHOW you things to come - The same John 16:13.

7. He says, the Holy Spirit will Glorify Me - John 16:14.

8. He says, the Holy Spirit will take the things of Mine and show them to you - The same John 16:14.

... So, the Holy is Central to our Christian Life!

- He shows us Who Christ is.

- He reveals Christ to us.

- He teaches us all things.

- He testifies of Christ.

- He shows us things to come.

We cannot really live the Christian Life without the Holy Spirit - We can't!

... The Christian Life is the Holy Spirit Life.

Just before Jesus Ascended; just before He went to Heaven, He asked His Disciples to wait for the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

And ten (10) days after Jesus' Ascension, the Disciples received the Holy Spirit and it occurred on the Day of Pentecost.

That is, from the Passover, when Jesus was Crucified, to the day of Pentecost - That is fifty (50) days.

So let's look at the account on THE DAY OF PENTECOST - Acts 2:1-4.

... It says:

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This is how the Day of Pentecost came - God moved in a Mighty way upon the Disciples.

When we say that "GOD MOVED"; it is a Statement has to be explained.

Because God is Omnipresent - God is everywhere at everytime! So, He doesn't need to move to a Place to be there.

So when we say "GOD IS MOVING"; it is not as if God is in America, and when we Pray He quickly comes here to Ghana.

Or God is in Ghana, and when People are Praying in China, God moves there.

When we say 'God is moving'; He is not moving as we move!

When we say God is moving, it simply means: He is already in the Place but He manifested Himself in a Place.

So, a move of God is not movement as we understand it.

A Move of God is a manifestation of God in a Particular Place where He already is - Because He is everywhere!

He didn't just move to the Upper Room (He was already there). But that Day He stirred up something in that Place.

So, just to take a Note at what happened on the Day of Pentecost - There was a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

The Move of God brought about a manifestation of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit was very Profound - It affected the senses of the People.

Some of the things that happened, happened outside of the Disciples, some of the things happened inside of them.

To show that when the Holy Spirit is at work, some of what He does, happens inside of us; some of it happens outside of us.

The Holy Spirit work happens inside and outside: Something on the inside working on the outside.

Let's look at the Manifestations that happened the First (1st) Day of Pentecost.

1. It affected their Sense of HEARING.

The Bible says they heard a Sound from Heaven - And it was like a Mighty Rushing Wind.

It was NOT a Mighty Rushing Wind.

It wasn't as if the wine was blowing very fast in the Upper Room - They heard the Sound like that!

What they heard was a Sound from Heaven. God opened their ears to hear a Heavenly Sound.

So, one of the Manifestations of the Holy Spirit is that He opens our ears to hear the Sound of Heaven; to hear those things that are Spiritual.

And may the Lord open our ears to hear Heavenly Sound this morning - Amen.

2. Not only was their hearing affected, but their SIGHT was also affected.

The Bible says, there appeared to them, cloven tongues as of fire. It wasn't tongues of fire, but it looked like fire 'as of fire.'

Because many times, we generalise some of these terms in the Bible.

They saw something on each one's head that looked like Tongues on Fire.

... It was not tongues of fire, it looked like Tongues of Fire. They saw something that looked like flames, that looked like human tongues.

God didn't just open their ears - To hear the Sound of Heaven; He opened their eyes to see things Spiritually.

What they saw was a Spiritual Vision. And if other People had been there, they wouldn't have seen what they saw because God opened their Spiritual eyes to see.

May the Lord open our eyes to see in the Realm of the Spirit - Amen.

When we have a Spirit-filled Life, God opens our Spiritual ears, God opens our Spiritual eyes.

3. The third (3rd) thing is that their Sense of FEELING was affected.

The Bible says they were all filled of the Holy Spirit - They had a sense of Fullness!

It's almost as if you were there, it looks like something has filled you up - You feel full, you feel complete.

The Holy Spirit does open our ears Spiritually, open our eyes Spiritually. And open our Beings Spiritually; so we can anticipate and accommodate His Presence in our hearts.

4. The fourth (4th) thing that happened is that God TOUCHED their Speaking.

... And they began to speak with other Tongues.

They began to speak! They were filled, the Holy Spirit didn't speak - They began to speak.

There is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, and there is the work of operating in the Holy Spirit - He fills us, we begin to speak. They began to speak! And so, their speech was affected.

When the Holy Spirit comes, our hearing is affected, our sight is affected, our feelings are affected, and our words are also affected.

The Spirit-filled Life affects us on these Levels - What we hear, what we see, how we feel and what we say.

May the Lord help us to speak His words - Amen.

When these things occurred to the Disciples, they were so overwhelmed.



Remember, after Jesus Christ was crucified, they have been hiding from the Romans and the Jews.

Because, who knows, everybody thought, when they caught Jesus Christ and crucify Him maybe we will be the next!

Maybe Peter, maybe Matthew, maybe some other Disciples. Maybe even the Mother of Jesus - Mary would be caught and crucified. So, they were hiding.

But when they had this Encounter with the Holy Spirit, they stepped out, they stopped hiding. And that is one of the marks of the Holy Spirit -When He comes into our lives, you stop being afraid. You step out BOLDLY, to confront whatever is there in the world.

If you are a fearful Christians, you need the Holy Spirit - If you have the Holy Spirit and you are afraid, then maybe you bottled Him in.

Let Him flow out of you! Because when He comes into your life, there will be boldness.

Somebody say: 'I am BOLD' - I AM BOLD.

So, they stepped out of the Upper Room Speaking in Tongues. And People were amazed, because the Jews had come from all over.

That's Part of what happened on the Day of Pentecost; they come from wherever they are.

Now this time, the Jews were under the Romans occupation - and so they have come from different Part of the Roman Empire, to Jerusalem.

And when they came, these were dual Language speaking Jews! - So there were Jews who understood Hebrew and Arabic - which were the main Languages of the Jews at that time.

And they also understood the Languages of the Places they have gone to live in.

And when they came on the Day of Pentecost, this occasion, the Disciples stepped out and People were speaking all kinds of Languages. And the People could figure out; they said that's from the Town I came from, that's from the Town I live in.

From all Parts of the Roman Empire, God was communicating Supernaturally to tell them, that what has happened this day is to take the Message of the Gospel beyond the Jewish Nation, to other Nations of the world.

And so He allowed them to communicate to the People in their own Languages!

But something happened that day; as they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they were speaking, the Bible says they were telling the Mighty Works of the Lord.

Some People looked at them and said, this thing is not correct! So they said, these People must be drunk - They are drunk!

... I don't know how drinking makes you speak in another Language!

Maybe there are People who speak in another Language and they speak German; when they are drunk (laughs) - They speak another Language. But they said, they are drunk.

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So it means Probably, in addition to speaking in those Languages, they were moving in the mannerism of someone who was under an influence.

Something about their movement was not stable - So People said, oh they are drunk.

Being under the influence of the Holy Spirit seemed like they were under the influence of alcohol.

So Peter had to answer and say: Wait a minute, it's too early in the day for us to be drunk in the first Place. The bars are not opened - Do it's too early!

... I'm sure if he was in Ghana, he wouldn't have said 'Too early' (laughs).

But for the Society at that time, he said it's too early - It's 9 O'clock in the morning (some People these days get their shots before 9 O'clock).

But Peter said, it's too early!

By the logic of the time, it makes sense - It's too early to get drunk.

He said, we are not drunk.

Listen to Peter's explanation from Acts 2:15-19:

"For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the Prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to Pass in the last days, says God, That I will Pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall Prophesy, Your Young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My Menservants and on My Maidservants I will Pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall Prophecy. I will show Wonders in Heaven above and Signs in the Earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke."

... Woooow!

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Peter is quoting a Prophecy from an Old Testament Prophet called Joel (in Joel 2:28-30) - He has made this statement that Peter is quoting.

So Peter is saying, what you are seeing is not alcohol, it is a SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE in Manifestation.

Let me just go through a few things from this Passage, to show you what a Spirit-filled Life looks it.

WHAT IS A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE?

1. The Spirit-filled Life is the life that is Totally Influenced by the Holy Spirit.

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He influences every areas of our life - Just like alcohol controls the Mind and thought of People under its influence.

So, those under the influence of the Holy Spirit experience a Change in their thinking and behaviour.

When you are under the Spirit's Influence, the Spirit will move you wherever you go. The Spirit controls the way you talk, the Spirit changes the way you walk, the Spirit changes the way you act.

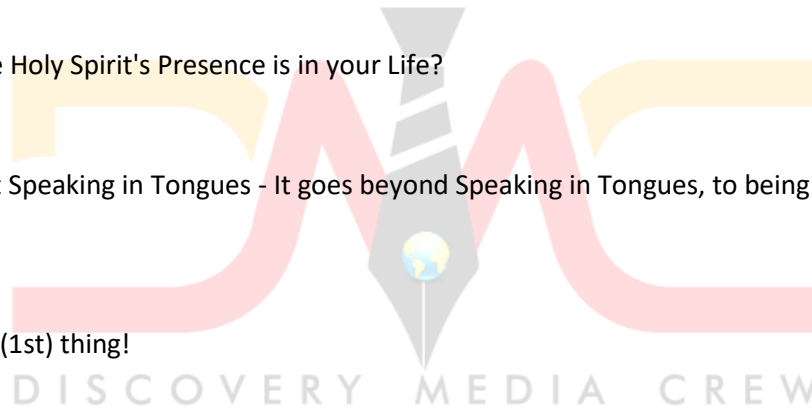
... Because, the Holy Spirit Influences us completely.

The Spirit-filled Life is the Life that is totally Influenced by the Holy Spirit.

How Much Of the Holy Spirit's Presence is in your Life?

It's not just about Speaking in Tongues - It goes beyond Speaking in Tongues, to being under His Influence.

... That's the first (1st) thing!



2. The Spirit-filled Life is when our Desires are Yielded to the Holy Spirit.

It says, the Spirit will be upon ALL Flesh - All flesh means all People.

Joel's Prophecy mentioned men and women, old and young, maidservants, menservants - All Classes of People, all Ages, Genders.

But he says the Spirit will be upon all flesh.

The Holy Spirit touches our flesh and brings us under Subjection - He subdues the flesh!

We cannot be fleshly Christians and still be claiming that the Holy Spirit is the One leading us.

Sometimes it's not the Holy Spirit leading us; It's anger leading us, it's jealousy leading us, it's lust leading us.

You cannot be under the Holy Spirit Influence and still be Lusting.

Okay, I'll say it again: You cannot be under the Holy Spirit Influence and still be Lusting, and still be full of jealousy, and still be full of anger, hatred and bitterness.

If He is the One filling you, then your flesh has to be subject to the Holy Spirit.

Is that not so? - Yes!

... So, the Spirit-filled Life is when our flesh, our desires are yielded to the Holy Spirit.

3. The Spirit-filled Life is when we Experience the Holy Spirit, and hear His Voice.

Joel in his Prophecy says: "Your sons and your daughters shall Prophesy."

Now, when we hear these Phrases today, they don't sound strange to us, because we have read them over and over.

But in those days, any Statement like that, would be a strange Statement - "Your sons and your daughters shall Prophesy."

Are you serious?

Why? - Because in the Old Testament era, only a few People could Prophesy.

... Only a few People!

They were chosen by God, to hear from God.

It would be Moses who goes to hear from God; it would be Elijah who goes to hear from God; it would be Isaiah, who goes to hear from God; it would be Ezekiel who goes to hear from God or Joel himself, who goes to hear from God.

And because they were the 'ONLY' ones who could hear from God, after they had heard from God; they would come to the People and say: 'Thus says the Lord!'

They were the only ones Who could say that, because they were the only ones who heard from God!

But God says a time is coming that this system would be cancelled. And instead of only a few People coming and telling you: 'Thus says the Lord';

"Your sons and your daughters shall hear from God and they can also hear what God is saying!"

What the Holy Spirit indicated is the time when somebody must tell you: 'Thus says the Lord' is over!

The sons and the daughters shall hear from God, and they shall declare the Word of the Lord they shall speak the Word of the Lord and the Word of the Lord will be in their mouth!

1. A Spirit-filled Christian therefore, is one who has an Intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, and knows His Voice.

Jesus says He will teach you; He is with you, but He will be IN YOU. He will lead you into all Truth.

You cannot Outsource the hearing of God to a few People as in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, your sons and your daughters shall Prophecy.

Are you a son and a daughter of God?

Then it says you can hear from God and you can speak the Word of the Lord.

And then it says, not only shall they hear from God, they will speak! They will see Vision.

2. The Spirit-filled Life is when the Holy Spirit helps us to see what God is doing IN US, and around us.

In the Old Testament, Ezekiel would stay with the People and he would say 'I saw a Vision.'

And the People would say, 'Brother, what did you see?'

... Because he would be the only one who sees it.

But God says, in the era we live in, God enables us to see what He is doing IN US, and around us.

"A Spiritual Vision is the ability to see Spiritual Realities."

Jacob saw a Vision at Bethel (of the Heavens open). His Vision didn't create it. It was already happening.

What the Vision did was to make him see what had already happened.

Joshua saw the Angel of the Lord just before the Battle of Jericho.

Elisha saw Vision of Chariots of Fire and Horses taking Elijah to heaven.

Elisha's servant saw a Vision of a Mountain full of horses and Chariots of Fire.

... Each one or them saw what God was doing in the Realm of the Spirit.

So he says, in this time, when you are filled with the Spirit, you will also see what God is doing. And you can discern what God is doing, in the Realm of the Spirit.

The Visions they saw, was already happening.

There are things happening now (whether you see it or not), are happening because at this time, there are Angels in this Place!

The Bible says, the Angels of the Lord encamp around the dwelling of the Righteous.

Wherever you go, there are Angels with you; when you come, there are Angels with you.

That is why when anybody sees a Vision of you, they should see Angels around you. Not demons around you! Because if you are a child of God, you are surrounded by the Angels of God; not Black Cats and Demonic Vultures.

... But God enables us to see!

May the Lord open your Spiritual Eyes, so you would see, you would discern what He is doing in your life and around you - Amen.

And then Joel says: "I will show wonders in the Heaven and in the Earth."

3. When we live the Spirit-filled Life, God showcases His Signs and Wonders through us.

This is what Peter says - He says everything that has happened is a fulfilment of what Joel Prophesied.

HOW DOES IT CORRESPOND?

1. He said, they will SEE VISIONS.

Did they see visions in the Upper Room? - Yes! They saw Cloven Tongues as of Fire.



2. He said they will PROPHECY - They will hear from God and declare it

Did they hear from God? - Yes. They heard a Sound as of a Mighty Rushing Wind. And they spoke the Word of the Lord.

So, what Joel said would happen, happened exactly like that in the Upper Room - That experience is not gone!

The Holy Spirit did not come on the Day of Pentecost and then fly away! Because there are People who see the Holy Spirit as a Dove.

So it's as if He just flew in on the Day of Pentecost and He is gone.

Remember, He doesn't change location, He is everywhere! And this morning, the same Holy Spirit is here!

And just for a few minutes before we close, we are going to Pray. And I believe God will give you experiences with the Holy Spirit.

Are you ready for an experience with the Holy Spirit?

Let us rise up together as we Pray intensely.

1. Lift up your hands to God and just say: LORD FILL ME WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT; to the Overflow, Flow through me, Flow out of me.

Holy Spirit, fill me, I am thirsty for You! Fill me and flow out of me.

Begin to talk to the Lord in Prayer! - His Presence is real, His Power is real. There is a reality of the Holy Spirit this morning.

Fill Your people Oh Lord, to the Overflow. People watching Online or reading now on the Label of DMC; be filled with the Holy Spirit!

2. And Pray and say: Heavenly Father, open my ears, open my eyes, to the Realm of the Spirit. Let me hear, let me see, let me speak the Words of Heaven, in the Name of Jesus.

... Begin to talk to the Lord!

Open my ears, open my eyes Lord; let there be an explosion of Spiritual Sensitivity.

May your Spiritual Eyes be opened; may your Spiritual ears be opened. May your Tongue be loosen, in the Name of Jesus.

Help me to hear, help me to see Oh Lord, in the Name of Jesus.

Be Spiritually Activated; your hearing activated, your Vision activated, your Feelings activated, by the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Activation to take Place in the Realm of the Spirit, in the lives of God's People, in the Name of Jesus.

3. Finally, I want you to Pray and say: Lord, work Signs and Wonders through me. Miracles, Power, seen through me, out of me. Signs and Wonders, Testimonies coming out of me, in Jesus' Name!

In the Name of Jesus, let there be Manifestations of Signs.

Supernatural Acts of God working in God's People, in the Name of Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we seal up this Prayer: That from this moment, there will be Spiritual Activation in the lives of Your People.

There will be massive Outflows from Your People; Signs and Wonders, Supernatural Understanding, Supernatural Activation taking Place in Your people Oh Lord.

In Jesus'Name we Pray - Amen and AMEN!

Give God Praise Somebody! - Hallelujah!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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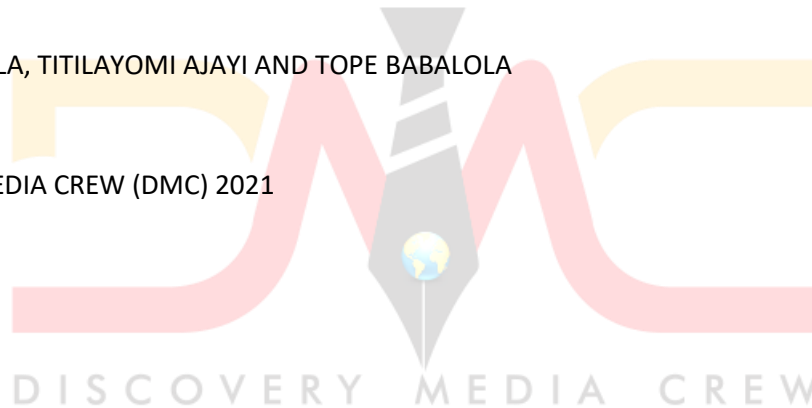
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## 30TH MAY, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 5.



TEXT: GENESIS 2:3

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

On Last Sundays I am Teaching on "THE WORDS OUR OF SALVATION."

And I am tracking various words Prominent in our Salvation.

So far we have talked about: being Born Again, Redemption, the New Creation, Justification:

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the first 4 Parts on the Series on the Links below:

1. BORN AGAIN - <https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

2. REDEMPTION - <https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

3. NEW CREATION - <https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

4. JUSTIFICATION - <https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-4-Justification-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

And today is Part 5 of the Series of WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - And we are dealing with a Subtitle: SANCTIFICATION.

Sanctification is a word that most of us might have heard or might have used, in relation to our Christian walk.

And today we will explore what it means to be Sanctified and how to make it real in our lives.

I begin with Genesis 2:3 - This is the first time the word (Sanctification) is used in the Bible.

Genesis 2:3 (NKJV):

"Then God blessed the Seventh (7th) Day and Sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works which God had created and made."

... We see the word 'SANCTIFIED' used.

Sanctified is the Verb of SANCTIFICATION - which is a Noun.

So, it's about the same word, but used in different forms.

Sanctified is the act of making something or someone Clean or Holy.

So, when we say that something is Sanctified, it is an act or something that is there to make someone Clean or Holy.

Sanctified means to be removed from Ordinary Use.

\*So, when we say something is sanctified, it means we have removed it from Normal or Ordinary Usage.

Usually, when we have Holy Communion, and I am instituting and Blessing the Communion Table, we use words to show that we are setting apart the Elements from Normal Usage.

That is what we mean by Sanctified - Something is being removed from Normal Usage so that it will not be done as usual.

Sanctified also means to be given Holy to God.

We do the same with the Communion Elements - And that is what God did to the Seventh (7th) Day.

Although the Seventh (7th) Day, like every other days of all the Seven (7) Days, God set it apart. He Sanctified it and He dedicated it for a Purpose.

So, the Seventh (7th) Day became the Servant. And on that day, God rested!

To be Sanctified means to be removed from Ordinary Use and to be given totally to God.

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Anytime we use that in relationship to our Salvation and in our Relationship with God, we are talking about being wholly dedicated to God.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 reads: Paul, called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ through the Will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the Church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are Sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be Saints, with all who in every Place call on the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

This is how the Apostle Paul introduced his Letter to the Church in Corinth. He addressed both the Church and the Members of the Church.

... The Church as a Body, and the Members of the Church.



Now, I want you to Pay attention to Two (2) words that Paul used in these Verses:

The first is SANCTIFIED, and the other is SAINTS.

Both come from the same Greek word 'Hagious' - It's the root word from where you get Saints and Sanctified.

So the words Saints and Sanctified are talking about really, the same thing.

To the Church who are at Corinth; those who are Sanctified in Christ and called to be Saints.

In the New Testament, the Believer is Sanctified in Christ - Paul said, we are Sanctified in Christ.

In this context, the word Sanctified means to be dedicated to God.

And the Sanctification of the Believer is in Christ; not in himself, but in Christ, we are Sanctified.

This is a very, very heavy statement - We are Sanctified in Christ." A CREW

And I will explain it later!

And then, not only are we Sanctified, we are called to be Saints - "Sanctified in Christ, and called to be Saints."

The word 'SAINT' means one who is Holy.

So called to be Saints, you can also say, call to be Holy.

Now, I am aware that in some Church Traditions, Sainthood is given to a few People who attain a certain level of Spirituality.

And so, in certain Christian Churches, some People, after a certain Processes, are canonized as Saints.

However, when you read the Bible, throughout - From both the Old Testament and the New Testament; you will realised that Sainthood was not for a Special Kind of People.

Psalms 30:4 says: Sing Praise to the Lord, you Saints of His, And give Thanks at the remembrance of His Holy Name.

... He is talking about all the Believers - "You Saints of His".

Psalms 149:1 says: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a New Song, And His Praise in the Assembly of Saints.

... The whole congegation of Israel were called the Saints.

In the New Testament - Acts 9:13-14 says: Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your Saints in Jerusalem. And here he has Authority from the Chief Priests to bind all who call on Your Name."

He is talking about Paul Persecuting the Christians in Jerusalem - And the Christians are called Saints.

And then in 1 Corinthians 16:1 - Now concerning the collection for the Saints, as I have given orders to the Churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

You just find from the body of Scriptures, that the generality of Christians are called Saints.

That is not to say that those who Pronounce some People Saints, are wrong! That is their Process but the Scriptures shows that Sainthood is not limited to only a few People.

We are SANCTIFIED in Christ, and we are Called to be SAINTS.

When you read these two (2) thoughts - Sanctified in Christ, Called to be Saints - It gives you the idea that Sanctification manifest in two (2) ways:

### 1. Sanctification is Positional.

That means we are Sanctified - When we say something is Positional, it means you are already in the Position. You are already in it!

When we say Sanctification is Positional, it means you are already Sanctified. You are in that Position. It is Positional.

When Christ comes to live in our hearts, we become Born Again Christians; God takes away all our sins - And when He does that, we are Positionally Sanctified.

... But that is not the end of our Sanctification, because;

### 2. Sanctification is also Progressive.

We are being Sanctified - When we say something is Progressive, it means it is happening gradually.

Sanctification is Positional and it is Progressive.

You know you can use those words to talking to People: "Sanctification is Positional and it is Progressive."

How can something be Positional and Progressive at the same time?

... How can you have it and still be growing into it?

It is like when we were born as babies - Every baby that is born; before they even come out of the Womb, they are Human Beings.

So, the child is born - That's a Human Being. Probably about one and half (1½) Long; Weighing about seven (7) Pounds (you can do the conversion into kilos in your head).

... I was born in pounds and ounces era.

DMC NOTES: To convert (Pounds) lbs to Kilogram (kg), multiply the given lbs value by 0.45359237 kg. For example, to convert 5 lbs to kilogram, multiply the given 5 lbs by 0.45359237 kg.

In essence: 1 POUND = 0.454 KILOGRAMS

That's a baby!

Is that baby a Human Being? - Yes!

Did they have to grow to become Human Beings? - No, they are already Human Being.

But that Human Being is not a mature Human Being! So, that child is going to grow in height, grow in understanding, grow in so many areas - Positionally, a Human Being; Progressively, a Human Being. A Human Being who is growing into full Maturity.

... That is how our Sanctified is!

Positionally, we are Sanctified, but it doesn't mean we are Sanctified in Position. We have to Progressively grow in Sanctification.

The day we got Born Again, we became Sanctified People. But you and I know that our lives doesn't always demonstrate Sanctification.

So, we have to GROW in Sanctification.

HOW DO WE THEN LIVE A SANCTIFIED LIFE? - A Life that is Holy; a Life that brings Glory to God; a life that helps us to live the life that God has given to us.

To do that, there are few things we have to learn.

And I will just take you to a Verse in the Old Testament and comment on it, and give you some thoughts.

Leviticus 10:8-11 - It is an instruction to the Priests. But I will take it beyond the Instruction to the Priests.

Then the Lord spoke to Aaron, saying: “Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the Tabernacle of Meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your Generations, that you may distinguish between Holy and Unholy, and between Unclean and Clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”

God called Israel to become a Holy Nation. And the Process of becoming a Holy Nation was going to be through Priests teaching them.

And the Core of the Teachings of the Priests was that: They must be able to teach the People to know the difference between what is Holy and what is Unholy.

So, to live Sanctified Life, we must know what is Holy and what is Unholy.

In the Old Testament, God hammered this Principle to Israel very Strongly.

And so when you read the Old Testament Scriptures, especially the Book of Leviticus and some of the Book or Exodus; you find that the life of Israel was divided between Holy and Unholy.

In every areas of their lives, some things were considered Holy, and others were considered Unholy.

When it came to what they are, some things were Holy, others were Unholy.

In their communities, some areas were Holy and others were Unholy.

In what they said, some words were Holy, others were Unholy; some animals were Holy, others were not Holy.

So, why did God divide His own Creation between Holy and Unholy?

Did God create Unholy things? - No!

In Genesis 1:31, God saw all He had done and He said it was very Good! - He didn't create anything Unholy.

So, why did God then divide between Holy and Unholy?

It was to give them a sense of awareness; a sense of consciousness that in this world, some things are Holy and some things are Unholy.

And for them to get that imprinted in their Mind, God determined that some animals would be called Holy, some would not be called Holy - Although, He Created all of them.

Why? - Because He wanted them to know the difference between what is Holy and what is not Holy.

For us to live Sanctified Life, we must know the difference between what is Holy and what is not Holy.

In the New Testament, we don't have separation between Holy animals and Unholy animals; between Holy foods and Unholy foods.

But the Principle is the same - We must know the difference between what is Holy and what is not Holy.

We can't just live our lives anyway and think that what we do is Holy - No! God wants us to live Sanctified Life.

Some things are Holy and some things are not Holy; some words are Holy, some words are not Holy; some thoughts are Holy, some thoughts are not Holy, some Actions are Holy, some Actions are not Holy.

... And we must know the difference so that we don't mix it together.

To live Sanctified Life, we must know what is Holy and what is not Holy! Not only must we know, we must separate ourselves from what is Unholy.

Being aware is one thing, separation is another thing.

So, a Sanctified Life is a separated Life! - A Life that has been separated.

We live our lives with the awareness that God has separated us unto Himself. We belong to Him, we are separated to Him.

This sense that, we have been Set Apart; is what helps us to live a Sanctified Life.

And if you look at such Life, you will realise that those People who live life with the knowledge that they have been Set Apart.

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They are able to make a lot of sacrifices easily because they have a sense that they are separated!

Even in the occult, or in the cult; somebody who believes he has been separated to the gods can walk barefoot for the rest of his Life. And walk on thorns and all of that (and never complains).

Why? - Because they believe they are separated!

... Because when you are separated, Sacrificial Living is easy.

And that is why for us to live a Sanctified Life, we must first of all know we have been separated from the world by Jesus Christ and we must live separated Life.

Until Christians become aware that they have been Set Apart - Separated; the Christian Life will not become easy.

That is why People would say: Should I do this? Should I not do that? Are you saying this is a sin? Are you saying that is a sin?

All of that argument comes to an end when we know that we are separated.

So, you can look at People who are separated in some Christian Denominations, and they never marry - Never had sex!

And you and I will say, it's hard oooo! How can they?

But when you are separated, Sacrifice is easy!

I am not saying that: 'Don't marry!' All I am saying is, when we know we are separated into the Lord, we Sanctified our lives - Our lives now is lived for a Purpose.

That is why a Person like the Prophetess Anna; from when she was a very Young woman lost her husband. And she decided to separate herself in the Temple Praying.

... And that's all she did for Years, until Jesus was born.

How could she do it? - Because she accepted that she was separated.

The separation of the Christian is what makes it easy for him or her to live a Holy Life.

Sanctification is Separation! - We are in the world, but we are not of the world.

Sanctification requires our Involvement;



It is not just God Who sanctifies us but there is something that we do.

2 Corinthians 7:1 says: Therefore, having these Promises, Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting Holiness in the fear of God.

"... Perfecting Holiness in the fear of God."

HOW DO WE DO IT?

We Cleanse ourselves.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 says: For this is the Will of God, your Sanctification: that you should abstain from Sexual Immorality; that each of you should know how to Possess his own Vessel in Sanctification and Honour,

"Our Sanctification requires that we abstain from Sexual Immorality; that each of you should know how to Possess his own Vessel (this body) in Sanctification and Honour."

Is it Possible for a Christian to live and flee sexual immorality? - Yes!

How does a Christian do that? - You have to know that you are separated unto God!

Young women, Young men, you are separated to God and once you become aware you are separated, believe you me, sin becomes easy to overcome.

Because until you know that you have been Set Apart by God, you would think you are Ordinary; you are Normal - Everybody has feelings, everybody has demands, everybody has desires!

Separated People abide to a certain Mindset and are committed to another Mindset.

The Lord separates us!

## HOW DOES GOD SEPARATE US?

What Instruments does He uses to Sanctified us?

Now, when you look into the Old Testament, you will realised that Sanctification was done in many ways  
- Through Blood, through Water, through Oil.

... That's basically how Sanctification was done!

\*So, for Sanctification to take Place, Blood Sacrifice was made; Or sometimes Water.

In other words, People had to literally wash themselves or wash their clothes.

And then, for People to be Set Apart, they received the Anointing Oil.

These were the three (3) basic ways Sanctification was done - Do you get it?

WHAT ARE THE INSTRUMENTS OF SANCTIFICATION?

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1. The first (1st) Instrument is THE BLOOD OF JESUS - That cleanses us from sin.

1 John 1:6-7; If we say that we have Fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not Practice the Truth. But if we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we have Fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

The Blood of Jesus cleanses us!

The day you got Born Again, that's what happened. The Blood of Jesus, Positionally cleansed you, Sanctified you.

2. The Second (2nd) Instrument that God uses to Sanctify us is THE WORD OF GOD.

The Word of God cleanses our Minds.

John 17:17-19, Jesus say:

Sanctify them by Your Truth. Your Word is Truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I Sanctify Myself, that they also may be Sanctified by the Truth.

The Word of God sanctifies us, the Blood of Jesus sanctifies us! - One cleanses our hearts from sin, the other cleanses our thoughts (from sinful thoughts)!

3. Third (3rd) Instrument of Sanctification - THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit sets us Apart for God.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 says: Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

The Holy Spirit has been used to Seal US, Mark Us; so when we go out to the world, we are "Marked People".

Marked by what? - Marked by the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament they would see Priests and the Holy People would be Marked.

How would you know they were Marked? - There would be Oil in their heads and you would know, this is a Marked Man!

But in the New Testament, the Oil is the Holy Spirit.

And as we go through the world, remember you are a Marked Woman, a Marked Man - In your Office you are Marked, at School you are Marked, in the Roadside you are Marked, in doing Business, you are Marked.

Marked by what? - The Holy Spirit.

Why does He Mark you? - To Set us Apart. So that in your going and coming, you would know that your life is Sanctified.

Set Apart from what is Unholy, so we can do what is Holy.

It is Possible for a Christian to abstain from sexual immorality.

... I will say it again;

It is possible for a Christian to ABSTAIN from Sexual Immorality.

How can they do it? - They must know that they have been Set Apart.

If an Occult set apart can walk barefoot on thorns and stones and hot coal tar (which is hard)!

Then we, born of the Spirit of God, Set Apart unto Holiness, can also Abstain from the sins of the flesh.

.... We can, because we have been Set a Apartpart unto the Lord!

And may the Lord help us as Christians, to live Sanctified Lives, Holy lives - Holy in Thoughts, Holy in Words, Holy in Actions (Amen).

The next time you are speaking some words, ask yourself: "Is it Sanctified?"

When a Thought gets into your head, ask yourself: "Is this a Sanctified Thought?" And if it is not, purge it out!

If you are speaking and the word is not Sanctified, stop talking.

If you are doing something that is not Sanctified - Stop!

Why? - Because you have been separated from all the People of this world.

God has separated us; and has called us His own; that we can live our lives to His Glory.

We are, the SET APART ONES for Jehovah God - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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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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## 6TH JUNE, 2021 - TOPIC: CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 2.



TEXT: GENESIS 15:8-9 AND EXODUS 25:1-3.

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

My Topic today is CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 2.

My Sub-Title is WHAT WE GIVE TO GOD.

When we started the Part 1, I defined who a Steward is. And I said:

"A Steward is a Person employed to manage another's Property or Resources."

And so, a Steward is not an Owner; a Steward is a Caretaker or an Agent of a Principal.

Christian Stewardship is how Christians manage God's Gift and Resources.

The Management of Life God has given to us; the Resources, the Talents, the Opportunities He has given to us.

... How we manage it is Christian Stewardship.

But I am focusing more on how we manage the Money that God has given to us because, money is very important in our worship of the Lord.



And in Part 1, we looked at: "WHY WE GIVE TO GOD."

And I gave you Biblical Reasons of why we Give to God.

DMC NOTES: Kindly avail yourself the Full Text of the Part 1 of the Series Message from the Link below:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-1-Why-Do-We-Give-To-God-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

So, we will look at: "WHAT WE GIVE TO GOD" in this Part 2.

And when it comes to Offerings, what we should Give to God can sometimes be a very vexatious Subject.

People have a very Strong Opinion of what kind of Offering should be given; What should not be given.

Should we Give to Church? Should we Give to Charity? Should we not Give at all? What about all the People who are dishonest with God's money?

So People have Strong Opinions on what we Give to God.

But I think to answer that question of 'What should be given to God'; we have to ask a more Fundamental Question of:

WHO DETERMINES WHAT WE GIVE TO GOD?

Because, if we want to know what we Give to God, we have to ask ourselves, Who determines it?

Should Christian determines what they Give to God all by themselves? Who sets the Standard of what we Give to God - Is it our Church? Is it our Income? Is it our Preference or God?

Who determines what we should be given?

... Because if we determine that, we cannot determine what it is that should be given to God.

The Simple answer is that: The One who receives what you Give is the One Who determines what we should Give.

So, even though in the Bible Giving is free will, and we Give as we want and as we are led.

#### 1. GOD DETERMINES WHAT YOU GIVE.

Because He determines what He accepts and what He does not accept.

Because He has the Power to reject and to accept.

We can say that He is the One Who determines what we Give.

You know, at the end; at the time I got married, People gave us Wedding Presents based on what they wanted to give.

And so People would attend a Wedding, if a Wedding Table is set up (and I think they still do), People go up to the Wedding Table and give a Present.

And I remembered that after our Wedding and after the Honeymoon, we (my wife and I) came to unwrap our Wedding Presents and then realised that most of the Presents that People had given to us were drinking glasses.

... Whether they wanted us to drink a lot of water or Probably drink something else!

So the question is: what do we do with all these drinking glasses?

Here is People trying to give us something. We didn't determine what they should give - They gave us what they wanted to give. And what they wanted to give wasn't what we wanted.

It is always important that the Receiver has a determination on what we give.

I understand that now, couples will indicate the kind of Present they want for their Wedding. People open Gift Registers and some People write it on their Wedding Invitation cards anyway!

So the Point I want to make on what we Give to God is that: God determines what He wants us to Give to Him.

... That is the first Point - God determines what He wants us to Give to Him.

We don't determine it, the Church doesn't determine it, our Income doesn't determine it, our Interests doesn't determine it - God determines what He wants us to Give!.

That is what we have to get right from the onset - God determines what He wants us to Give.

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Genesis 15:8-9; this is God speaking to Abraham, when He had Promised Abraham that He was going to give him the land that he was living on as his inheritance, and to his descendants.

Genesis 15:8-9 (NKJV):

8 And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

And then in Exodus 25:1-3:

1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.

3 And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze;

If you note in Exodus, God says they should give it well - "Only let him give it Willingly from his heart." It is a Freewill Offering.

But the fact that it is a Freewill Offering doesn't mean you should just give whatever you want.

God said: "This is what I want you to Give." And He gave them exactly what He wanted them to give - Although it is a Freewill Offering.

... And when God spoke to Abraham, He also gave him Specifics.

So, God determines what we should Give to Him! - We Give what He asks us to Give. We don't Give just what we feel like Giving.

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But we Give because God has Specifications and Constructions. And we gave what He asks us to Give.

Throughout the Scriptures, you find this Pattern repeated over and over - God determining what should be given to Him.

And whatever we give to God must Please Him - What we give must Please God.

If we consider that our Offering is to God, then it must Please Him.

It must not be like receiving Wedding Presents and not knowing what to do with them - Whether to put them in a Storage or to distribute them to somebody else because the People don't know what you want!

So, God tells us what He wants; and we Give the things that He has asked us to Give and what Pleases Him - That is the first (1st) Point in determining what we Give to God.

... God determines what we give to Him.

2. Second (2nd) Point: WHAT WE GIVE TO GOD MUST COME FROM WHAT WE HAVE.

We cannot Give what we don't have! We cannot Give if it is not ours! - What we Give to God comes out of what the Lord has given to us.

So, when God asked Abraham to Give a Sacrifice of the animals he mentioned; Abraham already had those animals.

God had blessed him with those animals. He had a lot of them. And God said: Give these Specific ones. They were things he already had.

When the Lord asked the children of Israel to give the Gold and the Silver and the Bronze and the Purple and all of those things; they were things they already had.

They didn't have to go and pick it from somebody, borrow it or loan it. Or (sadly) Probably steal it. They had to give for they have!

So what we give to God is determined by God; and what we give to God comes from what we already have.

If you don't have it; you don't have it!

But if you have it, then God makes demand based on what we already have.

It doesn't mean He's going to collect everything

But you have it! And so He is going to ask you based on what He has given to you.

If you believed that God is the One Who gives you what you have, then He has a say to make a demand on what He has given to you.

... So what we have comes from different sources!

HOW DO WE DETERMINE WHAT WE HAVE?

I will give you three (3) ways in which we determine what we have:

I. What we have could be an Income.

An Income is the wages we are Paid; and this could be likened to what you receive regularly after we have worked.

Some receive Income every day -They call it 'By Day.'

Some receive it every week, some receive it Monthly - which is a Normal Income in Ghana.

Some receive it Quarterly; some actually receive their Income Annually because of the kind of Business that they are doing.

Whatever your Particular time of receiving Income, you Give to God Who has blessed you out of what you have!

So, the Income is the first (1st) Source of what you have to Give.

Income includes Bonuses.

II. The Second (2nd) Source of what you have is our Interest.

An Interest is Profit from our Investments.

We Give to God when our Investments yield Profit.

And it includes what we have gained from Treasury Bills, from Bonds, from Dividends, from Shares, Loyalties and other Monies that come from our Talents working for us, or Money working for us.

In the Income, you work for it; in the Interest, your money works for you.

So, whether you are working to receive an Income or your money is working to give you an Interest; what you have is what God is going to ask you to Give to Him.

III. The Third (3rd) is Inheritance.

Inheritance has to do with Assets that have been Passed on to us. This is where you reap where you have not sown.

It could come in a Generational Transfer of wealth to you; Houses, Land, Jewelries, Trust Funds and other Monetary Instruments.

So when we are talking about what to Give to God:

- First, God determines what you give to Him.

- Second, what we Give to God is based on what we already have.

... And what we already have comes from our Income, Interest on Investments and Inheritance - Assets that are Passed on to us.

So those are the two (2) Major Points that we have made!

3. The Third (3rd) Important Point I want you to note is that: WHAT YOU GIVE TO GOD MUST HONOUR HIM.

... And that is very Important!

Malachi 1:6 (I know most of you thought I was going to say Malachi 3:10) - But No, No, No! Malachi 1:6.

And this is what God said to Israel before He even talked about bringing the Tithes.

This is the Foundation of all that we do for God!

He says in Malachi 1:6:

A son Honors his father, And a Servant his Master. If then I am the Father, where is My Honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My Reverence? Says the Lord of Hosts

To you Priests who despise My Name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your Name?'

Whatever we give to God must Honour Him!

If He is our Father, where is His Honour? If He is our Master, where is His Honour? If He is our Healer, where is His Honour? If he is the Baptizer, where is His Honour? If He is our Deliverer, where is His Honour?

Because what we Give to God must Honour Him.! It must Honour Him.

We don't Give just to show off to People or to check a Church Register, or to fulfill on a Church Obligation.

... We Give to HONOUR GOD!



He tells us what to Give; the Gift comes from what we have; and what we give must Honour God.

Honour is at the heart of our relationship with God.

In fact, if you look at the Ten (10) Commandments, the whole concept of the Ten (10) Commandments is based on Honour.

Honouring God and honouring other People's Property; Honouring God and honouring other People.

God's Relationship with us is an Honour Relationship.

He honours us, and that is why He has Grace and Mercy extended to us. That is why Jesus died for us. That is why He didn't allow some lesser being to die for us - God gave His Best to us!

And when we Give, what we give to God must Honour Him.

We must be Mindful that 'this is for God!' And it must Honour Him.

There are People who see Giving as Charity!

As a matter of fact, if you look outside the Church, Giving is called Charity. And Charity has to do with Giving out of Mercy.

And so, whenever we are Giving to Charity, we are having Mercy on somebody else. When we have Mercy on somebody else, then the Person we are Giving to, is more or less a Beggar.

When you give Charity, you are Giving to a Beggar - Somebody whom you must have Mercy on.

That is Charity! - Having Mercy on the Person.

And that is what People do when they give Charity - They give to beggars and all kinds of People. They go to an Orphanage.

You are Giving to honour the Orphans, you are Giving because you have Mercy on them.

When you Give to a Beggar, you are not Giving the honour to them; you are Giving because you have Mercy on them.

And as it is said: "A Beggar has no Choice".

Because Beggars have no Choice, they can't tell you what they want you to give to them.

Well, about a few Beggars can reject your giving if you give them money by the roadside.

If we Honour God, do we give Him by giving Charity? - No! Is God a Beggar that we must Give to? - No, He owns everything!

So in the Biblical sense, our Giving to God is not Charity; it is not a Mercy - Giving. Our Giving to God is HONOUR.

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In the first (1st) Offering of the Bible - That is the Offering of Cain and Abel; God determined which of the two (2) Offerings He accepts. And which one He rejected.

And He accepted the Offering of Abel, but did not accept the Offering of Cain.

And Why? - Because it is based on Honour.

... One gave to Honour God, the other gave Him as an Obligation.

What we give to God must Honour Him!

For something to Honour God, it must be First. It must not be the Bottom - It must be the TOP.

Whenever God blesses us, we must GIVE first, to Him! - That is the way to Honour Him.

That means, immediately God blesses us, You must ring-fenced His Portion before we start Spending.

That is the way to Honour God.

To say 'this Portion is for God, and even if I don't get to Give it immediately, I have ring-fenced it - it belongs to God, and it is the first!

So, in your mind, your first (1st) Expenditure is what you give to God. That is the way to Honour Him! Not what you give after everything is done - That is dishonour!

So for it to Honour God, it must be first! That is the way to Honour God.

That is what Abel did; he took of the firstling of his flock - The first!

... And then, it must be Worthy.

That means, it must be acceptable. It must have the weight of the Person you are giving to. And that is what the Bible says about Abel's Offering: the firstlings and their fat - A Worthy portion!

He looked at Whom he was giving the Offering to and determined: "What I am Giving is to God, and it must meet His Weight."

You can't just Give to God haphazardly - First, it must be WORTHY.

If we Give an Offering that does not Honour God, we would have fulfilled the Church Obligation; we would have filled the envelope; we would have danced.

... But in the eyes of God, there is no Honour.

Now, Honour doesn't mean you give all your money to God. But in your own consciousness, and your own conscience - in your Spirit, you have to determine: "is this an Honour?"

God says: if I am your Father, where is my Honour? If I am the Master, where is my Honour? Is this Honour?

Years ago, I read the Story of a family which had invited a traveling Preacher for dinner. And this was a Preacher in the neighborhood; in the area who went from Town to Town, Village to Village to Preach, and People liked him. They liked to do something to support him.

So this family invited this "Itinerant Traveling Preacher" to come home for dinner - Which is a Good Thing! They want to honour him and thank him for the work he is doing.

So they said: Come home for dinner Preacher. And they decided to Prepare chicken for dinner.

When they went through their Chicken Farm, they have all kinds of Chicken: Some very Strong.

They have to choose one! And one of the Chicken sadly, had an eye disease.

So this People said: You know he is a Preacher, he doesn't care!

And after all, the eye disease doesn't affect the meat of the Chicken; the Chicken thigh is not affected by the eye.

So they Picked the diseased Chicken and made a Meal from it.

Did it smell as Good as an undiseased Chicken? - Yes!

Was the meat as delicious as one which had no disease? - Yes!

But they knew in their hearts how to determine what they gave.

... That is where Honour comes in!

Well, they sat at Table to have the dinner.

Normally they had to Pray - So they asked the Preacher to Pray.

And strangely, as he started Praying - God just spoke to him that the eye of the chicken was diseased.

And so he stopped in the middle of his Prayer and said to the Couple: God says why did you give to Him a diseased Chicken?

Of course, I don't think the Chicken was eaten!

... And this is a story I read Years ago!

But the reality is from a very Functional View: Does it matter? It matters, because it is a matter of the heart.



For you to go out there and say: I am going to Give to God. But in Giving to God, I'm going to Give something that I feel me myself will not like to eat. I will give to God!

It's like going (in Ghana) to have a Traditional Wedding, and you go to your In-law's Place and you have to Pay all the things that you were asked to Pay.

Can you imagine if you bring some of those tethered Cedes Notes (Ghanaian Currency) from the Marketplace. And smelly Cedes notes and say: 'Well, money is money, and doesn't matter!'

Do you think they will be happy to give you their daughter for you to marry?

Because most times, when People are going to do that, they change whatever dirty currency notes they have into fresh mint.

Is the value the same? - Yes! What does it mean? - Honour!

So, when we give to God, it is not just so much about money; it's about Honour. And if it's Honour, it must be FIRST and it must be WORTHY.

4. The Fourth (4th) Point: WHAT WE GIVE TO GOD MUST COSTS US SOMETHING.

1 Chronicles 21:24; Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full Price, for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me Nothing."

It is not for Nothing that Offerings are called SACRIFICE. When we give, we are sacrificing. Our Offering must be Sacrificial and anything that is Sacrificial costs us.

When we Sacrifice, it means we are doing something that is costing us; something that makes us feel that virtue has gone out of us.

So, we cannot Give to God that which costs us Nothing. It's almost as if you are just Giving - it means Nothing to you.

Jesus saw People Giving a lot of money in the Offering Basket and He said: "It meant nothing to them!"

To the Receivers, it is a lot because it is a lot of money. But to the Giver; he knows I could dispense of this without feeling anything!

What we Give to God must costs us Something. We must feel it when we Give, that we have done something that costs us.

...And our Offering must be INTENTIONAL.

It must be Sacrificial, it must be Intentional. We must be mindful of what we are Giving and when we Give it. And we cannot Give without Pausing to think about what it is that we are Giving.

So, you will notice that in all this Message, I have not talked about Tithes, I have not talked about Firstfruit because those are not really the most important things.

People keep asking: should we give Tithe? Should we not give Tithe?

The important thing is to know the Spirit behind what you are Giving.

Because, sometimes People argue about whether Tithe is Old Testament or New Testament.

And I ask a Question: What is the Purpose of Giving? Is it to tell you so that you don't Give at all or so that you can Give less?

People say: 'I want to Give what I want.' Anytime they say that, they just want to say 'I want to Give less.'

It is not borne out of an attitude that says: "I want to Give as I am led, so I want to Give ten (10) times more. No! They want to do nothing.

I am not talking about People who don't love God, People who don't trust God, People who say they don't really believe in the Bible. They have no Obligation to Honour God! Because they don't trust Him, and they don't believe Him.

But you trust Him, you go to Him in Prayer, you go to Him to Help you, you go to Him to deliver you. You go to Him in the morning, you go to Him in the evening, you go to Him in the afternoon. You Pray for your children, you Pray for your Business.

If He is your Father, then what you give to Him must costs you Something.

5. The Fifth (5th) and Final Point is that: WHAT YOU GIVE TO GOD REVEALS WHO WE ARE.

In the end, our Offering is the biggest Snapshot of who we are!

Our Offering is X-ray Picture of who we really are.

In 1 John 3:12, it is describing what Cain and Abel did in the Old Testament. And this is how the Writer Portrays what happened back then.

It says:

Not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

When Cain and Abel gave their Offering, this is how God saw it: Cain's Offering testified that he was Evil.

Is it possible for your Offering to show that you are evil? - Yes Sir! Yes Ma'am!

... When our Offering doesn't Honour God, it is EVIL.

Cain's Offering was Evil - His work was evil.

And Abel's Offering testified that he was righteous. His brother was righteous.

How? - Because one honoured God - It is righteous; one did not honour God - That is evil.

So, CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP: WHAT DO WE GIVE TO GOD?

... We know why; What do we give to Him?

- What we give to God is determined by God Himself;



- What we give to God comes from what we have - What He has blessed us with.

- What we give to God must Honour Him;

- What we give to God must cost us something;

- And what we give to God reveals who we are!

I am Persuaded, you are not evil.

But Per Chance, if you have acted in a way that Portrays your evil heart towards God; today is a Good Time to repent and say: "Lord, I want to Give to You out of ALL the Blessings You have given to me. I want to Honour You for Your Blessing upon my life."

Let us pray!

CLOSING PRAYER



Father we Thank You that every Good and Perfect Gift comes from You.

You are our Father and we Honour You; You are our Master and we Honour You.

And Help us as Your Children to approach You with Honour, to approach You with Respect. That in all that we do, we will Honour You.

So, when we appear before You with our Prayer and Supplication, we will be acceptable before You.

Help us Lord in all that we do, not to be Argumentative Givers; but to be Cheerful Givers - Who Give because we know why we Give, and we Give because we know what you must Give.

In Jesus' Name we Prayed - Amen and Amen!

... And I trust that you will be a Doer of His Words and not Hearers only!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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13TH JUNE, 2021 - TOPIC: HE HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED



**TEXT: LUKE 4:16-21**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

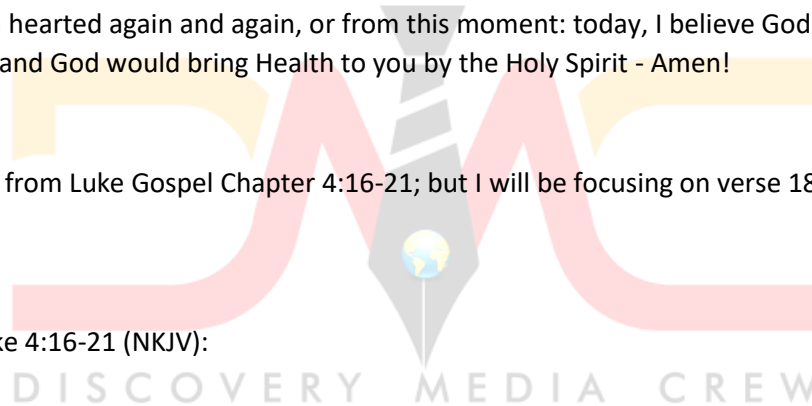
In Jesus' Name - Amen!

My Message today is Titled: HE HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED.

If you feel broken hearted again and again, or from this moment: today, I believe God's Healing Power would touch you and God would bring Health to you by the Holy Spirit - Amen!

My Text is picked from Luke Gospel Chapter 4:16-21; but I will be focusing on verse 18; where my Message is from.

But I will read Luke 4:16-21 (NKJV):



16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

17 And He was handed the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the Place where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

Because He has anointed Me

To Preach the Gospel to the Poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To Proclaim liberty to the Captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at Liberty those who are Oppressed;

19 To Proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord.”

20 Then He closed the Book, and gave it back to the Attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the Synagogue were fixed on Him.

21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Amen!

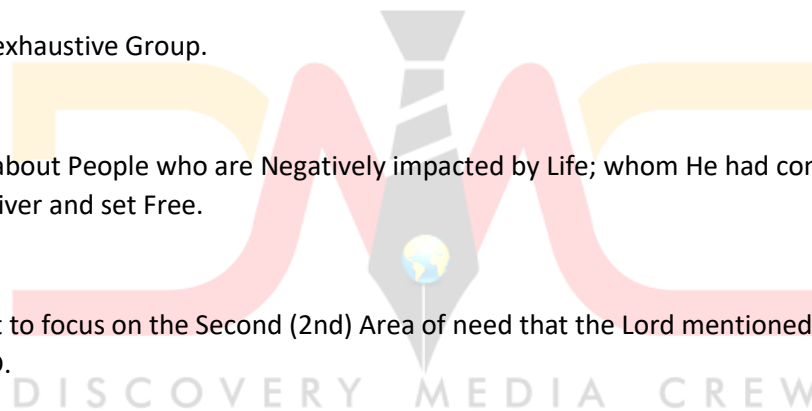
... This is Jesus reading His Mission Statement.

He is talking about what His Ministry is all about. And if you look at it, He identifies different Groups that His Ministry is targeted to - He talks about the Poor, He talks about the Brokenhearted, he talks about the Blind, the Captives, the Oppressed.

... These are not exhaustive Group.

But He is talking about People who are Negatively impacted by Life; whom He had come to help and to rescue and to deliver and set Free.

And today, I want to focus on the Second (2nd) Area of need that the Lord mentioned - THE BROKENHEARTED.



Jesus announced that Part of His Mission is: TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED.

And, if you know your Scriptures very well, you will know that the Statement Jesus Christ made is in the Book of Isaiah.

Isaiah was the one who Prophesied it the first (1st) time regarding the Messiah. And Jesus came, Picked up those Scriptures and said, they are fulfilled!

So, whatever Isaiah Promised in Isaiah 61:1-3, Jesus came to fulfil it - He came to Heal the Brokenhearted.

If you read this Passage (Luke 4:18) in almost all English Translations of the Bible; you know there are several English Translations of the Bible. And they don't always use the same words for everything.

But I checked most of the English Translations of the Bible, and in this Particular instance, almost all of them used the word 'Brokenhearted.'

It is in King James, the New King James, NIV - All of them just talked about the Brokenhearted. Even the more generous Message Bible uses the work 'Heartbroken.'

So, there is unanimity from all the Translations of the Bible that Jesus came to Minister to the Brokenhearted.

If you are Brokenhearted this morning - There is Deliverance for you, there is Healing for you and there is Help for you - Amen.

... Somebody say: I RECEIVE IT!

As I normally do, I try to define the words I'm using, so that we are on the same Page and understand where we are going.

So, let's break down the word, BROKENHEARTED as it is used in Luke 4:18.

The first (1st) word is the word 'BROKEN.'

And as we know, the Bible is written both in Hebrew and in Greek - The Old Testament is in Hebrew, the New Testament is in Greek.

Since this word is lifted from the Old Testament and spoken in the New Testament, it is rendered both in the Hebrew and in the Greek.

In the Hebrew, the word that is translated as 'BROKEN' means to be Shattered or Smashed.

The idea is of something that is forcefully hit against a hard Object - It is like the way you take a glass or an egg and shatter it on the Ground.

... So, that's how the word in Hebrew mean: Something that is shattered or smashed.

The Greek word is similar to it, but it has a different nounce to it. And it means: to grind, to crush, or to destroy.

The idea is similar to rubbing stones together till they all turn Powdery.

... So you just get crushed, rubbed together and you disintegrated and it all goes out of your mouth.

So, both are talking about BROKEN in different ways - One says it is to Shatter, the other says it is to Crush.

What about the word 'HEART?'

The word 'HEART' means our Inner Self - Your Inner Self, your Real Core Being.

The word 'HEART' is also used to mean our Passion and Energy.

And the word 'HEART' also means our Will and Thoughts.

The HEART is our Inner Self, our Passion and Energy; and also our Will and Thoughts.

So if you put the two (2) words together - BROKENHEARTED; It is when things happen to us to Shatter and Crush us from within.

I don't know whether that had ever happened to you? But when a Person gets Brokenhearted; inside them, in their Inner Self, in their Energy, in their Passion and Thoughts, they feel shattered and crushed.



And when that happens, normally, we lose our appetite for Life; and invariably, it leads to despondency and depression.

... Very terrible conditions can come from being Brokenhearted!

We can be Brokenhearted Spiritually, Psychologically, and Physically. In fact, in Medicine, there is something called: 'The Brokenhearted Syndrome:' where People literally get Brokenhearted.

And it is Physiological; it is not just Psychological.

So, we can be Brokenhearted Spiritually, Physically and Psychologically. Mentally, we can be Brokenhearted.

Many things can break out hearts; and I don't know whether you have ever felt Brokenhearted.

Most of us carry a brokenheart and we seems to be functioning normally. But something is broken inside of us; something is crushed inside of us; something just hit us and we just can't seems to recover from it.

It's almost as if somebody just took you and hit you against a rock. Or life has been rubbing you and squeezing you, till everything is coming out of you.

... That's what a Brokenheart is!

And Brokenheart can come from many Sources:

I. The one we are familiar with is when we suffer Loss - A Loss of a Loved One!

Anytime we suffer loss, we are likely to be Brokenhearted. And the loss can come from a tragedy: the loss of a Life in death, or it can come from breakup of a Relationship - Somebody you love leaves you and your Life feels empty!

Because the Person fills so much of your heart (of your Life) and they just leave you and there is an emptiness you have.

So a loss of a Loved One can cause Brokenheartedness.

II. And then, Disappointments and Discouragements can cause Brokenheartedness.

When we have an expectation that something would be done and it never gets done! And then our heart is wounded.

III. Or Betrayal of a Trusted Friend.

Each one of us has had broken hearts at some Points in our lives - Somebody you thought loved you gossips behind you; Somebody you thought loved you (had your back) went behind your back sold you to Somebody else, and didn't defend you.

And so, when People betrays us, we feel Brokenhearted.

IV. Or sometimes it come from a Frightening Medical Diagnosis.

The Doctors tell you something really terrible about your Health, and you just feel Brokenhearted and you fall in despair.

V. Or you lose a job or you lose Financial Security.

... It could cause Brokenheartedness.

So, there are different ways in which People get Brokenhearted. But ultimately, Satan is behind all Brokenheartedness.

... He is the one who seeks to crush us and grind us - "The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy."

In Psalms 69:20, A man just like us; a man called David - Passionately likes the Lord. But also goes through all of Life's Challenges.

In Psalms 68:20, David talks about Brokenheartedness.

And this is how he describes his condition - He says:

Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for Someone to take Pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none.

