

COMPILATION OF MESSAGES OF DR MENSA OTABIL
[JANUARY 2ND – JULY 10TH 2022]



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PROPHETIC DECLARATIONS OVER THE YEAR 2022 BY PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL

From today, I declare the Blessings of the Lord over your Life.

The Eternal God is your refuge. He will watch over you from this First Day to the Last Day of the Year 2022.

The Lord bless you with the Blessings of Heaven and the Increase of the Earth.

Today, in the Name of Jesus, I declare the "Blessings of Increase" over you - Increase in Knowledge; Increase in Faith; Increase in Wealth; Increase in Favour!

On this First Day of the Year 2022, we Place ourselves and our families under the Covering of the Blood of Jesus - Through the Blood of the Eternal Covenant, we receive Life, Health, Safety, Deliverance from the Most High God.

The Lord God bless your home; the Lord bless your family; the Lord bless your bread; the Lord bless your water; the Lord bless the works of your hands in the Name of Jesus.

Every Plans, maneuver, and Operations of Evil against you is cancelled.

The Lord God is your Safety and Protection - He will keep you safe at home, safe on the road, safe in the air, safe on the water.

The Lord will Crown you with Life!

He will cause your Health to spring forth.

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By the Stripes of Jesus Christ be Healed - Healed in your Blood System, Healed in your Nervous System, Healed in the Cell Systems of your body, Healed in your bone Structure, Healed in your Muscular Structures, Healed in the Organs of your Body, Healed in the Skin Tissues!

Receive Divine Healings, receive Health, receive Wholeness in the Name of Jesus!

May the Eternal God satisfy you with Long Life and show you His Salvation.

In the Year 2022, the Lord will hear you when you Call on His Name. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will be Multiplied over you - Receive Increase in Miracles and Testimonies.

Where others fall, there the Lord will lift you up!

Where others bow in shame, there the Glory of the Lord will rise upon you!

Receive the Strength of the Lord.

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In the Year 2022, the Lord is your Refuge, the Lord is your Sun and Shield. He is your Glory all about.

Receive God's Glory and God's Covering.

In Year 2022, you will Increase Exceedingly!

The Lord will Multiply your Seed until you become a thousand times more.

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In the Name of Jesus, receive the Blessings of Increased Knowledge.

In the Year 2022, the Lord will open the "Eyes of your Understanding"; Receive the Spirit of Revelation! Receive Mental illumination! Receive the Treasures of Knowledge! Receive Divine Intelligence!

What you don't know will be revealed to you - Receive Increased Knowledge in the Year 2022.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, receive the Blessings of Increased Faith.

In Year 2022, you will operate in Great Faith - Receive the Faith to Produce Evidence of Things not seen; receive the Faith to conceive and give birth to God's Promises; receive the Faith to remove Mountains and bring down Walls of Resistance; receive the Faith to cause the Things that "Be Not" to come into existence.

... Receive "Increased Faith" in the Name of Jesus.

In Year 2022, receive the Blessings of "Increased Wealth".

The Lord will bless your Labour with Favour. Your fields will yield Increase! You will begin to Prosper, and continue Prospering until you become "Very Prosperous"!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, receive a "Creative Mind".

The Lord will inspire your Mind with "Innovative Ideas". The Lord will Skillfully guide your hands.

Receive Divine Access!

The Lord will open gates of Wealth to you. You will sit at the Table of Captains of Industry.

Receive Growth and Expansion!

The Lord will enlarge the Place of your Tent; He will stretch your curtains.

In the Year 2022, the Blessings of Increased Wealth is yours! Receive the anointing of Increased Favour!

In Year 2022, you will excel through Favour.

Receive Divine Selection! - The Lord will set His Eyes on you to select you out of many.

Receive Divine Appointment - The Lord will cause the Times and Seasons of the Year 2022 to Favour you.

Receive Divine Lifting - The Lord will cause your Gift to bring you into Prominence.

By the work of your hands, you will be recognised; you will be lifted up; 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, Increase, Multiplication, Abundance!

Your Life will be Full and Complete in the Name of Jesus - Amen! Amen!! Amen!!!

JANUARY 2ND - LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP FOR INCREASE

**SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE BY DR. MENSAH OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL
CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)**



DATE: 2ND JANUARY, 2022

TEXT: LUKE 5:1-8

Amen, give the Lord Praise!

Well, for the first time on a Sunday morning (in Year 2022); we are taking our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

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Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows and Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year or Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

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And it's Good to have you in Church this Morning. Please, be seated!

Luke 5:1-8 (NKJV):

1 So it was, as the Multitude Pressed about Him to hear the Word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two boats standing by the Lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their Nets.

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3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the Multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your Nets for a Catch."

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your Word I will let down the Net."

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their Net was breaking.

7 So they signaled to their Partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful Man, O Lord!"

There are certain Miracles that God does for you that, it shocks you so much, you want to run!

... And that is what happened to Simon Peter!

What happened to him was so much, he started 'sacking' Jesus.

And I Pray that you will experience this level of Increase - Amen.

It is NETS BREAKING, BOATS SINKING INCREASE.

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Where your Nets are breaking; and when you call for help and you get extra boat. You fill both your boat and the extra boat - and they began sinking!

I believe that in this Year of Increase, God wants to do something like this for us.

And for that to happen, we have to LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP.

LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP.

That means that you are going to do something BOLD.

You are going to do something AUDACIOUS.

You are going to do something COURAGEOUS.

Because most times, what stops God's People from experiencing what God has for them, is that we stay in our boat and we act timidly. We act small.

... We look at the conditions, and we respond to the conditions.

Peter said: "Lord we have toiled all Night long and caught Nothing."

And sometimes, that is what we say: "I have worked and worked and worked, and caught Nothing!"

"Business is bad. Government is not Paying Contractors (laughs)! I have made Supplies Nobody is Paying me. There's no opportunity. Ghanians don't support Ghanians' (Nigerians don't support Nigerians') Businesses."

That is always your excuse!

Peter said: "We have toiled all night long!" - That was his excuse.

But then he says "Nevertheless at Your Word."

Somebody say: Nevertheless at Your Word!

AND WHAT IS THE WORD THAT GOD HAD SPOKEN TO YOU THIS YEAR?

So, whenever you hear complainers and People tell you: "It is not Possible" - This will be your Year of Nevertheless.

Nevertheless, Ghana is hard; Nevertheless, Businesses are Struggling; Nevertheless, my Customers are disappointing me; Nevertheless, my Clients have disappointed me - Nevertheless!

THIS IS MY YEAR OF INCREASE.

That is the Word of The Lord for you - It is your NEVERTHELESS

So, anytime you are talking to Somebody (in this Church or around you) and they start talking and complaining - Tell them Nevertheless!

Somebody says: "You know, these days, things are hard ooooo" - Nevertheless!

Life is difficult - Nevertheless at Your Word."

To them the word was; "LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP." And it is still our Word!

But we also have another word - INCREASE.

Did God know 2021 would be tough when He said we should be Fruitful? - YES!

Because God does not speak to you in Comfort. He speaks to you in Crisis.

His Word operates in crisis, not in comfort. In your moment, in your time, in your Season of Crisis.

So no matter what 2022 is going to throw at you; you are going to say - NEVERTHELESS!

No matter what comes against you - NEVERTHELESS!

If something you start collapses - NEVERTHELESS!

You get a disappointed - NEVERTHELESS; "at Your Word, we would do that".

And Peter had enough Faith in his heart to know that.

When God speaks - Even if I don't feel it; I must act on it.

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God's Word does not work with feeling; it works with Faith.

And Faith is simply, doing what God said you should do.

Did God know Covid was coming? - YES!

Does God know what Year 2022 is bringing to you? - YES!

Does He know everything ahead of time? - YES!

Nevertheless, He says you will INCREASE - Amen

So, I came here to tell you: No matter what would be thrown against you, Nevertheless, you will Increase; you would Proper, you would do well. It would be well with you - Amen! God will smile upon you; your Nets would catch fish - Amen!

You would catch so much fish, you cannot contain it - Amen!

Your "Extra Help" cannot contain it because it would break your nets - Amen. It would sink your boats - Amen.

Because God is going to give you so much fish - Amen!

Somebody say: "I AM GOING TO CATCH FISH! In 2022 I WILL CATCH FISH. My nets would be FULL".

In Jesus' Name - AMEN.

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How many of you believe that? If you believe that, declare the Goodness of the Lord!

Before we go, we want to Pray. And I just want you to commit the Year into God's Hands.

And you just want to say: LORD, I am ready to Launch out into the Deep. I am going to be Bold. I am going to be Audacious. I am going to Dare to do something.

I will dare the circumstances and

I am going to break free from timidity and from shackles. And I am going to dream Big and act Big.

I am going to be Audacious, because the Lord has said, I will Increase and He had fished for me in His ocean.

Just talk to God about everything you are going to do this Year. And no matter what comes against you, that Nevertheless, you would Increase.

Your boats would catch fish! You will experience the Favour of God. You will experience the Blessings of the Lord. You will experience the Goodness of the Lord. You will experience the Favour of the Lord.

In the Name of Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER.

Father cause Your People who go out Fishing to Launch out into the Deep!

As they go out Fishing, let their Nets catch fish! Increase them beyond their Dreams.

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Do a Miracle for them that will shock them and cause them to roll on the floor.

Because you will do a Mighty Work for Your People and make Ways for Your People.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN AND AMEN!

Give the Lord Praise everybody, and be seated in God's Presence.

ALTAR CALL.

Listen, as we begin this New Year, we begin with God.

Without Him, there will be no Increase in our lives.

The One Who gave Increase to Peter was Jesus.

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And so this morning, if you are here in this Church (in Person) or reading now on the Label of DMC; and Jesus Christ is not in your heart - You are not Born Again.

You have not given your Life to Jesus Christ. Maybe you just join somebody, you join a friend to come to Church this Morning.

But today, we want to give you the chance to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your Life.

If you are here this Morning on this first Service of 2022, or reading now on the Label of DMC, you say: LORD, I want to start with You this Year. I want Jesus in my heart.

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If that is your Prayer - you want Jesus to come into your heart, you want your sins forgiven, you want a Brand New Life in Jesus Christ.

Wherever you are, just lift up your hands to the Lord - Say, I want Jesus Christ in my heart.

God bless you!

Those of you who have your hands up, put your hands on your heart.

And the whole Church would Pray this Prayer (including those whose hands are on their heart).

Say with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a sinner, and I cannot save myself.

I Thank You Father that Jesus Christ died for me to take away my sin. And today, I receive forgiveness of sin, I receive New Life in Christ Jesus.

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I Thank You Father for accepting me as Your Child.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Let's give the Lord Praise - 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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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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JANUARY 9TH - INCREASING LIKE JESUS



TEXT: LUKE 2:39-40; LUKE 2:51-52

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today I have Titled my Message: INCREASING LIKE JESUS.

So I want to make Jesus Christ the focus of our Increase - We are going to watch His example; we are going to see how He Increased as a Person. And we are going to see how that applies to our lives.

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DID JESUS EVER INCREASE?

Well, we are to find it in the Bible - Luke 2:39-40. And it reads (NKJV):

39 So when they had Performed all things according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own City, Nazareth.

40 And the Child grew and became Strong in Spirit, filled with Wisdom; and the Grace of God was upon Him.

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... This is how the Scripture records the Life of Jesus.

And at this time, He had been dedicated to the Lord in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Now, according to the Law in His day, was that Dedication should have taken Place a bit earlier. But Dedication also goes with Purification of the mother! And Purification takes Place forty (40) days after the child is born.

So in Jesus instance, His Dedication and Purification all happened together. And this is happening when Jesus is forty (40) days old.

And so the record of the Scripture is what happened to Jesus between forty (40) days old. And the next record of Him would be when He is twelve (12) years old.

So, He is forty (40) days old; before He gets to twelve (12) years old, the Bible says "He GREW." - And the Greek word that is used there speaks of a Process of Development.

Jesus Christ is born a baby, and He grew - There was a Process of Development.

IN WHAT WAYS DID HE GROW?

The Three (3) Ways that the Passage talks about:

1. First, it says that He was STRONG IN SPIRIT.

That means He had built Spiritual Disciplines into His Life.

Jesus had built Spiritual Disciplines into His Life! - He was Strong in Spirit.

2. The Second thing is that He was FILLED WITH WISDOM.

... He was Knowledgeable and Mature.

3. And the Third thing the Passage says is that GOD'S GRACE WAS UPON HIM.

What does it mean when the Passage says: "God's Grace was upon Him?"

It means that People could see the Hand of the Lord upon Jesus.

So, from when He was forty (40) days old, He started growing.

Of course, He is growing Physically but He is Strong in Spirit. He is Full of Wisdom - God's Grace is upon Him.

... And that is a very Significant indication of Who Jesus is.

It is from this Level that He went into the Temple at the age of twelve (12) to talk to the Biblical Scholars.

And we are going to look at that very soon.

But just to Note that when Jesus grows, by the age of twelve (12) He had so much self awareness that He could tell His own Parents - "Didn't you know that I had to be about my Father's Business?"

He knew what His Mission was. He knew what He had been Called to do by age 12.

Why? - Because He grew Strong in Spirit; He was filled with Wisdom and the Grace of the Lord was upon Him.

Now He goes to the Temple, and in the Temple He is talking to these big, big Scholars.

It's like a twelve (12) years old boy who enters a Major Theological Seminary and sits with all the big Theologians, and start having a chat with them.

Can your twelve (12) years old do that? Can your twelve (12) years old hold a conversation with Scholars. And when you were twelve (12) years old could you have done it? - I couldn't have done it!

But Jesus could.

And He sat among these People for three (3) days talking, conversing.

What was it about this twelve (12) years old that was so Special?

Well, His Parents eventually got Him from the Temple. And Jesus said "Didn't you know that I had to be about my Father's Business?" And so they took Him home.

Let's go to the next Passage - Luke 2:51-52. It says:

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51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was Subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in Wisdom and Stature, and in favour with God and men.

Jesus Increased! - First, He grew. Now INCREASED.

The word that is translated in English is different from the word that is translated grew.

And the word Increased means to Advance, to go Forward, to make Progress.

So by the age of twelve (12), Jesus is way above His age mates. But He didn't stop there! He Increased - He went forward, He moved on.

The word that is translated 'Increased' in Greek is a word that is used to talk about when People are clearing a Path.

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For example, an Army is going into a battle and there is a bush - They need to cut the bush so that they can create a Path to go into. It was also used by Sailors to talk about moving their Ship forward.

So, when the Scripture says that Jesus Increased, it means He made Progress; He Advanced and He went Forward.

In what Ways did He do that?

First, Jesus Increased as a Person.

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Why do I say that?

He was born as a Son of God because the Angle Gabriel had told Mary - "When she conceived, the Child in her would be the Son of God." Jesus did not become the Son of God; He was a Son of God at Conception.

So, if Jesus is the Son of God at Conception, then why must He grow? Why is He Increasing? What aspect of Him is Increasing. And this is so important.

Because He is already the Son of God. He is not growing to be the Son of God; He is not maturing to be the Son of God; He is not Increasing to be the Son of God.

So in what Way is He Increasing if He is already the Son of God?

Jesus had to grow His body and Mind to the Level of His Spirit.

He grew His body and Mind to the Level of His Spirit.

He is the Son of God way up there. But His Body is the body of the son of Mary. His Mind is the Mind of a Young child but Spiritually, He is the Son of God.

Now, if He leaves it that way, there will be a big gab between Who He is Spiritually, and Who He is Physically.

And so what Jesus does is - He has to grow to match up Who He is in the Spirit.

And He did that by growing in Three (3) Ways:

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1. First, He Increased in WISDOM.

That word Wisdom means: Intelligence, Skill and Mastery.

Jesus is the Word of God; but as a Human, He had to Study the Scriptures. He learned and read His Own Word.

He also had to develop the Principle of Logic, Rhetoric, Debate that were used by Rabbi and Theologians of His day.

Jesus Increased in Wisdom - He is the Son of God Spiritually; but His Mind had to match up to where His Spirit is. He had to learn, He had to grow to be at the Level of His Spirit.

Can you imagine if Jesus had not grown in Knowledge, He had not grown in Wisdom. He had not studied Scriptures - He just went about saying "I Am the Son of God, I don't need to learn anything, I know everything."

What would have happened at the Temptation of Jesus?

Because Satan came to Him and said: "If You are the Son of God (which He was) turn these stones to bread (Temptation).

How did Jesus respond?

He didn't say - "I Am the Son of God." He said "IT IS WRITTEN." How did He know it was written?

... He had grown in Wisdom and in Knowledge to match up with where His Spirit was.

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If He didn't do that, at His Test, He would have failed.

So it's Possible for you to be Called by God to Greatness; but your Mentality and Wisdom and Understanding would be very low.

In that sense, your Wisdom does not match your Calling. But in Jesus, His Wisdom matched His Calling.

Satan tempted Him and He Passed because He Increased in Wisdom.

2. And not only did He increase in Wisdom, the Passage says that: - He increased in STATURE.

That word means: Age, Size and Maturity.

Jesus Christ was not born a full grown Man. He grew as a baby into Adulthood.

But not only did He grow in Age and in Size, He grew in Maturity - Stature is Age and Maturity.

... So, He is growing in Wisdom, He is growing in Maturity with His age;

3. And the Third thing is that He grew in Favour with God and with Man.

He was Graceful, balanced and well adjusted.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM JESUS ABOUT INCREASING?

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1. We must learn that our Knowledge must match what God has Called us to be.

If a Child is born to a reigning King or Queen, that Child (Potentially) is a King. If he is a boy, he is a King. If she is a girl, she is a Queen.

But that Child must learn the ways of Kings so that his Knowledge would match up with his Calling. Otherwise he would be a King by Calling; but he would be a Servant by Mentality.

Whatever God Calls you to be, you must match it with your Knowledge.

Let me take it a little further, and bring it down from Jesus to us.

Let's say God called me to be a Medical Doctor - That's my Calling. I am a Doctor.

And let's imagine that Somebody Prophesied to my mother and said - "Hey Mama, you are Pregnant today and that boy in your womb is going to be a Famous Doctor."

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From my mother's womb, "I am a Doctor."

But I need to grow in Knowledge, in Stature, to become a Doctor.

And can you imagine if I grow up saying - "I am a Doctor! A Prophet said I am a Doctor; God even said I am a Doctor. And I don't need to learn about a Doctor (and never learn)." What will happen is: my Calling and my Wisdom will have a gap.

There is a gap between what I am Called to be and what I have learned by Wisdom to become.

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The Challenge with many of us is that there is a big Prophecy upon our lives, but we are way below our Calling.

It's like a Pastor, God says - "My son or daughter I have Called you. I am going to use you to Change the world. You are going to Preach to Nations."

But you never studied the Bible! You don't develop the Principles of Communication. You don't develop your Logic; you don't develop your Rhetoric, you don't develop any of these things because, you are Called.

If that is your Attitude, your Calling would be way up here; but your Wisdom would be way down there.

But Jesus Christ, the Son of God way up there - born as a baby; He had to grow His Wisdom to get to the Level where He knows Who He is.

... He Wisdom matched His Calling! And your Wisdom must match your Calling.

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So the question you need to ask yourself: Does my Wisdom, my knowledge, my intelligence match my Calling?

Have I increased in Knowledge to the Level of what God has Called me to be?

If God speaks to you and say: Son, Year 2022 you are going to make Millions of dollars (somebody say Amen to that). So God says - Son, this Year you will make Millions!

That is your Calling!

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But your Wisdom must move from ten to Millions. Because the Wisdom it takes to be a Millionaire is very different from the Wisdom it takes to be a 'Thousanaire.'

... The Wisdom it takes to be a 'Thousanaire' is different from the Wisdom it takes to be 'Hundrednaire.'

There are People who cannot make beyond a certain amount of money. They don't have the capacity to do that! They don't have the Knowledge, Wisdom, the Stature, the Maturity, the Attitude to do that!

So even if God has Called them to be that, their Mind, their Stature is below that.

What God wants you to do - You are going to grow your Wisdom from baby Stage to the Highest Calling.

And each one of us this Year, that's going to be our Challenge. We are going to look at the gap between what we know and what we are called to be.

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... The gap between what I know and what God has has Called me to be.

Do you know what God wants you to be? Do you know what He has Called you to become?

In any area, you have to match up your Wisdom!

Jesus grew in Wisdom, in Knowledge. He didn't grow as a Son of God -:Son of God is established.

But He grew in Wisdom to become all that God has Called Him to be.

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Let us not allow a deficit to Stand between our Potential and our Reality.

If God says: "I am going to do something Great with you" you must be a Master in that area to become all that God wants you to be.

2. The Second Lesson we can learn from Jesus is that - Our Maturity must match our Physical Growth and Age.

Progressively, we get to be better People as we age - That is growing in Stature. Maturity matching age!

And it happens to all of us where sometimes we are growing in age, but we are not improving. The Scripture says, as our age is, so shall our Strength be!

As I grow older I am not going to be as Physically Strong as I was when I was twenty (20) years old. And all those who are older (reading this Message now on the Label of DMC) can bear me Witness - That by the time you get to be fifty (50) years and above, your body has limitations, your knees have limitations, your joints have limitations.

But your Mind must not have Limitations; your Maturity must not have Limitations.

So, although I cannot do what I used to do when I was twenty (20), I should be far more competent now than I was twenty (20) years old.

I don't like listening to myself much; because when I listen to myself, I get so angry (and I am correcting myself). Hence, I don't listen to myself. I self-correct too much!

Once in a while I listen to myself - If I listen to the way I used to Preached twenty (20) years ago; I know without any doubt that, as I have grown in Age, so have I grown in Wisdom and in Maturity.

My mode of communication is better, my expression is better.

Why? - Because, as we Age, we must be better People. And that's what Jesus did - He Increased in Stature.

... This year: Increase in Wisdom, Increase in Stature - Amen!

3. And the Third thing we would Notice about Jesus is that: He Increased in Favour with God and Man.

And What does it mean? - Our Relationship with God must reflect in our Relationship with People.

If you look at the Two Passages we read (Like 2:39-40 and Luke 2:51-52): the first one, when Jesus is very Young - He grew, the Grace of God was upon Him. Then the Second one, He Increased and He grew in Favour with God and with Man.

The first time, He only knew how to relate to God. But as He grew up, He had to learn how to relate with People because Jesus had to learn the ways of People.

"And He grew in Favour with God and with Man." - That is Increase!

I cannot say: "I am so in touch with God. Oh, the Anointing is so much upon me; but I can't do the Natural things that are required for me to become Successful."

I. You are so Anointed, but you can't get along with anybody!

II. So Anointed, you can't build a Team;

III. So Anointed, you can't get your Marriage to work;

IV. So Anointed, you quarrel with everybody.

... What kind of Anointing is that?

If you are going to grow in Favour with God and the Anointing of God is upon you, it must reflect in your Human Relationships.

So this Year (2022), this is also something we want to Target ourselves with:

I. That we would grow not only in Wisdom and in Stature, but we would grow in Favour with God and Man.

II. We would relate well with People and we would relate well with God. God is going to like us, people are going to like us.

We can handle things at the Human Level, and still handle things at the Divine Level.

That's how God wants us to be - People who are able to handle things at the Divine Level and still handle things at the Human Level.

... That is the way the Scripture says Jesus INCREASED.

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Later on when you read about Jesus, what increases about Him is His FAME and His Ministry Increasing.

But before all of that Increase - The Fame and the Ministry Increase; there was a Personal Increase; where He grew to become Who He was Spiritual.

And I Pray for you this Year (2022) - That you will be all that God wants us to be - Amen.

How do we become all that God wants us to be?

We are going to grow in Wisdom, in Stature and in Favour with God and Man.

And when we do that, we become ALL THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE.

In Year 2022; we are increasing in Person, we are increasing in Wisdom, we are increasing in Stature, we are increasing in Favour - to be what God wants us to be.

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GENERAL PRAYER

Why don't you just talk to the Lord wherever you are or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, and just ask Him to help you this Year (2022) to be ALL THAT HE WANTS YOU TO BE.

... Just talk to Him!

CLOSING PRAYER

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Heavenly Father, this Morning we come to You, fully recognizing Your Grace upon our lives; Your Calling to us, Your Gifts to us.

For we know Lord, You have Called us to Greatness, You have Called us to Significance, You have Called us to make Impact, You have Called us in various Professions!

And Father we ask that this Year (2022), You will help us, that there will be no mismatch between our Calling and our Wisdom.

That there will be no mismatch between our Potential and our Reality.

That where there is a gap, You will teach us to grow in Wisdom as Jesus did; to grow in Stature as Jesus did; to grow in Favour with God and Man as Jesus did.

Help us Lord to Increase on every sides - To Increase in Faith, in Word, in Knowledge and in Understanding.

And may Christ be Glorified in our lives this Year, as we start seeking to become all that You want us to be.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Give the Lord some Praise this Morning!

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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JANUARY 16TH - THE GOD OF INCREASE



DATE: 16TH JANUARY, 2022

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am Preaching today on: THE GOD OF INCREASE.

Our Theme for the Year is "INCREASE".

And God is the Superintendent of Increase. He oversees, regulates and brings Increase into existence.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7; Paul is writing to the Church in Corinth, and if you know your Bible well - When Paul had gone to Corinth to Preach the Gospel; afterwards, Apollos also came to Corinth to Preach to the People and to encourage the Church.

And so the Church of Corinth, a very carnal Church began to think that some Part of them was the Paul Group; and other Part was the Apollos Group - There was division in the Church.

So Paul is writing to the Church in Corinth to tell them about the role he Played and the role Appolos Played. And he puts everything in context. And that context is where I will take my Main Text from.

So this is what it says in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NKJV):

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the Increase.

7 So then neither he who Plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the Increase.

... God who gives the Increase.

And Paul is telling us from this Scripture, that when we think about Increase, we don't think about ourselves, and we don't think about somebody else giving us the Increase because it is God who gives the Increase.

Somebody say: GOD WILL GIVE ME INCREASE.

You know, it is very easy for you to think somebody would give you the Increase; somebody would help you, somebody would be your breakthrough, somebody would be your favour but, it is God Who gives the Increase.

... There are few words I want to highlight in, as we begin our journey this Morning:

1. The first word is PLANTING.

... Paul says "I have Planted.

The word Planting means to set something in Place.

And in this instance Paul says: "I Planted."

So Planting is the work of man - We plant, we set things in Place.

As this Year begins, many of us are going to Plant and we are going to set things in Place.

2. And the Second 5 word that Paul uses is WATERING.

That means to Nourish what has been set in Place.

That was also done by another Human Being.

Human being Planted, and another Human Being watered - "I Planted, and Apollos watered."

We set things in Place: other People may help us, join us, or support us!

3. The Third word is INCREASE.

Increase means to grow and expand what has been set in Place.

"I Planted, Apollos watered what is Planted; and God Increased what is Planted".

Increase is not in Paul's domain or Apollo's domain; Increase is the work of God.

So what Paul is telling us is that: You may work hard and People may help you to work hard. But the Increase doesn't come from you or the People who helped you - Increase is totally a work of God! It is God Who gives the Increase. It is God Who increases us. It is God Who multiplies what we have Placed in His Hands.

A little boy brought five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fishes.

It was put in Jesus' Hand. It is Jesus Presenting it to the Father that brought Increase to what has been Presented.

So, we would do our Part to Plant, to water; but remember, Increase comes from God - God is the God of Increase.

Without God both Planting and Watering are futile - That is what the Scripture says.

Then 2 Corinthians 9:10 says: Now may He who supplies Seed to the Sower, and Bread for food, supply and multiply the Seed you have sown and increase the Fruits of your Righteousness,

1. God is the One Who Supplies the Seed - He gives us what to Plant!

So when you say I'm going to really work hard this Year; I'm going to start some business or I'm going to set something in Place. Or as a Church we are going to really Plan to grow and to Increase as a Church - The One Who gives us what is required to start the Process is God.

.. God Supplies the Seed! He gives us what to Plant.

For something to Increase it must first be Planted.

The Seed we Plant could be a Gift or Talent we have; it could be an idea that God inspires in us; it could be a small opportunity that God opens for us.

But whatever it is - It may be tiny, it may be small; it is God Who Supplies the Seed.

And this Year, may God Supply your Seed, may He give you opportunity, may He give you ideas, may He open doors for you, may He put thoughts into your Mind, may He visit you by Day and by Night - Amen.

... God is the Supplier of Seed.

2. The Second thing that I want to say is that, God is the Multiplier of Seed.

He Multiplies the seed! He grows what we Plant.

When a grain of corn is sown it Produces many grains of corn. When you drop one Seed of corn into the Earth, and it grows into a corn stock, it is going to have hairs of corn. And the average corn Plant will have between two (2) to four (4) hairs of corn.

And if you have been in corn farming before, many times when you grow your corn, the stock comes up and you see many hairs come out. A lot of them have only hair but no corn. You open it and it's empty. But you find about two of them had some corn on them.

Averagely every corn Plant Produces about two good hairs of corn. And sometimes four. Averagely every hair of corn has eight hundred (800) Channels of corn.

You Plant one corn, you have one hair of corn. And one hair of corn has eight hundred (800) Pieces of what you sowed. And if you have two of it, then you have a thousand six hundred.

That is called Multiplication!

Actually it's more than Multiplication. This is something else Mathematical that I didn't learn in School - It's Exponential Growth.

So God says: He gives the Seed (The one you Plant) and then when you Plant it, He makes sure that you what you Plant as one is a thousand six hundred or whatever it may become.

Because God Supplies the Seed; and God Multiplies the Seed.

... But that is not all that God does!

3. The Third thing the Passage says that God does is that, He Increase Fruits.

That means that He uses what you have Planted to become a Blessing to other People.

He turns your Seed - which was tiny, which was small, which we Plant; He Multiplies it and it feeds People.

Because what Value is the corn if it is not Blessing People?

So, it becomes Fruit - A Blessing to other People.

WHAT IS THE PRINCIPLE THE BIBLE IS TEACHING US HERE?

We Plant; other People may help us to water but Increase is always from God.

And the reason why we say Increase is from God is that even what we Plant - Which we think is ours to Plant came from God. And what Multiplied what we have Planted was done by God. And what uses what we have Multiplied to become a Blessing is the work of God.

He is the One Who gives the Seed, Multiplies the Seed and makes the Seed a Fruit to other People.

God is the GOD OF INCREASE - Every Increase we have experienced is influenced by the Power of God.

And that's why it is so important in a Year of Increase like this, that we learn to trust in God Who gives the Increase.

People may help, People may not help you. But whether People water your Seed or they don't water your Seed; God is the One Who gives the Increase.

Increase is in the Domain of God - Don't put your eyes, Faith, expectations on somebody.

Maybe this Year somebody has already Promised you and say: "Hey, I will do you Good this Year!" Because the arm of flesh; even the best kind fails. But the Arm of the Lord never fails.

If you trust Him and believe Him for Increase this Year, remember who gives the Increase - God gives the Increase!

God is the One Who will Increase the little you have sown; God is the One Who will take the Seed you have sown; He is going to Multiply the Seed and He is going to make it a Blessing.

And sometimes you get People to help you, like Paul had Apollos to help him. But sometimes you don't have anybody to help you.

But whether you have somebody to help you or nobody to help you; God is the Giver of the Seed, the Multiplier of the Seed and the One Who creates the Fruit out of the Seed - Don't ever forget that!

Because somebody will disappoint you this Year!

Okay, you didn't like that! - I will say it to the People here or those reading now on the label of DMC: Somebody will disappoint you this Year!

Whether you say Amen to it or not - Somebody will automatically disappoint you.

But whether you say Amen to it or not; GOD WILL NOT DISAPPOINT YOU - AMEN!!!

And God will not fail you - AMEN.

People may not support you; but God will give you the Increase!

Why? - Because He is THE GOD OF INCREASE.

That's what Apostle Paul is saying.

So don't really be focused on: "Who is helping my Watering." Whether Apollos is helping me or not; he says don't forget they are not.

Because God is the One Who gives the Increase! He gives the Seed, He Multiplies the Seed and He turns it into Fruit - And so keep your eyes on Him!

When People Promise to help you; thank them and watch what they do - Maybe they would keep their words. But don't ever take your eyes off God. Because Somebody Promised you something.

You know sometimes People Promise you something and you stop Praying.

When People think they have no help they Pray. And somebody says, next week it's coming. Prayer Meeting over!

Never take your eyes off the Lord.

Why? - Because He is the One Who gives the Increase.

Isaiah 51:1-2 - This is the Application of what I have taught. And it says:

"Listen to Me, you who follow after Righteousness, You who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn. And to the hole of the Pit from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him."

"... I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him."

God is saying - "This is how I dealt with Abraham; this is what I did for Abraham."

But then He is saying, this is not just for Abraham. "What I did for Abraham I am also doing for all of you who follow after Righteousness and seek me.

So look at how I dealt with Abraham - For that is how I am going to deal with you.

... Listen to me ye who seek the Look. Look at the way I dealt with Abraham;

Because that is the way I am going to orchestrate your Life in Year 2022 - Amen.

And there are Three (3) things He says - I am going to walk us through them:

1. God says I called Abraham ALONE.

... Everybody say ALONE!

When God calls us alone it simply means that God does with us just as we are! - God Picks us as we are.

God called Abraham alone - That means that God called Abraham to be the father of many Nations when he had Nothing (He had no Child). And he spend many Years without a child.

2. That He BLESSED him (Abraham)".

What does it mean 'that he blessed him?'

It means God added Himself to Abraham.

... Abraham you are alone, but I have joined you.

And so when God called Abraham He said: Abraham, as you go through Life remember this - I am your Reward; me alone being with you is your Reward.

God calls you alone and He joins Himself to you; and when God joins Himself to you, you are no longer alone! Because God has joined Himself with you.

This year God will join you - Amen.

He calls you alone - With your challenges, difficulties, limitations; with your "I can't do it", "I don't have it", "I have messed up my life", "I have made too many mistakes", "Oh I am a disgrace", "I am ashamed", "Nobody would even believe me again", "Nobody would trust me again".

God says okay! That's who you are, I take you from that rock - You are alone, you have no help. But now, I have joined you.

And when God joins you, He Changes to the Equation.

Because one of the Names of God is: "The LORD GOD OF HOST".

The Lord of Host means of the Multitudes - The God of the Multitudes.

So you may be alone; but when God blesses you with Himself, you have the Multitudes of God with you.

This Year (2022), as you go through whatever you are going through in this Year of Increase, never say "I am ALONE".

Because if you are seeking after Righteousness, and you are seeking the Lord; God says I have taken sides with you! I am with you, I am your Reward. You have the Host with you.

Abraham now who is alone has gone and with God He has the Host - The Multitudes with him. But he has no child.

There is no Physical Manifestation of the Spiritual Reality that God was with him. And for a Season, his name itself was a Mockery.

Because God has a way of doing things that you think He is embarrassing you.

Why didn't He leave his name as Abram? That would have been fine! Everybody knows Abram means - 'Exalted father'.

But then God says, Okay! Let's take this a notch higher. I have Changed your name to ABRAHAM - Father of many Nations.

And for twenty five (25) Years, no child - And God didn't adjust the name.

So can you imagine: Abraham goes to a Place and he is going to do Business and the Person says: "What's your name?" He says, I am Abraham.

Oh wow! Father of many Nations - How many children do you have? None!

Then the Person looks to the Person beside him and says: "This guy doesn't get it." If you don't have children, Change your name from father of many Nations to father or "Expectant Father".

You can't call the things which be not as though they were:

I. You can't say you are blessed when you are broke.

II. You can't say you are up when everybody sees you down. And God still says you are up!

What does that mean?

When God joins you, you, don't Change your name, your Confession, your Faith, your Belief to conform to your Reality.

You maintain a Good Confession in the face of every Adversity because GOD IS WITH YOU.

So God says: "Abraham, I have blessed you; you are alone, I have blessed you with Myself."

3. Then the Third thing that God says - The Bible says that God INCREASED Him.

God made him what He had called him to be! - He called him the father of many Nations and He made him that.

This Year (2022); may God make you what we have declared - Amen.

May you become the Personification of Increase - Amen.

In every areas of your Life, may you see Increase, the Favour of God, Abundance, Multiplication - Amen.

For a Season, it may seems that Increase is the opposite of your experience; but by 31st December 2022, Increase would Manifest in your Life - Amen!

You will Increase, you will become it - Amen.

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Because God will not adjust your name to fit in the midst of your struggle. He still says, I am with you, I will Increase you - Amen!

He still says to you - When you have Nothing, when you are alone; I am with you and I have Increased you.

You seems to be alone, but you are a Multitude.

Somebody say - I AM MANY!

... And this is the Testimony that was declared about Abraham.

I like how Abraham's Servant described him in Genesis 24:34-35.

This is what Abraham's servant said about him - A man who used to be alone:

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 hold, Male and Female Servants, and camels and donkeys.

You can almost feel he is saying that with a lot of Confidence. Because if you are a Servant to Greatness, you say it with Confidence. But if you are a Servant to Servants, that's not Good!

This is the man who was called alone, and God joined him and increased him.

And this is how Hebrews also describes Abraham - This is the Testimony it gives of Abraham. Hebrews 11:12 says:

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Therefore from one Man, and him as Good as dead, were born as many as the Stars of the Sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

From one who is alone! - The God Who called Abraham alone Blessed him and increased him.

He said I didn't do it just for Abraham - "Listen to Me, you who follow after Righteousness, you who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which I took you from. I called him ALONE, and I BLESSED him and I INCREASED him"

This would also be your Testimony in Year 2022 - Amen.

God says I called you ALONE, I BLESS you and I INCREASE you. Why? - Because He is the God of Increase.

You may not have anybody to water what you have Planted - You may not have an Encourager but you have God on your side.

The Lord stands with you, the Lord goes with you, the Lord is in the Boardroom with you, the Lord is on the road with you, the Lord is in the byways with you, the Lord is with you wherever you go!

The Lord says I am with you, I bless you and I Increase you!

And this Year (2022); may the Lord do for us what He did for Abraham- Amen.

I. You are cut from the the same Rock as Abraham.

II. The same God Who called Abraham is the One you worship and believe in.

III. The God Who blessed Abraham has joined Himself with you. You are His. You are His Partner in business and in life.

You are not doing your business alone. God is your Senior Partner He is the Chairman of your Board, He is the Controller of Decisions in your Business.

I. God would not leave you to shame and disgrace.

II. God would not cause His Name to be disgraced.

III. God would honour His Name, Lift up His Name, Sanctify His Name.

IV. God would show the world that you are His, that you are called by His Name.

Those who trust in the Lord shall not be put to shame - Amen

This Morning, I declare to you: You are Blessed and God would Increase you - Amen.

And never ever think - "I am alone; I am Nobody." Because God says I called Abraham alone - I joined Myself to him and blessed him. And I increased him abundantly.

May that be your Testimony in Year 2022.

May the God of Increase visit you; may He take the little one Seed you have - The little thing you have is Insignificant. And may He multiply it to feed the Nations of the world - Amen.

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Lift up your hands everybody - Wherever you are now or reading this Message on the Label of DMC and begin to talk to the Lord and just say:

LORD, INCREASE ME ON EVERY SIDES - Increase me in Spirit, in Wisdom, in Understanding, in Faith. Increase me Lord in my Relationship with You. Increase me Lord. Increase my Capacity, Ability, my Strength. Increase Your Grace upon me.

Oh yes, talk to the Lord.

The Spirit of Increase rest upon you, the Anointing of Increase is upon you. The Lord visits you, the Lord touches you, Increases you, Multiplies you.

You are not alone, you are not fighting this alone, you are not in the Struggle alone. God is WITH YOU and He will not leave you nor forsake you!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father this Morning, we listened to you, and we hear what you say (read now on DMC Label) - That God called Abraham alone, Blessed him and You increased him because you care. You are the God of Increase.

So Lord, we submit ourselves to you this Morning; wherever we are in all that we do, may we Increase in our Spirits, Minds, Bodies, Properties, Assets, in our Faith.

In all that we do, may we see You expand us Exponentially Lord on every sides.

May we be Owners of Cities; may we have our twelve (12) baskets out of five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fishes.

May our cup Overflow and cause us to Testify to You at the end of this Year (2022) and declare Your Praise to the Nations.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Somebody give the Lord a Mighty shout and Praise - Hallelujah!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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JANUARY 23RD - INCREASING SPIRITUALLY



DATE: 23RD JANUARY, 2022

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

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The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

We are talking about "INCREASING" in every areas of our lives. And last week we established that God is the GOD OF INCREASE.

... Somebody say with me: GOD IS THE GOD OF INCREASE.

So anytime we talk about Increase, God is at the center of it or Jesus Christ is at the Center of it.

We don't just Increase by ourselves or by our own Will; we Increase by His Strength and by His Power.

And today I am talking about: INCREASING SPIRITUALLY.

If we want to Increase in any area of our lives, the first Place we start is our our SPIRITUAL LIVES.

And last week when I spoke about The God of Increase, we looked at 1 Corinthians 3, we listened to the Apostle Paul talk about he Planting, Apollos watered and he said God gave the Increase.

Today, what I am going to do is to take us a little earlier - before he made that Statement.

We we are still in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Here Paul is speaking to the Church in Corinth and listen to what he says:

1 And I, Brethren, could not speak to you as to Spiritual People but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

2 I fed you with milk and not with Solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

3 For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere Men?

I like that last Part - ... Are you not carnal and behaving like mere Men?

That phrase "Mere Men" means juts like everybody else - Like Unbelievers.

So Paul is writing to the Church in Corinth.

The Church in Corinth was a Church of different shades:

I. They were very enthusiastic and zealous when it came to Spiritual Things.

II. They spoke in Tongues, they liked to operate in their so called Spiritual Gifts.

But apart from that, everything was wrong with the Church in Corinth.

So Paul is writing to them and he says when he was with them - And Paul had stayed in the Church in Corinth for eighteenth (18) Months.

When he Planted the Church he stayed in Corinth for eighteenth (18) Months - Teaching them, exalting them, encouraging them on the Foundational Doctrines of Christ.

Now Paul says when he was with them, he couldn't teach them many deep things because they were carnal People and they were babies in Christ.

... So Paul gives us a clue as to who a Carnal Christian is.

WHO IS A CARNAL CHRISTIAN?

There are two (2) things he says about a Carnal Christian - He says, "I could not speak to you as to Spiritual People but as to carnal."

1. So the Carnal Christian cannot receive Spiritual Things.

Now Paul does not say that the Corinthians are not Spiritual. That's not what he is saying.

But he is saying that he could not speak to them as Spiritual.

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Because this is the kind of Church where People spoke in Tongues very, very enthusiastically.

When they went to Church, People would Speak in Tongues for the whole Service. Sometimes even the Preacher would Preach in Tongues.

And somebody who is supposed to lead in Prayers (as we do here). In the Church in Corinth, you will start speaking in Tongues and we wouldn't even know the Prayer Topic.

... So these People were very enthusiastic when it came to Spiritual Things.

But Paul says, inspire of all that show of Spirituality, he couldn't speak to them as Spiritual People.

And that's very important! - Because sometimes we can appear Spiritual and not be Spiritual.

Sometimes we can exhibit something that seem to imply that we are Spiritual People, but in reality we are not!

And Paul is saying that he couldn't speak to them as Spiritual People - They couldn't receive Spiritual Things.

2. The Second thing, he said in Verse 2 of our Text - He said that: "I fed you with Milk and not with Solid food."

So Carnal People cannot receive the Solid Word of God.

... They can only receive Milk.

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What's the difference between Milk and Solid Food?

Milk is for "Baby Christians", while Solid food is for "Mature Christians".

So Paul is saying - When I started teaching in Corinth, I was just giving you Milk. I couldn't give you much - I couldn't give you Solid Food because, you were not able to receive it.

I wonder what Paul would say about the Church in Ghana (Nigeria) if he came to examine us - Whether he will call us Spiritual or he will also call us Carnal People who cannot receive Spiritual Things or the Solid Word of God.

So, for us to Increase this Year, our Spiritual Life must be something we Pay attention to.

Let's look at - THE MARKS OF CARNALITY.

In Corinthians 3:4, Paul says: For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

In the Church in Corinth there are People who say: "As for me, I belong to Paul." Others will say "I belong to Apollos." And he says isn't that carnal?

Then when we go to 1 Corinthians 1:12-13, he expands on this Notion - What he says is so important;

Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas (that's Peter)," or "I am of Christ" - Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

So what is it about this Church in Corinth? And what are they doing wrong that Paul calls them "Carnal Christians" or "Baby Christians" - Who cannot receive the Things of the Spirit of God?

And he tells us what they are doing wrong - Some say: "I belong to Paul, I belong to Peter, I belong to Apollos, I belong to Christ."

So what are they doing wrong? - Two (2) Things they are doing wrong;

1. First, they are making the Servants of Christ equal to Christ.

In the same breath they are saying - "I belong to Paul, I belong to Peter, I belong to Christ."

For them; belonging to Christ, to Paul and to Peter is about the same thing.

They are making the Servants of Christ equal to Christ - They saw Christ the same way as they saw their Pastors.

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... That's what they were doing!

They saw Christ on the same Level with their Pastors. They never saw belonging to Christ as more important than belonging to a so called Man or Woman of God.

So, in the Church in Corinth, the Man of God was equal to God - The Preacher is equal to Christ. And they mentioned the Name of Christ and the name of their Preachers in the same sentence.

And Paul says, that's Carnality - That's amazing!

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Sometimes you get the feeling that we are in Corinth (in our Nation). The Church in Africa is like the Church in Corinth; where Christ is reduced to the level of the Minister.

2. And not only did they put the Preachers on the same level as Christ;

They were actually replacing Christ with the Servants of Christ.

... They were replacing Christ!

So Paul asked them Historical Question - Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Instead of Placing their Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they Placed their Faith in the Men of God - In Paul, in Apollos, in Peter. They believed in these People more than they believed in Christ.

And Paul says listen, was I the one who died for you? Was I crucified for you? Why do you want to Place your Faith in me when I didn't make any Sacrifice for you on the Cross?

And we see some of that in the Church today - When Preachers undermine the Scriptures and say things to shift People from the "Written Word" to the words they are Preaching.

You here People say for example - "Put the Bible aside and listen to me."

Put the Bible aside?

Or they would say - "We want the Spirit, we don't want the Word."

.. That's Corinth!

And Paul says that is not Spiritual. That is actually Carnality.

And sometimes you see Preachers exalting their own words above the Scriptures. And they would say things like: "This is not in the Bible - but I am telling you (by whatever Anointing is upon them)".

... If it is not in the Bible, then it is not valid for the Christian.

So the Problem with the Church in Corinth is that - They had this "Outward Appearance" of Spirituality, but the Foundation is all wrong.

... And these days I see a lot of that!

And you better watch out for out for that. Because if we are going to Increase, the One Who gives us the Increase is God.

We cannot Increase in God when we are undermining His Words.

People Pray sometimes in the name of their Man or Woman of God - They would call the name of their Man of God and the Name of Jesus. And so we make the Man of God and his so called Relationship with God the most important thing.

They would say well, in the Bible there is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And the God of Elijah. Because they don't understand the difference between the New Testament and the Old Testament where God was known by a few.

And in the New Testament, as many as led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God.

That is why Paul calls them Brethren - He doesn't even call them Sons of God. He says you are my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Your God is my God. And our God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. One God, one Faith, one Baptism.

There is a lot of "Pseudo Spirituality" - So called Spirituality, but that has no Foundation.

That was the Problem with the Church in Corinth because sometimes People want to make Carnality seem Spiritual.

And the saddest thing I have seen sometimes is Pastors Perpetuating that!

A Pastor is Praying and he says:

I. "I Pray under the Mantle of (and then they mentioned the name of their Man of God)".

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II. "I operate under the Grace of (the name of their Man of God)."

Are you crazy? You operate under another Man's Grace? Who taught us this nonsense? That Pastors operate under the Grace of their Senior Pastors or Bishop or whomever.

No! We operate under the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ! - We all stand by His Grace.

...You don't Pray in the name of a Man of God!

That is what they were doing in Corinth - "I am for Paul, I am for Peter, I am for Christ." They put Christ on the same level and the Man of God was their God.

And Paul said, shut down! Listen, it's not even Spiritual - You are babies. Because if you are truly Spiritual you would know Who your Father is!

And your Father is not a Man of God - Your Father is God Almighty.

Jesus said when you Pray, say - "Our Father Who art in Heaven."

I understand Spiritual fatherhood, but I think we are stretching it to bizarre levels - Where even Pastors cannot lead Prayer without referring to their Senior Pastor.

And People want to assume that is Spirituality.

That, according to 1 Corinthians 1:12-3, is Carnality. And if you do that, you cannot receive from the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14, But the Natural Man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are Spiritually discerned.

... The Carnal Christian cannot receive from the Holy Spirit.

If you want to receive something this Year (2022), you have to receive it from the Holy Spirit.

You can't receive it from me - I can talk to you about your Father and your God; and I can explain His Words to you. But your Faith must always be with God.

You cannot receive from God if you don't even know Who you are Worshipping.

So 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 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." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God

I. The Carnal Christian cannot See, Hear nor Discern God's Purposes.

When we behave like mere Men, we cannot receive from God - We can't receive from God!

II. And not only can they not see, hear or discern God's Purposes;

They cannot receive what God has freely given to them.

There are things that God has freely given to us by His Holy Spirit. And they don't come from our Men of God, they come directly from God.

His Grace is sufficient for you!

Men of God have no Grace that is your sufficiency - If you want to tap into their Grace, you are a "Miserable Person" living a "Miserable Life".

How did we get to this Level - Where Christ has been marginalised and the Man of God is at the Center?

And there are Preachers who love it so. And that is why we are getting so many "Baby Christians" who cannot stand any adversity. When their Faith is tried they either go to the Occult or to a Psyche.

They cannot trust God because their Faith is in a Man of God. But when we Place the Faith of the People in God, then in the Midnight Hour of their lives, when the Pastor is not there, God is there.

They know how to trust Him and they know how to depend on His Words and they know how to depend on His Promises.

That is Spirituality - Yes!

HOW DO WE INCREASE SPIRITUALLY?

Hebrews 5:13-14; For everyone who Partakes only of Milk is Unskilled in the Word of Righteousness, for he is a babe. But Solid Food belongs to those who are of Full Age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both Good and evil.

So how we Increase Spiritually? - Three (3) Things:

1. GODLY APPETITE.

Having an intensified desire for the things of God.

This is where our Spiritual Growth starts from - An intensified desire for the things of God.

Jesus Christ noted that in His Sermon on the Mount - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for Righteousness, For they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).

Having a hunger for God - That I may know Him (Philippians 3:10).

Lord I want to know You; Lord I want to understand Your Words; Lord I want to serve You.

When your heart Pants as the Deer Pants after the waters (Psalms 42:1). Your heart Pants for the Lord. When your heart desires God. When from the depth of your being you want to be all that God wants you to be.

... That's where it starts from -There has to be a Deep Appetite, a Strong Appetite for God.

2. GODLY WISDOM.

Having a deep understanding of God's Word.

Not shallow understanding of God's Word. Not just knowing the Bible and some Bible Stories, and some Ideas you heard from a Preacher.

Because, for most of us Christians, everything we know is what we were told - We haven't discovered anything for ourselves from the Scriptures.

But if we want to grow, we have to discover Truth from the Scriptures.

And every Christian must invest in their Spiritual Growth. You must have more than one Bible. "Baby Christians" have one Bible (I'm joking)!

But I am serious! It is a joking serious (laughter). "Baby Christians" have one Bible. We need to have many Versions of the Bible. I use the New King James Version, but I have so many Versions of the Bible.

... And of course I am a Pastor and I must invest in that!

But if you are not a Pastor, at least get another Version - maybe NIV (New International Version). Or get other Versions. So that when you read the Bible, you can read it in three (3) Translations to get a better sense of what you are reading.

Get a Good Bible Concordance; get a Greek Concordance and get a Hebrew Concordance because you have to learn the Scriptures yourself. You have to learn it!

You know, when somebody is a Carpenter, even if they work for a Carpentry Company, they have their own tools as well - They have their Saw, Plane, Hammer (Just for Emergencies).

If somebody is an Electrician, apart from the fact that he works in a Company, the Company Provides him with tools, they have their own Screwdriver and they have a couple of other things.

If somebody is a Musician, they have their own Instruments.

So when you are a Christian, apart from coming to Church to be taught; you must have the Tools of your Faith - You must have it!

So when you are having your Bible Study you can at least do some basic Greek Study and basic Hebrew study. Not as deeply as I would do because that's my Full-Time job.

But you must do something yourself, to learn the Scripture. Because if we want to grow Spiritually and receive Spiritual Things, there is no lazy way to do it but to go into the Scriptures.

... We must desire it.

... So, Godly Wisdom! And finally;

3. GODLY DISCERNMENT.

Having a keen awareness of God's Will.

Able to discern between what is Right and what is Wrong. Knowing the Will of God for us at everytime!

Many Christians are not able to tell the difference between a Person who operates by the Spirit of God and a Person who operates by an Evil Spirit.

I am amazed at how many Christians allow People to breakup their Marriages and destroy your Relationship with their Parents because somebody says your husband is a wizard or your wife is a witch! Or your mother wants to eat you up.

And a Christian has no way of discerning the Spirit that is speaking - Whereas everything Supernatural is of God.

No Sir! There are lots of Psyche Spirits - No Spirit of God gives devilish information to People.

Couple of days ago I heard about a Pastor whose Marriage was almost collapsing. And then I got to understand why his Marriage was almost collapsing.

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That some Young boy so called Prophet, who doesn't even know the Scriptures told him - "Pastor, your wife is a witch." And the sad thing is, this so called Prophet (when he was confronted with what he had said) went to apologise, that he didn't know what he was doing.

When you are a "Spiritual Baby", People would Play you like football because you have no ability to discern what he is speaking to you.

When Paul was in Philippi somebody was following him saying: "Here are those who Preach to us the Word of Truth."

... All intent and Purposes - That is a Good Spirit.

Paul discerned, although it is saying the right things, the Spirit behind it is wrong! And Paul rebuked that Spirit.

Just because somebody told you the Serial Number of the Money you are holding, or the Car Registration Number you have, does not mean it is from the Spirit of God.

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And they are messing up your lives! And some of you are at the verge of giving up because a Psyche lied to you.

And you know why you believed? - Because you don't know how to discern the Will of God.

And why don't you know how to discern the Will of God? It is because the Word of God does not dwell in you richly.

And until we get to that Point, our whole Christian Life would be manipulates.

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And that is what Paul is telling them - He said to the Church in Corinth: "I couldn't tell you anything because you are babes.

Why are you babes? Because you say "I am for this, I am for that."

You don't even know levels of Spirituality. You don't know that Jesus Christ is one level Totally Unapproachable by Paul.

And some of you think a so called Man of God, his word is equal with Jesus.

You know sometimes People say something and I say "but the Scripture doesn't say so."

They say: "Put the Scripture aside."

And I hope none of you is in that "Nice Sunday Church People."

You are going to take the Word; you are going to learn the Scriptures because you are going to be responsible for your Spiritual, my Increase and Spiritual Growth.

It is when you have Increased Spiritually, that you can discern the things of God - So God would speak to you about your Destiny.

... God is not in the business of telling People about you when He has access to you.

If God is going to tell People about you, He would already have told you about them because you are His Child.

And any father who cannot speak to His own children, and goes to the neighbourhood to tell People about his children is not a Hood one.

If your father did that, you would say "he is not a Good father."

And why do you think your Heavenly Father - You sit in front of Him to read His Word; and Pray and listen to Him. And He doesn't talk to you, and go somewhere to tell People about you.

This year (2022): GET TO KNOW YOUR FATHER - Get to know His voice, get to Understand Him. And allow Him to Pour Himself into you.

... That is how we Increase Spiritually. AMEN!

HALLELUJAH!

Well I want to give you a chance to make a Commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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If you are here this Morning and you say - Pastor, I want to grow Spiritually. I want to be a Spiritual Person.

The beginning Point of Spirituality is to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life!

Sometimes we call it being Born Again, or being saved, or receiving Christ, or repenting of your sins.

Whatever term we use; it means one thing - It means that Jesus Christ comes to live in your heart.

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And it doesn't happen automatically - We have to make it happen. We have to invite Him to come into our lives.

So if you are here this morning, or reading now on the Label of DMC - You say Pastor, I want Jesus to come into my heart; I want Jesus to come into my heart.

If that's your desire, just lift up your Right Hand wherever you are. Rise up, just Stand up wherever you are and put your hand upon your heart.

God bless you.

I am going to lead you in Prayer and all of us are going to Pray with you as you make Jesus Christ the Lord of your Life.

Say 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 that Jesus died for and rose again from the dead to give me Life. And today I receive Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and my Saviour.

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I Thank You Father for accepting me as Your Child.

I Declare today that I am a Child of God. I belong to Jesus. I am Born Again. And I Thank You Father for New Life.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

GOD BLESS YOU - 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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JANUARY 30TH - INCREASING SPIRITUALLY - PART 2



DATE: 30TH JANUARY, 2022

DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW TEXT: John 3:25-30

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am doing Part 2 of my Message - INCREASING SPIRITUALLY.

As we desire to Increase, we have to desire to Increase Spiritually. That is where everything starts from; from our Spiritual Relationship with God.

DMC NOTES: You can access the Full Text of the Part 1 of the Series - Increasing Spiritually (Part 1) on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Increasing-Spiritually-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

Bible Text: John 3:25-30

And I will base all my Message today on the Verses we are reading.

John 3:25-30 (NKJV):

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25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's Disciples and the Jews about Purification.

26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from Heaven.

28 You yourselves bear me Witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'

29 He who has the Bride is the Bridegroom; but the friend of the Bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's Voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

30 He must Increase, but I must Decrease.

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Please note the Verse 30, because that is the heart of what I am Preaching on: "He must Increase, but I must Decrease."

There are two words there (I believe you know the meaning) which I much define:

1. The first word is INCREASE.

And it is the a word that John used, regarding Jesus Christ.

... He said Jesus must INCREASE.

It means to become More Significant or to Grow in Size

So when John says "He MUST Increase" that is what he had in Mind - He must become More Significant and He must Grow in Size.

That means His followers must become more than my followers - He must Increase!

2. The Second word is the word DECREASE - It is the opposite of Increase.

It means to become Less Significant and to reduce in Size.

The Verse 30 (which I said you should Pay attention to) - "He must INCREASE, but I must DECREASE." is the last recorded Message of John Baptist in the Bible.

It is very interesting! Because John the Baptist had said many things - He was a very fiery Preacher. But this is the last recorded Message that he gave.

... This is how John the Baptist ended his Ministry.

John the Baptist was a Unique Messenger with a Unique Message - Jesus Christ called him "The Greatest of all Men".

And when you look into the Bible you will see John's Uniqueness - He was the last Old Testament Prophet.

If you know your Bible well, you would know that in the Old Testament there were many Prophets. And most of the Prophets spoke about the Coming Messiah. And John was the last one of those Prophets. So he was a very Significant Person.

And his Mission was to Prepare the Way for Christ - He was the one sent to Prepare a Way for Christ.

And in Playing this role of Preparing People for the Christ, John Baptist became very Popular. And he became a well known Prophet in Israel at that time because for many years there had been no Prophet.

Since the Old Testament ended, no Prophet had arisen in Israel. And then John the Baptist shows up!

So everybody is drawn to him - He is bold, Righteous, Eloquent and the People loved him. He could confront a very Powerful People.

And his Ministry became so big; that People actually thought that John the Baptist was the Messiah. And so frequently they would go to him and ask him: "Are you really the Messiah or we should be looking for another one?"

He would tell them I'm not!

And they would still go to him and ask: "Are you the Messiah?" Because so much of what John the Baptist was doing was so Good that People felt "he must be the Messiah."

Now if John didn't know who he was, he would Probably have accepted the role that had been given to him.

But one day, Jesus Christ approached John the Baptist to be baptised. And John Pointed to Him and said: "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world."

And when he did that, his Disciples left him to follow Jesus.

And those who had stayed were very unhappy. And they are the ones who came to John the Baptist.

They said: "The Guy who came to you at the River Jordan, Whom you said is the Lamb of God, everybody is going to Him."

And John then says: Yes, I know! - He must Increase, I must Decrease.

So a Few Things we should know about John the Baptist:

1. First, is that he KNEW HIS PLACE.

... John knew his Place! - He was very confident in whom he was.

Yes he was Popular, yes People liked him, yes everybody wanted to hear him. But he also knew Who the "Real Person" was - He knew his Place.

2. Secondly, he KNEW CHRIST'S PLACE.

... He knew the Place of Christ

In the Natural, Jesus Christ was John the Baptist's Younger Cousin. But right from his mother's womb John the Baptist had always responded to the Words of Jesus Christ. And he leaped when the mother of Jesus Christ (Mary) approached his mother, Elizabeth.

So, Spiritually he knew Jesus Christ was the Son of God.

But that is my Younger Cousin!

John Probably had studied the Old Testament Prophecies, and he knew without any shadow of doubt, that this Cousin of his was the Messiah.

... So he knew! - But People didn't know.

And there is always a conflict when you know something about yourself and People don't know it:

- You know you are not that Powerful, but everybody thinks you are the Most Powerful.

- You know you exist by the Grace of God, but everybody thinks they exist by Your Grace.

- You know everything depends on God, but everybody thinks everything depends on you!

They are giving you the Glory that they must give to God. They don't know your Place; and they don't know God's Place.

And that is how it was for John the Baptist.

And so he said: f I am really going to Play my role - That Christ must Increase and I must Decrease (He and I).

It's always a conflict between us and He; Jesus and us!

It's always a conflict for Preachers - Between Jesus and us. Because you know, People don't see Jesus, they see the Preacher.

And Pretty soon like John the Baptist, they are going to try to make you the Jesus; make you the Messiah. And you have to know your Place and you have to know Jesus' Place.

... Because He must Increase and we must Decrease.

But it goes beyond the Preacher. It affects each one of us.

I like the word that John the Baptist used - He used the word "MUST".

It's an Imperative. It is something that is obligatory. It is required - "He MUST Increase; I MUST Decrease".

Because that is the Foundation of Christianity - In Christianity we do things that are very different from the way the world act. We act opposite to the world.

In Christianity, we love by dying; we gain by losing; we receive by Giving; we become great by serving and we Increase by decreasing.

When we say (for example) this is the Year of Increase; it doesn't mean it is a Year to blow your horn; it doesn't mean it is a Year for you to lift up yourself.

If we are going to follow John's example; in the Year of Increase, we decrease that Christ may Increase in us. Less of us, more of Him. Less of our Way, more of His Way.

So, the Year of Increase is not our Year of Popularity:

I. It is a Year of God's Popularity.

II. It is not a Year when we Praise ourselves; but a Year when we Praise God.

III. It is not a Year for us to lift up ourselves, but to lift up the Name of Jesus.

He MUST Increase, and we MUST Decrease!

And in His Increase we rise with Him. Because everything we are, is because of Him.

Somebody say: HE MUST INCREASE!

... And that is what John the Baptist understood.

HOW DOES CHRIST INCREASE IN US?

For Christ to Increase in us, a few things must happen:

I want you to remember what John the Baptist said - John, when he was told that Jesus Christ was Increasing more than him said: "Well, that is how it's supposed to be!"

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And then he used a Story, he says: The friend of the Bridegroom rejoices because of the Bridegroom.

Because in the days of Jesus Christ, the friend of the Bridegroom would be similar to what we call the Best Man now - They call him a friend of the Bridegroom.

But he is a little different from the Best Man because the friend of the Bridegroom was the one who Acts between the Bride and the Bridegroom. And he actually acts between the Bride's Family and the Groom's.

So, he is the one who goes to the Bride's Family and talks to them and does all the Preparations and the negotiations. Until the Bridegroom shows up, the Person that is known is the friend of the Bridegroom - The family knows him, the Bride knows him and everybody knows him

And I can imagine if you are the friend of the Bridegroom, you seem to be the guy! You are the one making all the arrangements, making all the Preparations.

And then the Bridegroom shows up! And when he shows up you Stand aside.

So that's what John the Baptist is saying - He says: I am the friend of the Bridegroom. I came along, you thought I was the the one. I was making the Preparations; you like my Voice, you like what I was saying but the "BIG MAN" Himself has come! And when He comes, I must step aside so that He will take the Bride.

Because the Bride does not belong to the friend of the Bridegroom - The Bride belongs to the Bridegroom.

The Bride in the Bible is the Church. We - Preachers, Christians, we are the friend of the Bridegroom. But the Bridegroom is called JESUS. And He is the Owner of the Church.

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And when He has used us, we must step aside, so that His Glory would be seen. Because He is the Bridegroom.

So that's what John the Baptist is talking about, when he talked about the friend of the Bridegroom. And he says, that's my joy!

You may think I'm a loser, you may think I don't have ambition. You may think my life's work has been destroyed. You may think that I am failure but at the end of my Life, after I have Preached for so long, everybody is following me.

But this is my Joy, this is what I came to do - Not to Promote myself, but to Point to the Bridegroom.

And he says that "In this, my Joy is fulfilled." What a Man!

... So How do we Increase in Christ, if we are taking John the Baptist as our example?

1. WE MUST STAY BY HIS SIDE.

For Christ to Increase in us, we must be by His side.

That's how John the Baptist Himself; he said: "I am the friend of the Bridegroom, I am with the Bridegroom."

... We must Stand by His side. We must stay Close to the Lord.

And this Year (2022); if we want to Increase; we must stay Close to the Lord - Spend time with Him, get to know Him better.

2. WE MUST LOVE AND HONOUR HIS WORDS.

John the Baptist says: "I Rejoice to hear the Word of the Bridegroom."

He was not offended that the Bridegroom had replaced him.

3. WE MUST SURRENDER ALL TO HIM.

That's what John the Baptist did - He surrendered everything he had gained to Jesus Christ.

When Jesus Christ increases in us, our Old Nature must step aside, for His New Nature to show forth - Our anger must step aside, our envy must step aside, our unforgiveness must step aside, our Immorality must step aside.

Jesus Christ cannot Increase in us when Anger is increasing in us; when Adultery is increasing in us; fornication is increasing in us; gossiping is increasing in us; lying is increasing in us; jealousy, envy is increasing in us.

How can Jesus Christ Increase in us when we have become so large that there is no Vision of Christ in our lives?

So in this Year of Increase, Jesus Christ MUST Increase in our lives!

I said, He MUST Increase in our lives - Amen.

I know you want to Increase.

Most of us, since we said the Year is the Year of Increase, I think you have reduced Increase to Money! So anytime we say it's the Year of Increase, you are counting the Money.

Yes! There is Increase in money. But it begins Spiritually - Christ increases in us. And for that to happen, we must step aside.

You can't be who you normally are, and still Increase in Christ.

It reminds me of a Pastor who was quarrelling with another Pastor (Pastors quarrel, by the way)! And this was getting to almost fighting Physically.

So the other Pastor told one of the Pastors - "You, if you don't stop what you are doing, I will show you my true colours."

... True Story! - "I will show you my true colours."

... The question is: All these times what have you been Showing?

You know, some times when we come to Church, People are nice. Oh, Praise the Lord. Until something happens! Then you say: "These Church People."

Because a Church Member, who you think is a nice brother in Christ would get so angry, you would be shocked - You would open your mouth wide.

Or the Person would cheat you in a way that will make you review your Understanding of a Christian Brother.

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Ha! He would cheat you and come and lift up his hand in worship.

Why does that happen?

Because we haven't stepped aside - We are still the Central of our lives. Our anger is still the Central of our lives; Our jealousy is still the Central of our lives. But if Jesus Christ must Increase in us, we must be like the friend of the Bridegroom. The moment He shows up, we step aside and say Lord, stay in Your Place and grow in Your Place.

When Jesus Christ comes into our lives, He comes into our heart; we must step aside so that He will be Magnified in our lives.

... He MUST Increase as we Decrease!

May we see LESS of ourselves and MORE of Jesus Christ - Amen.

And when we do that, then He becomes More Significant in us.

And that is our Challenge - That Jesus Christ must become More Significant in us! The world must see MORE of Him in us.