David talks about how he felt when he was Brokenhearted - And if you listened to him carefully most of us can identify with how David felt.

There are Three (3) Things I want you to note, that David is talking about:

He talks about REPROACH, he talks about HEAVINESS and he talks about LONELINESS.

And from David we learn that when we are Brokenhearted, we have a feeling that something is broken within us - You just feel like something is not right; something is not correct, something is broken.

... Something which used to be Strong has been broken.

1. David said Reproaches has broken his heart.

Reproaches can come in shame, in attacks, in all kinds of thing that come into our lives. And David said they broke his heart.

I don't know what has broken your heart; it could be Reproaches, it could be a Loss, it could be disappointment, it could be betrayal, it could be a News you have heard that has really broken your heart but David says, something feels broken within him.

2. Secondly, from David we learn that brokenheartedness is a Deep Sadness and Frequent crying.

David said he was full of heaviness - It's almost as if there is a Cloud that has settled on your heart. And the cloud is not moving!

You know, many times darkness clouds - They come, they offload the rain and they move on. But there are certain clouds that settle on our hearts and they don't seem to move on.

So, the Cloud is settled! Its darkness is heavy and it's Pouring water, and it's raining and raining. And it never lets go! It's almost like having a Year long Rainy Season or three (3) to five (5) Years Rainy Season.

... Crying in tears and heaviness and never feeling light!

And David is saying, I am full of heaviness.

When we go through Brokenheartedness, there is this sense of deep sadness, and we just can't turn off the water; we just keep crying.

3. And then David talks about something else he felt when he was Brokenhearted: A feeling of ISOLATION and ABANDONMENT.

He said, I looked for Help and there was no one to Help me; I looked for comfort, and I found none; somebody to take Pity and there was none.

When you are Brokenhearted, it just seems as if nobody can Help you! Even People with Good intentions just can't Help you. People who sit by you and hope to encourage you, just can't Help you because, there is Nobody to Help us.

Now, that makes it difficult when there is Nobody to Help you. Your friends can't Help you, even your Pastor can't Help you.

SO WHERE DO YOU GO FOR HELP?

... Government definitely can't help you!

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That's where Jesus comes in! He says that's His job.

On this first (1st) day of His job - when He is entering His Ministry. This is what Jesus announced.

He said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

Because He has anointed Me To Preach the Gospel to the Poor; He has sent Me to heal the Brokenhearted,"

I came to announce that there is a HEALER in the house and His Name is JESUS CHRIST.

And if no one can Help you; and there is heaviness and the heaviness is not getting off; JESUS CHRIST is the Healer of the Brokenhearted - Amen.

He can repair whatever has been broken or lost.

Proverbs 18:14 says: The Spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a Broken Spirit?

When a Person is broken, it almost seems like nothing can Help them again. Nothing can restore them.

Psalms 147:2-3 - And this is what it says:

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;

He gathers together the Outcasts of Israel. He heals the Brokenhearted

And binds up their wounds.

Three (3) Things I want you to note:

I. First (1st) is that the Lord BUILDS:

He can put the things that had been torn down up again. He can put up everything that had been Pulled down.

If you feel that something had been Pulled down in your Life, God can build it again because, He is the Healer.

II. The Second (2nd) thing the Psalmist says is that the Lord GATHERS:

... He can reassemble the things that have been scattered in our lives.

Do you feel as if something has been scattered in your Life? It's almost as if a whirlwind came and blew away everything you have gathered; everything you have put together, everything you have assembled.

Sometimes, it is Love that you thought was Strong; you have built this relationship. This Persons love you with all their hearts. You love them with all your heart. And you think: Oh, we have a Solid Relationship. This Relationship will last forever.

And then, there is Unfaithfulness; there is Infidelity. And your heart is just broken. And you wonder: Can I ever be rebuilt? God is able to rebuild you - Amen!

Or maybe you feel that you have worked so hard to gather - You have gathered so much! And then something comes and scatters it. Your heart is broken. And you wonder: can I ever recoup what was scattered?

... The Lord gathers!

III. And the Third (3rd) thing we see here is that the Lord HEALS:

"... He binds up the things that were broken."

If you feel broken, God will binds you.

And this morning, there is Healing for you, there is Help for you, there is Deliverance for you. Because Jesus says: "That is what I specialize in."

That is what He came to do for us - He came to Heal the Brokenhearted.

We used to Sing a Song way back in the day:

MY GOD IS ABLE, HE'S ABLE,  
I KNOW HE IS ABLE,  
I KNOW MY GOD IS ABLE TO CARRY YOU THROUGH;  
FOR HE HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED,  
SETS THE CAPTIVES FREE;  
RAISE THE DEAD, HEALS THE LAME AND WALKS UPON THE SEA.  
MY GOD IS ABLE, HE'S ABLE,  
I KNOW HE IS ABLE,  
I KNOW MY GOD IS ABLE TO CARRY YOU THROUGH;

That God will carry you through! He heals the Brokenhearted, He sets the Captives free. He is able to heal Evey Brokenhearted.

Somebody say: I RECEIVE HEALING!

So, I don't know the heaviness in your heart this morning; wherever you are now or reading this Message on the Label of DMC and you are wondering: Will this heaviness ever leave me? - It is leaving now! Not because of of me, but because of the Man Who read His Manifesto over 2,000 years ago. And said this is my Mission: "I have come to HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED.

No matter the Source of the Broken heart; whether it's a loss or a disappointment; whether it's something that has been scattered; whether it's a News you have heard, that has broken your heart - HE HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED!

SO, WHAT DOES HE DO?

We go back to the same Isaiah who talked about the Healing of the Brokenhearted.

Isaiah 53:4-5; talking about the Ministry of the Messiah, it says:

Surely He has borne our griefs. And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our Transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our Peace was upon Him, And by His Stripes we are healed.

... This is the Redemptive Ministry of Jesus Christ.

And when we come to Him for Healing, we have to acknowledge that Jesus Christ carried our sorrows and our chastisement.

"... He has borne our sorrows and carried our sorrows... The chastisement for our peace was upon Him."

When we receive Salvation to be Born Again; we receive Salvation by acknowledging that Jesus has carried our sins. That when He was Crucified on the Cross, He took our sins upon Himself.

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And that is why our sins can be forgiven; and the burden of sin can be removed. But that is not all Jesus came to do!

He didn't only carry our sins, but He also carried our sorrows. He carried our griefs, He carried our chastisement so that there will be Peace in our hearts.

So, just as we receive Him as the Saviour out of our sins; we also have to receive Him as the Deliverer from our griefs.

The same Jesus, who takes away our sins, also takes away our sorrows.



"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; ...The chastisement for our Peace was upon Him."

Jesus' heart was broken so that your heart would not be broken. He carried our Brokenheartedness when He died.

He Pierced His side - Blood and water came out. His heart was broken so that ours would be repaired.

So, if you feel Brokenhearted in anyway, by whatever means: Jesus Christ has carried your grief, He has carried your sorrow, He has carried your chastisement, He has carried your disappointment, He has carried your betrayal, He has carried your denial, He has carried that feeling of heaviness.

A crown of thorns was put upon His head. The heaviness is upon Him so that the Glory and the Joy of the Lord would be your Portion.

And this morning, you can receive Freedom, because Jesus Christ carried your sorrows. That disappointment is not going to live with you forever.

Today, you are being Freed - Amen.

Yes, they left your Life, but God never left your Life. God is still with you. And Jesus carried our griefs.

Say aloud: "Lord, You have carried my Pain, and my grief. Lord, You have carried my chastisement. And I receive Healing for my Brokenheartedness - Amen."

... He carried it! He carried our sins, He carried our griefs.

Listen to me: Many things are going to break your heart. People you trust will disappoint you. You will lose things. It's Part of the falling world. Our world is not Perfect, it's falling. Bad things are happening.

But as Christians, we also know that there is coming a time when God will give us a Brand New world - Where there is no sorrow and there is no tears.

But before we get there, here and now, He still gives us a foretaste of Glory Divine. He is able to take away every Brokenheartedness.

AND HOW DOES THE LORD DO IT?

Three (3) Ways that Jesus Heals us from Brokenheartedness:

1. He sends His Word to heal us.

How is He going to heal us? He is going to send His Word to heal us.

I believe this morning, He has sent me to send His Word to heal you.

That's why, of all the Messages I could Preach, this is the one He told me Preach.

Why? - Because God is sending His Word to you to say: My son, my daughter, my child, know how you feel. And I am your Healer. I understand what you are going through, and I will restore you!

Don't despise the Word He sends to you; because He sends His Word to Heal us.

2. He Touches us with His Holy Spirit.

Today, the Holy Spirit is dissolving every heaviness in your heart. Recieve the Ministry of the Holy Spirit - Amen!

And I command every heaviness, every darkness that has settled on your heart to move away - Amen!

Let the rain Clouds move; let the Sunshine come in; let a Brand New Day begin in your life - Amen.

... The Holy Spirit is the One who moves away the heaviness from our heart.

3. And the Lord Heals our Brokenheartedness when He Folks us with His Joy and Gladness.

I can now Sing this SONG:

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW,  
THE RAIN IS GOING,  
THE DARK CLOUDS HAVE LEFT ON THEIR OWN.

May God cause a New Joy to come into your heart - Amen.

You will just be there and bubbling with the Joy of the Lord; with Gladness, smiling wholeheartedly. Not smiling from the Lips, but smiling from your stomach. Smiling from deep within you. The Joy of the Lord, the freedom of Laughter.

May the Lord fill your mouth with laughter - Amen! May He fill you with true Joy - Amen.

Not just because you forgot all that has happened, but he has replaced what had happened with His Not, with His Gladness, with His Healing.

The Joy of the Lord is your Strength!

This morning, I believe God is bringing Healing to many People. And if you feel Brokenhearted in anyway, I just want you wherever you are now or reading this Message on the Label of DMC (you just feel Brokenhearted in anyway) just Stand u Up!

... Definitely, if you are driving, don't Stand. You can Park your car and Probably Stand Up.

If you know somebody who is Brokenhearted, you can Stand for that Person: A Loved one, a friend, a Parent, a brother, a sister, a Church Member, a Colleague in the office - Who is just going through deep Pain and they just can't seems to get over it.

Lift up your hands to God and receive Healing - Amen!

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Healer, who declared over 2,000 Years ago that He brings Healing to the Brokenhearted.

I speak Healing in His Name to everyone whose hands are lifted up. And I speak in the Name of Jesus;

That every Spirit of Heaviness be broken from your life!

The Clouds of Anxiety and Worry; Hopelessness and Despair be lifted from your heart.

May the Lord lift the heaviness from your heart!

And I Pray that the Holy Spirit would touch you wherever you are; and touch you with the Supernatural Power of God and Restore your Soul.

And may the Joy of the Lord rest upon you!

May the Lord touch you with His Joy; May the Lord touch you with His Glory; May the Lord touch you with His Power.

And I Pray that everything that has rested in you be lifted from you!

Recieve Healing right now (repeated)! Healing for your Soul, Healing for your heart, Healing for your emotions.

Healing from your Being, Healing in your Inner Self, receive it now, in the Name of Jesus!

The Disappointment is rolling away; The Pain is rolling away; The Despair is rolling away!

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I see Joy coming in, I see the Glory of God flooding your heart. The Lord is filling your heart with His Presence and with His Peace which Passes all understanding.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and AMEN.

If you believe God has touched you, why don't you Celebrate the Lord and give Him Praise.

And Thank Him for the Healing, for the Restoration, for the Joy that He brings to us.

In Jesus' Mighty Name - 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!

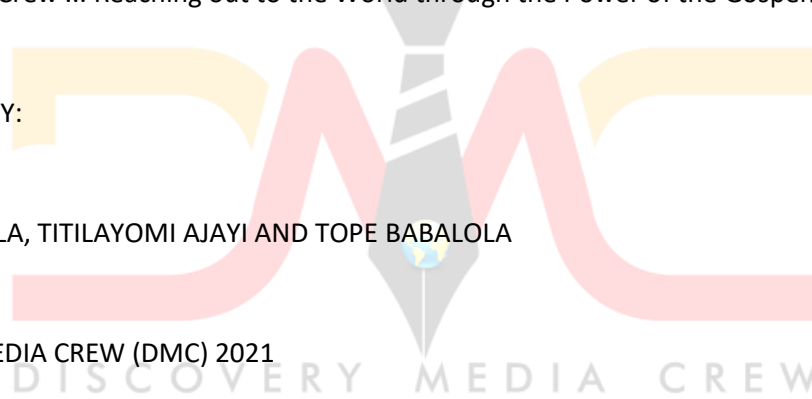
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## 20TH JUNE, 2021 - THE GOOD-HEARTED FATHER



**TEXT: LUKE 15:11-12**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL FATHERS

Well, ad you know, today is FATHER'S DAY. And so we want to wish a Happy Father's Day to all the Men all over the world who are listening to me or reading this Message on the label of DMC.

Happy Father's Day to each one of you - Amen!

You know, Father's Day can be a Mixed Pack to many People.

Recently we had Mother's Day and there seems to be more enthusiasm for Mothers than for Fathers.

... Whatever the reason is, I will leave it to another discussion.

But for many of us, Father's Day can be an awkward - For some, it's a Joyful day.

Sometimes it's hard, because many of us have father's who are no longer with us or have Passed on.

Some of us never had a father; to begin with. And many of us were born into absentee father's home!



But for those of us who have great fathers in our lives; God bless you! And may you continue to cherish the great men that God has Placed in your lives - Amen.

So whatever your relationship with your father; I hope that today, we can all look up to the Father of fathers - Our Heavenly Father, Jehovah God; and in Him, find our Safety and our Gratitude.

Father's don't usually get credit for all that they do. I think that the fathers of this era are really working very hard!

A couple of ages ago, fathers were a bit distanced from their family.

But I am seeing more and more fathers becoming very, very involved in their family.

So, for all of you fathers who go out there to work so hard for your children - Congratulations to you!

And as you know, when we talk about fathers, we are not talking only about Biological fathers; we are talking also about Spiritual Fathers and we are talking about Foster father's, Stepfathers, Uncles, Big Brothers, Mentors, Providers, Trainers - People who Play a fatherhood role in the lives of People.

May God reward your endless, tireless hustles - Amen. And may the Lord cause you to reap abundantly for all that you do - Amen!

So, let's give all the father's a mighty clap.

And I mean the Ladies, give the men a mighty clap - You do so well, and we appreciate you!

Well, my Message today is related to Fathers. And I have Titled my Message: THE GOOD HEARTED FATHER.

... A father with a good heart!

And there are many of them - So many of them and a lot of them are listening to me or reading this Message now on the label of DMC: Good h Hearted Men, Good Hearted Fathers!

Jesus told the Story of what we have come to know as: 'THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON.'

... The Parable shows how God responds to us as the Redeemer.

It's also sometimes called 'THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON.'

And I'm going to base my Message today on that Parable.

So I will read the introduction of that Parable in Luke 15:11-12 (NKJV); and we read these words:

11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.

12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

Instead of reading the entire story at once, I will read them in Portions as they relate to my Message for today.

Just to give you a Background - The father in this Parable had two (2) sons (most of you are familiar with the Story) - And those sons are a Study in contrast or opposite. It's almost like day and night.

One of the sons turned out to be a wasteful son - We call him 'the Prodigal Son.'

He is a waster - He wasted his father's Properties. And the wasteful son is the younger son.

The elder son is the dutiful son. He is close to his father, he makes good decision, takes good care of his father resources.

The challenge to the father is: HOW DO YOU LOVE THESE CONTRASTING SONS - One a Good boy, the other, not a Good boy

How do we as fathers, love our children?

- Those who are dutiful and those who are wasteful?\*
- Those who give us joy, those who give us heartache;
- Those who disappoint us, and those who always live up to expectation.

Sooner or later, our fathers would realised that, sometimes, your children are not the same - There are times that all your children are Good performers. And then there are times that all your children are Bad!

And then there are those times (like in the Story of this Parable) where some of the children are Good, and some of the children are Bad. And you have to deal with all of them at the same time.

So, how does a father respond to that?

... That's what this Parable is teaching us.

We are going to look at this: "GOOD HEARTED FATHER"; and I'm going to make Eight (8) Observations about him.

And I Pray for every fathers, that God will help us to inculcate these Attributes into our lives - Amen.

And the mothers who are listening in to this conversation or reading now on the Label of DMC, that you will also learn how to be Good Mothers in the Process - Amen.

Although this Message is not for you! You are just distant observers and you are listening to the gossips behind the window (between men) - You can learn something too, women.

Interestingly, in this Parable, there is no mention made of the mother. So we don't know where the mother is, when all of this is going on but it's about the father!

1. The first (1st) thing we noticed about the "Good Hearted Father" is that: HE PROVIDES FOR HIS CHILDREN AND BUILDS AN INHERITANCE FOR THEM.

Luke 15:12 says: "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the Portion of Goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood."

I want you to notice that the division of the Livelihood was not only to the younger son, but also to the Older son - The Older son has his Inheritance, and the younger son had his Inheritance. "

... He divided to them his Livelihood."

So, this father was a hard-working father. He was a Prosperous Business Owner, with a lot of Goods. And it is obvious that the children were aware of what the father had.

And Probably, in conversation with the children, he had made them aware that whatever he had belonged to them. Because, if they didn't have this sense of assurance, the younger wouldn't have demanded for his Portion.

So, the father Provided for his children, built an Inheritance for them and assured them that: 'what he had, belong to them.'

Each father (of us) must learn from this father - To Provide according to our Abilities for our children.

So, this man had a heart for his children's Security. He was intent that the future of his children would be right.

... That's the first (1st) thing we see about this father!

2. The Second (2nd) thing we see is that: THIS FATHER TRUST HIS ADULT CHILDREN TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.

Luke 15:13 - "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far Country, and there wasted his Possessions with Prodigal Living."

This is one of the most difficult thing for a father to do - Very difficult! He gave the younger child want he asked and he knew the risk involved.

What do you do as a father, when your child makes a Choice that you know is not in their best Interest?

... And every parent faces this dilemma.

I. There is a time when a Parent dictates to his children - That is at the childhood Stage. You dictate to them: do this, do that, and they comply.

II. Then there is a time when the Parent overrules the child - That is the adolescence.

At that time they are not waiting for instructions; they are making decisions out of their own Mind.

... But they are still under your roof; you can overrule them!

III. But there comes a time when you can't overrule your children - When they become Adults!

And that's where this boy was - He wasn't a Child, he wasn't Adolescent; he was a man of full age!

And one of the things about the Person who is of full age is that, they make decisions.

In our country (Ghana) when you are eighteen (18) Years Old; you can determine who you want to be your President or Paliamentary Leader. You can vote! - That's Big Responsibility.

Similarly, as children grow up, they are trusted for decisions.

However, we know that children can make some of the most bizarre decisions in their lives.

And they can do things that you know, without any shadow of doubt, is headed for disaster - And that is what this father knew!

He knew what this child asked was headed for disaster. And when the child started to go on his own, he knew it was not Good.

But he trusted that his child was a responsible child; and allowed him to take that decision.

It's very difficult for Parents (for fathers) to trust that their children. At their adult Stage, they can make decisions.

So, what do you do when you know that they are making a decision and it's not Good?

3. THIS FATHER HAD A HEART FOR HIS CHILDREN INDEPENDENCE.

He understood: "I cannot baby them for ever! I cannot baby him forever. There comes a time when a man has got to do what a man has got to do!"

And that was where this child was - He was no longer a baby, he is no longer an Adolescent and his father trusted him to make Independent Choices.

A "Good Hearted Father" trusts his children in the Adult stage, to make Independent Choices.

HIS CHILDREN KNOW HIM AS A GENEROUS AND FAIR-MINDED PERSON.

1 Samuel 15:17 - "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I Perish with hunger!' (Very interesting).

In a far away Country and at the Lowest Point of the Son's life, he remembered his father.

When life is dark, when his decisions are crushed, when he discovered he had made a fool of himself; he remembered his father! - He remembered his father's house, and he remembered the home he had left behind.

And what did he remembered about his father?

... This is so important!

What he remembered about his father would determine the next step he would take.

And the son remembered how his father treated People - That's what he remembered!

... He remembered how his father treated People.

His father's heart, the generosity of his father! - He remembered that even the servants of his father were well treated.

What if he had remembered how tough his father was, how wicked his father was, how unbended he father was? - He would still have remained in the foreign land!

But when he remembered his father, he said: "Oh boy, what a father I had! Even the servants ate well at his table. People who were nobody, he made somebody. People who were down, he lifted up."

His son remembered him at his Lowest Point!

Even the rebellious child at his Lowest Point would remember his what. But what would they remember?

For each father of us: What would your children remembered about you?

When they are grown and they are in trouble: When they travel and they are living in China, they are living in Korea, they are living in Australia, they are living in New Zealand, they are living in far away country. What do they remembered about you?

Do they remembered how well you treat People; or how Stingy you are, how hard you are, how unbending you are, how unforgiving you are, how angry you become?

What do they remember?

Because, what they remembered about you would determine the next step they take - Whether to go further into trouble or come back home.

And this son, at the Lowest Point of his Life, remembered his father!

And what I like about what he remembered about his father is: How he treated his servants; how his father treated the Lowest People in the society - And that spoke to him!

\*It means that for us fathers, our children are watching our Relationships! They are watching how we relate to People, how we treat People.

Because one day, they will remember; and that Memory will determined the next step of their Life.

4. The fourth (4th) thing about this 'Good Hearted Father' is that: HIS CHILDREN KNOW THEY CAN GO BACK TO HIM, EVEN IF THEY MAKE MISTAKES.

Luke 15:18-19 - I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

He knew that no matter how far away he had gone, no matter the disaster he has caused his father, he will still be received - Even not as a son, he will still be received as a Servant.

So, for us fathers, do your children know that they can come back to you? Can they return? Can they come back to you?

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And I like the attitude of this son; he said: "I know Sonship is gone! I can't be a Son. I have just squandered the opportunity. But I think Servant in my father's house is still Good."

The child felt that even being a Second Best in his father's house, was better than where he was - Can you imagine that!

That this Son felt - Even if I am nothing in my father's house, it's still better than where I am.

You know there children who leave their father's house and never want to go there again because that place has bad Memories.

... They never want the Relationship again. They never want to go back to their father again.

Sadly, most of us have grown in a Culture where fatherhood also connotes lack of emotion; lack of feeling, lack of empathy and obstinacy.

When a father says: 'This is what I say, and nothing else.'

They can abandon their children in the bush for life.

Sadly, sometimes it comes that way!

But this Son knew his father had a Good heart. And he knew 'I can go back home.' based on this, he decided to go back.

If you are a father listening to me or reading this Message on the Label of DMC, and you have a Son or your Daughter and their lives are really giving you a heartache; I Pray that they will remember your Good Heart. That no matter how far they go, they would return to the Good Heart - Amen.

And if you truly built a Good home for them, they can't run from that home forever - They will come back home!

And may your children come back home - Amen! May they return to where they used to be - Amen.

So this Son, knew that he could go back, inspite of the horrible mistakes he had made with his Life.

5. The fifth (5th) Point: THIS FATHER ENCOURAGES HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY TAKE THE RIGHT STEPS.

... A "Good Hearted Father" encourages his children when they take the Right Steps!

Luke 15:20 - And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

It appears from.the Story, that since the Son left home, the father had been expecting him to return!

He might have heard Stories of how far his Son had fallen. Travellers from the Town would bring reports about his sinful life and wayward Living. They would report about his wasteful habits.

And soon enough the father heard stories of the hardship his Son found himself in. Then the Story turned ugly - The son was now eating from the rubbish dump!

And all of these is happening, the father knows it. But he trusts the Decision making of his Son. He is not going to rush it but wants his son to make the Decision.

He made the Decision to go; he had to make the Decision to come back!

You have to allow People to get to the Decision Making Point - That's what he is waiting for.

But whilst he is waiting, he already stands somewhere to look in Expectation - Is he coming back? Is he going to come back?

Then one day, he looked out and saw the Son coming home.

And the Passage says: The son was still a great way off, but the father got out of the house, ran towards his Son, embraced him and kissed him.

He had a heart of encouragement! - He is the father who encourages his children when they make the Right Decisions.

Sometimes father don't know how to encourage children - They feel encouraging them will spoil them. 'You have to be tough! You don't have to acknowledge that they are doing well'.

They do well in class, it's nothing! They Pass their exams, it's nothing. They score a goal at the neighbourhood Soccer Game, it's nothing! They are running in the School Team, it's nothing. They Play Basketball in the School Team, it's nothing. They learn to Play the Guitar, it doesn't matter!

Decisions are being made, steps are being taken, but no encouragement.

... But this father had an Encouraging Heart.

The son had not come home; he was away. He was the one wondering: 'Will I ever be accepted back?' And the father said, he has taken one step. I'm going to take another step to meet him halfway.

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... And he ran close to his Son and embraced him!

I can imagine the warmth of that embrace. Because if you have been a bad boy and you are coming home, and you see your father running to you (laughs), you can't tell what the run is about:

I. Is he running to slap me?

II. Is he running to Push me away?

III. Is he running to tell me: Hey, don't come back home?

... The boy was wondering.

And when the father raises his hand: Is he going to hit me? And then he feels the embrace around him!

... And all of a sudden he knows - It feels Good because the father encouraged him.

There is Power in the encouragement of a father!

Mothers encourage! - Mothers can say a thousand words of Praise to a child (and they are meaningful).  
But one word of Praise from the father is far more Powerful.

There is something about a father's Encouragement and his words, that allows children to soar and to rise, and to do great things.

Fathers, you have to encourage your children!

And when they messed up and they are coming back - Encourage them.

When they are taking the Right steps, encourage them.

... This father had an Encouraging Heart!

## 6. THIS FATHER KNEW HOW TO CELEBRATE HIS CHILDREN.

Luke 15:22-24 - "But the father said to his Servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my Son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

This is very "Generous Good Hearted Father" - Best Robe, a ring, sandals, the fatted calf, party.

... All because "the son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"

There is no Scolding, I told you so! There is no Lecture, there is no New Instructions - For this moment, there is joy!

That is for the Problem child.

The thing is that, "Problem Children" occupy more attention than the "Good Ones".

So whilst all of this is going on and the "Problem Child" is being Celebrated; the "Good Boy"; the dutiful one, the one who took his Inheritance and didn't run away with it, but stayed to build the family business with his inheritance; He is still at work, he hasn't left. He hasn't squandered opportunities, he hasn't disappointed his father. And as he comes home, he hears the Good and Bad News:

His brother is back - Good News!

... Welcome back brother.

But there is the biggest party for his brother - Bad News!

And so he decides, 'I'm not even going to the house again (it's his turn to leave home)'".

What does my father think? I have been Faithful to him all this time, and he never treated me well?

So, the father was told: Your Older Son is very unhappy with you. He is very disappointed. And the father goes to reason with him.

7. HE KNOWS HOW TO REASON WITH HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH HIS ACTIONS.

Luke 15:25-28 - Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has

killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and Pleaded with him.

... You know Servants and their Reports - It didn't start today!

"He would not go in, the father came out."

The same thing he did to the troublesome son (he went out to meet him).

For the Good Son, he also goes out to meet him.

The elder brother did not understand his father; he would not understand why his father would treat the troublesome brother this way. He felt his father had taken him for granted. He Probably felt his younger brother was their father's favourite.

But the father understood the elder brother's feeling. He didn't say, well, leave him alone.

The father left the Party and went to reason with this one; he didn't leave him.

And that's something for us to learn - We must learn to reason with our children when they disagreed with us.

This father had an Accomodating Heart.

... And the Last Point:

8. HE KNOWS HOW TO APPRECIATE EACH CHILD INDIVIDUALLY.

Like 15:31-32 - "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'

... A fair-minded father! - Fair to both the Younger Son and the Older Son.

But I want you to take note of what he says here: He said to the Older Son - "All that I have is yours".

In other words, I am not going to divide the Inheritance again!

I divided it the last time, this guy squandered it. What we have now is your Portion of the Inheritance, that is yours - And it is fair that it still remains yours.

And so I'm not going to take from you and give to your brother again - All that I have is yours. Your Inheritance is safe!

But this boy needs encouragement. He will not get an Inheritance, but he needs to be encouraged, he needs to be welcome. He to be appreciated.

So, what the father is doing for each child - They are due! You messed up, you came back, welcome! No Inheritance. You stayed with the Inheritance, no Party for you- Inheritance!

... Each one their due!

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He understood how to touch each Child according to their Strength, according to their Ability and rewards them Accordingly.

Another father would have taken the Inheritance and given it the Second time to the Prodigal Son - That's not what he did. He let the children know that each one of them, by their Strength have a different Entitlement.

... Each was treated fairly.

The Younger Son was hoping to be received as a Servant, but he had an Upgrade as a Son - But as a Son without Inheritance because he had squandered his opportunity.

If he needed a New Inheritance, he has to start from bottom, as Servants do, to build an Inheritance for himself - Because he had messed up the opportunity that was given to him.

The Older Son didn't mess up, and the Bigger Inheritance went to him.

So we see a father - I call him THE GOOD HEARTED FATHER.

And for all of us fathers, who are having trouble Parenting troublesome children and Good children - Some of your children are Good, some of them are not Good, some give you heartache, some give you Joy, some spend all your money, some use the money wisely, some have gone wayward, others are staying close - You have to learn to appreciate each one of them.

But in doing that, not to also mismanage the appreciation: each one gets what they are due.

... That is what the father of the Prodigal Son teaches us.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS OUT THERE - 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!

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COMPILATIONS BY:

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27TH JUNE, 2021 - IN THE SPIRIT



**TEXT: REVELATION 1:9-18**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I am speaking today on the subject I have called: IN THE SPIRIT.

I remembered years ago, we were having an All-Night Prayer Meeting. You know, when you are having an All-Night Prayer meeting; it gets to around 2:00am, the flesh becomes very weak.

So, it was around 2:00am to 3:00am, and we had a long time of Quiet Prayer.

One of the brothers was sitting by me; and he wasn't responding to the Prayer. He was very quiet.

After sometime I shook him up, just to wake him up. He just looked at me with very dreamy eyes and said 'I'm in the Spirit' (laughter)!

... Well, that's what we are talking about - Being in the Spirit.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN THE SPIRIT?

One of the reasons we Pray and Fast is to sharpen our Spiritual Life.

We want to be in the Spirit - Definitely, not like my friend! But we want to be in the Spirit.

And today we will turn our attention to Amna who was in the Spirit; and the experiences he had. His name is John and he is the one the Holy Spirit used to write the Book of Revelation.

So, Revelation 1:9-18 (NKJV). Let's hear the reading of God's Word:

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the Tribulation and Kingdom and Patience of Jesus Christ, was on the Island that is called Patmos for the Word of God and for the Testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a Trumpet,

11 Saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a Book and send it to the Seven Churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw Seven Golden Lampstands,

13 And in the midst of the Seven Lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a Garment down to the feet and girded about the Chest with a Golden band.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His Voice as the Sound of many waters;

16 He had in His right hand Seven Stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged Sword, and His countenance was like the Sun Shining in its Strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Amen!

This was the experience that John had on the Island of Patmos. And John said that he was "IN THE SPIRIT".

John had been exiled to this Island because of his Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And when you look at this Passage; although John was one of the last Apostles of Jesus Christ alive, he doesn't make very big claims about himself.

He just calls himself a brother, an equal - Somebody who is suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ. And so when you listen to his tune, he is speaking with a lot of Humility. He's not Puffed up!

But on this Island where nobody knew him, John says he was in the Spirit.

What does it mean to be in the Spirit? - I will give you two (2) Thoughts:

1. First (1st) it means that he was in God's Presence.

John was fully aware of where he was Physically. He tells us of the Island where he was - Patmos.

And he tells us also, the specific day when he had this Spiritual Experience - He says it was the Lord's Day - which would be Sunday.

So, it's not as if he has lost consciousness - He knows where he is, he knows where he is. And yet he is in the Spirit.

So, being in the Spirit does not necessarily mean you lose all consciousness.

Because John was conscious - He knew where he was, he knew what day it was; and yet he was in the Spirit.

Because he was in God's Presence!

To be in the Spirit is to be in the Presence of God.

2. Secondly, to be in the Spirit means to be aware of God's Spirit.

... John's spirit was in touch with God's Spirit.

When we become Born Again the Spirit of God comes to live in us.

But many times we are not even aware that the Spirit of God is living in us.

So, the awareness that God's Spirit is in us, or that God's Spirit is at work in a Place is what we call:  
**BEING IN THE SPIRIT.**

So, I trust that this morning, a lot of you are in the Spirit!

Oh, you are not in the Spirit? - You are in the Spirit.

You are aware of God's Spirit and you know that you are in God's Presence.

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That's where John was! - He was aware of where he was Physically, but he was also aware of what was happening Spiritually.

Because though we are Present in a Physical Place, there is also a Spiritual Dimension to our Relationship with God.

And I believed that in this Place, the Spirit of God is here; the Power of God is Present; the Angels of God are here!

... And if you are in the Spirit, you would recognised what is happening in this Place!

So, like John, we can also be in the Spirit: in the midst of all our challenges - We can be in the Spirit.

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John was Persecuted, he was Isolated, he was on an Island - Being imprisoned more or less but he was in the Spirit.

That means that your Problems cannot stop you from being in the Spirit:

You may have severe Financial challenges and still be in the Spirit; you may have Marital Problems and still be in the Spirit.

Don't allow the hardship you are in to separate you from the Presence, the Power and the Reality of God.

Because you know, many times when we are going through challenges of life, we allow the difficulties to so overwhelm us, that we are never aware of the Presence of God.

It's important to know that although you may not be going through a Good Physical situation; Spiritually you can be in the Spirit.

Then, John says that whilst he was in the Spirit, something happened. - John said 'HE HEARD THE VOICE OF THE GOD'.

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"Every Genuine Spiritual Experience must lead us to Christ!"

Jesus Christ Himself said that when the Holy Spirit is come, HE WILL LEAD US TO HIMSELF.

... The Holy Spirit would speak of Jesus Christ.

A Genuine Spiritual Experience would not draw us away from Christ; a Genuine Spiritual Experience for a Christian is always Christ- Centered.

It is not focused on your Ancestors, it is not even focused on demonic activities; it is focused on Christ.

A Genuine Spiritual Experience is focused on Christ.

... So John said he heard a Voice!

WHAT WAS THE VOICE LIKE?

He said the Voice sounded like a Trumpet - It was a loud Trumpet-Like Voice.

It wasn't a Trumpet, but it sounded like a Trumpet.

That means that it was loud and it was distinct!

He heard this Voice when he was in the Spirit, aware of where he was - He knew he was in Patmos, he knew it was a Sunday. And yet it was a Voice that sounded like a Trumpet.

But it didn't just sound like a Trumpet, the Voice gave him a Message - It gave an Understandable Message.

So, the voice said: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last".

Then in addition, the Voice said: "What you see, write in a Book and send it to the Seven Churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea".

I want you to Pay attention to what is happening - John is in the Island of Patmos. He knows it is Sunday (the Lord's Day). And yet whilst his senses are operating and he is aware of his Physical bearings. Something happens that is not happening in the Physical is happening in the Realm of the Spirit.

He hears a sound! The sound is like a Trumpet! And then a Voice that sounds like a Trumpet says: "I Am the Alpha and the Omega!"

... That would be quite a Sound!



I don't know how it sounded; but it's almost like I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA (Very Strong Sound)!

And then this voice that sounds like a Trumpet says to him: "Whatever you hear, write and send to the Churches."

Now, when John heard this, I'm sure he's trying to figure out: What's happening? -I'm in Patmos, it's a Sunday, what is happening? I'm hearing something that is not of this Natural world.

And this Voice is telling me that He is the Alpha and the Omega. And this voice is telling me to write down something.

Now, if you were John - WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Well, Probably you would run away! Or may be, you would start writing. Or you would bow! Or you would worship and say: 'God has spoken to me.'

... John did none of these!

In fact, if you watch what John did after this dramatic intrusion; the Passage says: He turned to see who was speaking.

... And that is so important!

You don't conclude that something you have heard Spiritually, is God.

So John turned!

And when he turned, he wanted to put a face to the Voice to be sure: "Who is doing this talking?"

And when he turned; he saw the Lord Jesus Christ.

... That's what John saw!

So, he heard a Voice, now; he turned and he saw the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every Genuine Spiritual Experience must lead us to Jesus.

The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy - If it's of God, it will Point to Jesus. If it is not of God, it will Point to somebody else.

And what did John see when he turned?

He says when he turned, he saw seven (7) Golden Lampstands, he saw a Symbol of Christ - Golden Lampstands.

Seven (7) Golden Lampstands (if you know your Bible) were Part of the Articles in the Tabernacle that God told Moses to build. It represents the Light of God. But specifically, the light of God that comes from His Word.

So John turns, and he saw Seven (7) Golden Lampstands.

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Well, at this time, still he can't conclude that what he's hearing is from God.

Then, he said he saw Somebody walking within the seven (7) Lampstands - "In the midst of the Seven (7) Lampstands, one like the Son of Man."

He saw the reality of the Glorified Christ - He saw Christ Glorified!

John knew how Jesus looked like - He was close to Jesus.

So, when he heard the Voice and he turned; then he saw the Symbol of Christ and he saw the reality of Christ.

And the Passage says, he saw: His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His Voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand Seven Stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the Sun Shining in its Strength - Revelation 1:14-16.

This thing that John saw didn't look like Physical Human Being Jesus - It is the Glorified Jesus because Jesus is resurrected, He is in Heaven.

This is His Glorified form - And that is what John saw.

In the Spirit he heard the Voice, he saw. What did he do next? John said when he saw that, he fell before the Lord.

Rare Spiritual Encounters bring us to the feet of Jesus.

During Prayer and Fasting, People would have Spiritual Encounters - And may God make you aware the Spiritual Encounters - Amen!

But, if you have a Spiritual Encounter: whether it's a Vision, whether it's a Dream, whether it is something you heard; I want you to follow what John followed.

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He had the Encounter, he heard the Voice. But he had to verify who was speaking - Is it Jesus, is it my mind, is it somebody's else whose Voice I'm hearing?

Because you cannot conclude that a Spiritual Experience you are having is of God! - Sometimes, it may not be of God.

But John verified; and when he saw clearly, this was Jesus - of course, it was Jesus Glorified!

He knew Jesus, he knew how Jesus looked like. And he walked towards Jesus, he BOWED at the feet of Jesus.

Every Spiritual Encounter must bring us to the Feet of Jesus.

If a Spiritual Encounter doesn't make you love Jesus more, serve Him more, do His Will and obey Him; then it is not of God.

If a Spiritual Encounter Points more to the devil than to the Lord Jesus Christ, it is not of God.

If a Spiritual Encounter Points you more to your Ancestors and does not Point to Christ, it is not of God.

Because if it is of God, it will finally lead us to the Feet of Jesus Christ, and not take us away from the feet of Jesus Christ.

... And that was the Encounter that John had!

God will visit us in many ways!

And one of the things I'm Praying for is that you will be in the Spirit and experience the Supernatural - Amen.

There are some of you who say: 'I have never had a Supernatural Experience.' -You will have a Supernatural Experience! And God will touch you and God will visit you - Amen.

I just want us to spend a couple of Minutes Praying - And we want to just use this Story of John as the basis of Prayer; and ask God to do something in our lives.

So, why don't you rise up before the Lord wherever you are now or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, as we Pray and seek the face of the Lord.

PRAYER POINTS:

Just lift up your hands to the Lord and say:

1. Heavenly Father, make me aware of Your Presence and of Your Spirit. Help me to discern Your Presence and Your Spirit, wherever I am. In Jesus' Name!

... Now begin to Pray!

I want you to Ask the Lord to open your Spiritual Eyes and open your Spiritual Ears; to hear and to see the things that He wants you to hear and to see.

2. So Pray and say: Heavenly Father, open my Spiritual Ears, open my Spiritual Eyes, give me discernment of Spirit. And help me to hear You and to see You in this time and in this Season, as I wait upon You. In Jesus' Name!

... Now begin to Pray!

In Jesus Name we Pray - Amen and Amen!

God Bless You!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



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## 4TH JULY, 2021- TOPIC: INQUIRING OF THE LORD



**TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 30:7-8, 2 SAMUEL 2:1 AND 2 SAMUEL 5:17-19.**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I am speaking briefly on the subject: "INQUIRING OF THE LORD".

One of the things we all do during times of Prayer is that we Inquire of the Lord: we Praise the Lord, we Ask God Questions, we want God to Guide us, we want God to Direct us, we want God to Order our Steps.

And so it is important to learn a few things about what it means to inquire of the Lord.

And then we will spend a few Minutes just to Pray on that Topic.

I'll read three (3) Passages of Scriptures together, from 1 Samuel 30:7-8; 2 Samuel 2:1 and 2 Samuel 5:17-19.

I will read them sequentially one after the other (NKJV):

1 Samuel 30:7-8:

7 Then David said to Abiathar the Priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

8 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I Pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."



2 Samuel 2:1:

It happened after this that David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the Cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron."

2 Samuel 5:17-19:

17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the Stronghold.

18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

19 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?"

One word runs through these three (2) Verses; and the word is "INQUIRE".

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO INQUIRE?

It means several things - I will give you three (3) things that it means:

1. It means to Raise a Question.

It means to investigate something, to interrogate a matter.

And we see in David's example that he interrogates the Lord. He investigated, he makes an enquiry, he raises a Question: "Shall I go up?"

So, to Inquire means to raise a Question.

2. Secondly, to Inquire means to Seek for answers.

When you need answers you go to the one who has answers.

When we make enquiry or when we inquire, we are looking for answers. We want somebody who knows the answer to tell us the answer.

In this sense, David knew that God had the answers; so he asked Him (God) for the answers.

... When we Inquire, we raise a question, we seek answers.

3. And thirdly, when we Inquire, we are Asking for Help, or we are Pleading for Help.

It involves Prayer!

In the Hebrew language, the word that is translated for us in the English as "Inquire" is used many times for People who Presented their requests before the Lord.

Inquire also means to Pray, to ask for Help or to seek God's Guidance.

When we inquire of the Lord, it means we address our Questions to the Lord, and we seek Answers from Him and we seek for His Help.

In all the three (3) Passages that we have read, we know that David inquired of the Lord.

These are not the only times where David inquired of the Lord. I only chose three (3) - But he did it very frequently.

David inquired of the Lord throughout his life - He inquired of the Lord; he sought for God's Direction.

How was he able to do that? How could David who was not a Priest Inquire of the Lord?

Because David had a Personal Relationship with God! - He knew the Lord and he spent a lot of time in God's Presence.

If we are going to Inquire of the Lord, we must know Him Personally; Not know Him care of somebody!

David had a Personal Relationship with God; and he was also able to inquire of the Lord because he sought for God's Mind when he was making a Decision.

It was only King Saul who acted impulsively.

David didn't act impulsively; he also sought for the Mind of God and that is the reason why he won all his battles - Throughout his reign, he never lost a battle.

Because he didn't just go fighting! - He fought the battles that God asked him to fight.

And there are times that God will tell him not to fight some battles, and he will not fight them!

And so, he had a Hundred Percent (100%) Success because he inquired of the Lord.

It wasn't just because he was a Good Soldier but because he sought for God's Mind in his Decision-Making.

And not only did he know how to ask God Questions, he also knew how to hear from God. He developed the ability to hear from God.

In the Old Testament People depended mainly on two (2) Sources for Direction - The Priest and the Prophet.

There were times that Prophets spoke to David and there were times that Priests spoke to David.

But in a lot of the enquiries he made, it wasn't from a Prophet or from a Priest; but he spoke directly to God. And God spoke directly to him.

Even under the Old Testament, David knew how to hear from God.

And for those of us who are in the New Testament, you better know how to hear from God, if you are going to inquire of the Lord.

And then when he had inquired of the Lord, he followed God's Leading Faithfully. Once he knew the Mind of God, he followed.

He didn't just seek for God's Mind and God's Will for him; he was a Doer of God's Will.

How was David able to do that? What was his Methodology? What was the Process? What did he do when he was making an enquiry of the Lord?

Well, in his Psalms (One in Particular) he gives us a certain clue - Psalms 27:4-5, David gives us a certain Process and it reads:

One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord. All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His Temple. For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His Pavilion; In the Secret Place of His Tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a Rock.

There are Three (3) things I want you to know:

1. Abiding in God's Presence.

This is the first thing that helped David to know the Will of God.

He says: 'One thing I desire is to dwell in the house of the Lord.'

And one of the most important Pursuant is to be in God's Presence, to dwell in the house of the Lord!

In the Old Covenant - Which is the Covenant that David lived under; the Presence of the Lord was in the Temple, because that is where the Ark of the Lord was.

So, when People wanted to be in the Presence of God, they will go to the Temple - And David did that many times!

He would sometimes go to the Temple and just sit down - Just sit down before the Lord and wait on the Lord, be in His Presence.

If you are going to enquire of the Lord, you better be in the Presence of the Lord.

You must love the Presence of God, you must be happy when you are where God is Abiding in God's Presence.

If we are going to Inquire of the Lord, we must Abide in the Presence of the Lord.

David said - That is one thing he did!

... And not only that, he says that:



2. When he was in the Presence of the Lord, he beheld the Beauty of the Lord.

He observed the beauty of the Lord!

He saw God in His Majesty, and he called the Majesty of the Lord - "The Beauty of the Lord."

In the Presence of the Lord, David thought about the works of the Lord, the ways of the Lord. He saw how God has put all things beautifully together - beholding the beauty of the Lord.

You know, many times you look at life Generally - 'This is happening there, that is happening there.' And we never see the hand of the Lord in the event of life.

Sometimes we even see our lives and we think our life is confused: "I don't even know what I'm going through - Everything is just confused."

But when you behold the beauty of the Lord, you will see that He is making all things work together for your Good. You see His Beauty, you see His Plans, you see His Design.

You see that God is a God of beauty; He is a God of Order, He is a God of Design. Nothing happening in your life is by accident.

And David said: I saw that in the Temple of the Lord; I beheld the Beauty of the Lord, that God is working in my life.

Have you taken out time to admire the works of God?

Yes, you can admire the works of God in Creation - We see the Mountains, and we say, oh how beautiful the works of God.

But I am talking about: Have you taken time to look at your life and see the Beauty of the Lord?

Have you seen the Beauty of the Lord in whom He allowed to be your Parents? Have you seen the Beauty of the Lord in all the things you have gone through in this world? Have you seen the Beauty of the Lord in whom he allowed you to marry? Have you seen the Beauty of the Lord in your children? Have you seen the beauty of the Lord in what has been happening in your life since COVID-19 broke out?

Because, when you look and see the Beauty of the Lord, then you can see that Nothing is an accident!

And that is what David said. His life was not all sweet and nice and honey; his life had a lot of bitterness.

But he said, when I go to the Temple all I see is God's Beauty: I see Him working my life together, I see Him moving things together, I see Him making all things work together for my Good. I see the Beauty of the Lord.

... And then he said, because of that:

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### 3. I will Inquire of the Lord - Seeking God's Will and Guidance.

David inquired of the Lord, while he beheld the Beauty of the Lord in an Atmosphere of Worship.

If you can't see God's Hand orchestrating all the events of your life, you cannot trust Him to ask Him for His Will.

I used to have a lot of struggle Praying for God's Will.

And I have said it before, that Hymn: "Take my life and let it be consecrated unto You" - When I was singing that Song and I got to: "'Take my a hand and feet"; I wouldn't sing.

Because my Mind couldn't see that I can trust God with my hands. "What if He breaks it?"

If I say God take my leg and He knocks it out; 'take my heart He breaks it.'

... Because sometimes you can go through some bitterness in your life.

And that happened when I lost both of my Parents as a Teenager in one Year - And I said I can't trust God: 'What if I trust Him and He kills me?' What if I say 'Lord take my life and He says thank you and it takes it? (Laughs)!

Because I couldn't see the Beauty of the Lord in the chaos of my life. But now, I can look at everything that happened to me and see the Beauty of the Lord in His Temple.

And so I can Inquire of the Lord because I know that what I saw as chaos; was God working out His Plans and Purposes in my life.

It is when when you see the Beauty of the Lord in your life, that you can say: Lord show me Your Will.

Because you know, whenever He leads you, it will be Good!

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So David tells us of the sequence - He does not just rush into the Presence of the Lord and say Lord, I need money, who should I marry? Tell me what to do.

- No, he starts with Abiding in the Presence of the Lord.

- And then he beheld the Beauty of the Lord.

And after that, he says Lord by the way: what should I do about that Thing? How should I handle that Problem? Should I deal with this directly? Should I find out about that Person fighting me in the Office? Should I reply him or should I just leave him alone?

... And God will say: Do this and don't do that. And do this and do that.

David, after he has done that, he says in Psalms 27:5 - For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His Pavilion; In the Secret Place of His Tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a Rock.

David says when we seek the Lord, Inquire of Him, He will Protect us and Promote us, set us on the Rock and hide us in His Pavilion.

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I. There is a Place in God where, although the enemy is wild outside, he cannot get you.

II. There is a Place in God where everything may be going wrong but in that Place there is comfort.

III. There is Safety, there Security. And when we Inquire of the Lord, He takes us to that Place.

In the Old Testament, the Temple was God's Dwelling Place - That is where they went to inquire of the Lord.

But where do we go today the to inquire of the Lord? Do we also go to a Temple, to a Church Building?



1 Corinthians 3:16 says: Do you not know that you are the Temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

David had to go to a Temple to see God.

But today, we don't have to go to a Temple to see God because, God's Spirit dwells in us.

HOW DOES GOD LEAD US?

The Spirit of God dwells within us, not in a remote Physical Location.

Because when at night, you need direction, you cannot get up and say let me go to Christ Temple (ICGC Headquarters Parish).

If you live far away from the Temple (in another Country) how are you going to come here and Inquire of the Lord?

But your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit because He dwells in you!

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The Enquiry is not taking Place outside you - It is taking Place inside you.

The Spirit of God speaks within us.

The Lord can and He does speak to us by the inward Witness: through Dreams, through Visions, through Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

But all of that happened because the Spirit is taking residence in us - We are His Temple!

Unlike David, who had to go to a Place; we have to be in a State of Worship, we have to be in a State of Contemplation, we have to be in a State of Prayer!

And the Spirit of God leads from within us.

Sometimes, God lead us without speaking to us - He simply holds our hands (so to speak) and work with us you just hold your hand and walks with us.

You say, Lord, where are we going? - He says, just Trust me?

And he holds your hand and guide you.

You don't hear His Voice, just His Direction.

There are other times when you will hear a Voice, there are other times when you don't hear a Voice.

... And all of that comes because the Holy Spirit dwells within you.

This morning, we can also learn from David in our Prayer to "INQUIRE OF THE LORD".

And I am going to give us four (4) Prayer Topics that we will Pray about, as we put into Practice what we have learnt today.

Let us Pray!

Are you ready to Pray?

Alright, let us rise up together - Do you want to Inquire of the Lord? I don't know what you want God to speak to you about.

But I believed God is going to speak to you and you will hear His Voice - Amen.

Even if you don't hear His Voice, you will feel His Guidances and his Direction.

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## PRAYER POINTS:

1. Say with me: Heavenly Father, You are my Dwelling Place. Thank You for drawing me into Your Presence. Your Presence is Heaven to me.
2. Say: Heavenly Father; I behold Your Beauty, I see Your Hands bringing everything in my life into Your Perfect Will.
3. Say with me: Heavenly Father, lead me by Your Spirit, guide Me by Your hand, Order my Steps into Your Will, in the Name of Jesus!

You will be led by the Lord; not by fear, not by emotion, not by anxiety - The Lord will lead you! There is beauty coming out of your life, there is design in your life, there is a Purpose.

... So I want you to Pray!

4. Say with me: Heavenly Father, what do you want me to do? Where do You want me to go? What should I stop doing? Impress your Will on my heart.

... Now Inquire of the Lord (ask Him Specific Questions)

Impress Your Will on My heart Lord. Let us have a clear Sense of Purpose and Direction, in all that we do Lord - Show us what to do, show us where to go, show us whom to talk to, show us whom to ask for Help and whom never to ask for Help.

Show us what to say. When you are in that Place, you just want to say: When we go for that interview what should we say Lord? What should we not say? Inquire of the Lord!

## CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before You this Morning; You are our Guide, You are our Helper, you are our Strength, you are our Shield.

I behold Your Beauty in all the events of our lives, we see Your Hands bringing Order out of chaos.

We see You Lord taking what was meant to be evil to work out your Purposes.

We see You using our lives to manifest the Glory of God, so that all will know that there is a God, and His Ways are Perfect.

So Lord, we honour You this Morning; and we Thank You for the Direction You give to us and we Thank You for the Guidance in Jesus Name - Amen and Amen!

Give the Lord Praise this Morning - 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!

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## 11TH JULY, 2021 - TOPIC: TAKING AUTHORITY



**TEXT: LUKE 4:31-36**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I will be teaching today on: TAKING AUTHORITY.

Luke's Gospel 4:31-36 will be my first (1st) Text today.

Whilst I am reading - Note the occasions where the word 'Authority' occurs. And you can underline it in your Bible.

Luke 4:31-36 (NKJV):

31 And came down to Capernaum, a City of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days.

32 And they were astonished at His Doctrine: for His Word was with Power.

33 And in the Synagogue there was a man, which had a Spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy Peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with Authority and Power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

The Text is about Jesus Christ!

You would note that the word 'Authority' is used twice in the Passage - In Verse 32 and in Verse No. 36 - the word 'Authority' is used.

The word Authority (as we find it in the English) comes from the Greek word 'EXOUSIA' - And that is translated as Authority.

And the reason why I make reference to the Greek word is to break it down, to give us further meaning of what Exousia means.

Exousia can be broken into two (2) - 'Ex' and 'Ousia'.

"Ex" in Greek means: From or Out of.

So, when we say 'Ex' - It means something that is coming out of something - Something from!

And 'Ousia' means what you have - Like your Wealth, your Property".

... So it is something you have!

... Exousia means: From something that you have!

Authority basically, has to do with exercising what you have - If you don't have it, you can't exercise it!



So, when we talk: Jesus having authority, He was operating from what he had.

If we talk about we ourselves having Authority, it means we are operating from what we have.

If you don't have it, you can't use it! - That is how Authority functions: it comes from what you have!

And when we look at the Passage we just read (Luke 4:31-36) there are two (2) things we see in Jesus - In Authority;

1. The first (1st) is that Jesus taught with Authority.

When He taught the Word of God, when He Preached the Word of God, He spoke with Authority.

And the People who heard Him compared Him with the Scribes (the Teachers of the Law) and they said that Jesus spoke with Authority - Not like the Teachers of the Law in their time.

So why did they draw the comparison?

Because the Teachers of the Law in Jesus' time would have to refer to some other Authority - 'So-and-So' said.

It is almost like the way Academics write Major Thesis: According to So-and-So. And they would quote Books, Quote Authorities.

But they didn't have Authority in themselves since every Authority they had was outside of them.

But when it came to Jesus Christ, He didn't quote some other Jewish Authority; He spoke from Himself. Because of course, He is the Word!

When He spoke, the People saw the difference between Him and the Others!

It is like somebody who wrote the Book himself, explaining the book - He doesn't need to rely on somebody else to explain the book.

Jesus is the Word, He wrote the Book Himself. And so, when He Preached, He Preached with Authority.

... So He taught with Authority.

Not only did He teach with Authority:

2. Jesus Christ demonstrated the Power by casting out demons with Authority.

It was not just in Words only, but also in demonstration of Power - He cast out demons with Authority!

It is very interesting when you read that Passage (Luke 4:31-36) to know: When Jesus had cast out the demons and the demon came out, the People who were there (listening and watching) said: "What WORD is this?"

... They didn't say: 'What Power is this?' - But, what WORD is this?

So, the demonstration of the Power that cast out the demons made the People say: 'What is this?'

Why did they say that? - They said that because, Power was released through the Word.

When Jesus cast out the demons, He spoke with such Authority, the People said - What kind of Word is this? I mean, who uses Words in such Authoritative way, so that even demons would come out?

Jesus used Words, and His Words carried a force that compelled other forces to obey Him.

Jesus used Words in a very Powerful way! - When He said to the demon - COME OUT!

... He said it with so much authority, the demons came out!

The People said: What Word is this? Who is this who uses Words with such Authority?

I believe this morning, we can also use Words - The Word of God, with Authority (like Jesus) because, not only did Jesus teach with Words, He cast our demons with Authority.

3. He has given us His Authority.

Jesus has given us His Authority - His Authority does not only stay with Him, it is not only manifested in Him and through Him; His Authority has been given to us.

Luke 10:17-19:

17 And the seventy returned again with Joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy Name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you Power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the Power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

And Matthew 28:18-19:

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All Power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

This was after Jesus had sent seventy (70) of His Disciples to go out and they came reporting the Miracles that had happened. He gave them Authority over serpents and over all the Power of the enemy.

... Authority in Christ comes from what is available to us!

Remember how I defined Authority from the Greek word "Exousia" - Out of what you have, out of the Treasures you have, out of the Possessions you have.

For us to exercise Authority, we must be given Authority.

Jesus said to His Disciples - "I give you Authority over all the works of the enemy."

And then when He resurrected, He said: I have all the Power now. Go in the same Authority that He has!

... Our Authority comes from what Christ has made available to us.

In the New Testament, what Christ has given to us is there in the Epistles - Apostle Paul calls it the riches of Inheritance in Christ.

There is something that Christ has made available to us; that He has put into us - It is inside us. And it is out of what we have that Exousia will bring it out.

... The authority rests in us, we release it out of us!

Remember, when Peter and Paul were at the Beautiful Gate and they saw a man who was crippled? Remember the words that Peter used; "Such as I have, I give you."

He was referring to the Authority that was in him - Exousia. What I have, come out of me!

... So, He has given us Authority!

WHERE IS THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER?

We are going to look at the Believer's Authority; and I will talk about three (3) things that has been given to us to give us Authority.

1. First, the Believer's Authority is in the Power of Christ's Resurrection.

It is after His Resurrection that He said: All Power has been given to me.

When He resurrected, he spoilt Principalities.

And the Power that raised Christ from the dead is the same Power that is at work in us.

There is the Power of the Resurrection residence in us (in you and me) if you are a Believer in Christ. He doesn't reside in everybody but He resides in the Believers in Christ Jesus.

The Power at work in us; the Resurrection Power - That is your first Deposit.

2. The Second (2nd) is the Holy Spirit - Who lives in us.

The Holy Spirit Who lives in us is the Sign that we are connected to God; and the Presence of God in us.

The early Disciples of Jesus understood the Authority they had through the Holy Spirit.

So, the Authority of the Believer is: first, the Resurrection Power. Second, the Holy Spirit's Presence in us.

And;

3. The Third (3rd) is the Supremacy of the Name of Jesus

Remember the Disciples who came and say: Lord, even the demons were Subject to us in Your Name.

... The Name of Jesus, the Presence of the Holy Spirit and the Power of the Resurrection.

If you want to know what God has given to you - Out of which you will express Authority; through these three (3): The Name of Jesus, the Power on the Resurrection and the Presence of the Holy Spirit in us.

At the mention of the Name of Jesus; every knees bow!

And we have the Name - If you are a Believer, you have the right to use the Name of Jesus. If you are not a Believer, you don't have the right to use the Name of Jesus in expressing Authority.

You remember, in the Book of Acts - Seven (7) sons of a Priest called Sceva; who saw Paul casting out demons and they said: "In the Name of Jesus whom Paul Preaches."

They used the Name of Jesus, but they didn't have the Authorisation to use the Name of Jesus.

And the demon in the Person said: "Jesus I know - I recognise Jesus. Paul I know.

Why did he say: Paul I know? Because he (Paul) is authorised to use the Name of Jesus.

If you were there, the demons would have said so too - Jesus I know and mentioned your name.

Why? - Because your name has been registered as an Authorised User of the Name of Jesus!

You are an Authorised User of the Name of Jesus - Amen.

It's like Toyota would have an Authorised Distributor or a Company would have an Authorised Dealer - You are an Authorised User of the Name of Jesus.

So, the demon said to the sons of Sceva: I know the Authority and know those who have the Rights to use it, but you - Where are you coming from? Who are you?

... And they suffered the consequences of using the Name of Jesus without Authorisation.

But Thank God, we have the Authorisation through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen!

WHAT DO WE USE THE AUTHORITY TO DO?

Since Christ has given us Authority, what should we use our Authority for? Or what should we use our Authority to do?

I will talk about three (3) things we use our Authority to do; and after that we will Pray!

1. We use our Authority first, to Proclaim God's Decrees.

What does it mean?

It means God has decreed things and by the Authority that we have in the Name of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit and through the Power of the Resurrection, we can Proclaim those Words.

It means we can say those Words, and those Words coming out of her mouth would have the same Power as if they came out of the mouth of Jesus Christ.

To Proclaim God's Decrees, we say what God says. He has said it, so we can boldly say the Words too.

When we are declaring on speaking words, we are saying what God says; Proclaiming God's decree.

... So that is the first thing we use our Authority to do.

If God says: Let the weak say I am Strong, then we can also say - I am Strong.

What are we doing? We are Proclaiming God's Decrees.

If He says you are the Head and not the Tail. You say: I am the Head and not the Tail. You are Proclaiming God's Decrees.

Anytime before I Preached, and we make all those Proclamations, it is not Poetry; we are Proclaiming God's Decrees.

Why? - Because everything we say comes from the Scriptures.

There are about fourteen (14) Scriptures that are put together into that Declaration.

So, when we make them, by Authority, we are Proclaiming and affirming God's decree. We have Authority to declare what God declares!

2. We have Authority to enforce Christ Dominion.

You must bring every thoughts and every Spirit captive to the knowledge of Christ.

So anything that is contrary to what Christ has made Possible, we must enforce the dominion of Christ.

To operate in Authority, we must be aware that what Christ has made available to us is for us. And we must make it happen.

I. If He died for our sins, we must be saved.

II. If He was wounded for our transgression, we must be delivered from our transgression.

III. If the chastisement of our Peace was upon Him, we must have Peace.

IV. If by His stripes we are healed, we must be healed - we must enforce the healing.

... You can't just say - Jesus gave it to me, so it is so! You must enforce it.



3. By the Authority that Christ gave us, we must establish God's Will.

Whether we are moving Mountains, whether we are Praying for situations to change, all that we are doing is that; we are establishing God's Will. We are Proclaiming God's Decrees or enforcing Christ's Dominion. That is all that we are doing!

Wherever He has Dominion, we Proclaim His Dominion!

Jesus shall reign wherever the sun is: From morning to evening. As the sun moves around the Globe, we are establishing the Authority of Jesus around the Globe, to establish His Will.

So this morning, as we Pray, we are going to Pray with Understanding.

Remember, Authority is based on what is inside you - 'If you don't have it, you can't use it.'

I. What is inside you is the Power of the Resurrected Christ inside you.

II. What is inside you is the Holy Spirit of God.

III. And God has also given to you the Name of Jesus to use.

... These are your Sources of Authority.

And when you use these words, you are establishing God's Will; you are enforcing Christ's Dominion; and you are making Decrees according to the Word of God.

So we would (with this Understanding) Pray!

And I will give you Four (4) Prayer Topics that we will Pray about this morning.

And you can fashion it out in your own way - Pray for Specific Areas of your Life.

Let's rise up together to Pray today!

What I will do as we Pray - for those of you who are following us at home or reading now on the label of DMC, and just be Part of this Prayer.

I will lead you with a Prayer. And then after I lead you with the prayer, you will Pray on your own. I will lead you to make a Prayer Declaration, and after that, you will use own words to Pray.

... Are you ready? - Alright!

#### PRAYER POINTS

1. So, say with me: Heavenly Father, let Your Kingdom come. I Proclaim that the Kingdoms of this world has become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of Christ Jesus - Amen!

... Now make that decree - That every Kingdoms, every Nations, every Forces will come under the Kingdom of God and of Jesus Christ.

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Oh yes, the Lord decrees Victory, in the Name of Jesus!

2. Say with me: Heavenly Father, let Your Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Manifest your Perfect Will in my life today; I will Subject every situations in my Life under the feet of Jesus.

... Now, Pray for the Will of God to be done in your Life as it is done in Heaven.

3. Say with me: Heavenly Father, I work in the Power of the Resurrected Christ; by the Words of my mouth I exercise Authority over demonic forces and their Plans and cast them out in Jesus' Name.

... Now as Jesus used Words, begin to use your mouth!

4. Say with me: Heavenly Father, by the Authority of Christ I work in boldness to Possess my Inheritance as a Child of God. Father, I rejoice in Your Abundant Blessing, in Jesus' Name.

The Blessing is yours, take it! - The Favour is yours, the Increase is yours, the Abundance is yours - Take it!

God has given to you all things that Pertains to Life and Godliness; it has been given - Take it!

#### CLOSING PRAYER CONFESSIONS

In the Name of Jesus we Declare Victory, we rejoice in the Abundance of Blessing that God has given to us.

SAY WITH ME:

Heavenly Father, Your Word is true, Your thoughts concerning me are for Good and not for evil.

I have exercised Authority today in the realm of the Spirit - I see the Manifestation in the realm of the Supernatural conforming to Your Will, to your Purposes, in the Name of Jesus.

I Thank You Father, I rejoice in Your Promises, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

Give Jesus Praise!

If you know that you have taken Authority then rejoice in the Lord - Hallelujah!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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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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MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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## 18TH JULY, 2021 - TOPIC: BREAKING BARRIERS



**TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 17:1-END**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I am Preaching on: BREAKING BARRIERS.

Barriers will be broken - Amen!

You know, we are confronted with impossible barriers daily. Each one of us will be confronted with barriers; something that will be stopping you from getting to the Place that God wants you to be.

And sometimes, those barriers could be there for a very long time. It would seem like there is something you are not able to Push again.

And sometimes, it is there for a week sometimes a Year sometimes ten (10) Years, fifteen (15) Years!

You are just struggling to cross something - A limitation that has been Placed on you. And you find it very difficult to break through.

But I believe this morning, we will turn our attention to Breaking Barriers - and Barriers would be broken - Amen!

From 1865 (none of you was born at that time) to 1945 - That is a period of eighty (80) Years; twenty five (25) World Records were set for the Mile.

And for those of you who don't know about the Mile; before we entered the Matrix System, the Mile was the distance we run.

People call it one thousand five hundred (1500), which is not exactly a Mile because a Mile has to have a few more added to it.

But we used to run the Mile.

And from 1865 to 1945, in an eighty (80) Years Period; when records were taken, twenty five (25) World Records were set for the Mile.

And all the twenty five (25) Records were under four (4) Minutes.

So the world had come to accept that it was impossible to run the Mile under four (4) Minutes. People actually had all Scientific Theories to say that it was beyond Human endurance and capacity for anyone to run one (1) Mile under four (4) Minutes.

And it became to a large extent, a Physiological Barrier that was limiting the Physical Abilities of People.

Then in 1954 - That is, nine (9) Years after the last record of 1945. In 1954 a gentleman called Rodger Bannister ran the mile under four (4) Minutes! And he ran it for 3 Minutes 59.4 Seconds.

... He beat it by 6 seconds - That is how he beatt it!

So in 3 Minutes 59.4 Seconds Rodger Bannister Proved that the barrier of the 4-minute Mile could be broken - Very interesting!

But that was not the only fascinating thing:

As soon as he broke that barrier of the 4-Minute Mile and run under four (4) Minutes, it seemed as if everybody was breaking the 4-Minute barrier.



And up to this time, it is estimated that one thousand four hundred (1,400) Runners have been able to run the Mile under four (4) Minutes.

#### HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

Something that for eighty (80) Years, nobody could do and now it is been done almost with ease - So many People have run the Mile under four (4) Minutes.

Many times barriers may seems very big; but they really exist in our Minds. There is something in your mind that tells you: 'You cannot do that!'

Many Barriers of impossibilities are Myth that we have come to accept as reality.

So think about all the barriers that you have faced in your life, in your family, in our Nation; especially for us Africans (or Black People) - The Barriers about the things which we cannot do.

Sometimes you hear we ourselves telling us - 'As for the Black Man, he can't do this!'

When will Africa ever develop? When will Black People ever do this and that? We speak about these barriers as if they are impossibilities.

The Story of the 4-minute Mile that I just narrated about Rodger Bannister can be likend to how Israel responded after Goliath and come down.

And I am going to take you through that familiar story in the Bible in 1 Samuel 17.

... I am not going to read it long; I am just going to read selected Portions of 1 Samuel 17.

But you know the familiar Story of David and Goliath - The Philistines gathered to fight the Israelites. It was not the first time and certainly not the last time. They fought quite a lot of time but this one was a very interesting Battle.

And from 1 Samuel 17:3-4, the Bible said (NKJV):

3 The Philistines stood on a Mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a Mountain on the other side, with a Valley between them.

4 And a Champion went out from the Camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span

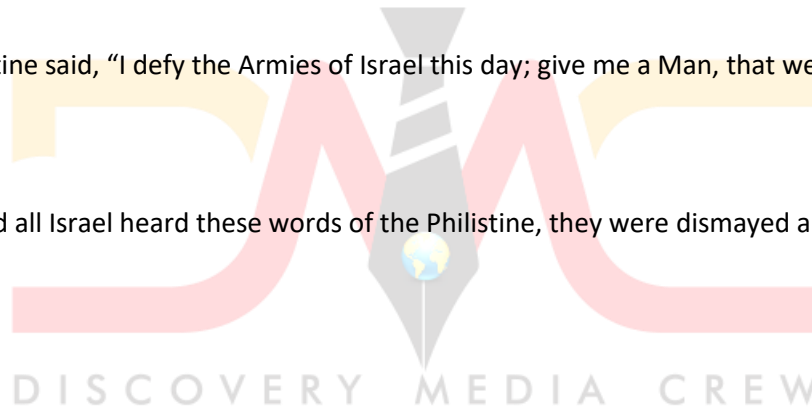
... That is average calculated to be around 9 feet - So he was quite a huge Fellow!

1 Samuel 17:10-11:

10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the Armies of Israel this day; give me a Man, that we may fight together."

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

1 Samuel 17:16:



And the Philistine drew near and Presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

I like how the Bible Puts it: "He drew near and Presented himself forty days, Morning and Evening".

So, the People of Israel went to Battle; ready to fight. They have been fighting all their lives. But this time they met a guy called Goliath (huge guy) - And Goliath Presented himself to them.

And for forty (40) days - Day and Night, an Army that was Prepared to fight hid from fighting. They were afraid to fight! For forty (40) days nobody was going out. They would dress for battle, go to the Battlefield and not move forward. And then they go back home.

They did that for forty (40) days!

Instead of having forty (40) days of Power, they were having forty (40) days of weakness - All the trained Soldiers and their Kings were afraid. They couldn't fight because of a barrier called Goliath.

Let me show you how Barriers are set?

Barriers are set in several ways; but I will talk about Three (3) of them:

1. First, what we have been "TOLD" - The things we "HEAR".

For the Israelites, they heard the words of Goliath. They also heard what had been said about Goliath. Because this is not the first time Goliath was showing up. He had been fighting for the Philistines, and defeated many Nations.

So, there was a Story about him. There were those News about him - People who will WhatsApp about Goliath. They WhatsApp about his Height. There was gossip about his great achievements.

And the People repeated the Story: Have you heard about Goliath? He is huge, we can't fight him. If you go to fight him, he will kill you. And that still went on and on; and Israel had told it to themselves.

There is nothing more Limiting as what we hear and repeat to ourselves - The things you hear and repeat to yourself!

There could be Stories that we came to meet - Stories from our families, from our Clan, from our Nation, from our Race. And overtimes, we repeat those Stories so much to ourselves that they become a Mental Barrier.

And I believed that one of the factors for Africa underdevelopment is: repeated stories of defeat.

In our Part of the world, those Stories sometimes, have Spiritual dimensions to them.

... So barriers are set by what we have been told.

2. Second (2nd) Barriers are set - They are set by what we "SEE" happening.

That is why Goliath Presented himself!

You can imagine how Israel felt with what they saw! - Not just heard him, but saw him. He was taller than any of them, more armed than any of them, better equipped than any of them.

If you considered that, at this time Israel was not using Metal weapons. It was after Goliath that they learnt how to use Metal weapons. They were using sticks and stones and all kinds of things. But they didn't have Metal weapons.

Goliath comes, and he is armed with Metal - From head to toe. Apart from being 9 feet tall, he is Metallic - Almost like the Terminator. And he had an Armour-bearer in front of him.

... Just imagine the Vision of the Barrier!

Sooner or later you will see things in this world that will confirm what you have been hearing: that you can't make it, that you are cursed, that you are little, that it is impossible! That a Black man cannot do it, the Africans cannot do it.

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You will see Stories, you will read stories. And these days, because of Social Media, you will see Stories that we use to affirm our own Self Defeat.

3. The Third (3rd) way that Barriers are set is through what we "FEAR WILL HAPPEN".

When they saw Goliath they were afraid of the worse - Because once you see it happening, you will expect it to continue happening.

This is why, for forty (40) days, the Army that was ready to fight was not fighting; a People who have gone to the Battlefield were hiding.

.. But the Story changed! There was a Turnaround.

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Somebody say: THERE WILL BE A TURNAROUND!

So, there was a turnaround!

And I want us to look at the turnaround in 1 Samuel 17:49:

Then David Put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the Earth.

... What a Mighty fall that was!

David had showed up on the scene; he decided to take on the barrier. He slung a stone, hit the forehead of Goliath, and Goliath fell face-forward. - Not backward, but face forward.

Watch what happened in 1 Samuel 17:52:

Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and Pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the Valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

Can you imagine?

These are People who couldn't fight for forty (40) days - They had come to a Battlefield and nobody was moving.

... And then all of a sudden, they are running - So something changed!

It is almost like the story of Rodger Bannister - One man breaking a Barrier and a whole Army he comes after him!

David changed the Story for Israel - He changed the Story. He was like Rodger Bannister - He changed the Story for the world. He ran the Mile under 4 minutes

And how did David change the Story? - He removed what they feared; he removed the barriers, removed the limitation. Goliath came down!

And this week: Goliath will come down - Amen. That Barrier that has stopped you from moving is coming down - Amen. That force that intimidated you is coming down - Amen.

David changed the Story!

May God raise Davids out of Africa, out of Ghana (Nigeria) who will change the Story - Amen.

And when David changed the Story, inspired a New Behaviour; immediately the People saw the Barriers down they were inspired to fight.

The same Army that has been hiding for forty (40) days stepped out to battle - They did not go back home, they did not go to retrain, they did not go and change their armour.

Nothing changed! It is the same Group of People now going; because David changed their Story.

... There are things you think you cannot do - But I Pray in the Name of Jesus: Today, that barrier will be broken and what you have thought you could never do, you will do it in one (1) week - Amen.

What you have thought impossible, you will see yourself doing it, because the Barrier is broken in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

SO HOW DID DAVID DO IT?

Very quickly, 1 Samuel 17:45-47 - This Is How David did it:

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a Javelin. But I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the Armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you (and he said it without a sword). And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the Earth, that all the Earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this Assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

SIX (6) LESSONS I want you to Pay attention to:

1. First, don't underestimate what God can do through you.

David never underestimated what God could do through him - He was he was seventeen (17) Years old about this time. He was not old enough to be recruited in the Army.

He was not a Soldier, he had never fought a regular battle - He fought with animals; but he never fought a battle.

This was the first battle he fought and he took on the biggest challenge.

Don't underestimate what God will do and can do through you - For all you know, you are the one to break Africa's 4-minute barrier.

Because somebody somewhere will look at you and say: if he can do it I can do it; if she can do it, I can do it.

May God raise up Men and Women who are Barrier Breakers and Inspirers of a Generation - Amen.

... Don't underestimate what God can do through you!

2. Second, put on the Strength of the Lord as your Armour.

That was David's Secret - He put on the Lord as his Armour.

He said: "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a Javelin. But I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts".

In other words: I don't have what you have, but I have what you don't have - I have the Name of the Lord. You have the sword.

I. I don't know whose sword has been drawn against you; but you have the Name of the Lord.

II. I don't know what Armour is threatening you, but you have the Name of the Lord!

Put on the Strength of the Lord as your Armour; Go into Battle in the Name of the Lord; Stand Strong in the Name of the Lord.

3. Aim for Bold and Audacious Target.

David did not aim for the feet of Goliath, he didn't aim at his leg, he didn't aim at his stomach, he didn't aim at his chest.

... He aimed at his HEAD - It is bold, it is audacious, it is courageous.

Don't make small Plans, don't aim at little Levels, don't think of very small Things - DREAM BIG! Think about something fantastic that you want to do for God.

Yet, you may start Small, you may start Local. But you will not stay Small, and you will not stay Local.

Think Big, Dream Big, Expect Big. Hallelujah!

... That was David's Secret.

Aim for bold and audacious target - Think about it and for it, believe God for it!



You will do Big Things, you do Mighty Things, you will do Powerful Things. The Nations are waiting for. The Victory is for you, and you will take it in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

You know, sometimes when you come from our Part of the world; and if you come in our Part of the world; you come from the lowest Part - You know Africa is a Poor, the whole Continent is Poor.

But if you are Poor in Africa, you are Poor! I mean, we are Poor; but if among the Poor you are called Poor.

It's like African Nations are Poor.

But if an African Nation call another Nation Poor; and in that Nation they call some People Poor - You are coming from far.

But I come here to tell you - David was also coming from far. He was coming from Bethlehem, he was coming from a Village that was unknown. But he determined: If I am going for Goliath, I am going for the HEAD - I am not going for the feet, I am not going down but I am going up!

If you are going to Dream, dream Big; if you are going to Think, think Big; if you are going to Believe, believe Big - Don't waste your Faith, don't waste your Dreams, don't waste your Believe.

Somebody say: I AM BREAKING BARRIER!

Yes, you have done much; but you are going to do better - Amen.

4. Match your desires with God's Riches in Glory.

Don't limit yourself to what you have, what is in your Country - Include God in your Demand-and-Supply Equations factor.

5. Call the Things which be not as though they were!

David declared how the battle was going to go - He said: I am going to take your head (but he had no sword).

God caused the things that be not as though they were! - He said: Let there be Light when it was full of Darkness.

## 6. Anticipate Unusual Miracles, Signs and Wonders.

Live in Divine expectancy! - David believed that God will do something Unusual with him, and he received something Unusual from the Lord.

As we Progress from today, may we step out into battle - Whatever has intimidated us from our Childhood up to now, whatever has intimidated us from the Past ten (10) Years up till now; from Past twenty (20) Years, five (5) Years, last Year till now, from the beginning of this Year till now. Whatever Goliath has stood in front of you, it is coming down - Amen. And you are going to rush into battle - Amen!

No Limits, no Boundaries - I see Increase all around me, Breakthrough, Stretchforth. It is time to break out, it is time for every Barrier to be broken, it is time for the 4-minute Limitation in your head to be broken - Amen.

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Because you are going to run this Race, you are going to run it well, to the Glory of God - Amen.

Are you ready to Pray?

Let's rise up together as we Pray this morning in line with what we have said today.

### PRAYER POINTS:

1. If you are ready to Pray lift up your hands and say with me: Heavenly Father, deliver my mind from every word I heard from my Childhood that has become a barrier to what You want to do in my life.

Now Pray about that: Maybe somebody told you - You are not Good enough, you are not smart, you are not intelligent, you are not handsome, you are not beautiful, you don't have what it takes, you are not Talented, you are not Gifted, your family is Poor, your family will never be great.

Maybe your Parents, your Teachers, your Examiners, your friends told you - You are a failure. You are not a failure!

May the Lord deliver every Mind from the traps of our Childhood; from words spoken, words released into our small Minds - Limiting us; telling us how far we can go.

Maybe you were told: only a White man can do that - And so, you have imprisoned yourself in your African Skin. It is Possible! We are breaking out of that Mindset.

Father deliver Your People from Inferiority Complex. deliver Africans from Inferiority Complex, deliver Ghanaians from Inferiority Complex, deliver Nigerians from Inferiority Complex. Deliver us all from Inferiority Complex, Self-Negation, Racial Limitations. We break out of that, in the Name of Jesus!

You are going to break Free from every Negative Toxins in your Life. Every bad example you have seen of failure, you are setting yourself Free from it. You will not repeat it and you will not be a Prisoner to it.

2. Somebody say with me: Heavenly Father, today I declare Emotional Freedom from all Toxic Relationships in my Life - Toxic Influences in my life. Set me Free from wrong family examples. I am Free in Christ Jesus.

Begin to deliver yourself! - Your father did it, your mother did it, but you will not do it. Your uncles and aunts are like it but you will not be it.

Every Toxic Influences: Toxic Political Influences, Toxic Family Influences, Toxic Spiritual Influences; we break Free from it. We break out from every Emotional Influences that limit our Capacity and Potentials, in the Name of Jesus.

You will not repeat circles of failure, you will not repeat circles of defeat. It will not happen to you, in the Name of Jesus.

In the Name of Jesus, we are breaking Free from every Spirits of Fear, Intimidation and Small Thinking - You will not Think Small again. You will Think BIG, in the Name of Jesus.

3. Say: Heavenly Father, by Faith I break Through and break Free from the Spirit of Fear, Timidity and Small Thinking - I can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me.

Now begin to Pray: Get out from the one-room Mindset, Chamber and Hall Mindset, Tabletop Mindset - We are breaking through from it; we are breaking from the Limitations of Fear, Witches and Wizards. we are breaking Free from every Fear of Spiritual Forces, every Fear of Man, Fear of Woman. We are breaking free from it, in the Name of Jesus.

We are breaking Free from every Spirits of Timidity, Small Thinking, Small Plans, Small Dreams in the Name of Jesus.

Now we want to Open our Minds for God to stir our hearts to do great things for Him.

4. Say with me: Heavenly Father, you created me for yourself, I open my Spirit and my Mind for You; stir up my heart with a Passion to do Great Things for You.

Pray now for a New Spirit - Open up to Great Ideas, Divine Ideas, Divine Possibility, Divine Concept, Divine Thoughts, Divine Imaginations, Divine Desires, in the Name of Jesus!

We declare Victory!

May the Lord Inspire you, may the Lord give you New Ideas in your Sleep and in your Visions - Amen. May the Lord speak to you in the books you read, in the Bible (as you read it), in the Messages and words you hear or read always on the Label of DMC - Amen.

May God Inspire you in the things you see, in the movies you watch - Amen. May God Inspire, may the Lord Inspire Great Ideas in you - Big Ideas in the Documentary you watch - Amen. May God Inspire in you Big Ideas; not Small Thinking - Amen.

He wants to show His manifold Wisdom through us. God wants to make us an Example of His Goodness; He wants to make us an Example of His Power; He wants to make us an Example of His Glory; He wants to make us an Example of what His Victory is all about.

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May God Pick you up from your family and demonstrate you to the world - Amen!

May God Pick you up as a Signboard. May God make you a Testimony - Amen.

May God Pick you up like David and use you to Inspire Others in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

5. Finally, we want to just Thank God for the doors He is Opening for us. And we Thank Him that from today we are running through troops and we are leaping over walls.

Whatever wall stood between you and your Destiny, this day, you are leaping over it - Amen!

Whatever stood before you till this day; you are running through it - Amen.

Say with me: Heavenly Father, Thank You for the massive doors you have opened for me today and run through troops and I leap over walls, in Jesus' Name.

Begin to Pray and Thank God!

From this day massive doors are Opening to you. You are running, you are breaking the Records, in the Name of Jesus.

In the Past, every time you say I am going to do it! something Negative happens.

From this day, as you step out: Nothing will Stop you, nothing will limit you; Goliath is fallen. The enemy is down, the opponent is down. The Barrier is broken - Amen.

And you are entering to Possess your Inheritance - Amen. You are entering in to become what God wants you to become, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we Thank You for the Victory that we sense in our Spirit; the Victory in our hearts which we now declare with our mouth: that we overcame by the Blood of the Lamb and by the words of our Testimony.

We declare that Goliath is fallen; that the Enemies that intimidated us is fallen. We declare Lord, that You are doing BIG Things with us!

Not Small Things, not Small Ideas, not Small Plans - We Dream BIG, we Think BIG, we Believe BIG because we have a BIG GOD, and He is more than able!

And Father, may You do for us more than we can ever ask or think of, according to Your Power that is at work in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

... And everybody shout Amen - AMEN!!!

Oh, shout another Amen - AMEN.

Say: The Barrier is broken; Goliath is fallen; I have the breakthrough!

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Give God a Clap Somebody - Hallelujah!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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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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## 25TH JULY, 2021 - TOPIC: CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISES

TEXT: 2 PETER 1:2-4

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



This Message is the last of LIVE SUNDAY ONLINE Message by Dr. Mensa Otabil (for those of you reading on the Label of DMC).

... So read this very Message very well, because next week you won't see it. Alright?

We will be stopping our Live Broadcast. But we will be broadcasting OLD Messages (Services). Not the Live Service as we have been doing.

We know those who sick (in hospitals) or on Essential Duties need it. But those who have made Television Church substitute, this is the end of to.

So God bless you for watching and Reading on the Label of DMC. One and half (1½) years or so, we have Faithfully Ministered to you. It's time for you to come to Church!

DMC NOTES: There is no doubt we @ DMC had Played a huge role bringing the Full Text week in week out on our World Acclaimed Robust Platforms. Should in case you can link us up to still get means to get the Audio of the Message, feel free to contact the Convener of DMC on: +234 802 306 4721 (08023604721) on Call or WhatsApp. God bless you as you do so!

My Message for today is: CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISES.

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NKJV):

2 Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3 As His Divine Power has given to us all things that Pertains to Life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by Glory and Virtue,

4 By which have been given to us exceedingly Great and Precious Promises, that through these you may be Partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

One of the difficulties I have; and I think People have, when you are reading some of the Epistles in the New Testament is that, they don't like fullstop. So, the sentence can go and go and go, and there is no fullstop.

... So, this whole Passage I read, didn't have fullstop, till the end.

Sometimes, when you are reading a Passage, and there are no fullstops; making meaning of it is a bit difficult. It's Part of the reason why, sometimes People read the Bible and they are not really sure what the ideas are about.

But I will take time to explain what this Passage mean.

This was written by Apostle Peter. And it assured us (the Christians) of God's Promises and God's Faithfulness to His Promises.

I'm going to make FIVE (5) STATEMENTS, based on the Passage:

... And then I will make some commentary around every Statements. And then we will Pray.

1. The first (1st) Statement is that: GOD DOES WHAT HE DOES, BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

Let's say that together: GOD DOES WHAT HE DOES, BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

So, God does Good Things, because He is Good:

I. God heals us, because He is a Healer.

II. God Provides for us, because He is a Provider.

III. God Protects us, because He is a Protector.

Behind every Act of God, is the Nature of God.

... GOD DOES WHAT HE DOES, BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

He doesn't do things simply because we asked Him to do it - He does things because it is in His Nature to do it.

Of course, if we ask Him to do it, and what we do is in His Nature; then He does it!

But if you ask Him to do something that is outside of His Nature; there is no way He can do it!

So, if you want God to do something that God does not do:

I. To hate People.

He shouldn't hate (or He doesn't hate) - He will not hate them.

II. To destroy People.

He doesn't want to destroy; He will not destroy them.

God does what He does, because of Who He is! He cannot do what He is not.

He cannot sin, He cannot lie, He cannot be Unjust.

And no amount of Prayer or Fasting, or Spiritual Force would make God do what is against His Nature.

A Man of God, cannot Pray for God to do what is against His Nature: because, God does what He does, for Who He is.

It is so important that we understand that the Nature of God is what informs everything that He does.

... That's the first (1st) Statement I am making!

2. Second (2nd) Statement: GOD DOES WHAT HE DOES, THROUGH HIS DIVINE POWER.

Let's say that together: GOD DOES WHAT HE DOES, THROUGH HIS DIVINE POWER.

The Passage (2 Peter 1:2-4) says that God's Divine Power has given us ALL THINGS that Pertains to life and Godliness.

God's Divine Power is the Power that He operates by!

... We would call it 'GOD'S POWER.' - It is His Divine Power!

I. His Divine Power created all things.

II. His Divine Power called things out of Nothing.

III. His Divine Power gives Order in Creation.

IV. His Divine Power gave us life.

V. His Divine Power opened the Red Sea.

VI. His Divine Power overthrew Pharaoh and his Armies.

VII. His Divine Power Provided a Pillar of Fire by Night, and a Pillar of Cloud by day.

VII. His Divine Power raised a Shepherd from the backside of the desert (called David) and made him a King.

VIII. His Divine Power fed five thousand (5,000) People with five (5) loaves of bread.

IX. His Divine Power raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

X. His Divine Power has destroyed all Principalities and Powers and Dominion.

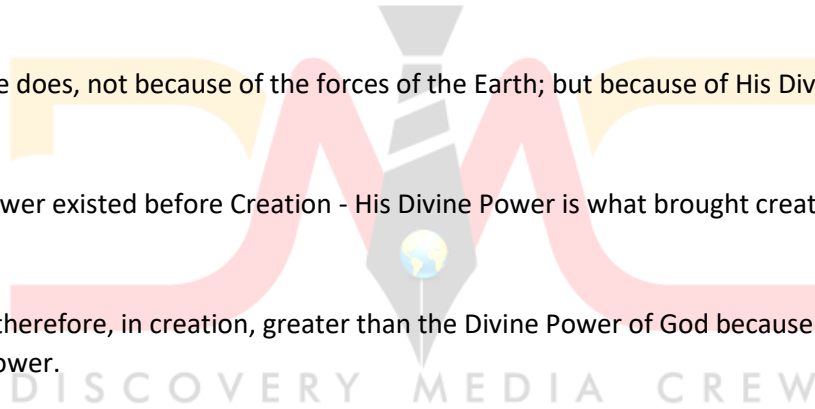
XI. His Divine Power turned a Persecutor (called Saul) into an Apostle (called Paul).

And that same Divine Power is at work in our lives today - Amen.

God does what He does, not because of the forces of the Earth; but because of His Divine Power.

And His Divine Power existed before Creation - His Divine Power is what brought creation into being!

There is Nothing therefore, in creation, greater than the Divine Power of God because all things came from his Divine Power.



3. Third (3rd) Statement: GOD'S NATURE AND PRESENCE, IS HIS PROMISE TO US.

When we talk about God's Promises to us, we are talking about God's Nature and God's Presence.

That's is the Promise!

Whatever God desires for us, is His Promise to us - Whatever He desires for us!

Even if He doesn't Promise anything to us; His Presence is a Promise.

God does not have to say: I have Promised you something" for it to be a Promise - Just His presence, is a Promise!

Let me give you an illustration - When a Rich and a Generous Person is in the midst of Poor People; his Presence is a Promise to them.

What do I mean?

Now, those of you who sometimes travel to your Village to visit (sometimes) your Elderly Relatives. Your folks in the Village; you can tell how your Presence changes the atmosphere in your Village home.

That your old Aunty, your old Uncle, your grandpa or grandma. And the moment you entered the house; without saying anything, without saying: "Oh, I have come with money from the City; I have come to help (whatever) - You are just there!

Everybody changes their attitude: They smile broader, there is more relief. And then your grandma would say "Hey, Life was hard ooo! And these few days, it has been very hard. But now that you have come, we are happy!"

... You haven't said anything! But your Presence is a Promise.

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Just being there, assures them that Life would get better! - Light Bill would be Paid; they will eat something nice today.

Why? - Because you are there!

Did you Promise you would do it?

No! But they know that so far as you have come, their lives would be better.

That is what God's Presence is to us - He doesn't have to say anything; He doesn't have to Promise anything. But when He is there, everything would be alright!

When He is there, our Needs are met; When He is there, our Prayers are answered

God does not have to Promise you anything; His Presence is a Promise to us.

You know, People in the Bible, they didn't have a Bible. Did you know that?

... The People in the Bible didn't have a Bible.

Abraham didn't have a Bible to go and confirm - "The Book of Isaiah said so and so, and so I believe."

He didn't have a Bible because Isaiah wasn't born when Abraham was there.

Noah didn't say: "Well, as God did to Abraham, and so I believed." Because when he was there, Abraham had not been born!

SO, HOW DID THEY RECEIVE FROM GOD?

They didn't receive by **READING** the Promises of God; they received by **TRUSTING THE PRESENCE OF GOD**.

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His Presence was their Promise; His Nature was their Promise. And so far as God was there; every Needs of theirs was met.

And that is the Foundation of every Promise of God - His Nature and His Presence.

I. He is Good, He will do us Good!

II. He is MERCIFUL, He will show us Mercy.

III. He is GRACIOUS, He will show us Favour!

He does for us, the things He does because of Who He is; and wherever He is, His Presence and His Promises are with us.

4. Fourth (4th) Statement: THE MORE WE KNOW GOD, THE MORE WE TRUST HIS PROMISES TO US.

God's Great Promises have been given to us, through:

I. The Knowledge of God.

II. Through the Knowledge of God has been given to us Exceeding and Great Promises.

We have to know God.

These days, People know their Churches, they know their Pastors, they know a Man of God (a Woman of God); but they don't know God!

But the Passage (2 Peter 1:2-4) says: God's Promises come to us through our Knowledge of Him.

The more you know Him, the more confident you are in Him! - That when He is there and He is Present, everything would be alright.

When you know God to that Level, you don't Panic in Life: because you know, once He is there, everything would be alright.

Just like your folks back home; who know that, once you have travelled with your nice car, from the City to come to the Village; everything would be alright!

They smile broader, they talk more confidently; they actually invite more People to the home because they know, something is going to cook very soon.

Why? - My son has come! And he has visited us.



But you know, in our case, we don't have a son; we have the Creator. He has come to visit us. And because He had come to visit us, everything will be alright.

The more we know God, the more we trust His Promises! Our confidence in God comes from our Knowledge of Him.

If there is anything I want to encourage you to know - Know God! Don't just know about Him, but know Him: Know Him! Know His Nature!

And when you know His Nature, there are some things that you know would never happen: because the Nature of God would not Permit it to happen.

... If you know the Nature of God, you know everything concerning Him.

5. Fifth (5th) and Final Statement - The Passage tells us that: THROUGH GOD'S PROMISES, WE PARTAKE OF HIS DIVINE NATURE.

What we call Miracle or Breakthrough, is simply God being Himself.

When God is Himself, we call it Miracle. But to God, it's He being Himself.

So, the Nature of God is Miraculous, the Nature of God is Supernatural, the Nature of God is Power, the Nature of God is Might, the Nature of God is Glory! - So, Who HE IS, is His Nature!

And so, when we know His Promises, we Partake of His Divine Nature.

And today, we would Partake of the Nature of God because He is with us!

I like the Song: "The Lord Bless you and keep keep."

That is the Blessing that God said we should speak over His People, from Generation to Generation, to your children, to your children's children - He will Bless you!

And when you know God, you know there is no way, you cannot be blessed because God carries Blessing; wherever He is, Blessing is!

No one can curse you!

They may say anything (that is their Prerogative); but it would not land because you are Blessed!

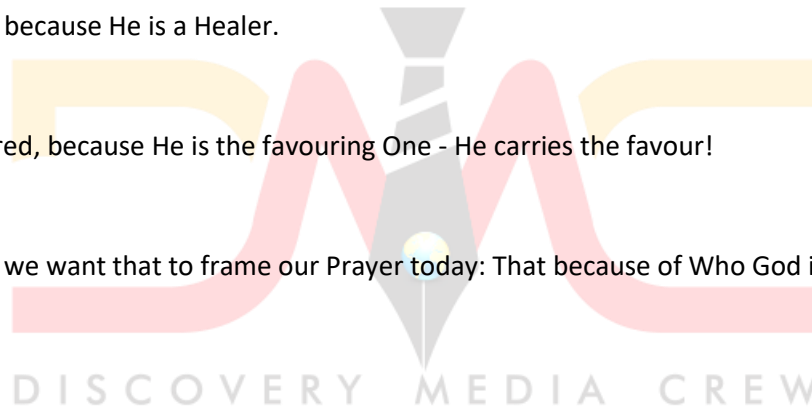
Why are you Blessed? - Because God is Blessing. Of His fullness, we receive!

I. We are Blessed, because He carries Blessing.

II. We are Healed because He is a Healer.

III. We are Favoured, because He is the favouring One - He carries the favour!

And this morning we want that to frame our Prayer today: That because of Who God is, we receive from Him.



I don't know what your Need(s) is/are; but the Presence of God is your Answer!

... Whatever your Need(s) is/are, the Presence of God is the Answer.

Are you ready to Pray?

Okay, let us rise up quickly.

PRAYER POINTS

I'm going to lead you in Three (3) Prayer Points; and then after that, you Pray by yourself.

1. Say with me: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Who You are - You are the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. You are Good and your Mercy endureth for ever. I worship You Lord.

Now begin to worship the Lord and Thank Him for Who He is - Thank Him that He is the Creator, He is the Sustainer, He is the Healer, He is the Keeper, He is the Light, He is the Life.

We worship You Lord, we honour You Lord, we appreciate You Lord: for Who You are, for what You do for us. Thank You Father!

Thank You Father, for Your Nature is Good, for Your Nature is Awesome, for Your Nature is Supernatural, for Your Nature is Spiritual, for Your Nature is Power.

Thank You Lord! We give You all the Praise! In Jesus' Name- Amen.

2. Preambles: It is out of the Nature of God that we Receive. It is because of what He has done for us that we have what we have.

So, we are going to use that same Authority to Exercise Dominion over every works of the enemies.

Say with me: Heavenly Father, You have seated me in Christ, in Heavenly Places. You have made me a Joint Heir with Christ.

Today, I exercise Dominion, over every works of the enemies. I reign in life.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

3. Now, take Dominion, Exercise your Dominion: Nothing will go wrong around you! Nothing can rebel against the Authority of God.

We are seated in Heavenly Places; we don't fight the enemy on equal ground. We come from on High. We come from the Place of Christ. We come from the Place of Victory.

We operate in Victory; we don't operate from equality; we operate from Victory. We have Dominion, we exercise Dominion. We have Power.

In the Name of Jesus, we reign in life and exercise Dominion over every Counter Spirit, Contrary Spirit operating and acting within our Vicinity, in our homes and our dwelling Places - OUT, in the Name of Jesus!

4. Final Prayer - The Lord Supplies all our Needs.

Say with me: Heavenly Father, I know You are Rich and Generous; You are Just and Merciful.

Today, I receive the full Supply of all my Needs according to Your riches in Glory. I have all Things, because You are everything! You are everything, so I have everything.

Thank You Father! In Jesus' Name - Amen.

5. Now, begin to Thank God, and Pray that; every Needs of yours is met, according to the riches of God in Glory.

There is no Scarcity with God, there is no Limitation with God. He is supplying all your Needs, according to His riches in Glory.

Oh Yes Lord! We give You Glory, we give You Honour, we give You Praise. For every Needs met, for Needs supplied, for Supernatural Interventions, for Supernatural Breakthroughs in our lives; for Turnarounds in our lives, for Victories in our lives.

And we Thank You Lord, that Your Promises are manifested in our lives.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen!

... And everybody shout - AMEN!!!

Shout one more time - AMEN!!!

Praise the Name of the Lord - Hallelujah!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



## AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> - A TABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

SPECIAL REBROADCAST MESSAGE BY DR. MENSAH OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)



**TEXT: PSALMS 23:4-6**

Today I have titled my Message: A TABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.

Have you ever been in the Presence of Someone who hates you? An enemy, Somebody who hates you and has the Power to do you harm?

Have you ever been in the Presence of danger? How did you feel? Just imagined yourself being in the Presence of a very hungry wild lion in an open field, with a sense of helplessness that you may feel.

Today all of us all over the world feel like we are in the Presence of an enemy. And that enemy has so much Power to hurt us.

COVID-19 is a huge enemy that is facing all of us today. It has touched every Continents of our world. It has touched almost every Nations of our world. It has touched Princes, it has touched Presidents, it has

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touched Prime Ministers, it has touched Pilots, it has touched Priests, it has touched Painters. And It is no respecter of Persons.

And it has confined all of us indoors.

So we are all stuck at home at this time; because there is an enemy roaming our streets and roaming our neighborhood, and roaming our world that is destroying us.

And What Can We Do In The Presence Of Such An Enemy?

How do we conduct ourselves? How do we live our lives?

And so, I will go to Psalms 23:4-6 (NKJV):

4 Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your Staff, they comfort me.

5 You Prepare a table before me in the Presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

6 Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

... You Prepare a table before me in the Presence of my enemies.

This is David the Psalmist, seeing himself as a Sheep before God and affirming his Confidence and his Faith in God.

And he says that, in the Presence of his enemies, God Prepares a table before him.

That word "PREPARE" is a very interesting word - It means to get something ready or to set something in order.

To get something ready or to set something in order, requires foresight and Planning.

So, when the Bible says that God Prepares a table before me, it is an intentional work of God. It is something that takes time to do. It doesn't just happen.

"You Prepare a table before me" - God is intentional about what He is doing for you in this Season.

The word "TABLE" in this Passage is also very interesting. Because the word 'Table' here is not describing a Piece of furniture.

The word 'Table' here is talking about a Meal that has been spread widely out or we can say a banquet.

So, God has gotten it ready; set in order a Meal that had been spread before you - A Banquet is what He is setting before us.

A BANQUET is defined as a formal and elaborate Meal that has been Prepared for many.

A Banquet is usually rich, it is diverse, it is beautiful, it is abundant.

And that is what David had in mind, when he said: "You have Prepared a table before me."

The table doesn't just appeared; neither do we just chance upon it; God Prepares the table!

In other words, whilst the enemy is Present - Not whilst the enemy is in Shadow. God is also at work.

So, it is not only the Presence of the enemy; it is also a work of God in the midst of what the enemy is doing - The enemy is Present, but God is also Present and God is at work.

And so David said: 'You Prepare a table before me in the Presence of my enemies.'



In the days of David, a table that was set before sheep was a flat land. Because, you know Judah is a very Hilly Country. But sheep like flat land because they can graze for a long time.

So when the Bible says, a table set before the sheep; it is flat land - Unhindered, Unobstructed, no obstacle! Just flat land with spacious graze.

And that is the image David has in Mind, when he says: 'You Prepare a table before me.'

May God Prepare a table before you, before your family, before your Nation, before this Continent, before the world.

Because in the midst of the enemies Present, there is a table being Prepared!

So, where did God Prepare this Table?

David says: He Prepares a table before me in the Presence of my enemies.

An Enemy is one who is against you; one who harasses you; one who oppresses you.

So, in the Presence of our Present enemy, which for the entire world is now unified; there is one enemy - A Virus; God is Preparing a table.

And He doesn't Prepare the table after the enemy has been destroyed. He doesn't move away the enemy and then Prepares a table.

But whilst the enemy is at work, whilst there is a threat, whilst there is Insecurity, whilst there is fear; God is Preparing a table before you.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

1. It means that, in the midst of danger, God still Provides Nourishment for His People.

... In the midst of danger, God still Provides nourishment for His People.

But my assurance is that, in the midst of danger, God is able to Provide nourishment for His People.

And I Pray for you that: God will give you Nourishment wherever you are. He will sustain you, He will sustain your children, He will sustain your family.

In the Presence of your enemy, He Prepares a Table before us!

And it is very interesting when you get a sense of what David is talking about here. Because sometimes, in the Presence of your enemies, you may have a Meal to eat.

For example: If you are a Soldier, you are on a battlefield - You are hearing bullets flying all around you. You still have to eat.

But soldiers Meal are rationed - it is very small.

And not only that, you have to eat it hastily in the Presence of your enemies in the battlefield.

But what David is talking about here, is not like a Soldier eating rationed food hastily; but it is like a very confident, assured sheep; who looks around and only sees his Shepherd.

He does that, because the Shepherd is there: "I can take my time and enjoy my life. And I can eat in the Presence of my enemy."

That is what God wants you to know! - You don't have to be in a haste. You don't have to put yourself under too much Pressure.

... He is able to give you Nourishment.

2. And that Phrase also means that: When everything is against me, God Provides Opportunity for you.

"He Prepares a table before me, in the Presence of my enemies."

That table is not only Nourishment; that table is also Opportunity.

In the midst of danger, there is opportunity. In the midst of crises, in the midst of confusion; there is something that God is doing in the midst of all that is happening, that will give us the opportunity to do better with our lives.

1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us that with every temptation, with every crises, God has a way of escape.

... God always Provides a way out for us!

And God will Provide a way out for you, He will Provide a way out for your family, God will Provide a way out for our Nation - There is a way out (Amen)!

Yes, we know Part of the way out is Social Distancing (that is why I am Preaching to an empty auditorium); and we need to clean our hands. And you will be suspicious of People coughing (even if they are Pastors) and you keep your distance away from them.

It is all Part of the opportunity - A way of escape from the danger. It is all Part of the opportunity. But that is not not all of it.

There is something more than just avoiding danger. There is something about seeing an opportunity, than the danger that is Presented.

So, I believed that in the Presence of this enemy, God is Preparing a table before us - Opportunities, Ideas. New things are going to happen.

Obviously, we know our world is not going to be the same again after this. There is going to be an explosion of Science and Technology.

Because we have been threatened so much. Mankind is going to explode with New Inventions and New ideas. And things are going to be dramatically better than they were before.

That is the Table that God is Preparing for us in the Presence of our enemies.

And you have to Pick your Portion of that!

Don't go through this and suffer all these, and go on and live your life as it was. There is a table being Prepared before you. And you must banquet at that table of the Lord!

And I believed this Message is for us (Ghanaians and Nigerians).

For the first time, our enemy is not a Witch, is not a Wizard, it is not an old lady sitting in the Village - It is a Virus that has to be defeated with Calculated Action.

And I Pray that we keep that as our focus - That our enemy is bigger than that old woman in the Village.

As a matter of fact; your enemy is greater than your Political opponent; your enemy is greater than your Cousin or your Boss at the office.

There are greater issues that are big enemies and we must confront all those enemies.



In the midst of all of these, I believed that God wants us to see the table that He has Prepared before us in the Presence of our enemies.

Sometimes in crisis like this, you know,, we only see the enemy. We don't always see the Opportunities before us.

It is amazing that, though many are dying, and many are being infected; many are also recovering.

And what surprises me in the Stories of recoveries all over the world, in a nutshell is that, more People are recovering than are dying.

Of course, for any one Person that dies,we must be sad; for any one human being to be lost.

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But we must not let the sadness cripple our Joy. As there are those who are being Redeemed, Saved and Recovering.

So, whilst we are talking about the enemy and his danger; we must also look at the table that is being Prepared before us, in the Presence of our enemies.

It is not all doom and gloom; it is not all about destruction - In the midst of all the doom, in the midst of the gloom, God's light is still Shining. The presence of God is still with us! right before this horrific enemy that we are all dealing with.

So, today I ask you: Do you see the table that God is Preparing before you in the Presence of your enemies?

Do you see the big opportunity that God is opening before you?

There are going to be New levels of Business; New Businesses. There are going to be New Things to be done. These are the enemies we must be ready to deal with.

And in the midst of this crises, we are going to find Opportunities to resolve some of these Problems.

And there is a courage to solve them - It is called: "I will Prepare a table before you in the Presence of your enemies."

I was listening to a News item, and somebody was saying that, based on the New Protocols we are developing, the hygiene and so on.

They will not be surprised if we are able to eliminate the common flu and cold.

... Because they are all transmitted through the same Process.

So, in the Presence of our enemies, God is Preparing a table before us.

Can you see the Opportunities He is giving us as Humanity? - To improve our lives, to make our lives better? Yes, it took an enemy to rally us. And yet, it may take an enemy to deliver us.

You know, when this times come, you find you are coughing more than before. You don't know whether it is from your Mind or whatever.

But, when an enemy is coming against you, you have to discover New Strength.

I remembered when I was a little bit (as it happens to many Ghanian boys, or Probably in Africa) we go hunting down mangoes when it was Mango Season.

And there was a gentleman in our neighborhood who had a house with walls.

Most of the houses didn't have walls. But he was rich, so he had a wall. And he had a Mango tree. And his Mangoes were always ripe, and he did not Pluck them.

And we thought it was our responsibility to relieve him of the burden of having ripe Mangoes unplucked.

So we donated our services to his house to go and take his Mangoes.

And so, we were in his house, when he had gone to work. We were kids Plucking the Mangoes.

And all of a sudden, there was a big dog barking. And the dog started barking and started running towards us.

And we were kids - Probably 8 to 9 Years old.

People were calling their Mama's and their Papa's.

And I remembered so well, because I was up on the tree. I came down and started running. But the house was walled. Not with cement walls, but with hedges.

And for some reason that I can't explain up till now, I jumped those hedges. And one moment, there was a dog barking behind me. Next moment, a table was Prepared in the Presence of my enemies. I just jumped the hedges.

Now, what happened? Did I know I could jump that High?

... By the way, I haven't jumped that High since then.

But did I know I could?

No! - What made me jump was danger!

The Presence of my enemy made me dig deep inside myself to discover Strength I never thought I had.

\*This moment, God will help you to discover Strength you never thought you have; Abilities you never thought you have; Opportunities that you have never seen.

As for us Ghanaians/Nigerians; we would begin to control our Destiny in a way we have never done before.

So, the impression you get from the 23rd Psalm is that: The enemies in the Valley of the Shadow of Death are necessary.

They are important!

God uses their Presence to Prepare a Banquet before you.

What is Life without enemies? What is Life without danger? What is Life without feeling threatened?

Because it is in those moments that you marshal your Strength to survive and to win.

... And I believe, this is one of such moments.

I believe for the Countries and the Nations of the so called Third World; this is our Greatest Moment because we are about to take a leap over walls; in this Valley of the Shadow of Death, before these enemies that God is Preparing a table before us, in the Presence of our enemies.

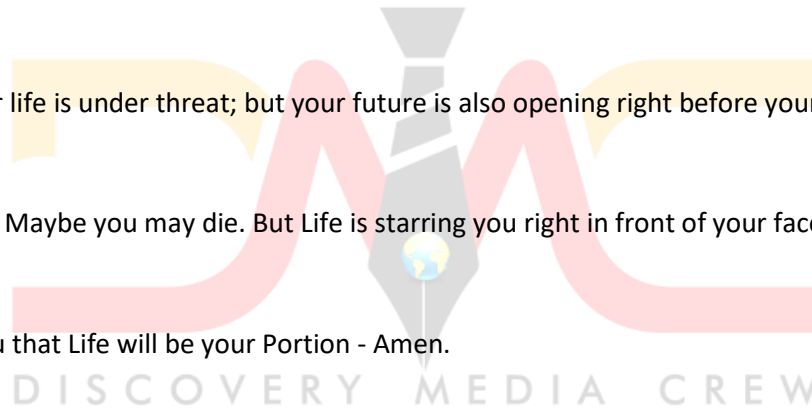
There are certain Opportunities that are only seen in a time of danger!

And I Pray that God will open your eyes to those Opportunities - Amen! That God would let you see Opportunities and not doom - Amen.

Yes, you feel your life is under threat; but your future is also opening right before your eyes.

Yes, you feel like: Maybe you may die. But Life is starring you right in front of your face.

And I Pray for you that Life will be your Portion - Amen.



And today, maximum Protection of Christ be ours. May He Preserve us. May He set us apart from chaos and destruction. May His Blood be a mark on your forehead, as you go through the darkness of our time - Amen.

\*May the enemy see the Blood of Jesus upon you and flee away from you - Amen! May Life become your Portion - Amen.

And the Psalmist goes on and concludes that in that same Presence of your enemy, not only does God Prepare a table before you; but He Anoints our head with Oil.

... That is a Statement of Favour.



That He will favour you. He will treat you well.

And May God favour you! May He Anoint your head with Oil. May God set you apart for outstanding Miracles: For Miracles of Deliverance, for Miracles of Breakthroughs. For favour on every side - Amen.

And then He says; "My cup will run over" - That speaks of Increase and Abundance.

Overflow! Isn't it amazing that in the Presence of the enemy he is having an overflow? In the Presence of the enemy he is having Favour?

May that be your Portion also - That in the Presence of your enemy you will have an overflow - Amen. In the Presence of the enemy, you will have Favour - Amen.

And he concludes by saying: Truly, truly. "Surely, Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the days of my Life."

... Not enemies following me all the days of my life.

Yes, we feel like COVID-19 is following us - But look about you, look around you, look behind you; that is not what is following you - It is Goodness and Mercy follow me!

May Goodness and Mercy rest upon your household; May Goodness and Mercy rest upon your family; May Goodness and Mercy rest upon your children; May Goodness and Mercy rest upon your Business - Amen.

May Goodness and Mercy follow you all the days of your life - Amen!

And the Psalmist concludes: Because of all of that, I commit to Dwell in the house of the Lord for ever!

Don't seek the Lord only to defeat your enemy and forget about Him.

After the Lord has Provided for you in the Presence of the enemy; you must seek to dwell in the house of the Lord for ever - Amen!

God Bless You!

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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## 15TH AUGUST, 2021 - CONTINUE



**TEXT: ACTS 1:4; ACTS 2:42 AND ACTS 2:46**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

My Message is simply Titled: CONTINUE.

The Early Church was a very consistent Church. And so, when you look at the Book of Acts; where it describes the activities of the Early Christian Church; you will find description that shows that they were very committed to what they were doing. And they did what they did, continuously.

So I am going to read three (3) Passages from Acts of the Apostles (NKJV):

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Acts 1:14 - These all continued with one accord in Prayer and Supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

... Note the word 'Continued' - They continued!

Then Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' Doctrine and Fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in Prayers.

... They continued steadfastly!

And then Acts 2:46 - So continuing daily with one accord in the Temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.

So you see, in all these three (3) Passages, the word 'Continue' is used - Whether it is 'Continued' or 'Continuing'. But the root word is the same in the Greek language.

It is the same word used in all three (3) instances.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONTINUE?

1. It means, to hold on to something.

So, when we say we are continuing, it means we are holding on. We don't leave it.

2. Secondly, to Continue means, to give care and attention.

To Pay attention to something - Not forget it, not leave it alone. Focus on it.

3. And thirdly, to Continue means to Persevere and not Faint.

... Don't get tired, don't get weary

So, when the Bible says that the Early Disciples continued - That is what it means: That they held on to something, they Paid attention to what they doing, and they Persevered and did not Faint.

You can tell from these Bible Readings, that the Early Church understood that, to obey Christ, to serve Him; they had to "CONTINUE".

Between the Beginning and the End, we have to Continue.

When something starts, before it ends, you continue.

When we start a race - Whether the whistle is blown or the gun is shot: "On your marks, get set, Go!" - And you start going.

That is the start but before you end, you must continue.

You don't start and stop; you don't have an experience and stop it; you don't allow God to touch you and then end it.

So, there is a Beginning and there is an End. And between the Beginning and the End, we must continue.

Somebody say: I WILL CONTINUE.

What must we hold on to when are Continuing? - We must hold on to what God has given to us.

... Hold on to what God has given to you!

Somebody says: "How so I know that God has given something to me?"

You know God has given something to you when His Spirit makes a connection with you - God deposits something into you!

It could be in an atmosphere of worship or at the time of Preaching. It could be in your bed or in a vehicle.

... We cannot have days of consecrated and concentrated Spiritual Activities, and not have a Divine Moment.

During all our Programs and all the Prayers we are Praying, at some Point during this time; your Spirit makes a connection with God.

It might have happened in a Church: when we are worshipping, when Hymn was being sung or maybe when you were driving or in a transport. Or when you are at home. But somewhere, you make a Divine Connection.

And that Point of connection is when something drops inside of you and you just feel - God has done something for you.

Sometimes, it is a word you received.

Sometimes, it is an inspiration you received.

Sometimes, it is an idea that drops into your heart - You receive something from God!

And when you receive something from God, you have to hold on to it.

Somebody say: I WILL HOLD ON!

So many times, whilst Messages are going on, something just ignites in your Spirit - Hold on to it.

That is how we continue to hold on - Hold on and Pay attention.

What do we Pay Attention to? - You Pay attention to what you have received from God.

Because, Spiritual Moments can be easily lost - We can have deep Spiritual Moments, and then step out of it very easily.

Sometimes you know, after a very Powerful Service you do something that would take your mind totally off everything that you received.

Or maybe you went home, and something happened, and you forgot.



Or somebody annoyed you - You quarrel with them.

And before you realised it, everything you have received from God; is being lost.

That is why we have to Pay attention to what happens after Spiritual Moments because, the devil's job is to make sure that the Seed that has been Planted could be eaten by birds.

And the way to do that is to distract your attention - Take you off course.

Your children annoys you, your spouse annoys you, your siblings annoy you, or someone raises an issue - Just something will come and aggravate your Spirit, and before you realised it, every thing, every hope, every expectation is gone because you allowed annoyance in the new sense of life to get to you.

Somebody say: PAY ATTENTION!

You have to Pay attention. And you don't have to get tired waiting on the Lord.

... Don't get tired, waiting on the Lord.

Over and over in the Scriptures, we are exalted not to faint and not to get weary.

The Scriptures tell us over and over - Don't get faint, don't get weary.

Because if you are continuing, one of the things you have to watch against is, getting faint, getting weary (getting tired).

Naturally, waiting is not Pleasant for anybody. Nobody likes waiting. We get tired waiting for the things we have toiled for. We get tired waiting for our bodies to lose weight when we start a Weight Loss Program.

Have you started a Weight Loss Program, where you are exercising? Probably, going to a Gym or walking or doing a diet.

Somebody says: "If you drink ginger, lemon and cucumber drink, you will lose weight at once."

Has somebody told you this before? - "If you drink ginger, cucumber, coconut water, and all kinds of conditions; the fat will just melt."

And then you start drinking water, cucumber, coconut water. And everytime you get on a scale, Nothing is happening. Or you start walking and walking and thinking Oh, the fat will go off!

Fats are very, very stubborn.

Have you noticed fats - Very stubborn.

They have a Mind of their own. They don't care whether you are eating cucumber or you are walking! Sometimes you do that - you drink these things for about a week or four (4) days, or for two (2) weeks!

Do you know what happened? You didn't continue! You got tired, you got faint.