So you ask yourself: What do People see when they look at me? Do they see More of Jesus Christ or More of us?

The world must see more of HIM in us. And the world must hear MORE of Him through us.

When we talk, it must be More about Jesus Christ.

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We should make it a habit that, every conversation we have, we would find a way to introduce Jesus Christ in the Conversation.

Instead of talking about "me, me, me. I, I, I. What I have done" - Why don't you talk about what Jesus Christ has done? "How Great I am!" - Why don't you talk about how great Jesus Christ is?

And for us Preachers, it's important for us to keep Jesus Christ at the Center of our Preaching!.

We can talk about everything we want to talk about, but it has to always end up with Jesus Christ as the Central of our lives - He must INCREASE, as we Decrease.

Because sometimes you know, we Preachers get into the habit of talking too much about ourselves:

I. About our Grace and not His Grace.

II. About our Anointing and not His Anointing.

III. About our Calling and not His Calling because we didn't call ourselves.

If Jesus was not in the Picture, there is no way I would be a Preacher - No way!

My father wasn't a Preacher - No way near that.

I am a Preacher because of the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am Called because of the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is because of Him that I got the Chance to do what I am doing. It is because of Him that you got the Chance to become a Child of God. It is because of Him that you live Life with confidence of a Home in Heaven! Otherwise, Life would be full of fear - He makes all the difference!

Somebody say: CHRIST MUST INCREASE!

And not only His Words; but the world must believe more in Him through us.

These days I get the impression that People believe in their Pastor more than Jesus Christ. I get that funny impression and sometimes I think the Pastors want People to believe in them more than Jesus Christ.

And it is great to believe in your Pastor and love him or her. To Pray for them and be Proud of what God is using them to do!

But they are like John the Baptist - They are only there to introduce People to the Bridegroom.

That is my job! - And if I don't introduce you to Jesus Christ, I have failed in my job. If I Point you to myself then I have failed.

My job is to ensure that after all is said and done, I Point you to Jesus Christ.

Your job is to ensure that after all is said and done, you give Jesus Christ the Glory - Alright!

I don't want you to give me the Glory - Give Jesus Christ the Glory!

Don't even give the Church the Glory - Give Jesus Christ the Glory.

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I don't want People to come to Church and say: "Oh, since I came to this Church, my Life has Changed." - It's Great! I understand the context in which you are saying it.

But I want you to say: "Since I gave my Life to Jesus Christ, my Life has never been the same again."

That's the Testimony we want to hear - Since I gave my Life to Jesus Christ, since I gave my heart to Jesus Christ; Thank God for His Words, which has made me so and so! Instead of just saying "Thank God for my Pastor words which has made me so and so".

... Because, what is your Pastor's word if God has not given His Word?

Let's bring Jesus back to the Center - He must INCREASE, and we Decrease!

And when we do that, that is when we see the Magnificence of the Power of God and the Glory of God in all that we do!

And we must do it as a Church, we must do it as Preachers, and we must do it as Church Members.

And be careful not to give God's Glory to a Human b Being because God does not share His Glory with anybody.

Be careful not to give God's Glory to another Human Being - You must give all your Highest Honour, your Highest Worship, your Highest Appreciation to the Lord.

And when we make Him INCREASE, then whilst He increases, He will lift us up with Him. And cause His Light to Shine on us.

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We are like the Moon, we are not the Sun - The Moon only reflects the Light that the Sun gives!
We have no Light of our own.

Every reflection of Light People see of us is because the Sun is Shining through us. And in us, His Glory touches the rest of the world.

When He Increases, then He causes us to be effective in all that we do!

Today or as we read now on the Label of DMC - I just want us to make a decision that in all that we do; in all that we desire; that Jesus Christ will have the Preeminence; that He will Increase in us, His Glory would be seen in our jobs, in our Marriages.

That wherever we are: let Jesus Christ be seen, let His Glory be seen. He must INCREASE as we Decrease - 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!!!

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FEBRUARY 6TH - PREPARING FOR INCREASE - PART 1



DATE: 6TH FEBRUARY, 2022

TEXT: ISAIAH 54:1-3

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Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today we are talking about PREPARING FOR INCREASE - Part 1.

If God wants us to Increase, we must Prepare for it - We must get ready for it.

And how do we Prepare ourselves for God's Increase in our lives?

And my Message today is based on a Message I Preached in this Church over fifteen (15) Years ago - I was going through my Notes and I came across it.

And the Message was relevant then; it's still relevant now. I have tuck it a little bit so that it can Minister to us Specifically.

So How do we Prepare for Increase in our lives? Especially when we have had a lot of setbacks in our lives. And that is when we are talking about Negativity, and things are not going well with our lives.

How do we Prepare our Mind, Prepare our Spirit for Increase in our lives.

And it was in such a situation that our Bible Text for today occurred in Isaiah 54:1-3 - Isaiah Chapter 54 is a Messianic Prophecy.

And when we say that a Passage is a Messianic Prophecy, it means that it Points to the Coming of the Messiah - Jesus Christ. And Thank God He has come!

... And so this Message is relevant to us.

If you know your Bible well, you will know that Isaiah Chapter 53 - Just right next door to Isaiah 54, is that big Messianic Prophecy. I'm talking about the Sovereign Messiah.

So Isaiah 54:1-3 (NKJV):

1 "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into Singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with Child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.

2 Enlarge the Place of your tent, And let them Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your Cords, And Strengthen your Stakes.

3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the Nations, And make the desolate Cities inhabited.

I want you to Pay attention to the Promise that God gave them in Verse 3 because this Promise is a Promise of Increase.

Based on that. He tells them what to do to have those Promise of Increase fulfilled.

The Promise in Verse 3 says - "For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the Nations, And make the desolate Cities inhabited."

God is saying to Israel - I'm about to Increase you and you are going to expand to the left and to the right; and your descendants shall inherit the Nations.

But before then, He tells them to Prepare for what He is about to do.

He is calling Israel "A DESOLATE NATION." Because this Prophecy is coming at a time of desolation!

The Land has been ravaged, People have been carried to Captivity, the Temple has been brought down, the Walls are down, everything is in a mess. The Nation has been utterly disrupted.

And it is in this time when the Population has gone down, there are not many People that God speaks to in Israel. And He compares them to a desolate woman, to a Widow who is barren and forsaken - And He draws that Analogy to speak to them.

How do you encourage Somebody who feels desolate? How do you come to Somebody whose Life has a Bad News throughout?

Like what People would say in Ghana: "My Life is Bad Luck." Everything about them is Negative, everything is Bad - From one Bad News to Bad News!

How do they Change that? And how does God speak to a People who are so downcast? God speaks to them and He tells them - "Enlarge the Place of your Tent."

... Everybody say - Enlarge!

If Somebody is miserable and his Life is in a Failure; when you come across him at the back and say: Life will be well; you know things will improve. But God is not Pitying them. He says - "Enlarge the Place of your Tent."

Somebody say: Enlarge the Place of your Tent!

WHAT DOES THE WORD ENLARGE MEAN?

Three (3) Thoughts that I want to bring to your Notice.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word, out of which comes the same word that is translated as 'Enlarge' is the same word out of which came the word "Rehoboth."

When Isaac said: "God has made Room for me." - That is the same root word for Enlarge.

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... So what does Enlarge mean?

1. First, it means to Open Up.

The idea there is of something that is closed and must be Opened Up!

Because when you are closed, you cannot receive. And many times when you are under stress attack, you feel like closing up! But God says, don't close up - Open Up!

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2. The word Enlarge also mean to Make Room.

Don't restrict yourself, make Room - Open the accommodation because God is about to do something great for you.

And you cannot receive it when you are closed in and restricted.

3. And thirdly, the word Enlarge mean to Widen.

Don't be narrow, don't be small, don't be inward looking, don't be Small Minded - Don't just think Small rather think Big!

And so He says to them, although you are desolate and your experience has been bad - Enlarge!

WHAT MUST WE ENLARGE?

The Passage says "Enlarge the Place of your Tent."

I want you to remember that although the Passage is using terms related to building; the Passage is not about building - God is just using Tent as analogy for Life, for a Nation, for a People.

And He says - ENLARGE THE PLACE OF YOUR TENT.

... Somebody say:: ENLARGE THE PLACE OF YOUR TENT.

Pay attention! -He did not say: "Enlarge your Tent". That would have been the easiest statement - Enlarge your Tent!

You are desolate, you need Help. God's wants to Increase you - The actual thing is to say Enlarge your Tent. Open up your Room, open up your Space!

But that's not what He said - He said: Enlarge The Place of your Tent (Not the Tent itself, but where the Tent is sitting).

... So let's look at the Phrase - "THE PLACE" a little closely.

"The Place" is the Ground on which you build.

... In Ghana we call it, a Plot of Land.

God says - I am about to Increase you. You are narrow, you are small. I'm about to Increase you, Prepare for the Increase.

How? - Enlarge the Place of your Tent. Get a bigger Plot of Land because you cannot build a bigger Tent on the same Small Land.

So the first Change Factor is not the Building you have constructed; but the Space you have allowed yourself to operate in - "Enlarge The Place of your Tent!"

Remember, although He is talking about Building, the Message is not about Building; it is about the lives of the People.

When God says "Enlarge The Place of your Tent" - What does He mean?

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What does it mean that the Place of your Tent must be enlarged?

Well, if you have a Building, the Building is sitting on Land equal to the Size of the Building. If I want to expand a Building, but the Land remains the same, I cannot expand the Building.

For me to expand a Building, I have to have a bigger Space of Land to expand the Building.

And I hope you understand that!

When God says, enlarge the Place of your Tent, He is not talking about Building. He is talking about the Foundation you have laid for yourself on which you have built your Life.

And there are Two (2) Things that come to Mind when we talk about the Place of your Tent:

1. The first is your Philosophy of Life - The Basis or Assumption on which you build your Life.

Everything is built on a certain Understanding, in a certain Philosophy, a certain Mindset.

And when the Mindset is narrow, the Life would also be narrow. If the Mindset is restricted, the life would be restricted.

When we talk about enlarging The Place of your Tent, we are talking about the Philosophy of Life; the Theory on which you build. Usually, it is the collective Wisdom of the People: a Race, a Nation, a Family.

... Let me give you a few Examples:

For Example, the belief that Witches can disrupt our lives - which most of you hold; can be a Philosophy of Life. And can be the Place on which you have built your Life.

If you believe that Witches can disrupt your Life; the Life you construct would be based on the fear of Witches.

Therefore, everything you do would be backed by a fear that some malignvolent Spirit would come and scatter everything you have done. So, everytime you are making Progress, you keep looking backwards, expecting that some Spirit would come and disrupt your Life.

If that is how you have built your Life, then that is the Place you built your Tent.

And God says - Enlarge it! Because that Philosophy of Life totally undermines Christianity.

You know why it undermines Christianity?

Because the Bible says: Jesus, in His Death and Resurrection, totally disarmed and destroyed Principalities, Powers, Dominions and every evil Spirit.

If after Christ has done all that for you, you still feel a Witch can disrupt your Life; your Tent is on a a Narrow Land and God cannot do great things with you because at the back of your Mind there is fear.

And God is saying: "I want to Increase you." But the Place, the Land, the Plot you built your Tent on; this Philosophy is restricting what I am about to do for you.

The idea that believes that God has some favorites He listen to is a wrong Foundation to build your Life (if you are a Christian).

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You know sometimes People talk time, they say: "Pastor, that's why we come to you People because you People are close to the Man Upstairs."

I don't mind if Unbelievers say that! But I mind, if a child of God, a Believer thinks his Pastor is closer to God than he is - That Land cannot construct a Big Tent.

Because if you are going to build for God, you have to understand one fact that: "... God is no Respector of Persons: But in every Nation he that feareth Him, and worketh Righteousness, is accepted with him" - Acts 10:34-35

If you live for Him and you are a Child of God, you are as close to God as any Man of God or Woman of God on this Earth.

... Are you following me?

So if you think some Man of God has God's Address and you don't have it, and you are a Believer; your Land is narrow, and your Tent would not be big.

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Any Philosophy that tells you - Unless you have a Helper, you would not achieve much in Life. You know, one of the things I have noticed in different Parts of the world is that, People like to be Pitied. Pity is an industry.

You just watch Facebook, go to Social Media. Social Media which is supposed to talk nice things is about Funerals - "My Mother died, Uncle died, come and mourn with me."

Who should mourn with you? - Deal with your Life!

You know, we like to be Pitied - 'Oh, sorry, my condolence.'

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We feel so Good because People are Pitying us. But anyone with "Self-Pity" cannot build a big Tent for the things that God want to do in their lives!

"Self-Pity" is a killer of Life! Because the Truth of life is: God has given us one Helper. And He is called the Holy Spirit. And when He is with you, everybody else can be against you. But when He is with you, you have the Helper with you and you will do well.

For you to Enlarge, you have to consider: What is the Philosophy on which I run my Life?

- Am I running away from Witches?

- Do I think I'm not God's Special?

- Do I think, if that Person there doesn't help me I have no help at all?

If that is your Philosophy, Increase will avoid you - "Enlarge The Place of your Tent".

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2. And then, the Place of your Tent also talk about our Point Of Reference.

... Where you locate yourself in Life!

The examples you follow; the experience that has shaped you; the expectations that you have - Your Point of Reference!

People have all kinds of Points of Reference - Some Point of Reference, especially in our Part of the world is a Proverb.

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People go through some trouble and then they would use a Local Proverb to just explain what they are going through.

What is your Point of Reference? What is the Land you are building on? - Is it the failure of your family? The failure of Somebody? The disaster that befell Somebody? Is it the Promise of God?

What do you refer to when you are facing Life? Do you refer to Last Year - "Oh Life was bad Last Year, so this Year we don't even know how it's going to be."

... That's your Point of Reference!

But if you want God to Enlarge you, your Point of Reference must be bigger than the experiences of other People and your own experiences from the Past.

You must have a different Point of Reference. And I suggest to you Strongly - Your Point of Reference must be the Word of God:

"On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand! All other Ground is sinking Sand".

So God says to Israel - "I am about to Increase you."

And He says something very interesting about what He is going to do - He says: "Your Descendants shall inherit the Nations".

Do you know what that means?

They have been carried as Slaves into the Nations. And He says, for what I am about to do, even your Nation can't contain it. Because I will expand you so much that you will take Charge of the Nations that have taken you as Slaves.

And if there is anything anybody can say about the Jews, wherever they are; they are not at the bottom. No matter the circumstance that took them there!

Whatever Nation they have been to, they end up somewhere at the Top: Hated, Persecuted, fought against but at the Top!

God says, I am about to do it for you, so Change your Philosophy because what I am about to do for you would not even be contained by Jerusalem - The Nations would be your Inheritance.

I am about to declare something to you by the Word of God:

What God is about to do with you, Ghana/Nigeria cannot contain it; Africa cannot contain it - The Place of your Tent!

What God wants to do for you: Your family cannot handle it, your friends cannot handle it, your Nation cannot handle it, your Race cannot handle it.

Don't just say I am a Black Man, don't just say I am a Black Woman, don't just say I am a Woman, don't just say I come from a Poor family. Because God says, until you expand your Thinking, what I am about to do for you, you cannot contain it.

I believe with all my heart that the Limitations that we face is all Self Imposed".

And God is saying: ENLARGE THE PLACE OF YOUR TENT.

You have built on Fear, you have built on Pity, you have built on Scarcity,.you have built on Limitations - You have built on all of these but God says, Change the Building Plan.

Enlarge the Place of your Tent; because I am about to construct a bigger Tent. And I need a bigger Mind, a bigger Spirit, a bigger Thought, a bigger Faith to receive it.

This Morning, God wants to do something Great with you - Amen.

Then He talks about THE TENT.

... Unless the Place is Changed, the Tent will not Change.

- The Tent represents what you are building your Life to be.
- The Tent represents the Structure you are putting up. How you have formed your Life.

Israel at this time is building based on Captivity - They are Slaves!

And when you are a Slave, to you are going to build like a Slaves.

If somebody is Poor, desolate, living in hard times; if you even give him hundred Hectares of Land, he would choose one Plot of Land instead.

Do you know that most Ghanians cannot think beyond one Plot of Land? They can go to a Virgin Land, Nobody is living there. They will just get one Plot and build on it.

Later everybody will come and build all around him, while he takes just one Plot because the Mind is Small.

Sometimes you travel outside the City and you hear Someone say: "I was the first Person to buy Land at in this area."

How much did you buy? -One (1) Plot!

Because you see, it's not in the Land, it's in the head - The Real Estate is in the head.

So you give him Abundance, he will take Scarcity. You give him a big Promise, he'll reduce it to Small.

*For some of you when we are talking about Increase, you will be thinking - "I will eat more chin chin, I will eat more fish." (Laughing).

I'm telling you, you will be surprised how People interpret things because you will always bring everything to your Level.

... You construct based on your Place of Philosophy.

In this Year of Increase, Change the Land Structure - If you have thought of one, think of a Thousand.

"If you have thought of a thousand, think of a Billion. If you have thought of a Billion, think of a Quintillion."

I will never forget the first time I heard that Phrase used in a sober Statement.

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It was in Zimbabwe Years ago, when their currency was doing Gymnastics. And I read their Budget and it was in "Quintillion."

What is Quintillion?.

I have never heard any Government talk about Quintillion with sober face.

And I said, maybe the guy is Propheying that a time is going to come, we not only going to talk about Billions, Trillions, quatrillions; but we are going to talk about Quintillions.

May God give you a Quintillion Mindset - Amen.

So that in the midst of the ocean, you will not take a cup of Water; In the midst of Abundance, you are building small Tent.

God says, Enlarge the Place of your Tent. And He is telling them, don't even enlarge in the Boundaries of Israel; include all the Nations that People have gone as Slaves. Because that is the Real Estate I'm giving to you! Your thinking and your Plane will be according to that Mindset.

How many of you are ready to Enlarge the Place of your Tent? - The DMC FAMILY!

Stand on your feet as we Pray!

Say: LORD, Enlarge my Thinking. LORD, Enlarge my Faith. LORD, Enlarge my Expectation.

Put your hand upon your own head and say LORD, Help me.

Pray, say: LORD, shift my Thinking, shift my Mind, shift my Understanding.

Take me from Narrowness, take me from Limitation. I will not Submit to this Limitation. I'm breaking out from this Limitation.

I'm Thinking Big, I'm Thinking Massive. I'm expecting Great Things from you Oh LORD.

Go ahead and Pray!

Enlarge the Place of your Tent! God is going to do Big Things, Massive Things. Your Experience has been bad but your Future is Greater than your Experience.

Your Past has been disappointing, but your Future is Greater than your Past.

Don't let your Past be your Point of Reference. Let God be your Point of Reference. Let the Promise of God be your Point of Reference. Let the Expectation of the Lord be your Point of Reference.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we break the barrier of Limitations on our Minds. And we Declare Your Blessings upon each one of us; upon our Nation Ghana (Nigeria), upon our Continent Africa - A People without Limitations, in the Name of Jesus!

Break Barriers with us Lord. Do Powerful Things with us Lord. Do Massive Things with us Lord. Stretch us to the Uttermost Lord.

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We are ready Lord to step out, to do Big Things for You, to do Massive Things for you.

And lord we begin, by breaking every Witchcraft Barrier in our Mind. Every fear of Demons, Principalities and Powers, we break out of that, in the Name of Jesus.

We live without Fear, we live with full Faith in the God Whose we are and Whom we serve.

In Jesus' Mighty Name we Pray!

... And everybody screen Amen - 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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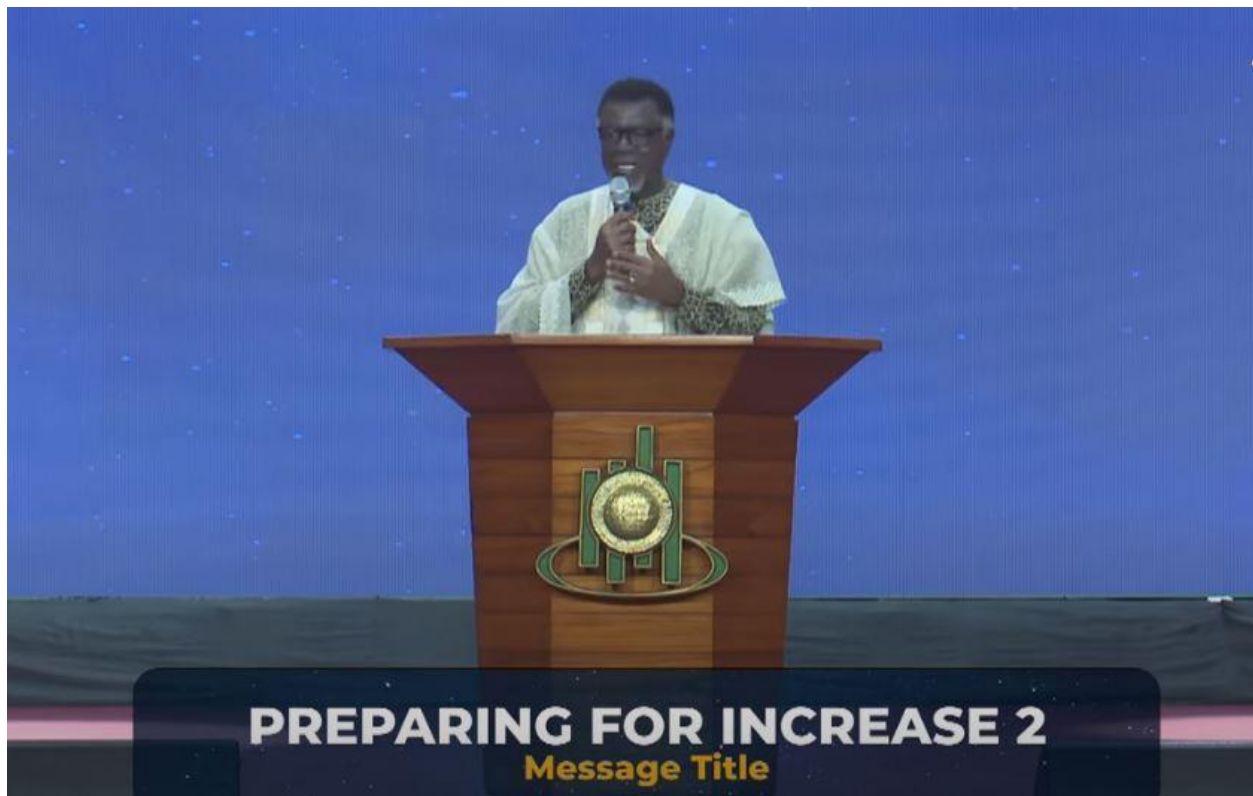
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FEBRUARY 13TH - PREPARING FOR INCREASE - PART 2

DATE: 13TH FEBRUARY, 2022



TEXT: ISAIAH 54:2

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Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today I am doing Part 2 of my Message - PREPARING FOR INCREASE.

I did Part one last week.

DMC NOTES: You can read full Text of that Message on the Label of DMC) - PREPARING FOR INCREASE Part 1 on this Link:

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<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Preparing-For-Increase-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

Isaiah 54:2 (NKJV)

Enlarge the Place of your Tent, And let them Stretch out the curtains of your Dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your Cords, And Strengthen your Stakes.

It is very interesting that this one verse (Isaiah 54:2) has a lot of imperatives; a lot of commands.

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So it's not suggestive.

And if you read the Language, it is Command, Command, Command. God is telling is to do something.

And that tells you that for us to Prepare for Increase, we must do something.

Everybody who is Preparing for something, does something! You can't Prepare and do Nothing.

... There is a lot of Instruction in the Passage.

Last week (6th February, 2022) we looked at the first Instruction - Enlarge the Place of your Tent.

And today we are looking at the Second one: "And let them Stretch out the curtains of your Dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your Cords, And strengthen your Stakes."

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So we will start with trying to understand what those words mean.

WHAT DOES 'STRETCH' MEAN?

"And let them stretch out the Curtains of your Dwellings;"

The word Stretch means to spread something to its full extent.

So, in Preparing for the Increase that God is bringing Israel, He tells them in Isaiah 54:3 that they are going to break to left and to the right. And they are going to increase wherever they are.

Now in Verse 2, He is telling them how to get ready for Verse 3 (which I will deal with Next Week).

He says they must Stretch Out - Which means to spread out to the full extent.

... Everybody say: Full Extent.

Now it is Possible to Stretch a little. But here the intension is to Stretch to the Maximum Possible.

God wants us to do something that is extensive in Preparation for Increase.

What did it say they must Stretch out? - He said: stretch out the Curtains of your Dwellings.

They are supposed to Stretch the Curtains!

Now I know must of us know what a Curtain is. But the Curtain of 2022 is different from the Curtain of this time.

So when God says they should Stretch out the Curtains; what He has in mind is not what we call Curtains now - That drapes that you hang around a window.

That is not the Curtain here that is supposed to be stretched out.

The Curtain here is the fabric that is used to create a Tent.

And so when He says "Stretch out the Curtains" He means that fabric that is creating a Tent.

... That Curtain represents Two (2) things:

1. First, it is a WALL: The Curtain is a Wall that creates space inside the Tent.

The Walls of the Curtain marks out the space that can be occupied within a Tent.

Now if you have seen a Tent before, you know that there is a fabric that is stretched out. Where the fabric goes, determine the boundaries of the Tent. It is the Wall of the Tent. It tells you how much space you can occupy.

God tells the People - Stretch it out! If the Walls are not stretched out, it would limit the space that can be created by the Tent.

2. Secondly, the Curtain is also a COVERING.

... It's not just a Wall, it's also Covering. It Provides Shelter and Protection.

God says, I'm about to Increase you:

I. First, you have to Change your Location - Enlarge the Place of your Tent.

II. But Secondly, you have to do something about the boundaries that you have created for yourself. Because if you don't Stretch these Curtains well, you will create a boundary that will even be shorter than the Place of the Tent.

No matter how large the Place is, if you don't Stretch enough, you will limit how far God can take you.

But if you look at the instruction there, it is a little different from the first Instruction.

The first Instruction says: Enlarge the Place of your Tent.

If you just want to be Particular about it, it's a Second Person Instruction - "Enlarge the Place of your Tent."

God is telling them: Enlarge the Place of your Tent.

But then, when it comes to the Second Instruction, He says: Let them Stretch out.

He didn't say: "You Stretch Out."

"Let them Stretch Out."

In the Hebrew, it's in a Third Person.

In other words, this stretching out is going to happen not only for you, but other Factors are going to be involved in the stretching out.

Because Naturally, we wouldn't like stretching out. We don't like stretching out! If they don't Stretch us, we would stay where we are.

So, God says: You can do the enlarging; but when it comes to the stretching, other Factors are going to get involved in.

... Somebody say: LET THEM!

Now who are 'Them?' - Them are them!

"Let them Stretch Out!"

It has many implications; and it says many things.

Also, when you read in the Original Hebrew, the tenses "Enlarge the Place of your Tent" is Singular.

"Let them Stretch Out" is Plural.

So Enlarging can be done by yourself; but the Stretching is going to require more than you.

... It is going to require other Factors and other People coming into Play.

So what does it mean when He says "LET THEM STRETCH OUT?"

1. It means when you are allowing something, you are Permitting it.

It means allow first, your suffering to Stretch.

Remember the People He is talking about in Isaiah 54:1 - He said: "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into Singing, and cry aloud, You who have not laboured with child!"

And then He says: "Let them..."

What is supposed to Stretch you is your Condition, your Suffering, your Pain.

Don't waste your Pain - Let them Stretch you.

Now why is He saying that? You know, when you feel you are barren, you are desolate, you are forsaken, you don't Stretch yourself. Those conditions can squeeze you, they can limit you.

But God is saying - The conditions you are feeling, that is trying to put you down, let them Stretch you.

So there is something you are going through now, it's Painful. And if you are not careful that Pain would squeeze you and make you small, and make you doubt yourself. It would make you not think big, because of your Past failures, because some things didn't work last Year.

But God says, I'm about to do something in your Life and your Negative Condition must Stretch you.

So, whatever you have been through; what you went through in 2021, in 2020; what you have gone through in the last ten (10) Years that seems to be limiting your Life and making you feel so small, God says don't allow it to! Don't allow that thing to limit you. Let it rather Stretch you.

Because there is a way in which your Pain can Stretch you. That Pleasure cannot Stretch you; because Suffering is a Motivator, Pain is a Motivator, Disappointment is a Motivator.

A person who has suffered had something that kicks them early in the morning not to suffer.

If you have never suffered before, your appetite for Life is different from Somebody who had suffered before.

If you have never been broke, your appetite for Life is very different from Somebody who has been broke!

But if you are coming from a Broke Place (like some of us came from); where you are broke to the Square Root because your Parents are broke, your Uncles are broke, your Aunties are broke, your Ancestors are broke. There has never been a Prosperous Person in your bloodline!

When you are coming from there, there are Two (2) things it can do:

- It can make you hiss and say: "Oh, I am from a broke Place, I can't do much."

- But if you obey God He says, let that thing Stretch you. Let it expand you! It was bitter, it was Painful, it was hurtful but let it Stretch you.

Somebody is about to be stretched by their Pain, by their disappointment - Amen!

The Man left you, but it's going to Stretch you!

The lady left you, but it's going to Stretch you!

Your business fail, but it's going to Stretch you!

Somebody disappointed you, but it's going to Stretch you!

... Somebody say: MY PAIN WOULD STRETCH ME!

You are desolate, but you are going to Stretch!

You are barren, but you are going to Stretch!

You have no Helper, but you are going to Stretch!

"Let them" - The cumulative effect of everything you have experienced, let it Stretch you!

2. "Let Them Stretch you" also mean, allow Others to help Stretch you.

... Allow other People to help Stretch you.

In the days of this Prophecy, women were the ones who built Tents at home. One woman can clear the land for the Tent - Enlarge the Place of the Tent.

But when it comes to stretching of the Tent, one Person cannot do it - You are going to need other People to help Stretch the Tent.

So He says: Let them do it! Because sometimes the People God is going to use to Stretch the Tent, they are not Nice People. They are People who would make you cry every day.

Because nothing you do is acceptable to them. You do your best, they say it's rubbish. You do better than the best, they say what is this; what were you thinking when you did this?

When you look at it you will say: Oh he doesn't appreciate me. Or you can say, I am being stretched. Because God knows you can't Stretch yourself - You are too sympathetic to yourself. So He is going to bring Somebody who is not sympathetic to you.

It is like going to the Gym, and your Gym Instructor says - STRETCH!!! One more reps, two more reps, move that muscle. And you say I'm tired, I can't do it. And he says, do it!

Because if he leaves you, that muscle would never be stretched, would never be exercised.

So, God says a Third Party would be used to Stretch your Capacity and your Ability.

Don't take those People in your Life as those who are hindering you - They are stretching you.

Some of you are working with bosses that are stretching you and you are thinking of leaving your job because the Man is stretching you, you are working hard! Working long hours, no appreciation.

One of the things I have come to Notice in Life (it may not be true for everybody). But appreciation sometimes is a discouragement. Because there are people, when you clap for them once, their head get swollen and they don't try again.

So, sometimes when God wants to Stretch you, He is going to make you work with People who will never clap for you. And you may think they are "doing" you bad (laughing)!

They are not doing the bad - They are actually doing you Good because your Potential is so Great; but your Self-Esteem is so Low and Somebody must break that Potential so that you can become all that God wants you to be.

Somebody say - I AM GOING TO STRETCH!

... Are you ready for Increase? It includes stretching - "Let them Stretch!

And then He issues another command "DO NOT SPARE."

... Other Translation says: "Do not hold back."

When God tells you to Increase; it means to Stretch, or don't hold back.

Don't say to yourself - "It is Good enough as it is, I don't want it to be too large." God says Enlarge! Don't hold back!

And what does it mean?

1. It means - Don't Limit what God can do.

Don't hold back on your Faith because Faith is trusting God fully.

People would say: Ha, you are taking this Faith thing too serious. You are believing God too much. You have to use common sometimes.

I believe in common sense. But you are working by Faith, you are not working by Common Sense.

You are working by: "This saith the LORD." God says it, I believe it, that settles it.

... Don't Limit what God can do!

2. Don't spare yourself any Effort.

Don't spare yourself! - Don't be lazy: give it the biggest Push.

Don't make excuses. Don't be faint. That's what God is saying - Don't hold back! Don't spare yourself any effort.

There are certain things that God wants to do in our lives which for a Season in our lives may mean that we would sleep only two (2) hours a day! - It is not for ever!

Some would tell you "that's not sufficient sleep."

But I know there are certain Seasons in our lives, sleep would not bid you.

You are going to work like crazy. You are going to Pray like crazy. You are going to stay up, you are going to lock up doors. You are going to talk to a thousand People.

And when they say No; you get another thousand People and speak to. When they say No; you get another thousand People and speak to them, until somewhere, after ten thousand calls, somebody says: YES!!!

Don't hold back! Don't let your Pride stop you. Don't let your arrogance stop you. Don't hold back, don't Spare.

God says to them - You are stretched, don't do Small things. Because many times we easily give up "I have worked and worked and worked!"

Life does not reward Work; it rewards Result.

Nobody is going to Pay you because you have worked hard. They are going to Pay you because you Produce Results.

And sometimes to Produce Results, you have to Stay Up.

You don't give up on yourself, you don't get tired, you don't get weak, you don't roll on the floor, you don't sleep too much - Especially those of you who are Young People.

Sleep is not your friend when you are Young!

When you are about seventy (70) Years old, you can sleep - Even then, not too much!

But thirty (30) Years old, what are you doing sleeping? What do you gain?

When you are thirty (30) Years old, you have a lot of Energy. Don't waste that energy, because a time will come, you would not have the Energy. A time will come, you wake up, your waist is hurting, your knees are hurting, your ankle is hurting, your shoulder is hurting.

That time has not come, don't waste it!

Young People, don't waste it - Don't spare yourself, work like crazy. Because when you are eighty (80) Years old, you have a long time to sleep.

But before then: Don't get tired easily, don't get discouraged easily, don't give up easily, don't get offended easily. Because there are some of us, every little thing offends us.

What's wrong with you?