Many of the things that will help us don't happen instantly. They don't happen after a short term effort.

You don't go for a Program and say instantly: everything Changed! That's not how it works. You have to continue.

... The Early Church; and we must continue. Don't get tired of waiting!

Let me take you through a very familiar Story in the Bible about a Man who Continued; and the Results he got - It is the Story of Isaac in the land of the Philistines.

And we are going to see these Principles working for him: He began, and he continued.

Genesis 26:12-13 (NKJV) it says: Then Isaac sowed in that Land, and reaped in the same Year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. The Man began to Prosper, and continued Prospering until he became very Prosperous.

He sowed in the Land, he received a hundredfold.

This would have seemed like the end of the Story - You sow in the Land, you receive a hundredfold. Pack your bags and go home, because you have received a hundredfold - What more is left?

It is like going to a Service and being soaked in the Anointing - The Power of God is heavy upon you, you sensed the Presence of God. I wish I could stay in this Meeting forever!

... And we are going to see how Isaac Processed these Principles;

1. The first (1st) thing you would Notice is that: He BEGAN - "He began to Prosper!"

Isaac experienced God's Blessings on his life. This was the Initial Blessing - He experienced it.

And how did he experienced it? - The Bible says he had a hundredfold.

... He experienced God's blessing on his Life.

It is a big deal when you have a Spiritual Moment or some kind of a Result. But it is just the Beginning!

Have you heard of People who go about bragging - You know, they start a Weight Loss Program and they started with cucumber coconut and add carrots. And this time, they are chewing carrots like rabbit.

And after some time, they come and say: Oh, I started like this, now look at me - I have shrunken!

Especially the ladies: Now they are dressing very Stylishly and trying to look slim and all of that. And making a big fuss; taking Pictures and putting on Instagram.

... Look at it, I am there. I have arrived.

But it is just the Beginning. They think that's it! It is your hundredfold. You have received it.

But it is the Beginning - It is not the end.

Isaac received a hundredfold; but he did not close the book because it is just the Beginning. It is a Breakthrough, but it is a Beginning!

Sometimes, the same People who were Instagramming everybody about their Weight Loss; you see them six (6) Months later, one (1) Year later - and the day has come back with a Vengeance (laughter)!

You ask yourself - Did I go or did I come? Because the later end is worse.

Why do we have a Great Beginning; a hundredfold return and later lose it?

How can we have a Great Spiritual Moment and lose it?

Is it Possible? - Yes!

Is it Possible for some things to go so well, and then you lost it? - Yes!

Isaac began!

Somebody say: I WILL BEGIN!

But he (Isaac) didn't end there! Look at the Passage, it says:

2. He CONTINUED.

He received a hundredfold, but he didn't stop, close his file - This is the end of this Chapter; everything is working so they will wait for me.

... No! - He Continued.

... Isaac increased the Blessing of God on his life - He Continued!

If the first (1st) Blessing he received was a hundredfold, and the Bible says he continued; what does it mean?

After receiving a hundredfold, how do I Continue? Is there anything better than that?

Yes! - Receiving a hundredfold is one (1) Experience; Continuing is repeating the hundredfold several times over!

So, he had a hundredfold repeatedly; Not just one experience but the same experience repeated over and over and over!

That is what Continuing does - it takes one (1) Victory and multiplies it over and over and over!

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You don't arrive at the first (1st) Breakthrough; you Continue and repeat what you experienced.

If you were trying to lose weight (for example), and you started that wonderful Program of only eating at 3:33pm in the afternoon - You know People have all kinds of weird weight loss.

You have to eat at 3:33pm - That is when your body is at the optimum of losing weight. Not 3:34pm but 3:33pm.

Let's say you eat at 3:33pm and you do it for so long and then you lose weight;

And if you want to continue then you have to keep eating by 3:33pm as your Life time way of life forever!

That is what is called Continuing!

You don't start eating by 3:33pm - It works for you and after some time you lose weight. And then you go to 2:33pm; the weight will come back!

... Whatever you did to give you the hundredfold, you have to keep redoing it over and over.

When Isaac got his first (1st) hundredfold, he Planted in the Land again and got another hundredfold. And he Planted in the Land again; and got another hundredfold.

What was he doing? - CONTINUING!

You sense the Power of God at a Meeting; that is not the end! You have to sense that Power over and over again.

You sowed a Seed and God blesses you. You don't just stop, you keep sowing and sowing.

You believed that you have experienced something Supernaturally; you keep believing and believing.

You Prayed and God answered; you keep Praying and Praying.

What is that? - CONTINUING!

We don't live our Christian lives in one-off experience - We continue with what God has done for us.

.. So Isaac Continued!

3. The Third (3rd) thing the Passage talks about Isaac is that he BECAME.

... He BEGAN, he CONTINUED, he BECAME.

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What does it mean by: 'He Became?'

It means he grew into the Fullness of God's Blessings for him.

... He started it, he continued and he became it.

He didn't just experience Prosperity, he BECAME Prosperous.

There is a difference between experiencing something and becoming the thing. There is a difference between experiencing Healing and becoming Healed.

Because, sometimes, People get Healed and lose the Healing because they don't Continue in Faith.

Yes, you have experienced it; you Continue in Faith and you become it.

You start Prospering, you Continue Prospering and you become Prosperous.

What does God want us to do?

He doesn't just want us to begin; He wants us to become!

And that is what Isaac did - He sowed in the Land, he Continued sowing until he Became.

When you Become, no one can take away from you what you have received.

It is not one day up, one day down! One day Prosperous one day broke.

Because, sometimes you know, we get excited and Testify Prematurely - "Oh, look what God has done. He has broken through, He has given me this!"

... That's Good! It is the beginning - Continue.

Because God wants to take you to the Point where your Testimony is Permanent.

... I don't know about you - I need a Permanent Testimony!

If you Testify of God's Prosperity, you must become Prosperous - That means, get to the Point where broke and you have no Meeting Point!

You can't say God has Blessed me, I am Prosperous and then next three (3) Months broke! - You haven't Become.

But we Start, we Continue and we Become!

How did Isaac become? - He Continued!

You can imagine if Isaac for his Breakthrough - A hundredfold. And said: Oh, God is Good! And did not continue sowing. He would be back to square one

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But he continued till it got to the Point, the Philistines hated him, they envied him but they could not do anything about it because he has gone beyond experiencing Prosperity, to Becoming Prosperous.

And when you Become, they cannot fight you. They will struggle against you but it will never leave your hand because, you are not in a Permanent State of Blessing.

... The Early Church Continued; Isaac Continued.

Final statement I will make: Between Beginning and Becoming - we must Continue.

Somebody say: I will Continue until I become all that God wants me to be.



After ALL that God has done for us, we can only say: THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

In your own Prayer Life, you have to continue - Don't lose it, don't go and be quarrelling with People. Don't go and be fighting all kinds of unnecessary battles. Don't get angry by heart because there are certain things that don't deserve your anger.

Let them be for they don't deserve your anger. It is too important for them.

Because, there is something Precious God has given you; don't lose it.

... We Continue until we Become!

And so, if you want everything that God has given to you to remain in your life, what do we do? - We Continue (Amen)!

Let us Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER



Father, we Thank You this Morning that Your Word comes to direct us, to Lead us, to Strengthen us, to equip us Lord.

And so, we Thank You Lord, that You want us not only to receive, but to keep on receiving, until we Become.

So, I Pray Father, for everyone who has heard me or is reading now on the label of DMC, that Your Word would bring them Life, and Light and Strength.

And the Wisdom of Your Word would be our Light and our direction.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - AMEN.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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## 22ND AUGUST, 2021 - TOPIC: LET GOD ARISE



**TEXT: PSALMS 68:1**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

My Message is Titled: LET GOD ARISE.

How many of you are familiar with that Song? - "Let God arise, and His enemies be scattered"

We used to really March with that Song Years ago - "Let God arise, and His enemies be scattered"

Psalms 68:1 is where that Phrase is recorded.

And it says:



Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

This is a Prayer as well as an expectation from David. And there is a Sequence there: God arises, His enemies scatter. And His haters flee!

It is both a Prayer and a Statement - "Let God Arise".

So, if we are saying it as a Prayer, it would sound like - "Oh, that God would arise, and His enemies would scatter. And those who hate Him flee before Him."

Now, for those of you who compare Bible Passages with different Translations; you would know that:

I. King James says: "Let God Arise".

II. New King James says: "Let God Arise".

But other Translation does not have 'LET'. It would say - God arise, Oh that God would arise.

And the reason why it is a little different in different Translations is because, in the Hebrew, there is no 'Let'. It is - 'God arise' or 'Arise God'.

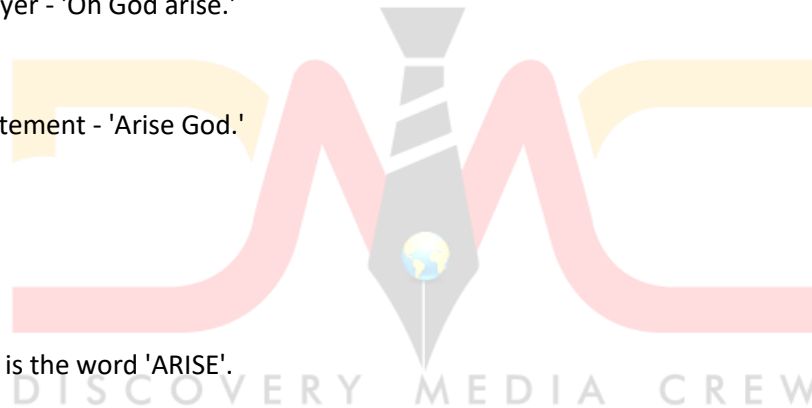
So, 'Arise God' can either be a Prayer or it can be a Statement of Faith - That God rises all the time. And when God rises, His enemies scatter!

We say it as a Prayer - 'Oh God arise.'

We say it as a Statement - 'Arise God.'

And God arises.

But the Key word is the word 'ARISE'.



... Everybody say: ARISE!

And so, I will take time to define the word Arise a little bit.

I. To arise means to STAND UPRIGHT.

The Hebrew word used means to stand Upright - The idea is one who is ready to act; one who is ready to do something.

So when we say: 'God Arise' it means God is in a state of readiness to do something.

II. Secondly, the word Arise means to be ESTABLISHED.

It is used in a sense like: "What I have said will Stand."

When a Person says: "What I have said will Stand"; it doesn't mean - what I have said 'will Get Up.' It means what I have said will not Change; it will be established.

So, when we say 'Let God arise.' That is another meaning - That God is establishing His Purposes.

III. Thirdly, the word Arise (and that is what I like the most); it is to SHOW UP.

To "Show Up" on the scene! And it is used in a battle sense. And that is the sense in which it is used in this Passage.

When a Champion steps into battle; there is a battle, and a Champion rises up and appear on the scene. And if he is a formidable Champion, his enemies scatter.

So, when God comes on the scene, His enemies scatter! When God shows up, His enemies scatter!

Now, the root word that David quotes in Psalms 68:1 occurs in the Book of Numbers.

Because in the Book of Numbers, you will find a similar Phrase, made by Moses. And I will want us to look at it in Numbers 10: 35-36.

It is a statement that is associated with the Ark of the Covenant and Israel's journey in the Wilderness. As Israel journeyed in the Wilderness, this statement was made.

Numbers 10:35-36; So it was, whenever the Ark set out, that Moses said: "Rise up, Oh Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You." And when it rested, he said: "Return, Oh Lord, To the many thousands of Israel."

The Ark of the Covenant was very important to Israel. It reminded them of God's Presence. They were not to worship the Ark but they were to remember that God was in their midst because the Ark was in their midst.

And if you read about the way the People of Israel related to the Ark of Covenant - When the Ark of the Covenant moved, they moved!

When they were going to a Place, the first thing to move was the Ark of the Covenant. And the People followed the Ark of the Covenant. And when the Ark of the Covenant settled, they settled.

It was a way of saying: When God moves I move! We move at the move of the Lord. We do what God does. When God moves, I move!

Someone say: "WHEN GOD MOVES, I MOVE."

Yes! When God Moves, we move. When God Speaks, we speak. When God Acts, we act. We move at impulse of the Lord. We move by His Direction, we move by His Spirit.

So, whenever the Ark of the Covenant was moved; it was taken from the Holy of Holies and it is moved; they lift the Ark, they Placed it on the shoulders of the Levites.

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And when that happens, Moses would say: "Rise up, Oh Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You".

And that is what David is speaking about in Psalms 68:1 - Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

It means that when God shows up, His enemies dispersed before Him. When God shows up, His enemies scatter before Him.

And Psalms 68:2 says they dispersed: "As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked Perish at the Presence of God."



As smoke is blown away! Have you seen smoke blown away in the wind? It just goes off. Wax that melts in fire, it just happens like that.

And when God rises, that which seems like an enemy, would be blown like smoke away. And that which seems like solid candle or wax - would melt before the Lord.

... Let God Arise and His enemies be scattered!

Now Note: It didn't say - Let God arise and 'MY' enemies be scattered. It says: Let God Arise and 'HIS' (God's enemies).

The People that scattered are not necessarily your enemies, they are the enemies of God.

For some People to scatter, they must not just be fighting you - they must also be fighting God.

And when that happens; when God arise, People scatter from the battle fields.

Let God Arise! - Don't minimize His Presence in your midst, don't downplay the Presence of God, don't look down on the Presence of God. Let God arise!

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In the days of Moses, God arise, when the Ark of the Covenant arose.

When they Picked up the Ark of the Covenant, Moses would say: "Rise up, O Lord!

... The Lord is arising! He is going to show up in battle.

"Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You."

Can you image how it was! Because they were in the wilderness. And in the wilderness, the enemies were all around. And this is a Nation without land;

It doesn't have an Army, it doesn't have Protection - They were just slaves. They have come out. God has delivered them. And as they go through the wilderness, there were enemies all around trying to attack them, steal from them, destroy them, steal their gold and their silver.

When they entered the wilderness, this is how they moved for forty (40) Years - The Ark of the Covenant moves, "Let God Arise (Moses would say) Let His enemies be scattered."

And all over, in every Nation, enemies that wanted to attack them scattered. And they were blown away like smoke in the wind, and they were dispersed like wax in fire.

May the same Power be manifested in your life as you wake up on Monday morning to face the world, let God Arise, as you go through the duties of your life - Amen.

Now, when we go back to Psalms 68, it tells us - HOW DAVID MADE GOD TO ARISE.

In the days of Moses, it was when the Ark of the Covenant was lifted! - We don't have an Ark of the Covenant today.

... So, How does God Arise for us?

Psalms 68:2-4 - And it says: But let the Righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Sing to God, sing Praises to His Name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His Name YAH, And rejoice before Him.

SO, HOW DOES GOD ARISE?

1. God arises when we REJOICE in the Lord.

Rejoicing in the Lord means you are glad!

We can't rejoice in the Lord, if we allow our hearts to be weighed down by sorrow.

When we rejoice, we exclaim Hallelujah! You Extol Him by His Name YAH.

Hallelujah! Rejoicing in the Lord.

If we go through life depressed, bowed down, defeated, crying, weeping; God will not arise on your behalf because God arises when our hearts are full of gladness and we rejoice in Him.

You have to learn to rejoice in the Lord, to celebrate the Lord, to see the beauty of His Holiness, to Praise Him.

... For God to arise, you have to Rejoice!

2. The Psalmist says, God Arises when we MAGNIFY His Mighty Work.

We Extol Him Who rides on the clouds. We declare how wonderful He is: He is the One Who rides on the clouds, He is the Maker and the Ruler of the Universe.

When we Magnify the Lord, we recognise what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do - And when we do that, GOD ARISES.

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3. And when we want God to Arise; We EXALT the Name of the Lord - We see Him so High, that everything is so Low.

That is how God wants us to approach Him everyday - When you get up in the Morning - "This is the Day the Lord has made, I rejoice and I am glad in it; the Joy of the Lord is my Strength".

We go through the day, magnifying the Lord. Praising His Name, Exalting His Name. And when we do that, God Arises!

So, when we Magnify the Lord, He shows up on the scene. When we call His Name, He answers. He shows up as a Man of War because the Lord is a Man of War.

You want God to Arise on your case? - Then rejoice in Him; Magnify His works; Exalt His Name, Praise Him - Because when we do that, the Lord shows up.

You know, many times we spend so much time talking about the devil; that we spend so little time talking about God.

You have to remember that: "Whatever you Magnify, will Manifest."

If you magnify Satan, he will manifest; you magnify demons, they will manifest.

If you spend all your time talking about irrelevant things - I hear People talk about Marine Spirit and that Spirit; they will manifest. They will!

If you talk about witches, they will manifest - Because whatever you magnify, you manifest.

If you talk about God, He will Arise. If you Exalt His Name, He will Arise. If you Praise Him, He will Arise.

If you Praise the devil, he will also arise.

If you have demonic activity all around you, check who you have been magnifying - That is the one arising in your case.

Everywhere you go - Someone is a witch. Your mind says it's a witch, it's a wizard. Then everybody says it's a witch, it's a wizard. And you wondered: "Why am I having too many demonic activity around me?"

Check who you are Magnifying - That is who is arising.

But if you Magnify the Lord, then He will Arise, and His enemies will be scattered. There will be no Place for demons and demonic activities in your Life.

Whatever you Magnify will Manifest! - If you Magnify God, He will Manifest His Power.

So go to Psalms 68:7-10, and David continued, he said: Oh God, when You went out before Your People, when You marched through the wilderness, Selah. The Earth shook; the Heavens also dropped rain at the Presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the Presence of God, the God of Israel. You, Oh God, sent a Plentiful rain, whereby You confirmed Your Inheritance, When it was weary. Your Congregation dwelt in it; You, Oh God, Provided from Your Goodness for the Poor.

.... David is saying: When we Praise God and He arose, this is what happened.

So look at what happens when God Arises:

1. First, He Shakes and Moves established Powers.

In the wilderness, He shook mount Sinai. Things that appeared immovable will move - The mountain shook at the Presence of the Lord.

I. When God shows up in your Life, He will shake and move things.

II. When God shows up in your family, He will shake and move things.

III. When God shows up in your office, He will shake and move things.

IV. When God shows up in our world, He will shake and move Powers!

I don't know what Mountain is established; but let God Arise and His enemies will be scattered!

There is a shaking, there is a moving - And Mountains are moving, Powers are moving, Systems are moving.

... When God Arises, there is a shaking.

And not only that:

2. When God Arises, He opens the Heavens and favours His People.

The Psalmist said: "You, Oh God, sent a Plentiful rain."

Oh, may the Lord send Plentiful rain, Plentiful favour, Plentiful Miracles - Miracles upon Miracles, Favour upon Favour - Amen.

Because when He Arises, He opens the Heavens and sends Plentiful rain; He favours His People.

3. When God Arises, He confirms His Words to His People.

The Psalmist said: "You confirmed Your Inheritance, when it was weary. And Your People dwelt in it;"

May God confirm His Words to you - Amen.

When He Arises, He confirms His Words; when He Arises, He confirms His Inheritance.

Even when you are tired and weary, God will confirm His Words towards you - Amen.

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If you are down and out, God will confirm His Words towards you - Amen.

Let God Arise and every enemies of God that Pursues the People of God, be scattered - Amen.

... The People of God enjoyed the Presence of God.

Finally, I want to take you to the New Testament to show you a Case Study of what happens when God Arises:

Acts 16:25-26 - You know the Story of Paul and Silas.

They are in the City of Philippi, and they cast out a demon. And the People are offended because a demon had been cast out; because it had Financial Repercussions; it's affecting Business.

So, they Prevailed on the Political System, to arrest Paul and Silas, and they put them into Prison.

In Prison, Paul and Silas knew how to make God Arise!

And so the Bible says in Acts 16:25-26 - But at midnight Paul and Silas were Praying and Singing Hymns to God, and the Prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly, there was a Great Earthquake, so that the foundations of the Prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Let God Arise! - How does God Arise?

When we Rejoice in Him, when we Magnify His Name, when we Exalt His Name - Then He shows up on the Scene.

And as it happened in the Old Testament - When God showed up on Mount Sinai; there was a shaking.

When we Magnify the Lord in our midnight Hour, He shakes Foundations, He breaks chains, and He opens Doors.

This week, Foundations would SHAKE; this week, Chains would be BROKEN; this week, doors would OPEN - Because this week God is Arising on our behalf!

As we rejoice in Him, no sorrow, no depression. We shall experience the Joy of the Lord as we Magnify Him, as we call on His Name, as we Praise Him, as we worship Him - God Arises.

When all is dark in the midnight Hour - God arises!

Somebody may be in your midnight hour, but God is Arising on your behalf - Amen.

If you will spend time Worshipping and Praising and Thanking Him, and Magnifying Him - God will show up!

Maybe you feel there is no way out of your situation - You are Imprisoned, you have been locked in, you can't brake out. But God will Arise: The hearts of men will be shaken, He will overthrow the Plots of evil People, He will open all doors that have been shut to you. And God will break every chains.

Somebody say: LET GOD ARISE!

Say: ARISE OH GOD! Arise my Help, arise my Strength.

Arise Oh Lord - You are Wonderful, You are Worthy to be Praised. I honour You. There is None like You, there is None besides You, None can compare with You. I Praise You LORD.

Why don't you just go ahead and Praise the Lord wherever you are or reading this Message now on the label of DMC.

And begin to declare His Praise, declare His Majesty and declare His Power. Lift up Holy Hands to the Lord and begin to Worship the Lord this Morning because God is about to Arise - God is about to Arise, His enemies will scatter. In the wilderness, His enemies will scatter.

Let God Arise!!!!

Oh, the Lord is rising - He shows up on the battle front. The enemies think they are fighting you, but they are fighting God. They think they are coming against you, but they are coming against God. They think they are touching you, but they are touching God.

And let God Arise, and let His enemies be scattered. I said, let His enemies be scattered. - Amen.

Oh, I sense that Monday, God would Arise. Tuesday, God would Arise. Wednesday, God would Arise. Thursday, God would Arise. Friday, God would Arise. Saturday, God would Arise. Sunday, you would come with a Testimony - Amen.



... God Arise, and His enemies be scattered!

CLOSING PRAYER.

We worship You Father, we declare Your Majesty. We declare Your Holy Name YAH.

You are Yahweh, the Holy One, The Awesome One, The Magnificent One, The Unconquerable One.

You cannot be conquered, You cannot be broken, You cannot be divided - You are All-One. You are All-together.

Arise Oh Lord, on behalf of Your People, and show up on the battle front, on behalf of Your People.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen.

Why don't you give the Lord some Praise this Morning! Give the Lord some Praise this Morning!

Say God Arise; Enemies scatter - 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 out rightly 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!!!

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29TH AUGUST, 2021 - TOPIC: RISE UP AND WALK.



**TEXT: JOHN 5:1**

Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Last week, I said I was going to focus my Teachings for next couple of weeks on RISING. And so, I will do Messages that has the word "RISE", or "RISING", or "ARISE", in them.

Last week, we looked at: "Let God Arise" and I believed God has arisen in your Life - Amen!

Because when He Arises, He also Empowers us to rise!

God does not just Arise; but He Empowers us to rise.

And when God Arises - His enemies scatter before Him. They are blown away as smoke in the wind; they melt as wax in fire.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of this Message on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Let-God-Arise-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

So today I am speaking on the Topic: RISE UP AND WALK.

For those of you who are very finicky with the English Language; People would say: You don't have to say 'Rise Up' because Nobody rises down.

So 'Rise' means the Person is up!

I understand all of that! But I use 'Rise up' as emphasis - It's almost like saying 'Rise and Rise and Walk.'

... So, RISE UP AND WALK.

If you have read the Gospels, you would have come across this Phrase 'Rise Up and Walk'.

... And Jesus Christ issued that command a few times.

And today, we would consider the Stories of three (3) People in the Scriptures who couldn't RISE and WALK - And each one of them was told "Rise Up and Walk".

Two (2) of those People met Jesus Christ; and the third one we would consider, met two (2) Disciples of Jesus.

Each one of them was stuck in a Position of Weakness; each one of them had difficulty in walking; but each one of them ended up walking!

I don't know about you, but today, Someone listening to me or reading this Message on the label of DMC, you would RISE UP AND WALK - Amen.

If you have been stuck in any situation of your Life; God is lifting you up - Amen. He is not just Rising, but He is lifting you up with Him, and He is bringing you to the Place of Victory - Amen.

... Somebody say: I RECEIVE IT!

Because when God Rises, His People also rise with Him!

So, I am going to talk about three (3) People - Each one of them was given the same instruction: "RISE UP AND WALK."

And maybe you would identify with one of those People, and that Message will be for you.

1. The First (1st) Person we will look at; who received the instruction: 'Rise Up' and Walk' is: THE MAN WHO HAD NO ONE TO HELP HIM.

He had no one to help him! And his Story is in John 5:5-9.

And it reads:

5 Now a certain Man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight Years.

6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

7 The sick Man answered Him, "Sir, I have no Man to put me into the Pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

9 And immediately the Man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

It was a Church-Going day (like today) - And this Man rose, took up the bed he was lying down on, and walked.

Now, if you know the background of the Story - The Man is at the Pool of Bethesda, where People would go to receive Healing; Because at certain time; an Angel would come and stir the water. And this Man, according to the Scriptures, had also gone there.

I. The first thing we noticed about the Man is that - He had being afflicted for a very Long Time.

He has suffered for a very long time; he has been in this Place for a very long time.

The Passage says that he has had this affliction for thirty eight (38) Years - That is a very long time!

For thirty eight (38) Years, he has been in affliction. And I believed that for much of the thirty eight (38) Years, he has been at the Pool of Bethesda - waiting to receive his Healing.

... He came to Bethesda because it was a Place of Hope

It was a Place that God visited the water, stirred it up, and People would get healed.

And the Passage said: 'And the Man had an infirmity.' It doesn't tell us exactly what kind of infirmity the Man has!

If you read a bit earlier, the People who were in Bethesda had three (3) kinds of infirmity - They were either Blind, Lame or Paralyzed.

I think we can safely strike out 'Blind' from this Man's case - I don't think he was blind.

And Probably not Lame because if he was, he would be able to move a little bit with his Lameness.

We can conclude from the Passage that the Man probably fell into the Category of Paralyzed - And the reason I reached that conclusion is that, the Greek word that is translated 'infirmity' in this Passage, means feebleness (weakness)!

So, the Man was in a state where he feels something has weakened him, or Paralyzed him.

Something about his condition showed that he had been there for a very long time. Because the Passage says, Jesus noticed the Man had been there for a very long time.



Maybe whilst he has been there, he had acquired a lot of Assets (clothes) and things around him to show that he had survived for a very long time.

I believed the first Year that the Man got there, he had expected to be healed. And then the next Year and the next Year and the next Year!

So, by the time Jesus met him, Hope has dried up within him - Such that when Jesus asked him whether he wanted to be healed; there was no enthusiasm in his Life.

II. The Second Thing you will noticed about this Man is that - He had no one to lift him into the Pool.

It wasn't that opportunity didn't Present itself; the Years he had been there, the waters have been stirred - Many times the water would have been stirred; many times there would be a move.

Many times there would be something Supernatural and he would try to get into the water. But he couldn't get into the water because he needed somebody to lift him up. And nobody was lifting him up!

... The People who brought him to the Pool left him!

You know sometimes, there are People who help you halfway - They take you to a Place and leave you alone. You have to fend for yourself after that. And that's what this Man was going through - He has been brought to the Pool, but he has been left!

The reality is - It is not just about being at the Pool, you have to be ready when the waters are stirred.

They did half of the job but didn't complete it!

And so, anytime the water is stirred, he made efforts to get into the Pool. And Because you couldn't Predict when the water would be stired; you know, it could stir anytime and you wouldn't be ready.

And I am sure he Probably would have gone to lie very close to the Pool. But he could never get it right.

You know, there are certain times in your Life when you just can't seem to get it right - It doesn't click

And then the Man makes a complaint - He says that anytime he tried to get into the water, People stepped over him and move ahead!

It's almost as if he has become a Stepping Stone to People's Breakthrough - He can't compete with those who were around him; he was not a "Competitive Person".

Because when you listen to his conversation with Jesus, you get a sense of Passivity - This is a very Non-Competitive Person. He doesn't like trouble, he doesn't like competition. He doesn't understand that life is very Competitive.

And so, he has been in the situation for so long because People jumped over him, all the time.

It is easy to lose Hope when you have been in a situation for a very long time without Improvement.

The worse Part is when you see others bypassing you.

I don't know whether you have ever been there - Especially People who just came - bypass you.

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It can be sometimes in many areas of our lives - It could be in your Marriage; you are waiting to get married, and you never get married. And then People just come along and marry.

And especially when you are a Believer and you are Living Right. And somebody who was an Unbeliever - Bad Boy, Bad Girl, comes to Church. Alas! They are gone.

What kind of situation is this? - Everybody is jumping over you.

Or maybe you are married, and you are expecting a child - The First Year no child, Second year no child. Now people you used to know as children, get married and they have children.

You have been in that situation for so long.

And everybody is jumping over you. And you can't get into the flow.

Moments when you think there is a stirring; something is going to happen, nothing happens!

Sometimes, it's a situation in our office, sometimes it's in the Ministry, sometimes it's in the Family - I don't know how you relate to this Story; maybe you feel like him - Stuck in one Place, never moving, never taking advantage of opportunities, People jumping over you.

But Jesus came to this Man and said: My friend, get up, take up your bed and walk out of this Place!

I feel like repeating the words of Jesus, to somebody now or those reading this Message on the Label of DMC: Rise, take up your bed, because this is your day of Visitation - Amen.

An Angel missed you, but Jesus would never miss you, an Angel couldn't come to you; but Jesus would come to you - Amen.

Jesus believed the Man could rise up and walk - Although he had been in that situation for a long time. Jesus said to him - Rise up and walk!

Nobody is going to help you; nobody is there for you. But God is there for you. You don't have what it takes, but God has what it takes. And today He says to you: 'You are Rising Up' - Amen!

Because when God rises, those who are His Children, also rise up with Him and walk.

... That's the first man!

2. The Second (2nd) Person who was told to Rise up and Walk: THE MAN WHO HAD PEOPLE TO HELP HIM.

The First one had no one to help him; Second guy (we are going to look at), he had Helpers.

This Man's situation is very opposite to that of the Man at the Pool of Bethesda - The Man in Bethesda had no one to help him. The one we are about to read about had friends, or People to help him.

The Story goes on from Mark 2, from Verse 1. But I will read Mark 2:3-4, 9-12:

3 Then they came to Him, bringing a Paralytic who was carried by four men.

4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the Paralytic was lying.

9 Which is easier, to say to the Paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?

10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has Power on Earth to forgive sins" — He said to the Paralytic,

11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the Presence of them all, so that all were amazed and Glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

What really amazed me as I was Studying the Passage is the number of times the word "they" is used - In Verses 3 and 4, the word 'they' is used five (5) times.

.. They - it's not 'him' it's 'they.'

So, we get the impression from the Scriptures that this Story is not even focused on the Paralyzed Man, but on his Helpers!

The Story is not about the Man who is Paralyzed; but focuses on People who don't give up on others - And so the Bible talks about 'THEY'.

Now when Jesus saw what had happened, the Bible says 'Jesus saw their Faith - Not the Man's Faith. And He says to the Man: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

The People argued; the People were very unhappy that Jesus said 'your sins are forgiven.'

And Jesus in His Characteristics manner was quite very humorous - He had a deep sense of humour.

Many times when I read the Gospels, I can almost imagine a wicked smile on the face of Jesus, when He is talking.

He says: 'Your sins are forgiven' the People were complaining. He says, between saying: 'Your sins are forgiven' and saying: 'Rise up and be Healed' - Which one is harder?

... And you can almost imagine how His brain is working.

And He says: Well, I can just show you that I can even do what you think is harder - So He says to the Man 'Rise Up' and Walk!

Mark 2:9-11; Which is easier, to say to the Paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and Walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has Power on Earth to forgive sins"— He said to the Paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." (Laughing)!

Jesus said: you are in My House, leave here! You have come to where I am. He was 'sacking' the Man! Because in the 'sacking' of the Man, was his HEALING.

I feel like saying to Somebody: Go to your house! Because you are going to leave this House of God (even while reading on the Label of DMC) and you are going to go to your house with a Testimony - Amen.

I say: You will leave this House of God and you are going to go to your house with a Story of Healing, a Story of Deliverance - Amen.

... Somebody say: I AM GOING TO MY HOUSE WITH A TESTIMONY.

Oh, I love Jesus: 'Take up your bed and go to your house.'

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the Presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" (Mark 2:12)

What sort of Man is this? He can sack People to go home with Healing.

I. The first (1st) thing you will notice about this Man is that HE COULDN'T ACT FOR HIMSELF.

... He was totally incapable of doing anything by himself.

Because the Passage says that he was Paralyzed. And if you Study that word that is used - 'Paralyzed' in other English Translations, it would say: 'He had a Palsy.'

Palsy is when People have a Muscle Paralysis.

So, it's not like his legs can't walk or his arms can't move - His body was suffering from a kind of Palsy (Maybe Cerebral Palsy).

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And those of you who know; when you have a Palsy, your body shakes a lot. And as it gets to a Point, not only is the body always shaking; it shakes uncontrollably.

And then it gets to a Point where you can't talk and you can't react! You may hear People talking, but you can't talk. You see, but you can't gesture anything - That was what the Man had. He is different from the first guy!

The first guy, Jesus engaged him in conversation; this guy, you can't engage him in a conversation - because he cannot do anything! He is totally Paralyzed - Paralyzed totally!

That's why the Story is about 'they' - Everything that is happening is not happening because of him, it's happening because People believed in Him.

... So that's what we see: he couldn't help himself at all.

I. Sometimes People get to stages like this through sickness.

II. Sometimes others get to a Place where they can't help themselves at all through some addictions - Maybe it's alcohol addicted, or drug addiction, or some form of other addictions.

III. Sometimes it is Spiritual control by a Cult or by Demonic Possessions; where a Person just can't help themselves.

IV. Other times it can be Mental illness, depression, bipolar, or seizure - The Person just can't help himself.

If you are expecting them to initiate it, they can't initiate it. If you want them to think about it, they can't think about it. If you want them to use Will Power, they can't use Will Power; because they are totally incapable of acting.

And that is what this Man was - He couldn't help himself but, he had People who carried him Spiritually and carried him Physically.

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The People who carried him might have been Family Members, they might have been Friends but they didn't give up on him.

They believed in him, even though he couldn't believe in himself - He couldn't even know if Jesus was in a place.

The Man at the Pool of Bethesda, he could tell when Jesus talked to him; this Man couldn't tell - He didn't know where he was, he didn't even know what City he was in, he didn't know about Jesus.

But there were People who believed and stood for him because you know sometimes in Life, there are People who need you not to give up on them.

Their Mind may be gone, don't give up on them! They may be soaked in alcohol, don't give up on them! They may be taken Captive by drugs and they can't help themselves. They say 'I will never take it again'; then they go and shoot the drugs back; don't give up on them.

It may be your friend, it may be your son, it may be your daughter, it may be your father, it may be your mother, it may be your Uncle, it may be your aunt, it may be your grandfather, your grandmother, it may be your grandson, your granddaughter;

I don't know who it is, who may be in this State - Who can't help themselves. And everybody says: 'They are a wasted case, there is no hope for them.' But you must be one of the four (4) who says, I will Stand by you. I'm going to carry him, I'm going to Pray for him, I'm going to look for Help for him because they can't help themselves.

... So this Man had People who believed in him.

For all you know - You are the only one whom your brother needs! You are the only one your sister needs. You are the only one your father and mother needs. And if you stop and you give up on him, he will die in that State.

... But there must be Somebody who says: I will not give up!

They went to where Jesus was - The crowd was there, the door was full of People.

And Remember, these rooms, they weren't like the big Auditoriums we have now - In those days, these were small Places. When it's jammed, it's jammed!

They got to the roof - It is not their house. They tear the roof down, they lowered their friend right in front of Jesus.

They have taken all the risk and their friend is just there, he can't respond.

The Bible says: Jesus saw their Faith; not the Paralyzed Man's Faith - He saw their Faith.

Is it Possible to have Faith for Somebody? - Yes!

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Is it Possible to Pray for Somebody who doesn't even believe in Prayer? - Yes!

Is it Possible to believe for Somebody who has lost Hope? - Yes!

Can you have Hope for the Hopeless? - Yes!

Because Jesus saw their Faith and responded to their Faith! - He responded to the Faith of those who cared for this Man.

... Jesus saw their Faith.

For some of you - God is looking up to you for your family; don't give up on that sister, don't give up on her because your Faith is what God is looking up to.

Don't give up on that Alcoholic who has no control - Don't give up on them. Somebody who's with a Mental challenged, don't give up on the Fellow. Your Relatives who are sick in the Hospital, don't give up on the.

The Doctors may have given up, but you must never give up on them.

They say there's no Hope, but you must keep Hope alive.

"It cannot be done" - God can do all things - Because even the Person may say: 'Let me go'. But you have to be determined - GOD WILL TOUCH YOU.

And that's what these friends did.

Jesus saw their Faith; and interestingly, Jesus says to the Man who cannot respond, who is inactive - "Your sins are forgiven you."

That's one of the few times, Probably the only time Jesus forgave a Person's sin before their Healing.

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Why? - Because vividly, his sin was what had brought him there.

So, it is the Person's bad deeds that had made him who he is - He is a kind of Person we would say - God has Paid him his wages. He deserves it, because he was bad.

Jesus said I know what you did is bad, I know what had brought you to this Place - You are wreckless, you don't spend money wisely, you have made all the mistakes - Your sins are forgiven you!

People said: You can't forgive sins like that!

Jesus said: Oh you think so? Which is harder - If I say your sins are forgiven you, you don't see whether it's gone or not. But if I say 'Rise Up' and Walk' you would see whether he would rise or not.

So, to Prove to you that when I say: 'Your sins are forgiven'; the sins were truly forgiven. I say to the Man; to the hearing of you and to the sight of you: Man who has never spoken, never moved, never acted. Jesus spoke to him: "Rise up, take up your bed and get out of my house!

And the Man rose up, took up his bed and walked.

... It is so interesting how Jesus could speak to a Hopelessly dead situations.

Jesus didn't speak to the friends, the friends have been showing Faith - He spoke to the Man. Just like Jesus spoke to Lazarus when he was dead, He didn't speak to Mary and Martha. He said 'Lazarus, come forth!'

3. The Third (3rd) Person: THE MAN WHO NEEDED A LITTLE HELP.

... The First one had no Help; the Second had a lot of People Helping; the Third Man, he needed just a little Help.

The Story is in Acts 3:6-9 - The man who was at the Beautiful Gate.

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.

9 And all the People saw him walking and Praising God.

The Verse 2 has stated that the Man was born Lame from his Mother's womb and has been begging at the Temple daily.

Remember, Jesus has been going in and out of this Temple and the Man has been there!

So, there were times he was there and Jesus was there, but he didn't get Healed. Now the Disciples of Jesus are coming.

You know this is the kind of Place where you can say with sarcasm: "Your Boss Himself Passed by here and I didn't get Healed; who are these little boys?"

It is like People who say: "I have spoken with the Senior Pastor himself, who are you - a Young Pastor?"

... So few things about this Man;

He sat daily begging for a Living.

Of all the three (3) Characters we have looked out today, this is the only one who was doing something, where he was!

He had a Daily Schedule - He begged for a Living.

He had the ability to do something; but a condition has limited how much he could do.

The Man at the Pool was not doing much; the Paralyzed Man we just spoke about was not doing anything - This man was doing something!

In those days, People with disabilities did not have the opportunities we have today, so they begged for a Living.

Today, a Person with disability can do a lot.

But what I want you to Note is that - When Peter said to the man: "RISE UP AND WALK", he didn't rise up and walk.

... He is the only one who was told 'Rise up and Walk' and didn't walk.

The man at the Pool of Bethesda - 'Rise up and Walk' - He walked!

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The Paralyzed Man who had the Palsy, who had done nothing - 'Rise up and Walk', and he walked!

This one that could do something - 'Rise up and Walk' he is sitting down!

You know Strange things happen in this world - People you think would do better; you give them the opportunity - Nothing.

So, this is the one you thought would be the most instant response to the Word but Nothing! - 'Rise up and Walk' he is still sitting down.

And the Bible says: Peter lifted him up by the right hand before he could rise up and walk.

.. So Peter helped him to rise up and walk.

This Man needed just a "Little Help" - He believes it, but he just needed someone to give him a little Push, a little Help, a little Encouragement. And then, the rest happens!

First one, no one to help him. The Second one had a lot of People helping him. The Third one needed a Little Help.

\*I don't know which category you fall into!:

I. Maybe you are like him - You just need a Little Help.

II. Or you need a lot of Help because you can't do much for yourself.

III. Or you have no one to Help you.

But whether you have no one to Help you, or you have Helpers all around you or you need a Little Help; The instruction is the same: "RISE UP AND WALK".

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And I want to speak those same words over your Life today - Wherever you are now or reading this Message on the Label of DMC - In every situation of your life: Whether you need a Little Help, or you need a lot of Help or you have no one to Help you; I speak to you 'Rise up and Walk!'

The same God Who rises up on your behalf, will lift you up and you will walk into Victory, you will walk into Abundance, you will step into your Destiny - Amen.

You will leave this house and go to your house with a Testimony; with a Story of Recovery; with a Story of Deliverance, with a Story of Favour, with a Story of Increase - Amen.

I don't know if you have sinned; but God would forgive you of your sins and He will cause you to Rise Up and you will walk again!

YOU WILL WALK AGAIN - Amen!!!

Even if you have never walked before from your Mother's womb; this is your Season of Walking - Amen.

Rise Up and Walk! And in the Process, you will take up your bed; the things that used to carry you, you would carry it - Amen.

You would overcome it; you would rule over it, and you are going to walk into your Destination.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Somebody say: I RECEIVE IT!

Say one more time: I RECEIVE IT!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



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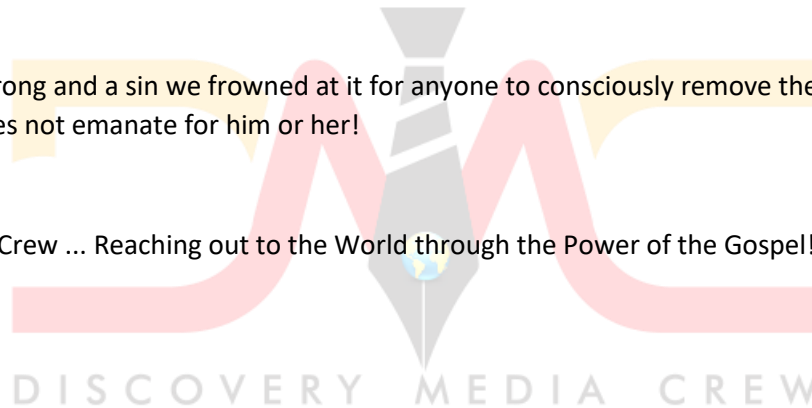
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It is out rightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

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## 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: RISE ABOVE YOUR SHORTCOMINGS.



**TEXT: LUKE 19:1-10**

Amen and Amen! Let's rise up together, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.



It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I just want to remind those of you who have not read the Messages on this Series; I indicated that I will be doing a Series on RISING.

That doesn't mean that would be the Title of the Series. But it means that everything I Preach in this Series would have the word "Arise" or "Rise" or "Rising" in it.

And I started by talking about: "LET GOD ARISE".

And I indicated that when God arises, His enemies are scattered. They are blown away as smoke in the wind and they melt like wax in fire.

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DMC NOTES: We can access the Full Text of this Message on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Let-God-Arise-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

And then last week, I spoke about - "RISE UP AND WALK".

I talked about three (3) People who were commanded to rise and to walk:

- One who had no one to Help him.

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- One who had a lot of People to Help him.

- And one who needed just a "Little Help" to be able to rise.

So whether you are one who feels that nobody helps you; or you feel that so many People are trying to help you; or you just need a "Little Help" - The Net effect is that you will Rise up and you would Walk (Amen).

Somebody say: I AM WALKING.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of this Message on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Rise-Up-And-Walk-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

So today I am following through from there with the same concept - And my Message is Titled: "RISE ABOVE YOUR SHORTCOMINGS"

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... Everybody has some form of Shortcoming.

A Shortcoming is something that makes you fall short of Expectation; or fall short of a Standard; or fall short of your own Desires.

Shortcoming can keep you from a big thing that God wants to do in your Life - It can be a Dream, it can be a Vision, it can be a Desire.

And a Shortcoming can make you feel inadequate for the things that God wants you to do.

So today, we are going to learn how to Overcome the Shortcomings; and we are going to look at a Man who had Shortcomings, but tried to rise above them - And his name is Zacheaus, and his Story is in Luke 19:1-10.

But I would be reading Luke 19:1-6 (just for time sake):

1 Then Jesus entered and Passed through Jericho.

2 Now behold, there was a Man named Zacchaeus who was a Chief Tax Collector, and he was rich.

3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a Sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to Pass that way.

5 And when Jesus came to the Place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

6 So he made haste and came down, and received him Joyfully.

The Story of Zacchaeus sometimes appear almost comical. Because you can imagine the height of the man and his sense of activity, and the whole effort of climbing up, and Jesus seeing him.

And then later on, when you read his whole attitude, Zacchaeus seemed to be a very fun-loving, outgoing Personality and very energetic. He was a very Colourful Character.

Now I am going to use the Story of Zacchaeus, like a Metaphor - For how we RISE ABOVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS.

... And we are going to work through the Steps he took to rise above his Shortcomings.

Zacchaeus lived in Jericho and he was a Chief Tax Officer. He was rich, he was a quick Thinker, he was Active, he was Outgoing, he had a Cheerful Personality. And all that energy was bundled in a small body - Zacchaeus was short.

Interestingly, his name (Zacheaus) means Pure - That is what his name meant 'Pure'.

So by name he was expected to be Pure. But by his actions he was seen as not being Pure by the Jews and People didn't have a very Good Consideration of him.

Unlike the three (3) People we spoke about Last week - Who were paralyzed and couldn't move and needed help; Zacchaeus could move! He could walk, he could run, and he was an Active Person, he was not Paralyzed.

But he had Shortcomings; he had two (2) Main Shortcomings:

1. The first one was his REPUTATION.

He had a bad reputation - He was a Chief Tax Collector. Tax collecting is generally a Noble job in current times. Although none of us like Tax Collectors but it is a Noble job.

To be a Tax Collector, you have to be an Accountant sometimes to be able to do that. But to the Jews of Jesus' time, Tax collecting was not a Good job; he was hated.

And that is why Zacchaeus had a Reputational Problem - People didn't like him. And that was a Shortcoming for him - We will find out soon!

Because Tax Collectors in the days of Jesus were Contractors who worked for the Roman's Government. And the Roman's Government was oppressing the Jewish People. And the Tax Collectors were Picked among the Jews;

And normally, they would be given a quota of Taxes they must collect. If you collect Tax in a neighborhood and you were told: 'You must collect so much Taxes!'

Now the Tax Collectors, in order to make more money had to collect the quota and then collect beyond the quota because everything above the quota is for the Tax Collector.

So People didn't like them, because they squeezed money out of the Jews; and that is what Zacheaus was doing.

Actually, he was a Chief Tax Collector, not just a Tax Collector.

That means that he had employed other People in various locations who went out - Harass People, collect Taxes from them and he was sitting on top of this Big Pyramid.

And because of that, his reputation was very Low. People didn't like him. And when People don't like you in that Community, you may go ahead and enjoy your money.

But there comes a time when reputation may go against you.

2. His Second Shortcoming was his STATURE.

So you had a Problem with his Reputation, he had a Problem with his Stature - He was limited in height, he was not a tall Person.

And he couldn't be blamed for his height. He didn't make himself - He was born that way. Probably, his parents were short.

So, He inherited that Limitation.

His Reputation as a Tax Collector, he didn't inherit - He chose it! His stature as Short, was inherited.

What Does That Mean?

Sometimes Shortcomings are inherited - You were just born that way; that is who you are. And sometimes it is as a result of Choices you made.

So, whether it is Choices you made or who you are (we were just born that way). It is still a Shortcoming.

And ordinarily, when we look at Zacchaeus, the Bible calls him a Rich Person - So it means that he had found a way to manage his Shortcomings.

People didn't like him, that didn't bother him. He still moved on and made money. He had limited height, it didn't bother him. You don't need height to collect money.

... So he did well, his Shortcomings didn't seem like Shortcomings.

Then one day, all of those things that he had managed so well, he had managed to handle so well in his life, came against him. Because he heard of Jesus and they wanted to see Jesus.

The Passage says he sought to see who Jesus was.

Because sometimes you know, you can be okay with the Shortcomings, but you can manage it because you can manage it well.

Probably maybe your Shortcoming is:

You don't speak Good English, you can manage it well - If everybody you trade with do not speak Good English. Or you just don't need English to trade. Until the day when you need English to trade.

Or you have some other Shortcomings that you are able to manage well. Until something comes up where you realised you can't manage it.

And for Zacheaus, that they came - When Jesus came to town; and he sought to see Jesus.

Something interesting about Zacheaus is that: Although the Man doesn't have a Good Reputation (People don't like him); he seems like a crook, he seems like somebody who is just taking advantage of People.

Deep inside his heart, he had the love of God, he had a Spiritual desire. And it seems like the Spiritual Desire was a very Big Desire of his!

You know there are People who can seem very rough on the outside, but deep inside them they have a deep hunger for God - And that is who Zacheaus was. He had a deep hunger for God which Nobody knew.

As a matter of fact, he is a Person who loves God. Although he seemed to love Money more than God. He seems not to care about anyone until Jesus came that way. And then his true desires showed up and he sought to see where Jesus was.

... That is when he had the Challenges:

I. The first challenge he had was a Hostile Crowd.

The crowd was hostile to him, they disliked his Reputation, they didn't like him mingling with them.

And so if he is going to be with that crowd - People say: "Zacheaus, you don't belong here, you are a bad Man. You are not supposed to be in this crowd."

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It is almost like when some People go to Church and People ask: Are you in Church? How did you come to this Church? Because People think you don't belong to Church.

That is what they thought about Zacheaus - He doesn't belong to the 'Jesus Crowd' - That is his first Shortcoming!

How do you survive in a crowd when the crowd is hostile against you? How do you survive in a Place where People don't like you? How do you survive in an Office where People dislike you? How do you survive when the crowd is hostile?

Because sooner or later, some of us find ourselves in Places where People don't like us for whatever reason.

... So that is the first thing - The crowd is hostile because of his Reputation.

II. Secondly, it is the Hindering Crowd.

How did they hinder him? They were taller than him! Everybody seemed to be taller than him; they stood in his way and hindered him from seeing Jesus.

So the crowd is hostile to him and the crowd is hindering him.

Sometimes we feel that way; Sometimes we feel we are Strong, Sometimes we feel we are Active, Sometimes we feel we have Gifts, Sometimes we feel we have Talents.

Everything seems to be going on for us.

And then you get into another Season in your Life where your Shortcoming is kicking - Hostility, Hinderance!

So how do you feel with it? How does Zacheaus deal with this?

Well, he understood his Shortness; but he didn't allow his Shortness to shorten him.

Because my friends, sooner or later, you are going to have a Dream. And that Dream is going to make all your Shortcomings appear!

You are going to be invited in a Boardroom, and then you will realise you are not Prepared - Your English Language is not Good.

You are going to be invited in a Place; and then you realised your Education doesn't match up. You are supposed to submit a Report, and you don't know how to write a Report.

You are supposed to do something great, and then you realised: 'I don't have what it takes.'



For some of us, our Big desire is: "I want to live for God like Zacchaeus".

Other People would say: I want to have a Great Marriage or I want to get Married or I want to Set Up a Business or I want to be Financially Independent; or I just want to be happy - These are Simple Desires.

But these Desires, like Zacchaeus' desire to see Jesus, can sometimes be very difficult to achieve. Simply because your Shortcoming will come against it.

Sometimes, you want to live for God, but you have a lot of Past and Current Entanglements.

... And I hope you know what I mean by Entanglements?

I. All kind of things - Relationship and Entanglements are making it difficult for you to live for God.

So that is your Shortcoming.

II. Your Past Associations: Maybe a Past boyfriend, a Past girlfriend Relationship. You are in Entanglements and they are hindering me from seeing God.

That is your shortcoming.

III. Or maybe Probably want to have a happy Marriage but you have a bad temper; and get angry at People.

So that is a shortcoming - And it is ending your Marriage.

IV. Or maybe you want to get Married but you are not Physically attractive. People don't find you attractive and you wonder 'if somebody would ever find me Good enough to marry me.'

V. Or maybe you want to Set Up a business, but you have limited resources. Or you want to be happy in Life, but you are just making bad Choices everyday.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was in the wrong Place. The crowd didn't like him and he was short. And how does he see Jesus?

How do you fulfill the desire of yours when you are in the wrong crowd; in the wrong Place and there is hostility all around you?

So let's see how Zacchaeus overcame his shortcomings - I love this guy. I truly do! Jesus also loved him. So you better love him.

1. First thing you Notice is that he ran ahead.

He ran ahead of the criticizing crowd, he ran ahead of the hostile crowd - He didn't stay where People wanted him to stay.

If you stay where the crowd wants you to be, they will keep you in the Place that they designed for you.

... That is the first thing he did!

Running ahead of the Crowd means he left the crowd; but he is still Short.

You have left the crowd, you have solved one Problem of hostility, you have distanced yourself from the crowd - Now Nobody is going to be Pushing you around: Hey, you don't belong here!

... He's gone ahead, but he is still Short.

So he did something else:

2. He Climbed the Tree.

To solve the height Problem, he had to look for something he didn't have. He had to be creative, he had to use an opportunity that was ahead of him to get high; and so he rose up and got to the Top of the tree. And Jesus Passed by!

It is very interesting, because Zacchaeus had anticipated where Jesus was going to be, and chose the right tree in the Path of Jesus and was waiting for the crowd to catch up with him.

And when Jesus got to where Zacchaeus was, Jesus looked up. He didn't look down on him, he looked up

Zacchaeus had Positioned himself in a way that he will be Visible and available to Jesus. And he did that by running ahead and climbing up - Running ahead, Climbing up!

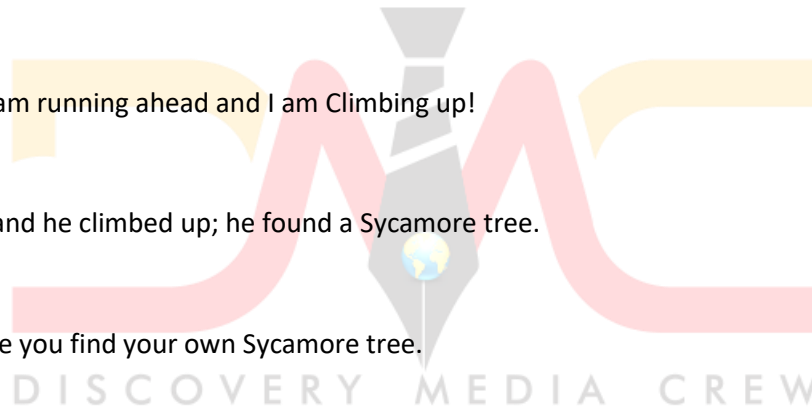
I want to say to Somebody: It is time for you to Run ahead and Climb Up - Amen.

Don't go backward, don't abandon the dream, don't stop becoming the Person God wants you to be. You have got to run ahead and you have got to climb up.

Somebody say: I am running ahead and I am Climbing up!

So he ran ahead and he climbed up; he found a Sycamore tree.

... Maybe it is time you find your own Sycamore tree.



Sycamore tree is a very interesting tree - It is broad, it is a heavy tree and it can grow quite high - about fifteen (15) meters. It is large with Strong branches. It has all these things but one Good thing about the Sycamore tree is that its branches reach down.

... They are trees that are Strong, but their branches are too high, you can't reach up to it.

But the Sycamore tree branches reach down; they go down.

So, they are at the Point where Zacchaeus can reach it - They are not too high for him.

I believe for every situation in our lives, for every Shortcoming, for every Limitation - Whatever the Limitation is: it could be a Spiritual Shortcoming, it could be your Temper, it could be Education, it could be Choices you made. It could just be something you were born with.

For every Shortcoming, there is a Sycamore tree that God will put in your way - Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:13 put it this way: No Temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to Man; but God is Faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the Temptation will also make the Way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

... God will make a way of escape. So you can be Prepared.

That is what he did for Zacchaeus: his height didn't Change, his Reputation didn't Change; but God gave him a way of escape. And he ran ahead, found the way of escape and used the way of escape.

... And that way of escape was his Sycamore Tree.

No matter what your Shortcomings are - It could be Reputation, it could be Stature, or it could be a Physical look, it could be Academic, it could be Financial; listen to me, God will cause you to find a Solution - Amen.

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Because with every difficulty He Provides a way of escape - Our Sycamore Tree.

The Good Thing about the Sycamore tree is that it was very common (It was not a rare tree).

Where Zacchaeus was, it was common, it was available, it was accessible.

Because you know, sometimes something is common, is available, but it is not accessible - You cannot take advantage of it.

But because the branches were Low, Zacchaeus could climb it.

Even short Zacchaeus found something that was Purpose-fit for him and then it lifted him up above the crowd, above the People who despised his Reputation, above People who despise his height. And when he went there, Jesus saw him.

The Sycamore tree is what I called the Sufficiency of God's Grace for us.

... The sufficiency of God's Grace for us!

There is always Grace available for your Shortcomings - Where Shortcomings abound Grace "Much More" abounds!

In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about the thorn In the flesh that he had. That was a hindrance to him. And he says he Prayed about this thorn in the flesh three (3) times.

And in 2 Corinthians 12:9 Jesus said to him: And He said to me, "My Grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made Perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my Infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me.

There is something about your weakness that activates the Grace of God; so that while you are weak God's Strength steps in. Because God is going to give a way of escape.

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But don't just watch the way of escape; you have to run ahead to meet it. And you have to climb up! You have to use it.

Because of what Jesus said to Paul, he said in 2 Corinthians 12:10 - Therefore I take Pleasure in Infirmities, in reproaches, in Needs, in Persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am Strong.

I love that: When I am weak then I am Strong.

For every weakness of yours, God has an appointed Strength for you. For every Place of weakness you have, God has an appointed Strength for you.

That is what I call your Sycamore Tree.

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You may not have it Naturally, but God will make it available to you - It could be a Person that God Places in your Life, it could be an opportunity that God opens for you, it could be a word that inspires you.

Maybe this Message that you are listening to (or reading on the Label of DMC) is your Sycamore Tree - To help you to rise up to the Place God wants you to be.

The Sycamore Tree deals with your Shortcomings, but the Sycamore tree doesn't solve the Problem.

That is a Good thing - It doesn't solve any Problem, it only gives you a way out of the Problem. But it doesn't solve the Problem.

And I like how the Story of Zacchaeus Ends - He met Jesus!

What he had desired right from the beginning. He wanted to see Jesus, and he met Jesus - His hindrances, Shortcomings didn't stop him. He met Jesus!