Don't spare yourself. God said it - Don't spare yourself.

And it means - GO FOR ALL THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU.

At my age, I should not work harder than any Young Man or Young Woman - The Young Pastors.

If I work harder than you, you have no future - That's true!

If at this age, I am working harder than you, you have no future. Because when I was Younger than this, I was working three (3) times what I am doing now.

If you are Young and any old Person (any Person you consider old yourself). The other time Somebody called me, the old Man. I am not an old Man. I am not ready for that. Keep that Language to yourself (laughing)!

I know People who love being called: 'Old Man.' I know some Pastors who are thirty (30) Years old and they call them: 'Daddy'.

Are you crazy? What's wrong with you? And the Person calling you Daddy is your age! When did you give birth to a thirty (30) Year old?

Don't common sense itself tell you that what you are allowing on yourself is not good? Thirty (30) Years old, you are Daddy! And sometimes you can find a fifty (50) Years old calling a thirty (30) Year old Pastor - 'Daddy.

If anybody you think is older than you works harder than you, you have no future.

If you are going to amount to something in the future you must work harder than anybody who is older than you.

You must expend energy, effort, time, more than anybody who is older than you.

You must be more committed than anybody who is older than you.

How can a sixty (60) Year old man, a seventy (70) Year old Person work harder than you?

How can you be tired and Somebody who is seventy (70) Years old is still working? And you are thirty (30) Years old.

So listen to me Young People - You who wants to be Successful: you would be stretched, and we would not spare the stretching.

We would Stretch Hard till you get to the "Full Extent" of what God wants you to be.

Have you noticed that when you grow up (those of you who have grown up); the People you admired most are the People you hated most when you were Younger?

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Have you noticed: A Teacher you hated is now the one you love. Because you say Wooooow! The way that guy drilled us. A Boss you hated is the one you love!

Because Nobody likes stretching when it's taking Place; but they like the Capacity that is created after the stretching.

When God expands you to the Left and to the Right, you say Wooooow! Look at what God has done.

Because if God uses me to Stretch you and He blesses you, I am not the one who enjoys the Blessings - You are the one who enjoys the Blessings.

Don't spare - Work hard. Laziness is going to imprison you.

Then He tells them quickly - LENGTHEN YOUR ROPES.

The ropes determine how far the curtains can be stretched.

It means to extend the systems you operate.

- God said to Abraham:

- I will give you the Land you "SEE".

That means if your System of seeing is short, you will get a Limited Land.

- I will give you the Land you "WALK" on.

That means if you get tired walking, you will Possess less Land.

I. For some of us, the ropes we must lengthen is our Human Relations.

II. For Others, it's our Leadership Skills.

III. For Others, it's our Global Exposure and Outlook.

IV. For Others it is our Professional Competence or Governance Systems.

Whatever it is, you have to LENGTHEN yourself to handle all that God has for you.

This Year (2022); we are Increasing. But it's not going to come by Magic; it's not going to come by you sleeping and expecting Increase.

No! That's not what God says.

Hence God speaking to the Israelites should have said - Tell them to go and sleep. And next week they will break forth to the Left and to the Right.

Is that what He said? - No. He's telling them to WORK!!!!

... Because they are about to Increase and they must Prepare for it.

So, I came here just to tell you -This Year (2022):

I. God will blow your Mind - Amen!

II. He will Load you with Benefits - Amen!

III. He will Increase you beyond your wildest Dreams - Amen!

IV. He would expand you to Places you never thought you would be - Amen!

V. God will bring you before Kings and before Queens - Amen!

VI. God will cause you to sit with People you used to Admire - Amen!

VII. You will sit at the same table with them; you will collect from the Right and collect from the Left - Amen.

But, you must Prepare for it! And the Preparation requires: A LOT OF WORK.

1. So for everybody who is believing God for Increase, you are going to Enlarge the Place of your Tent.

2. You are going to let them Stretch you - Let your Pain Stretch you; let your Disappointment Stretch you; let your Failure Stretch you.

One of the greatest motivation of my Life is my father. Not that he inspired me by words; but I saw his Life, and I said to myself - "I Mensa Otabil I will never be like that. Never!" And that has motivated me for the rest of my life.

... What was supposed to disappoint me stretched me.

I. Maybe you came from a family that is not Good; let it Stretch you.

II. Maybe your father didn't take care of you; let it Stretch you.

III. Maybe you were abandoned as an Orphan; let it Stretch you.

IV. Maybe Nobody loves you; let it Stretch you.

... Don't sit and cry: "Nobody loves me, Nobody cares for me, I'm an Orphan."

The world doesn't care whether you are an Orphan or you are not; they will treat you the same as everybody else!

... Nobody will give you exert for being an Orphan.

I was orphaned at fifteen (15) Years old - Lost both my Parents. It stretched me. I could have just said: "Look at the world, the world is a wicked Place."

Well, does the world care whether I have Parents or not? - No! The world is going to demand from you the same it demands from everybody.

So, whatever your Pain is; whatever your Struggle is, whatever your Disappointment is, whatever your Failure is, whatever People think about you - LET THEM STRETCH YOU!

Because all of that is Part of what God is using to expand your Capacity for the Increase that He is bringing your Way!

May the Lord Increase you more and more - Amen!

May He cause you to Increase Abundantly - Amen.

You will not be a Failure - Amen!

You will not be a Disappointment - Amen!

You will not disappoint yourself; you will not disappoint God - Amen.

You will rise to become the Man and the Woman that God wants you to be as we say in our Confession - Amen.

You are going to be ALL THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE - AMEN!

Somebody lift your hands to the Lord and begin to Pray and say:

LORD, I'm ready for You to Stretch me.

Let them Stretch me - I accept Discipline, I accept the Demand, I accept the Challenge. I accept it Lord!

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Let my Pain Stretch me, let my Disappointment Stretch me, let my Failure Stretch me. Let everything I have suffered expand my Capacity Lord, so I can become all that You want me to be.

... Talk to God!

.

You think you have arrived, but you haven't arrived. You think you are there, but you are not there!

There is a "New Level" God is taking you. There is a "New Depth" that God is bringing to you!

So lift up your hands to God everybody.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, I Present Your Children to You.

Today we have read from Your Words (and also read from the Label of DMC now) the Prophecy You gave to Isaiah to Pass on to Judah;

In a time of discomfort, when everything had been lost, You told them not to Plant Small or else their Past Experiences will stop them from Expanding.

We Your Children have taken that same Word for ourselves today; Lord we ask that You give Grace to Your Children who are ready to Expand to the Left and to the Right.

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That in this Season of our lives; at whatever age we are - Whether we are in our thirties, or hundreds; wherever we are, today we say Lord, we will not allow ourselves to be Limited.

So, we Stretch to the Left and to the Right, to accommodate the Increase that You are bringing to us.

And may the Spirit of Increase rest upon us, from this day onwards

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

... Somebody say: I RECEIVE IT, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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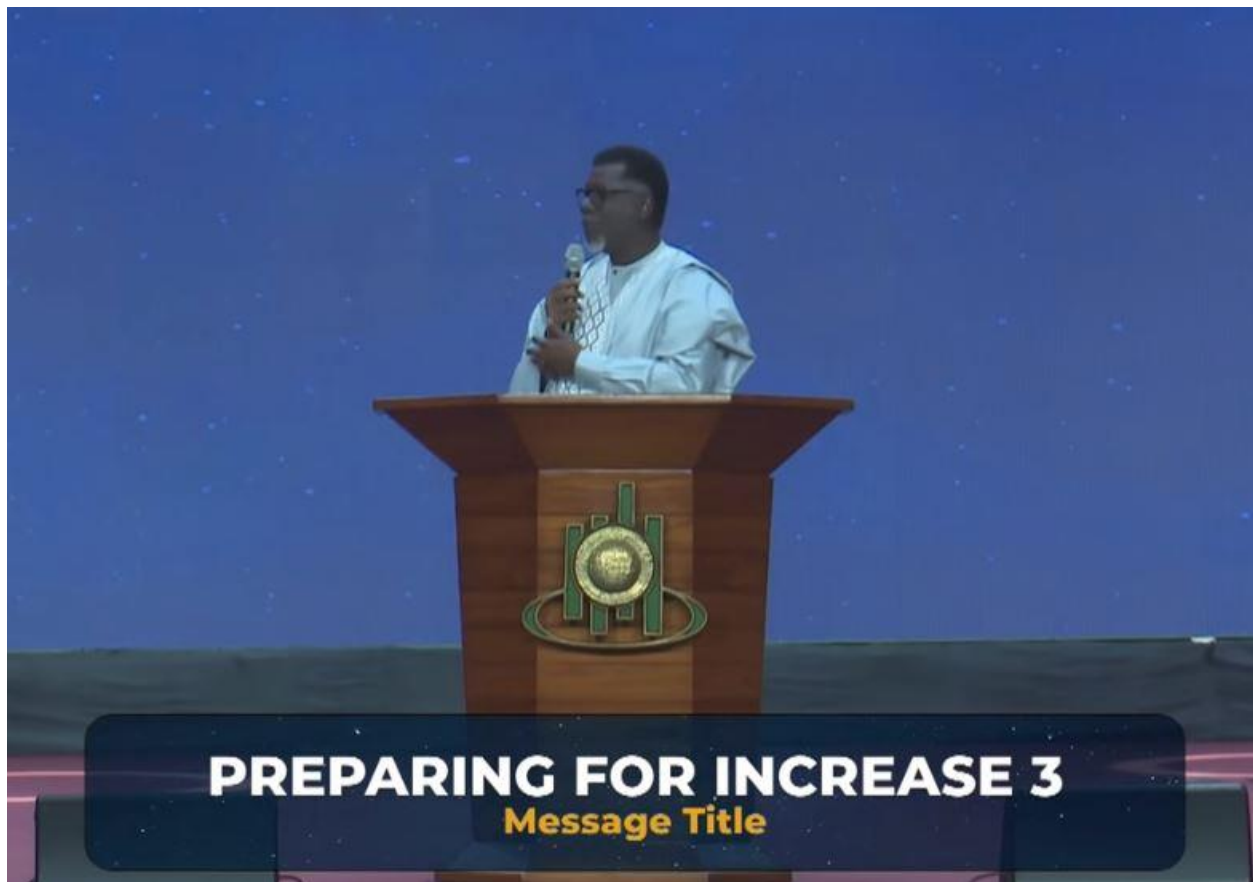
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FEBRUARY 20TH - PREPARING FOR INCREASE - PART 3

DATE: 20TH FEBRUARY, 2022



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TEXT: ISAIAH 54:1-3

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Let's go to the Word of God, as I teach on the Third (3rd) Part of my Message - PREPARING FOR INCREASE.

... And this is Part 3 of PREPARING FOR INCREASE.

DMC NOTES: We can get to read the first two Parts of this Series on these Links:

Part 1: <https://discoverymediacrew.com/Preparing-For-Increase-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

Part 2: <https://discoverymediacrew.com/Preparing-For-Increase-Part-2-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil>

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Let's go back to our Opening Bible Text; which is - Isaiah 54:1-3(NKJV):

1 "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,
And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare;
Lengthen your cords. And strengthen your stakes.

3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

We have dealt with the first two (2) Verses. And we have focused a lot on Verse 2 - Where God tells His People to get ready for Increase.

And He tells them, that although there situation is very bad and their People have been taken away and their Cities have been ruined; He says there's going to be Increase.

And I believe that the same Message is being sent to us: Though it seems like things are hard this Season, there is a Season of Increase upon us. And we are going to Increase on every sides - Amen!

And so God tells them to Prepare - And there are Four (4) Things He tells them to Prepare for; and I will go through them because we have covered them.

1. First, He says to them: ENLARGE.

He told them to enlarge the Place of their Tent.

2. Then secondly, He told them to STRETCH.

He told them to Stretch their curtains and allow their curtains to Stretch.

3. And then He told them to LENGTHEN.

He said they should Lengthen their Cords.

4. And then He told them to STRENGTHEN.

So there are Four (4) Things we do to Prepare for Increase - We ENLARGE, we STRETCH, we LENGTHEN, we STRENGTHEN.

*These are the Four (4) Imperatives that God gave to His People - He says if I am going to Increase you: You have to Enlarge the Place of your Tent (The Space you are in).

And that is what we have done as a Church - We have Enlarged the Place of our Tent; we have Stretched our Curtains, we have Lengthen our Cords, we have Strengthen our State.

We say Lord, we are ready! This facility is our Message to God - We are ready for INCREASE. We are ready for Massive Growth. We are ready for us to do Great Things!

Now I want you to note this - That when God tells you to Enlarge, it could be at the "Wrong Time" of your Life.

And for Israel, it was the "Wrong Time"! - It was the time when everything was gone. Nothing was working.

Because sometimes People want to wait for the "Best Time" to believe God for Great Things. And we want Things to look Good, before we believe God for Good Things.

But you believe God for Good Things when everything is looking bad. And you take the step of Faith, you Stretch, and you Expand! And then God fills it up!

God told them that if they did these Four (4) Things - Enlarge, Stretch, Lengthen and Strengthen; then He will do something.

That is what we are looking at in this Part 3 - And it says "For you shall expand to the Right and to the Left, And your Descendants will inherit the Nations, And make the Desolate Cities inhabited."

... So God makes Three (3) Promises to Israel (in verse 3):

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1. The first one is - YOU SHALL EXPAND.

And that is why He says Enlarge.

Why? - Because you are going to Expand, you are going to Breakforth.

The Hebrew word that is translated 'Expand' is "PARATS".

Parats is where you get another word, that some of you may be familiar with, Perez. But that word means to Break through.

So God says Enlarge the Place of your Tent, because you are going to breakthrough - You are are to 'Parats', you are going to Expand, you re going to break out from where you are.

I don't know about you, but I believe God is saying to you - Expansion is coming to you! You are going to Breakthrough on every sides - Amen.

YOU SHALL EXPAND.

Now for us to Expand, Two (2) Things must take Place:

I. First, you have to Step Out.

Stepping out means to "Break Free" from all Restrictions.

You cannot Expand when you are contained in a Limited Place!

The word "Parats" is used to describe when a Dam is broken. Water that has been kept by a Dam is broken. That is it!

Normally the word is a Violent word. And when we say it is a Violent word, it means it takes a Forceful Action. It is not Gentle 'Parats', everything opens. No, it is a Forceful Thing.

... So God says for you to Expand, you have to Step Out.

I don't know what the world has imposed on you - Maybe you are living in a world of Limitation, of Scarcity, of Smallness; you have to Step Out of it.

Maybe you look at Ghana (Nigeria) and you look at our Economy, on how things are, and you watch Television or you listen to Radio and you have allowed everything to make you small and think small; but you serve a "Big God". And He says you are about to Step Out.

... Somebody say: I AM STEPPING OUT.

II. But "Parats" is not just stepping out. Because when you Step Out, you must go somewhere (laughing). Isn't it? Because you can't Step Out and just go nowhere.

So it is Step OUT and Step IN.

For us to Expand, we have to Step In - That means to Breakforth into New Areas.

God is saying to Israel, get Ready, Enlarge the Place of your Tent.

Why? - Because you are going to Step Out. And when you Step Out, you are going to Step In. You are going to Places you have never been before!

In essence, that is what we are doing as a Church this Year (2022). As we seek to Increase, we stepped out from Christ Temple West. We stepped in to Christ Temple East - Into a Place where we have no Membership, into Geographical Area we have not been in the last twenty (20) Years.

But that's what we are doing; we are Stepping Out! - You Step Out and you Step In.

Every Breakthrough that God wants to bring your Way is going to require you to do something radical.

If you just want to live Life as it is, you will be where you are! But if you want to live Life as God wants you to; then you are going to be Bold, you are going to be Courageous and you going to Step Out on something and Step into something.

And as you see your Local Church take these moves, it's time for you to make similar moves in your own Private Life, in your Business Life, in your Professional Life.

Because God wants you to Step Out of something and be Bold - Don't be timid, don't be condemned, don't limit yourself. Don't tell yourself Stories that keep you where you are.

God has big Things for you, God has Mighty Things for you. God wants to show you another side of Himself, don't make Him Small in your eyes. He is a "Big God". And He says, Enlarge, because you are going to Expand.

... He wants us to Break Out and Break In.

And if you look at the Passage, it says - "You Expand to the Left hand and to the Right hand."

It is a Figure of Speech meaning, you will Expand on all sides - Not only in one (1) area, but in every areas.

It will happen in your Family, in your Business, in your Finances, in your Spiritual Life - In all areas: Expansion on all sides!

So that's the first thing God said to the children of Israel - You are going to expand.

Now, you were Israel, you would not really believe that. Because they have just been conquered by two (2) Nations - The Assyrians had come to conquer them in the North. And Babylonians had conquered them in the South.

Northern kingdom taken by Assyria, Southern kingdom taken by Babylon.. Their King had been taken into Captivity; all the Young Men into Captivity; their City has been ransacked, their Temple has been torn down. And God says, you will expand!

Now the normal thing in such a situation is to say - "Oh woe on me! Oh how miserable my Life is. Oh Life has been so hard." God say No, No, No! Get ready, Enlarge the Place of your Tent, because you are going to Expand.

So maybe Calamity has hit you, God says, in the midst of the Calamity, you will Expand. Everything is gone, but you will Expand! And that's why He says it starts with your Mind - Enlarge the Place of your Tent. Enlarge it!

2. Then the Second Thing He says to them - Not only will you Expand;

He says YOU WILL INHERIT.

In the Bible Text (Isaiah 54:2) He says - "Your Descendants (Your children) will inherit the Nations" - Wooooow!

Now what does it mean when God says that?

Most times we say that: "The Youth are the Future of our Nation."

Have you heard that Statement before?

So when you lose the Youth, you have lost the Future.

When God says you shall inherit; He says your Descendants (In other Translation, your Seed).

That Seed there means your children.

Now why did God say: "Your children shall inherit the Nations?"

... Because the children had been taken away to the Nations!

So, if you were left back home in Israel you have no child. That is why He starts by calling them barren. You have no child! Every Parents had no child - Daniel's Parents, Shedrack's Parents, Abednego's Parents. All of them - No child.

Why? - Because the Babylonians, the Assyrians have taken all the children into their Nations.

So it's like something happens in Ghana/Nigeria (may it never happen) that we go to war (and we will never go to war, in Jesus' Name). And one Nation, maybe Togo or Benin conquer us (and it will never happen) - I'm just using it as an example (it will never happen, in Jesus' Name - Amen)!

You know, and then they take all our children. So, it will leave Parents with no children.

In those days, there was no Instagram, no Facebook where the children could say "Mum, I'm in Lagos." No! They are gone and Nobody knew anything about them.

So if you are in Jerusalem, you are thinking "my future has been lost, my Seed is lost, my Inheritance is lost - Nothing Good would come to me again."

But God says to them: "That is not how you should think about it". He says your Seed, who now look like Slaves in Foreign lands; I will use them to inherit those Nations.

In other words, they have gone to those Nations; but they would take over those Nations and Possess those Nations - Amen.

So God is saying to the children of Israel - Think of it differently; look at the Problems differently. Because you haven't lost it. It's not all gone - I'm going to use what you think have been lost, to give you something bigger.

I am going to give the Nations from what you think is lost - Amen.

So He says, think about it differently: your Seed shall Inherit.

Now what does it mean to Inherit?

... Before you can inherit, Two (2) Things must happen:

I. First, you must Dispossess.

You must drive out occupiers from your Inheritance.

God say you are going to Dispossess them!

Though Babylon was a Foreign Land for the Jews, it was God's Earth!

Psalms 24:1 says: The Earth is the LORD's, and the Fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

So God says, your children have gone to Babylon - To you it is a Foreign land; to Me, it is Part of my world. And when they go in there, they would Dispossess the Natives.

... And that is exactly what happened!

When Daniel went to Babylon as a Slave; he was selected to go to School - He and his Comrades. And they were tested, they were ten (10) times better. And they were made Governors of the lands they were in. God fulfilled His Word!

Your Seed whom you think have been lost, have gone ahead to inherit the Nations - Amen.

That is what happened to Esther - She was a Slave girl in Persia. But the King threw away his wife Vashti, opened the doors, and this Slave girl (Esther) went in to inherit the Nations. Because God says, it is not all lost - You will Dispossess.

II. And after you Dispossess, you will do the Second Thing:

You will POSSESS.

You will take full Ownership of all that God has given to you - Full Ownership! You will become a Legitimate Owner; an Heir of the Inheritance that is rightfully yours.

... Your Seed shall Inherit.

The things that you think is gone, God says, don't look at it as if it is gone! Look at it as Seed that has been Planted into your Future to Possess a New Territory for you.

I don't know what you look at in your Life - Maybe you look about your Life and it's all regret. God says stop regretting:

"Oh I wished I hadn't done this, Oh I wished I hadn't done that" - You did it! "I wished this hadn't happened" - It has happened!

Wishes will not Change the situation. But God says, if you want the situation to Change look at it differently:

Your Seed which had been carried into Captivity, are going to be Possessors of the Land they are carried into - Amen.

Whoever thinks they have lost anything, there is no Future, there is no Hope for them - There is hope for the Future.

Because what you considered as lost, God is bringing back to you - Good Measure, Pressed down, shaking together and running over. And your seed shall Inherit the Nations - Amen.

That is the Second Promise that God gave to them.

III. Then He gave them a Third Promise.

And in the Third Promise He said to them: "And make the Desolate Cities inhabited."

He says - You will rebuild: You will "make the Desolate Cities inhabited."

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The construction of this sentence is a very unique one. Because a Desolate City is a contradiction in terms. It is an oxymoron. You cannot have "a Desolate City."

Why? - Because a City by definition, is a large densely Populated Urban Area.

So for a Place to be a City, there must be Population in it.

Accra (for example) is not a City because of size; we are a City because we are Overpopulated.

But then He says, the Desolate City.

Desolation means Emptiness - Something that has been ruined and is empty.

The Desolate City, the City which is supposed to be Populated has been depopulated.

For a City to become Desolate something radical has happened to the City; something has moved the Population, something has hit the City.

So that's how God is calling Jerusalem and Israel - You used to be Populated, but you are now empty. Desolate City.

So God says to His Children, in this dispensation, you would make Desolate Cities inhabited.

When you are reading the Bible, it is somewhat important to Pay attention to construction - He didn't say "Desolate City will be inhabited." That's not what He said. He said, you will make Desolate Cities inhabited.

In other words, there is something that you are going to do, that will convert the Desolate City into an inhabited city. And it is not going to happen Passively.

You are not going to sit and see that happen. But you are going to exert Force.

Fire took away the People, Force is going to bring back the People. You are going to do something about it. "You will make Desolate Cities inhabited."

Somebody say: I WILL MAKE IT; I WILL BREAKTHROUGH; I WILL OVERCOME!

You have to say it with Force; you have to believe it with Force; you have to enact it with Force - You will make the Desolate City inhabited!

Whether they like it or not, I will make the Desolate City inhabited - That is God's Promise to me.

When God says you will make something, it means He is with you. When you take a step, He has taken a step. When you speak He has spoken. When you act He has acted. When you Step Out He has Stepped Out!

Don't just sit for it to happen. Say, I will make - You will make the Desolate City inhabited - Two (2) Things:

I. You will Reverse what the enemy has done.

You will overturn everything the enemy has done. You would reverse it!

Whatever the enemy has done, you would Reverse it - Amen.

Somebody say: I WILL REVERSE IT! It will not reverse by itself; but I WILL REVERSE IT.

I will come to this City that has been made Desolate - I WILL REVERSE THAT SITUATION.

I will look at my Life that has been Perverted, and I will Reverse that situation.

I will make it! I am going to do it.

He says, you will make the Desolate City inhabited!

II. And secondly, it also means to IMPROVE.

... To make everything better it was before.

If the Cities were Big, they would be bigger. If they were Great, they would be greater. If they were Mighty, they would be mightier.

When God causes you to make Desolate Cities inhabited, they become improved, they become better than they were before.

This morning or as you read on the Label of DMC; I came just to announce God's Good News to you - He says: Get ready! Enlarge the Place of your Tent; Stretch out the Curtains; Lengthen your Cords. Drive your Stakes in Strong because you are about to Expand in a way you have never experienced before.

You are about to inherit Places that you have been denied you.

And you are about to make things that are Negative to become Positive.

... You will Reverse and you will Improve.

And finally, this is the assurance that God gives to them (and then I'm done)!

He says to them in Isaiah 54:4-5: Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your Youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of Hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel;

He is called the God of the whole Earth.

... Give the God of the whole Earth a mighty clap Offering!

He is the God of the whole Earth. He is your God, He is my God. He is the God of Israel, He is the God of Mensa Otabil, He is the God of The DMC FAMILY Members. He is your God. He is the God in Whom we Trust.

Get ready Year 2022 - God's People are coming back! They are coming to rebuild; they are coming to make things inhabited, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

Lift up your hands to the Lord and begin to Thank Him for what He is about to do in your Life - I sense Breakthrough in your Life - Amen.

Oh, just Thank Him!

There is a Release of God's Spirit in this house - The Bondage is over; the Desolation is over!

We are making a difference, we are Changing the situation. We refuse surrender, we refuse to lie quietly, we refuse to go quietly.

In the Name of Jesus, we take hold of the Promises of God.

CLOSING PRAYER

And so Father as a Church or Family Members of DMC; we receive this Promise.

We bring ourselves into Isaiah 54, and we Position ourselves as the Inheritors of the Promises of God.

We Stand in the Place of Prophecy - Your Divine Word to us. And we take that Word and we make it flesh in our lives.

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And we Declare loud that in this Season, in this Church, upon every Members, and their homes, and their families and their Businesses and whatever they touch; that these Blessings would rest on them!

They will be Builders Lord, in the Name of Jesus!

And God would cause you to Reverse and Improve everything that the enemy throw against you. You will Reverse it, you will unwind it, you will turn back - and it is going to be better for you - AMEN.

Somebody Praise the Lord! Celebrate Him this morning. Oh give Him Praise!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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FEBRUARY 27TH - THE PILLARS OF OUR CHURCH.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE (38TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING)

**BY DR. MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH
(ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)**



DATE: 27TH FEBRUARY, 2022

TEXT: ACTS 2:41-42

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

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I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today is our 38th Anniversary Thanksgiving.

Acts 2:41-42, these two (2) Verses are the Foundation of ICGC.

They are the Verses on which our Church was established. And I must say that I haven't Preached as often as I should in these two (2) Verses because there you find what ICGC Stands for.

Acts 2:41-42 (NKJV):

41 Then those who gladly received His Word were Baptized; and that day about three thousand Souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' Doctrine and Fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in Prayers.

Now this describes the Early Church.

If you know your Bible a little bit, you will know that in the Book of Acts Chapter 2, after Jesus had ascended; the Disciples of Jesus and the Apostles (about 120 of them) were gathered in a Place called The Upper Room.

Because Jesus said they should wait in the Upper Room and Pray, because they were going to receive a Gift from the Father.

And on that day, the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came. And they spoke in Tongues, and there were Cloven Tongues as of fire on top of each one of them.

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And they stepped out for the first time, from the Upper Room into the Streets of Jerusalem and started speaking in Tongues and declaring the wonderful works of God. Some people thought they were drunk.

And Peter the Apostle stood up and spoke to them about what was happening and Pointed them to Jesus Christ. And when he had finished, this is what happened:

The Bible says that three thousand (3,000) People were won and they continued in the Apostle's Doctrine, they continued in Fellowship and breaking of bread and in Prayer.

There are Four (4) Things that happened in those two (2) Verses that are the Foundation of our Church.

Now if you look at our Church Logo you would find that it has three (3) main components.

1. First, there is a Circle - The Circle there represent the world.

2. And then there are four (4) Pillars - That's the Second Group of Design.

3. And then there is a swell (it has no meaning). The designer put it there because it would make it look nice.

But the Circle and the Pillars have a meaning. And that's what I am talking about today, in Acts 2:41-42.

The first thing we see is in Verse 21 - "Those who gladly received His Word were baptized; and that day about three thousand Souls were added to them."

1. This is the first Pillar of our Church - And that is EVANGELISM.

And that is what we see in Acts 2:41 - People were added to the Church, People got saved.

And those People were baptised and added to the Church.

... So the first Pillar is Evangelism.

2. Then the Second Pillar is in Acts 2:42 - "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' Doctrine."

That is DISCIPLESHIP

Teaching of the Word of God; teaching Bible based Doctrine - And that creates Discipleship.

Without Bible Teaching People would not become the Disciples of Jesus Christ.

You can be a Follower of Christ, very happy, happy go lurking, running around. You can have Miracles happened to you and still not be a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

What makes you a Disciple of Jesus Christ is TEACHING.

And that is why Teaching is an essential Part of this Church.

That's why I teach!

That's why I take time to break the Word of God because that is how you become a Follower of Jesus.

You don't just get Born Again through Evangelism; but you need Teaching, you need Doctrine. And that is the Second Pillar of our Church.

... What is the Third Pillar?

3. The Third Pillar says - "And Fellowship, in the breaking of bread".

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It represent COMMUNITY.

You can call it Communion, you can call it Fellowship, you can call it Relationship.

I call it Community - That means that in the Church, the Church is a Community.

It is a Place where People come together, not only to share Teachings, but to relate with one another.

That's why early in our Church, almost from the beginning of our Church we had what is called "Covenant Families" - Church meeting in People's homes, locations.

And that was the bedrock of our Church. Why? - Because Community is very important.

Fellowship! Breaking bread.

A Church that does not share Fellowship would not be Complete.

That's why you can't be Online alone and worship God - You need to experience Communion or Koinonia (in the Greek). You need to be Part!

That is why through Jesus Christ, the "Early Church" did something that was unknown in Roman Society - Unknown! Nobody thought it was Possible. Even in Jewish Society it wasn't impossible!

Because you see, a lot of things we take for granted now in our world, we have no idea where they came from - They started from Christianity.

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... Up until then, you couldn't have Community like this!

- In the first Place, Men and Women did not mix.

- Secondly, Social Classes did not mix.

If you were a slave, you couldn't even sit with your Master. You couldn't! If you were from different tribe, you couldn't mix.

That's how the world was - British stay with British, French stay with French, Romans to Romans, Greeks to Greeks, Baberians to Baberians.

You couldn't mix! Because everybody had to stay in his Group.

Then comes Jesus. And He says, that's not how I want to organize my Ecclesia. I am going to form a New Group of People.

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And this Group, I am going to bring People from all kinds of Places; all kinds of Social Group. And they are going to be one People, they are going to share Fellowship.

And so when the "Early Church" met and they were eating, it was a Miracle! People had never seen it before: Men and Women at Table eating together.

I. Greeks and Romans and Jews sitting at Table eating - It was unimaginable!

II. Slaves with their Slave Masters eating at the same Table.

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So, when they ate Communion they were equalizing; it was a idea - That is how Christianity took over.

One of the reasons why Christianity took over is that everybody felt woowow! What a Group, that everybody can belong to - That is what is called Koinonia.

Now when we see, we talk about United Nations - Everybody belongs together. Do we think it is an easy thought?

... It wasn't easy, until Jesus made it easy and brought People from all Groups.

Even some of His Disciples struggled with it - "Gentiles and Jews were not supposed to eat together." But they had to learn to eat together. And slaves had to sit with their Masters!

Can you imagine, you go to Church, you are the Slave Master and the Deacon is the Slave. And he is the one instructing the Master. And the Masters has to sit down and listen to his Servant. And all of that!

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The world began to Change, and respect People. And the Equality Concept that "All men are created equal on the sight of God" started from Christianity.

And our sense of Who God is. "That in Christ, there is neither Male nor Female; there is not the Greek nor the Gentile; there is not the Rich or Poor."

When you hear Apostle Paul saying those things; today it may seem like common. But two thousand (2,000) Years ago, these were Radical Revolutionary Ideas!

So in a Church like this, if you are a Managing Director, you can come to Church; but you don't come with your Position - You come and Fellowship together.

That is why in this Church we don't put Special Chairs for Pastors - We sit on the same Chairs as the Members. We don't sit on the "Thrones." Because, before we became Pastors, we were first Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus. And He washed us with His Blood and we have to learn to Fellowship.

Yes, we give respect and we give honour. But honour should not create a distance and respect should not create a distance. And respect and honour should not create Inferiority and Superiority.

When we do that, we are defeating the Third Pillar of Community - Communion and Fellowship.

This is the Church of Jesus Christ - His Evangelism, His Discipleship, His Community.

4. And the fourth and Final Pillar - Acts 2:42 is: "And in Prayers."

SPIRITUALITY: The Spiritual Life of the Church - Creating a Spiritual Life of God's People.

God's People Praying - It doesn't mean just Praying and Praying! It represents all of our Spiritual Life. The Spirituality of our relationship with God.

Spiritual Formation: Christ being formed in us, having intimacy with God, hearing the Voice of the Holy Spirit, learning to discern the Voice of the Holy Spirit.

And that is why you cannot Outsource your Spirituality to somebody - You cannot say a Prophet should hear from God for you. You hear from God for yourself. Because that is what Christianity is all about.

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If a Prophet comes to confirm it, yes. If he doesn't, you must hear from your Father.

That is how Jesus designed Christianity - "My sheep hear my Voice." He didn't say: 'My sheep hear my Voice through somebody's else.'

... "MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE."

Read the Bible for yourself, grow Spiritually, know God, know the Holy Spirit. Have a Relationship with God. Don't just come to Church as say, as for me I am here. Pastor will Pray for me - No, you Pray for yourself!

I am not a "Pray for me Pastor".

If you want a "Pray for me Pastor" this is the wrong Church.

But I am going to teach you how to Pray. So when you are at home by 2:00am and you need Prayer, you don't rush to your Pastor for Prayer.

You have to learn to Pray - FATHER, in the Name of Jesus Christ (and Pray). And God will hear you.

.... You have to have a Relationship with your Father God.

I am not your father, God is your Father. And you must have a Relationship with Him.

... And that is the fourth Pillar!

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These are the Four 4 Pillars of International Central Gospel Church (ICGC).

That is our emphasis. That is the basis - Acts 2:41-42.

... And all the Four (4) Pillars were Practised by the "Early Church".