Then when he met Jesus, Jesus said to him: "Come down from the Sycamore tree".

What is Jesus saying? - Jesus says: He use this to get to me, now I am here to be all that you Need.

When you have him, He becomes the Completion, the Perfection.

The Lord knows every Needs of your heart - When you meet Jesus, you find your heart Desires.

... So what did we learn today?

We learned from Zacchaeus that sometimes there are Shortcomings - It could be Reputational, it could be Stature or it could be Inherited, it could be Chosen but whatever it is that is keeping you from getting to the Place where God wants you to get to; we can rise above every Shortcomings in our lives because God always makes a way of escape.

And when He gives you the way of escape, you don't go back to your Past; you run ahead and you climb up.

May the Lord cause you to run ahead and to climb up: Above every limitations, above every Shortcomings, above everything that wants to hold you down - Amen.

You will rise and you will Overcome - Amen.

Somebody say: I AM RISING.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Pray this morning for every Child of Yours who feels in one way or the other like Zacchaeus - with a Shortcoming, not knowing how to manage their Shortcoming;

Today I Pray Lord, as you did for Apostle Paul; You will do for each and everyone of us and Your Grace will be sufficient for us.

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That You would show us the Person, You would show us the Path, You would show us the opportunity - Whatever is needed for us to get to the Place that You have called us to get to.

Open our eyes to see it and help us Lord never to sit in a Place of hostility and the Place of rejection; but to rise above it and do Your Will, and to fulfill Your Vision.

In Jesus' Name 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!

It is out rightly 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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12TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: ARISE AND DEPART.



TEXT: MICAH 2:10

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Well, as I indicated, I am doing a Series with the word: "Rise or Arise" in it.

And I have spoken about: "Let God Arise"; I have spoken about: "Rise up and Walk". Last week I spoke on: "Rise Above your Shortcomings".

Today, my Message is Titled: "RISE AND DEPART".

Somebody say: I'M RISING, AND I'M DEPARTING.

One of the most destructive circumstances of Life happens when you find yourself stuck in the wrong Place! When you find out that you are in a Place that is not Good for you, but you are not able to move away from it.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a Place that is wrong for us because we were born into it; Other times it is because some People made decisions and landed us in the bad Place. Or we could find ourselves in a bad Place because of decisions we have made ourselves.

So when you find yourself in a bad spot, what do you do?

... I say that you: "RISE and DEPART"!

That does not mean that any time you find yourself in a difficult situation you must arise and depart - If you do that, that will turn you into an Unstable Person; who is not able to Stand and win their battles.

... That is not what I am talking about!

Life generally has tough spots: in our Marriages, in our work and School, in Relationships, in Church, in Politics - Generally in Life, you will come against tough decisions.

It doesn't mean that anytime you come against a tough decision, you rise up and depart. That is not what I am talking about. But there are Places that you don't have to stay.

There are moments in our lives when we need to arise and depart.

And this moment do not happen every day - It may happen once in our lives, twice in our lives, three (3) times in our lives; but there are special moments in our lives when we must get out from a certain Place that Life has locked us in.

... And those are the Moments that we are talking about today!

And I am going to start by referencing Micah.

Those of you who are not familiar with all the Books of the Bible - Micah is also in the Bible.

And just to give you a little background: Micah was a Prophet to the Kingdom of Judah. You know, Israel was divided into two (2) - There was a Northern Kingdom and there was a Southern Kingdom.

The Northern Kingdom was generally what was called Israel. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah.

And Micah was a Prophet that God raised for Judah - The Southern Kingdom.

And Micah's first time of Ministry was about the same time when Isaiah was also in Ministry - And so both of them were Prophets about the same time.

Micah's Ministry went through the times when Jotham was King; when Ahaz was King; and when is Hezekiah was King - Just to give you a background!

So let's go to Micah 2:10 (NKJV):

“Arise and depart, For this is not your rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction.

This Prophecy that God spoke through Micah happened at the time when the Southern Kingdom and the whole of Israel was going through a bad situation.

Where Powerful People were dominating the weak People; and there were False Prophets in the Land.

So the Land had become a very bad Place; the People were in a bad Place of their lives.

And so God raised Micah to go and speak about this.

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And when Micah started to Prophecy (if you read earlier) he spoke a lot of 'WOES' to the People.

But in this Particular statement of his Prophecy, he is talking about the People who have settled for all these destructions and deceptions, and False Prophecies and all the evil that is going on and the People have just settled!

And so God spoke to Micah to go and announce to the People: Don't sit here, don't settle here - He said, ARISE and DEPART.

Somebody say: I AM RISING and I AM MOVING.

And the reason why God said they should Arise and Depart is because he says: The Place they where was defiled.

So let me just define the words for us - What it means to be defiled - When Micah said the Place was defiled, what did he mean?

1. He meant first, that the Place was Unclean.

A Defiled Place is an Unclean Place - It means it is not wholesome. Something that is Unhealthy; it is not Good for your well-being.

So God says: The People must not rest here.

Why because it is Unclean; it is not Wholesome, it is not a Good Place to be.

2. The Second definition of Defiled is Corrupted.

... Something that has lost its Purpose.

When we say something is corrupted, it means it used to have a Good Purpose but now it has lost its Purpose.

It used to serve a Good Purpose, it is no longer serving a Good Purpose - It is Corrupted.

3. Thirdly, Defiled means something that has been Degraded.

... Something that has lost its Power!

It used to have Value but it has no Value.

It had no value now; it has become cheap!

So that is what God is saying to His People: ARISE AND DEPART.

Why? - Because where you are is Defiled. It is Unclean, it is Corrupted, it is Degraded, it is not a Good Place, it is not a Wholesome Place to stay in.

... And that is why He says: ARISE AND DEPART.

A Defiled Place is a Destructive Place. And God warns the People - He says: "if you stay there, it will destroy you!"

And there are many things that can Defile a Place - A Place can be Defiled with Idolatry - Where People are worshipping False gods.

Or it can be Defiled by Oppression; it can be defiled by Bitterness, it can be Defiled by envy, it can be Defiled by sin, it can be Defiled by lust, it can be Defiled by bad friends.

When we find ourselves in a Defiled Place, we must not settle there - We must rise and we must depart.

And that is what God is saying to His People - The Place you are in is bad for you; it is not a Place where you are supposed to stay.

So I am going to Illustrate this Concept of RISING and DEPARTING with Three (3) Biblical Stories.

... And I will run through them quickly:

1. The first Story is the Story of Abraham - When God told him to Rise and Depart.

Abraham departed from a world of Idolatry.

Genesis 12 1 - "Get out of your Country, from your family and from your father's house, to a Land that I will show you."

Just listen to the instruction - GET OUT!

... Arise and depart. Move away from your Country, your family, your father's house.

And in Genesis 12:4 - So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

He departed, why? - Because God says depart!

Abraham, in the Land of the Chaldeans - That was his native land, that was his Culture. He lived among his People and his family.

Normally, when you live amongst your own People, in your own Country, with your own family, that is the Place to feel comfortable.

That is the Place to rest! You do what they do.

But Abraham's family was living in a Land of Idolatry. And God wanted to start something New with Abraham. And for that New Thing to happen, Abraham had to depart.

The thing to note about Abraham is that, he got into Idolatry because he was born into it.

That was where he was! He got into Idolatry because he was born into it; he didn't know any better. He worshipped the gods of his People, he believed what his People believed.

But God had a different Purpose for him; He wanted to reveal Himself to Abraham. Abraham could not have the Revelation of God by being in the same Place that he was born into - He had to ARISE' and DEPART.

When God wants to do something New for you, He will demand something New from you.



So He says Abraham, I'm going to do something New for you. So, I am going to ask you to do something New; and that something New is: You are going to Rise from your familiar Place and you are going to Depart.

There are many Christians who have still not departed from the idols of their fathers - The spiritual world view of their fathers.

You know these days, a lot of Christians respond to God the way their fathers used to respond to their idols. They respond to Men of God the way we used to respond to Fetish Priest.

So, at one Point, it looks like we are Christians; but we have not departed! Our world view is still "African Traditional Religion".

That is why People these days, can't just simply believe in the Name of Jesus - They want the Name of Jesus Plus you have to do something!

Sometimes you go to Church, People say you have to do something! - That is African Traditional Religion; where you go and the Priests must do something. He must do some incantations, some magic - Something!

In Christianity, we don't go to a Man of God to do something. We go to hear the Word of God - That is the difference between Christianity and the other Religions.

... It is not about doing something, it is about hearing what God says!

That is why every revelation of God in the Bible (Just check your Bible) always comes with God says something - Telling People something, telling them what to obey; what to depart from, what to change.

Abraham had to depart from Idolatry! - That is the first Story of a Person Rising and Departing.

2. The Second Illustration of Rising and Departing is about the Nation of Israel.

... Israel departed from living under oppression in Egypt.

Numbers 33:3 says: They departed from Rameses in the first Month, on the fifteenth day of the first Month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.

... They went out with Boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Unlike Abraham who was in the Chaldeans because he was born there; he was born into the wrong environment.

The children of Israel were not born into the wrong environment - They got into bondage because of Choices made by their Ancestors.

... Their fathers made Choices for them.

A Previous Generation made Choices for them - Going to Egypt was the best Choice at the time.

Why?

I. Because there was food in Egypt.

II. Because Joseph was in Egypt and Joseph had become the Second most Powerful Person in Egypt.

And so when they went to Egypt it was the 'Best Choice' - It saved them from famine. And in Egypt they had Privileged Position because Joseph was there!

They got the best Land, Pharaoh favoured them, respected them. So it looked like a Good decision had landed them in Egypt.

Then the Bible says, a New Pharaoh arose, who did not know Joseph.

It doesn't mean he did not know Joseph had existed - It simply means he didn't care about Joseph. He didn't owe Joseph anything. And he decided that he was going to treat the Israelites differently.

I have always wondered: when a New Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph, did the People know it? And if they knew it, why didn't they leave?

But I am sure they were thinking - Well, the days of Joseph will come again. One day maybe somebody will favour us. One day we will be favoured again; one day it will become better.

... And they stay there and they were in bondage for a very long time.

Abraham was born into the situation but these People, they got there because something that started right turned bad! And God had to get them out.

Because sometimes, something that started out right can turn bad and you are stuck in the Place.

Because oh, it used to be Good here - Oh, in the Good Old Days!

It is not the Good Old Days; the Good Old Days are gone!

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I. Your father is no longer whom he used to be.

II. You may have been born rich, but now you are broke!

Don't continue talking about it - Oh, how we used to live in London, when we used to live in Paris, when we used to live in Australia, when we used to live in America. My father was this, and my mother was that!

My friend, you are no longer in that situation - You are in Egypt, you are in bondage!

And if you keep living on your Past and your Old Heritage, you will stay in bondage for a very long time!

I came to announce to somebody: Stop dreaming, Arise and Depart from that situation And stop talking about how things used to be.

That was the Problem with Israel - Things had changed, but they were still stuck.

... God says Arise and Depart.

Somebody say: I Will Arise and I am Departing!

And I like the way God told them to Arise and Depart - He said that day:

I. They had to eat their bread before it arisen.

li. They had to eat meat with bitter herbs.

III. And the day they were departing, they had to leave in the Night - Not in the day.

... Because, when it it is time to Arise and Depart, you don't waste time!

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Somebody say: I am Rising, and then Departing.

3. The Third Example of Somebody who had to Rise and Depart - We are familiar with the Story): The Prodigal Son.

... The Prodigal Son departed from a Low and Miserable Life

Luke 15:17-18 - But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired Servants have bread enough and to spare, and I Perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you,

I. The Prodigal Son was not like Abraham - He was not born into Misery.

II. The Prodigal Son is not like Israel - Nobody made Choices for him to get to where he is.

... The Prodigal Son got into misery by his own choices and his own actions.

So we are looking at Three (3) Categories:

1. You were born into it.
2. Somebody's decision got you into it.
3. Your own decision got you there.

Whether you were born into it, somebody got you there, or you got yourself there; the instruction is still the same - ARISE AND DEPART.

... It is time to Rise up, it is time to Depart!

Many times we think we are the cause of our own woes - We got ourselves where we are.

You know, when People feel that they got themselves where they are - They feel they deserve it: "I brought it up on myself, it is okay. I made a mistake, it is okay. This is karma!"

By the way, KARMA is not Christian Philosophy - Because between Action and Reaction, there is God, there is Grace, there is Mercy, there is favour, and there is forgiveness.

... Karma does not have that inside it - That is an Heisten Philosophy.

But in Christian Philosophy - You hit the ball against the wall; before it gets to you, God can catch it. Hallelujah!

Between sowing and reaping, God can intervene.

So don't just say: "I did it, so it must happen to me." No! You may have messed up, but God didn't mess up. You made a mistake, God didn't make a mistake.

And God is a Redeemer - The whole of the Bible is about Redemption.

The Prodigal Son got into the mess; and by the Law of Karma he should suffer and wait to die, or maybe sometimes come out as a Monkey!

But he came to himself and said: "I messed up, I put myself here. It is my fault! But I remembered my father and I will Arise and go to my father."

I don't know where you Stand in these Three (3) Examples:

I. Maybe you were born into it.

II. Maybe it was a decision that was made at the time it was good but it has become bad.

III. Or maybe you messed up yourself.

In any of these Three (3) Categories, the instruction is the same - ARISE' AND DEPART.

God can deliver you from what you were born into; God can deliver you from where People took you to; and God can deliver you from where you took yourself to.

Don't sit down there and say: "This is my lot, this is my Destiny, this is how it is in my family, in my father's Lineage they all go through this. Everybody in my Ancestral Line goes through that!

I. You are like Abraham - Everybody in your family is in that Place. God says: Arise and Depart!

II. You are like Israel - Somebody made a decision at the time it looked Good, but it has now turned bad. Don't stay there. You will Arise and Depart!

III. You are like the Prodigal Son- You made the decision yourself and you got into the mess. But you will Arise and Depart!

Because, this Place is not your resting Place: This is not your resting Place - don't stay there!

Because you know, sometimes we allow ourselves to stay in Places:

I. God wants us to depart from our Defiled Places - Don't stay in a Defiled Place.

II. Many of us have allowed ourselves to stay in our Defiled Places. We are living in a Defiled Place - A Place Defiled with envy like Cain. Or a place Defiled with disobedience like Saul, who embraced fame. Or like Judas Iscariot. Or a Place filled with greed like Achan. Or we are bitter and seeking for vengeance like Absalom.

Each of these People did not end well.

Why? - Because they stayed in a Defiled Place.

Listen! - Don't stay in bitterness no matter what has happened to you don't stay in bitterness, it will destroy you. Don't let your heart be filled with so much vengeance, it will kill you.

You must rise from vengeance, you must rise from bitterness, you must rise from envy, you must rise from greed - "I want it, he has it, I will get it." That is Greed - It will Defile you, it will destroy you. Don't stay in that Place.

Somebody say: I am RISING and I am DEPARTING. We have to Rise and Depart.

So what happens to those who do not settle in the wrong Path - Who Depart?

Micah 2:12-13 - "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob,

I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their Pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many People. The one who breaks open will come up before them; they will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it; Their king will Pass before them, With the Lord at their head."

... That is what God says to them, after He says ARISE and DEPART. So these are what God Promises them.

Three (3) Things that I want to highlight in these Promises .

When we choose to Arise and Depart, this is what God Promises us:

1. First God says, I WILL HELP YOU TO BREAK OUT.

... If you want to Rise and Depart, God says I will help you to do it.

And this morning, Somebody would Rise and Depart because you are Breaking Out from whatever situation: Whether you were born into it, whether you got into it by somebody's decision, or you got into it by your own decision, you are breaking out - Amen.

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Somebody say: I am Breaking Out! God says I will help you to Break Out- Amen.

2. Secondly, God says: I WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE GATE.

He is your Way Maker.

Where doors have been shut, the Lord will lead you out into a Good Place - "I will take you through the Gate."

3.The Final Thing God says: I WILL BE YOUR HEAD.



When the Lord is with you, you are never alone - He is your Head, He is your Guide.

So, I came here this Morning to tell Somebody: ARISE and DEPART. The Place you are is Defiled, it is Polluted. If you keep staying there, it will destroy you.

I. Maybe it is a sinful life, you must Arise and Depart from it.

II. Maybe it is envy and bitterness, you must Arise from it.

III. Maybe it is just a heart of Vengeance, Arise from it.

IV. Maybe it is Greed, Arise from it.

V. Maybe it is bad Relationship that you have gotten yourself into and you know 'this is not where God wants me to be; you must Arise from it!

Don't stay in a Place - God doesn't want you to be; where your own heart condemns you, where you know within yourself: 'This is not what God wants me to have; this is not the Place God has for me; this is not God's Will for my Life".

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If you know that, don't stay there; don't entertain it.

Don't say: I was born into it; don't say: Well, I can't do anything about it because some People brought me here; don't say: My own mistake brought me here.

... You are going to Rise up and you are going to Depart.

And this Morning, if you desire to really Rise and Depart, I am going to Pray with you, I am going to agree with you wherever you are or reading this Message now on The Label of DMC; that God will Break you Out.

He will break you out and He will get out of that situation now and Miracles will happen in your Life - A Breakthrough Miracle, a Full Transformation in your Life.

If you believe there is something in your Life - You have been there for too long and you know: 'This is not where God wants me'; God will break you up!

... Let us rise up together.

I don't want you to just do it alone. But you know, put your hands upon your Heart!

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father, You have not called us to defilement; You have not called us to destruction; You have not called us to be Prisoners of our father's house; You have not called us to be Prisoners of bad situations we find ourselves in; You have not called us to be Prisoners of bad Choices of our Actions.

You have called us to be Free and to be Free Indeed!

And so Father, I Stand in Your Name and in the Name of Jesus, in Your Presence, before Your Throne; on behalf of Your Children:

That anyone who has found themselves in Defiled Places, who has desires to be Free this day - In this moment, Break them out of it LORD.

Anyone Oh God, who desires to be Free from Defiled Places, open the gate for them Oh Lord.

Anyone Oh God, who says: I need Help, Lord be their Help and Lord, take them out!

From today, in this Place: I speak Liberty to your Spirit; I speak Liberty to your Soul; I speak Liberty to your Mind; I speak Liberty to your Emotions; to your Purposes, in the Name of Jesus.

Any Defiled Places you find yourself, you are Breaking Loosed from it!

You will not be Defiled in this Place, and this situation will not destroy you.

I speak Life to you; I speak Health to you; I speak Strength to you; I speak Favour to you; and I speak the Fullness of God's Purposes.

You will Arise and you will Depart, in Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Somebody say: I RISE AND I DEPART, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

... Give the Lord some Praise!!!!

Don't walk in bondage again; walk is the Victory of the Lord - 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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19TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: ARISE AND TAKE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.



**TEXT: GENESIS 13:16-17, DEUTERONOMY 2:24, JOSHUA 8:1 AND JUDGES 7:9.**

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I am concluding my "Rising Series".

As you know, for some time now I have been talking about different things with the word Arise or Rising or Rise in them.

I began with: "LET GOD ARISE". And then I spoke about "RISE UP AND WALK"; and then we spoke about "RISING ABOVE YOUR SHORTCOMINGS"; and then last week I spoke about 'ARISE AND DEPART".

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And so I am concluding today with: "ARISE AND TAKE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU".

As you read the Scriptures, we see that many times when God wants to do things for People or He wanted People to do things for Him, He will usually demand the People to Rise up - To ARISE.

... And it is so many times stated in the Scriptures.

We are going to look at four (4) Examples of those Commands, where God tells People to Arise to Possess something.

And so we are going to look at four (4) Scriptures today.

The first reading is Genesis 13:16-17.

This is God talking to Abraham about the Land He was Promising him. And I want you to Pay attention to what God says:

16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the Earth; so that if a Man could number the dust of the Earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

17 Arise, walk in the Land through its Length and its Width, for I give it to you.”

Then Deuteronomy 2: 24.

This is when God commanded Israel that He was giving them the Promised Land. And it says:

‘Rise, take your journey, and cross over the River Arnon. Look, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, King of Heshbon, and his Land. Begin to Possess it, and engage him in battle.

Joshua 8:1:

And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the People of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the King of Ai, and his People, and his City, and his Land:

... Again God tells Joshua to Arise.

The Final Scripture is in Judges 7:9.

This is God's instructions to Gideon, after Gideon has cut down the number of his Army to Three hundred (300).

And then God says to him: It happened on the same night that the Lord said to him, “Arise, go down against the Camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.

If you look at all these Four (4) Scriptures, something is very common - God told each one of them to ARISE and TAKE something He was offering to them.

I. He told Abraham: I have given you the Land, but you must Rise and Walk in the Land.

II. He told Moses: I have given you the Amorites - Kings and their Lands. But you must Arise and engage in battle.

III. God told Joshua: I have given you the City of Ai, but you must Rise and go up against it.

IV. Then He told Gideon: I have given the Medianites to you. But you must Arise and go against their Camp.

In each of these cases, God tells them what He has done and what he wants them to do.

God tells them: I have given you the Land, but you must Rise and take it.

So there are two (2) Ideas:

1. First, we must KNOW what God has given to us.

We cannot live our Christian lives just hoping that things will happen well for us - We must live our Christian Life with certainty, with the knowledge of what God has given to us.

2. And then Secondly, we must TAKE what God given to us.

... KNOW it, TAKE it!

So God says: I have given it into your hand (That is the knowledge). But RISE and take it!



We must KNOW what God has given to us, and we must TAKE what God has given to us.

So what God says is: I have given it to you!

Most of the time - If you look at these Verses of Scriptures, the Tense is in the 'Past'.

It is something that God has Already done; He has Concluded.

Because God conclude things in the Spirit; but what he has concluded in the Spirit must be manifested in the Natural.

So He says: I have given it to you - It is done. RISE and TAKE it. You must now actualised it; you must take what is concluded in the Spirit realm and bring it into the Natural realm.

Between KNOWING what God has given to you and TAKING what God has given to you, is that word Arise.

... Arise!!!

And that is what He told all of them - I have given it to you, take it! But in-between that: ARISE!

Everybody say: ARISE!!!

The three (3) thoughts that explains Arise to us:

1. First to ARISE means to Stand Upright; to take on the task. Be ready to take on the Challenge.

To be alert, to be set. Arise! Stand Upright, take on the task.

When God says I have given you something, it doesn't mean it just happened in the Natural; it has happened in the Spiritual. But He wants us to take it by first, Standing up, taking on the task.

2. ARISE also means to Show Up.

That means to work towards what God has given to you.

3. And thirdly, ARISE means to establish it, to make it happen.

So, He says to each of them, I have given it to you - Rise, take it!

So giving to you, taking it; in-between that is RISING: Standing Up, taking on the task, Showing Up, not running away from the battle and establishing it or making it happen.

So we see from the Scriptures that we cannot be Passive about the Blessings of God, we cannot be Passive about the Goodness of God. We cannot just sit and say well, God has done it, so there is nothing for me to do!

God says: I have done it, I have given it to you. But you must Arise and engage in battle. So there is always activity in our Part in relation to the Word of God and the Promise of God.

And we are going to look at a Statement made by a Character in the Bible - A gentleman called Jephthah.

... Most of you must have read about Jephthah.

Jephthah was one of the Judges of Israel in the times before Israel had Kings. In those days, God will raise Judges and these Judges were basically Deliverers or Warriors.

And they would go and fight the enemies of Israel, deliver them from bondage. And then the time of the Judge will Pass. And they would get into another bondage, God would raise another Judge.

Jephthah was one of the Judges that God raised. And he had to fight the Amorites.

And Jephthah was a sort of a bad boy; a Vagabond because his mother was not the rightful wife. So he was sacked from Town and then he became a Vagabond

But he became a fighter! And when Israel went into trouble, they said: 'Who will fight for us?'

So they went to pick Jephthah; and Jephthah decided to fight for them.

... And I want you to listen to something Jephthah said to the enemies of Israel at that time in Judges 11:23-24 (I love it so much)!

At this time Amorites have come up against Israel. They said: 'We are going to fight you!

We are going to fight you because, when Israel left Egypt and was coming through to the Promised Land, you took our Land from us.'

So that is what the Amorites are saying - 'You took our Land from us'.

So we have come back to take the Land back from you because it was ours and you took it away from us.

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And that is why they have to call Jephthah to come and help them Protect the Land; because the Amorites are saying: 'It is time! - The lease is over, give us back our Land.'

Now listen to how Jephthah responded to that. When the Amorites said: 'Give us back our land.' And these are the words of Jephthah. He said in Judges 11:23-24:

And now the Lord God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His People Israel; should you then Possess it? Will you not Possess whatever Chemosh your god gives you to Possess? So whatever the Lord our God takes Possession of before us, we will Possess.

Do you get the logic of Jephthah?

Jephthah is saying: You guys, you worship Chemosh. And if Median says: "I have given the Land of Israel to you' won't you obey Chemosh and come and take your Land?

How much more, when Jehovah God says: 'I have given the Land of the Amorites to you.' Don't you think we should also come and take what Jehovah has given to us?

So whatever God has given to us, Jephthah says we must Possess it (I love that)!

... We must Possess whatever God has given to us.

Now Jephthah did not say: 'Whatever God gives to us is ours'. That is not what he says. He says: whatever God gives to us we must POSSESS + We must make sure that we don't lose it.

And because of that, you guys - The reason we took your Land is because "OUR GOD" says we should take it! We didn't take it on our Will and Accord; we took it because God said we should take it.

... In the same way that you would take your Land if your god says you should take it!

You know many times, People who worship idols are more Obedient to their idols than those who worship Jehovah God. People who consult "Juju Power" are sometimes more Faithful than those who worship God.

If somebody goes to consult a Fetish and the Fetish says: I will make you a Millionaire or I will do this for you, I will do that for you - Go and lift up a Store, and gives them instructions.

Believe you me, they will do whatever they are told to do!

If they are told to wear White on Fridays; every Fridays they would wear white. If they are told to go and sprinkle something on People's Shops - In spite of the shame; they will sprinkle it.

... Whatever they have been told to Possess, what is demanded, they will do it.

And yet when it comes to Believers, when God tells us: I have given you the Land, do this. We don't do it.

No wonder the People who worship Chemosh are Possessing the Land and the People who worship Jehovah are losing the Land.

If an Unbeliever goes to a Fetish and they say 'Go and put food in the junction of a road' they will go and put food there!

And then God would tell His People "GIVE" and I will take the devourer from you. We won't Give! And if they attempt, they will do half of it. They will only 'GI' (and not DIVE) ... Laughing!

That is why I like Jephthah - Jephthah says: You guys think the Land is yours because Chemosh says it is yours; we believe the Land is ours because YAHWEH says it is ours.

... And whatever YAHWEH says is ours, we will Possess it (I love that)!

I. So when Yahweh gives you Salvation, repossess it.

II. When Yahweh gives you Healing, you Possess it.

III. When Yahweh gives you Wealth, you Possess it.

Yahweh cannot say you are rich and you say I am Poor. When Yahweh says you are Rich, you Possess Riches.

Whatever the Lord says He has given to us, we must Possess it!

And that is why Jephthah says: We are ready to fight in this battle because everything God gives to us is surrendered in Battle.

All the People God gave Victory, they had to fight for it. Why is it so? Because the enemy will always Challenge your claim.

If you say: 'God has spoken to me'. The enemy will show up to challenge you. He doesn't sit down and say: 'Take it freely'.

Battles birth Champions. Champions do not emerge from Comfort - They emerged with Battle Bruises.

If you love Movies, and you watch the Rocky Series - Staring Sylvester Stallone.

Rocky is a boxer, but in every battle, when it ends, Rocky is holding his Title Belt. But his face is battered. There is blood from his mouth. He has been Punched badly; but he is the Champion.

Because in life, you would be Punched, but you don't lie down when you are Punched; you are Punched, you get up! Because God has called you to be a Champion.

And after you have been Punched, and you Stand many times; in the end you are like a Rocky - You are holding on the Title Belt; but there is blood all over your face.

Battles Produce Champions! - If you want to be a Champion for God, get ready for Battle.

You think the devil is going to smile at your Blessings? You think your enemies are going to clap for you because you have Plans? You think the world will be happy with you?

... Then leave Planet Earth - Go to Neptune.

But if you live on this Planet (Earth), your Title will be challenged - The spoils of battle come out of the scars of battles. Good things come to those who win their battle in all areas of Life. Whether in Academics, in our Careers in our Marriage, is our Ministries - Everything comes from battle.

If you see a Married couple who have been married for fifty (50) to sixty (60) Years and you look at them and say - Oh, it is so beautiful to see these Old People Married. Oh look at them, they are laughing and they are smiling. Look at how he holds her hand!

Do you think that it has always been like that? Go back to sixty (60) Years earlier: it was battles, quarrells, fights (I don't mean blows)! - I mean difficulties. But they Persevered. And now, you are taking Pictures of them (after 60 years) to say 'I wish I was like that!'

And you, every little thing - 'Oh, we are incompatible; we don't agree - I like to sleep there and my wife doesn't like to sleep there. I want my food hot, she makes it cold.'

... You will not get the Picture of the sixty (60) Years, because the Reward comes after battle.

Whatever God has given to us, He gives us the Grace to receive it; so no matter the battles surrounding it, you have the Grace to receive it.

Somebody say: I HAVE THE GRACE FOR IT.

... You have the Grace for it!

I. When you marry, you have Grace for Marriage.

II. When you start your business, you have Grace to succeed.

III. When you start Education, you have the Grace to be the Head and not the tail.

Whatever God entrust into your hands, He will give you the Grace for it.

In the midst of the battle, there is Grace.

That is why you hear People say: 'We don't know how you survive.' - It is called GRACE.

AND HOW DOES GOD GIVE US GRACE?

1. He Trains our hands for War.

Psalms 144:1 says: Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle.

If you don't know how to fight, God will train you for the battle - Amen.

He trains us ahead of our battles. And when you are in the battle, don't forget the training He gave you for the battle.

... Not only does He train us for warfare.

2. He Teaches us how to Profit.

Isaiah 48:17 says: Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to Profit, Who leads you by the way you should go."

... He orders our steps in the Right Way!

I. He told Abraham: Rise up and walk in the Land for - I have given it to you.

II. He told Israel: Rise up and Possess the Land of the Amorites - I have given it to you.

III. He told Joshua: Rise up and Possess the Promised Land.

IV. He told Gideon: Rise up and deliver Israel.

Each one of them had to battle for what God has given them:

I. And for each one of them, God Trained them for battle.



II. For each one of them, God taught them how to Profit.

You don't just sit with Good Intentions; you must RISE UP and TAKE what God has given to you!

And don't be afraid of the battle - It is Part and Parcel of the Package.

What you must take, you would battle for it. But the Lord is with you!

You would be Punched many times, your face will be swollen, your mouth will be swollen, you may lose a tooth but Thank God for the Dentist, they will give you a replacement (Laughing). But in the end, you will hold the Title Belt.

And may the Lord cause you at the end, to hold the Title Belt - Amen.

There are some of you who have been Punched so much - You just want to quit. But the Title Belt has been Promised to you; Please don't quit! Get up again, get to the Battle again, try it again, do it again, start it again, move it again because God has ordained you for something, and you must take it. You must Possess it - Amen.

My Concluding Thoughts: God rewards those who Overcome in all areas of life.

When you lose the required battle, you get Punished; but when you Win, you get Rewarded.

... The Rewards always go to those who Overcome!

And when you look through the Bible, in the Last Book of the Bible - The Book of Revelation; this is how everything is ending.

The Book of Revelation tells you this is how this whole thing that started in Genesis is ending up.

And I am going to read to you some Verses from the Book of Revelation, and what it says to us who Overcome;

In Revelation 2:26, it says: And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give Power over the Nations.

Somebody say: I WILL HAVE POWER OVER THE NATION.

Revelation 3:12; it says: He who overcomes, I will make him a Pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the City of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God. And I will write on him My New Name.

... May God make you a Pillar - Amen!

Revelation 3:21; it says: To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My Throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His Throne.

Somebody say: I will sit on the Throne!

But if you look at the last one in Revelation 21:7-8; it says:

7. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their Part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

... He who overcomes shall inherit all things.

The first on the list of things not to be inherited is: the COWARDLY. I mean, you will not think how cowardly compares with murderers.

But before He mentioned murderer, He talks about cowards. Why? - Because being a Coward in God's Economy is more serious.

When God tells you something and you are a Coward: you are afraid, you run from the battle, you give up, you surrender - YOU ARE A COWARD.

... Overcomers are not Cowards!

Somebody say: I AM NOT A COWARD.

Yes, you tell the world - We are ready for battle: We tell our Destiny, we will battle for it. We tell our Assignment, we will battle for it.

... I will not stop battling until I become what God says I would be.

I. If God says I am the Head, I am going to battle to the Headship.

II. If God says he will prosper me, I will battle my way to prosperity.

Don't let poverty knock you down - Poverty may blow you, it may hit you, it may give you Punches; but you must get up!

Because it should never be said that - Here lies a man who was knocked out by Poverty. It knocked his father down, knocked his grandfather down. And finally succeeded against him.

... Minus me, minus my children, minus my children's children - Amen.

As for me and my family, we will fight, because we are not Cowards - Amen.

We would push through because God says it is ours - Amen.

It is my Heritage! And whatever the Lord God says is mine, we will Possess it - Amen.

This morning I came to tell you: You are a Champion; there is a reward for you - Amen.

Yes, life has hit you very HARD. But you are like Rocky - You are coming out, and your Title Belt is in your hand. There may be blood oozing from your nose but you are a Champion!

Somebody say: I AM A CHAMPION. I AM A WINNER. I AM NOT A QUITTER. I AM NOT A COWARD. I DON'T SURRENDER. I DON'T LIE DOWN - I RISE!

Because whatever God has given to me, whatever God has said about me, whatever God has declared about me, whatever God has written about me, I WILL PROCESS IT - Amen.

This morning, I want you in the next three (3) Minutes to do a warfare battle - WARFARE PRAYER.

You are not going to do some Simple Prayer and say - Whatever will happen will happen.

No Que sera sera here!

We are Praying to say: LORD, what you said I will be, today I Stand to Possess it. I Rise to Possess it. I Arise to take it.

Let's Pray now: what God says about your Marriage, what God says about your children, what God says about your business, what God says about His Purposes for you:

Don't give it up! Don't surrender it. Don't throw it away - There are battles all around. There are battles to be fought. There are battles to be won.

In the Name of Jesus, we refuse cowardice! The devil is a liar - You will make it. You will rise again. You will Prosper. The favour of God is upon you!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we Possess our Destiny, we Possess our future. We come out of the Battles. We emerge from the scars of the battle. We emerge with our Title Belt.

CLOSING PRAYER.

And so Lord, in the Name of Jesus: Strengthen the feeble hands, Strengthen the feeble knees that are weak, Strengthen your People Lord.

Train their hands for battle. Teach them how to Profit!

Where they don't know, guide them. What they don't know how to do it, help them to do it.

Speak to them by Night: speak to them in a Dream, speak to them in a Vision, speak to them through the Scriptures - Speak to them!

Guide them Lord by Your Spirit within and show Your People how to Profit, in the Name of Jesus.

And we declare in Agreement with Your Word, that whatever You have given to us - we will POSSESS it, in the Name of Jesus the Son of God - Amen.

Somebody give a Battle to SHOUT - Hallelujah - AMEN!!!



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Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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It is out rightly 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!!!

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## 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 6.



TEXT: LEVITICUS 16:15, 21-22.

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

At the beginning of this Year I started a Series on (our Communion Sundays).

So today, I am doing WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - And this is Part 6 of Words of Our Salvation. And my subtitle is ATONEMENT.

Now, if you remember: in Part 1 we considered the term "BORN AGAIN"; and then we looked at the word "REDEMPTION"; we have looked at "NEW CREATION"; we have looked at "JUSTIFICATION"; and we have looked at "SANCTIFICATION".

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of each of these Parts by clicking on these Links:

#### 1. BORN AGAIN

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

#### 2. REDEMPTION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>



### 3. NEW CREATION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

### 4. JUSTIFICATION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-4-Justification-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

### 5. SANCTIFICATION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-5-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

And today, we are looking at the word: "ATONEMENT".

Atonement is a very Powerful word that you would find in the Scripture.

Atonement basically, is the Process by which two (2) Parties that have been separated or estranged are reconciled or made as one.

So, the word ATONE is an English word - when the word started it was two (2) different words as one. And over time the two (2) words were joined together; Producing the word ATONE.

Atonement basically is bringing People who are separated together.

And in the New Testament sometimes, it is called Reconciliation - Bringing People who were apart together.

But the word is found Primarily in the Old Testament.

... That is the exact word - Atonement.

In the New Testament you don't find the word Atonement; but the idea is very Present in the New Testament.

And so I will go ahead to talk about the three (3) Main Important Ideas that the word Atonement refers to:

1. First, Atonement means "TO COVER" - To cover something.

And when we use it Scripturally, it means when God hides our sin from His sight.

Through the Process of Atonement, God covers our sins; or hides our sin so He that doesn't see it.

... That is the first meaning of Atonement - The covering of Sin.

2. The Second meaning of Atonement means "TO REMOVE".

Not only to Cover, but to remove something.

And that means that God doesn't just cover our sin, but He takes away our sin.

So, in the Process of Atonement, there is a Covering of sin; there is also the Removal of sin.

Two (2) different things happen: The sin is COVERED, and the sin is REMOVED.

3. And the third meaning of Atonement means "To AMEND" or "To MEND".

... When God repairs our relationship with Him.

So as we look at the word Atonement, we should be mindful of these three (3) things:

1. Sin that is Covered.
2. Sin that is Removed.
3. Relationship that is Repaired.

And these are the things that God does for us in the Process of Atonement - It is another word that describes Salvation in Christ.

Sometimes when you listen to Hymns, they would say: "My sins have been atoned for; or Christ has atoned for me; or I have received Atonement for my sin.

Atonement always requires Sacrifice - In the Bible; and in the Old Testament we see it very clearly.

We will look at Atonement in the Old Testament; and then we will later look at Atonement in the New Testament - Especially with Christ.

And if you have read your Bible (and I supposed that we all read our Bible).

If you have read it, you will find that much of the word is used from the Book of Exodus to Leviticus mostly. And sometimes in the Book of Numbers. And later in some of the Prophets, you find the word Atonement used.

There are many ways in which Atonement occurs in the Old Testament. But the height of Atonement in the Old Testament is what happened in what is called the "DAY OF ATONEMENT".

And so I am going to focus on: "The Day Of Atonement in the brief time that I have.

"The Day of Atonement" occurred once - Under the Old Testament it just occurred once. And on that Special Day, Special Sacrifices were made for the sins of the People of Israel.

And the Day of Atonement as recognised and is celebrated in Israel; this Year - The the day fell on the 16th September.

And the Day of Atonement normally falls in September or October.

On the Day of Atonement, a few things happen - And we will just walk through some of them and then I will specify them.

At the beginning of the Day of Atonement, the High Priest is normally the one who celebrates the Day of Atonement.

1. And he has to first atone for his sin because the High Priest is seen not just like the People.

2. So he atones for his sin, does another Sacrifice to atone for the Altar and for the Temple, and the utensils of the Temple, because they have been contaminated by sin. And then, after he has done that, he atones for the sin of the People.

Today, I am going to only focus on his Atonement for the sin of the People.

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At the beginning of the Process of Atonement for the sin of the People, the High Priest will bring two (2) goats, and Present them before the Lord and he will cast a Lot.

Because the two (2) goats would do two (2) different things - One goat will be killed, and the other will be kept alive.

And those two (2) goat talk about two (2) different aspects of our Salvation.

... And I will take time to walk us through that.

1. Let us look at what happens to the first goat that is used on the Day of Atonement - It is what is called the "GOAT OF THE SIN OFFERING".

And it is in Leviticus 16:15, and it says:

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the People, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the Mercy Seat and before the Mercy Seat.

... It is not for the High Priest, not for the Temple; but for the People!

So this goat that was killed, its blood was taken by the High Priest; and the High Priest would go to a Place called "BEYOND THE VEIL".

What does "BEYOND THE VEIL" mean?

Because, in the Old Testament Temple, there was a Place called the Holy Place. And then the Holy of Holies.

Between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, there is a Curtain and that curtain is what is called the Veil.

So the Priest would take the blood, and he will enter the Holy Place.

Now, the Holy Place is the Last Point where everybody gets to; the Holy of Holies you enter it only once and only one Person who can enter the Holy of Holies is the High Priest.

And he can only enter on the Day of Atonement - Outside of that Day, if he enters that Place, he is gone!

... Nobody else enters.

So on the Day of Atonement, he takes the blood of this goat that has been killed, and he goes Beyond the Veil - Into the Holy of Holies and he does it only once.

So, he goes into the Holy of Holies and then applies it to the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant.

... These are very, very important things that happened.

Now what does that mean?

1. First, when the blood of that goat is applied, it covered the sins of the People.

The killing of the goat showed that the Price for sin has been Paid.

Why does that mean - The Price of sin has been Paid?

Because "The wages of sin is death." And since God cannot kill all the People for sinning because if He has to kill them, then everybody must!

Remember, in the Book of Genesis, God said to Adam and Eve - "The day that you eat of this fruit you shall surely die."

When Adam and Eve sinned, they didn't die but an animal was killed because its skin was used as covering for Adam and Eve.

So, God requires that Man should die for his sin. But if He kills the Man, then that is the end of the Story - There is no repentance again.

Instead of the Man dying, somebody dies in the Place of the Man - And in this case, it is the goat!

So, the goat is killed - It showed that the Price of sin has been Paid.

So, its blood is used to cover the Mercy Seat - Showing that the sin of the People (in the time being) has been covered.

... That is the first thing!

2. Secondly, it means that God has been reconciled to the People.

The blood of the goat reconciled the People to God.

Why? - Because that blood is applied to the Mercy Seat; and it means that God now has Mercy over His People.

And now, because the Priest has gone through the veil, it also means the Relationship between God (in the Holy of Holies) and the rest of the People has now been opened.

Because the door to the Holy of Holies has been opened, it brings reconciliation to the People.

So, on the Day of Atonement that is what happened:

1. The first animal is killed, its blood Poured on the Mercy Seat - To show that the sin has been covered.
2. And a way has been opened for Relationship between God (Who dwells in the Holy of Holies) and His People who are outside of the Holy of Holies.

The door has been opened because the Veil has been broken.

... So that is the Second thing that happened on the Day of Atonement of the sin of the People.

Then there is a Second Goat - This Goat is called a SCAPEGOAT.

And in Leviticus 16:21-22, we see the Offering of the Scapegoat; and I want you to Pay Particular attention to this.

It says:

21 Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

So, remember: one goat has been killed! This one is not killed, it is alive. And the reason why it is alive - It is showing us that there are two (2) Sides of Atonement:

1. One required that the Price for sin be Paid - That is why the first animal is killed.
2. The Second Goat required that the sin must be Removed - And that is what the Life Goat stands for.

So, what happens?

The life goat carries the sin of the People - It is not killed; it does not Pay for the Price, it carries it!

And How does that Happen?

The High Priest would lay his two (2) hands on the living goat and confess all the sins of the People; concerning all their sins for the Past one (1) Year.

So, all the sins committed from the beginning of the Year up until that time are confessed - "We were liars, we were thieves, we were Adulterers; we did this, we did that; we cheated, we inflate Prices."

So all of those things are put on the head of that goat.

This goat now represents the People: their sins have now been transferred on this goat - So you can say: "It is now carrying the sin of the People".



The first goat died for the sin of the People; the Second goat carries the sin of the people.

... And it is very important!

Not only does it carry the sin of the People; it removes the sin of the People from God's Presence.

So, when the sin has now been put on this goat, a Suitable Person is chosen. And the Person is asked to carry the goat and take it away from amongst the People; take it away from the Presence of God and from the People.

And so this Person takes this goat which is carrying the sin of the People; leaves the Presence of God (The Temple area), leaves the Habitation of the People (where the People live) and goes to a Place that is Uninhabited.

And when it gets to a Place that is Uninhabited, he releases the goat to go into the wilderness.

That means that: not only has the sin been forgiven; but the sin has been removed from the People and from the midst of the People.

And not only that, it means that God would not see the sin again.

Why? - Because the goat has carried all the sin out of the People.

So, in the Atonement, the sin of the People were forgiven; and the sin was also removed from the People; the People no longer carried sin because it has been removed!

And the Scapegoat - That is where we get the English Phrase: 'Scapegoat'.

When we say somebody is a Scapegoat, it means that he is Punished for something somebody else has done.

And that is the Scapegoat - It carries the sin that it didn't commit; and it is driven out into the wilderness.

Usually when that goat goes into the wilderness, it roams and roams and roams; and maybe a wild animal would find it and devour it.

But the Purpose of it is to remove the sin from The People - And when that happened, Israel will now say: "Our sins have been ATONED for!"

Because it has been forgiven, because it is gone from the Presence of God (covered); God has given us Mercy. And not only that, our sin has been removed from the Presence of God and from us - We no longer carry the sin any longer.

That means the sin that has been forgiven is not still with you - It has been forgiven. But it is not only that, it has been removed!

You know, many times when we talk about sin, we know our sin has been forgiven but we still think we are sinners.

But the Day of Atonement says: "Your sin has been forgiven, you are no longer a sinner".

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Why? - Because the sin has been removed - Not only forgiven, but removed.

Atonement is a Complete Package that FORGIVES sin and REMOVES sin from the People.

... That is the Old Testament!

Now let us come to the New Testament - ATONEMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

How does it Happen?

Atonement is what we call a Type or Shadow of things to come - So whatever is happening to the life goat and sacrificed goat; happened in the New Testament but in another form.

1. The first thing we have to note is that, in the New Testament Jesus is the Lamb.

He represents those goats (both of them).

John 1:35-36 says: Again, the next day, John stood with two of His Disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

... Behold the Lamb of God!

Jesus is Portrayed in the New Testament as the Lamb of God.

So in the New Testament, Atonement is not with goat. But Atonement is through the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ when he offered himself once and for all.

In the New Testament, Atonement is fulfilled in Christ.

Now I want to walk us through a few things that Christ did for us through His Atonement:

1. First, Jesus Cleansed our sins with His Blood.

... Just as it was done to the goat - But this time, to Jesus.

Hebrews 9:11-12 says: 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.

I. Under the Old Testament, the High Priest was the one who entered the Veil and went to the Holy of Holies with the blood of a goat - To make Atonement for the People.

II. In the New Testament, Jesus is the High Priest, and He also entered the Holy of Holies.

But not with something else's blood or another Person's blood but He entered with His Own Blood. He went through the Veil with His Own Blood! And when He took His Blood to the Holy of Holies, He did for us what the goat couldn't do - Because what the goat did survived only for one (1) Year!

But when Jesus entered the Holy of Holies, He didn't Purchased a One-Year Relief; but He gave us what the Bible calls "ETERNAL REDEMPTION".

He doesn't die again, He doesn't Sacrifice Himself again - His Blood has Purchased for us "Eternal Salvation".

That is the first thing Jesus did - His Blood is Superior to the blood of goats and cows. He has forgiven us once and for all.

2. And not only does His Blood cleanse our sin - But just as the Scapegoat carried sin, Jesus also carried our sins.

Not just forgive us, but He carried it. He carried our sins on Himself.

1 Peter 2:24 says: Who Himself bore our sins in His Own Body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for Righteousness; by whose Stripes you were healed.

... I am just excited about it.

In the Old Testament, the High Priest would put his two (2) hands on the goat and confess the sin of the People; transfer the sin of the People to the goat.

In the New Testament, the Father God Himself took our sin and put it on Jesus Christ.

So not only does He forgives our sin; but He takes our sin.

The Bible says: "He made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin."

Jesus carried our sin - Your sin, my sin; was transferred from us and put on Jesus - So He became the Bearer of the sin of the People.

3. And not only did He carry our sin - He took Away our sin.

John 1:29 says: The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

\*... Now why did John say that?

John is thinking about the Scapegoat that takes away the sin of the world. And Jesus Himself also carried our sin and took it away.

So How did Jesus take away our sin?

I. Jesus, like the Scapegoat - Was sacrificed outside of Jerusalem; just like the Scapegoat would be taken away from Jerusalem, and taken out to be left in the wilderness.

II. Jesus was taken OUT - Outside of the City. And when He was leaving the City, He was leaving with the sin of the People; just like the Scapegoat was.

III. And when He was nailed to the Cross, our sin was nailed on the Cross. And God nailed our sins on the Cross.

And that is why Jesus, after all said - IT IS FINISHED!

The sin that has been forgiven has also been removed! When God forgives our sin we don't continue to bear the sin. Why? Because the sin has been removed.

That is why when a Person becomes Born Again, not only does God forgive you of your sin, but He removes our sin - So that we can live in Righteousness. Because if He doesn't remove the sin, we can't live for Him.

... He removes the sin so we can live in Righteousness.

You know, sometimes People say: "As for me, we are all sinners."

I can't understand why somebody will say that because they sin even after being Born Again.

But in the sight of God, when Jesus takes your sin away, God doesn't see you as a sinner; He sees you as the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

"How can God see me as Righteousness when I know I am not Perfect?" - Because on the Cross, my sin (Past, Present and Future) was laid on Jesus Christ. And He carried my sin away and gave me a New Relationship with God. So I can worship Him in Righteousness.

... My sin has been removed; not just forgiven, but removed!

4. And the forth (4th) thing that happens at our Atonement is that Jesus MENDED our Relationship with God.

Colossians 1:19 20 says: For it Pleas'd the Father that in Him all the Fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on Earth or things in Heaven, having made Peace through the Blood of His Cross.

... On the Cross, we were reconciled to God.

The Old Testament Atonement lasted only for one (1) Year; it had warranty for one (1) year. After one (1) year, the warranty expired and it had to be renegotiated.

But on that day when Jesus hung on the Cross, He took our sin, put it upon Himself; Paid for the Price of our sin and also carried away our sin. He purchased something Eternal for us.

And the Bible says: Because of that, God has removed our sin from us - As far as the East is from the West. And that is why God can say: "Your sins and iniquities, I will not remember anymore".

Why does He not Remember it?

Because it was taken away by the 'Scapegoat.' - JESUS Christ became a Scapegoat and took our sin away!

You remember your sin; you remember what you did; you remember all your sins - That is why you can't forgive yourself.

If you could forgive yourself, then there would be no need of a Saviour. All God would have said is: "When you sin, forgive yourself" and you are forgiven.

But the Human Being is not capable of forgiving himself.

Why? - Because we have a Memory! And because you have a Memory, you can't forgive yourself.

Even when you say: 'Okay, I have forgiven myself'; you can't because you will remember what you did last Year about this time!

That is why God doesn't rely on you for forgiveness - He relies on Jesus for forgiveness.

... Jesus Himself CARRIED our sin and TOOK it out of the way!

So although you may remember it in your head; in God's Economy - HE HAS TAKEN IT AWAY.

And that is why we should live by Faith in the Finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ - Hallelujah!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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It is out rightly 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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## 3RD OCTOBER, 2021 – TOPIC: CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 3.



**TEXT: LUKE 12:42-43.**

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

My Message today is on CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 3. And we are answering the question: WHERE SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?

In Part 1: we looked at "WHY do we give to the Lord?"

In Part 2: we looked at "WHAT do we give to God?"

And in this Part 3: we are looking at "WHERE SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?"

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DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 and Part 2 of this Series on this Link:

PART 1:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-1-Why-Do-We-Give-To-God-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

PART 2:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

How do Christians determine where to give their offering?

Can we as Christians decide that: "I have an offering I want to give to the Lord, and I just want to give it anywhere I want?"

Are there Biblical Rules that guide us to determine where to give our Offering?

Luke 12:42-43 (NKJV), Jesus talking about Stewardship says:

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that Faithful and Wise Steward, whom his Master will make ruler over his household, to give them their Portion of food in Due Season?"

43 Blessed is that Servant whom his Master will find so doing when he comes.

... God's Will on Earth is done through His People!

And in this Passage Jesus talks about Stewardship.

And there are two (2) words He used to describe a Good Steward:

1. The first word is FAITHFUL:

A Good Steward is Faithful - A Person who can be relied on.

A Steward is a Reliable Person!

So when we say we are Reliable People, God can rely on us to do the right thing. And it is a very heavy responsibility for God to rely on you.

For example, when God wanted to Minister to Saul; who had just had an encounter with God on the Way to Damascus; He spoke to a Disciple called Ananias.

... Because God relied on Ananias to obey Him; to go and do what He wants Him to do.

Faithful Stewardship is important.

When God gives us an Assignment, He wants us to be Reliable with it.

2. Secondly, the Passage talks about a Steward as WISE.

When He says 'WISE' it means one who is mindful of what he does.

A Wise Steward does what he had been instructed to do.

So when it comes to Christian Stewardship (our GIVING); we have to be Faithful and we have to be Wise Stewards.

We cannot just decide that "I have money, God is blessing me, I am Prospering and I am going to give an offering; and I am going to do it just anyhow."

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... Because we have to be Stewards! And Stewards must be Faithful and Wise - This is very important.

Because, when it comes to Giving an offering, People become very haphazard, and very arbitrary.

They just decide: "This is what I want to do; this is what I feel like doing and I am going to do it any way."

There are two (2) Kinds of Giving that sometimes we confuse ourselves with:

1. The first one is called OFFERING.

An Offering is a Sacrifice made as Worship to God.

So when somebody says he is Giving an offering, it means he is making a Sacrifice to God.

Offerings are given because of our direct Relationship with God. - Note that!

You find in the Old Testament that People give offerings when there is something about their Relationship with God.

Maybe they have sinned and broken Relationship with God and so they give an offering. Or God has done something for them, they give an offering.

Offerings are directly Relational with God; and they are expression of Worship towards God.

And in the Old Testament sometimes it is an animal, it could be grains, Silver, Goods, a Tithe, First Fruit, a Vow, a Thanksgiving offering - There are so many offerings.

So offerings are given directly to God or they affect our direct Relationship with God.

2. The Second one is ALMS.

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Alms are also in the Bible. Alms are not the same as Offerings.

Alms are Acts of Kindness that we show to the Poor.

And God rewards both Offerings and Alms. But Offerings and Alms are not the same.

Sometimes when we give an Offering, we think we are giving Alms and when we give Alms, we think we are giving an offering - No!

They are not the same, yhey are different although they are both Giving.

When you read the Bible from the Law, even to the New Testament; you find Offerings and Alms. And the two (2) are not the same!

And usually, People confuss the two (2) Acts.

Both are important but they are not the same.

Let me illustrate with this Analogy: Let's say a son is very grateful to his father and he says: Oh, my Dad took Good care of me, helped me through School, was there for me, encouraged me, supported me and now I have become somebody, and I want to show gratitude to my father.

And so this son decides to buy a Gift for his father - Maybe he buys the father a Jet (which I won't reject).

Why is he doing that? It is to appreciate the father directly for what he did for him.

That is what I will likened to an Offering because it is a direct Giving to the Father.

Now let's say that this son also says: You know, my father likes his Alma Mater - He went to A, B, C, D Secondary School. And he likes what the school did for him. So I would go to A, B, C, D Secondary School and build a Dormitory.

Now, when he does that, he has still honoured his father. But he has not given directly to his father. He has given to something his father cherishes - That is how I would call Alms!

When you give an offering, you are giving directly to God. When you give Alms, you are giving to something God loves - The Poor and the Needy.

And the two (2) are not the same!

When you read the Bible, you find that Offerings are given in the Temple; Alms are given outside the Temple.

So outside the Temple, there will be People begging for money and People give Alms to them.

But when you go to the Temple, that is where you give Offering.

... The two (2) are not the same!

So, a Christian cannot say: Well, all that God has blessed me with, I am going to give it in an Orphanage.

That is good! That is Alms but you have not directly shown Gratitude to God for what He has done for you.

The two (2) must be done together; but they are not the same.

I hope you see the difference! - There is a difference between an offering and giving Alms. And don't interchange the two (2) because they are not the same.

But for the Purpose of my Message today, I am talking about OFFERINGS - WHERE DO YOU TAKE AN OFFERING?

... And I will do a very short Biblical Study to help us.

So we will look at four (4) instances:

1. The first Offering recorded in the Bible is that of CAIN AND ABEL.

Genesis 4:3 - And in the Process of time it came to Pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the Ground to the Lord.

What this first Offering shows us is that - AN OFFERING IS MADE BEFORE THE LORD

That is the first thing when you are Giving an Offering: that you are Presenting something to God.



Now Cain and Abel knew that God is a Spirit, they knew that God did not live on the Earth - God lives in Heaven!

But something they did here on Earth, they reckoned to be doing to God in spirit and in Heaven. We also know that God is not flesh, and does not live on Earth.

But when we give an offering, just like Cain and Abel; we considered that what we are doing is before the Lord! It is Presented before the Lord.

2. The Second Offering made in the Bible is NOAH'S OFFERING.

Genesis 8:20 - Then Noah built an Altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

... Cain and Abel offered before the Lord!

But if you look at Noah, he took it a step further - He put it on an Altar.

And what does that teach us?

That an Offering Is made in a Place Dedicated to God.

It is before the Lord; but not just before the Lord anyhow because everything is before God. God lives everywhere! We can't run away from God.

So, it is not just about before the Lord. But Noah tells us that there are Places dedicated to God that an offering must go.

So it must be before the Lord. But it must be to a Place Dedicated to God.

3. The Third Offering recorded in the Bible is the OFFERING OF ABRAHAM.

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Genesis 14:18-20 - Then Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the Priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of Heaven and Earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a Tithe of all.

Abraham was the first to be given a Tithe. He was also the first Person to Standing in an Office where God has ordained.

So that what we learned from Abraham is that: An Offering is Received by a Person dedicated to God.

I hope you see the Progression:

I. From Cain and Abel we learn that an offering must be before the Lord.

II. From Noah, we learn that an offering must've in a Place Dedicated to God.

And from Abraham we learn that an Offering must be made through a Person who is Dedicated to God.

So, that is the Principle that emerges from the Bible.

The Priest is not the owner of the Offering - He receives it on God's Altar; in God's Presence, before the Lord. He also becomes a Steward of God's Resources.

So, if you supposedly give an offering, and it doesn't go through these Processes - That is, it is not before the Lord. It is not given in a Place Dedicated to God and it does not go through a Person dedicated to God; You may be doing a nice thing but it is not an offering. It may be kindness. Or Goodness.

... But for it to qualify as an offering, this is the Path that the Bible shows us.

And the last one we will look at (in the Law) is in Deuteronomy 12:13-14.

This is an Instruction that God gave to Israel as they were getting ready to go into the Promised Land.

And I want you to Pay attention to what God says; He actually told them to Pay attention.

Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every Place that you see; but in the Place which the Lord chooses, in one of your Tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.

4. So the fourth Point we learn is that an Offering is made in a manner that GOD approves of.

When you put all these Practices together: it is Presented before the Lord, in a Place dedicated to God, a Man through a Person that is dedicated to God and in a manner that God approves of.

If I am walking by the roadside and I see a Poor Person and I give money to the Person. It is not an offering; Because that Person is not authorized to receive my offering, that Person is not in a Place dedicated to God.