And we endeavour to do that! We seek to do that. We work towards that. And it is a work in Progress. It doesn't mean we are Perfect in doing it, but it is something we are committed to. We commit ourselves to Practice these Four (4) Pillars.

I just want to Practice Pillar No. 1: Evangelism - Bringing People to Christ.

If you are here this Morning or reading this message now on the Label of DMC and you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Personal Saviour.

Maybe you have been coming to Church for a very long time; you love coming to Church.

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Some of you even love Pastor Otabil and his Preaching (and that is Good) - At least you don't hate my Preaching.

But that is not enough! - Loving my Preaching is not enough.

You must have Jesus in your heart. Jesus must live inside of you.

Jesus must not be Somebody Who died Years ago. But Jesus must be Somebody Who is alive inside of you!

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If somebody ask you: "Where is Jesus?" - You should be able to say "He is in my heart".

And if you cannot say that - That Jesus is in my heart, that He lives inside of me. Then you haven't come into the first step of your Relationship with Him.

So, this Morning if you are here or you are reading this message on the label of DMC, and you say "I am not really sure whether Jesus is in my heart or not". Or some of you may say - "Oh, I used to believe I had Jesus in my heart, but of late I am not really sure. I feel like He has left!"

Whether you feel, if you are not certain that Jesus is in your heart; today you need to be certain that Jesus is in your heart.

And how do we know that Jesus is in our heart? We invite Him to come into our heart. We ask Him to come.

Jesus Christ Himself said in the Book of Revelation 3:20 - Behold, I Stand at the door, and knock: if any Man hear my Voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

So He is standing, He is knocking, but He can't force the door open. You must open the door so He comes in!

If you want Jesus to come into your heart, it is very simple - Say: Lord Jesus, I open the door of my heart for You to come in. And He comes in, and from that time He is not an Outsider. He is now an Insider - He lives inside of you.

If you want to be sure that Jesus Christ is in your heart, and you say Pastor, I want you to Pray for me, lead me to Jesus. Help me to invite Jesus into my heart.

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If that is your desire, just lift up your hands wherever you are.

Just stand up wherever you are! God bless you for Standing up.

Now put your hand on your heart - Your heart is on the left side of your chest. Put your hand there!

Now Somebody say: Pastor, why should I put my hand on my heart? It is just to indicate that the Prayer you are about to Pray, you mean it from your heart. You are serious about it.

Say with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a sinner, I cannot save myself. I Thank You Father, that Jesus Christ came to die for me to give me New Life. And in Him I have Life more Abundantly.

And so today, I receive Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Personal Saviour. I Thank You Father for accepting me as Your Child.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN.

Let's celebrate the Lord everybody!

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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MARCH 6TH - SHARING THE GOSPEL [PART 1]



DATE: 6TH MARCH, 2022

TEXT: MARK 16:15-16

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

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The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am going to do a two-Part Message, beginning from this week and next week. And I have Titled it: SHARING THE GOSPEL.

So I begin with what has been called the Great Commission in Mark's Gospel 16:15-16.

Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV):

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.

This is Jesus speaking to His Disciples after He had resurrected and had been with them for a while. And He's just about to ascend to Heaven.

And He leaves this Final Instructions to His Disciples. And by extension, to us. As to what we should be doing in the interim, between His First Coming and His Second Coming because Jesus is Coming again!

And that's what the Scripture Promise us - He is Coming Again.

In between the time He left and the time He returns, He says, this is what we should do.

And there are Two (2) Main Commands there that I just want to draw your attention to:

1. First is "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD.

I want you to take note of the two (2) words: 'Go' and 'world'.

The word 'go' is the word Movement! You cannot hear 'GO' and stay.

It is a Command, it's a Verb, it's an active word.

And so Jesus Christ told His Disciples - "GO." Move!

So "Going" implies that we are going to move from one Place to the other - "... Go into all the world!" Go into every Parts that is inhabited on this Planet.

And that's what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us to go into all the world. He wants us to go into every Countries, every Ethnic Groups, go into every Space.

2. And the Second thing He told us to do is: "PREACH THE GOSPEL.

So we don't go into all the world to advertise ourselves; we go into all the world to Preach the Gospel.

The word 'Preach' simply means to make an Announcement. Or make a Proclamation. To Proclaim something.

It is very similar to what happens in our Villages (I wonder whether it still happens). But in most Villages there is the Town Crier.

And the Town Crier, when the Chief has a Message, would take the gongon (Something like a Bell); and would go to the Village Square and Announce.

The Greek word that is interpreted as 'Preach' is the same as one who heralds. It is very similar to Town Crier who goes to make an Announcement.

So Jesus says: Go into the world and Announce something.

What are we supposed to Announce? - We are supposed to Announce the Gospel; The Good News.

Each one of us is called by God to Partake in going to the world and Preaching the Gospel - Everyone of us.

This is not just for Pastors; it is for everyone of us.

In the days of Jesus - And you know that the days of Jesus were the days of the Roman Empire; this idea of announcing Good News was associated with War.

Because when they went to war - Remember those days there was no Facebook, no Internet, no CNN (Cable News Network) and there was no GBC (Ghana Broadcasting Corporation) in Ghana. Something like NTA (Nigerian Television Authority) as well in Nigeria.

And so, if you have to get a Message Somebody has to Physically run from the battlefield to the City to make an Announcement.

And the Person who does that, they will say that he is announcing Good News or he is speaking to her Gospel.

So the term was in existence before Jesus used it. And it meant Somebody who brings Good News from afar! - He comes to tell us the battle is Victorious and we have won! And the whole City rejoices.

... And that Person is said to have brought Good News.

But Jesus said we should do the same thing. But the Good News we announce is the Good News of His Kingdom.

He also wants us to announce to the world - "The Battle is over!" (As Kwame Nkrumah said). And there is Freedom from sins and Freedom from Satan.

DMC NOTES: Kwame Nkrumah PC was a Ghanaian Politician, Political Theorist, and Revolutionary. He was the First Prime Minister and President of Ghana, having led the Gold

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Coast (Former name of Ghana as at then) to Independence from Britain in 1957. He was born on the 21st of September 1909, in Nkroful, Ghana and died on the 27th of April 1972. He was married to Fathia Nkrumah (1957–1972).

So when we go out, we are the ones who are announcing what God has already achieved for His People.

Romans 1:16 tells us what the Gospel contains - It 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.

... Remember he said the Gospel of Christ; not the Gospel of any Pastor, not even the Gospel of our Church - It is the Gospel of Christ!

So what does the Passage say? - The Passage is telling us that the Gospel is the Power of God to save.

Anytime we Preach the Gospel, God's Power to save is on demonstration.

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WHAT IS GOD SAVING US FROM?

... Two (2) Things I will want to focus on:

1. He saves us from the Control of Satan.

When we announce the Gospel, we are telling People - God has freed us from the Power of Satan.

That is why the Preaching of the Gospel cannot be about how Powerful Satan is.

The Preaching of the Gospel must be about how Powerful God is - To deliver us from Satan.

You cannot talk about the Power of witches and wizards, and call that the Gospel because that is Bad News.

The Power of the Gospel says: God has delivered you. Just like the old time Person in Ancient Rome would run from the battlefield and say - We have won!

Anytime we Preach the Gospel, we are saying: "God won! Jesus won! The Power of Satan is broken! We went to the warfront, we saw what happened and we have come to announce to you that we have won the battle!"

The Gospel is a "Victorious Message"; it is not a "Defeatish Message". It is a Message that tells us, Satan has been defeated and God won!

Not that; the Gospel also tells us that God saved us from the Power of sin. Sin has no dominion over us!

Adam's sin (which condemned the whole world to Judgment) has been overcome!

The Gospel is the Power of God to free us, to save us from Satan's Control and from the Power of sin.

Anytime you and I go somewhere and say we are going to Preach to Somebody; or we are going to tell Somebody about Christ; we are going to Witness the Gospel, or we are going on Soul Winning:

I. We have to be sure that the Message we carry is not a Message of defeat.

II. We have to be sure that the Message we carry does not exalt the devil, but it exalts Christ - Because that is the Good News!*

... Just taking the Microphone and Preaching does not mean you are Preaching the Gospel.

You know sometimes People think that Gospel is criticizing Human Behaviour. Many times you see by the roadside, very enthusiastic well-meaning sincere People Preaching.

And all they are talking about is - The skirts of the girls and what they are doing, what they shouldn't be doing, what People are doing wrong. And sometimes we even go to the extent of criticizing: how People behave at home, at work and all of that!

... Well, it's good to talk about Societal ills. But that is not exactly the Gospel.

The Gospel is not criticizing People's skirts. The Gospel is about announcing that there was a Battle. And in that battle, it was between Jesus and the forces of Darkness. And we have come from the battlefield to announce to you that Jesus won the battle.

And because of that Satan has no Power, and his Control over you is broken.

... That is what we announce!

Even if you don't like the Person; or Somebody is wearing a skirt you don't like and you feel very compelled to criticize the skirt; you have to leave that criticism for another time.

But when you are Preaching the Gospel, it is to announce the Victory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because that is what He charged us to talk about. Alright!

WHO PREACHES THE GOSPEL? AND WHO MUST HEAR THE GOSPEL?

Romans 10:13-15, and it says: For “whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a Preacher? And how shall they Preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who Preach the Gospel of Peace, Who bring Glad Tidings of Good Things!”

That is quoting from Isaiah 52:7 - How beautiful upon the Mountains are the feet of him who brings Good News, Who Proclaims Peace, Who brings Glad Tidings of Good Things, Who Proclaims Salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

... That's the Gospel - God Reigns! God is the Ruler. Satan is defeated

But there are questions that we have to answer. And that question is divided into Two (2) set of People:

1. THE PROCLAIMER OF GOOD NEWS.

- Who qualifies to Proclaim the Good News?
- Who is supposed to go out and tell the Gospel?
- Who is supposed to go and make Christ known?

- And what puts us in a Place to do that?

I. The Proclaimer of the Good News is first and foremost, a Person who is saved and sent by Christ.

He has experienced Salvation, and he is going to tell others what he has experienced.

He saw something, and he must go and tell People what he saw. That is what it means to Witness.

When you are Witnessing something: you have had an experience of it. You have encountered it, you have seen it. And now you are testifying what you saw it, that you heard it.

So for us to Preach the Gospel, we should have an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because if you haven't encountered Him you cannot go and Witness that you know Him.

You know, there are times that People talk about People as if they know them. And then when they meet the People, you realised they don't know them.

I will never forget when we were talking to Somebody, he said Oh Otabil, I know him. We grew up together.

You know normally when People say that, they are going to say something bad: Oh he thinks he's Somebody now. We knew him when he was a small boy.

Finally I said, I don't really know this Person. I can't figure out. I can't recollect the name. So I said, let's go see this Person who knows me very well, better than myself.

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Incidentally we met the Person at the Airport. And so the one who he has been telling me this guy says he knows me, said "this is him." So I looked at him, he looked at me. I said "where do we know each other?" - Nowhere!

... That is called a "False Witness".

So it's like Somebody who says - Jesus Christ saves! Jesus is the Saviour. Has He saved you? Have you met Jesus? Have you experienced Him? What you are talking about, has He done it for you?

Because if you don't have an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, you cannot be telling People about Him.

So the Proclaimer of the Gospel; in order not to be a False Witness, must be Somebody who has experienced what he is talking about - I have been saved, Christ has touched my life, He has cleansed my life. And based on that, He has sent me to come and tell you something about Him.

... You need to experience Him first!

And there are People talking about Christ, who have not experienced Him. They are like that guy who said he knows me and has no clue.

He Probably knows me on Television. And when you encounter them, they fumble.

But when you really know Christ, you may not know everything about Him.

... Next week I am going to talk about different ways of witnessing Christ.

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But I remember a blind man who was healed by Jesus. People said, well Jesus is this, Jesus is that way. He said well, I don't know ooo. All I know is "once I was blind, now I can see."

So take it or leave it; that is as far as my Witness can go! I can't talk about leg, I can't talk about ear. I can't talk about Doctrine. But I can talk about what He has done for me.

A Proclaimer of the Gospel must have an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is based on the fact that He has saved you, that He has sent us.

II. And the Proclaimer of the Gospel must go to where People are.

The Passage says to those whom God sends, their feet are beautiful - "How beautiful are the feet of those who Preach the Gospel of Peace, Who bring Glad Tidings of Good Things!"

What does it mean?

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Does it mean they are wearing Good shoes? - No! It means their walk is well.

It means, you know - you are very thirsty in a wilderness, dying of thirst. And Somebody comes and says: "I have water!"

In our language we say: "He has walked well." His feet are beautiful because he has come with Beautiful News.

So the Bible says, those who carry the Good News, their feet are beautiful. It doesn't mean they are wearing nice shoes. It simply means their Message is so needed. That for those who need it, it is a relief to them.

They have come well; they have done at the right time; they have given their Message in a timely way, and their Message is a Good News.

“... How beautiful are the feet of those who Preach the Gospel of Peace, Who bring Glad Tidings of Good Things!”

III. And those who Preach the Good News (the Passage says) they go on Mountains.

... They do whatever it takes to get to where People are.

And those whom God sends they Proclaim the Good News. They announce God's Peace and God's Salvation.

God's Peace! - They don't announce God's quarrel, but God's Peace. Peace with God.

Even if we have to talk about the sins of People, we must talk about it and end by telling them - Jesus has died for all of those sins. And if you believe in Him your sins have been forgiven.

You can't condemn People by Preaching the Gospel.

You must always show them to what Jesus Christ has done - That their sins can be forgiven, because Jesus has died for them.

And everytime we Preach the Gospel - That is the Message; we are Preaching, Announcing Peace, Proclaiming News of Happiness - "Our God reigns!"

... So that is for the Proclaimer of the Gospel.

2. THE ONE WHO NEEDS THE GOOD NEWS.

What about the one who receives the Gospel? Or the one who needs Good News?

I. They must HEAR the Good News.

Now imagine a thirsty man (like I said earlier) who is dying of thirst. You are coming to bring him Good News, and you tell him - "Oh I'm so sorry for you, I just Passed by a well when I was coming. And the well was full of water."

... That's not Good News to him! - You are telling him about something somewhere!

Because as for the thirsty man, the Good News is not just the News about the existence of water, but what he wants you to say is: "When I Passed by the well I fetched some of the water to bring to you."

... That is Good News to him.

It is not just talking about the well, but that you carried some of the water of the well. Or that you can take him to where the well is to find the water.

So anytime we are Proclaiming Good News to Somebody, the Person expects us to lead them to what their Soul is hungry for; and what their Soul is thirsty for.

It is the Great Augustine - normally calls him Anthony, who said - "God has made us for Himself. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Him".

What did he mean by that? - God has created a hole inside each one that only He can fill. And when we Proclaim the Gospel, we are filling that deep hole in People.

Some People try to fill it with alcohol; some People try to fill it with sex, some People try to fill it with food and Partying and sometimes even with Profanity some People try to fill it with Education.

... But that hole is a God-hole; and that God-hole can only be filled by God!

And when we Proclaim the Good News, we have to know: the Person may be Educated, they may have all the Money in the World; but there is a hole inside them that only Jesus Christ can fill. And if you know Jesus Christ, you have something they don't have!

They may have all the riches of this world but that emptiness in them is a God-hole. And only God can fill it.

And that's why we have the confidence to share the Gospel with People who are richer than us, more educated than us - People who naturally are better than us..

But we have something they don't have: we have the Living Water - They are Thirsty People dying in the wilderness.

But Thanks be to God for the Saving Power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So that Person, what must happen to him?

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He must hear the Good News - He hears Good News!

Everybody wants to hear Good News - Not Bad News, not Condemnation. Good News!

... But not only must they hear the Good News;

II. They must BELIEVE the Good News.

The People will hear it but never believe it. When you believe it you accept it as the Final Truth.

So you cannot believe (for example) that Jesus Christ is the Saviour and still believe that there are other Ways to God.

If you believe Jesus is the Saviour and you still believe there are other Ways to God; then you haven't believed.

You have an "Intellectual Appreciation" of Jesus Christ.

But with the heart you have not believed because once you believe it settles all questions.

Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no Man comes to the Father, except by Him. He is the "Only Way" to the Father.

... That's what believing it.

Somebody says: "I like Religion! - Me too I Pray small, small. I do this a little, that a little. I know there are many Ways to go to God."

No, that's not true! - That's human understanding.

... There is only one Way to God and He is JESUS CHRIST.

For the Person to believe, they have to come to that "Firm Assurance" that Jesus Christ is the "Only Saviour".

That is when you say - "He has believed."

And if you are in this Church or you are reading this Message now on the Label of DMC and you are having double Opinion; you haven't believed yet. You are a nice Church Member but you are not yet in Christ. Alright!

... So, he Believes the Good News! And then what does he do next?

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III. He CALLS ON THE LORD.

That is he Prays to God and say: God, I Thank You that Jesus Christ has died for me. And now I receive Him into my heart.

And the Bible says "Whoever CALLS on the Name of the Lord shall be saved".

Now when the Bible says in Romans 10:13 that: "Whoever Calls on the Name of the Lord" - It is not Somebody who says JESUS! Theb he is saved. No!

You have to read that in context - The context says that the Person must hear the Gospel Preached.

If you read Romans 10:9, it says: that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

You don't just become saved because you said JESUS!

So when He says: "Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord" - It doesn't mean just mentioning His Name.

It means mentioning His Name based on the fact that you have heard the Gospel you Believe the Gospel, you believe He is the Only Way, and you Call on Him as the Only Way to save you - Then you will be saved.

... And whoever does that will be saved.

And that's how we share the Gospel - It's Simple and Straightforward:

I. You must experience Salvation.

II. Then you must tell People about what you have Witnessed.

III. And you must share what Christ had done for them on the Cross of Calvary.

... And next week I'm going to talk about Different Ways of Sharing the Gospel.

Because in the Bible you find People share the Gospel in different ways.

Because some People are going to say Pastor, I don't even know Verses, I don't know Quotations. So what if I go and they ask me Quotations what should I do? - "Once I was blind, now I see!"

These Questions about - Are Catholics right? What about Angelican? What about Muslims? I don't know about that!

What I know: Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. He saved me and He can save you too.

I am not Intellectually enough to answer all your Questions. But I have had an encounter with Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God. And that is the only thing I can share with you today!

... Are you hearing me?

So don't be intimidated about - Oh what if I go and they floor me with Questions?

No, you are sharing your Encounter with the Lord Jesus.

ALTAR CALL

Now I cannot end this Message without giving Somebody here and all those reading now on the Label of DMC, who has not had an Encounter with Jesus Christ the chance to have an Encounter - To believe in their heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. That Jesus died for them, God raised Him from the dead. And to Call upon the Lord and to be saved.

So if you are here this Morning or reading now on the Label of DMC you say: Pastor, this is the first time I have heard the Gospel explained this way:

I don't really think I have believed. I don't really think I have come to that Point of knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour; as the Only Saviour of the world.

And you can be in Church for a long time and not get to that Point.

Sometimes you hear the Message Preached for a long time, before one day it really settles in your heart and then you make a Decision.

So with every head now, every eyes closed; I just want to give People who want to make that Decision the Chance to make that Decision.

So if you are here this Morning or reading now on the Label of DMC and you say:

Pastor, I want to open my heart to Christ. I believe that Jesus died for me, and I want to call upon Him and I want Him to save me from sin and from the control of Satan, I want to live my Life for Him.

If you want to be save, you want to be Born Again, you want to become a Child of God, you want to be assured of Heaven:

With every head now, every eyes closed, I'm just going to ask you to lift up your right hand wherever you are!

If you have your right hand up, I'm just going to ask you to Stand wherever you are.

God bless you!

Now those of you who are Standing, put your hand upon your heart. You say - Pastor why do I have to put my hand upon my heart? It is just that we are going to Pray now and I want you to mean everything from your heart. I want these words to be sincere from your heart.

Put your hand upon your heart and the whole Church is going to Pray with you this Prayer.

Say with me Heavenly Father; I come to you today just as I am. I am a sinner. I cannot save myself.

I ask You Father, save me, deliver me from sin, from the Power of Satan. I believe today that Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Only Saviour, He is the Only Way.

And today I confess Him as my Lord. I declare with my mouth that Jesus Christ is my Lord.

Come Lord Jesus, come and live inside of me. Make me a Child of God, wash away my sins. Deliver me from the Power of Darkness into the Kingdom of God.

I Thank You for accepting me.

In Jesus' Mighty Name - 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!!!

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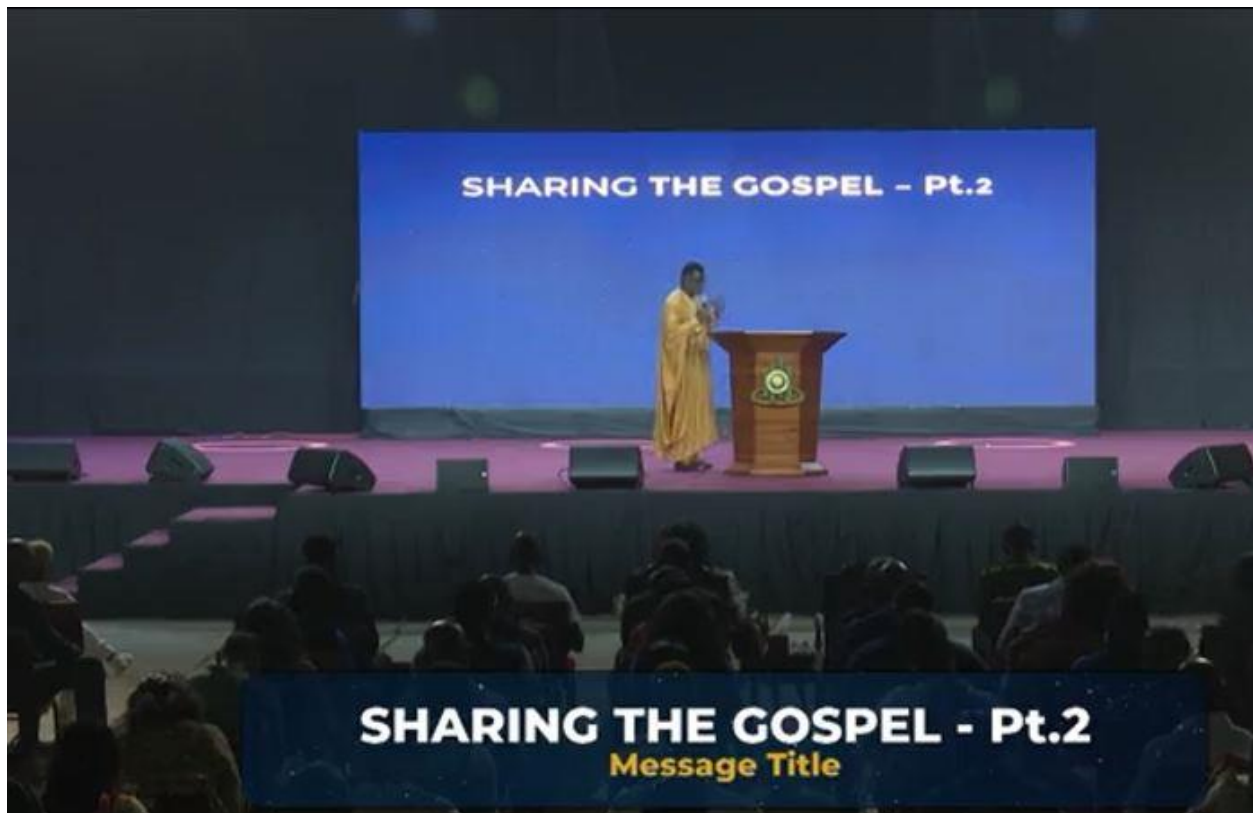
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MARCH 13TH - SHARING THE GOSPEL [PART 2]



DATE: 13TH MARCH, 2022

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TEXT: 1 John 1:1-2

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE BURDENED.

I just want to Pray a little bit for those who are carrying Burdens.

If you came to Church this Morning or reading now on the Label of DMC with Sickness, Challenge, Burdens overwhelming you;

The Breakthrough you need, the Divine Intervention; you need God set you free and Provide for you.

This morning God wants to take your Burdens, and God wants to show Himself Strong on your behalf, and wants to lift your Pain from you.

.... So if you need a touch from the Lord just lift up your hands to the Lord.

Fathwr we Thank You that You are the Great Deliverer; that You are the Great Physician; that You are the Provider; You are the Glory and the Lifter up of our Head.

And so this Morning we come before You as Your Children and we Place every Burden before You, and we ask Lord for a Divine Intervention. That in this Place, in this Atmosphere; your Power, your Presence would move every burden.

And Father we Pray for Supernatural Activity in the Life of Your People. That Your People would experience Supernatural Intervention beginning from this moment.

Beginning from now, Healing take Place. Beginning from now, Deliverance take Place. Beginning from now, Burdens are lifted. Beginning from now, Angels are on Assignment for the Children of God!

Beginning from now, Testimonies are coming up, Good News is coming to us! Beginning from now, there is a Shift and there is a turning; we receive the Supernatural Intervention of the Lord in our lives.

In Jesus' Name - And everybody shout HALLELUJAH!!!! Amen and Amen!

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Please be seated!

I believed God is working on your behalf, and there is a Miracle Packaged for you, with your name written on it. Nothing can stop it and nothing can delay it, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

I am doing Part 2 of my Message - SHARING THE GOSPEL.

Last week I talked about the Great Commission - Jesus told us to go into all the world, and to Preach the Gospel.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 of the Series on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Sharing-The-Gospel-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

And today I will just focus on: HOW WE DO IT - How we share the Gospel, how we make Christ known.

... So this is Part 2 of Sharing the Gospel.

Kindly go with me to 1 John 1:1-2 (NKJV):

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

God had called us to be Witnesses.

And a Witness is Somebody who gives Evidence to a case and talks about what they know about that Particular case.

And what God has called us to do is to give Evidence of Him to the world.

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And there are four (4) things that the Passage says we can give Evidence to:

1. First, it says we can give Evidence to what we have SEEN.

What we have seen Christ doing in our lives; what we have seen Christ do in other People's lives.

So, if you are going to testify of Christ, you are going to share the Gospel - You are talking about what you have seen. You can't talk about what you have not seen.

So you can tell People - Listen, I know this Person in the Church, or I know this Person gave his Life to Christ, and Christ Changed them. I have seen it! Or I have seen it in my own Life.

... First, we talk about what we have seen.

2. Secondly, we talk about what we have HEARD.

What we have heard is basically what we have read from the Bible. What we have heard People testify about. What we have heard Preached from the Pulpit.

And that's what we talk about.

... So, we have heard it, and so we give Witness of it.

3. And Thirdly, we can Witness to what we have EXAMINED - What we have handled, what we have come to settle.

The Christian Faith is examined and Verified. It has stood the Test of time for over two thousand (2,000) Years.

There are People who have tried so hard to overthrow Christianity for the last two thousand (2,000) Years - Some Violently, some with Knowledge, some with Information, some with Education, with signs. And Christianity has always stood still.

You don't have Faith is fragile and can easily be overthrown.

You have a Faith that is firm and has stood the test of time.

And you can also say - I have Proven my Faith in Christ, I have handled it, I have examined it, it is true. And you can testify about it.

So we have talked about:

1. What we have Seen.
2. What we have Heard.
3. What we have Examined;
4. And finally, we can talk about what we have EXPERIENCED.

When you have an experience, no one can do otherwise.

So if you have experienced Christ, then you testify of Him.

If you have these Four (4) Evidences - you have Seen something, you have Heard something, you have Proven something and you have Experienced something; then talk about it!

Every Believers, every Child of God, not just Preachers, but every Child of God. Every person who gave his Life to Jesus only today, can testify because, they have Seen something, they have Heard something, they have Examined something and they have Experienced something.

If you qualify and you have these Four 4 Evidences, then you have no excuse not to share the Gospel with another Person.

Each one of us can share the Gospel.

Well I know sometimes People say - I don't know too many Scriptures, I don't know what to say. What if what I say is wrong?

Well, if you have seen it, it won't be wrong. If you have heard it, it won't be wrong. If you have examined it, it won't be wrong. And if you have experienced it, it cannot be wrong.

.... So be Bold, Confident, and share your Faith with Somebody else.

There may be questions you cannot answer but talk about what you have seen, you have heard, you have examined and what you have experienced. Alright!

So, Evangelism or Soul Winning is more like a Lifestyle, than even an Activity we involved in. Because many times when we talk about going to win Souls, we imagine things:

I. Maybe going to People's houses to knock on their door. And what if the dog barks? Or what if I knock on the door and the Person comes and insult me?

II. Or what if when I am trying to talk to Somebody on the Street and the Person just rebuishes me.

III. Oh, what if I try to Witness the Gospel and People insults me? I will feel embarrassed, I will feel ashamed! And that's why People find it difficult to share the Gospel.

FOUR (4) STEPS TO SHARING THE GOSPEL.

So I am going to talk about Four (4) Important Things you should be doing to share the Gospel.

And I will talk about the Testimony that happened in my own Life.

1. First Step to Sharing the Gospel is: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

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Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 - Let your Light so Shine before Men, that they may see your Good Works and Glorify your Father in Heaven.

Just Shine the Light! You are the Light, Shine it!

And that's the first way we make Christ known. Or the first way we share the Gospel is letting our Light Shine.

And what does it mean to Let Your Light Shine? - It means we must live out our Faith.

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Before People hear us Preaching the Gospel, they must see us living the Gospel - The Life we live, the lives we lead.

The biggest turnoff of the Unbelievers is a Christian who does not live out his or her Faith.

Somebody who talks about one thing, but everything they do is very different.

And when you go out just talking, talking, talking; but not living it; you will put People off!

So first and foremost, to share the Gospel, our Light must Shine! We must be Doers of our Faith.

I. If we say 'God is Good!' we must be Good.

II. If we say 'God is Love' we must show Love.

III. If we say 'God is Kind' we must show Kindness.

We cannot believe one thing and live totally opposite what we believe in! So let your Light shine, live out your Faith.

And the other way to Shine your Light is: do Act of Kindness.

Jesus Christ said that our Good Works must be seen - So that People would give Glory to God.

Wherever we are - In our Office, in our Neighbourhood, in our families, we must live out our Faith and our Good Works must be seen.

Be Generous, do things to help Others; Volunteer a bit of your time for a Neighbour; Share a Meal; Help out a family in distress; Open doors for People.

Good Works would not save the Sinner; but Good Works would open the Sinner's heart to the Message of Salvation.

So do something in your Neighbourhood, in your Office that makes People know you are different!

... Your Good Works helps.

Because sometimes, unfortunately, Christians can be very mean and very, very wicked. And sometimes we can destroy People with gossip. We can be People who just put other People down.

But what will happen if in your Neighbourhood, you are the one who doesn't gossip?

When People come to you to gossip, you say - You know what you are saying about this Man is not Good. I think you are destroying his name, you are destroying his Reputation.

Don't you think People will see you as a Good Person? And that when you come Preaching the Good News they will listen to you?

But if you are the one spreading gossip about everybody, destroying everybody. You are fighting everybody - You fight in the Neighbourhood, you fight over where to sweep and not to

sweep. And you are going through with all of these - In the office you are fighting over tea, fighting over bonus and you are fighting everybody.

And then you come and say - Jesus loves you! Who is going to listen to that?

So, let your Light Shine!

... Everybody say: MY LIGHT MUST SHINE!

Jesus say they must see your Good Works! They must see your Good Works!! They must see my Good Works!!!

The first way we Share the Gospel is that we live out our Faith by Shining our Light.

2. Second way we Share the Gospel is to LIFT CHRIST UP.

Lift Him up!

John 3:14-15, Jesus said: As Moses lifted up the Serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not Perish but have Eternal Life.

When Jesus is lifted up He draws all People to Himself.

We must learn, not only to let our Light Shine, but to lift Jesus up. Lift Jesus up. Lift Him up for the world to see. For He said, if I am lifted up, I will draw all Men unto me.

HOW DO WE LIFT JESUS UP?

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... I will show you Two (2) Ways that we can lift Jesus up.

I. First, we must celebrate the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrate the Lord during your Celebrations. God gives each one of us moments when People come around us to celebrate with us, to be Parts of our world. It could be during our Birthdays, our Graduations, Engagements, Weddings, Baby Namings or even the Funeral of a loved one.

There are moments in everybody's Life when People come around you - People celebrate you.

These days on Social Media, when it's People's Birthday they advertise that it is their Birthday. People are very bold these days - It's my Birthday!

And then they will get about a hundred comments, two (2) hundred comments. And people share their Birthday.

When People celebrate us, we must learn to use that Celebration to Point to Jesus.

So, when you have a Birthday Party, it must be an Occasion for you to show something that you are a Christian.

When it is your Graduation and People come around, there must be something you do to Point to Jesus, to celebrate Him!

Even when you have a Funeral and People come around you; what do you do there to advertise your Faith?

In your home - What is there in your home for anybody to look at your home and say, oh, that is a Christian home? Or this Birthday - That's a Christian's Birthday, that's a Christian's Funeral.

And I am not going to give you any Rules.

You should know that there are certain kinds of Music that are incompatible with your Christian Faith.

And if you bring People to your Birthday and you Play those Music and People dance to some of those very, very, very dances. And they do it there. And then you come and say: "Oh I am a Christian." People would say: "Are you really sure?"

Or buzz flow at your Party, and People are drunk and are misbehaving.

How do you then come out to celebrate Jesus?

So, let us be Mindful that our moments are Jesus' moments, our Celebrations are Jesus' Celebrations.

And if we want People to come to know Jesus; the moments when we lift up Jesus in our Celebrations; the times when People stay around us.

II. The other way in which we lift up Jesus is to Point People to the Lord.

Point People to Jesus!

You know, I like it when the Footballers and Sportsmen scores a goal; although he may not be the most Perfect Person.

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But he scores a goal and then he points to the Heavens.

What he is literally saying is: I scored a goal, but I give Glory to God.

Or Somebody scores a goal and kneeled down; Somebody takes an Award and shares a Testimony - These are very settled ways of making People know Who is the Source of your Success.

... And if you are a Christian, you have to find opportunities when you Point to Jesus.

So, you receive the Great Award and everybody says: Oh you are the best in your Field.