None of those happened! - I would have given Alms to the Poor.

And Yes, God honours Alms.

He says: "He that Gives to the Poor, Gives to Me."

God recognises that!

But don't confuse the two (2).

And there are People who decide that: "All I am going to do is to Give Alms.

Yes, you are like the son who goes to build a Dormitory to honour his father but doesn't honour the father directly.

You must learn to do both the same time and the two are not the same.

If you go to Give to an Orphanage, you have done very well.

Or if you Give to eradicate Malaria in the whole world; you have done very well.

But it is not an Offering. It is Almsgiving; it honours God. God is happy with it. But you haven't done it directly to show your appreciation to Him.

If you are going to Give an offering to show God appreciation, then this is how the Process goes!

When Jesus was on Earth, He did not start the Church - The Church started after Jesus had ascended to Heaven.

Jesus' Ministry was under the Old Testament Laws.

If you read the Gospels, you will find that he went through the Process of the Old Testament Practice - Whether it was Passover, He did it according to what was done. He would go to the Temple to worship and also worship at home.

Jesus then was Worshipping in the Temple and Worshipping at home. He went to the Temple to fulfil God's Righteousness and then He taught His Disciples at home.

After Jesus died, resurrected and ascended to Heaven; the Church began on the Day of Pentecost.

But the Church did not have Temples. So they still go to the Temple and still meet on houses.

You find out that in the beginning of the Book of Acts, that they would go to the Temple, and then they would meet from house to house.

It was whilst they were going to the Temple one day (in Acts 3) that a Man outside of the Temple asked for Alms from the Disciples.

They said: "Silver and Gold we do not have."

And then the Man got healed later on.

But remember, they were going to the Temple! They still worshipped in the Temple and still worshipped at him.

HOW DID THE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS APPLY THIS PRINCIPLE?

... Let's look at the STEWARDSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

How did they Function and Stewards of God's Resources in the absence of a Formal Meeting Place?

Acts 4:34-35; Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were Possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the Proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the Apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Two (2) things we see there from the Early Church:

1. First is that, they Sacrificed what they had.

They went beyond Giving ten Percent (10%). They sold what they had and gave one hundred Percent (100%).

These guys were very radical in their Giving. They were Giving one hundred Percent (100%) while we are still struggling with ten Percent (10%) Giving.

I am always facinated when People say: 'Tlthes is of the Old Testament.'

And I say: "You want New Testament?"

Then it is one hundred Percent (100%).

That is what we see! - They gave everything, but they were very Sacrificial.

2. The Second thing that you note about them is that they submitted to Spiritual Order.

... And the Bible says that 'they laid their Offering at the Apostles' feet.'

Now, why didn't they just give it to other People? - That is, just distributing their money and say: "Well, there are Needy People in the Church, give it to them?"

No! - They understood that Principles of Offering. That it had to be before God; it has to be in a Place that God approves of and it had to be through a Person that has been established in office by God.

They didn't have Priests, they were Levites. They were Apostles! Apostles were the first Officers of the Church.

So, the Christians understand that this same Principles that they had been applying in the Old Testament and under the Law. And now applying it in a different form in the New Testament; they laid the Offering at the Apostles' Feet.

What were they doing?

They were submitting the same Principle - It has to be a Person that God has put in Office, in a Place God has Ordained.

Now, why do I say: 'A Place?'

Well, they did have Temples there but Churches were operating in Homes, as homes became Churches - As far as the home was dedicated as a Place for the gathering of Believers and it was an Approved Place for Offerings to be received.

Just like when we all started, we used to have Church in Classrooms.

From Monday to Friday, they would teach A,B,C,D and Algebra. And then Sundays, we came. And when we come, the Place is now dedicated - It is no longer a classroom; it is a Sanctuary for God's People.

When a Church met in a Hotel, People would do other stuff in the Hotel. But the moment we step foot in that Place, it is dedicated to the Lord. And that Place becomes an Approved Place for the People of the Lord for them to bring their Offerings, Tithes and their Giving.

... I hope you get the Principles! - That is how the Early Church started.

Overtime, the Early Church then built Purpose made Churches. And the Principles continued - The Offerings went to the Church; the Alms, outside the Church.

Offerings INSIDE Church, Alms OUTSIDE the Church. Offerings to GOD - in an Approved Place, through God's Order. Alms - You do it with a Generosity of your heart.

And God told the Israelites: Remember the Poor, the Strangers, the Widows and the Needy. Take Good care of them. It is Part of our Christian Worship.

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But it must never be the Substitute for where you take your Offering because an offering is a direct expression to God - That you Thank Him for what He has done for you.

When you Give Alms, you are still honouring God. But you are doing it because you love what God loves, you love the People God loves - He loves the Needy, those who don't have, those who are Opressed and we must give to them.

And it is Good to go to your Village and build a School - That is Great!

... But that is not an offering. It is an Alms.

As Christians, we must know the difference between Offerings and Almsgiving and you cannot replace one for the other.

A Christian must Give Offerings; a Christian must Give Alms but the two (2) are not the same!

Where do you take your Offering? Not to an Orphanage, not to the Poor Man by the roadside - It has to be brought to Church: In a Place Dedicated to the Glory of God; through a System that God has established in Place. And you must do it with a consciousness that you are doing it before the Lord.

Anytime you come to Church and you Give, you are Giving an offering.

You cannot go out there and say: "Well, I went to Church, I gave an offering. Hence, I won't help anybody again."

Neither can you also say: "I am helping the Poor; I won't Give an offering."

The two (2) are not the same! But both are expression of our Giving and both honour God.

And when we Give our Offerings, there are Special Blessings we can claim; that we can't claim with our Alms.

When He says: "Bring all the Tithes into my House and Prove me now on it"; He doesn't say that concerning Alms - He says it concerning Tithes.

"Honour the Lord with your First Fruit" and He says 'Your barns will overflow with Plenty.' - That is for First Fruit. It is an offering, it is not Alms.

So, there are Specific Blessings Dedicated to Offerings, and then there are Blessings also for those who Give Alms.

If you want the Fullness of God's Blessings through your Stewardship and Giving; then you have to be Faithful in your Offerings and you have to be Faithful in your Almsgiving - Amen!



I hope you got something. And I hope all of you who come to Church, don't come empty handed - Amen!

Because, for some of us, when the Offering Basket is coming, we lift up our head and let it Pass!

I understand when you don't have money and you don't Give an offering. But it is a sin when you have money in abundance, and the Offering Basket come, and you don't give to the Lord.

And you still go to this God and say: Father, I LOVE YOU!

Where is the Love? - "I came Passing in front of you, you didn't Give.

You Love Me with your mouth but your heart is very far from Me."

You have to show your Appreciations to God in your Offerings; and you show your Appreciations to the things that God loves, in your Alms.

And may the Lord help each one of us to be Good Stewards of the Resources He gives us; so we don't throw His money haphazardly and anyhow, as we please - AMEN.

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#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we Thank You that Your Word instructs us to do the Right thing. And Your Word guides us, so that we Please You in all our doings.

So Lord, I Pray that by the sharing of this Word, Your People would become Doers of the Word and not Hearers only!

And as we do Your Word, may the Blessings that You have Promised to follow Obedience of our Offering accrued to us in Good measures, Pressed down, shaken together and running Over.

And let Goodness and Mercy overflow Your People, in Jesus' Name - ÀMEN.

PRAISE THE LORD - HALLELUJAH.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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10TH OCTOBER, 2021 - TOPIC: A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL - PART 1.



TEXT: GENESIS 26:18-22

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I am going to do a three (3) Parts Message this week and the next two (2) weeks; and I have titled my Message: A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL.

For us to be Fruitful in our endeavours, we need to operate in the right atmosphere and in the right Place because there are Places that can limit our Fruitfulness.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus Christ showed us that the Place we are Planted can determine whether we are Fruitful or not - Because the Seed that fell by the wayside and the Seed that fell on Stony Ground and among thorns did not Produce Fruits.

So, the Place we find ourselves and the Place we are Planted is important for our Fruitfulness.

Today, we are going to look at an Old Testament Story - And the Story is about Isaac.

This Story illustrates the Point about the Place of Fruitfulness.

It is important (before I read the Scripture) to note that Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all those People in the Bible who did what we read about lived in the Part of the world that today we call the Middle East.

The Geography of that Part of the world (the Middle East) is very different from where we live.

We live in the Tropics and where we live in the Tropics, rainfall is very normal.

But in the Middle East, it is dry most of the time and so rain is very, very scarce - It was so in the days of Abraham and it is so in the days now in most of the Middle East.

And that is why when you read the Bible, you find that many of God's Promises to Israel referred to water - He Provided water!

Even God said He was going to open the Heavens - It means He was going to give them rain.

And He spoke about the Righteous Man who is Planted by the rivers of water.

So, water and the Promise of water is very central to God's Grace under the Old Testament because the Geography of the Place where the People lived.

The Story we are about to consider is recorded in Genesis 26; and it talks about Isaac living in the land of the Philistines, in a land that is called Gerar. And Isaac moved to another land, because there was drought where he lived.

And that was a very normal Practice in those days - When it didn't rain in your area, you go to another area. Or when the Wells dry in your Part of the world, you go to another Place where you can find water.

So that is what Isaac is doing - He moved to the land of Gerar.

It is interesting also to note that ninety (90) Years before Isaac moved to the land of Gerar, his father Abraham had also gone to the same land of Gerar to build Wells.

So, this circle of draught and looking for water was not new to Isaac - Abraham had gone through the same situation. Isaac went to another land looking for water.

And the reading I am going to focus on is from Genesis 26:18-22 - And it reads:

18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

19 Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.

20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.

21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be Fruitful in the land."

When Isaac went to another land, he went searching for Wells that Abraham had dug. Ninety (90) Years before, Wells that had Provided water for his father Abraham.

Then he realised that the Philistines had stopped those Wells and they were not Producing water. He dug those Wells again, but there is no report that he found water from those Wells.

.... So that which has Produced water in the days of Abraham was not Producing water in the days of Isaac.

Sometimes, things that worked in another Season may not work in another Season; Something that worked for somebody may not work for you.

It Provided water for Abraham. And for Isaac, he dug but there was no water.

So, Isaac moved from there.

And in Genesis 26:7; Isaac moved further down the Valley and started digging.

These were not Abraham's Wells - These were New Wells that Isaac was digging.

He moved further from where Abraham's Wells had been and started digging.

This time, Isaac servants found water!

And you can imagine how they might have felt when they found water. Water was so scarce! It was more Precious than oil.

Of course, there was no Crude Oil at that time but water was so scarce.

It was so important and they dug; there was a gush of water. And they were so excited! But that is when opposition arose.

So, Isaac faced opposition with his first water well.

And so he called the first well Esek - And the word Esek means to fight or struggle.

It is a word that is used to describe those who fight over what you have and struggle with you over it.

... They can't Stand it when you find water!

And Isaac was a Stranger in the land of Gerar - That was not his Natural Place of abode. He wasn't a Citizen there. It was a Philistines' land.

And if you know much about the Bible, the Philistines and Hebrews were always having conflicts.

This is more or less the enemy's Territory. and so the People came and fought over it with him - They knew the King, they had connections.



And when they rose against Isaac, Isaac was no match for them. And Isaac lost this fight! He lost it and he called the Well 'Struggle and fight.'

But you know, Isaac was not discouraged; he moved further and dug another well. And he lost the Second well too.

So he called the name of the second well Sitnah - Sitnah means to lie in wait; to attack.

These People were waiting for him to find water and they Pounced on him and attacked him.

It is very interesting that the "Root Word" for Sitnah is the same "Root Word" for Satan - And it means an Adversary, an Opponent or somebody who opposes you.

... And that is the meaning of Satan - An Adversary.

So, we can say then that this was a satanic attack - They waited for Isaac to do all the hard work and then they Pounced on him, took his wells from him.

So, if you were Isaac, by this time you are beginning to see a Pattern emerged: that you work hard and dig hard, find water, People fight over it and you lose it!

Then you did again and there is water; People fight over it and you lose it.

The Source of it is Satanic attack.

It would seem as if Satan has a Place to frustrate your Success. And he inspires People to contend with you over the things that God open for you.

So far, Isaac is not making success - He is working hard but there is nothing to show for it. He is digging, he is finding water; but he cannot hold on to the water.

But he is not discouraged.

And Isaac moved further and start the game again.

And my own imagination would tell me: Either he moved to a Place that Probably was very dangerous for the Philistines to follow.

That means that he moved deeper into the valley - Further down to a Virgin Territory.

And he dug for water, and this time he found water! - He found a breakthrough.

When Isaac dug for the water, the Place had no name - The Place that he went to dig for water and he got water, had no name!

And he waited for the Philistines to come but no one came. Nobody fought over him with it.

Probably he waited a day, and expected that there will be an attack and there was no attack. He waited for a week, he waited for a month and there was no attack!

So he finally concluded: this is different!

This is not like the two (2) other Wells, this one is different.

So, he called the name of the Place REHOBOTH - And Rehoboth means: "A Wide and Open Place".

It is a very Powerful word - "A Wide and Open Place." - No enemies around, no contention, no Struggle.

God has given us a Wide and Open Place - Because Isaac said: "The Lord has made room for us."

That word that is translated as Rehoboth in the Old Testament, does not only occur in this Passage, it occurs in several other Passages in the Bible.

In Genesis 19: 2, there is a Story there:

When two (2) Angels went to Sodom and Gomorrah to destroy it, Lot was sitting at the Gate of the City. He saw these two (2) Angels, they looked like Human Beings and he said: "Come and abide with me."

The Angels said No! We will not come in, we will dwell in the Open Space.

The word Open Space is Rehoboth - So, Rehoboth means Open Space.

When God told Abraham to walk the Length and the Breadth of the land, the word that is translated the 'Breadth' is the same word that is translated Rehoboth.

Rehoboth is a word that means an Open Space - A Place that has width (It is wide) and It doesn't have Limitations.

Usually in the Bible, that word is used to describe Open Square.

And many times in the Old Testament, that word Rehoboth is used to describe a Place that is Open, a Place that has no Limitation. It is also used to describe the Street - A Place of Access.

When God makes room for you, it is as if He has made a way for you. He has made a Path for you. A Street takes you from one Place to the other. It connects you from one Point to the other.

... So Rehoboth is when God makes a way for you and gives you Access.

What Isaac is saying is: Now, God has given me Access. God has made a way for me.

It is similar so when God makes a way for you and links you to the Right Person; or God gives you Access to something desirable.

The word Rehoboth also means a Street; a Pathway, God's Way!

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Secondly, Rehoboth also means a Plaza.

A Plaza is an Open Square. It is a Place of opportunity. It is a Market Square.

We find out in most of the Modern world we go to a town and there will always be the Open Square.

The Market Square - This is where People gather.

If you go to our Villages, there is always an Open Square.

That is where the Village functions take Place - Chieftaincy Coronation, Church Crusade, Political Rally.

That is Rehoboth. It is an Open Square, it is a Public Space. It is a Place for Trading, a Place where you are able to take what you have to the Market.

And when you find yourself in an Open Space, you can say: "I have found my Rehoboth". It is a watered to Land. It is a land of Opportunity.

And may the lord bring you to your Open-space - Amen.

I am here to talk to somebody: It would seem as if you have struggled and struggled and People have fought you and your Life has been so tight - So much close marking.

But God is bringing you to an Open Field - Amen.

And in that Open Field, He is making a way for you - Amen. And in that Open Space, He is giving you Access to the Marketplace - Amen; to the Place where you can take your Goods to the market and sell it.

Where you have been held back, God is releasing you to the Marketplace - Amen.

Somebody say: I have my Open Space!

When God makes a way for us, He gives us two (2) Things - Access and Opportunity.

Somebody say: Access and Opportunity!.

Now I want you to listen to what Isaac said. Isaac did not say: "The Lord has made room for us therefore we are Fruitful".

... That is not what he said!

He said: "The Lord has made room for us and we shall be Fruitful."

Rehoboth is not the Fruitfulness; Rehoboth gives you the Capacity to be Fruitful.

"WE SHALL BE" - Is in the future Tense.

So Isaac is saying: Previously, I didn't have Access, I didn't have Opportunity; but now God has given me a Space where I can be Fruitful, showcase what I have, where I can put together the things that are in my heart.

Many times in Life, you find out that you have so much Potentials; but no Access, no Opportunity. You have so much capacity, but you can't find the Place to flourish.

May the Lord bring you to the Place where Struggles would cease; fighting would cease; opposition would cease; contenders would cease - Amen

And this time, your wells will remain, to Produce water for you - Amen.

Nobody is going to show up, fighting to take your Wells from you because God is making room for you.

... If you look at what Isaac spoke about, there are two (2) things:

1. First, there is WHAT GOD DOES- He makes room for us.

How did Isaac know God had made Room for him?

Because he looked left, and he looked to the right and he looked ahead, and he looked backwards and he sends spies around; and no Philistines could touch this Well.

Maybe the Philistines looked at this Particular Well and said: Yes, it is water. Where it is, it cannot Produce anything. Maybe they dispersed it, maybe they said: 'It is not even worth fighting over him for it.'

I don't know why but one of these days, God would bring you to a Place; and nobody would be there to fight - Amen.

It could be because they think it has no Potential; it had no Promise. It is nothing. It cannot Produce a thing.

But when God makes room for you, He has made room for you! It may be in a Valley, it may be in the Lowest Part of the Valley, it may be in a Point where you yourself can't even see anybody around.

But God is about to draw the City to you wherever you are instead of you going to the City.

I said - God is about to draw the City to you, instead of you going to where the People are - Amen.

The People are about to follow you to where you are - Amen.

In your Rehoboth, God will make you Fruitful - Amen.

Isaac said: "The Lord has made room for us."

May God make room for you - Amen.

2. The Second thing is: WHAT WE DO.

Isaac said: "We will be Fruitful in the Land."

Rehoboth is an empty space God gives you - It is not a Planted field, it is just Wells of water.

And wells of water is Fruitful. It is not a flourishing field, it is an Empty field.

When God makes room for you, you must be careful not to interpret it as you becoming Fruitful - It is not an Open field.

It is like having an Irrigated Land - Having an Irrigated Land does not mean you have a Fruitful Land.

... It just means that you have a Land that can support Agriculture.

A Rehoboth is Opportunity and Access.

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When God gives it to you, you don't fold your hands and say: "God has made room for us; it is finished."

Isaac said: "The Lord has made room for us, and we shall.."

... It is in the future tense. But we will work towards it - "We shall be Fruitful."

So God does something; and we do something. God's favour requires Man's labour.

When God favours me, I must labour.

You know, I have heard People say: "Favour, not Labour!"

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But that is not the Pattern of the Bible - It is 'Favour and Labour'.

When God favours you, you don't fold your hands; work like crazy!

When God opens a Door for you, you don't just sing and rejoice. You RUN like crazy through the Open Door!

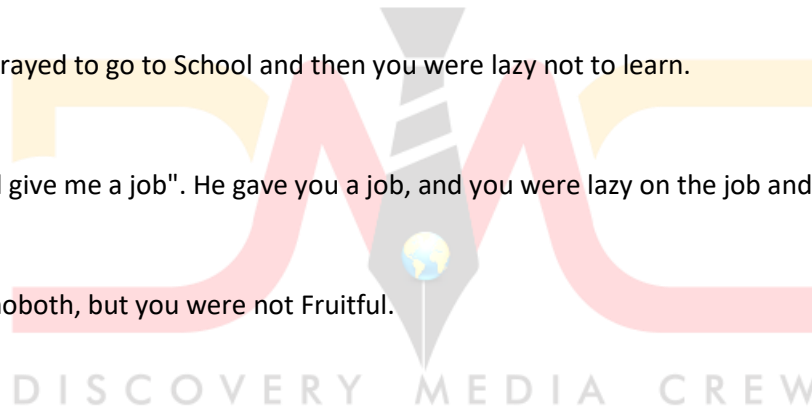
When God gives you access, you don't become lazy!

Many of us, God gives us Rehoboth, we are not Fruitful because we thought that Rehoboth was Fruitfulness.

You Prayed and Prayed to go to School and then you were lazy not to learn.

You Prayed: "God give me a job". He gave you a job, and you were lazy on the job and so you were fired.

You had your Rehoboth, but you were not Fruitful.



God's Favour is a Rehoboth; but to be Fruitful is a Labour - I have to Labour, you have to Labour.

As a Pastor I must Labour in the Scriptures - I can't Pray and say: "God give me a Word and not dig the Scriptures. I have to labour in the Scriptures and I have to Study like crazy;

... Because the Anointing without Labour is frustration.

There are many Anointed Lazy People - They have Rehoboth, but they are not Fruitful because they think Rehoboth is Fruitfulness. It is not Fruitfulness; because that is not the end. You must RUN into it

Somebody say: I will Labour, I will work with Diligence, Persistence, Perseverance, Respirational.



... You must sweat!

Oh yes! I don't believe in Sweatless Victory - I don't see it anywhere in Scripture. You must sweat for it. It is Sweat Equity.

By the time you are successful, you should be Painting that - Thanks be to God that my Labour was not in vain; because God favoured my Labour.

May God give you Rehoboth. And when He gives you Rehoboth, may you Labour like crazy. Work hard to see the Victory that He has given to you.

When God gives us a Rehoboth, we must Plant on the land, God's Presence must be established.

The First thing Isaac did when he saw that nobody was contending with him over the well it that: HE PLANTED AN ALTAR ON THE LAND.

By Planting an Altar on the land, he was planting himself on the land - He was saying because my God has Planted me!

So, he Planted an Altar; Planted himself and then Planted Seed.

And when we Plant, we must Protect what we have Planted because they may not contend with your water; but they may contend with your Fruits.

You must always be on the lookout for Contenders - People who would say: "Leave him alone, we will wait; just when he is about to Harvest, we will go and steal his Harvest".

So, don't just Plant, keep watching. Protect what you have Planted so that your Rehoboth would Produce fruits for you.

I am going to conclude with the Promises that God made to the children of Israel in Zechariah 8:3-5. And this is what God said to them:

“Thus says the Lord: ‘I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of Hosts, The Holy Mountain.’ “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Old Men and old Women shall again sit In the Streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his Staff in his hand. Because of great age. The streets of the City Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.’

Why did He choose these Verses? - Because the Word that is translated 'Street' is Rehoboth.

God says: I am going to give Jerusalem Open spaces. But then He says - The Streets will be filled with old Men, old Women, boys, girls.

There are two (2) things about these Promises of God!

1. First, is the Promise of: A RETURN.

God says: 'I will return.'

There will be a return!

Isaac went to Gerar to dig wells of water. The wells of Abraham did not give him water but God gave him water.



Because, sometimes, what you expect to give you water may not be what will give you water. Because God wants to open something Fresh, something New in your Life.

... Somebody say: THERE WILL BE A RETURN!

2. And the Second thing is: FULLNESS.

He says, the Streets shall be full. Rehoboth is an empty Space. But God folks the empty space with Substance.

DECREES:

May the Lord fill your opportunity!

You will not just have opportunity, but you will have opportunity that is fulfilled.

You will not just have an Open Streets; you will have Open Streets full of People. Empty space - but the Empty space that will be occupied with Products, favour and the Abundance of the Lord.

And I speak that over your Life this Morning; by the Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ; whose you are and whom you serve; you are not in this battle alone; the Lord your God fights for you!

They may contend and win some, they may contend and win here and there but you are entering into a New Season. They will not even show up, because the Lord will make room for you.

And for everybody who has been in contention all these times and everything you have is taking away from you, I decree a Season of Open Fields for you, Open spaces for you, Access for you.

Enter your Plaza. Enter your Market Place. Enter your Open Fields.

In the Name of Jesus, you will return and that which used to be empty would now Produce for you.

And I Decree over your Life, a Season of Fullness. Your Open Spaces shall be full. You will not just be a Person of Potentials; but a Person of Fullness.

I Decree it over your Life, by the Authority of Jehovah God Almighty; He Who opened the door will also fill the Place.

May the Lord cause your Streets to be full of People, may the Lord cause that your Business to be full, may the Lord cause that your Shop to be full, may the Lord cause that your Home to be full, may the Lord cause that your Enterprise to be full.

In the Name of Jesus, you will not live and die with Potentials but you will see fulfillment of Potentials in Life.

And this day, may the Lord Arise on your behalf, and contend with those who contend against you.

May He build a Wall of fire around you - They will not go through the fire.

Even if they imagine to Pursue you, the Lord would hold them back because, this Land is not for them, this Season is not for them, this Place is not for them.

They have done what they could do but thus far they would go and no further; because God would make room for me!

Just lift your hands to God and Pray: LORD, MAKE ROOM FOR ME. Lord, give me Access. May a way for me, bring me to my Open spaces, to my Open Plaza, to my Open Market, to my Open Place Lord.

Make a Way for me Lord! Take me to the Place where I can flourish. Open up Opportunity to flourish, a New Idea that will flourish: Fresh water, fresh Wells, fresh Open Fields are coming to you, in the Name of Jesus.

And Father, we recognise this Season of Open Fields. You have Planted us in a Place of Fruitfulness - Our Rehoboth is come!

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In Jesus' Name - ÀMEN.

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17TH OCTOBER, 2021 - TOPIC: A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL - PART 2.



**TEXT: GENESIS 26:24-25**

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Well I started a Message last week (10th October, 2021) on the Topic: "A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL".

DMC NOTES: Kindly access the Full Text of the Part 1 of the Series on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/A-Place-To-Be-Fruitful-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

Today I am doing the Part 2 today: "A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL".

God wants us to function from a Fruitful Place.

Last Week we focused on Genesis 26, and we looked at the Story of Isaac and we landed on Verse 22.

And we defined Rehoboth as a Wide and Open Place - When God opens a Place for you, He also gives you a Place to be Fruitful.

We also said that Rehoboth means Street - A Place of Access. It is when God makes a Way for you or gives you Access.

We also said that Rehoboth is a Plaza - A Plaza is a Market Place. A Place of Opportunity, where what you have can be put on display.

May God bring you to your Rehoboth - Amen. And may He give you the Grace to be Fruitful - Amen.

Rehoboth is a Waterwd Land - It is a Land of Opportunity. He also said that when God makes room for us He gives us Access and Opportunity.

But we must not confuse Opportunity and Access for Fruitfulness.

It simply means now we have the Capacity and the Space to be Fruitful.

But when God brings us the Rehoboth, we must cultivate the Opportunity that God has for us.

I am going to continue my Studies from the same Genesis 26 - After Isaac had dug these Wells. Remember before, the Philistines with Isaac contended for it, and fought over it, and he lost them.

And then he found this Well called Rehoboth - Which was not taken away from him.

Now Isaac believed that God has given him a Space to operate in.

And God does a couple of things - Two (2) Major things happened after Isaac dug the Well at Rehoboth:

1. The first is that God gave Assurance to Isaac.

God came to Isaac and assured him of His Presence.

In Genesis 26:24-25:

24 And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My Servant Abraham's sake."

25 So he built an Altar there and called on the Name of the Lord, and he Pitched his Tent there; and there Isaac's Servants dug a Well.



This is the Second time that God appeared to Isaac - The first time God appeared to Isaac, he told him in the time of famine not to go to Egypt because Egypt was the Commercial Centre.

... It was the American of those days, where People wanted to go to.

But God warned Isaac and said don't go to where everybody is going, but stay in the Land of Gerar - Stay in this land.

It seemed like this is a wrong instruction because this is the Land where he faced a lot of Oppositions.

And the reason why Isaac kept digging in Gerar was because he believed God had Placed him there.

Although there were also Oppositions.

You know, many times when we are not sure of the Will of God for our lives, we easily move from Place to Place - Change what we are doing, Change our Agenda. We see somebody is doing something and we changed to it as well. And our whole lives are always on the move!

But when we know that God has called us to a Place, then in the midst of Oppositions, we still thrive because the best Place to be is in the Centre of God's Will - It is not in a Country, it is not in a Location; it is the Will of God.

... When you are in the Will of God, you are in the Right Place at the Right Time.

And Isaac kept digging, because he believed that he was in the Right Place.

And when God gave him assurance, He spoke about Two (2) Things:

I. First, He said: I AM WITH YOU.

That is God's Presence! And God's Presence with us is our Source of Protection.

God's Presence was Isaac's Protection.

So People disliked him, People hated him, People fought him but God was with him.

And when God is with you, you are Protected - It doesn't mean there will be no battles but you are Protected.

Was God with Isaac when his Wells were being taken? - YES, God was with him.

Was God with Isaac when he worked without having anything to show for his hard work? - YES, God was with him.

Because God's Presence with us in the Valley or on the Mountaintop - God is with you when you are working hard and have nothing to show; God is with you when People seems to have an advantage over you. God is still with you!

He was with Isaac when People were fighting every efforts he made.

And that is the Lord's Message to Isaac - He was telling Isaac: Don't think, because you are struggling, I have left you.

And I believe God is saying to somebody: Don't think because you are struggling I have left you; don't think because somebody took your Well from you, I have left you - I never left you. I am with you Isaac.

And if your name is not Isaac, God is still with you - Amen.

II. Then the Lord said something else to Isaac. He said: Not only Am I with you, I WILL BLESS YOU.

God's Promise to Isaac - I will bless you.

That is God telling him - I will Provide for you. I am your Provision, I will bless you.

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So God is saying: Isaac, you have been through a lot in your Life. People have not treated you fairly. But from this day watch what I will do. Now you will see the blessing; now you will see the manifestations of my intentions upon you.

So, the Bible says that Isaac built an Altar and built a Tent in Rehoboth.

So that is the first thing God did for Isaac - To let him know that, this is the Place, you will be Fruitful in the Land; this is an Open Door; this is real.

But how do I know it is Rehoboth? - Because God's Presence is with me and God's Promise is with me.

2. Secondly something else happened to Isaac; something of very important consequences - Isaac's opponents came to him, accepted him and allowed him to function in Rehoboth.

Remember earlier, whenever he had a breakthrough, they fought him for it.

But this time, they came to him and they said: 'We give you Space to function in.

And I want you to look at Genesis 26: 26-29 - It says:

26. Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phichol the commander of his army.

27. And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

28. But they said, "We have certainly seen that the Lord is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

29. That you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the Lord.'"

That is a Powerful Testimony! - For Abimelech, Ahuzzath and Phichol to come with these Messages

I. And the first thing they said is: We see the Hand of the Lord is upon you.

They saw God's Hands on Isaac.

How could they know that God was with Isaac? What was the Sign?

Most likely, they didn't expect Isaac to survive.

I am sure that they have given the same treatment they gave to Isaac to other People; and run the People out of town, and the People went broke.

But they did it to Isaac: they took his Wells from him, and kept Pushing him out. And with all the Intents and Purposes, Isaac is supposed to give up and say: 'I give up! I don't think I will thrive here' and then move on.

But the guy kept working and then they saw him blossoming. And the only conclusion they could come to is that - God's Hand is upon him.

I don't know if somebody Pushed you and fought you but you are still fighting. And one of these days, they are going to say: That is the Woman of God, that is the Man of God because they Pushed you, but you didn't fall.

So, this People came and said: 'The Hand of the Lord is upon you.' Because they have observed what had been happening.

II. The Second thing is that they swore an Oath of Peace with Isaac.

Isn't that amazing? - The People who had sworn an Oath of hatred, now swearing an Oath of Peace!

They didn't just make Peace with Isaac, they swore an Oath.

They entered into a Covenant. They wanted this arrangement to be Permanent and they even went to the extent of sugarcoating their earlier actions.

They said to Isaac: We didn't touch you (which is true). They didn't touch him - They just touched his Wells.

Sometimes I don't know whether People have a very Short Memory - The same Person who has been doing you bad says: "Do you remember when I readily used to treat you well and you are my buddy and everything is okay?"

Why are they doing all of these things?

They realised that the man is Blessed and the Tide is about to change. And if they don't repair the relationship, when God's favour began to manifest on Isaac they will be in trouble.

So they said: We Perceived that God is with you. We want to Sign, a Covenant with you - We want to come into Agreement with you, we want to Change the relationship we have had in the Past.

And then they said something very interesting to Isaac - Please don't hurt us, Please don't hate us.

They wanted Isaac to treat them well. They figured the future of Isaac was going to be Great; and they wanted to benefit from that Future.

It is amazing when God opens a door for you and brings you to your Rehoboth - Those who were against you turn for you. And they do it with the same vehemence by which they were against you, the same energy

Because they see the Hand of the Lord upon you.

Maybe you may not see the Hand of God upon yourself. You know, sometimes we go through Life - Oh Life is hard! And we don't even see that People are watching us.

And they watch us and they see us stumble, but we don't fall. You fall into a Pit, you come out. A snake bites you, but you don't swell over. You are thrown into the den of Lions; and the next morning you are saying hello!

And for you, you are saying: 'In my Life is so much pain.' But they are watching. And whilst they watch, they can't figure out why you survived all of those things.

I am here to tell every Survivor - You survived that Marriage, that Pain, you survived that situation and everybody thought you would be destroyed, you would live in tears, you would be retarded. And now you are here, worshipping the Lord.

And you may not count it as much. But somebody is watching you; and their Conclusion is: "The Hand of the Lord is upon them!"

That was not how Isaac saw his Life - That is how Abimelech saw Isaac because:

- A. They took him through Hell, and he came through Heaven.
- B. They gave him Hell, and he Produced Heaven.
- C. They gave him Hardship, and he Produced Breakthrough.
- D. They dug a Pit for him and he jumped over it unto his High Place.

And their only Conclusion is: 'The Hand of the Lord is upon him!'

That will be your Story - Amen.

They will throw everything against you, but you will rise up! And one of these days, somebody will look at you and say: I see the Hand of the Lord upon you - Amen.

God's Hand is upon you because God has favoured you.

After they had done all of that, God had assured Isaac. And the People had also assured Isaac - Isaac is in a Good Place.

Genesis 26:12-14 says:

12. Then Isaac sowed in that Land, and reaped in the same Year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.

13. The Man began to Prosper, and continued Prospering until he became very Prosperous;

14. For he had Possessions of flocks and Possessions of herds and a great number of Servants. So the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:12 occurs before all digging of the Wells - So it would appear as if this happened and they took him out, and then he went to dig the Wells.

But in a Chronological Sequence, Verse 12 comes after!

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And the reason, you would find in that Verses 12-14; If you read Verse 15, it says:

15. Now the Philistines had stopped up all the Wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with Earth.

What the Passage is doing is: It tells us the end and then tells us the Process. It tells us that: Isaac Prospered.

How did he Prospered?

This is how he Prospered - The Philistines had stopped all the Wells and Isaac went digging the Wells. And they took him out, they took his Wells from him.

But God Prospered him and brought him to Rehoboth.

And when he got to Rehoboth, the People came and Signed a Contract with him. After that, Isaac sowed in the Land, and the Lord gave him Abundance!

The sowing in the Land does not come before the digging of the Wells - The digging of the Wells come before the sowing in the Land.

And why is that so? - Because the Land was in famine. And you cannot stay on Dry Land. You have to sow on Irrigated Land.

He had to irrigate the Land with the Wells, before he sowed - So that God could make him Prosperous and he would continue to Prosper.

He had his Rehoboth, which opened the Wells to him. And the People gave him access to water. He dug more Wells and after that, the Man had all the water he needed. And so he started sowing in the Land and the Lord Prospered him.

... We don't sow on Dry Land; we sow on Irrigated Land!

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There are some environment you don't sow your Seed in. Until God has Changed the environment, then you can sow your Seed and you would see the results.

So you can see the Process:

A. Rehoboth, the Lord has made room for us. Therefore, we shall be Fruitful.

B. Did he become Fruitful? - Yes, because Isaac sowed in the Land and it became Fruitful and Prospered abundantly.

C. When God brings you to your Rehoboth, you have to sow a Seed that God has given to you.



Many times, God brings us to a Place, like Isaac - A Rehoboth. He makes a way for us, He brings us to a large Place and everything is working for us. But our Attitude may disturb the outcome.

I am going to look at two (2) responses to Open Fields - When God brings you to an Open Field the two (2) ways you can respond:

1. The First way - If you are Isaac, now you have your Wells of water and you are in Rehoboth.

God says I am with you; the Philistines have said now you are blessed, you can operate.

A. Sometimes you can take that as your Breakthrough: Fold your arms and rejoice.

B. Sometimes, although God has given you the Breakthrough, you may not go out and take advantage of it.

So the First way that sometimes People respond to an Open Field is responding in Laziness.

... God has opened the door, but you are LAZY. And that is not a recommended response.

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Proverbs 26:13 says: The lazy Man (or Woman) says, "There is a Lion in the road! A fierce Lion is in the Streets!"

And just for your Information - The word translated "Street" is the same word from which the "Root of Rehoboth" comes from. The same thing!

Another version of Proverbs 26:13 says: The Lazy Man says, "there is a Lion outside, I shall be slain in the Streets!"

What is wrong with the Lazy Man? - Two (2) Things:

I. First, a Lazy Man makes Excuses.

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He goes to bizzare length to avoid leaving his house; because he says, "there is a Lion in the Streets."

At the time that these Stories were happening in Israel, the Lion will not be roaming in an Open Plaza. In an Israel town you won't find a Lion in an Open Plaza - Lions were in the wild.

But the Lazy Man makes excuses: There is danger, there is trouble, I can't go out. The last time I did it, I was not encouraged. The last time I did, the Lions came after me. The last time I tried to Prosper, People discouraged me.

Enough is enough!

Man came to do some, but the Almighty God came to do ALL.

I have done my Part!

You know, sometimes you hear someone of about thirsty five (35) Years saying: "I have done my Part, I have done my Best.

... At thirty five (35) to fifty (50) Years, you have done your best? What are you going to do with the next forty (40) Years of your Life?

The Lazy Man makes Excuses.

And sometimes, we all make it -

A. You know things are hard, you know, Pull him down Syndrome.

B. You know if you try to rise, your People will Pull you down.

Hey, you can't trust anybody!"

Those are just Excuses!

When God gives you an Open Field, stop making Excuses. Stop hiding behind Proverbs - It is an Open Field, it is your Rehoboth. Don't be lazy!

II. And the Second thing you note about a Lazy Man is that he Exaggerates the Oppositions.

Why do I say he Exaggerates?

If you listened to the Statement in Proverbs 26:13, it starts with 'a Lion' and Progresses to 'a Fierce Lion'.

The Lazy Man starts and Progresses - "There is a Lion in the streets; a Fierce Lion is in the Streets (Laughs)!"

... He magnifies the challenges facing him!

Yes, it was bad! But don't add to it.

Yes, a Lion came, but it wasn't fierce.

Yes, they Pushed you, but the Push was feeble.

Don't go about Magnifying your Problems beyond Measures.

"What I have been through, I would have died. Last week, you would have heard that I am gone!"

... And you are still here, talking about - Last week you would have gone! Why didn't you go (Laughs)?

Stop Exaggerating for Sympathy. Stop telling Stories for People to start Sympathising with you and say, 'Is that so?' And what did you gain?

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Because one of the Problems we have in this Part of the world, we like Sympathy.

The Lazy Man makes Excuses and Exaggerates - Even in their Rehoboth, they make Excuses and Exaggerate.

2. But there is a Second way we can approach this - Not with Laziness, but with Strength.

And my example is from Samson in Judges 14:5-6

5. So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the Vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a Young Lion came roaring against him.

6. And the Spirit of the Lord came Mightily upon him, and he tore the Lion apart as one would have torn apart a Young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

When God brings you to your Open Field and a Lion rises against you, you don't behave like a Lazy Man - Who stays indoors and says there is a Lion in the Streets, a Fierce Lion. You behave like Samson!

And watch what happened when the Lion came against him - The Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

I. If you want to move in Strength, you have to move in the Power of the Spirit.

Samson was in the Vineyard of Timnah when this attack came. But with the attack also came the Empowerment.

So listen to me: When the enemy comes against you, the Spirit of God will come upon you.

The enemy rose up! And the spirit also rose up!

Because, for what the enemy is doing against you, there is an equal Action of the Holy Spirit on your behalf.

Don't just look at those who roar against you, sense the Power that is upon you - When the enemy comes against you, the Spirit of God will come upon you!

II. Then the Second thing we noticed about Samson is that he tore the Opposition apart.

He had no weapon in his hand, but he had a weapon in his Spirit. On the outside he was unarmed; but on the inside he was fully armed for Battle.

I believe there are Lion Slayers here today or reading this Message on the Label of DMC - And God has brought you to your Open Field. And you are a Lion Slayer.

You may hear the roar of the Lion from the outside; but you hear the roar of the Spirit that is resting upon you.

Something on the inside is working on the outside. You have the Grace of God.

I believe there are Lion Slayers here or reading now on the Label of DMC!

And may the Lord cause you to tear apart every Oppositions that is rising against you - Amen.

CLOSING DECREES:

And this Morning, I speak into your Life, into your Destiny, into your Purposes - By the Power of Almighty God whose we are, and Whom you serve:

I don't know those who Pushed you outside and those who said you will not open Wells in this Place.

The Lord will turn their heart towards you; and one of these days, they are going to come back to you and say: 'But we didn't do you any harm; but we didn't hurt you.'

Because, the Blessings of the Lord is coming upon you!

I say the Blessings of the Lord is coming upon you - Your Story is turning and it is Changing. And the Spirit of the Lord is coming upon you.

And that which roars against you, the Lord will cause you to roar against it!

And may you receive Strength to tear apart every Plans, every Manuever, every Activities, every Orchestrations, every Devices, every Forces.

Every Demonic Activities, you will tear it apart and tear it apart, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

Although you may have no Weapon in your hands, you have a Weapon in your Spirit - For the Weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are Mighty through God.

And today, you are going to tear apart every Lions!

And I like how the Bible puts it - It says: Samson tore it apart like a Young Goat.

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A Lazy Man says: There is a Lion; Samson says 'come on Lion!'

The Lazy Man says: 'I will not go face a Lion.' But Samson, with the Strength of the Lord - tears apart a Lion!

Put your hand upon your head and say: Spirit of God, Come upon me, Empower me, Anoint me with Strength, with Power.

In my Rehoboth, Nothing will Stand in my Way!

I declared today: No weapon of the enemy woul succeed against me!

From today, I rise to Slay the lions in my Open Fields!

In this Season, I would Plant, I would Build, I would Harvest, in Jesus' Name - 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!

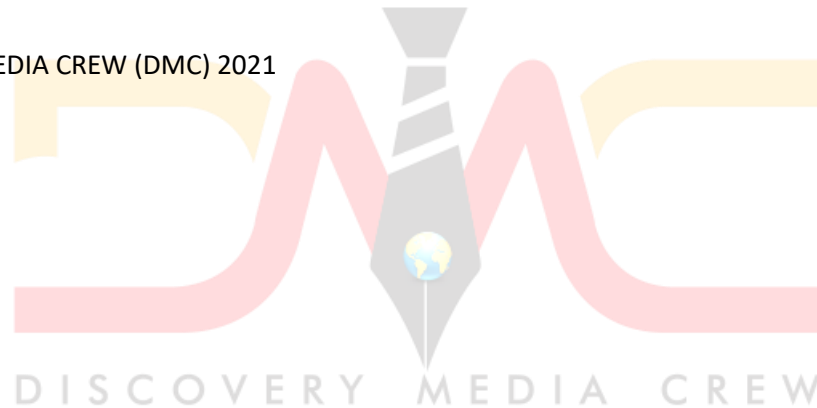
It is out rightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

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24TH OCTOBER, 2021 - TOPIC: A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL - PART 3.



TEXT: ZECHARIAH 8:12

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today, I will go back to the Book of Zechariah 8:4-5, and I would do a Third Part to my Message - A Place to be Fruitful. So this would be: A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL - PART 3.

... And that would conclude the Series.

A PLACE TO BE FRUITFUL - PART 3.

We talked about Rehoboth in Part 1 and 2. But we are shifting gear a little; and we are going to the Book of Zechariah 8:12. And this is what it says:

'For the seed shall be Prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the Ground shall give her Increase, and the Heavens shall give their dew— I will cause the remnant of this People To Possess all these.

Zechariah was a very important Prophet to Judah. He and another Prophet called Haggai, were raised by God after Israel returned from Captivity in Babylon and Persia.

And they came to build what is called: "A Second Temple."

The first Temple of Israel was built by Solomon - You remembered, David wanted to build it, and God appointed Solomon to build it.

... That was the first Temple that was built!

But that Temple was broken down and destroyed, when Babylon came to conquer Judah.

So the whole Temple was brought down and the items of Temple were all taken away from the Temple.

Now, after seventy (70) years of Captivity, the People have come back to the land, and they want to build a new Temple in Jerusalem.

And this is what much of the Books of Zechariah and Haggai talked about.

Because Haggai and Zechariah were the Prophets that God used to encourage the People to build the Second Temple.

The Project of the rebuilding of the Temple was led by the Governor of Judah called Zerubbabel and the High Priest at that time was called Joshua.

And so, what we read is a Prophecy about the Temple to a large extent; through the Prophet Zechariah. Although Zechariah Prophesied about the Temple;

Much of what he said about the Temple was not about the Temple - They were building at the time! But the coming of the True Temple - Jesus Christ.

And so in the Prophecies of Zechariah, you find Part of it related to the time when they were building the Temple and Part of it speaks about the future - The Coming of Christ; and even to the Second Coming of Christ. Zechariah's Prophecies are very Profound.

In this Particular one that we read in Zechariah 8:12; this Prophecy is situated between two (2) Eras - The Era of disaster because they have seen disaster; everything has been destroyed. And then they are looking forward to the Future with hope.

And Zechariah is Positioning what he is seeing within this time, from disaster to reconstruction. And in-between disaster and reconstruction, he is speaking.

I don't know about you: But maybe you may also be standing somewhere between disaster and reconstruction - Your Past is disaster; your Future is bright but God is giving you a Word for this Season: This Place where you are - Between disaster and reconstruction.

So Zechariah speaks to them and said: God says to them, that the seas shall be Prosperous, the Vine shall give its fruit, the Ground shall give her Increase, and the Heavens shall give their dew.

Now I would Place what Zechariah said within a Logical Sequence - So we look at God's Promises to the People.

There are Four (4) Things that God Promised them:

1. The First one is that the Heavens shall give their dew.

And that is very Instructive - God says I'm going to give you dew!

We normally see the dew at dawn, when temperature changes from hot to cold - And then there is moisture in the air and then we have this little droplets of water.

In the Middle East, dew was very important because most times they don't have rain!

And God says to the People: I will give you dew.

Dew is not like rain that comes in large volumes - Dew comes one ton at a time!

So when you receive dew this morning, it will not saturate the whole Earth, as rain does.

So the next morning, you need another dew. And the next morning, you need another dew!

It talks about God's Mercies that are renewed for us every Morning.

Every morning you go and there will be something for you.

It is like the manna that God gave to the Israelites, in the wilderness.

You don't have everything you need for all time. But He says, every morning the Heavens will give you dew.

I believe that God has a way of giving us droplet of His Mercy, of His Goodness of His Favour, of His Abundance in small supplies every morning.

And that is what He tells the People of Judah - The dew shall fall every morning, the Heavens will give the dew.

2. Secondly, God spoke about the GROUND.

He says, the Ground shall give her Increase.

A dry land does not support Increase but the land that had a touch of dew has enough water for the day, to survive.

And so God says: Everyday, when the dew falls, your Ground shall be Ministered to.

The Ground talks about the environment - The Place where you are.

You know there are many times we want God to give us rain. And there are times when God gives us rain, when it rains, the Ground soaked and you can tell that there has been a Visitation.

But when there is dew, you can't tell whether there has been a Visitation or not.

You know, there are many times when you get up in the morning; and you walk to your compound or wherever you live; and you look to the Ground and you see the Ground is damp. And you wondered - Did it rain or did it not rain?

Normally what you see is dew. It is a Visitation, but it is not overwhelming but it still touches the Ground.

So God says to Judah: "I will give you the dew and the dew shall make your Ground yield its Increase.

When God gives you dew, you may not see Abundance all of a sudden but your Ground would not be dry. Your Ground would receive the Ministration of the dew of Heaven.

3. The third thing is that your Seed shall be PROSPEROUS.

It's an interesting Statement: "The seed shall be Prosperous."

That is to say: I am going to give you dew, and when I give you dew, on your Ground; when you sow your Seed, your Seed shall be Prosperous.

The reason why I said that Statement is interesting, is that when you read it in the Hebrew, it is a little interesting. Because the word that is translated 'Prosperous' - The seed shall be Prosperous, is SHALOM (Peace).

If you were to read it literally, it means - The Seed would be Peaceful.

What does it mean when it says your Seed would be Peaceful?

A Peaceful Seed - It is almost like you sow tomatoes on the Ground and the tomatoes is Peaceful.

But the Translators translated SHALOM as Prosperity - Prosperous, or Fruitful.

Why did they translate it as Prosperous?

Because Shalom also includes Prosperity.

But there is a deeper reason for that!

At that time when the People of Judah came back to their land from Babylon, there were all kinds of People around, who had been occupiers of the land, whilst they were away!

... When they came back, these People were not happy that the Original land owners have come.

So anytime they sowed their fields, these enemies around would come and fight them and destroy the Seed - And so they Plant their Seed, People would fight them and destroy the Seed. Their fields start growing, People would fight them and destroy it.

... There was constant war.

But that is when Zechariah comes in.

And God says: 'In this Season, I am doing something Special for you.'



And He says: Your Seed that falls to the Ground will no longer be fought over; it will be Prosperous.

If you look at it, God is saying: I have brought you to a Season, I have given you dew, I have given your land moisture, and your Seed will not be fought over, your efforts will not be fought over. Nobody will steal from you that which is yours. And the Seed would be allowed to flourish.

"Your Seed shall be Prosperous." - That is the Third Promise.

4. The fourth Promise God gave to them says: The Vine shall YIELD its Fruits.

"The Vine shall be Fruitful".

When you do a casual reading, you will think that the Vine being Fruitful is the same thing as the Seed being Prosperous.

But they are not the same!

The Vine would be Fruitful, the Seed will be Prosperous - The reason is: The Vine is not Planted as a Seed.

If you know anything about the Vine, you don't Plant a Seed - You Plant a cutting (a Stem), put it in the Ground.

The Previous Message - "The Seed shall be Prosperous" is not for the Vine.

Because 'Prosperous' is not for the Vine. Because the Vine is not for the Seed.

But now God speaks to the Vine and says: In addition to the Seed being Prosperous, the Vine would also be Fruitful.

... Two different things!

What is the difference?

The Seed there, refers to the grains that they Planted - Like wheat, like barley. These are things you Plant.

And as we do in Ghana, you Plant corn, three (3) Months later you reap. But the vine, you don't Plant and reap in three (3) Months.

The Seed being Prosperous means the grain - Your short term efforts would be Prosperous. And your long term efforts - The Vine would also be Fruitful.



God is saying to them: In the short term and in the long term, I will bless your work! What you sow today, in three (3) Months, I will give you results.

But there are things you sow today, in three (3) Months you will not get results, because it is vine. And you will see the results maybe a Year to ten (10) Years from now.

And the difference between the grain and the Vine is that: For the grain, when you harvest, you destroy the Plant. But when the vine is harvested, the Plant still remains and Season after Season, you keep Reaping.

So God is saying to Judah - In-between your disaster and your Fruitfulness; I am affecting your environment.

How am I affecting your encouragement?

I am giving you dew from Heaven; I am touching your land, I am touching your Seed, and I am touching your Vine.

I don't know about you but it seems like a good word for somebody listening to me or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC: That in-between disaster and Fruitfulness and abundance; God is touching the weather, the environment, your Seed and your Vine. And all along, a Chain of Fruitfulness is coming your way - Amen!

WHOM DID GOD SPEAK TO?

... Who was the target of this Prophecy?

If you read the Passage (Zechariah 8:12) it says: For the Seed shall be Prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the Ground shall give her Increase, and the Heavens shall give their dew— I will cause the remnant of this People to Possess all these.

So who is target of God's Promises?

And the target of God's Promises in the Prophecy of Zechariah is stated clearly: "The remnant."

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This Promise is to the remnant of God's People - They are the ones God is speaking to (The Remnant)!

Frequently, in the Prophecies that God gave to Judah, before they went into Captivity and after they came out of Captivity; there is mentioned of the remnant.

If you are a good Student of your Bible, you would have come across the word 'REMNANT' - It is a very Powerful word.

Isaiah and all other Prophets of Old spoke about the Remnant.

So who are the Remnant? - Because this Prophecy is for the Remnant. It is not for everybody, it is for the Remnant.

And what does the term REMNANT mean?

1. First, it means those who have survived a disaster.

Those that God has Preserved through the fire and through the storm.

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The remnant in Israel, referred to those who survived the Years of Captivity.

Some were carried away as children into Captivity and returned after Old age back to their land.

Others were born into Captivity and had suffered from birth to their return.

Each one of them bore marks of Survival.

The Remnant are those who have gone through trials and tribulations; and survived.

By implication: It speaks to everybody who has survived trial and tribulation.

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You went through the fire, storm, hardship. You were buried underground. But you are still here. That is the Remnant - Those who have survived.

2. Secondly, the word Remnant also refers to those who were left behind.

Normally in the Bible, it is used for leftovers after a meal.

So when the Meal has been eaten, what drops - That is the remnant.

So the Remnant therefore, refers to People who were leftover - The leftover!

It is similar to images we see of People who have survived the war.

If you have watched some of the Documentaries of those who survived the Holocaust of the Jews in Nazi Germany - You see those Pictures of the People. It looks like Life left them behind.

They have survived; but you look at them; they are emaciated, their bones are showing through their skin, their eyes are hollow, their clothes are in rags.

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... Looks like they have been left behind.

They survived, but they are left behind!

Life has Passed them.

We see that, when we look at Refugees of war - You look at them and you wonder: Can they ever make it?

When God talks about Remnant, He is talking about People who went through disaster.

But when you see them, they look like leftover human beings - People who have been abandoned, leftover!

On the outside, they seem like leftover People but on the inside, they are not leftover People - They are overcomers but their image is not inspiring.

So God speaks to the Remnant; those who have survived - And sometimes when you survive Tragedies, People look at you and shake their head and say: "When you see him, you will cry."

It looks like you have been leftover!

It is to those People that God says: The Heavens will give their dew, your Ground will yield its Increase, your Seed shall Prosper and your Vine shall be Fruitful.

I am talking to a Remnant People - You have gone through the fire, the storm, hardship. People look at you and shake their head. They think you have been left over. You are the leftover; the dreg of the Society.

But God has not forgotten the Remnant and His Promise is to the Remnant.

3. Then the third thing that qualifies People as Remnant, refers to those who have remained Faithful to God.

The Remnant didn't just survive the war; but their Faith survived - They went through hardship, but they didn't abandon God.

They are like the three (3) Hebrew Children (Remnant) who said: We will not bow.

So if you went through the storm, you don't look too good now. But your Faith in God remains strong - Then God has a Word for you; God has a Promise for you.

You may look disheveled, People may think your best days are over, Time has left you. Opportunity has leftover People of this Earth. But God says to you: "They left you, but I never left you."

And he says: The Heavens will give their dew, your Ground will yield its Increase, your Seed shall Prosper, your Vine shall be Fruitful.

I am encouraging somebody here this Morning: God did not leave you, He did not abandon you. You went through the fire, you were singed! We can smell fire on you, we can even smell failure around you but God's Mercy has never left you and you are not leftover People, you are not leftover food, you are not the abandoned of the Lord - You are the Redeemed of the Lord and His Promise to you is sure and it will come to Pass.

If you are the Remnant, say: 'I RECEIVE IT.'

And I like how Zechariah says it - God says, I will cause the remnant of this People to Possess all these Blessing.

... I will cause it!

That means that God would be the Instigator, the Originator, and the Promoter of the Welfare of His People - "I will cause it, I will instigate it, I will originate it, I will Promote it".



HOW DOES THE LORD CAUSE US TO POSSESS ALL OF THESE THINGS?

When He says: "I will cause this to happen". How does He do it? How does He cause it? - Four (4) Things:

1. When God says He will cause you to inherit something, He makes Provision for it.

He makes them available to us, He sets it up, He moves all things to align with His Purposes.

When God wants you to Possess something, He makes it available in the realm of the Spirit and in the realm of the Natural.

2. Secondly, after He had made it available, He Promises to do it.

He makes us to be aware of it - Just like I am Preaching to you from the Bible. It's the Promises of God, concerning what He has already laid in Store.

In the Bible, we discovered the things that God has made available to us. In addition, the Holy Spirit bears Witness with our Spirit, concerning the things that God has laid in Store for us.

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of Man the things which God has Prepared for those who love Him" - 1 Corinthians 2:9

But the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God reveals them to us - The Holy Spirit bears Witness with our Spirit.

3. Thirdly, when God wants us to Possess something, He makes us Pursue.

He gives us a zeal for them, He gives us appetite for those things, He turns our heart towards them and the Holy Spirit trigger a Prayer burden for those things.

We find our Prayer Pointing more and more in a Particular direction. And as you Pray in the Spirit, your Mind and thought turn in that direction.

And in addition to Prayer, He gives you the Strength to work towards those things that He has laid before you.

And that is what happened to Israel - When they wanted to build the Temple, they didn't have money, they didn't have anything. But their heart desires, their Passion was to build because God laid that burden upon them.

In your moment of recovery, consider the things that God has given you the zeal for.

4. And not only does God make us Pursue them, He Performs what He has Promised.

... And this is the last Stage of the Process.

This is when we Possess what God has made available to us.

This Morning, I came to speak to everyone who feels like a Remnant, who feels they have been through the worse case and the Seasons of their lives. And even when you survived it, you don't look like one because you are the Remnant; you are like a leftover something. But your Faith in God has remained and from back from the words of the Prophet Zechariah, we can bring this Promise of God to us.

And finally, in Zechariah 8:13; And it shall come to Pass that just as you were a curse among the Nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be Strong.'

The curse will be overturned - Amen, Deliverance will come from the Lord - Amen and you will be a Blessing to the world - Amen.

Your Story would end on the note of a Blessing - People will hear of you and say: What a Testimony, what a Story. We never knew that this is what you went through but see what God has done for you.

People would come to you and say: Please, Pray for us, so we would also go through our Storm and overcome.

Because God says, in the end you will be a Blessing to many People.

This Morning, just before I close, I want us to spend a few Minutes Praying - We want to Pray:

And if you feel any Part of this Message resonated with you; you believe God spoke to you this Morning, I just want us to join us in this Prayer:

PRAYER SESSION.

1. The first Prayer is to Pray that God will make us remain Strong in Faith; through every Trials and Tribulations.

Pray and say: Lord Strengthen me with Might in my Spirit.

Just talk to the Lord.

2. Secondly, I want you to Pray and ask the Lord to lead you to the Specific areas He wants for you - Specific Promises.

And ask Him to open your heart to the things that He has laid in store for you.

There is a Blessing that God has reserved for you in this Season of Restoration.

Just Pray to the Lord.

3. I want us to Pray: Lord, I receive the dew of Heaven over my life. Refresh my soul with Your Presence. Show me Your Favour.

May the dew of Heaven fall upon you this Morning and every Morning.

May you wake up with the Dew of Heaven, Goodness of the Lord, Fresh ideas, Fresh ideas, Inspectional Thoughts.

The dew of Heaven would water you!

Just Pray to the Lord.

4. A finally, I want you to Pray and ask the Lord to Bless your Sweat and your Toil. And cause your Ground to give its Increase and cause your Seed to Prosper and cause your Vine to be Fruitful.



There are the things you have done in a Short Term, that you will see quick results with.

But there are also things that God has Planned into your Vine; it will not happen today but it will happen tomorrow.

So you are Praying both for the Seed to Prosper and the Vine to bear Fruit.

Begin to talk to the Lord!

In the Name of Jesus!

And finally, if any Part of this Message - About "A PLACE FO BE FRUITFUL" resonated with you, and you believe: "This Part is for me." Just put your hands upon your heart.

I want to come into Agreement with you.

At the Point if Agreement; at the Point where you just felt, God has spoken to me, this word is for this Particular Promise is mine.

At that Point, I want to come into Agreement with you.

... As your Pastor, I come into Agreement with you:

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, I come into Agreement with every Man, every Woman, every boy, every girl; whose Spirit resonated with your Word.

Just as the baby leaped in the womb of Elizabeth at the salutation of Mary; their Spirit leaped in them at the salutation of Your Word.

Father, for that Point of recognition in their Spirit, you ignited the fire of the Spirit.

And Lord I come into Agreement with them concerning that area of Agreement, that there would be a Performance; that there would be a Manifestation.

If it is Seed that is short term manifested, If it is Vine that is long term manifested.

But Lord in their Rehoboth - In their Place of Favour, where You are making room for them; cause every Remnant to walk in Your Power, to walk on Your Glory, to walk on Your Prosperity, to walk on Your Fruitfulness.

Let there be a Turnaround, let there be a Change. Let the dew of Heaven fall O Lord, in the Name of Jesus!

I come into full Agreement with you, that you would have a Testimony! That you will be a Blessing. The Lord would bring you out before the Year ends.

Before the Year ends, your Seed shall Prosper; before the Year ends, your Vine shall yield her fruits.

And I come into full Agreement, that from now, to end of the Year, you would experience "Sequences of Supernatural Activities" in your Life; that would overturn what the enemy has done in your life.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Give God Praise.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

31ST OCTOBER, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 7.



TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:9; ROMANS 10:1-3

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

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Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I am continuing with our Series on: "WORDS OF OUR SALVATION." And this is PART 7 - And I am dealing with the Sub-title: "RIGHTEOUSNESS".

In Part 1 (if you remember) we considered the Term BORN AGAIN; then we looked at REDEMPTION, NEW CREATION, JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION. Last Month we looked at ATONEMENT.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of each of the 6 Previous Series on this Link:

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#### 1. BORN AGAIN

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

#### 2. REDEMPTION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

#### 3. NEW CREATION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

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#### 4. JUSTIFICATION

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-4-Justification-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

#### 5. SANCTIFICATION

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#### 6. ATONEMENT

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-6-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

... And today we are look at RIGHTEOUSNESS.

These are very important Topics relating to our Salvation. And it is important as Christians for us to be very grounded in our Faith.

That we do not just believe God for Breakthroughs and Miracles but we know the Foundation on which God Ministers to us and blesses us.

And RIGHTEOUSNESS is one of those.

Let's start with the question: WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS? What does it mean?

It means many things; but I am just going to use two (2) different definitions to explain what Righteousness means:

1. It means: To be examined by God and found to be right or found to be in order.

When we say that a Person is Righteous, it means that he has met God's Standard - God has examined that Person and Pronounced him right or in order.

So Righteousness is very important - It is similar to what happened in the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, when a Sacrifice was to be made, the animal would be Presented to the Priest. And the Priest had to examine the animal because God had specifications for animals that were brought for Sacrifice - The Age, the size, how it looked.

The Priest would start checking from the head; if it didn't have to have a spot, he has to look everywhere, and ensure that there is no spot. If it had to be in a certain shape, the Priest would then examined every Part of the animal.

And if he didn't find any blemish, he would say: "This animal is fit to be sacrificed."

In other words, it has met the Standard.

And that is what Righteousness is - God examines us and then He says: You are Good! You have met the Standard.

That is the first Definition of Righteousness.

And it makes Righteousness both Spiritual and Legal - It meets a certain Standard.

2. Secondly, Righteousness means to be in a Right Relationship with God.

That means that Righteousness allows us to Stand before God without Him condemning us or without we condemning ourselves.

When we Stand before God in Righteousness, He does not condemn us and we don't condemn ourselves.

You find that many times in the Old Testament, People were afraid of the Presence of God because they were 'UNFIT.'

Without Righteousness, when we Stand before the Lord, we Stand in fear, and we Stand in shame - Just like Adam and Eve, when they had sinned. They were hiding from the Presence of the Lord and were hiding from God.

\*Because without Righteousness, the Presence of God becomes Terrifying, the Presence of God becomes a Fearful Place.

But when we are Righteous, we come before God without fear.

These are just two (2) Definitions of Righteousness - They don't cover the whole breadth of Righteousness but it keeps you sufficient.

Righteousness means that God examines us and Passes us or that we have Right Standing before God.

Righteousness is very high!

And ordinarily, none of us would be examined before God and God would Pass us because all of us have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.

When God starts examining you, He examines your thoughts, your intentions, things you have done, things you haven't done, things you should have done, things you shouldn't have done, Omission, Commission.

What He is looking for is so much! That somewhere He would find fault with you.

So, Righteousness is a Standard that is very difficult to attend to - Almost impossible to attend to by ourselves but that is the Standard.

This is God's level, and He examines us by His Standards. And in our own right, we cannot fulfill Righteousness.

... That leads me to my Second important Point that:

THERE ARE TWO (2) KINDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE BIBLE.

Especially in the New Testament - Two (2) Kinds of Righteousness.

And I will explain them very soon.

But let's read two (2) Verses that will help us to see these two (2) ways of Attaining to Righteousness.

The first one is in Philippians 3:9; and if you know anything about Philippians Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul talks about all his credentials and said that they amounted to nothing.

And then the Second one is in Romans 10:1-3.

Philippians 3:9 -

And be found in Him, not having my own Righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through Faith in Christ, the Righteousness which is from God by faith;

Note these Phrases - 'my Own Righteousness' and 'Righteousness which is from God.'

Romans 10:1-3:

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and Prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's Righteousness, and seeking to establish their own Righteousness, have not submitted to the Righteousness of God.



Once again, Note these Phrases - 'God's Righteousness' and 'their own Righteousness'.

So if you look at the above Passages, there are Two (2) Kinds of Righteousness that Apostle Paul talks about.

1. The first kind of Righteousness that he talks about - OUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS'.

It is a Relationship with God based on our own Good Works.

We know that God's Standard of Righteousness is so high. And we say well, we are going to meet God's Standard. And we are going to do it by trying our Possible best - By doing our best.

And so our own Righteousness is when we want to relate with God based on our Own Good works. And so, Paul says to some of the early Believers, that they will still try to establish their Own Righteousness'.

And the reason why People want to establish their own Righteousness is because they want to have a Righteousness and brag about it. And say, look at me, I am this, I am that. I have done this, and I have fulfilled God's Standard. God's Standard is High, but I have met it.

.... So, it is a Righteousness that is based on our own efforts.

And Paul calls those who are seeking their own Righteousness, as 'Pursuing with the Zeal without knowledge.'

They are Zealous about it, they are eager to be Good People; but they are Ignorant People.

Trying to establish your own Righteousness, is a Sign of Spiritual Ignorance - It is Zeal without knowledge.

Zeal without knowledge is a fervent desire amongst the Jews, to obey the Law.

That is the kind of Jew that Paul was until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus - He had zeal to do the right thing but he was not knowledgeable.

Paul says, that lack of Knowledge is that - We are ignorant of God's Righteousness (which I will talk about pretty soon).

But this is how Paul identified himself in Philippians 4:5-7.

He says: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the Tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, Persecuting the Church; concerning the Righteousness which is in the Law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Our own Righteousness, no matter how hard we try; no matter how blameless we live our lives - You know there are People who go through Life saying: "As for me I don't want to hate anybody; I don't want to offend anybody; I want to live a Perfect Life."

It's great to desire to have Zeal to be a Perfect Person but the Bible calls it 'Zeal without knowledge'. Ignorant, Zealous Christians - You are Zealous, you are doing your best but it is Ignorant.

Why is it Ignorant?

Because God has offered a way for us to the Righteous. And that is the Second kind of Righteousness the Bible talks about:

## 2.. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

A Relationship with God, based on Faith in Christ Jesus.

This Righteousness does not come from us, it comes from God. He gives it to us, not because we have tried so hard; but because He has done everything for us.

... So we have our own Righteousness and God's own Righteousness.

Our own Righteousness is our efforts to Please God. God's own Righteousness is God's Grace reaching to us and we receive it as a Gift from God.

The Righteousness of God is not Earned; it is Received - He initiates the Process, He offers it to us and all we do is receive it by Faith.

That is why in the New Testament, Righteousness is not an Accomplishment; Righteousness is a Gift. It is not a Reward - IT'S A GIFT.

Salvation makes us Righteousness but Righteousness doesn't mean that all of a sudden you become a Perfect Person (which you know you are not).

That Righteousness is not Based on you; it is based on God and what Jesus Christ did for us.

That Foundation must be drummed in our head because if we don't do that, we have Zeal for God, but without Knowledge.

Sometimes when you hear Christians talk about who is Acceptable to God and who is not Acceptable to God; they judge it based on so many things:

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You know, many times they hit the Women - "Look at the hair style. Did you see her finger nails? Do you think with these finger nails you will go to Heaven? Look at your face, you have Painted your face colours, you will not go to Heaven."

It is Zeal, but without knowledge. Because we don't go to Heaven based on our hairstyle or finger Paint.

We go to Heaven only on one basis alone - The Grace of God! What Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the Cross of Calvary. And we have received this, freely given to us! And that is what makes us Righteous.

When Preachers Preach and are hitting hard on People's behaviour. And the People say: 'Hit it again!' And we hit at People - You are this, you are that; you have done this and that. And look at your dress, hair, nails, and look at that! Do you think God will love you?

You may say that is not modest; you may say that it is inappropriate; you may say that it is not a Good example but you can never use that as the basis of Righteousness.

That is what we call Zeal without Knowledge - And there is a lot of Zealous Preaching that goes on without knowledge because it does not acknowledge what Christ did for us.

## HOW DOES CHRIST MAKE US RIGHTEOUS?

1. The first way He makes us Righteous is through SUBSTITUTION.

Substitution is a very Big Theological word.

And Substitution is captured in 2 Corinthians 5:21 - It says: For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him.

It is called Substitution.

Why do we say substitution?

It is because Christ took our sin upon Himself - He did not commit sin, He did not become a sinner. But He took our sin upon Himself.

Another Theological word is that, our sin was Imputed to Him, Accounted to Him - He did not commit it, but it was added to His Account.

It is like somebody who did not borrow the money, but the money has been added to his Account.

Jesus committed no sin, Jesus did not become a sinner. Jesus did not become Sinful but our sin was Imputed on Him - Not His own sin.

So the Bible says, He who knew no sin became sin for us.

Why? - So that we can take on His Righteousness.

Christ took our sin upon Himself, and we took on Christ's Righteousness.

Did He commit sin to take our sin? - No!

In the same way we don't commit Righteousness to be made Righteous.

"He who knew no sin became sin; so that those who knew no Righteousness can become Righteous."

It is a Divine Exchange! -He took our filthy Garment and wore it for us; and took His Righteous Garment and put it on us.

So when you are going with that Garment of Righteousness, it is not your own; it is a Gift given to you by Christ.

That is why the Bible says "... Lest any Man should boast." - that I am Righteous, I am Self-Discipline. I am Righteous because I come from a Good family.

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It is Good to be Self-Discipline and come from a Good home but your Righteousness has nothing to do with your home or your Upbringing;

It all has to do with Christ Jesus putting His Garment on us - It is called Substitution.

He Substituted us! - He stood in our Place, with our sin upon Him. And we stood in His Place, with His Righteousness upon us.

On the Cross, there was an Exchange - The sinful Received the Gift of Righteousness and the Righteous bore the sin of the sinful. And in that, Christ became the Giver of Righteousness.

Any Righteousness that does not exalt Christ, is Zeal without Knowledge.

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You know, our ears like certain kind of Preaching - We like Condemetary Preaching. We like a Preacher who Stands on the Pulpit and condemns everybody! And talks about all kinds of things - We love it.

But that's is Zeal without knowledge. Because the Righteousness of God is not a Product of Zeal without Knowledge.

The Righteousness of God comes through the Substitution of Christ - He became sin so we would become Righteous!

2. The Second way that Christ makes us Righteous is through SACRIFICE.

Hebrews 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.

Let me just give you a little background to this Passage - You see, under the Old Testament, God dwelt in the Holy of Holies.

The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy of Holies. And on top of the Ark was something called the Mercy Seat. And on top of the Mercy Seat was what was called the Shekinah - The Glory of God (in the Holy of Holies).

Between the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies, and the Second Chamber that is called the Holy Place; is a VEIL. And that Veil Prevented People from going into the Presence of God.

So the Israelites knew, God lives in a Place we can't get to. It doesn't mean God was in the Holy of Holies; it's just to remind them 'you can't approach Him - There is a curtain between you and God, there is a division.

But Hebrews 10:19-20 is saying is that: Jesus Christ Penetrated that curtain.

How did He do it? - By Offering His Body. His Body then was like the Veil, the curtain.

When His Body was crucified, beaten, the curtain was opened! And on the day that He died, it was Symbolised by the curtain in the Temple opening - Although the Temple at that time did not have the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

It Symbolized that the Body of Jesus had open a way for us!

When Jesus died, not only did He take our sin to God; but He opened the way for us; so that we can Stand before God without any form of shame and condemnation.

We can be the Righteousness of God, in Christ Jesus - We come, not in our own name, but in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Sacrifice, Jesus did it for us - The Blood of Jesus gives us right Standing with God.

We have a Relationship of boldness with God - No fear, no inferiority complex, we are not worms and maggots before God; we are sons and daughters of God. We are His and He is ours.

When God looks at us, He sees us in Christ. That is the only reason why He receives us.

The Sacrifice of God, the Sacrifice of His Body, the Sacrifice of His Blood, opened a New Way to God.

This is how we become Righteous!

ALTAR CALL.

If you are here or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC and you don't know Christ, do so today!

For your information, death does not take everybody to the same destination. And it Possible for your loved ones to go to hell.

If God is receiving our 'Goodness' Nobody would qualify because Isaiah 64:6 says: 'All our Righteousness is like filthy rag.'

... Your best effort is like rag before God.

The best efforts of any Good Person - Whether from Mother Theresa to whoever, is filthy rags!

So if you think your Parents, your Siblings, yourself, had audience with God because you are such a Good Man; you are Zealous without Knowledge.

The way to Salvation is through the Gift of Righteousness - which Christ gives.

If you have not accepted the Free Gift of Salvation and Righteousness in Christ, do so today, wherever you are now or reading this Message on the Label of DMC.

Just lift up your right hand wherever you are and put it upon your chest. Even as you say this Prayer with me:

Heavenly Father, I come to you today just as I am. I am a sinner, I cannot save myself. But I Thank You Father that Jesus died for me on the Cross of Calvary. He took my Place, He took my sin.

So today, I receive His Righteousness, I receive His Gift of Salvation. Because of Jesus, I wear today a Garment of Righteousness - Clothe me Heavenly Father, with your Righteousness, make me Acceptable before You.

I Thank You Father, for accepting me today. In Jesus' Name - 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 out rightly 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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## 7TH NOVEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 4.



TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

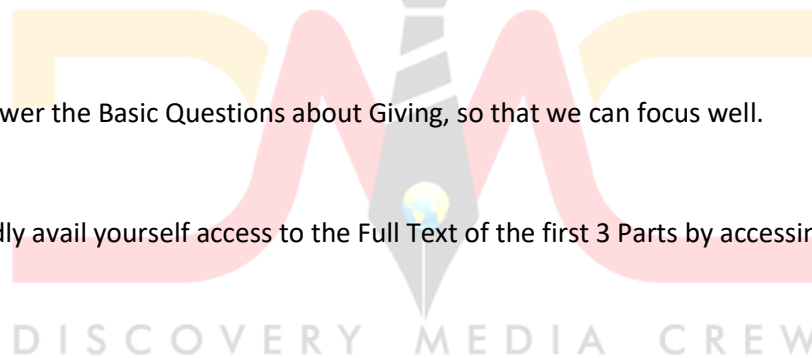
In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I am speaking on CHRISTIANS STEWARDSHIP - PART 4. The Sub-title is - HOW SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?

I am trying to answer the Basic Questions about Giving, so that we can focus well.

DMC NOTES: Kindly avail yourself access to the Full Text of the first 3 Parts by accessing this Links;



PART 1:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-1-Why-Do-We-Give-To-God-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

PART 2:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

PART 3:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

The Focus today will be on our Attitude - How do we Practically Give to God?

We will look at a Story in the New Testament concerning the Church in Macedonia.

And the Text is 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - I am going to focus my Teaching today on this Passage.

Let me give a background to this: The Early Church as you know, started in Jerusalem. But Pretty soon, the Church moved away from Jerusalem - When it was in Jerusalem it was all Jews.

Because Jesus was not a Jew, His early Disciples were Jews. But as the Gospel spread, it went to Samaria, and it went to a Place called Antioch.

In Antioch a New Mission started for the Church, led by Apostle Paul and Barnabas.

The Ministry of Paul and Barnabas was taking the Gospel beyond the Jews to a Non-Jewish world.

And so it went to the Gentile world. Places like Philippi and Colosea - And all of these Places heard the Gospel.

But then, a Problem developed; because the Jews felt the Non-Jews were not Proper Christians. They felt that to be a Proper Christian, you have to be circumcised as Jews, before you become a Christian.

So there was a big gap between the Christian Church of the Jews and the Christian Church of the Non-Jews (The Gentiles). So at that time something happened - There was a very big famine.

And in that famine, there was scarcity and the Church in Jerusalem was affected. That the Jewish Church was in need. People were dying in Jerusalem, because of famine.

And so Paul who was leading the Non-Jewish Churches, decided that, in order to bridge the gap between the Jewish Church and the Non-Jewish Church - the Non-Jewish People should raise an offering to go and give to their Jewish Brethren, to show the love they have for them.

This was the important Assignment that Paul had.

So he told all the Non-Jewish Churches to raise money because they were taking it to Jerusalem.

As it happens all the time; some Churches gave, other Churches did not Give.

And in this instance, Paul is writing to the Church in Corinth - A highly Spiritual Church but a very Stingy Church.

They are very Spiritual but doesn't Give.

Paul is writing to them to emulate the example of the Churches in Macedonia - The Churches in Macedonia were Churches like the Philippi, the Thessalonica and the Church in Berea.

These were the Macedonian area. And Paul is telling them: You People in Corinth, you speak in Tongues more than everybody, you Pray hard and you operate in the Gifts of the Spirit. You are Prophesying everyday in Church but you don't Give!

With that background, let us read what he says in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NKJV):

1 Moreover, Brethren, we make known to you the Grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia:

2 That in a Great trial of affliction the Abundance of their joy and their deep Poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

3 For I bear Witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely Willing,

4 Imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the Gift and the Fellowship of the Ministering to the Saints.

5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the Will of God.

... Paul is talking about the Macedonian Churches and their example of Giving.

I am going to talk about Seven (7) Characteristics that we see about the Macedonian Churches:

That Paul commend you the Corinthian Church - And I believed to all other Churches as well.

1. We start giving by first - Giving our Heart to the Lord.

This is what the Macedonian Churches did first - 'They gave of themselves to the Lord.'

... That is where Christian Worship starts.

It doesn't start with our money; it starts with us Giving ourselves to the Lord.

God wants us - He wants our our Heart, Soul and Might. He wants us to Give ourselves to Him.

If we don't Give ourselves to Him, then we can't Give anything else to Him.

Giving starts with Giving your Heart to the Lord.

There are People who sometimes, want to Give their money to God, but not their Heart.

In those days, Parents would not go to Church, but they sent their money to Church.

And they would tell their children: 'Take this money and put it in the Collection Box for me.' But they themselves don't commit themselves to the Lord.

The Macedonian Churches didn't start by sending money - They started by Giving their hearts.

If you don't have a relationship with God, then Giving becomes extremely difficult.

We Give ourselves to the Lord by inviting Jesus Christ into our hearts, to be our Lord and Saviour.

So, the first thing that Paul says about the Macedonian Churches is that, they gave First, their hearts to the Lord.

And if we are going to be Good Givers, that's where we start!

2. We understand Giving when we commit ourselves to God's work.

After Giving their hearts to the Lord, the Macedonian Churches also gave themselves to the Mission or Pay.

He said in 1 Corinthians 8:4, that they Participated in the Mission of the Ministry to the Saints. They saw Giving as a Part of their Ministry.

When People commit to God's Work, they Give to God's work.

For example if you are in Church and all you do is just attend Church: You don't belong to any Department, you are not in any Ministry and you are not really committed to the work of God - You don't win Souls, you don't Pray.

You don't really get involved in anything about the work of God, it is going to be difficult for you to Give - You give your heart to God, but you must also be committed to the work of God. The work of God must be important to you. You must see yourself as a Partaker of the Ministry of God.



If all you do is: Go to Church, listen to the Pastor, say Amen I receive it and go home; then your Giving will also be Limited.

Because First, your heart is not with the Lord. And secondly, you are not committed to the work of God.

When the work of God has to be done, you don't get involved.

If your heart doesn't burn for the work of God, to say: Let's see the Missions go on; let's see Bibles Printed; let us see the Gospel Preached. Christ must be Lord, People must hear the Gospel - If you don't see this as the work of God, and that you have to be involved; then Giving money is going to be difficult.

The Macedonian Churches saw the Money they were raising for Jerusalem Church as Ministry and that is why they gave.

... They gave their hearts to the Lord, they were committed to the Lord.

3. We Practice Giving when we Give Faithful according to our Ability.

... The Practice of Giving starts when we Faithfully Give according to our Ability.

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Note what 2 Corinthians 8:3 says: For I bear Witness that according to their Ability.

They didn't just say: Oh, we have given our heart to the Lord, we are committed to the work of the Lord - But the Practically demonstrated it.

That means they gave based on what they are able to; according to what they had. And that is how consistent Giving starts - You Give according to your Ability.

If your Ability is much, you Give much. If your Ability is small, you Give small. If God blesses you a lot, you Give a lot. If what God blesses you with is small, you give small. You give according to your Ability, Faithfully.

4. We grow our Giving when we give beyond Ourselves.

Paul says about the Macedonian Churches, that they gave according to their Ability, and beyond their Ability - They gave of their Time, gave of their Talents and Treasures to God.

The Macedonian Churches were not doing one tenth; they were giving beyond their Ability. And there are times when you decide to give God fifty Percent (50%) because He has blessed you so much.

If God blesses you with a Billion Cedes, you can live on a hundred Million - So you can Give God nine hundred million easily.

We don't give one tenth, we give our best!

And the Macedonian Churches gave according to their Ability (as much of us do). But they gave beyond their Ability - That's very instructive to note, as we Give.

... So the fourth (4th) thing we know about Giving - We grow big when we Give beyond ourselves.

5. We rise above our Poverty when we Give regardless of our Needs.

... When we give inspite of our Needs; despite our Needs

Poverty is hard!

If you have been Poor before, you know what I mean. It is a very, very crippling condition to be Poor.

When you are poor, it's almost like you are in a hole.

HOW FO WE RISE ABOVE POVERTY?

I want you to listen to what Paul said about the Churches in Macedonia - 2 Corinthians 8:2: That in a Great trial of affliction the abundance of their Joy and their deep Poverty abounded in the riches of their Liberality.

Look at how he talks about their Poverty - 'Their Deep Poverty.' Out of their Deep Poverty they abounded in riches.

Now, "Deep Poverty" and "Abounding Riches" don't dwell side by side.

When you are in Deep Poverty, you are not abounding in Riches. And when you are Abounding in Riches, you can never be in Deep Poverty.

Paul is saying to the Corinthians: By the way, these Macedonian Churches, they didn't give because they were Rich. They were in Deep Poverty.

But when they gave out of the depth of their Poverty, it created Riches for them - It abounded them in Riches.

If you want to break the back of Poverty, you do it through Giving.

They had Deep Poverty - And the word 'Deep' means something that swallows you up!

And to 'Abound' is something that causes you to Exceed.

How were the Macedonian Churches able to climb out of Deep Poverty?

They did it when they started Giving out of their Needs.

When it comes to Giving, God does not watch what you do when you have Abundance. He watches what you do when you have Nothing.

Do you remember the Widow with the two mites? Jesus was sitting at the Offering desk; and He saw People Giving their Offering. And He saw this woman put in two mites.

And I like how the Passage puts it - It says in Mark 12:42: And there came a certain Poor widow, and she threw in two mites. Jesus said, this woman has given everything she has!

The logical thing for Jesus to do, would have been to say to Peter: go and call the woman, she has given everything she has; give her the offering back.

But you know, two mites - Whether in the Offering Box or in your Pocket, is two mites - it won't help you in any way.

Jesus still allowed the woman to give an offering; though she has given everything. Why? - Because Jesus also knew - The only way to abound in riches was through what she has done. And if He stops her from Giving, He will stop her from abounding.

We don't wait till the day we prosper to Give; we give right where we are - In our Deep Poverty. Because that's how we climb out of Poverty!

... If you are waiting for Riches to Give, you would never Give.

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6. We Excel in Giving when we operate through the Grace of Giving, working in us.

They gave according to their Ability; they gave Beyond their Ability; they gave through the Grace of God.

This is how Apostle Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 - Moreover, Brethren, we make known to you the Grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the Abundance of their joy and their Deep Poverty abounded in the riches of their Liberality.

They had the Grace of Giving!

Romans 12:6-8, talking about the various Gifts that People have, this is what it says:

Having then Gifts differing according to the Grace that is given to us, let us use them: if Prophecy, let us Prophecy in Proportion to our Faith; or Ministry, let us use it in our Ministering; he who teaches, in Teaching; he who exhorts, in Exhortation; he who GIVES, with Liberality; he who leads, with Diligence; he who shows Mercy, with Cheerfulness.

So Giving is a Gift. It is apparent that the Macedonian Churches has the Gift of Giving upon the whole Church.

Every Christian has an Obligation to Give to Support the work of God. And also to support those who are in Need. That is what we do when we give our Offerings, first fruit, Alms, and so on.

However, there are Christians who have the Gift of Giving, they have the Grace of Giving and sometimes we call such People, Kingdom Financiers. They have the Grace of Giving and they do things that are Big and Mind bugging.

I was in the United States not many years ago, and I visited a Christian Project. And this Christian Project was in a very Expensive area - It wasn't a Church; just a Project to honour God.

I went to Pay visit to the Project and a tour of the Facility. And when you look at the Adjacent Facilities around it, you know that the land alone, based on the City it was in and the Location of the City; you know the land alone would cost Probably hundreds of Millions of dollars - Just the Land!

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The guy who owned the Facility took me around and I saw it and the splendour of it. And there were People from all over the United States who were visiting this Facility.

There were People coming from other Parts of the world - visiting this Christian Facility.

But the guy who had the dream to build this Facility was a very humble guy. He is slightly older, very humble. He took me around. I looked at what he had built, I looked at him, and I said: how could a Man build that - This is big!

So I asked him the obvious Question. I said - How could you raise money to build this? He said God put it in my hear to build this for Christians.

And he said: I went to a Particular Christian Businessman, I shared my Vision with him. And the Businessman said, this is Good for the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God needs this!

He said, I am going to support you.

He said, the Businessman wrote the first cheque for the Project - four hundred Million Dollars (\$400,000,000)..

I said, four hundred Thousand? - He said No, Millionaire Dollars.

And he said, the Businessman said, this is just for the beginning. And he wasn't his Church Member, he was in another Part of the United States.

As a matter of fact, I knew about the Businessman, not directly, but I knew about him because he had given something similar to support another Christian Facility somewhere.

What was he looking for?

He wasn't looking for anything! - He just believes that Christianity must be represented in this City well.

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Now, that is not Tithe and Offering, that is not First fruit, that is what the Macedonian Churches had - The Grace of God upon them to Give. And that is why this Church was commended by Paul.

Paul said, watch them, there is a Grace of God upon them - They don't just do calculation about their Giving; they are mindful of the Kingdom impact. The impact of their Giving on the Gospel, and they do it.

May the Lord cause the Grace of Giving to be bestowed upon Men and Women who would do Big things for the Kingdom of God - Amen.

Not counting Pebbles but counting the Value to the Kingdom of God; the Witness to the Kingdom of God, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

7. We enjoy God's continuous Supply when we Give Willingly and Cheerfully.

When we enjoy Giving to the Lord, He also enjoys Giving back to us.

The Businessman who gave for that Christian Facility I mentioned earlier; if he didn't know God, he wouldn't give it. It would be a loss to him.

And he knows the Faithfulness of God - That God would give back to him: Good Measure, Pressed down, shaken together and running over (Luke 6:38).

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; this is to the same Church within the same scope. It says -

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one Give as he Purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of Necessity; for God loves a Cheerful Giver. And God is able to make all Grace abound toward you, that you, always having all Sufficiency in all things, may have an Abundance for every Good work.

May the Lord bring us to this Point, that in our Giving, we would Give of ourselves; we would Give because we are committed to the Ministry of God; we would Give beyond ourselves; we would Give by the Grace of God that is bestowed upon us - Amen

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And may God cause His Grace to be multiplied over us, that in every situation, we will Give beyond what is expected of us - Amen.

May God bring you to a Place where there will be no Project you want to undertake, that you cannot finance - Amen.

May God bring you to a Place where there will be Nothing you dream of, that you cannot Finance - Amen.

May God bring you to a Place where there will be nothing you Pray about, that you cannot achieve - Amen.

May God bring you to a Place where there will be Nothing that you desire, that you cannot buy - Amen.

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May the Lord bring you to that Place where the act of Poverty is broken over you, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

Like the Macedonian Churches, may we be a Blessed People, with a Testimony of Giving, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

If you believe that and you have received that, give the Lord a mighty Shout!

And be a Doer of the Word of God, in Jesus' Name - 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 out rightly 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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14TH NOVEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: LIGHT BEARERS IN A DARK WORLD -  
PART 1.



TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I will be doing a two-Part Message Titled: "LIGHT BEARERS IN A DARK WORLD."

Our world is getting darker and darker. Not because of electricity failure, but because Men and Women are turning farther and farther away from God.

And just looking around, you will noticed that it is becoming more and more Christians to live the Christian Life; because the Christian Life has not been easy to live.

When you read through the Bible, you see that serving God, living for God, had never been easy.

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I. Noah was mocked when he obeyed God by building the Ark.

II. Abraham left his Homeland to obey God, and spent many Years waiting for the Promise of God to be fulfilled.

III. Moses lived as an outcast when he tried to do the Will of God.

IV. Israel, God's Nation lived as slaves for so many Years.

V. The Prophets of the Old Testament suffered mockery, imprisonment and rejection for Standing by God.

VI. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself suffered and was crucified.

VII. His Apostles died horrible deaths.

VIII. And Disciples of Christ throughout all Ages have always had a tough time Living for God.

Today, we are the ones who are Living for God. Nobody is trying to cut off our head, or throw us to lions. But our world is making it difficult to live for God because of the Pressure it puts on us at every levels - On our Minds, Emotions, Desires, Appetite.

So, the Christian Life in our day has also become very difficult.

HOW DOES A CHILD OF GOD LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THIS TIME?

That's what my Message is focusing on, today - "LIGHT BEARERS IN A DARK WORLD".

Turn with me to Philippians 2:14-16, where the Apostle Paul speaks to the Churches in Philippi and also to us; about how to survive in this kind of environment. And this is what it says (NKJV):

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and Perverse Generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

These are words that Apostle Paul spoke to the Churches in Philippi. And if you have read the Message of last week (7th November, 2021) on the Label of DMC; I talked about the Churches in Macedonia. And the Church in Philippi was one of those Churches.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of this Message Titled: "Christian Stewardship - Part 4 (How should we Give to God) by accessing this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-4-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

The Passage tells us what our world is like.

And the Passage uses two (2) words to describe the Age and the world we live in. And those words were accurate in the days of Apostle Paul, and they are accurate now.

... The Two (2) words are:

1. The First Thing it says is that our world is Crooked.

When we say that something is Crooked, it means it is twisted and deformed.

It is like following a Crooked Path that meanders and turns - It doesn't go straight to where it is going.

And after you have followed it for a very long time, you end up in a wrong Place - That is a Crooked Path!

And that is how our world is like - That's what Apostle Paul is saying: Our world is Crooked. It promises you something, but it doesn't take you there. You end up back with your sorrow, pain, disappointment because it doesn't fulfill what you are looking for.

2. Secondly, it says our world is Perversed.

When we say something is Perversed, it means something that is contrary to the right form. It is like drawing a human being with its feet where the head should be and the head where the feet should be.

If you saw any drawing of the Human Being like that on top of the neck, two (2) feet. And under the waist is a head; it is Perversed! The Parts have been misplaced, it is contorted, it has been misplaced!

That's how our world is - It is Crooked and it is Perversed. And we are seeing our world more and more Perversed.

## HOW CAN CHRISTIANS LIVE IN A PERVERSED WORLD?

Is it Possible? Can we survive? Can we live for God? - I believe we can!

So, in the Passage Apostle Paul tells us, what God has made us - In this midst of this Crooked and Perversed world, this is what God has made us.

And he says God has made us His Children - We are Children of God; we are God's People. He has given to us the Life of Christ.

It's a Big Deal to be a Child of God.

3. "And then it says that, as God's Children we are Light Bearers.

It says we are Lights in the world! - That means we reveal God to the world.

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The world is Crooked, it is Perversed. How does God want us to live? What has He given to us to survive?

He has made us His children; and He has made us Bearers of His Light.

If you just look at the way the world is going, it's not going to look any better. It's not going to be any easier.

I. If Christianity is tough for your Parents, think about how it would be for your children. And how it's going to be for your grandchildren.

II. If you think Living for Christ now is very difficult; wait to see how your children and grandchildren will survive.

... Because our world is Crooked, and it is Perversed.

But God says that in the midst of the Crooked and Perversed world, we are His Children. And we have His Life.

And then the Passage tells us HOW WE MUST LIVE OUR LIVES.

As children of God in a Crooked and Perversed world - HOW SHOULD WE LIVE OUR LIVES?

Philippians 2:15 says: That you may become blameless and harmless, Children of God without. Blameless and Harmless.

God wants us to live Blameless -That means; without fault.

Though our world is Crooked, we must be without fault. We must not Participate in the Perverseness of our world.

And not only must we be Blameless; we must be Harmless - That means we must be Pure and Untampered.



Is it Possible to do that? Is it Possible to live the Christian life in our world?

I. Years ago, sin was hidden; these days, sin is advertised.

II. Years ago, you had to go and look for Pornography in forbidden Magazines and hide them. These days, they are on the Phones and Nobody sees you.

Whereas People had to hide to sin; now sin is looking for us alone in our bedrooms, offices, cars.

On the road, sitting quietly, temptations are raging against us.

Can we live as Children of God?

The Apostle Paul said something in the Narrative there in Philippians 2:14 - Do all things without complaining and disputing.

... That's how he starts.

Prior to that, he is talking about having the Mind of Christ and the difficulties Christians have to deal with.

Does Living without complaining and disputing have any effect on our Christian Life?

That's what we should be asking ourselves because he said we must serve God without complaining.

Why is Apostle Paul saying we must serve God without complaining?

When Paul says we must serve God without complaining, he has something in Mind - And what he has in Mind is Ancient Israel in the wilderness.

So, when he says: You must live without complaining. He says: Don't be like Israel - Don't be like them.

Like Christians, the Israelites were also called by God, like Light in a world full of Idolatry.

Just think of it - Israel was the only Nation on this Earth that served one God. Every Nations around them served many gods. And this tiny Nation was the only one that served one God.

When God delivered Israel from Egypt, it is like how God delivers us from sin.

I. Israel was small, but they were God's People - Just like today's Born Again Christians are a few. We are God's People, surrounded by so much evil.



II. Israel was surrounded by so much Idolatry and yet they were supposed to serve God!

A. They were the only Nation that lived by God's Rules. And to show that they were different, God gave them Laws that were very different from everybody. His Laws touched every aspect of their lives.

B. They lived differently, they worshipped differently, they Circumcised their males, they obeyed different Laws, they ate different kinds of food.

Why did God ask them to do everything differently? - To show them that they were different People!

... That's why they ate different food and did things differently.

All around them, everybody could identify an Israelite - You can identify him by so many ways: By what he eats, what he doesn't eat; by how he dresses. All of that! You could just mark them out.

That's how God made Israel and that is how He has also made us - He has given us a different Life.

But many times, living differently was tough for Israel. They didn't understand why they couldn't be like everyone else.

Why does everybody has a 'god' in front of their house and we have no God? Why does everybody eat this and we don't eat it? Why does everybody seems to have easy Life and we have a Hard Life? - So they complained.

And I want us to look at two (2) Instances where Israel complained - Just two (2) out of numerous complains.

1. Exodus 16:2-3 - Then the whole Congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 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."

... What a complaint!

2. Exodus 17:2-3 - Therefore the People contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?" And the People thirsted there for water, and the People complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

Something runs through the complains: Every time they were in hardship and they complained, they wanted to go back to Egypt - The Place of bondage; the Place that they cried, Oh God deliver us out of it.

But any time there is, little water Problem, little food Problem - "God, You should have left us in Egypt."

So, this is what Paul is talking about - He says: If we are going to live as Christians in this Perversed and Crooked world, we must learn not to complian.

What does that mean? - Don't desire the Life of the world. Don't compare the Christian Life with the Life of the world.

Don't look at the Unbelievers and say, why is our lives so difficult as Christians? - Because the Problem with us is, if we complain, we become like the Israelites, when we keep looking back to the world.

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So, you are going to see the Unbelievers live their lives, and you are going to hunger and thirst for it.

I. Somebody has ten (10) Girlfriends, we also want to have ten (10) Girlfriends.

II. Somebody has ten (10) Men friends, we also want to have ten (10) Men friends.

III. Somebody dresses and exposes his own body, we also want to dress and expose our own body.

IV. Somebody gets drunk, we also want to get drunk.

Why do You want us to live differently God? - Because you are different!

And when Life is hard, we don't look back to the world of sin. Because if we are going to live in this Crooked world, we must never ever desire that Life. Because if you do, you will not survive this world.

And that's why Israel, for forty (40) Years, struggled in the wilderness because they kept looking back to the Old Life.

And like the Old Song:

I have decided to follow Jesus;

No turning back, No turning back.

The world behind me, the Cross before me.

No turning back, No turning back.

If no one goes with me, yet I will follow;

No turning back, No turning back.

Until we treat our Christian Life as a: 'No turning back Life', we can't survive in this Crooked and Perversed Generation.

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It is a 'No Turning Back.'

I. Will it be difficult? - Yes!

II. Would there be Pressures? -Yes!

III. Would be Tempted? - Yes!

But we are not going back - The Cross is before us, the world is behind us.

So Paul says: Don't complain like they did!

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And if we don't complain, it means we trust the Lord to take care of our Needs.

The Lord showed He could take care of the Needs of the People of Israel - He gave them food, He gave them water. But they kept complaining!

In fact, when they had nothing to complain of, they said Lord, we don't we have a King like the other Nations?

God said: You want to have a King like the other Nations? Well, this is what it will mean to you.

They said: We don't mind. We want to be like everybody else, we are tired of looking different.

Sometimes Young Christians feel tired of Living the Christian Life - They complain: Why should I obey all those Rules? Why should I live different from the Other Men? Why can't I be like them? They seems to be having "fun".

Well, it's a Crooked fun - It's a Merry-Go-Round. It looks like fun - They are going ahead, but they are going no where! No Joy!

Isn't it amazing that sometimes the People who are supposed to be the happiest People on Earth, end of committing suicide and killing themselves and destroying their own lives?

And we watch them, we say: Oh, they look nice on TV; these are People who are 'enjoying' the Good Life. But they can't manage Life, because it is a Crooked and a Perversed Life.

And when you are in the wilderness, and you don't know where to go, don't look back!

Because God says: you are My Children, you are the Bearers of Light in this Crooked and Perversed Generation. Stop complaining about the Christian Life.

I. We cannot do what everybody does - We can't!

II. We can't live like everybody else - Living as if there is no God, there is no Hope, there is no Life, there is no Promise. Whatever we feel like doing, we do it. We can't live our lives that way!

If we do that, then there would be Lights off in the world.

The world has nothing else to look up to, because the People who are the Light, have turned off the Light. And when we, who are the Light turn off the Light, it is Finished!

... This world is doomed, when the Christians turn off the Light.

So, the Question is: IS YOUR LIGHT STILL ON?

The world is in darkness, but is your Light on? Is your Generator working? The neighborhood is in darkness, but do you have Light in your house?

So, they look at your home and say: Woooow, everybody is in darkness, look at him - He is the Light of the world, he has light. Or they look at us and say: His light is out and everybody is in darkness.

Woe on this world, if the Light of the world loses its Light

... Final thought the Apostle Paul leaves us with:

He says to them in Philippians 2:16; holding fast the word of Life.

I like how he describes the Word of God as the Word of Life because it is the Word that gives us Life and it is the Word that guides our Life.

"Holding fast the Word of life."

If we are going to be the Light in this Crooked and Perversed Generation, then we have to embrace the Word of God with all our heart, with all our Mind.

\*So this morning, I just want to leave us with a question: Is our Light On? - Is my Light On, is your Light On?

I. Would somebody who is in darkness look at you and say: That guy has his Light on? The whole world is in darkness, but that one has his Light on.

II. Would somebody in your Office says - it's all dark in here, but that one has his Light on? Or they would look at us and say: we are all in darkness!

We hear People say: "You go to Church, but we all end up here doing the same thing."

They should be able to say: "We don't know the way, we are in darkness but we see there is Light in your Life".

May the Lord help us to be a LIGHT BEARERS in this Dark, Crooked and Perversed world - Amen.

So we just want talk to the Lord for a moment - Each one of us, wherever you are or reading this Message now on the label of DMC: Just talk to the Lord to help us to be LIGHT BEARERS in this dark world.

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It's hard to live the Christian Life - I would be honest with you, it's not easy. But what God expects from us is not Natural, it's Unnatural; for we are Unnatural People.

Ask God to help you, so that your Light doesn't go off - In your Marriage, in your Life, in your family, amongst your friends.

Just talk to the Lord.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we recognise the weakness of our Flesh, the weakness of our Mind. But we also recognise the Strength of Your Holy Spirit, the Strength of Your word.

And Father we Present our weaknesses to You - That in You, we may find Strength. That in this wicked and Perversed world, our Lights would not go off.

Help our Lights not to go off; help us to stay connected to You; to be a Witness to the world, so that the whole world would know that there are Witnesses for Christ on this Earth.

Help us Lord, not just to be Church Goers: attending Service and Participating in a Service. Help us Lord, to do more than that. To be Christ's Followers, Living for Him and doing His Will.

So this morning, we rededicate our lives to You Lord - We come back to you Father, we say Lord help us, to be Light Bearers in this Crooked and Perversed world.

In our going in, in our coming out. In our conversations, in our activities; help us Lord, to keep the Lights burning, all that we do.

In Jesus'Name - Amen and AMEN.

... Let's keep the Lights on - AMEN.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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21ST NOVEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: LIGHT BEARERS IN A DARK WORLD -  
PART 2.



TEXT: GENESIS 1:3-4

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I am doing the PART 2 OF LIGHT BEARERS IN A DARK WORLD.

I said in Part 1 that our world is Crooked and Perversed, according to the Scripture. We are to Shine as Lights in this Crooked and Perversed Generation.

It's getting tougher and tougher for a Believer to live the Christian Life. But His Grace is sufficient for us to live that life to His Glory.

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DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 of this Series on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Light-Bearers-In-A-Dark-World-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

Let me start with a very familiar Portion of Scripture - Genesis 1:3-4. And it reads:

3 Then God said, "Let there be Light"; and there was Light.

4 And God saw the Light, that it was Good; and God divided the Light from the Darkness.

Before God said, let there be Light, you know that the Earth was full of Darkness. And out of this Darkness, God shines His Light.

And a few things we learn from this Passage, in relation to Light and Darkness is that:

#### 1. "GOD'S WORD PRODUCES GOD'S LIGHT IN US."

If we want to walk in the Light of the Lord, then we have to walk in the Word of the Lord; because the Word of the Lord is what Produces the Light.

His Word is the Source of Light; the Source of knowledge, the Source of Wisdom.

Darkness represents Everything that is Ungodly: Ungodly Knowledge, Ungodly Speech, Ungodly Behaviour. All of that, is Darkness.

And the Word of God Produces Light in us.

As the Word of God enters our hearts, the Word of God brings Light to our Path and help us in this Crooked and Perversed Generation to walk in the Light.

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#### 2. GOD'S LIGHT BRINGS OUT GOODNESS IN US.

Genesis 1:4 says: And God saw the Light, that it was Good.

Whenever we walk in the Light of God, Goodness comes out of us.

Jesus puts it this way in Matthew 5:16 - "Let your Light so Shine before Men, that they may see your Good Works and Glorify your Father in Heaven."

Jesus linked Light to Good Works! Just as we see in Genesis 1:4 - The Light was Good.

So anytime we are walking in the Light of God and Producing the Light of God; there has to be Good Works.

Unfortunately, sometimes we have the Works of God but it doesn't Produce Light in us. And when it doesn't Produce Light in us, there is no Good Works coming out of us.

Good Works include: Showing Mercy, being Gracious, being Kind, being Considerate. Sometimes very sadly, Christians can be very mean People, very unforgiven, very destructive.

And sometimes you hear People (even in the Church) say: I will never be friends with People in the Church. I would never do business with People in the Church; because, although we are the Lights of the world, the Light is not Producing Goodness in us; we are not Good People.

But the Light must be Good; the Light must Produce Goodness in us.

And that's the Challenge - If we are going to walk in the Light of the Lord, there has to be something coming out of us that is Good.

### 3. GOD'S LIGHT MUST BE SEPARATED FROM DARKNESS.

God saw that the Light was Good, and He separated the Light from Darkness (Genesis 1:4).

If we are the Light of the world, then our actions, our ways, our behaviour, must not be the same as the behaviour of the world. There had to be a separation, there must not be a mixing.

When People look at our lives, they must be able to tell that we are Children of God; we are Believers, we are Born Again - That Jesus is in our heart.

How are they going to tell it? - They are going to tell it because of our Works - What we do!

And the Light of God in us must not Produce the same thing the Works is Producing - The light must be separate from the Darkness.

The things we have to think about really is: If Christ is in our heart, if the Word of God is in us, if the Light of God is in us; how separate are our words, our actions, our behaviour, from the world?

And when I talk about separating from the world, I don't mean we should withdraw from the world and go and live somewhere on a High Note Mountain alone, and Pray constantly. Or go and live on a Desert - No!

It doesn't mean, don't talk to Unbelievers; it doesn't mean don't be friendly with People who are not saved - No!

It simply means that your Actions must be separated from their Actions. Your behaviour must be separated from their behaviour.

If I am a Believer and you are a Believer; what we do must not be same as what the Unbeliever is doing. The Light must be separate from darkness. The ways of the Light must be separate from the ways of Darkness.

As Light Bearers in this dark world, one of the things God would expect is that, we must live a Life of Separation.

And a Life of Separation doesn't mean, Physically remove yourself; it means your Actions must be separate from the Actions of the world.

... Let's go to the New Testament to find out how we must live as Lights of the world.

Ephesians 5:1-5; this is an instruction to the Church in Ephesus. But that instruction tends to the Church in our Nations too. It reads:

Therefore be Imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an Offering and a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean Person, nor covetous Man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

... Hmmmm! That's a very tough one.

So we can't Pretend - 'Oh everything is okay!'

It says, there are some things that are not compatible with our Faith.

If you look at the Passage, it tells us what we must do; and then later tells us what we must avoid.

So let's start with WHAT WE MUST DO.

The Passage tells us two (2) things we must do:

1. It says we must be IMITATORS of God.

Each Christian must be Imitators of God, because we are children of God. Just like children imitate their father, so Believers imitate their Heavenly Father.

We imitate God because He is our Heavenly Father. And His lives must be lived, imitating Him, looking like Him.

And that Instruction, to imitate God is not only in Ephesians. As a matter of fact, if you read the whole of Leviticus Chapter 19.

Leviticus 19:1-2 says: And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the Congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be Holy, for I the Lord your God am Holy.

Why must you be Holy? - Because the Father is Holy. Be Imitators of God!

We don't seek to be Holy to impress People; we don't seek to be Holy to wear a badge of Holiness and go about saying, 'I am so Holy.'

In my Early Christian Life, there was a brother who was called Holiness. And there are People who can go with those Titles 'Holiness.' God is not looking for Title; He is looking for lifestyle - Be Holy because your Heavenly Father is Holy.

Jesus puts it this way, in Matthew 5:48 - Therefore you shall be Perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is Perfect.

If we are going to walk in the Light and be Light Bearers, then we must imitate God. And what are we imitating about God - Does it mean we also want to be Almighty? - No! He says what we imitate is His Holiness.

You are not going to go about saying, I am the Creator of the Universe. That's not how we imitate God. We don't go about saying, every knee shall bow to me.

That's not how we imitate God. We are to imitate God's Holiness - "Be Holy, because I am Holy." Be Holy, be Imitators of God.

2. We must WALK IN LOVE as Christ did.

... Walking in love is a Sign of being a Christian.

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And it didn't say, walk in love as you see in Movies. It didn't say, walk in love as you read in a Poems. But it says, walk in love as Christ did.

How did He do it? - That he OFFERED Himself.

Because you know, love has a lot of meaning now - We sing it all the time. There are Poems about love, there are Movies about love. So People say: 'I love Love Books or Love Movies.'

But that's not what we are talking about.

When the Bible talks about 'Walk in love' it's not talking about Love Movies or Love Books - as good or relevant as they may be.

But it says, we must live as Christ loved! And the love of Christ is Sacrificial.

Part of our Christian Life is that we imitate God, and we live Sacrificially for one another.

That's how we live as a Light of this world; Sacrificially for one another. We live to encourage one another, support one another, to uplift one another.

And as we support and uplift one another, at least, don't destroy one another.

... What we must do: Imitate God and Love one another.

Then the Passage tells us WHAT WE MUST NOT DO - What we must avoid.

"But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for Saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean Person, nor covetous Man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God" - Ephesians 5:3-5

Some Christians worry about such Specific directions for Living. And they call it 'Legalism' - Don't be Legalistics, don't give Rules. They say that the only Place where there are Rules is in the Old Testament.

But I guess you know, the Scripture above Is in Ephesians? This is New Testament of New Testament - EPHESIANS. And there are rules there.

People say, oh the Law is gone! God doesn't want us to live by Law. But there's a Checklist here. God wants us to live by certain Specific Actions. There are some Actions that are Christian; and there are other actions that are not Christian.

It's not just about having Jesus in your heart; it's also about what you do, what I do, what we do!

And it says that there are some things that do not mark us out as Christians. And this is just example of those things.



... There are more exhaustive list in other Portion of Scriptures.

But I would want to Group the List there into Three (3) Categories;

1. The first is the Category I call SEXUAL IMMORALITY

... That's the first list: Fornication and all Uncleanness.

It is very clear that living a Sexually Pure Life is central to living the Christian life. It is at the core. You find it throughout the New Testament, that God instruct Believers to live Sexually Pure lives.

Because Casual Sex is not Christian; Hooking Up is not Christian. Going out and doing stuff is not Christian. That's what it says - New Testament, not Old. New!

And don't let anybody tell you that is Legalism, we are not under the Law. This is not Law, this is Grace.

Now, why is Sexual Immorality so Big in Christianity?

It is Big because most Cultures of those days; whether it was Human Culture, Greek Culture or every other Cultures (including our own) Promoted Sexual Immorality.

Because at the heart of most Cultures, you find there is 'a god of fertility' - That is supposed to make People fertile. And under the worship of the 'god of fertility' in all Cultures, there is Sexual Immorality.

It was in Rome, the Greek Society. It was in all Cultures. The only Place where that was not was in the Jewish Community and in the Christian Community - In the Old Testament, the New Testament, in Judaism and in Christianity.

In the days of Apostle Paul, one way you could tell that somebody was a Christian was because they lived Sexually Pure Life. And that alone, you could tell, they are different from all Others.

And it is so today in our world - Our world has become so Promiscuous to the extent that even Christians have become Promiscuous.

To show that we are Christians, one of the first marks is that, we are Sexually Pure - No Casual Sex, no Sex Outside Marriage.

That is the Price of Christianity. That is how we show the world! What we are not able to do, we are able to do by the Grace of God.

What you think Man can never Master, the Holy Spirit helps us to Master. Because if our lives as Christians is the same as Believers; the same sins they committed are the same sins we are committing; then where is the difference? And that's why Fornication is the first on the list.

2. And the Second Category is what I call GREED or COVETOUSNESS.

When we are Covetous, we grab for everything, we are never satisfied. Because greed wants to have everything.

Christianity is built on LOVE - SELFLESSNESS.

You cannot be Selfless and Greedy at the same time.

The two (2) do not walk together.

Christianity teaches Godliness with Contentment.

That does not mean we are not Aspirational People; we have no dreams. Behold, we are Aspirational, we ask for God to bless us; but not to take what belongs to others, not to be jealous of what other People have.

I. We aspire for God to bless us, while we remain content with what we have.

II. We aspire for God to lift us up; while we remain humble and serve other People.

... The core of Christianity is Selflessness, not Greed.

3. The Third Category is OBSCENITY.

Sins of Obscenity: filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting.

If one of the ways to show our Christianity is in the kind of things we talk about - The conversations we involve ourselves in. We must watch out for conversations that lead into areas where the things of God are not respected.

We cannot Participate in insults, gossiping, Character Assassination, Outright lies or Demeaning jokes.

So you have to watch out for all those Sexual jokes that People put on Social Media and the ones that circulate in your office. And you don't Participate in those jokes.

The Bible calls it - "Filthiness, foolish talking, nor coarse jesting." - That means the jokes that are Crude.

And this is how the Scripture says we should treat such Conversations - Ephesians 5:12-14: For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in Secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the Light, for whatever makes manifest is Light.

... It is Shameful to talk about them.

There are certain things that People Post on Social Media, you must not comment on them - because it's filthy.

There are certain jokes that People bring in your office, and you must not Comment because it's filthy, the language is dirty, the actions are filthy.

And you cannot, for the sake of having fun, forget that you are the Light of the World.

It's not fun, to talk about those sinful acts. It's not fun, to Post some of those comments you Post.

That's what the Bible says - It says, you MUST NOT mention them. Don't talk about them.

Somebody says, woooooow! Pastor, it is heavy. Yes, it is heavy!

Being a Christian is heavy. Jesus died for you to be saved. He carried a Heavy Cross - Don't belittle His Sacrifice.

Don't joke with the Blood of Jesus. Don't joke with the Holy Spirit. Don't joke about being Born Again. It's a heavy stuff. And some things must it be spoken about.

And this Light of God must be seen in the office, in our homes, in our marriages, in our families, in the Church!

Sometimes you hear Pastors Preaching and the words that they use (for the Purpose of being real) but it's filthy communication.

The Bible says we must not talk like that. Even though People cheer and say - 'Preach it!'

It means that the Preacher is blind. And the congregation is blind. Hence, they are hailing something the Bible says they must not hail. You can't Preach with filthy Communications on the Pulpit and they the Congregation to Support it.

That's the Life we have accepted!

The day you said, I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour; this is the Life you committed to.

Christians think we don't have to Pay a Price - Christianity has to be easy: you must do whatever you want, worship whatever you want. Live anyhow!

No, we have committed to a Life.

Is it easy? - No!

Is it Painful? - Yes.

Is it hard? - Yes!

Jesus says, if you are going to follow me, take up your Cross and follow me - We must Pay a Price!

Watch your Conversation, watch your behaviour.

Final Instruction, same Ephesians 5:15-18 - "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the Will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,"

... Four (4) things there, then I close:

1. It says, "let's walk Wisely,".

What does that mean? - It means, live Purposefully.

Let our lives be Purposeful, we are here on a journey. We are Pilgrims on a journey. We are not like everybody else. We are going somewhere.

If we are going to be Lights in this dark world, we have to live Purposefully, we have to live Wisely.

2. Secondly, it says: "Redeem the Time."

What does that mean? - DON'T WASTE TIME.

Why? - Because it says, the days are evil.

We live in tough times, don't waste time. Don't hangout in the wrong Place, don't read the wrong books, don't go to Parties.

Don't waste Time! Redeem the Time. Take advantage of the Opportunities that God is giving to you because Judgement is getting closer and closer. Redeem the Time!

3. Do the WILL OF GOD.

In the midst of a Crooked and Perversed world, we must commit to doing the Will of God.

No matter how far the world goes from God, we must do God's Will.

4. And finally: "Be filled with the Spirit - Walk in the POWER OF THE SPIRIT.

Instead of getting drunk, be filled with the Spirit.

There are arguments about, how much drink should I take? I'm not even going to argue about, whether you should drink or not drink (that's another matter).

But be Filled with the Spirit of God, not the Spirit of Jonny Walker. If you get stuck with the Holy Spirit, you would not desire any other drink.

Somebody says, I just need it for appetite.

Let the Holy Spirit give you the appetite.

.. Just appetite, it relaxes me!

The Holy Ghost will relax you.

'It helps me to sleep soundly.' - He gives His beloved sleep!

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit, and you will realise, your desires and your Appetite had also changed.

That's the Bible, my friends! I didn't invent it. I just read the Book.

May the Lord help us to be the Lights of the world; that wherever we go, People will say - These are the People, that in the midst of the Darkness, they are holding the Light and moving - Amen.

And when People are lost in the Darkness, they will see where the Light is, and follow us to the Saviour Jesus Christ - Amen.

This morning, before we close - I just want us to Pray and make a Commitment to God.

I don't know what your Christian Life is like; I don't know what you are Struggling with. But let's make a Commitment to the Lord, that we are going to Walk this walk for Him.

... Stand for a moment, let us talk to the Lord.

Just lift up your hands as a Sign of surrender and just talk to Him.

I am not condemning you. God has not condemned us. He encourages us. Talk to Him and say: Lord, this area is so difficult, help me with what I see, help me with my conversations.

Help me Lord, with the Places I go to, the things that I do. This Relationship that is dragging me out of your Will, help me Lord. He's our Helper. He makes what is difficult, doable. He is our Strength, He's our Shield, He's our Rock.

And for anybody Struggling with any sin, receive Strength from the Holy Spirit.

Anybody who is Struggling with Unholy Relationship, receive Strength from the Holy Spirit.

Anybody who says, I have Prayed and Prayed, and I'm not able to get over this, receive Strength from the Holy Spirit.

He is our Strength, He is our Builder, He is our Comforter and Counsellor. May He give us Strength to run the Christian Life.