When you were receiving the Prize what did you say about Jesus?

Or you won the Award in your Office and everybody Praised your hard work. When you were giving back your words, what did you say about Jesus?

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You may not be the most Perfect Person, but there are sometimes People who hear you talk about Jesus would say - The world is Strange oooh! I didn't know that Man too talks about Jesus. We must all Change!

Because they know you as rugged; but your talking about Jesus makes People Ponder about their own lives. Especially when you are Greater than People and you Point to Jesus. Then People who are lesser than you are wondering: What are we here Pointing to?

You are the Managing Director, you say I give Glory to Jesus. The Young Bank Teller will begin to wonder Wooooow! If the Managing Director says Jesus is the Source of his Greatness, then Jesus must be really good.

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So for all of your 'Big Men and 'Big Women' let Jesus resound from your mouth.

And let me say this - Especially for those of you who works for Multinationals and International Organizations, where Jesus is totally off; find a way to sneak in Jesus.

Because you know, the Unbelievers, they find a way to sneak in confusions, they sneak in everything. But somehow when anyone talks about Jesus, everybody gets uptight.

Talk about Jesus any way because if He is in your Life, then you must let people know

In your moment of Celebrations, you got an Award, you got an Appointment. And they say: "So and So, you got an Appointment." You come forward and you say: "Thank you for the Award; I want to give all the Glory to God. Thank God for Jesus Who saved my Life."

People may say it's inappropriate - Yes! But it will get into Somebody's ear!

So learn to Point up the Name of Jesus.

... Let your Light Shine, Point People to Jesus;

3. Third thing is to Pray for the Harvest of Souls.

Matthew 9:37-38 says: Then He said to His Disciples, "The Harvest truly is Plentiful, but the Labourers are few. Therefore Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out Labourers into His harvest."

This is the Power Room of the Gospel - You Pray for People. Because every Soul Winning effort is a Spiritual Warfare.

Satan holds People and he is not going to release them until we wrestle those Souls out of his hand.

And we have to Pray for Souls; and we have to Pray for many People to come to Christ.

MY TESTIMONY

And I will share a little Testimony here:

You know sometimes in early 1978 (when most of you were not born); I used to see a Young Man who would walk Passed our home. I didn't know where he was going to; I assumed he was going to work.

But in the morning I will see him, sometimes in the evening I will see him walk by. And of all the People who walked, that I saw, something just said I should Pray for this Man - And I used to Pray for him.

I didn't know his name, I didn't know where he was going to; but I would Pray for him.

Anytime I see him, I would say - Lord have Mercy, touch him. Lord, open his heart to the Gospel.

I didn't know if he was a Christian or not; but I just Prayed for him.

And I Prayed for him.

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Sometimes even when I hadn't seen him walking in Town, I would remember the Young Man and Pray for him.

So, sometime in the same 1978; I applied for and got a job. And I remembered that when I was going - My first day at work (it was a Monday); I entered the doorway of our Office (There is a Canopy in front of the Office).

As I just entered under the Canopy going to the doorway, I Prayed a Prayer just at the door of the Office.

And I said: Lord, I claim every Soul in this Office for You. That my Presence here will bring everybody to Jesus Christ and everybody to know You as the Lord and Saviour.

That was my Prayer!

I didn't Pray for Promotion, I didn't Pray for favour - I just Prayed that Souls would be won.

And so I entered, I was introduced to my Boss. And the Boss welcome me and said well, let me take you to your Office. So he took me to my Office - There were five (5) spaces in my Office.

And guess who I saw in that Office room? - The Young Man I have been Praying for!

So I just knew God has brought me here for an Assignment.

There were five (5) desks - One (1) was empty; which was mine. They said Mr. Otabil sit here.

And this Young Man was sitting to my right, I'm sitting to his left.

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And so you know the Boss introduced all of us and he said well, this is Mr. Duncan. I said, this is Mr. Otabil.

That is it. So I got to know this Young Man - He said: "I'm Joe" I said "I'm Mensa."

And so we became very good friends. We were both Artist and Designers.

For about two (2) Years I didn't even Preach the Gospel to him, I didn't tell him I have been Praying for him.

But after some time he just said to me - You know, you are different!

Of course I was different because this Young Man, I got to know was very bad.

Because on Monday when we come and everybody is talking about his escapes, the kinds of things he talked about, I couldn't imagine he would be doing that. But the Chief of it was that he would be buzzing and womanizing and doing all kind of things.

And I would say: Weekend, I went for a Crusade, I went to Preach - That's my escapes!

So we became friends, we did a lot of work together and became very good friends.

Most times when we close from office, we get to a junction (we both walked); I would branched to a Prayer Meeting, he would branch somewhere else. And then we will regather and talk about what happened.

And so one day - Two (2) Years later, he came to the Office and he says: "You need to Pray for me, my Life is miserable."

I said you don't need Prayers, you need Jesus. Prayer would not save you, Jesus is the Saviour.

He said but you have to Pray for me.

I said, I have been Praying for you for a very long time!

It was on Friday. And Monday he came to work very late. Of course he got drunk throughout the Weekend and had a hangover. He came to work around 11 O'clock and when he got in he said, Pray for me - Today something must Change in my Life.

I said you know we close work at 5pm; we have to finish work.

So we finished work and I said okay let's go! I took him to a Classroom I used to Pray and I led him to Christ. And there was a Major Deliverance in his Life.

... All kinds of things happened at that Prayer Meeting. But he gave his Life to Jesus Christ in 1980. And he has lived for the Lord Jesus Christ up till now.

Most of us know him as Pastor Edwin Duncan - He is a Member of the Presbytery of the International Gospel Church; now Pastoring in London.

So why did I share this Testimony? - I started Praying for him when I even didn't know who he was!

Sometimes God is going to lay the burden on you to Pray for People you don't know. And I do that a lot - I Pray for a lot of People, just as I see them, I Pray for them.

Sometimes as I am driving through the City of Accra (Ghana); I Pray for Neighbourhoods; I Pray for shop and the Shop-Owner. And I don't know who the Shop-Owner is.

I say Lord, I Pray for the Owner that he will come to know you.

... Constantly Praying! Because Jesus says we must Pray for that, until we win the Spiritual Warfare for People's Souls - Salvation will be difficult for them.

So, we Pray for People as the Holy Spirit leads - We must open our heart as we Pray.

The Seed of God's Word only germinates in hearts that are open to the Word of God. And you have to Stand in Faith for the Salvation of loved ones.

Sometimes you Pray for People or you share the Gospel with them and they resist it. But you don't give up!

This Young Man didn't know I have been Praying for him, Probably about six (6) Months earlier to when I met him. And I have been Praying for him two (2) Years after I met him - That God will Prepare his heart.

Because when you Preach the Gospel to an Unprepared heart, Jesus says, it is like the Sower who goes to sow the Seed. The seed is sown but it falls on the Wrong Ground.

Sometimes you have to wait until People's hearts are truly ready to receive the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And maybe the first time you spoke to them, their heart is not ready; Second time, their heart is not ready; third time, their heart is not ready - Keep Praying because God is working underground, the Seed would one day find Good Soil to fall upon.

And each one of us must Pray! - Pray for your husband, your wife, your children, grandchildren. Pray for your Parents, your Grandparents, your Aunties, your Uncles, your Nephews, your Nieces. Pray for your Cousins, Pray for your In-laws, your School mates, People you like, People you don't like. Pray for People who bug you, Pray for those who don't bug you!

Because it is in the Place of Prayer that God opens People's heart to receive the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So this morning, I just want to encourage you - Go out and Preach the Gospel.

And I have told you about Three (3) Things why you have to share the Gospel.

You can do simple things like Inviting People to Church (Using your Church Cards). You may not know what to say. But your Pastor knows what to say. So bring the fellow, your Pastor will say what has to be said for the Person's heart to be open.

The Person may not receive Christ the first day, or the Second day. But one day, that Seed will fall on Good Ground. And it will bear Fruit of Salvation.

This Morning, I want us all to Pray and ask that God will make us Soul Winners for His Kingdom; that each one of us, in our Circle of Influence would share the Gospel with Somebody.

... Just Pray and ask the Lord to use you to make the Gospel known unto Somebody.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Thank You for Your Word which is Life; Your Word which is Light.

Thank You for Your Children who you have Called. Thank You that You delivered us from Darkness into your Precious Light.

And this Morning, we Dedicate ourselves to be the Sharers of the Gospel.

And Father in the ways that we talked about, help us Lord to Shine for You, to live out our Faith, and to lift Jesus up.

And help us Lord to know how to Pray for Souls to be saved. And teach us how to share the Gospel wherever we are.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Give God Praise Somebody!

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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MARCH 20TH - GOD IS ABLE



DATE: 20TH MARCH, 2022.

TEXT: ROMANS 14:4

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

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So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I want to reassure you this morning that GOD IS ABLE.

And whilst things are Changing, Life is Uncertain, keep your eyes on the Lord: keep your Faith in the Lord; keep yourself grounded in the Word of the Lord because GOD IS ABLE.

And I am going to walk you through Four (4) Scriptures in the Bible. Two (2) in the Old Testament and two (2) in the New Testament that affirm what we are talking about, that GOD IS ABLE.

1. MY FIRST TEXT IS IN ROMANS 14:4.

The Apostle Paul is writing, and he says:

Who are you to Judge another's Servant? To his own Master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

I want you to note that - "... God is able to make him Stand."

And you can Personalize it and say: GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ME STAND.

The background to what Paul is writing here has to do with an argument that was going on in the Early Church - The argument was about food.

Because in the Roman's world, meat was always offered to the "gods of Time" before they were sold in the Market.

And Christians who bought meat in the Market, People would say it has been contaminated because the meat was first of all offered to idol.

And it was a very big debate. And some Christians were condemning each other for doing that.

So Paul is addressing that! And he is basically saying: whether the meat is offered to idol or not; a cow is a cow. God created it, and when you eat it in Faith, you will not be contaminated and you will not be harmed.

And so he says that in the context of that, God is able to make us Stand.

That means in the midst of a world of uncertainty, of Spiritual attack, of Spiritual contamination; God is able to make us Stand.

... And that is the main argument of Paul as he writes to the Romans.

I like the word 'Able' that is used in the Text.

I. The word 'Able' means to have Power.

It means God has the Power to make me Stand.

II. The word 'Able' also means to be Willing to do.

That means God is Willing to make me Stand.

... Not only is He able to, but He is Willing.

III. And the word 'Able' means to make Possible.

It means that God makes it Possible for me to Stand.

Today we may not be debating about meat offered to idols:

I. We are debating about whether after Covid-19 we will Stand or fall;

II. Whether in the midst of Challenges we will Stand or fall.

I came to announce to Somebody and to your wife (husband), to your children, to your mother and to your father, that God is able make you Stand - Amen.

You will Stand! You will not fall, you will not be a Victim, you will not be a Statics of Covid.

... God is able to make me Stand!

When temptations come against me, I will stand because God is able to make me Stand.

When people come against me Spiritually; and there are Spiritual attacks against me, I will Stand because God able to make me Stand.

When everything around me is collapsing - Businesses are collapsing, People are collapsing; I will not collapse - Because God able to make me Stand.

When I go through difficult Seasons, God able to make me Stand.

Though I may not have money right now and I cannot fill the fuel tank of my car, God able to make me Stand.

Don't give in and fall. Don't give in and collapse, because God able to make me Stand.

It's being a rough Season, it's being a dark night. It's being a long dark night but God able to make me Stand!

Somebody put your hand upon your Chest and say: GOD ABLE TO MAKE ME STAND.

... And that's the Truth!

2. The Second Bible Text that we want to consider - Speaking to us about what God is able to do, is in Daniel 3:17

And it reads: If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

Shedrack, Meshach and Abednego were the ones who uttered these words. They were caught in a difficult Political and Spiritual dilemma with King Nebuchadnezzar.

They had refused to bow to the King's image. Everybody is bowing, but they were the only ones Standing - They chose to Stand!

And when you choose to Stand, there are consequences - There will be targeting, there will be attacks.

Because when everybody is going down and you refuse to go down (and Stand) People will notice you, People will Point at you and People will start attacking you.

And that's what happened to Shedrack, Meshach and Abednego - These three (3) Hebrew Boys stood up when everybody bowed to the image of King Nebuchadnezzar.

The King was so angry he decided that they had to suffer the Greatest of Punishment. Not only to be thrown into fire, but to be thrown into fire that has been heated seven (7) times.

... So hot that the People heating the fire itself were destroyed by the fire.

And the King gave them the option last minute to Change their Minds - And that is when they said these words: "King Nebuchadnezzar, thank you for your offer. But the God we serve is able to deliver us."

Not only is God able to make us Stand; He is also able to Deliver us.

I. When we are threatened, God is able to deliver you;

II. When the fire is burning so hot, God is able to deliver you;

III. When we are attacked because we stood for the Lord, God is able to deliver you.

IV. If there are conspiracies against you, God is able to deliver you.

V. If you are the focus of gossips, God is able to deliver you.

Don't ever look at what comes against you and say: Well, I don't think I will go through it - You will go through it!

And not only will you go through it, you will come out of it because God is able to deliver us. God is able to make us Stand.

And when we get attacked because we are Standing, God is able to deliver us.

I don't know what the world is coming to. I have stopped Predicting the world since two (2) Years ago because anything can happen in our world where we are now - Anything can happen.

But my heart is fixed on the Lord; that He is able to make me Stand and He will deliver me - Amen.

And your heart must be fixed on the Lord - Not on CNN, not on reading the News, not on determining who is bombing who and who is not bombing who.

Whether there is going to be a Third World War or there will be Peace, I don't know about it.

But one thing I know for sure - God will make me Stand! And God will deliver me because He is Able.

There is nothing coming against you or nothing that has come against you that God cannot deliver you out of.

For the Three (3) Hebrew Boys, it was against a Political Force - King Nebuchadnezzar.

When the King is against you where do you turn to? - TO GOD! Because the King has a Boss.

The Bible says the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord.

Proverbs 21:1 says: The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

I. Don't ever give so much Power to any Human Being in Human Institution - It can be Government, it can be Corporate Leader. It can even be a Spiritual Leader.

II. Don't ever make any Human Being God - Don't ever! Because no Human Being is God. No System is God. No Institution is God. And when they come against you because you stood up and they burned the fire seven (7) times; Fear not! Because God is able to deliver you.

You may see the fire, you may feel the heat, you may smell the smoke. But it will not touch you, it will not destroy you - GOD WILL DELIVER YOU. God is able to deliver

... So God is able to make us Stand; God is able to deliver us.

3. The Third Scripture is also in the Old Testament - 2 Chronicles 25:9.

Then Amaziah said to the Man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the Man of God answered, "The Lord is able to give you much more than this."

... God is able to give you much more than this!

So what is the Story here?

Amaziah is the King of Judah. Now this is at the time when they had the divided Kingdom.

Those of you who know your Bible a bit - Israel is divided into two (2). The Northern Kingdom is called Israel. And the Southern Kingdom is called Judah.

The Northern Kingdom is full of Idolatry (Israel Proper) - It's full of Idolatry, their King is full of Idolatry.

The Southern Kingdom (Judah) sometimes had Good Kings and sometimes had Bad King. So they go in and out. They are slightly better than Israel.

So, this guy called Amaziah became King of Judah of the Southern Kingdom. And at the time he became King, the Moabites, the Edomites came against him and they wanted to fight him - The Army was too big.

Because Judah was always a smaller Kingdom and Israel was a bigger Kingdom; so Amaziah King of Judah built an Army. And he didn't think his Army was big enough to fight Edom.

So he did what Naturally anybody would do - He went to his brothers up North (the Israelites) and said these guys want to fight me, give me Troops.

So the Israelites gave him Troops - About a hundred thousand (120,000) Soldiers. And he Paid a hundred thousand of Silver for that.

... Good Negotiation!

Then just as he has finished Paying for the Troops from Israel, God sent a Prophet - A Man of God, to go and tell Amaziah - "I don't want Israel to add to your Troops, they are Bad People."

And the Man is like - "Where were you when I was making the Negotiations?" I have Paid for the thing already!

The Prophet said No, you are not going to include Israel in this Negotiation - Just how's you are, Judah.

And so King Amaziah asked a logical question - So what about the Money I have Paid? What about the Investment I have made?

And the Man of God said to Amaziah - "God is able to do much more than this."

Sometimes you lose, sometimes an Investment goes bad. Sometimes something you put your hand to doesn't work out.

And if we are not careful, we stay in the Place of disappointment for the rest of our lives. And we never move on with our lives. We never know how to take the next step;

Because every conversation of yours is about - "The hundred Talents of Silver I Paid and didn't get any benefit from." The money I lost, the relationship I lost, the friend who left me.

But God says, I am able to do much more than this!

... God is able to do much more than this!

You have to learn to go beyond what you have lost - Move beyond what went bad, move beyond lost money, move beyond lost friendships, move beyond lost opportunities.

They have cheated you out of what is yours; but God is able to do much more than this.

And if you believe God is able to do much more than this; stop complaining. stop sitting in the same Place - "Oh what this Man did to me. Oh I suffered with this Man and he left me for somebody else. Oh I suffered with that woman and she abandoned me."

... God can do much more than this. God is able - I say God is Able!

There are People sitting here or reading now on the Label of DMC, it's time to move on!

There are some conversations you have to cancel out of your Life. You must never bring up some topics again because God is able to do much more than this.

And the more you stay there, the more you hinder the flow of God's Power - God is able to do much more than this!

I. This is what you lost, but God will do much more than that!

II. This is what went wrong, but God is able to do much more than that.

III. Some of you have been left by People you loved. And your whole Life is frozen. And you wake up and cry and cry! God is able to do much more than this.

I am sure God is looking at the Man who left you and God looks at that Man and calls him - 'This' (with a sense of humour).

Because God looks at the Person that you are crying over and say are you crazy? You are crying over this? That's why you can't get out of your home, you can't leave your bed. That's why you are hugging your Pillow - This?

But today God says to you: He is able to do much more than this.

Maybe you got fired from your job and you have been crying: Where am I going? God sends me to tell you - He can do much more than this.

There is nothing in your Life that is higher than God's Power.

So you couldn't have experienced something and say - "As for this, I don't think it will be better." It will be better!

... Because God is able to do much more than this.

So for whatever you are going through this Season, God is able to make you Stand - Amen.

For whatever you are going through this Season, God is Deliver you - Amen.

And for whatever you are going through, God is able to do Much More than this - Amen.

... Now if God can do all of that, what should we do?

4. Final Scripture - Matthew 9:27-29.

When Jesus departed from there, two blind Men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have Mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind Men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your Faith, let it be to you."

... Everything ends with Jesus!

So I am going to ask you the Question Jesus asked - Do you believe God is able to do this? - YES!!!

Do you believe God is able to make you Stand? - YES!

Do you believe God is able to deliver you? - YES!

Do you believe God is able to do much more than this? - YES!

Don't just say "YES" with your mouth - Say it with your heart, say it with your Actions.

If you believe God is able to do much more than this, you are not going to cry about that thing again.

And you are not going to be telling People about your Story - "Have you heard my Story? Hey, the world of dark ooo."

You will stop that!

I said: You will stop that!

Certain conversations must stop in your Life. Certain complains must stop in your Life - It's gone, it's gone! God can do much more than that.

1. Do you believe God can make you Stand?
2. Do you believe God is able to deliver you?
3. Do you believe God is able to do much more than this?
4. Then Jesus says: According to your Faith, be it done unto you - Amen.

And so today or as you read this Message on the Label of DMC; I declare: According to your Faith, be it done unto you - Amen.

If you believe God is able to make you Stand, you will Stand

If you believe God is able to deliver you, you will be delivered!

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If you believe God is able to do much more than this, He will do much more than this!

According to your Faith, be it done unto you - Amen.

As you have Believed, so it is - Amen!

People are Standing, People are delivered; God is able to do much more and He is doing much more for you - Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

I release everything you have believed, according to your Faith; I release it into your Life.

Divine Ability at work in your Life!

Divine Supply at work in your Life!

Divine Deliverance at work in your Life!

Divine Provision at work in your Life!

And from this day, the Ability of God is released into your Life!

And walk in that Ability; walk in that Victory; walk in that Freedom, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

If you believe it say - I RECEIVE IT!

Oh say it one more time, say - I RECEIVE IT!!

Say it this time with a loud Voice - I RECEIVE IT!!!!

Give the Lord a Mighty Clap Offering, Somebody!

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!!!

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MARCH 27TH - GOD IS FAITHFUL [PART 1]



Date: 27th March, 2022

Text: Deuteronomy 7:9

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

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Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am Speaking today on - GOD IS FAITHFUL.

Last week I spoke on - GOD IS ABLE. And you can read full Text of that Message on the Label of DMC or via this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/God-Is-Able-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

And the same God who is ABLE is also FAITHFUL.

Everybody say: GOD IS FAITHFUL!

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV) and this is what it says:

Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the Faithful God who keeps Covenant and Mercy for a thousand Generations with those who love Him and keep His Commandments;

... know that the Lord your God, He is God, the "FAITHFUL GOD".

Knowing Who God is, helps us to relate to Him better.

As in all relationships; the more you know a Person, the better you relate to him.

The more you know your Husband (or wife) the better you relate to him or her;

The more you know your Children (each one) the better you relate to them.

The more you know your Parents, the better you relate to them.

It's in all relationships. Ignorance disturbs relationships!

So many People relate with God without Knowing God. Our relationship with God may be sincere, but may also come out of ignorance.

And one of the things we have to know on relating with God is that - HE IS FAITHFUL.

... Everybody say: GOD IS FAITHFUL - Amen!

Now, in Biblical Hebrew the word 'Faith' and 'Faithful' are related.

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So when we operate in Faith, we operate based on the Faithfulness of God.

If you don't understand the Faithfulness of God, you will not know how to deal in Faith.

... And I will touch a bit on that, next week.

DMC NOTES: So keep a date with DMC Media Crew for this Message!

Let's look at our Bible Text again - Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the FAITHFUL GOD.

What does the word FAITHFUL mean?

The Hebrew word that is translated Faithful 'Amon' (or Aman) has a close relationship with the word that is also translated 'AMEN.' They come from the same root word. AMEN and FAITHFUL are the same.

So, when we say God is Faithful; we can also say God is Amen.

Amen means, it is so.

... And it shall be so, for ever - Amen.

GOD IS FAITHFUL.

Three (3) Words that are related to Faithful:

1. First, when something is Faithful, it means - IT IS PERMANENT.

... It is Permanent - it does not Change!

So, when we say God is Faithful, we mean He is Permanent - He does not Change.

2. Secondly, when we say something is Faithful, it means - IT IS ESTABLISHED.

... It is Firm and Secure; doesn't move.

3. And the third one is RELIABLE.

Something that can be trusted - That is what that word Faithful implies.

... It implies Permanence, Establishment and Reliability.

Now Faithfulness can be found both in God and in human beings - But we are focusing on God.

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The word 'Faithful' in the Hebrew language is a Picture Language. So most of the words in Hebrew create images in your Mind.

One of the images that is created about something that is Faithful, is the Pillar on which a door swings.

... The Pillar on which a door swings!

Isn't it interesting?

So God is Faithful - He is the Pillar on which the door swings.

Every door has a Pillar attached to it. A door moves, but the Pillar doesn't move.

And the door by itself, cannot open unless it has a Pillar it is attached to.

So, if you bring this to our Knowledge of God, it means that every door that God opens; every opportunity that God gives you; every Miracle that God does for you is hooked up to a Pillar - His Faithfulness.

Without His Faithfulness, nothing can move in your Life

His is the Faithful God; He is the Constant and Permanent, Who makes things move in our lives.

God is Faithful!

Without God's Faithfulness, there will be no open doors, and there will be no Blessings.

Let's look at the Phrase - GOD IS FAITHFUL.

Every Blessings we receive from God comes from His Faithfulness.

And so what do we mean when we say: GOD IS FAITHFUL?

1. First, we mean that GOD DOES NOT CHANGE.

It may seem like an Ordinary Statement or Observation; but it is a very Powerful Statement that God does not Change.

Why does God not Change?

It is because God never grows and never improves!

Why do Human Beings Change?

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It is because we grow and we improve

So what I said (for example) when I was six (6) years old; when I grow and I improve, I will not say the same thing.

If at six (6) years old I said - "When I grow up I will be a Carpenter." I may say that when I six (6) years old. But when I grow up I will not be a Carpenter.

Why is it that I will not be what I said I would be? - Because I grew up!

I will say, when I was a child that's what I thought.

Now I know better. I have gone to School, I have improved, I have known New things, I have become better.

So I am not going to be a Carpenter - I have become a Pastor!

What has Changed? - Growth and Improvement!

But God doesn't grow! And God doesn't improve.

So there is no Point in time when God would grow to a Point that He would Change something He said at another time.

What God said a Million Years ago, He will not grow a Million Years later and say:

"Oh, a Million Years ago, I was God but I was a Young God!" Now I have become an Older God; I Am Wiser and more Mature; so I cannot do what I said a Million Years ago because I have grown and I have improved."

God doesn't go through that - God is the same.

He doesn't Change - What He said a Million Years ago, is still relevant today.

... Because God Does not Change.

For us as Human Beings, it is very difficult to imagine anything that does not Change because Change is the Constant of our experience.

But to God, not Changing is the Constant!

So what he said yesterday to your father, He will not Improve or outgrow it.

He will always do what He says - He would do because He doesn't Change, He doesn't grow and He doesn't improve.

God doesn't get better! The God we have now is not a better Version of the God Noah worshipped - He is the same God. The ungrowing, the unimproving God at all times.

... God does not Change!

And because He does not Change, He is Reliable - That's why we can rely on Him.

To be Reliable is to be Trustworthy.

It mean I can Build on Him; I can Establish on Him; I can lay my Foundation in Him because He doesn't Change.

You know, it is very interesting that when you consider our Earth; our Earth is a very, very, very Changing Earth - We know that the Earth moves very, very fast.

It is said that the Earth moves at the Speed of a thousand seven (1,700) kilometers per hour - Very fast!

... A thousand seven hundred - That is a very fast Speed.

And not only that; whilst it is doing that, it is moving at Twenty seven (27) kilometers Per Second around the Sun, to give us a year.

So for us to say - "Next Year it will be better" the Sun has to run at Twenty seven (27) kilometers Per Second to give you Next Year.

At this Space of a thousand seven (1,700) kilometers Per Hour (on its own axis) to Twenty seven (27) kilometers Per Second (around the Sun);

We consider the Earth Solid enough to build on it! We build Skyscrapers on it. Something that is moving at this pace;

And yet we find it difficult to build on God, Who doesn't Change, Who doesn't improve, Who doesn't get better.

If you can build a house on this Earth, you have no excuse not to have a Foundation in God!

God is Faithful.

Why? - Because He is there! He is called the Ancient of Days. He doesn't improve, He doesn't get better.

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If we live for another one Billion years, God would not be a different God. He will still be the same. From Eternity to Eternity, He is still the same - God is Faithful!

... But not only is God Faithful;

2. GOD'S WORD IS FAITHFUL.

His Word is Faithful.

Numbers 23:19 says: God is not a Man, that He should lie, Nor a son of Man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

God is Faithful; and because of that, His Word is Faithful - Why? Because His Word carries His Worth.

Your word carries your worth; my word carries my worth. If I say "I will give you a hundred million dollars." I Promise you I will give you a hundred million dollars next week about this time.

That word carries my worth! If I don't have the hundred million dollars, then that word has no Power because that word is empty! I have no worth.

But if Somebody else, like some of those crazy guys with a lot of money (I don't even want to mention their names). Those crazy guys who owns so much money - Hundreds of billions!

If one of them (as crazy as they are) tells you "I will give you a hundred million dollars next week by this time." That word carries their worth. Do they have the worth to support the word? - Yes!

All that will be left will be whether they are Willing. Not whether they can, but whether they are Faithful.

So when God says to you - "I will Bless you." His Word carries His Worth!

So you have to define whether He has the Worth - Whether He has the currency of. Blessing.

If He has the ability to Bless then His Word (that He will Bless you) is Faithful - It's as Faithful as His Personality.

So God is Faithful; His Word is Faithful. His Word is Reliable.

He never Changes - So His Word doesn't Change and He honours His Word.

"... Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He Spoken, and will He not make it good?"

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He does not just Honour His Word selectively, He honours His Word fully.

Now when it comes to that (may be next week, we will deal a little more about that). You know, many times People say - 'But I have believed God and it didn't happen.'

Because we believe God selectively - We don't believe God as God; we believe something that sounds nice to us.

So we can go through the Bible, picking nice Verses and not Picking the whole Counsel of God.

And think that if we can clearly pick the Word of God, then good thing is going to happen to us.

That's not how it happens! God watches over His Word (the entirety of His Word) to Perform it. He is Faithful, His Word is Faithful.

So, when you say 'I believe in God' you have to know that there is something about God which does not Change.

... And it is that which does not Change that He uses to open doors for you - His Word is Faithful!

So first, God is Faithful.

Everybody say: GOD IS FAITHFUL.

God's Word is Faithful.

Everybody say: GOD'S WORD IS FAITHFUL.

3. GOD'S WAYS ARE FAITHFUL.

His Ways are Faithful.

Psalms 18:30 says - As for God, His Way is Perfect; The word of the Lord is Proven; He is a Shield to all who trust in Him.

His Ways are Perfect; His Ways are Consistent with Who He is.

The God of the Bible is not a capricious God - That means He is not Freakful, He's not Temperamental, He is not given to Unstable Actions. He is not a confused God Who does things by heart. His Ways are Perfect!

We were just Singing that - "There is nothing that God cannot do; What He cannot do doesn't exist."

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There is truth in that!

"But although God can do all things; He cannot do all things" - It seems like a contradiction!

God can do all things; but He cannot do all things - because He cannot do anything that is inconsistent with Who He is - He cannot!

He cannot under any circumstance (even if He tries) He can't because His Personality would Prevent Him from doing what is against Himself.

So God cannot lie - He cannot!

If He says something which you think is a lie, the moment He says it, it would be true.

When Abraham said: "I have no Child" - That is the current truth. Until God says: "You are the father of many Nations."

The moment God says that, one of them must be a liar - Either Abraham is a liar, or God is a liar.

Once God had Spoken it, it ceases to be a lie. It is the truth - God cannot lie. He cannot!

If you are dead Lazarus, and He says: 'Come forth!' - One has to be a lie (and it can't be God).

So death had to be a lie and God has to be true.

God can NOT lie! God can NOT fail. God can NOT break His Covenant because all of these would be acting against His Faithfulness.

SO GOD'S WAYS ARE FAITHFUL - What does that mean? His Ways are Consistent.

That is why Job; in the time of his greatest affliction, where every experience is contrary to what he expected, he still knew that God's Ways are Faithful.

So he said: "I can't explain what is going on, but I know God's Ways are Faithful - I know my Redeemer lives; He will Stand at the Last Day."

... That is the Consistency with His Nature.

Job could then say: "Even if He strikes me, I will trust Him."

Why? - Because he has come to trust that God is Faithful, His Word is Faithful and His Ways are Faithful.

God not capricious - He doesn't get up one morning and do just something. No! Everything He does is in consistence with Who He is.

That's why we can trust Him - The Unchanging God; The Faithful God. He does not lie. What He says He will do!

He keeps Covenant to a thousand Generations; even to those who break His Covenant.

He made a Covenant to David; David's son (Solomon) broke the Covenant. But God said, if you are Unfaithful, it will not affect Me - I will remain Faithful.

Even when you are not there to supervise the Covenant, God would always be there to keep His Covenant - He keeps His Covenant both to the Living and to the dead.

You know, the Marriage Covenant is "Till death do us Part" because we are Humans.

But our Covenant with God doesn't end with death because God never dies.

And if one Party to the Covenant dies, the Other Party (the Unchanging One) would Supervise that Covenant and see to it that it becomes a Reality.

He is Faithful in all His Ways! - That's the God we serve; That's the God we worship, That's the God we believe in.

... And that is why we can build our Faith on Him.

We sang that Song:

"On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand;
All other Ground is sinking Sand."

Including the ones we build Skyscrapers on! Because one day there will be an Earthquake and we will realise - "Oh, the Earth is not as Stable as we thought it was."

And we have invested so much on Presumption that the Earth is Faithful. But the Earth is not Faithful.

There's only One Faithful - And He is God Jehovah God Almighty!

And so the Bible says: Those who build on Him would not be put to shame. Those who Trust Him, would not be put to Shame.

Having Faith in the Faithful God allows you to receive from the Faithfulness of God.

We would talk about that Next Week - Watch Out for this Coverage on the Label of DMC Media Team Platform for this Message.

Because that is Faith and Faithfulness connect.

Our Faith is not in ourselves; our Faith is not even in our Prayer. You can't say: "As for this thing, I have Prayed and God will hear."

God doesn't answer your Prayer because of the Intensity of your Prayer. Because much of your Prayer as intensed as it is, may even be 'Off Course'.

You may be Praying amiss - You are Praying sincerely, but it's all blank. With Fasting behind it (laughs)!

If you Presume that God hears your Prayer because you denied yourself food, you are crazy!

God doesn't answer your Prayer because you didn't eat; He answers your Prayer because He is Faithful.

Our Faith therefore, is not in us, but in God - Who He is.

It is not in - How many times I Pray, how many times I Fast; how much Prayer I Prayed, how intensed my Prayer - That are all Good! But that is not the basis on which God answers our Prayers.

If His Faithfulness is not there, no door will swing!

When we ask Him to open a door, He doesn't do it because of us - He does it because HE IS.

Believe you me, no matter what you ask me to do, if I can't do it, I can't do it! You can kneel in front of me - Pastor help me! Roll on the floor, cry, Fast, do whatever.

But I will say: "I can't do anything about it."

You can travel from to Burkina Faso and back! It will Change nothing because I can't do it!

But if I can do it, you don't even need to roll on the floor; I would do it for you!

Somebody say: GOD IS FAITHFUL; HIS WORD IS FAITHFUL; HIS WAYS ARE FAITHFUL!"

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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APRIL 3RD - GOD IS FAITHFUL [PART 2]



GOD IS FAITHFUL Message Title

DATE: 3RD APRIL, 2022

TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

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The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

So I am doing Part 2 of the Message I Preached last Sunday (27th March, 2022) - Remember last Sunday I did - GOD IS FAITHFUL (Part 1).

DMC NOTES: You can get to read the Full Text of that Message on all the Social Media Handles of DMC or on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/God-Is-Faithful-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

And I Promised that I will do Part 2 of "GOD IS FAITHFUL" today, 3rd of April, 2022.

So I am doing GOD IS FAITHFUL - PART 2.

And in Part 1 we said that:

- God is Faithful;
- His Word of Faithful;
- And His Ways are Faithful.

And so we are Picking it up from there.

Let's go to 2 Timothy 2:11-13. And this is what it says (NKJV):

11. This is a Faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.
12. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.
13. If we are Faithless, He remains Faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

It's a very unique Passage in the Scriptures. Because if you note, the Passage says - "This is a Faithful saying ..."

So what the Apostle Paul is writing about is a Creed that had developed in the Early Church - It was a Saying of the Early Church; it was one of the Foundations of their Faith.

And the Creed has different Parts. And normally, it is believed that this Creed was Recited during Baptism. That:

"If we die with Him, we shall live with Him. If we endure, we shall reign with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us. If we are Faithless, He remains Faithful; He cannot deny Himself"

This statement was a Foundational Creed of the Church. And if you pay attention, there are several Parts of it.

But I want you to pay attention to the last Part of it - It says: "If we deny Him He will deny us. If we are Faithless, He remains Faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

It is a very interesting Statement.

I. The first line: If we deny Him, He will deny us.

Basically it means if we reject God He will also reject us.

And that simply means, God responds to our Actions.

... We reject Him, He rejects us.

God responds to our Actions.

II. Then Note the Second Line - If we are Faithless, He remains Faithful.

The word Faithless is the same as Unfaithful - If we are Faithless He remains Faithful.

Now if we follow the logic of the Previous Line - "If we deny Him He will also deny us."

Then, the Second Part says - "If we are Faithless, He remains Faithful."

The First Line says - "If we deny Him, He would deny us;"

So logically the Second Line would have been - "If we are Faithless, He will become Unfaithful."

That should have been the logic of the sequence - If we deny Him, He denies us; if we are Faithless or Unfaithful, then the logical thing - He should be Unfaithful.

But when it comes to the Second Line, it says: "If we are Faithless (or Unfaithful) He will be Faithful. And then He tells us why He would be Faithful when we are Faithless:

Because the Passage says - "He cannot deny Himself."

So what does that mean? It means Faithfulness is GOD.

It means anyday, under any circumstance, nothing can ever make God Unfaithful; because if He becomes Unfaithful, He has denied that He is God.

Faithfulness therefore, is the essential Nature of God.

And the Passage clearly states that our Faithlessness does not undermine God's Faithfulness - He is always Faithful at all times.

There is nothing we can do will make God Unfaithful - We can't Provoke Him to be Unfaithful, we cannot annoy Him to be Unfaithful.

There is nothing we can do that can make God to be Unfaithful; because if He becomes Unfaithful He is no longer God. He cannot deny Himself!

And it is a very Strong Statement and assertion there - GOD CANNOT DENY HIMSELF. He cannot make Himself Who He is not.

In other words, God has ring fenced His Nature against any Change that would make Him Unfaithful.

... It is impossible for God to be Unfaithful.

This Unchangeableness of God; the Faithfulness of God which is guaranteed will always be there - It is the basis, the Foundation, on which we build our Faith.

Our Faith is based on the Faithlessness of God.

I want you to just think of this, I will give you an illustration - There is a big River and there two (2) Bridges constructed across the River.

One of the Bridges is Solid, Steel, Concrete Bridge. It's Plain, it's not decorated but it's Solid, it's Steel, it's Concrete and it's being constructed across the River.- From one end to the other, firmed!

The other Bridge is Beautiful, it's nice - looks nice. Nicely decorated, attractive with lights on it but it's built with wax.

So, one is Solid (no decorations) the other waxed, flimsy but nice and has a Screen around it.

And there are two (2) People who must cross this Bridge.

One of them is an Ordinary looking guy. He is weak, he is not attractive, He is not muscular.

The other guy is very attractive, Athletic, he is Strong, well muscled.

And they have to cross the Bridge - One Bridge.

So the weak guy goes to the Concrete Steel Bridge.

The Strong guy is so confident in himself, he says: "I can use any Bridge to cross."

So, he goes for the nice Shining waxed Bridge.

And the two of them are going to use this Bridge to cross!

One is a weak Person - The Bridge is Strong! The Other is Strong - The Bridge is weak.

Which of these two would land safely on the other side?

.... The one who chose the Strong Bridge! - Because crossing of the River has more to do with the Strength of the Bridge than the Strength of the Crosser.

So, that is how the Faithfulness of God is - The Faithfulness of God is like the Concrete Bridge. Even when you are weak, you are not brave, you are not courageous. And you step on that Bridge; the Bridge has Faithfulness.

When you get on the Bridge, you may be crying for your Mama, crying for your Papa.

But if you stay on that Bridge - You may cry, you may go forward a little, come back a little, roll on the Bridge, decide you won't go further again.

But sooner or later, one step at a time, little by little, you will get across the Bridge! And that Bridge will be Faithful to take you to the other side.

The other Bridge is nice, you may have all the capacity. But by the time you take your first step on that Bridge; your whole Strength cannot help you - You will go down.

That's what the Passage mean - "If we are Faithless: We are not courageous, we are not bold, we are not brave, we don't know too many Scriptures.

God is there, He is Faithful.

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One day, your Faith will match God's Faithfulness. But His Faithfulness will support you, even when you are weak.

That is why we don't have Faith in ourselves - Our Faith is in the Faithfulness of God Almighty.

Anyone who operates in Christian Faith is not based on "Self Believe". God's Faithfulness is the Foundations of our Faith. It is that on which our Faith Stands.

Now I know that we have a lot of appreciation for People who are brave, courageous, People who can do things and we praise them for their courage.

It's good to be courageous. But God's Faithfulness does not necessarily require you to be brave.

Because sometimes People think bravely is Faith. Or courage is Faith. Or boldness is Faith. Or High Strong is Faith.

... That's not Faith!

Faith is not based on, it's not your Character - Faith is God's Character.

So when a Person says: "I have Faith in God"; it doesn't mean that they are Courageous. It simply means they believe so much in the Faithfulness of God:

That even when they don't have what it takes, they believe God has what it takes. And they can walk on His Faithfulness and trust in His Faithfulness.

Our Faith has its Foundation in God's Faithfulness - Not in yourself, not in your Ability, not in how long you Pray.

You know many times we boast - "You know I have Prayed for twelve (12) hours, I have Fasted for forty (40) days."

It's Good to do all of that! But it is what your Faith is in, you are like the well muscle Person walking in wax. But when we are weak, He is Strong.

... Faith is in God's Faithfulness. That is the Foundation.

Not only is God's Faithfulness the Foundation of our Faith; it is the: ASSURANCE OF OUR FAITH.

That Person who goes on Strong Bridge - Who is not Strong, who is not Courageous, who is afraid; they stay on the Bridge a little, stamp their feet on it a little. And Pretty soon, they begin to believe - "This Bridge can carry us!"

Maybe they Probably have fear of height. But Pretty soon they have so much Confidence in the Bridge, that they start taking steps!

God's Faithfulness gives us "Time Assurance"!

It's not for nothing that most of the People God used in the Bible were People who had Self-doubt.

... You can have all the Self-doubt but never have God doubts.

Abraham said: 'I have Nothing'.

Moses said: 'I cannot Speak.'

Gideon said: 'I am the least of my father's house.'

Jeremiah said 'I am a Child.'

Amos said: 'I am just a Shepherd.'

Peter said: 'I am not worthy.'

Paul said: 'I am the Chief of sinners.'

But each one of them was used tremendously by God because it's not about who you are or what you have. It is about Who He is and What He has - God's Faithfulness us our Assurance.

So even when I don't have it! You know, there are certain times you just feel as if it's not working. And if God depended on your Faith alone, it won't be resolved. Because you are messing up the case but He remains Faithful.

You are weak, He is Strong.

You don't think you can do it, He can do it.

You don't think you have the Ability, He has the Ability.

You say Lord, I'm giving up! He doesn't give up.

So we give up, He doesn't give up. We are down, He doesn't go down. When we are Faithless, He remains Faithful. It's the Assurance! And God's Faithfulness is what sustains us in Life.

And that is why anyone who operates in Faith must have Faith in God's Faithfulness.

Not your Faithfulness because all of us Change over time but God is Faithful.

Hebrews 11:11 says: By Faith Sarah herself also received Strength to conceive Seed, and she bore a Child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had Promised.

Everybody say: BY FAITH!

"... She (Sarah) judged God to be Faithful."

What does it mean that - "She judged God to be Faithful?"

It means she weighed the evidence and arrived at the firm Conclusion that GOD IS FAITHFUL.

You remembered when she was told she was going to have a Child next year by this time, she started laughing.

But the Passage says: "She judged God to be Faithful."

So beyond the Laughter - The Laughter meant: "Me next year by this time have a Child?"

That's what we are doing when we doubt God - "Me, is it Possible that I can make it?" And you laugh. That is you!

But she (Sarah) went back and calculated God; she weighed the Evidence of God. And came to the firm conclusion - "if God Promises, then my Laughter is insignificant" because He is Faithful.

And Sarah said: I judge God to be Faithful; I count God to be Faithful; I have calculated that God is Faithful.

When you calculate that God is Faithful; then Age cannot fight you; your circumstance cannot fight you; your Physical condition cannot fight you. Because it has nothing to do with you any longer; it is the Path you are working on!

... And Sarah judged God to be Faithful.

We need to arrive at that Point in our lives!

Very early in my Christian Walk, I judged God to be Faithful. I judged Him to be Faithful.

It has been one of the Foundations of everything that I do in Life - That God is Faithful.

Because left to me, Mensa Otabil (The Discovery Media Crew Members), I don't have what it takes!

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Oh you may think I do because I have been walking on this Bridge for a very long time. And you can look at me and say: "Oh, look at the way he walks on the Bridge, he must know how to walk."

No! I don't know! But I judge this God to be Faithful. I judged Him! From when I was a Teenager, when I lost my Parents - That was my only Foundation: God is Faithful.

Because I came to this form conclusion - If I am ever going to make it in Life or amount to anything: We don't have a father, we don't have a mother, we don't have anything. I don't have anything else, except one thing - The Faithfulness of God!

And on this Faithfulness, I entrust my Destiny. And I believed God that He will carry my through. And I started walking with Him as a Teenager.

If He says don't, I don't! - Don't be a fool, I won't be a fool. Don't chase girls, I won't chase girls. (Laughter)!

Because if this is the only Bridge you have - The Bridge says don't chase girls, I won't chase girls; be honest, I will be honest; love your enemy, I will love my enemy. Because if I fail the test, there is no Plan B. There is no margin of error.

Some of you have Plan B in your Life - If God doesn't make it happen, my Uncle will make it! But you have to come to the Point where you judge God to be Faithful.

And when you come to that Point of resolution, nothing will undermine you any longer - Amen.

People may do things against you - Powerful People would rise against you; You may go through all things (including hell). But you will judge Him to be Faithful.

And on the basis of God's Faithfulness, you secure yourself. And once you are in that Place, there's no Place to can't go;

There's nothing you can't do. No mountain you cannot climb, no River you cannot cross. No impossibility you cannot deal with. No Challenge you cannot overcome. No enemy you cannot win over.

And those who count God Faithful, they speak differently; they see things as God see them.

I am reminded of David - As a Young Man, he counted God Faithful. He went to a Battlefield, saw a Giant defiling the Armies of Israel. And he says: "This can't happen on my watch, God is Faithful."

And he began to see the Problem differently.

I. Everybody is running away from the Problem, he runs to the Problem.

II. Everybody was quiet, he spoke!

He said to Goliath: "I come to you in the Name of the Lord."

He didn't say I come to you in the name of the Prophet Samuel. Or I come to you in the name of my father Jesse. Or I come to you in the name of King Saul.

... Because some of you are coming in your own name, in your father's name, in your Pastor's name, in your Church's name!

But when you have Faith in the Faithful God, His Name is the Only One you have!

The Name of the Lord is a Strong Tower; The Righteous run to it and are safe - Proverbs 18:10

There are times that we run, but we don't run to man - we run to GOD. And in Him there is Safety.

Sometimes your heart will beat - You are Faithless but God is Faithful.

And there are some of you here or reading now on the Label of DMC, whose Faith are weak. But God is Faithful.

You don't even think you have what it takes but God is Faithful.

You haven't Prayed enough about the Problem, but God is Faithful.

You don't know enough Scriptures to overcome but God is Faithful.

Mountains are moving this Morning, because God is Faithful.

Sicknesses are being healed this Morning, because God is Faithful.

Cases are being overturned this Morning, because God is Faithful.

What was taken away is coming back because God is Faithful.

Those who rose up against you are coming down, because God is Faithful.

He is a Faithful God!

Somebody say: GOD IS FAITHFUL.

Oh begin to say it all by yourself - For my children, grandchildren, wife/husband; for my academics and Business (DMC MEDIA TEAM); for my Promotion- GOD IS FAITHFUL.

God is Faithful, He cannot deny Himself, He cannot ungod Himself. He cannot be Who He is not. And this Morning or as you read on the Label of DMC, the Faithful God is the One Who speaks to you.

Faithful is He Who has Promised, Who also able to do it; Faithful is He Who said, I Am your Healer. He also will do it!

Faithful is He Who said, in Blessing I will bless you. He also will do it.

Faithful is He Who said, they will come against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. Who also will do it.

I don't know what it is; but cast yourself on the Faithful God.

If you cannot walk, just lie on the Bridge; if you cannot run, just stay on the Lord. Just trust in the Lord because He is a Faithful God.

Somebody say: GOD IS FAITHFUL!

Lift up your hands everybody: just begin to tell to God - There is a release in this Place. The Faithful God is keeping His Promise. The Faithful God, the Promise Keeper is keeping His Promise.

He is the Faithful God, He cannot deny Himself. You will not be the first time God deny Himself. Your case will not be the first time that God deny Himself.

He has been the Ancient of Days, the Faithful God! You will not be the first time that God is not God.

In the Name OF Jesus: every mouth will shut up; dry bond will live again; the sea will open - Amen!

CLOSING PRAYER

So Father, we have judged You to be Faithful. That is our own conclusion.

After all our Assessment, we come to this form Conclusion: That You are Faithful. That You will not deny Yourself, even when we are Faithless.

Because You cannot ungod Yourself and You cannot Unfaithful Yourself.

So this Morning, You Who had Promised Your People; You Who is the Promise Keeper, be God in the lives of Your People.

Let there be Outbreaks of Miracles, Signs and Wonders;

Outbreaks of Testimonies in the lives of Your People.

They have trusted in You and You will never fail. And You will never deny Yourself.

We Thank You Father! In Jesus' Name - Amen.

Somebody give Praise to the Lord God Jehovah!!

Give Praise to the Faithful God!!

Oh shout to the Lord with the voice of Triumph!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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APRIL 10TH - HOSANNA



DATE: 10TH APRIL, 2022
TEXT: MATTHEW 21:8-9

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Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

My Message today is Titled HOSANNA.

Everybody say Hossana - HOSANNA!

That was the shouts of the Multitudes; when Jesus appeared on His way to Jerusalem they shouted - Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!'

The Text is Matthew 21:8-9 (NKJV).

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!"

It's a very familiar Statement - We have Proclaimed it many times, especially when we were children.

Palm Sunday was a very beloved time of Celebration because we waved our Palm Branches and ran around, walked around, go through the neighbourhood and just sing - HOSANNA, HOSANNA!

... We are familiar with that declaration.

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And the Multitudes who followed Jesus on this Last Week of His Earthly Ministry were shouting these words:

‘Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the Highest!”

The Question is: Where did the Multitudes get these words from?

When they said Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’ - What were they talking about?

Where did they get the words from? Did they just make up the words? Or were the words found somewhere else?

So today we are going to look at where they Picked those words from.

And the words that they declared were from the Old Testament - From the Psalms; Particularly Psalms 118.

Psalms 118 is a Thanksgiving Psalm. And I believe it was a Messianic Psalm - That means it spoke about the Messiah.

... And we are going to examine the Phrases they used and in the Context that it occurs in.

So let's look at Psalms 118:25-26 - And this is what it says:

Save now, I Pray, O Lord; O Lord, I Pray, send now Prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord! We have Blessed you from the House of the Lord.

This is where they came up with the Phrase that they shouted as Jesus Christ was entering Jerusalem.

So they didn't make up the words themselves; they were quoting Psalms 118:26.

But then when you look at Psalms 118, apart from the Part that says: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"; you don't see Hosanna there.

Just to give you a little background:

I. Psalms 118 was a Processional Psalm.

And when I say it was a Processional Psalm, the Jews will sing it in Procession - It's a Marching Song. And so as they are Marching to the Temple, they will be reciting the Psalm.

Part of the Psalm is sung when they are Marching to the Temple; Part of it is sung inside the Temple.

II. And the Psalm is an Antiphonal Psalm - That means it's a Call and Response Psalm.

A Call and Response Song is song where Somebody says something and then other People respond to it.

We are so familiar with this kind of song because a lot of our songs (in our Traditional setting) is a Call and Response, where the Leader sings the main tune and the People respond.

So the Psalm is Antiphonal - One Person say something and then the People respond.

I want you to have that in mind, because it has a bearing on understanding Psalms 118. It is Antiphonal - a Leader sings, and the People respond.

... That is what I want you to get as the background to Psalms 118.

Now let us Examine the Words of the Psalm in Verse 25 (Psalms 118:25). Somewhere in the middle of the Psalm (take time to read the whole of Psalms 118).

But somewhere in the Psalm you see: "Save now I Pray."

This is what the People were saying. And they said: HOSANNA as we say it in our Language now.

In Hebrews, the word 'SAVE' is Hoshiah. And 'I Pray' is NAAH.

Hoshiah-Naah - "Save us now."

So that is what they were saying in Hebrew - "Save us now, deliver us now."

I just want you to understand what they were saying - They were not just waving branches and saying Hosanna.

No! They were calling for something to happen right now: "Save us now Please!" Deliver us Please.

And they were saying that to Jesus Christ.

Now, if you were there and you heard them; and then you heard the rest of the Statement - What they joined it to; you will know exactly what they were talking about.

Because when they say: "Save us now!" They could have stopped. But then they went on to quote Psalms 118:26 "Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.

In other words, this is the One Who brings Deliverance.

So on that day, the People of the Hebrews were declaring their expectations for Salvation.

Now you have to understand that all of this is happening close to the Festival of Passover. Because the next week is Passover - Passover is going to be celebrated.

What was Passover about?

Passover celebrates the Deliverance of Israel from Egypt. And that's the Festival Jesus is going to.

The People are now saying: 'Save us now.' Basically, as God delivered us from the Egyptians, so must You also deliver us.

And they saw Jesus Christ as the One Who bring Deliverance.

Now I am going to take time to go back to Psalms 118; and this time we are not just going to look at Verse 25-26. I want us to look a little further.

So we are going to read Psalms 118:17-27. And it reads:

17. I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord.

18. The Lord has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

19. Open to me the gates of Righteousness; I will go through them, And I will praise the Lord.

20. This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter.

21. I will Praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my Salvation.

22. The Stone which the Builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

23. This was the Lord's doing; It is Marvelous in our eyes.

24. This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

25. Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now Prosperity.

26. Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

27. God is the Lord, And He has given us light; Bind the Sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

So what is all of that about? I will try and break it down.

Remember when I started, I said the Psalm (Psalms 118) is Antiphonal. How many of you remember when I said Antiphonal? - The DMC FAMILY!

... It's a word you can use once in a while.

I throw these words in just to improve Vocabulary - You can tell Somebody: "We want to have an Antiphonal Conversation (Laughter)."

So I said the Psalm is Antiphonal. And when I say Antiphonal, it means it's a Call and Response.

There is a Part of the Psalm where you see the Personal, Singular Pronoun used - I or me.

And then there is a Part of the Psalm where you hear the Plural Pronoun like - We, Our.

When it says: "I" one Person is speaking. When it says "We" the People are responding.

And I hope you get that!

Now when we read the 'I'; Somebody is supposed to be saying that.

I want you to imagine this is what Jesus is saying. Because in the Second Part, we hear the People responding to what He is saying.

... I hope you get that!

Because it is a Messianic Psalm. And He begins in Verse 17, what does He say? - "I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord."

He didn't say 'We' shall not. He said "I".

So the Person saying this, is talking about Resurrection - "I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord."

The Speaker is talking about Resurrection.

And I believe it is Pointing to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - "I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord."

I know sometimes we quote it for ourselves - "I shall not die..." And it is appropriate!

But I want you to hear it as the words of Jesus Christ calling: "I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord." That's Resurrection!

Then in Psalms 118:18 says: The Lord has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

He's talking about Suffering; but suffering that would lead to Redemption.

Because the suffering would not lead to death or final destruction.

So we see the Theme of Resurrection, we see Suffering.

Psalms 118:19 says: Open to me the gates of Righteousness; I will go through them, And I will Praise the Lord.

Willingness to go through the Process.

So if it's Jesus saying these words, He is talking about His Resurrection, He's talking about His Suffering, He's talking about His Willingness to take on the task ahead of Him.

And Psalms 118:20 says: This is the Gate of the Lord, Through which the Righteous shall enter.

He is talking about His Death.

And then Psalms 118:21 says: I will Praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my Salvation.

He is talking about Trust - That God will deliver Him from what is about to happen.

So, the One Person here is saying all of these. Remember, all of it is "I" - This is one Person speaking.

Then we go to the Second Part of it, which is the Response.

So the Response says: The Stone which the Builders rejected Has become the Chief cornerstone. (Psalms 118:22)

That means that this Person Who is making the first Statements, is going to be Exalted - "The stone that had been rejected is going to become the Chief cornerstone".

Psalms 118:23-25 says - This was the Lord's doing; It is Marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

So something is happening and the People are acclaiming it and saying that this Person will be Exalted.

The Second Response is in Psalms 118:25 - Save now, I Pray, O Lord; O Lord, I Pray, send now Prosperity.

... In Hebrew it is Hoshiah-Naah

Now if you read that word in Hebrew, it is neither Plural nor Singular. But most Translations will use the Plural.

And the ESV Version says: "Save us we Pray O Lord."

The NIV Version says: "Lord Save us."

The Amplified Version says: "Save now we beseech you."

So you find that this is still the People responding - "You are our Redeemer."

And He has said: "I will not die, I will go through the Process and I will come back!"

And the People are saying: "Yes we believe that - The Stone which the Builders rejected has become the Chief cornerstone; Save us O Lord."

And then the Third Response is in Psalms 118:26 - Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the House of the Lord.

Fourth Response is in Psalms 118:27 - God is the Lord, And He has given us Light; Bind the Sacrifice with cords to the horns of the Altar.

This one is very important!

So, the People are saying - Lord God, bind the Sacrifice to horns of the Altar.

What does that mean?

Remember, Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.

And in Jewish Practice under the Old Testament, the Sacrifice has to be attached to the horns of the Altar.

And the response say Lord, bind the Sacrifice with cords to the horns of the Altar.

Jesus is now the Sacrifice. And He will be bound to the horns of the Altar - And in doing that, He will complete the works of Salvation.

So, when the People were shouting - "Hoshiah-Naah, Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord"; the Disciples of Jesus Christ didn't understand what was happening.

... For them, Jesus Christ was having a good time!

Jesus understood what was happening. But more than that, the Jewish Scholars understood what was happening.

The High Priests; they Studied the Scriptures, they knew these People are not just singing a Song randomly; they are quoting a Messianic Verse from Psalms 118.

And they are saying: This Guy is the Son of God; this is the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord; this is the One Who will Redeem us; this is the One Who will save us; this is the One Who would be bound to the Altar and this is the Stone that we will reject but God will accept.

And they got so crazy, they said: "We have come to put a stop to that!"

But in saying: 'We have to put a stop to that' they didn't know that they were fulfilling Prophecy - They were going to reject Him!

And the Stone which was rejected by the Pilate, by Cephas, by everybody else; that Stone that was rejected became the Chief cornerstone.

And for two thousand (2,000) Years:

I. He is the Blessed One Who comes in the Name of the Lord.

II. He is the Redeemer Who saves us from sin.

III. He is the One that was bound to the Altar, whose Blood avail for us. So that in Him we may have Life and have it more Abundantly.

... Hoshiah-Naah! - Hosanna, Hosanna! Lord save us!

And when the People cried, God heard - And Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who came as the Redeemer of the Jews also became the Saviour of the entire world.

His Blood accepted in God's Altar as a Sacrifice and the Payment for your sins so that you may have Life, and have it more Abundantly.

So, when we also go about waving our Palm Branches, shouting: "Hosanna, Hosanna!; don't just think about having fun; but think about the Prophetic Significance of what you are declaring.

You are saying: "Jesus Christ is the Saviour, He is the Anointed One; the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord. And He is the One Who would be the Sacrifice that is bound to the horns of the Altar".

... And just after that, Jesus Christ went to fulfil His Ministry.

Hosanna! - The Saviour, the Redeemer is here. And He saves now! He doesn't save tomorrow!

So when you come to Him and say: "Lord, save me." He will not say - Oh, I have a few Appointments! let me come to your case week. No!

When you say: "Save me!" - He saves NOW!

You remembered the Thief on the Cross?

He said: "I know You are the Son of the Living God."

He was affirming the Prophecy: "I know You are the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord, save me!"

Jesus said: "Right now, you will be with Me in Paradise."

Because the Salvation in Christ is urgently now - God doesn't Postpone the day of Salvation.

He saves us the day, the moment, the hour we call on Jesus Christ to be our LORD and our Saviour. And in that moment He becomes our Saviour.

... I want to highlight one more thing before I close.

If you read the Statement in Psalms 118:25, it says: "Save now, I Pray."

But there is Second Part which was not sung: "Send Prosperity."

So, the One Who Saves also Prospers!

The One Who saves us now, can also Prosper us now! - He is the same Messiah. He is the One we are talking about.

So, when you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour; that is not the end of your Story, He Prospers you too - That means He makes your Life better.

Jesus Christ put it this way: "I have come that you may have Life and have it more Abundantly."
- I will make your Life better!

... Qualitatively and Quantitatively, I will make your Life better.

LORD, save us; LORD, Prosper us - So there will be Peace in our Marriages; there will be Health in our bodies; there will be Strength in our bodies; there will be Money in our Pockets; there will be Favour for the work of our hands - That we may Prosper in all that we do.

... The same Lord Who comes to Save is the same Lord Who comes to Prosper us.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord".

And in that Call and Response, we hear the words of Jesus, and we hear the Prayer of the People.

And this morning or as you read this Message now on the Label of DMC; the same thing can happen.

We have heard the Word of the Lord, we must hear the Response of the People.

... Normally we respond with Prayer.

We know He can Save, so we say Save us!

He can Prosper - Prosper us!

He can Bless - Bless us!

He can Heal - Heal us!

We must always respond to what the Lord offers us.

This Morning before I sit down; if you are here or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC and you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour; He is not in your heart.

If Jesus doesn't live inside of you, you can invite Him to come and live inside of you. He can save you now - Not tomorrow.

So we are going to Pray two (2) Prayers:

1. First we are going to Pray for those who Need Jesus Christ as Saviour from sin.
2. And Secondly, we are going to Pray for those who Need Jesus Christ to Prosper them.

... Because both are the work of the Messiah.

Let's now put down our head.

If you are here this Morning, you say: Pastor, I want Jesus Christ to come into my heart. I want to be Born Again, I want to become Brand New Person. I want my sins to be forgiven, I want to start a New Life in Christ. I want to be sure that when I die I'm going to Heaven

If that's your Prayer, and that's your desire, Jesus Christ is here to save you.

So if you are ready to surrender your Life to Jesus Christ, wherever you are right now, just lift up your Right Hand - I want my sins to be forgiven.

Or maybe you Prayed once sometimes ago to be saved, but you are not sure whether you are saved.

Because your Life has been haphazard, and sometimes you go back. And you just want to be sure that Jesus Christ has given you Salvation.

Lift up your hands to the Almighty God - You need Jesus Christ to come Into your Life. Wherever you are just lift up your hand - God bless you!

Those of you with your hands up, I want you to put your hand upon your heart as we Pray! And the whole Church will join us as we Pray.

SAY WITH ME: Heavenly Father, I come to you today as a Sinner - I cannot save myself.

I ask you Father, have Mercy on me. Wash me from my sins, give me a New Life. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Saviour.

And I Thank You for Redemption, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

God bless you!

Hosanna - "HOSHIAH-NAAH" is not just "Save us from our sin." It is to save us from everything that harasses us.

Everything that makes our Life unbearable - It could be sickness, disease, some Troubled Mind. It could be harassment, sleepless nights.

Whatever it is, you want to Call on the Lord and say: LORD, Save me and send Prosperity.

... Are you ready to do that?

Let's get up for a moment and let us Pray. And lift up your hands to God (wave your Palm Branch) and say:

Save me Lord and send Prosperity. Deliver me Oh LORD, and send Prosperity. Bless me Lord, and send Prosperity.

Send Abundance, Healing, Favour, Open Doors. Deliver me Oh LORD and send Help to me. Send Deliverance to me. Be my Helper, Deliverer and Healer.

... Now begin to talk to the Lord!

CLOSING PRAYER.

Father we Thank You for Jesus Christ Who came to give us Abundant Life.

Today we receive His Deliverance, we receive His Prosperity, we receive His Abundance, we receive His Favour in every areas of our lives

In Jesus' Name - Amen

Give the Lord PRAISE.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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APRIL 17TH - THE RESURRECTION: FACT AND FULFILMENT



DATE: 17TH APRIL, 2022

TEXT: ACTS 13:28-32

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

My Message today is titled: "THE RESURRECTION - FACT AND FULFILMENT".

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The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Foundation of the Christian Faith - His Death and His Resurrection.

And the Early Church was very Mindful of the Resurrection. We will be looking at that today.

Just to let you know - The Early Church, especially at the time the Acts of the Apostles and the times the Epistles were written; they didn't have an Annual Easter Festival.

For the Early Church, they had Easter or the Resurrection every Sunday. So every Sabbath when they met; remember the Jewish Sabbath was on Saturday.

But because Jesus rose on the first day of the week (which today we call Sunday); the Church made it a habit that every Sunday they would worship Jesus Christ. They would go to gather, they would have Fellowship together.

... And gradually, Church Service began on a Sunday - Commemorating the Resurrection.

So they were having Easter, fifty two (52) weeks in a Year! Also every week they had an Easter Service.

Of course later on, the Church, because they acknowledged that Jesus Christ died around the days of the Passover, they also include the Easter Celebrations which occurred at the time of the Passover.

So now we have both on Sunday, which commemorates the Resurrection - Every time we come on Sunday, it is Resurrection Sunday.

And then we also have the Historical one which occurred around Passover - Which is the Resurrection Sunday we call the Resurrection or Easter now.

Today we are going to look at the Resurrection; and I am going to make a case that the Resurrection is a FACT and the Resurrection is also a FULFILMENT.

Let's start with some Definitions:

WHAT IS A FACT?

When we say the Resurrection is a Fact, what do we mean?

It means something that is known and Proven to be true.

The Early Christians knew that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was real; because Christ Proved it to them.

And so for them the Resurrection was not an Allegory, it was not a Metaphor, it was a Figure of Speech - It was Actual, it was Factual and it was Real (The Resurrection was Fact).

WHAT DO I MEAN BY FULFILMENT?

By Fulfilment I mean the achievement of something that is desired or Promised.

The Early Church also saw the Resurrection as the fulfilment of Promise that God had made in the Old Testament.

And so we are going to use these two (2) Foundations for my Message today.

And our Bible Text for today is in Acts 13:28-32 - I am going to give you a background to the Bible Text before I read it.

If you know your Bible well (and I suppose you should) in Acts 13, the Apostle Paul was commended by the Christians in Antioch. He and Barnabas were sent out as Missionaries to go and Preach the Gospel.

.... So the Apostle Paul started to go and Preach the Gospel.

And the Passage we are about to read is the first recorded Message of Paul in the New Testament.

So it is important in terms of the Content of what he was Preaching.

And you have to understand that Paul the Apostle was not Present when Jesus Christ was Ministering. He was not a Disciple of Jesus Christ. We don't know whether he ever saw Him or ever heard Him.

But Paul didn't know Jesus Physically. He wasn't like Peter, James, John and the rest. Paul heard of Jesus later.

And at the time that this Account is taking Place in Acts 13, Paul had been a Christian for thirteen (13) Years! And so the things he said are quite recent in his Life. And he tells us the Message that the Early Church was Preaching.

... So this is Part of the Message and not the entire thing.

Acts 13:28-32 (NKJV)

28 And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.

29 Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

30 But God raised Him from the dead.

31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people.

32 And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers.

As I said, Paul is Preaching this thirteen (13) Years, after the Resurrection.

Paul became a Christian three (3) Years after Jesus had Resurrected. And that is when Stephen was stoned and eventually led to the Conversion of Paul.

So, three (3) Years after; Jesus had resurrected, Paul became a Christian. This is ten (10) years after his Salvation - In total, that is thirteen (13) Years!

If for example, Paul was speaking in 2022 (at this time, in this Year); the event he is talking about happened in 2009 - That is thirteen (13) Years ago.

Now if I come here and I start talking about something that happened 2009, and all of you were around in 2009; you can tell whether I am telling a liar or I am telling you the truth. Is that it so?

So this is not far away from the event!

Paul cannot come and manufacture information. He is speaking in terms of a recent History that had happened to the Church.

... If you listen to his account, he says there are Witnesses here; there are People still alive who saw all the things I am talking about.

And he talked about the Death, the Burial, the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And he talked about the Evidence that was there (The People). And he said that all that happened was in fulfilment of what God said in the Old Testament. And that is where we will Proceed from here!

There are Three (3) Main FACTS that Paul stated:

1. The first one is that JESUS REALLY DIED.

It may seem like a very Simple Statement, when we say that "Jesus really died!"