And wherever you are now or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC with your family Members; may the Light of Christ be seen in you.

Wherever you are, at work, school, Office, with your friends, colleagues; may the Light of Christ be seen in you.

In the Church, as People of God, may the Light of Christ be seen in us. As Pastors, Members of the Church; may we truly live for Jesus Christ in all that we do!

CLOSING PRAYER.

Father, we come to You, knowing the weakness of our flesh. Knowing that with ourselves we can do Nothing.

But with You we can do all things. And with Your Holy Spirit we can overcome all things. And with Christ in us, we are More Than Conquerors.

So Lord we come asking for Help, that we will live this Life to Your Glory, we will truly live as Lights of the world.

In a Crooked and Perversed world, let our Light so Shine before Men, that they may see our Good Work, and give Glory to our Father Who is in Heaven.

In Jesus' Name we Prayed - ÀMEN.

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Give the Lord some Praise - Hallelujah!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



28TH NOVEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 8.



**TEXT: ROMANS 8:15-16**

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I am doing "WORDS OF OUR SALVATION - PART 8." And the Sub-title is ADOPTION.

... We are going to talk about ADOPTION in the Christian sense.

Under WORDS OF OUR SALVATION, we have dealt with: Born Again, Redemption, New Creation, Justification, Sanctification, Atonement.

Last Month we looked at Righteousness and today is ADOPTION.

DMC NOTES: Kindly find below the Link to access all the Previous 7 Series on this Topic:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-4-Justification-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-5-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-6-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Words-Of-Our-Salvation-Part-7-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

I suppose you have heard that term, in relation to our Christian Life - Believers in Christ have called ourselves children of God. We say we are sons (and daughters) of God.

How did we become sons (and daughters) of God; and in what sense are we sons and daughters of God?  
- It is through the Process of Adoption.

Let me define what I mean by Adoption:

Adoption is the Divine Work by which God receives Born Again believers as His sons and daughters.

When we say something is a Divine Work, we mean that it is work initiated by God; it is a work that God does.

And God does this work of Adoption through Born Again Believers.

It is one thing to be Born Again, it is another thing to be Adopted by God. And when God adopts us, He receives us as His sons and daughters.

Let's get into a Bible Study a little bit about it.

Romans 8:15-16.

And just let me say this, whilst you are turning to the Scriptures:

It is important for every Believers to know what they believe - And I have become very Passionate about that because I see more and more Christians, they don't know what they believe.

They believe what their Pastor teaches, it is what a Prophet says, or what a Man or Woman of God says.

And so sometimes we believe all kind of Bizzare things - Things that are not consistent with the Scriptures.

... Whatever a Preacher says, we just follow it.

What I am trying to do (and I have been doing for some time now, these Years) is to dig down the Foundations of our Christian Faith

What are the things we believe in as Christians? These are the things that I am teaching on.

They are not to give you a Breakthrough instantly, but to give you a Foundation on which you get your Breakthrough later on.

If you don't understand these things, your Christian Life will be shallow, it will be surface - It will not be deep!

So Adoption is one of those things you need to understand! Just like you need to understand Justification, Redemption and all of that.

Romans 8:15-16 (NKJV):

15 For you did not receive the Spirit of Bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit Himself bears Witness with our Spirit that we are Children of God.

It's a very interesting Passage!

The word Adoption is used in the New Testament a few times; and this is one of those verses where Adoption is mentioned.

... I will make Three (3) Observations about this Verse:

1. First, it tells us what happened the time we are adopted into God. And it says when that happens; we receive the Spirit of Adoption.

You have not received the Spirit of Bondage, but you have received the Spirit of Adoption.

So Adoption is effected by a Spirit, and that Spirit is the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit is the One Who effects Adoption in us.

In a normal sense you would say - The Holy Spirit is the Adoption Agent. He is the One Who impacts the spirit of Adoption. He is the One Who has the details that bring us into Adoption with God.

2. The Second thing I want you to note from the Verse is that, when we become Adopted, God becomes our Father.

It says that when we receive the Spirit of Adoption, we are able to cry out, Abba Father.

"ABBA" is the Hebrew word of father, similar to 'Papa' or 'Daddy' - ABBA FATHER.

The Spirit of Adoption makes God our Father. It gives us the right word to call God.

So when we receive the Spirit of Adoption, God is not just the Creator, the Almighty, the Great I AM; He is also Our Father. The Great One is related to us! A Family Relationship develops when we receive the Spirit of Adoption.

And when God becomes our Father, we Become God's Children. The Holy Spirit gives us a deep assurance that we are God's children.

... It is an inner confidence that makes us aware that God had accepted us.

Now, when I Preached on Justification, I explained that Justification is a Legal Statement.

Justification simply, is when a Judge legally Pronounces you 'NOT GUILTY.' You are Justified - there is no case against you. But Justification is not the same as Adoption.

And let me explain it this way: It is as if you go to a Law Court, you have a case and you are taken to Court. The Judge Presides over your case. And after the Judge has Presided over your case, your case is read and the Judge Pronounces you 'NOT GUILTY, ACQUITTED AND DISCHARGED' - So go home!

At that time, you can say your case has been Justified - There is no sin against you.

But when the Judge tells you, Go! You are acquired, discharged, go home. You don't become his child. You don't become his family member. He will get up afterwards, go back to his chamber, take off his gown and go home. And you will go home and celebrate with whoever you want to celebrate with.

There is no relationship between the two of you. All he did was, justify you. And then go his way.

When we add Adoption to Justification, it is as if this Judge who says 'go home, there is no case against you' now determines that; in addition to justifying you, he wants to become your father - and so, starts the Process of Adoption, and makes you his father.

One sets you free, the other gives you a relationship! And that's what Adoption does for us as Christians.

When we are Justified God says: 'There is no sin against you.' But when we are Adopted, He says, 'now you are my Child.'

So Adoption is a step after Justification, after Redemption - It doesn't just forgive us of our sins, it doesn't just free us from sins. But it establishes a relationship between us and God.

Without Adoption, we would be Born Again Christians, redeemed Christians, but not Children of God.

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Without Adoption, we would be saved, we would have New Life, but we would not be children of God - It is Adoption that comes after Redemption, that makes us Children of God.

He Justified us, and then He Adopted us. Redeemed us and Adopted us. Sanctified us and Adopted us

Adoption is so important in the Christian Faith, because that is what qualifies us to call ourselves sons and daughters of God.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

John 1:12-13 (NKJV) this is what it says: But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name: who were born, not of Blood, nor of the Will of the flesh, nor of the Will of man, but of God.

As many as received Jesus, Jesus gave them the right to become Children of God.

What that statement simply means is that Christ is the One Who Authorised our Adoption - He gave the right!

If you read your Bible in the Old Kings James Version, John 1:12-13 says - But as many as received Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of God;

The New King James Version (which I read) says, But as many as received Him, to them He gave the RIGHT to become Children of God.

Two (2) different words, two (2) different meanings - POWER to become, RIGHT to become.

The Greek word that is used in that sentence is the Greek word, "Exocia" - The two (2) different words that can be translated Power or Authority is Dunamis. Dunamis is the ability to do something.



When He says, But as many as received Him, to them He gave the RIGHT - He didn't us Dunamis. If He used Dunamis, it means that when you receive Christ, He gives you the POWER to become the sons of God.

But He used the word "Exocia" - Exocia means Authorization or Permission to do something.

So as many as received Christ, He doesn't give you the POWER to become the son of God; He gives you the RIGHT to become the son of God.

If He gives you the Power, then you can be the Son of God by yourself. But when he gives you Authorization, then it means that He allows you to Become that.

Do you see the difference?

That's why He says: You don't become a Child by your own Will. You cannot come and say, 'From today I decide, I am a Child of God.' You don't have that Power!

We can't make ourselves Children of God; we have to be Authorized.

Somebody had to Sign off and say - 'Now you have the right to become a Child of God.' And that Person Who Authorizes us, Who signs off the Certificate of our Adoption is the Lord Jesus Christ.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the Authorization to become Sons of God.

Words are very important in their meaning - He gave us the AUTHORITY, the RIGHT, to become the Sons of God.

HOW DID JESUS GIVE US THE AUTHORIZATION TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD?

1. HE FREE US FROM SIN.

Sin made us unacceptable before God, sin put us into bondage. And He took us out of sin, out of bondage and freed us from sin - Washed away our sin.

Now I want you to imagine this - I am going to use a Natural Analogy to explain this Spiritual Truth:

Let's say somebody goes to the Orphanage, and he is going to adopt a child. The "Prospective Parent" who wants to adopt somebody from the Orphanage; he goes to the Orphanage, and he wants to adopt a child and somebody must facilitate the Process of Adoption.

The Person who goes to facilitate the Process of Adoption, goes and find a child. But he sees that this child (who must be adopted) doesn't look Good, he is dirty, he is dishevel, not smelling right.

The first thing he does is - He takes the Child to the Shower and bath the child, clean the child. Because this child who must be adopted must be made Right before the Person who is going to adopt him.

That's the first thing Jesus did - He washed us from our sin, from our filth, from our dirt; so that we can come before the Father.

... That's the first thing - He free us from sin, washed us from sin, cleansed us.

2. Second thing He did after He had cleansed us from sin; He Presented us to the Father.

And how did He Present us? - He put on us a New Garment. The Garment of Righteousness. His own unsoiled Garment. He put it on us because He knows what the Father is looking for.

So He washed us, and then He put on us the Right Garment before Presenting us before the Father.

That's how He Authorizes us!

If He didn't wash us, we couldn't be in the Father's Presence. If He didn't clothe us, we couldn't be in the Father's Presence.

But He washed us, and He clothed us and made us Presentable, and Acceptable before the Father.

3. And the third thing Jesus did is that, He shared His Sonship with us.

He is the Only Begotten Son.

And so He comes to the Father, and says to the Father: "I Present this one to You, whom I have washed, and clothed, so that You will have a relationship with him as You have with me".

... Because without Him, we cannot relate to the Father.

He is the Son Who shared His Sonship with us - Jesus shared His Sonship with us. He did not remain the only Begotten Son of God; but He shared Sonship with us.

Does it mean that when Jesus shared His Sonship with us, then we became exactly like Him? - YES and NO.

Yes, we become Sons of God. And No, we don't become a Son like Jesus. Because Jesus' Sonship makes Him equal with God; makes Him Part of the Godhead.

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We don't become part of the Godhead; we don't become equal with God, we don't become Part of the Trinity. But God has a relationship with us. Jesus then becomes the Vine, and we are the Branches.

So God does not create different vines: Jesus is the Vine, you are the vine, I am the vine, everybody is a vine - When we are adopted. No!

There is only One Vine. And He takes the Adopted Children and graft them into the Vine - So that they become Part of the Vine.

And that's why Jesus says, "I am the Vine, you are the branches; without ME you can do nothing."

Our Sonship is only valid as long as we remain in the Son Jesus Christ. Because He is the One Who shares His Sonship with us.

We are not equal with Him (in essence) but Relationally, we enjoy what He has.

The Bible says, that we are Joint Heirs with Him.

He is the Head, we are the Body. God does not create many heads when we become Born Again. There is only one head. But all that He does is fit ALL of us into the Head.

The Fullness of the Godhead bodily, dwells in Christ Jesus, not in us.

The Fullness of the Godhead bodily, dwells in Christ, we are complete in Jesus Christ. He still is connected to us, but we are not the same with Him.

When I say, 'I am a Child of God' it is not the same thing as Jesus being the Son of God.

It simply means that He has allowed me to Participate in His Sonship. He has Plunged me as a branch into the Vine, so that in Him I can grow to the life that God wants me to have.

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Jesus is the One Who authorized our Adoption. Without His authorization, our Adoption would be impossible.

If Jesus did not say, 'we could be saved and become children of God's; we would never have become Children of God.

You cannot walk your way to being a Child of God. You cannot Pay your way to be a Child of God. You cannot influence your way to be a child of God.

You only become a Child of God because Jesus accepts you into Himself. And when you come into HIMSELF, you receive the spirit of Adoption.

THERE (3) THINGS ADOPTION DOES FOR US.

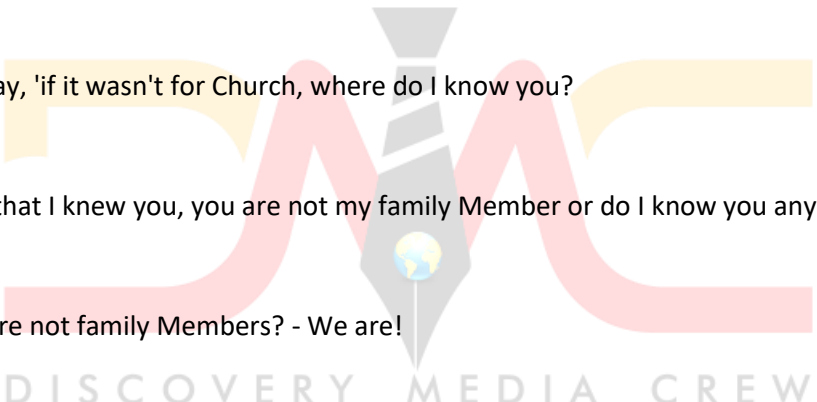
1. Adoption brings us into God's Family.

God puts His Name on us, we become Part of His Family.

The Family of God is very large. it has all kinds of People in it - And we are Included in that Family.

And because we are Adopted in God's Family - I am adopted, you are adopted, we are adopted. We become brothers and sisters, with other Believers in Christ.

Sometimes People think that we are just Church Members.

We hear People say, 'if it wasn't for Church, where do I know you?'  
A large, semi-transparent watermark logo for Discovery Media Crew is centered on the page. It features the letters 'DMC' in a stylized, colorful font (yellow, pink, and grey) with a globe icon integrated into the letter 'M'. Below the letters, the words 'DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW' are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

It's in the Church that I knew you, you are not my family Member or do I know you anywhere?'

Are you sure we are not family Members? - We are!

Because in Christ Jesus, we are Members of the same Family (of God). Christ Jesus has made us brothers and sisters.

You know, when I was a Younger Christian in the seventies (70s) we used to call each other 'brothers and sisters in Christ' - This is Brother Dan, this is Sister Joan.

We saw each other as brothers and sisters in Christ - No matter the age. We all acknowledged, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thess days, I don't hear People call each other, brothers and sisters. I think we have to go back to the Practice of calling each other 'brothers and sisters in Christ.' Because that is what we are!

And if you think your deepest relationship is with your Biological brothers and sisters, that's not true!

Your relationship with your brothers and sisters ends here on Earth. The day anyone of you leaves, the Brotherliness is gone!

\*But your brothers and sisters in Christ, our Brotherliness is Eternal ! - It never ends, death cannot stop it. We are brothers and sisters in Christ here on Earth, and we are brothers and sisters in Christ - there in Heaven.

It is a life long relationship - Superior to the Blood Relationships that we have.

What we have as Christians, is deeper than what we have as blood relationships.

And that's why it is important, when we become Christians, we nurture our Fellowship with each other. Because what God creates with this family is deeper than what your father and mother created when they gave birth to their children.

... We are brothers and sisters; we are Part of God's Family.

2. Adoption gives us access to God's Presence.

Because we are in His Family, we can go before Him anytime, any day - without any sense of shame. We have boldness to come into God's Presence because He is our Father.

If we were just Born Again and God was not our Father, we would be Born Again People just living our lives.

But because He has made us His Children, we now have access to Him.

Without Adoption, we would be Born Again without Access to God, we would be Justified without Access to God; we would be Redeemed without Access to God.

But with Adoption, we have Access to God, in addition to the Salvation that He has given to us.

3. Adoption grants us Privileges in God's Family.

... We don't just have Access; we have Privileges in God's Family.

We are Joint Heirs with Christ, we are Partakers of the Divine Nature, we are Partakers of the Inheritance of the Saints in Life. We have Peace with God, we have the Name of Jesus give to us to use.

We become co-labourers with Christ; and we are assured of Eternity with God after this time here on Earth.

There are Privileges to being a part of God's Family.

And I Pray that the Privileges of Life that Christ has made available to us through Adoption; He has made us Part of the Divine Family.

There are Believers all over the world; in every Parts of the world, in every Nations, in China, Russia, Germany, United States, Ghana, Namibia, Norway, Nigeria - Born Again Christians, all belonging to the same Family; all Adopted by the same Father. We are one together, in Christ Jesus.

NATURAL ADOPTION.

Permit me to make a statement relating to Adoption - Not the Spiritual Adoption (that I just talked about) but Natural Adoption.

There are Christians who have Problems with Adopting Children. Because People would say, is it real? Or, 'I want my own blood.'

The highest Relationship that God has with each one of us is by Adoption.

... That is how we became Children of God.

And in the same way, we can confer that same relationship to other human beings, and adopt them into our families.

And so for every Couple hearing me or reading this Message on the label of DMC; believing God for children, who is yet to have a Child, I will suggest to you very strongly: That God has many People that He wants to bring into your family. Just like He brought you into His Family through Adoption, He can also bring other People into your family through Adoption.

Adoption is a Legitimate God's approved way of building families And we can build families - Amen!

You have to remember that God approves of it! And we (Believers) approve of Adoption.

There are many Christian Families who have Adopted children.

Some of them have grown up - Very well adjusted in their families. Noble children, who otherwise would not have had the opportunities of a stable family.

And families who otherwise, would not have had the joy of Parenting; both connecting through Adoption. Just as God became Father by Adopting us, and we became children by receiving His Adoption.

So, if you are a family here or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, and you are thinking of having children; and for some Biological reasons it's becoming difficult, God has already given you the way by which you can have your family - Through the Process of Adoption.

And don't let any ignorant family Member tell you that 'he is not our blood, she is not our blood, we want our own blood.'

... Are they even sure of whose blood is in them? Are you even sure?

As somebody said: "Motherhood is a fact. Fatherhood is a believe."



You are thinking you belong; one day they will do your Blood Test and you will have the shock of your Life!

Forget about Blood - It's Adoption!

And that's how we came into the Family of God and that's how God want to bring a Child into your family.

And you really want Guidance, please talk to those concerned.

It's a long Process because there is a Legal Process that has to be followed - There is a Biological Health Process, there are all kinds of Process. It takes time - Sometimes two (2) Years to complete the Process.

Don't go an hide somewhere and pick a child somewhere from the Village and come and tell us you didn't know you were Pregnant - 'Oh, i went to the Village,look at what I have given birth to.' What kind of like is that? You are too grown to tell such a lie.

... Please, Adopt and be Proud of the Adoption!

This is how the Bible puts out Adoption, it says: "For Jesus is not ashamed to call us Brethren."

We are adopted, but Jesus embraces us as His brothers and sisters because He values Adoption!

An Adopted Child is as Good as a Natural child.

And may the Lord help every families that need to adopt - Amen.

If you are in need of an Adopted Child, Please talk to Pastors, Lawyers añd the Social Workers who understand it and can show you the Process.

But by all means, it is a Legitimate Process that you can start to raise a family for yourself.

And God used it for you, and you can use it also for your family.. ÀMEN!

That has nothing to do with the Adoption I Preached about! But it had a correlation, that's why I needed to throw that in.

Because there are People fighting all kinds of Battle that God has already won the Victory for them.

Somebody has gone through the nine (9) Months of hardship to give birth to the child. All you need to do is to recognize and go to the appropriate Place and Adopt a child.

And give that child the Privileges, the Rights of fatherhood and motherhood. And embrace them in a family - 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 out rightly 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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## 5TH DECEMBER, 2021 - CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 5.



TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8.

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Today I'll be Teaching on CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP - PART 5. On the Sub-title: WHAT KIND OF GIVER AM I?

... That is a question to ask yourself.

In Part 1 we asked: "Why do we Give to the Lord?"

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-1-Why-Do-We-Give-To-God-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

In Part 2 we asked: "What do we Give to the Lord?"

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

In Part 3 we asked: "Where should we Give to God?"

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-3-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

In Part 4 we asked: "How should we Give to God?"

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christian-Stewardship-Part-4-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

Then today, it's a more Personal Question: WHAT KIND OF GIVER AM I?

We want to look at ourselves and think of how we worship God Financially.

It is a sort of a follow-up from the last one, where we talked about the Churches in Macedonia. And Paul's Mission of reconciling the Churches in Jerusalem, with the Gentile Church.

And the Offering that the Churches in Macedonia gave, to make this a Possibility.

We centered the Teaching on 2 Corinthians 8 - Where Paul talked about the Giving of the Churches in Macedonia.

Now I am going to go a little further from that same thought, where I was in 2 Corinthians 8, and move to the next Chapter - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

That is where I am going to base my Teaching on, today.

Now you have to understand that it is still the same mode of Paul's writing - Commending the Macedonian Churches for their Giving.

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And now, he is telling the Corinthian Churches to imitate the Macedonian Churches on how they gave.

And then he gives further Instructions on what happens when we give. And the Kinds of Givers that there are.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NKJV):

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 So let each one Give as he Purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of Necessity; for God loves a Cheerful Giver.

8 And God is able to make all Grace abound toward you, that you, always having all Sufficiency in all things, may have an Abundance for every Good work.

Paul mentions two (2) Kinds of Givers in this Passage: The Sparing Givers and the Bountiful Givers.

... So I will take the Two (2) Givers and explain what it means.

1. First, he talks about those who Sow Sparingly: I call them The Sparing Givers.

... They Give Sparingly!

The word 'Sparing' comes from a Greek word which means 'TO HOLD BACK'.

So a Sparing Giver is someone who holds back what must be given.

It is a very interesting Greek word: Sparingly - And a form of that word is used in Romans 8:31-38, which says:

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not SPARE His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a Charge against God's Elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the Right Hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall Tribulation, or Distress, or Persecution, or Famine, or Nakedness, or Peril, or Sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are More Than Conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am Persuaded that neither death nor life, nor Angels nor Principalities nor Powers, nor things Present nor things to come,

... That word "SPARE" is the same word that is used about Sparing Givers.

The Bible says that: "God did not Spare His Son..."

In other words, He did not "HOLD BACK" His Son; He did not withhold His Son.

But the Sparing Giver is one who withholds

He or she is not like God, Who did not Spare His Son.

A Sparing Giver is one who holds back from Giving.

WHO IS A SPARING GIVER?

There are different kinds of Sparing Givers. And I am hopeful that they are not listening to me now or reading this Message now on the label of DMC.

But Peradventure they are; I am sure you can now determine what kind of Giver you are: Whether you are the one who Spares, or you are the one who is a Bountiful Giver.

QUALIFICATIONS OF SPARING GIVERS.

I. First, they are those who NEVER Give to God.

They never give to God! They may give to other courses but have a Spiritual and Mental blockage when it comes to Giving to God.

They can come up with every excuse as to why they should NEVER give to God. Or never give in Church.

They come up with Excuses, such as: I don't trust the Church - They don't use my money wisely. Or, Giving is not by force - I want to do what I want I want to do.

And all the while, they have no Problem Giving to someone or something else, which is far less reliable

So the Sparing Givers Never Give to God!

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They may be in Church; but every time have an excuse about their own Needs, bills, concerns and all of that! And they never Give.

... So that is the first qualification of a Sparing Giver.

II. And then secondly, the Sparing Givers are those who Give "OFF AND ON".

They give irregularly - They give when they feel like it.

When they are in the mood they Give. When they are not in the mood, they don't Give to God.

They are People that I call "GOD TIPPERS."

They Give as a Person would tip a Waiter or a Doorman. They can't bring themselves to frequently give to God.

... So when they are in the mood, they TIP.

They don't Give a lot. But they just Give enough to represent that they came to Church.

You know, when I was a kid; I don't know maybe our Parents did not teach us well.

When we are going to Church, they will Give us a tiny coin to go and Give in the Collection Box. And so we went with half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) Pesewa (Ghanian currency).

... How many of you remember half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) Pesewa? Alright! How many of you never used the half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) Pesewa? - Quite a number of you!

Well, in Ghana we used to make use of half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) Pesewa. It was worth something back then.

So, they would give us a coin (½ Pesewa). And before then, there was a quarter (¼) of a Pence - the Farthing. Which had a hike in it. So we go with coins, put it in the Collection Box.

Somehow, we felt that going to Church and Giving an Offering, you just Give a 'Left Over.' - Go and TIP God. Go and give something to God just for Him to know you came to Church.

... A Sparing Giver is one who Give "Off and On!"

III. Thirdly, the Sparing Givers are those who Give Grudgingly.

When it is time to Give to God, they Give with their faces squeezed.

When you talk about Giving in Christ Church, they feel offended. When you ask them to Give they just feel insulted.

They don't enjoy Giving in the House of the Lord - They are Sparing Givers. They give Grudgingly, Complaining.

IV. And fourthly, the Sparing Givers are those who only Give because of Necessity.

They Give because they are out under Pressure to Give.

And the Scripture says some People only Give when you Give them juicy Promises of a Miracle happening for them.

If you don't tell them 'Something Great is going to happen to them' they don't Give.

And these days many Christians only Give to connect to a Grace or a Blessing but not simply to Honour God.

So, it is becoming a quick procold thing: "I do this for God, God does that for me." Not that I do it for God because I Love Him - Hence, they are those who Give out of Necessity.

All these Categories of Givers are Sparing Givers - They give Sparingly. They Withhold, Grudgingly Giving out of Necessity; "Off and On", Irregular or those who find it difficult to Give at all.

Unfortunately, some Christians fall into the Category of Sparing Givers.

2. The Second Category of Givers that Paul talks about is the BOUNTIFUL GIVERS.

... They are the opposite of the Sparing Givers.

And I supposed, among those listening to me or The DMC Readers, we would find a lot of Bountiful Givers - Okay!

QUALITIES OF BOUNTIFUL GIVERS.

I. They Give Regularly.

They are not like the 'Tippers' or the Sparing Givers. But the Bountiful Givers are Regular Givers.

They are those who Give Systematically either once a Week, once a Month - Whenever they are Paid, it is a routine.

When they go to any Church Service, they know they have to Give and they Give! It has become a habit of theirs - They are the Bountiful Givers.

They know that anytime they come to the Presence of God, they will Give an Offering and they Give regularly.

If they are Tithing, they do it regularly.

Whether it's First Fruit, Offering or whatever Offering; they do it very Regularly and Systematically.

... That is a Bountiful Giver!

II. Secondly, Bountiful Givers are those who give Purposefully.

They think through what they want to Give to God; they Plan ahead and determine their Offerings.

Many times, at the beginning of the New Year, they determine their Offerings for the Year. At the beginning of a Month, they determine what they want to Give.

Before they come to Church, they determine their Offering - They think Purposefully. They Plan ahead of time and they are never under rush to Give because they have Planned Purposefully.

As the Scripture says: "Let each one Purpose in his heart..."

... They Give Purposefully.

III. Thirdly, the Bountiful Givers are the People who Give Generously.

They do not hold back on God. They are so Passionate for the Lord. That they will go the extra mile to Give to the Lord. They are very Generous when it comes to Giving to God.

IV. And fourthly, the Bountiful Givers Give Cheerfully.

Giving is not a burden to them. They don't see Giving and Offering as a loss, but a Gain.

So, the Question is: Which one of these are you? Are you a Sparing Giver or a Bountiful Giver?

The Qualities are there and you can easily fix yourself somewhere in there.

And maybe you are in-between Sparing and Bountiful Givers; but you can always identify what kind of Giver you are.

Whether you are a Sparing Giver or you are a Bountiful Giver; God's expectation is that all His children would become Bountiful Givers.

Giving is actually a matter of the heart - "Let each one Give as he Purposes in his heart".

The Passage says it is a matter of the heart!

Whether you are a Bountiful Giver or a Sparing Giver, it is a matter of the heart.

Your heart condition (and I am not talking about your Physical heart condition). But I am talking about where your Passion is; your Passionate desires.

Your heart condition would determine what you Give.

Actually, Jesus is the One Who established this Truth when He said in Matthew 6:21 - "For where your Treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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Giving is a matter of the heart - Whether you are a Sparing Giver or a Bountiful Giver; it is a matter of your heart.

Outside of the necessities of Life, what you spend money on reveals your Priorities. It is an heart matter!

When our hearts are distant from God, we Give Sparingly - The way we Give to God Paints a Portrait of our Relationship with God.

I have said it many, many times: "Giving reveals the condition of your heart."

If you love your children, you are going to Give to them. If you love your spouse, you are going to Give to them - Whatever you love you Give to.

If you are not a Giver, it simply means you don't Love.

You can't tell somebody "I Love you so much" but never Give.

What kind of Love is that?

How many married Couples would say - "Oh, my husband loves me so much, but he had never given me a Pesewa (Ghanian Currency). He gives nothing!"

Or, can you say: "Oh, my wife loves me so much, but the woman, her hand is strong oooo! When she has money, you won't get one Pesewa out of it."

Nobody says that!

Because, Generosity is an expression of your heart. What you love, what you are Passionate about.

So, when our hearts are distant from God, we Give Sparingly. But when our hearts are drawn closely to God, we Give Bountifully. It is a battle of the heart.

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When we are in love with the Lord, we reach out and Give to Him. Because we Give Passionately to what we feel Passionate about.

If you feel Passionate about food, you spend a lot on food. If you love food, you'll spend a lot on food.

If you feel Passionate about Clothes, you spend on Clothes. There are People who can live in a Kiosk - but dress to kill.

You know, sometimes when you see the homes People are coming out of, and the Clothes they are wearing; you know what their Passion is. They don't care about where they sleep, they care about how they look.

And they will go the extra mile to dress well. Why? - Because they feel Passionate about what they wear.

There are People who would never wear Good Clothes, they don't even care about where they sleep. But they care about their Stomach. And they would munch a lot of food.

There are those who know the latest Joints and Restaurants in Town, where the best food and the best whatever are sold. But beyond that, they care about nothing. Why? - Because their Passion is food!

If you feel Passionate about Socializing, you'll spend a lot of money on Socializing and going out with friends.

And so there are People who spend so much on going out with friends, and never take care of their children's Education; never take care of anything at home. But they would spend all the money on Outing. Why? - Because that is what they feel Passionate about.

You know, People spend money on Football - On Soccer, because they are Passionate about it.

If you feel Passionate about yourself, you spend a lot on yourself - Sometimes to the detriment of your Spouse and your children.

Some People are so fixated on themselves and their looks, that they will starve their children, so they look Good.

Whatever you are Passionate about, that is where you spend your money - "For where your Treasure is, there will your heart be also".

So, if you feel Passionately about God, you spend a lot on things related to God. If God is important to you, anything related to the things of God, you will not be compelled.

You don't need a Promise; you don't need to be dragged; you don't need to be encouraged - You just Give!

Because really, a Person who loves Food doesn't need encouragement to buy food - They encourage themselves. They can be driving through Town and they say: "Hmmm, I smell that nice aroma; let me go and buy the food." It's a heart matter!

So when you say: "LORD, I love You!" How do you know if you love Him? - You Give to Him.

So a Sparing Giver, a Bountiful Giver - Matters of the heart!

WHAT MAKE PEOPLE GIVE SPARINGLY AND BOUNTIFULLY?

Proverbs 11:24-25(NKJV):

There is one who scatters, yet Increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to Poverty. The Generous Soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

I mean, Natural Law would say: "If you Withhold, you gain more. If you Give, you are losing".

But Scriptural Principle says: "If you Give, you are Gaining; if you Withhold, you are Losing."

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And so, there are those who Scatter - They Give a lot and they flourish. And there are those who Withhold and are Poor.

So what does that teach us? - It teaches us that they have a SCARCITY MENTALITY.

... They Give Sparingly because they have a SCARCITY MENTALITY.

A Person with a Scarcity Mentality always feels like Taking, instead of Giving - They never appreciate what they have or what has been given to them.

Even when they have a lot of money and, they are never happy. They always want to take.



You know, since I started using Computers; and those who know me Personally, know I am always on my Laptop, constantly working, writing, typing, Studying - My Computer is my Office.

I don't need a Physical Office - I just need that little thing in my hand, and I can work anywhere.

I have tons of tons of Programs on Computer. But even from the beginning when I started using Computers, I made an effort to buy every Program I run on my Computer.

In those days when People will go on and give you Microsoft Office; some People say: "I'll copy it and give you the Disk."

I didn't do that! I would go and buy the Original Microsoft. Because, I believed if Somebody has worked so hard to make my Life so easy, I must reward them for what they have done for me.

And so, all the Programs I run on my Computer, I Pay for them.

If there are Free Versions, I don't use them as a matter of Principle!

In my Phone I have a couple of Games. When I Play Games, if there is a Pro-Version that you must Pay for, I Pay for that one!

Because you see, the Person who is giving you Pleasure worked hard on that. And you must ensure that the Labourer receives his or her Hire.

... It is a Simple Principle!

And then there are People who always want the Free things - They want the Free Things!

And there are People like that - When it comes to things of God, they want Free Things.

But if we want People to reward us for what we do, then we must also Reward those who helped us.

Is that so? - It's a Simple Logic!

So, if Somebody has gone out of his way to Produce a Computer Program for me, I must show my appreciation for what the Person has done!

A Scarcity Mentality Person has a sense of entitlement; they never have enough - They are Grabbers!

They are the kind of People who would go on a Buffet Table and by the time they go through; it would be as if an Atomic Bomb visited the Buffet Table.

Nothing behind them survives! Because, when they are Picking, they never think of the Next Person in the line.

... Because if everybody has taken the way you took, you would not have your Chance at the table.

It is Scarcity Mentality that makes you think "if I don't take all of it, I will have Nothing".

It is not a Godly Mindset; it is not a Generous Mindset - It is a Scarcity Mindset.

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And it translates into how we Give; how we show Compassion, how we show Mercy and how we Help other People - Scarcity Mentality!

Then there are the Bountiful Givers - Bountiful Givers have an Abundance Mentality.

Even when they have Money, they are Cheerful and Joyful - They are always in a Good Mood. They always have More Than Enough.

Not because they have Physically More Than Enough; but because they appreciate what they have - When you give them a little, they appreciate it.

One of the things that sometimes can be very Painful is: People who never show appreciation for what others have done for them - You give them money, they don't appreciate; you offer them Help, they don't appreciate. They think you should do better - That is Scarcity Mentality!

The Abundance Mentality - If you give them very little, they Treasure it.

It is that Mentality that helps us to be Generous Givers.

Because we always feel Full and Complete - There is Joy in what we do. There is appreciation for what we do. We take that same Spirit into our Spiritual Walk. And when it comes to doing things for God, we do it wholeheartedly.

So What Kind of a Giver are you? - Are you a Scarcity Mentality Sparing Giver? Are you the Abundance Mentality Bountiful Giver? Which one are you? Where is your heart? Where is your Passion?

Do an Audit of your Expenditures - Think of all the things you spend money on. It would tell you what is important to you. Look at that!

... Just do an Audit, it will tell you where your heart is.

Where you spend your money shows you what is important to you!

So, God is looking out for People whose hearts are Generous - Because, as 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 teaches us; God responds to us according to our Giving.

He who sows Sparingly; when you give the money, you have given been it like seed that you have sown.

He who sows Sparingly would receive Sparingly. He who sows Bountifully would receive Bountifully - That's is God's Law!

So What Kind of a Giver am I? And what kind of Givers are we?

And I Pray that God teach each one of us to become Bountiful Givers, whose heart is right with Him - Amen.

And if we talk short in any way, may the Lord help us correct our Mindset and bring us in Alignment with His Purposes; so that our heart will always express our desires for the Lord, in Jesus' Name - AMEN.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.



## 19TH DECEMBER, 2021 - TOPIC: A SUPERNATURAL CHRISTMAS



**TEXT: GALATIANS 4:4-5**

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

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Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

I have Titled my Message today, A SUPERNATURAL CHRISTMAS..

That is my Prayer for each one of us today, that God would give each one of us, a SUPERNATURAL CHRISTMAS - Amen.

My God give you a Supernatural Christmas - Amen.

So I am going to start with Galatians 4:4-5.

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It is not a Christmas narrative; but it gives us a context to understand what happened on Christmas.

GALATIANS 4:4-5 (NKJV)

4 But when the Fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

5 To redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the Adoption as sons.

Christmas is about Divine Timing and Divine Interventions!

We see God synchronizing His Eternal Plan with Life here in Earth.

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God lives in Eternity without time. But we live in time. And God had to work Eternity into time in the Christmas Stories.

And so we see in the Christmas Story in the Bible of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke - which are the two (2) Gospels that talk about the Birth of Jesus Christ.

There is so much Activity - There is Angelic Presence, there is so much happening during the Christmas Period, or the Birth of Jesus Christ

And Galatians puts it rightly - "When the Fullness of the time had come,"

There is Divine Timing, and there is Divine Intervention.

So I am going to talk about three (3) Main Things today. And hopefully, we will have a few more minutes to Pray before I end today.

1. The first one is that - CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT SUPERNATURAL MOVEMENT.

The Christmas Story shows us how God is able to Position us in the Place He wants us to be.

Even when we think God has forgotten about us, He thinks about us.

He Positions two (2) important Groups of People in His Will.

I. The first one is JOSEPH (the Earthly father of Jesus).

God had to Position Joseph and his family in His Will.

And how did God do it? - He used a Government Decree to move Joseph.

A Decree from Augustus Ceaser, Emperor of Rome, was enacted. Under the Decree stipulated, the People had to be registered for a Census.

The Decree came at the 'Wrong' time in Mary's Pregnancy. It was very inconvenient. It didn't seem suitable. But Joseph had to obey. Because he was under the Roman's Government.

And yet that 'Inconvenient' instruction, led to the fulfilment of an Ancient Prophecy - "The Messiah had to be born in Bethlehem Ephrata; the City of David."

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He had no intention to go to his home town to deliver his baby or the Baby Jesus.

... But God moved them, by using an 'Unlikely' means - A Government Decree.

So sometimes God uses Unlikely scenarios to bring us to where we must be!

And there may be things going on in your Life that can Change your Timetable; Change your timing.

Maybe you used to do something in a certain way and it looks like your Life is been disrupted!

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Wait a minute! Could it be that God is using these events to move you from one Place to the other so that you can be in His Perfect Will?

Don't be too angry about Changes of Location, Changes and Movements in your Life. Because for all you know, it could be the Hand of God - in the Fullness of Time; bringing you to the Place that He wants you to be.

... Supernatural Movements!

II. The Second Story about Supernatural Movement happened in another Part of the world - The People we call "THE WISE MEN".



They had to move from the East - They didn't plan to move.

And how do God do it?

God used an Usual Star to move them!

They saw something so compelling in the Sky; that they had to leave their homes in search of a Jesus.

And it was important that they move because Jesus Christ did not only come for the Jews.

By they moving from where they were to where Jesus was; that was God saying: "This Jesus that is Born is King of the Jews, He is also King of the Nations of the world. He is the Messiah of all People!"

These two (2) Incidents tell us that Christmas is about Supernatural Movement.

For the Wise Men, for two (2) years, they had to trek from where they were, to where Jesus was - Two (2) Years!

Through Desert, through Mountains, moving! Not knowing where they were going to arrive - They were just following a Star!

The Question has always been asked: WHAT WAS THE STAR?

... Was it a Normal Star in the Sky? Was it an Astrological sign?

I believe, and although it is not stated clearly in the Passage - I believed that, that Star was an Angel. I believed the Star was an Angel.

Why do I believe so? - Because the Star could Move.

... Stars don't Move!

- Not only could the Star move, it could Stop.

- Not only could it Stop, it could appear and Disappear!

That could not be a Normal Star in the Sky - This is something else happening in the Sky.

These People were used to reading the Stars! - They saw something that they didn't understand and started following it.

But what they saw, I believed, was an Angel of God - Bearing the Light of God and leading them by the Light of God.

And the Second reason why I believed so is because if you look at the Christmas Story; every Major Players in the Christmas Story was an Angel.

Zacharias saw an Angel, Mary saw an Angel, Joseph saw an Angel, the Shepherds saw Angels. The Wise men are the only ones who didn't see an Angel and that is why I believed they saw an Angel.

And that Angel was the Star in the Sky directing them to the Infant King.

It was not Astrology - it was God pointing them. But they couldn't interpret the Sign that God gave them. They thought they had seen a Star! And his Star kept going and going and going! And leading them till it arrived to the right Location.

I know of no Star anywhere in the world; no Planetary System that moves from Place to Place, and directs People to a Specific Location - This was an Angel direction!

And these Movements were both by God - One a Government Decree, one an Angelic Visitation - Both, God using them to Provide Movement and Direction for People.

And this Christmas Season, may you have a Supernatural Manifestation, Movement, Intervention in your Life - Amen!

May God Place you where He wants you to be - Amen!

... So the first is Supernatural Movement!

2. The Second about the Christmas Story is also about SUPERNATURAL PREGNANCIES.

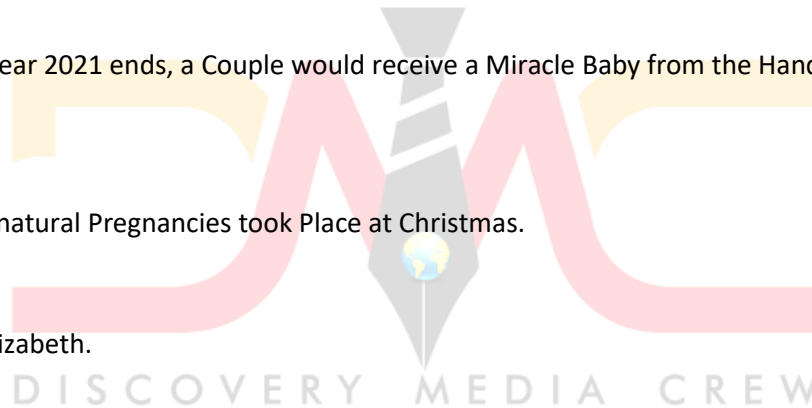
Two (2) different women, under two (2) very different conditions, got Pregnant - Supernatural Pregnancies.

And I believed God can and will bless Someone with a Child before the Year 2021 ends - Amen; Somebody will have a Miracle Baby - Amen.

I say before the Year 2021 ends, a Couple would receive a Miracle Baby from the Hand of the Lord - Amen.

... Because Supernatural Pregnancies took Place at Christmas.

I. The First was Elizabeth.



She was a barren Woman whom God enabled to conceive in her Old Age!

She had tried and failed many times and when she thought it was all over, God surprised her.

May the Lord surprise Someone who thinks it is all over - Amen.

May the Lord surprise Someone who's been told 'it's all over - Amen!'

It may not just be a Pregnancy; but it may be something you have tried and tried and failed and failed and failed!

But there comes a moment in your Life when God makes an Angelic Intrusion into your Life and makes an Announcement that Changes your Life.

That is what happened to Elizabeth's husband - Zacharias. God enabled an older woman considered barren by her People to be conceive.

... That is Supernatural Pregnancy!

But it was Supernatural with God using Human Beings - Zacharias and Elizabeth!

So, the Natural Process is needed by God. And the Natural Process Produces a Supernatural result.

Sometimes you can be doing what you normally do; what everybody does; and what you have been doing for a long time without result and one day, you do the same thing. And instantly, there is a Breakthrough!

... May God give you that - Amen!

Because you know - You wake up in the Morning on Monday, you go out, you work, you chase Contacts, you chase Projects, you do all kinds of things; you visit People, you talk to People, you try to work your way through and you come back home, no results!

Then you get up in the Morning on Tuesday and do the same thing. And do that the remaining days of the week. And then you wake up the next week and do it. Do it the Next Month and the Next Month.

And then one Thursday, you just do the same thing. And instantly, everything that didn't work yesterday, last week, last Month, last Year, begins to happen!

That is what happened to Elizabeth and Zacharias - It was a Supernatural Pregnancy.

May God give you a Supernatural Miracle in your Life - Amen.

II. The Second Pregnancy is about Mary.

She is on the opposite side - She is a Virgin! She knows no man!

Elizabeth knows a Man; Mary knows no Man - And God enabled her to conceive without a Man.

An Experienced Woman with no results; an Inexperienced Woman who has never had an attempt both received a Miracle.

Of course, Mary is the only one who received a Virgin Birth. No woman would ever have a Virgin Birth like Mary had - That is only a Once in History Miracle!

But the Lesson we can learn is that God's Power is able to touch both the Old and barren; and the Young and Virgin. That God is able to touch the Experienced and the Inexperienced.

That God is able to reach out to the farthest East and the farthest West. And gave them both the same thing - The Morale of a baby.

And today I just want to believe God that by this Declaration, God is reaching out to Somebody and giving you what you have tried and tried and tried but failed to get - Amen

And may you receive it today, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

From Elizabeth and Mary, we see two (2) Supernatural Pregnancies.

From Joseph and the Wise men, we see Two (2) Supernatural Movements - To align People to the Will of God.

The Christmas season is a Supernatural Time!

3. The Last Thing I want us to consider has to do with SUPERNATURAL MESSAGES.

So there is Supernatural Movement, then Supernatural Pregnancies and Supernatural Messages coming to People.

And I believed God is speaking now! Because His Word is not void of Power.

I. The first one to receive a Supernatural Message; surrounding the Birth of Jesus was ZACHARIAS in Luke 1:13-14.

But the Angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your Prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have Joy and Gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

What is the Message? - "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your Prayer is heard;"

I believed those words to Zacharias are still relevant for us today! The Lord is telling Someone: "Don't be afraid, your Prayer is heard - Amen".

He sent an Angel to tell this Man - "Don't be afraid, your Prayer is heard."

Remember, this is not the first time he had been Praying - He has been Praying for a very long time. But this one Moment, God says: "it's Okay! It's registered."

You have been Praying and Praying and Praying! I came to tell you this morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC: "Don't be afraid, your Prayer is heard - Amen!"

... That is the First Supernatural Message of Christmas!

II. The Second Supernatural Message was to MARY.

The Message says: "Rejoice, you have found Favour with God."

Luke 1:28-30 - And having come in, the Angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at His saying, and considered what manner of Greeting this was. Then the Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

Oh, I love that! - "You have found Favour with God."

The Lord is saying those same Words to somebody right now: "You have found Favour with God."

That means you are on God's Good sight. That God has turned His eyes on you. That God has turned His focus on you. You have found Favour with God!

May you find Favour with God - Amen. May the Lord Favour you between now and 31st December 2021 - Amen!

May you receive Favour for Fruitfulness from the Lord - Amen!

May the Lord cause the barren to become Fruitful, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

What did not happen from January 2021 till now, may it happen from now till the end of December 2021 - Amen.

Because that which is considered barren will be made Fruitful in a Short Time - Amen.

... "Do not be afraid, your Prayer is heard; and Rejoice, you have been favoured by God."

God has Selected you, God had Picked up out, God has Set you Apart. God would show you Mercy, God would show you Kindness, God would Elevate you, God would Promote you. God would do Good to you - Amen.

... Rejoice, for you have found Favour with God!

III. The Third Supernatural Message was to Joseph (A Strange one).

And God says to Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take your wife. - Matthew 1:20-21

Why did God say: "Don't be afraid to take your wife?"

Because Joseph is confounded by the Miracle of Mary; that he is about to reject the Miracle.

And God says: No Joseph, this is not a curse - This is a Miracle.

You know, there are certain times that something happens in your Life and you think 'this is trouble.'  
And God says: "This is a Breakthrough".

You look at it and you say: 'Oh, this is going to destroy me.' And God says: "This is going to lift you up! - Don't be afraid."

... Don't be afraid to accept what God is doing in your Life.

It may scare you; but don't be afraid of it. It may not be familiar but don't be afraid of it.

And God says to Joseph: "You have never seen anything like this before." But it's Me. You have never experienced anything like this before, but it's Me.

You know, sometimes God can bless you so much that you would be scared!

It's like you working all day and getting to your home, you will see a box full of Gold!

That's why the Angel says: Don't be afraid! Because what you thought was Impossible; when it happens, your heart beats. You get scared 'Ah, am I save?'



And God is telling Joseph - Don't be afraid, I opened that door. Don't be afraid, I gave that opportunity. Don't be afraid, I made that Person call you. Don't be afraid, I put that Pot of Gold your way.

"Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife because what is conceived of her is of the Holy Spirit".

May the Lord give you a Miracle that would cause fear to come into your Heart - Amen.

A Miracle that would make you Jump; a Miracle that would make you Leap; a Miracle that would make you Scream, a Miracle that would make you Roll on the floor - Amen!

A Miracle that would make you turn and say: "Is this me?" - Yes Sir, it is you! Yes Ma, it is you.

... Because God says "Don't be afraid to take it, it is from Me."

IV. And the Final Supernatural Message was to the Shepherds - "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy.

Luke 2:10-11 - 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. For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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Oh, I love that! - Don't be afraid. It's Good News! Great Joy. "I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy."

May God bring you a Message this Season - Amem! From now to December 2021; "Good Tidings of Great Joy - Amen."

I said: "Good Tidings of Great Joy! - May the Lord give you Good Tidings of Great Joy - Amen.

GOOD NEWS!!!

Somebody say: I RECEIVE GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!

Some of you have received Bad News. But because you have entered a Season of Christmas; there is GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY - Amen!

## PRAYERS

I want you to begin to talk to the Lord and say LORD, I need some Good News at this time in my Life.

Begin to talk to the Lord!

Pray to the Lord and say - I am ready for some Good News. I'm ready Lord for my Story to Change.

I am ready to hear Your Favour, Your Breakthrough happening in my Life!

CLOSING PRAYER.

And so Father, in the Name of Jesus, I speak over the lives of Your People:

That where there has been Bad News; where there has been disappointments and heartaches, where there has been destructions - On this day, and in this Season; may You speak a Word to Your Children that will cause their hearts to leap for Joy!

May You speak a Word to Your Children that will cause them to Rise up to a New Level.

For everyone who has been saddened, may the Lord give you Good News.

For everyone who has been barren, May the Lord cause you to be Fruitful.

For everyone who has lost their Way, may the Lord bring you into Alignment with His Timing and His Purposes.

May God move you to the Right Place; may the Lord bring the Right People your way, in the Name of Jesus.

This Christmas Season, let the Supernatural Breakforth in your Life.

From today, through to Monday, through to Christmas Day and the days after Christmas onto the New Year; let it be Good News!

Let it be the barren conceiving, in the Name of Jesus!

Let it be a Divine Movement!

May God Align you, may God Position you, may God cause you to be Surprised by a Miracle.

May God cause you to receive what you are afraid of; and cause you to receive the Good Thing you are afraid of.

The Good Thing that you think - "Ha it can't happen" may it happen to you.

Your Story would Change, your story would be different! Favour is yours; and Blessing has entered your House.

In the Name of Jesus - Amen! Amen!! Amen!!!

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

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!

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MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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## 26TH DECEMBER, 2021 - THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD



**TEXT: ISAIAH 40:27-31**

Amen and Amen! Let's keep Standing, as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS in this Year of Fruitfulness:

Are you ready? Well say with me:

The Eternal God is our Refuge. He opens Rivers in desolate Heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be Fresh and Flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, and move and have my Being.

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It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing Fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me Exceedingly Fruitful.

In this Season, my Spirit bears Fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make Way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by Day, Step by Step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Let me just share a few thoughts with you as we get into the New Year.

ISAIAH 40:27-31 (NKJV)

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the Lord,  
And my just claim is Passed over by my God"?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the Earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives Power to the weak, And to those who have no Might He increases Strength.

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.

As we enter the New Year, we want to enter in THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD.

The Passage tells us that God renews our Strength.

And there are a few things it says about God that I want you to Pay attention to;

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1. First is that: GOD IS EVERLASTING.

Isaiah calls Him the EVERLASTING GOD.

God is Everlasting: He has no Expiry Date. He is not limited by time. He sees the End from the Beginning. God is not limited by 2021 or 2020 or 2022 - He is Everlasting.

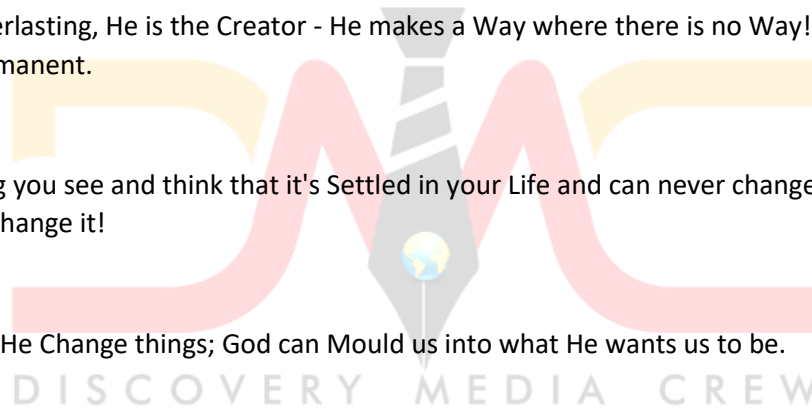
And His Power transcends all times and all situations.

2. The Second thing the Passage tells us is that: GOD IS THE CREATOR.

He is not only Everlasting, He is the Creator - He makes a Way where there is no Way! He can Change what I see as Permanent.

And so something you see and think that it's Settled in your Life and can never change; God is the Creator, He can Change it!

And not only can He Change things; God can Mould us into what He wants us to be.



In 2022, may the Lord make you Exceedingly Great! And may He cause you to Increase on every sides. May He cause you to expand on every sides - Amen.

And where there has been Shortage, there will be Increase - AMEN.

3. And the Third thing the Passage says is that: GOD NEITHER FAINTS NOR GETS WEARY.

His Strength never diminishes! And what weakens us does not weaken God.

And He is constantly alert to our Needs.



4. And the fourth thing that I want you to Note is that: GOD'S UNDERSTANDING HAS NO LIMIT.

... He is Everlasting, He is a Creator, He neither faints nor gets weary and His Understanding has no limit.

As we enter a New Year (2022), I want you to have this as an Assurance of the Lord God Whom you trust:

I. That He is Everlasting.

II. He is a Creator.

III. He never gets tired

IV. He has No limit to what He understands.

... The remaining challenges that would come to us in 2022 - That the Lord is Everlasting, He is our Creator, He never gets weary and His understanding has no limit!

I. He has brought us from January, through COVID. And now, two (2) years of Covid - and we are still Standing.

II. Two (2) Years of Lockdown, and here we are!

III. Two (2) Years of disrupted life, and yet we are still going.

That tells you, that in the midst of every Challenges; in the midst of every Adversities - Whatever will come against you, whatever would hit you; God would hold you, He will keep you, He will Preserve you, and He will give you Victory - AMEN.

Nobody could have imagined, that we could survive two (2) Years of what the world has survived - But God has kept us.

And for us His Children, we don't see it as the work of Man, we see it as the work of God.

... He is Everlasting, He is a Creator, He never gets weary, and His understanding has no limit.

For everyday of the Year 2022, from the first of January, till the last day in 2022; the Lord will keep you. The Lord will Protect you, the Lord will preserve you, the Lord will uphold you - AMEN.

For everyday, for every week - fifty two (52) weeks - He will Watch over you, He will Watch over your family, He will Watch over your husband, He will Watch over your wife, He will Watch over your children, He will Watch over everything that belongs to you - AMEN.

A thousand will come against you on one side, and ten thousand in the other side; Only with your eyes will you see it, it will not come near your Dwelling Place - AMEN.

May the Lord be your Dweller. May the Lord be your Helper. May the Lord be your Shield. May the Lord be your Goodness - Amen.

May the Lord Increase you more and more; May the Lord cause you to Abound, in every areas of your Life - Amen.

Because He is an Everlasting God and He is our Eternal Creator - We trust Him with our lives, we trust Him with our Hope, we trust Him with our Expectations, we trust Him with our Dreams, we trust Him with our Plans, we trust Him with Everything that is in our hearts.

Because He is able to keep what we commit to Him against that day!

And our fervent Hope, and our fervent Expectation is that the Lord will keep each one of us; and Protect each one of us; and Sustain each one of us.

Next Year (2022); I am expecting Abundant Increase, Overflowing Increase, Multiplying Increase; for everybody who works with Your Hands.

With the work of your hand - You run a Business, you run an Enterprise, you do something!

Whatever that thing is: May the Lord cause your hand to increase. May the Lord Increase the work of your hands - AMEN.

For everyone who has suffered Shortages and Limitations; and you have been Pushed back against; from Next Year (2022), we release the Floodgates of God's Blessings over your Life - AMEN.

And we Declare that you will have Increase upon Increase; Abundance upon Abundance, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

The Lord will cause you to Increase Greatly - AMEN.

And may you Increase in every areas of your Life - AMEN.

And for those of you who desire it: May your children increase - Amen!

May your Joy Increase - Amen!

May your Faith Increase - Amen!



May your Favour Increase - Amen!

May the Goodness of the Lord Increase - Amen!

May you see Increase in Miracles; Increase in Supernatural Activities; Increase in the Favour of God - Amen.

Where your Testimony has been one (1); Next Year (2022); it will be ten (10) - Amen!

Where your Miracle has been one (1) Next Year (2022); it will be a Hundred (100) - Amen!

May you have Testimonies over Testimonies - Amen!

You will Testify and never get tired - Amen!

I said: YOU WILL TESTIFY AND NEVER GET TIRED - AMEN.

You will Rejoice and never get Tired - Amen!

Your Joy will be Abundant - Amen.

You will never get tired of Rejoicing in the Lord Who has brought you into A YEAR OF INCREASE - Amen.

May everyday of Year 2022 be GOOD TO YOU - Amen.

Everyday be Good to you; every Second be Good to you; every Minute be Good to you; every Hour be Good to you. Every Week be Good to you; every Month be Good to you - Amen!

When you look back at the end of Year 2022, and you compare it with the Year 2021: You will Rejoice - Amen!

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Because what God would have done for you, would be ten (10) times better!

I said: ten (10) times better than what you have experienced in Year 2021 - Amen.

May the Lord Increase you on every sides - Amen!

May your Coming in be Increased; may your Going out be Increased. May He increase you at home, may He increase you in the Field - Amen.

On the job, may your sweat be Productive; may your hustle be Productive; may your efforts be Productive - Amen.

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Your Hard Work will yield Increase, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

The Lord will bless you Abundantly! And the Lord will bless this Church Abundantly (and The DMC Family Members by extension) - Amen!

He will Increase us in Spirit; Increase us in Worship, Increase us in Faith, Increase us in our Love for Him - Amen!

And He will Increase us in Number, and Increase us Financially. And Increase us in every sides - Amen!

We will explode! - Flourishing and Growing and Increasing in every sides - Amen.

In the Name OF Jesus, we decree the Spirit of Increase upon this Congregation and The DMC Family Members as well - Amen!

May it rest upon you! May it rest upon your Family - In your Home and in your Work - Amen!

On your Bed, on your Table. Wherever you go, may the Lord Increase you more and more - Amen!

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... And make you A THOUSAND TIMES MORE - Amen!

In Jesus'Name - Amen!

Somebody say: I RECEIVE INCREASE, in the Name of Jesus!!!

Give the Lord some PRAISE - HALLELUJAH.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

## ADVERT PAGE

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We are poised to readily get closer and be easily accessible to you All.

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It will surely get better and bigger each passing day!

... Discovery Media Crew, Reaching Out to the World through the Power of The Gospel.

SIGNED

MOSES DURODOLA

**CONVENER, DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW**