You know, many times we say things without thinking through what we are saying. And without even fully believing what we are saying;

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That Jesus really DIED - He didn't enter into a comma, He didn't go through a swoon.

... Jesus really died - The Guy died!

How do we know?

Well, the Gospels tells us that Jesus died - John 19:30-34.

Now why am I quoting John? It is because if you note; John and Jesus' mother (Mary) were the only one of Jesus' Disciples who were Physically Present at the Crucifixion.

Peter is not there, James is not there and the rest had ran away.

John is the only one who was there!

So John's record is very important because he is watching what is going on and listening to the conversation.

Listen to what John says (in John 19:30-34): So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His Spirit.

... That's how John describes the death of Jesus Christ - "He gave you His Spirit.

And then from Verse 33: But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the Soldiers Pierced His side with a Spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Now, the Witness of John is Multilayer - Why do I say it's Multilayer?

He didn't just say: "Jesus died or He gave up His Spirit." That is one-layer. John said: "Jesus gave up His Spirit".

But what is the other evidence that Jesus died?

You know, Crucifixion in the days of Jesus was a mainday event.

So, when you are crucified you didn't die immediately. People hang on the Cross six (6) days, or sometimes one week.

When the Soldiers who hang you come, and they have to take you down from the Cross, they have to ensure that you will not run away.

So, the next day they will come and put you back on the Cross, and you continue your Suffering.

When Jesus was on the Cross, John says He gave up His Spirit! - That's John's Testimony.

The Soldiers came and they had to determine whether these guys on the Cross have to be incapacitated - So that they will not run away, for the next day Crucifixion. And they came to Jesus Christ, they certified that He is dead.

John says: "Jesus is dead"; the Soldiers are also saying: "Jesus is dead." - Two layers!

They didn't have a Stethoscope or Pulse Reader at that time. I don't think they certify death the way we certify death - whether it's Brain dead or Clinically dead.

... So their way to the certification of death is to make sure you are dead Properly.

A soldier took a Spear and Pierced his heart!

So, if the Crucifixion didn't kill Him, His giving up His Spirit didn't kill Him, maybe the Spear will kill him - Three layers of death!

That is the Testimony of John!

And John is saying: "We know, without any shadow of doubt that Jesus really died.

How do I know?

I was there!" He said: Father, I give myself up! The Soldiers said that He was dead.

It is so important because there are People who debate the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. But according to John, Jesus died definitely, without any apology.

It is like going to find Somebody who is dead and shooting him in the head, to ensure that he is dead - That is what happened with Jesus. He was DEAD.

2. The second Fact is that JESUS WAS REALLY BURIED.

Why is that important?

Because burial is an acknowledgement of the People that you are dead.

You don't bury People when you think they will come back to live - You bury People when you are sure, this is the end of the case.

Jesus was really buried.

Matthew 27:59-60; When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his New Tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large Stone against the door of the Tomb, and departed.

Matthew 27:65-66; Pilate said to them, "You have a Guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and made the Tomb secure, sealing the Stone and setting the Guard.

Layers of Burial! - We have Layers of death. Multilayered burial.

What happened with the Burial of Jesus?

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and says: "Pilate, give me the Body of Jesus, I am His follower."

Pilate said okay, take His Body. He takes His Body down, takes Him to his Tomb, buries Him in his Tomb.

Now you have to understand - The Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea was very close to Calvary where Jesus Christ was Crucified.

It is not that the Cememtary is far from where He died.

The Tomb is just around where He is Crucified.

So conveniently, they took Him there to be buried because it was Preparation for the Feast of Passover and it was the Sabbath - So, they have to do it quickly.

Now after Jesus had been buried by Joseph, the Jewish Leaders went to Pilate and said: Sir, trouble is coming! Because this guy said (whilst He was alive) that He will rise again.

We have to ensure He doesn't rise again!

So though He is DEAD and BURIED, we can't end it there. We have to secure the burial.

Pilate said, okay go ahead and secure the Tomb.

So they went ahead and secured the burial - They put a Stone. They sealed the Stone, and they put a Guard at the Burial Ground.

... Four (4) Layers of Burial - They have to make sure the guy is buried, nothing is going to bring Him out.

And when the Bible talks about 'a Guard' it is not one Person - A Roman Guard was between twenty (20) to fifty (50) People.

... So that's a lot of People.

A Guard is like a Platoon! - Meaning twenty (20) to fifty (50) People; watching a dead man in a Tomb.

With the Tomb sealed and covered; something Strange is going on.

... Jesus truly died, Jesus was truly buried.

3. The third Fact: JESUS REALLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

He was really dead, really buried, really Resurrected.

How do we know that Jesus Resurrected?

Jesus did that in many ways:

John 20:24-29 - When Jesus Christ died, He rose again.

And the women came to report - Some of them said: "Jesus is alive!" How do we know? "The Grave is empty."

... Oh, the Grave is empty, and so what?

Then Peter and John went: "Jesus is not in the Grave! But they didn't see Jesus."

Then Mary came and said: "I saw Him, He looked like a Gardener."

... Oh you know women; you can't trust them!

Because you have to understand that Resurrection was not easy to believe. Just like you and I, it is not easy to accept that somebody resurrected.

I mean, all of us took Somebody to the Cemetery, put him six feet down, covered it, put a Tomb Stone on it. And then Somebody came and said: "The guy is walking there!"

These People were reasonable People like you and I - They weren't about to just believe that Jesus is alive.

Jesus being alive was the most difficult thing for them to believe.

That's why the Bible says that consistently they all denied it - John denied it, Peter denied it, everybody denied it.

Then that evening, whilst they were debating the denial - Because by this time it's Sunday evening.

Resurrection Morning the women had come. Some said they saw Him; others said they didn't see Him. Peter went to the Grave and there was Nobody there.

And then two (2) men from Emmaus, they were walking in the Night; they came and said: Guess what happened? - Jesus Christ was walking with us to our Village and He talked to us. And we are back to tell you, He is alive!

Whilst they are debating: 'Can it be true?' Then Jesus Christ appeared in the middle of them.

They said ooooh, this thing is getting serious - This is Him, this is Jesus. Their senses are shocked!

But there is one Disciple of Jesus (like you and I) who was not there - His name is Thomas. He was told "Thomas, Jesus appeared!"

And Thomas responded the way you and I would responded: Are you guys crazy?

Yes, we believed Him, we saw Him as the Miracle Worker but are you crazy? Please, don't take this thing too far. Don't disgrace yourselves.

So listen to Thomas' Statement in John 20:25 - The other Disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His Hands the Print of the nails, and put my finger into the Print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE."

... I like this guy. He's a bit like me. I would not believe.

Thomas said - "I don't believe!

So the next Sunday, the same condition. They are shut in, Jesus appeared - John 20:27-29:

And Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My Hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas was the first Person to call Jesus Christ "GOD".

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed".

The Scripture doesn't tell us whether Thomas really put his finger in there, but he saw Jesus and his Mind was blown in Pieces - The way your Mind would be blown in Pieces if you saw something like that.

He said: "My Lord and my God!" - What is this? What am I seeing? How is it Possible? And Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Why did Jesus say that?

Thomas was able to believe that Jesus was dead but he couldn't believe that Jesus Christ was alive.

The first question you need to ask him is: "Mr. Thomas, how did you know Jesus was dead?"

He (Thomas) was not at Calvary - He didn't go there! Only John and Mary were there. So he was not at the burial.

Joseph of Arimathea, and Probably Mary and others, and some of the women were there.

Thomas was not there! - How did he know Jesus Christ was dead?

He knew that Jesus Christ was dead, because he was told that Jesus was dead!

People came and said, listen, we were there, they put nails in His Hands - That is how he knew that they put nails in His Hands.

And they said "listen! One Soldier Pierced His side." - That was how Thomas knew that Somebody had Pierced the side of Jesus with a Spear.

He wasn't there, he didn't see it but he believed it because he believed those who gave the Testimony that Jesus Christ had been Crucified, Jesus had been Pierced with a Spear.

So, the Question is: If you believed the death because some People told you. Why did you find it difficult to believe the Resurrection when the same People told you?

Because Thomas had "Selective Believe" - He is like many People, they want to choose what they believe.

Well, in the first Place - How do you know Jesus died?

It is in the Bible!

Well if you believed the Bible says Jesus died, why can't you believe it when the same Bible says He is alive?

You can't choose what you want to believe and which truth you will not believe. If you would believe the Witnesses of those who said He is dead; you must believe the Witnesses of those who say He is alive!

... That's just the simple logic.

And that is the Problem Jesus had with Thomas - You believed them when they said I'm dead; but you didn't believe it when they said I'm alive.

And Part of the reason Jesus Christ told Thomas that was because Thomas is like us - We are People who would not believe Jesus without seeing the Prints in His Hands and the scar in His Side.

That's why Jesus said to him - "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

So Jesus is saying to Thomas - There are many People coming after you. They would not be here to see me and I have to show you better way of believing does not look for Physical Evidence, but to trust the Witnesses who declared the fact to you.

... That is the better way!

It is said that this same Thomas (according to Church History) believed after Jesus Christ, went far away to India to Preach the Gospel. He Preached the Gospel and died. He was Martyred for his believe.

And he never Changed his opinion that Jesus Christ was alive.

Why? - Because the Evidence he saw that evening, in that room, was Complete and Solid, without any shadow of doubt.

You know there are People who say they don't believe anything - As if they are Superior People.

How many of you believe there was a guy called Nelson Mandela? How many of you believe Mandela is dead? Did you ever meet Mandela? Did you shake his hands? Did you see his dead body? How do you know he is dead?

Somebody told you!

And the Person who told you was sitting in a Studio - He didn't see Mandela dead. He didn't touch his body. But he just said this is Breaking News: "Nelson Mandela the Apartheid Icon has Passed away!" - In a Studio in Atlanta (USA).

Then you in Africa believed Mandela is dead.

How do you know? - It is because Somebody told you!

How do you know there is war going on in Ukraine? Have you been to Ukraine? Have you been to Russia? Do you know Vladimir Putin; the man unleashing war to Ukraine? Have you shaken his hand before? - And you are on Facebook insulting him!

How do you know? - Somebody in a Studio told you!

And the Person didn't stake his life to it. He just read it on a Teleprompter, and you believed it.

DMC NOTE: A TELEPROMPTER is a device Placed near or on a Television Camera that displays 'Scrolling Text', allowing a Person to read a Script while appearing to speak Spontaneously to the Camera.

The People who wrote the Holy Bible, they didn't read it from a Teleprompter.

They died for what they believed in - They were beheaded; they were burnt alive; they were cut into Pieces; their children were Murdered in front of them; Women had children plucked out of their stomachs.

And none of them Changed the Story! - "We saw it, we know it, He died, He rose again. He is truly who He says He is!"

I don't know about you:

I. Between the Man in the Studio telling me about the war I have never seen; and telling me about the People I have never seen. And then Someone who tells me about Someone Who shed His Blood so that I might be saved - If you ask me who I will believe; I will believe these guys!

II. Between the ones who tells me that there are Galaxies somewhere, ten Million Lights years away!

Have you been there? Have you travelled one Light Year ever before? Do you know what a Light Year looks like? - And we believe them!

And the man who says, I saw it and even if: You cut my head, I will not Change my Story; you kill my wife, I won't Change my Story; you kill my children, I won't Change my Story; you boil

me in oil, I won't Change my Story; you take out my intestines, I won't Change my Story; you skin me alive, I will still not Change my Story;

Because it was such a "Compelling Force" when He showed up to me.

Not only that; even the Second Generation believes so much in the First Generation - And they believed without seeing.

And throughout the History of Christianity, the reason we believe that Jesus Christ is alive, is because those Witnesses were "Credible Witnesses" - They died for their Witness.

And I believe their Witness - That Jesus Christ died, Jesus was buried and Jesus rose again - Hallelujah!

... That is the fact! Now let's go to the Fulfilment.

THE FULFILMENT

Luke 24:44-48; Jesus was speaking to the two (2) Men at Emmaus - But I will only look at Verse 46:

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day."

Jesus is saying "it was written, it had to happen." Promise had to be fulfilled. God had to do what He said He would do.

And what is the Fulfilment?

1. The Fulfilment is that Jesus Christ is truly the "Promised Messiah" of the Scriptures.

What Isaiah spoke about, what the Psalmist spoke about, what all the other Prophets spoke about is true - Jesus is truly the "Promised Messiah".

2. Secondly, the Resurrection also shows that Jesus is Who He says He was.

Jesus said: "I Am the Good Shepherd: I laid down my Life for the Sheep."

Jesus Christ Predicted His Death and Resurrection to the thief.

You see, one of the things I like about the Bible is the Gospel Writers - They didn't Change the Story.

Because normally, as Human Beings - And when Jesus Christ was resurrected; you didn't believe it.

And now you are writing the Story, you would say - "Others didn't believe, but as for me, I believe!"

But none of the Gospel Writers said that.

They actually said that Peter denied Him; they told us of those who ran away; they told us how difficult it was to believe it.

They were "Honest People" reporting an "Honest Information" that Jesus Christ was Who He says He is.

And when Jesus spoke about His Death and Resurrection, He Predicted with accuracy - He said: "I will be betrayed by one of you; I will be giving over to the Chief Priest, who will give me over to the Gentiles. I will be condemned. I will be Crucified on the Cross. I will die. I will Rise again.

Do you know any Human Being who has been able to Predict his own end this way? - Nobody!

The Resurrection Proves that Jesus Christ is exactly who He said He is! - He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His Life for His Sheep.

3. And the Resurrection also shows us that Jesus Christ achieved what He set out to achieve.

He Atoned for the sin of the "First Adam", He Paid the Price for the sins of the world. And He is the "First Sacrifice" for the Redemption of the Human Race.

4. Not only is it a Fulfilment; the Resurrection is also a New Promise.

Jesus Christ was a Fulfilment of the "Old Promise". But His Resurrection is just a at a "New Promise"; which will be fulfilled.

... The first one was fulfilled; the New Promise will also be fulfilled.

WHAT IS THE NEW PROMISE?

1. The first Promise is that there is Life beyond Death.

Jesus Christ came back to tell us the Story - You know many times we say "Nobody has died and come to tell us what it is like."

He died and came back to tell us: Behold I Am He who was dead and buried, and I am alive for evermore.

You want to know what is beyond the Grave? - Talk to the Man who came out from the Grave.

Can you imagine what the world would do if Somebody was Executed by Firing Squad - Bullets trained into the guy, Doctors certify his death. Three (3) days later he is walking the Streets of Accra (Ghana)?

Everybody would go and talk to him - So, where are you coming from? What is Life like there?" And whatever he says, everybody would believe.

If he says - "From now onwards, you have to walk on your head, we will believe because he has gone and come back.

Jesus Christ is the only One Who has gone and come.

You better believe what He says because the other People who are contending with Him, they went but they never came back!

... But He went and He came back by His "Will Power".

He came back and told us that there is life beyond this!

2. The Second Promise He gives to us is that Life beyond death is Real.

Look at the Resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus didn't forget any information before Resurrection - He knew Thomas and He called his name. He knew Peter, John, Mary. He remembered People's names and He remembered the name of Towns.

That means that in the Resurrection; we don't forget Information.

And that is the Promise God is giving to you - You will know your Parents when you meet them; you will know your Siblings when you meet them.

So when we say: "God be with you till we meet again"; we are not talking rubbish! Because Jesus showed us, in the Resurrection we have Memory, Remembrance, Knowledge, Personality, Individuality - That was His Resurrection

Other Religions Preach a Resurrection that is different from this - Some say: "When you die, you become Part of Nature; you become Part of the Universe. You are like a drop of water in a Big Ocean.

It's like what you see in the Lion Ring: The circle of Life - The Antelope eats the grass; the Elephant eats the Antelope. And then the Lion dies and becomes grass, and then the Antelope eats it.

That is absolute rubbish and nonsense - No matter where that theology came from.

Jesus Christ did not become grass - Our bodies may become, but the real man lives on! And is a conscious recognizing individual. And at Resurrection we get a New Body like Jesus Christ and you remembered your Acquaintances.

You live a Real Life!

That is Christianity! In Christianity, we don't become one with the Universe.

Have you noticed these days - People don't want to call God 'GOD.' They want to call Him 'The Universe'.

You hear them say - "The Universe will bless you!"

What sort of thing is that!

Do People think when they say these things? - What universe!

Because my Bible tells me the Universe didn't cause itself - In the beginning God caused the Universe.

If you don't want to believe the cause , why do you believe His Creation?

But in the Creation, we have our Personalities, we have Life. We don't just become air. Jesus Christ is not an Invincible Man!

This Jesus, when He rose up, He came in the midst of them - His Disciples saw Him. Thomas Probably touched Him. Mary touched Him, the Disciples touched Him because He had a Glorified Body.

And that is the Promise He gives to you! - That is the Christian Hope; that is the Hope of Resurrection.

And Jesus Christ says: If you believe in Him He will give you that Life.

This morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC, this same Jesus Christ is here to save you. And He is here to give you His Life, to turn your Life around, to Change your Life, to make you a Brand New Person.

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If you would believe Him, He says: "Where I am, there you will be also."

So, if you don't know Him as your Lord and Saviour, you better know Him.

You say: "Pastor, I'm not even sure what I believe."

You better believe Jesus Christ when He says it. You better believe the Witnesses when they gave their Life for it.

If you are here and you want this Life that Jesus Christ gives Free - He gives it to us Free.

And I want everybody to bow his or her head.

ALTAR CALL

He says in Revelation 3:20, Behold, I Stand at the Door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

He is knocking at the Door of your heart - He can't force Himself in. If you open the Door, He will come in.

If you are ready to open the Door or your heart for Jesus Christ to come in, lift up your Right Hand wherever you are.

If you are lifting up your hands, Please Stand up wherever you are.

God bless you!

Let's Pray this Prayer together.

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

I ask You Father - Save me, have Mercy on me and deliver me.

I believed Jesus Christ died for me; I believed He rose again from the dead because of me. And I receive Him today as my Lord and my Saviour.

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

God bless you so much!

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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Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

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MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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APRIL 24TH - GOD IS GOOD



DATE: 24TH APRIL, 2022

TEXT: Psalms 106:1

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

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So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today I am Preaching on "GOD IS GOOD".

It is a Statement that we make very often - We say 'God is Good!' and we respond - 'All the time! All the time; God is Good!'

And some times, you know we say these things as a Slogan - We don't say them with meaning.

And today I am going to take us through what it means:

When we say: 'God is Good' in which way is He Good?

And how do we display His Goodness effectively?

Somebody say: GOD IS GOOD!

Do you really believe God is Good?

How many times? - ALL THE TIME!

Is He Good today, Good yesterday, would be Good tomorrow? - He is Good all the time!

GOD IS GOOD!

Psalms 106:1 (NKJV). And it says:

Praise the Lord!

Oh, give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good! For His Mercy endures forever.

Throughout the Old Testament that Phrase reoccurs over and over - "The Lord is Good! And His Mercy endures for ever."

It was the National Declaration of Israel. It was their Number one Praise and Worship Song. When they went to battle, they will be singing: "He is Good and His Mercy endures forever."

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In the Temple they will sing: "The Lord's Good and His Mercy endures forever."

It was a Part of their Declaration because it underlines a very important aspect of Who God is.

We can know God, we can know His Power; we can know God is Great; we can know God is the Creator.

But if Somebody is a creator, and he is very Powerful and he is not Good - It is not Good to have a very Powerful Person who is not Good.

So in addition to all that we know about God and His Power and His Greatness and His Magnificence; what makes everything Valuable is His Goodness.

Because when He takes his Goodness out, His Power would be dangerous against us! His Goodness makes everything come together.

... The Lord is Good, and His Mercy endures forever.

IN WHAT WAY IS GOD GOOD?

1. First, God is Good in Himself.

... God is Good in Himself - In His Nature, in His Character.

God does not derive His Goodness from us, neither does He derive it from His other Creation. God is Good by Himself - With Himself.

So His Goodness is from Himself. And it manifests in so many ways; and I will talk about three (3) of them.

I. God is Pure, He has no Moral Weakness.

When Powerful People have a Moral Weakness, their Power works to our disadvantage.

If somebody is very Powerful but have no Goodness in them; their Power works to our disadvantage.

If they have Moral Weakness, then they will use their Power to execute their Moral Weaknesses.

If somebody is very Powerful Naturally - If he is a man; he is a President, he is King and he likes women. He is going to use his Power to execute that Moral Weakness.

He is going to take People's wives from them, he's going to take People's things from them.

If he is greedy; he is going to use his Power to take People's Property from them.

So, Power is Great! But if there is no Goodness in the Power, the Power becomes a Liability.

And that is why God's Goodness is so Powerful, and is Pure.

God has no Moral Weakness. There is no danger that God will abuse His Power because He has no Moral Weakness.

He is Pure, He is Good!

II. Secondly, God is Good in Himself because He is Right all the time.

... He is Right all the time - He makes no mistake!

Can you imagine Somebody who is so Powerful who is Prone to making mistakes?

You shoot a missile in the air, Powerful Weapon. Then you make a Mistake and it hits the wrong Person. That's dangerous!

But God is Good: He makes no mistake! He is Pure and He is Right.

III. And thirdly, God is Kind.

His acts are Benevolence - He does things for our Benefits.

God is not cruel - He does not take Pleasure in Misery.

God's Goodness is sometimes referred to in the Scriptures as His Tender Mercies.

God is Good, through and through - In His Person, in His Personality. And that is why we can trust His Power that it would not be used capriciously, that it would not be used wrongly, it would not be used to satisfy a Moral Weakness in God. And it would not be used to do cruel things against us, because God is Kind - God is Good!

... But not only is God Good in Himself;

2. God is Good towards us.

His Goodness is not only in Himself; but His Goodness manifests.

He acts out His Goodness - As a matter of fact He created us out of His Goodness.

We are the Products of His Goodness - Even when we are disobedient to Him, He still desires Good Things for us.

In Jeremiah 29:10-11, this is what the Lord says through the Prophet Jeremiah:

For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and Perform My Good Word towards you, and cause you to return to this Place. For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of Peace and not of evil, to give you a Future and a Hope.

Amazing! This is a Prophecy God is giving to Judah when they have acted in disobedience, they have disobeyed God for hundreds of years. He sent Prophets after Prophets to warn them - "Repent of your ways!"

And they will go after idols and they would turn against His, turn away from the Lord.

And the Lord would warn them, and He would send Prophets to warn them. And then finally God says: you know what? I'm going to allow the Babylonians to teach you something you should have learned otherwise.

So Babylon is going to take you. But afterwards I will bring you back to this same Land. And then He says something very interesting - That inspire of the fact that you are going into Captivity, I have thoughts towards you. And they are thoughts of Good and not of evil. I want to have a Great Future for you.

So although it would seems as if what is going to happen to them is bad, God says it is happening out of my Goodness.

Even when we are disobedient to God; when we fail - His Goodness never fails. When we turn away from Him, His Goodness never fails. Even when we are going through hardship, His Goodness is always Present.

So He says: "You will go, I will bring you back because I have Good Plans for you!" I am thinking Good thoughts towards you. I want things to be well with you. I want to give you a Future. But you are a very disobedient People.

... You are going to go through Hardship. But I have Good Plans towards you!

The Goodness of the Lord never fails. God always has Good thought towards you.

Some of us may be in a bad state in our lives, maybe because we did something very terrible and we are going through terrible things.

We say, "Oh maybe God doesn't like me again."

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God's Goodness never fails - Even in Babylon He loves you; in Captivity, He loves you. Even when you are fighting Him, He loves you and He is Good towards you!

God is Good towards us. He has Good Plans for us and He does Good Things for us.

You have to constantly remember - God has Good Plans for you, God has Good Plans for me and God is doing Good Things for us.

No matter where you are in your Life, remember this always - God has Good Plans for you!

Even when you have Bad Plans for yourself, God has Good Plans for you because God is Good through and through: At all times and in all situations.

Psalms 107:1-2 says: Oh, give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good! For His Mercy endures forever. Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has Redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

What are the Redeemed supposed to say?

Oh give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good! For His Mercy endures forever.

So the Bible is talking to the Redeemed.

WHO ARE THE REDEEMED?

The Redeemed are those who have been set Free from the Kingdom of Darkness and has been Born Again into the Kingdom of Light.

Sometimes we call them Believers. Other times we call them Children of God.

Sometimes we call them Purely Christians or Saints of God.

The Redeemed are those who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

I. And the Passage says the Redeemed must say something - They must say that God is Good!

... But before they say God is Good!

II. They must Believe that God is Good.

We must believe it - God is Good!

And then after you have believed it;

III. You must Declare it - That God is Good!

Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so.

Why? - The Lord is Good!

So when you are going through Pain and you are going through difficulty, the words that come out of your mouth would be - God is Good!

When you are down and you don't know what to do, you just say - God is Good!

You lost all your money right now - God is Good!

Thieves broke into your house, stole your Precious Goods - God is Good!

Let the Redeemed constantly say - God is Good!

That was Job's attitude - When he lost everything; he still said: God is Good!

I don't understand it all, but God is Good! I don't know why I have lost everything, but God is Good!

The Goodness of the Lord must never be doubted! - We must never doubt it.

And it is when we Believe God is Good and we Declare that God is Good; that we experience the Goodness!

So the Redeemed of the Lord must believe that God is Good and they must declare that God is Good!

You have to make it a Practice in your Life to constantly affirm that God is Good!

You have to! - Because, no matter what comes against you, the Redeem must say God is Good!

I. I don't have all the answers but God is Good!

II. I don't know how things are going to turn out but God is Good!

III. I don't understand what is happening right now but God is Good!

IV. It has been a tough year but God is Good!

That is our Declaration - The Redeemed of the Lord must say so and we must declare that.

And why must we Declare that?

Not only is God Good! But if you come to the New Testament - Romans 8:28 says: And we know that all things work together for Good to those who love God, to those who are the Called according to His Purpose.

... Everybody say: I KNOW! What do you know? (Laughs)! Say I KNOW.

And we know that all things work together for Good to those who love God, to those who are the Called according to His Purpose.

We know! - Not something, but "ALL THINGS".

Now think about it - All things, including the bad things; including People's jealousy and envy; including People's hatred, cruelty.

... All things!

We know that all things! He didn't say all things are Good - All things work together for Good to those who are Called according to His Purpose.

What does this tell is?

It tells us that God uses all kinds of things to work out His Good Purpose in our lives.

God is Unlimited in what He can use to make us experience His Goodness.

We have Limitations on the things we can use or influence. But God is not Limited:

He can use the affairs of men, Government, Powerful People, Little People, Elements.

He can use the Sun, Moon, Stars, Rivers, Seas, Stones, Sand.

He can use all things, working together.

God use things you don't think fit - He picks from here and picks from there and mixes it up and Produce Good.

It's like a typical African Cook who uses Stinky fish, Stinky bush meat, hot Pepper, slimy okra - each one of them in their own right undesirable to make a pot of soup. All the ingredients working together for the Good of the Cook (Laughs)!

If the African Cook makes all things work together in your fufu bowl; then what about the Creator of the Universe?

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He can use People's Stinky Attitudes, Hard Realities of Life. He can use things that really make you to feel just like Nothing and puts it all together, and what comes out of it is better than any African Cuisine.

It is better because GOD MAKES ALL THINGS (He doesn't leave anything behind) work together for your Good.

The house you were born in, your father and mother who gave birth to you, your Neighbourhood, the School you went to, that Prefect that didn't like you - God is making all things:

You experience, Bad, Negative and Painful experiences; He puts them all together. And by the time He is finished, it is working for your Good.

And that is why the Bible says - And we know that all things work together for Good to those who Love God, to those who are the Called according to His Purpose.

... God uses all things!

God's Purposes will overrule all other Schemes and devices.

God is able to work our Present Sufferings to our Good - He overrules all the Schemes of Men and Joseph understood that!

You know the Story of Joseph - He started well: Coat of many Colours, Brothers jealousy, sold him to Slavery, deceived his father that he was dead (a wild animal had killed him); went to Potiphar's house, imprisoned, forgotten!

... How can these things work together for Good?

Then he comes up - He becomes a Prime Minister. And his brothers who sold him come to Egypt looking for corn. Then they saw Joseph!

What a scare it would be when your enemy who tried to destroy you sees you in Power!

And at that time you can do them bad.

Joseph's brothers for all their lives were scared because they felt as a Natural Human Being - This guy is going to Pay us back some time.

And the reason why he is not Paying us back is because our father is still alive.

So their father died! They said oh, the Protection is gone! Now all the bad that Joseph has been incubating will come.

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So they went to Joseph and told a lie!

These brothers were liars (and they are still lying).

They said to Joseph - By the way, our father before he died gave us a last wish - That you should mistreat us (laughter)!

What kind of brothers are they! You lied and sold him into slavery, now you are lying again!

And so they said: You know our father said you shouldn't mistreat us, you should treat us well - It was his Last Wish.

Joseph understood it. And this is what he said in Genesis 50: 19-20:

Joseph said to them - "Do not be afraid, for am I in the Place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for Good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many People alive.

Are you getting it?

Joseph is saying: You had a meaning - You meant it for evil. But God also meant it for Good.

In other words, actually, what you did was God at work!

God was at work! - He was using the Jealousy and envy of the brothers to remove him from the family to another Place so that he will Prepare for their Safety and Security.

"You meant it for evil against me. But God meant it for Good - In order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many People alive."

... What People mean and what God means!

Somebody said to you - "You would see!" And God says "YOU WOULD SEE!"

But their own: "You would see" is not God's own "YOU WOULD SEE."

They mean: "You will see Bad Things" and God says: you will see my Glory, my Power, my Goodness, my Favour - Amen.

They declared it for one Purpose; but God is using it to work out another Purpose.

Listen! Never be afraid of Man's hatred. Never be afraid of Man's cruelty - Never be scared by those who hate you.

Because God is working out all things for the Good of those who are Called according to His Purpose.

And that is why the Scripture says - Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so.

Let the Redeemed of the Lord say God is Good!

That is the confession of the Redeemed.

In all circumstances, under all conditions, we declare that God is Good! For His Mercy endures forever.

They mean it for one thing, but God has another meaning for the same thing. And what was meant for evil God will use it for Good.

Always remember that your God is Good! That is why there is a Good Friday.

Because if you were there seeing Jesus whipped, torn to Pieces, nailed to the Cross, being mocked - you would say - "Oh what a Bad Day"

But what was meant to be a disgrace to the Son of God became the Foundation on which He was Glorified.

What was meant for evil God meant it for Good!

The Prayer Point is that God will turn everything that was meant for evil to your Good!

Everything that has happened to you that you think is the worse thing that has happened; this morning or as you read on the Label of DMC, it is going to turn for your Good - Amen.

I said, it is going to turn for your Good - Amen!

And we know that all things work together for Good to those who love God, to those who are the Called according to His Purpose.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Thank You this Morning for your Word; we know that all things are working together for our Good.

Things we know and things we don't know; things we understand and things we don't understand. That Your Name will be Glorified in our lives.

And we give you Praise Father!

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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!

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Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

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MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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MAY 1ST - FOUR (4) KINDS OF GIVERS.



DATE: 1ST MAY, 2022

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:2

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

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In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Last Year (2021); I started teaching on Giving and Christian Stewardship because Giving seems to be like a simple thing to do - It's just giving!

But it's far more complicated than just Give. Because our attitudes are involved and God's expectation is involved, God's blessing is involved.

So, it is not just about what you feel like doing; it has to be done right.

And if God wants us to do it, God has to be honoured at the end of our Giving.

DMC NOTES: Kindly find below the Links to the Teachings on Giving as Christian Stewardship as discussed Last Year:

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 God?"

In Part 5, we asked: "What Kind of Giver am I?"

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Christain-Stewardship-Part-5-Dr-Mensah-Otabil>

So today, I am going to talk about: FOUR (4) KINDS OF GIVERS.

And we will all determine which kind of Giver we are.

And hopefully all of us can learn, improve on our Giving and do things in an intentional and deliberate way that brings Glory to God.

There are many things we have in Life that are Precious. But I think the most Precious things that determine how our lives turn out is our Time, our Talent and our Treasure.

These three (3) things are so important - Time is so Precious, Talent is so Precious, your Treasure (your money, acquisitions) they are so Precious.

They are so Precious that none of us want to waste any of these things.

You don't want to waste your Time, your Treasure and your Talent because when you waste them, you are wasting the entirety of your Life.

And because we are Particular about our Time, our Talent and our Treasures, we sometime take Possession of them in a tough way. And don't want any of these things to go out of us.

... We don't want to give away our Time, our Talent and our Treasure.

But as Christians, we also recognise that our Talent, our Time and our Treasure belongs to God.

As important and as Precious as they are, they belong to God. And He has given them to us as Stewards.

That means it doesn't belong to us - We are Managers of it! We manage our Time, our Talent and our Treasure.

When it comes to Giving, these are the things I want you to have in mind as we talk about the **FOUR (4) KINDS OF GIVERS**.

1. The first Kind of Givers we find in Matthew 6:2.

This is Jesus speaking on the Sermon on the Mount. And He gets to Matthew Chapter 6, He starts talking about things we do right as Christians.

He says: Therefore, when you do a Charitable Deed, do not sound a Trumpet before you as the Hypocrites do in the Synagogues and in the Streets, that they may have Glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their Reward.

Jesus is talking about some People and the way they Give.

So the first kind of Givers are: **THOSE WHO GIVE TO SHOW OFF WHAT THEY HAVE.**

There are People whose Giving is motivated by showing off. And they use this Giving to make themselves feel important and Special.

And in the days of Jesus there were People like that - He called them Hypocrites.

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Normally what those People would do was, when they are going to Church, they hired Praise Singers to go ahead of them. Some would have People blowing the Trumpets to announce their Presence in the Synagogue or in the Streets.

And so these were People who really advertised their Giving.

And there are People who are like that - They are influenced by Publicity and Applause. For whatever they Give, they want Publicity for it and they want to be applauded.

For such People, they only Give when every eye is on them. When People can see they gave! They cannot give quietly - It has to be advertised.

And you know our world has entered the Social Media Age. And the Social Media Age is influenced by Self-Promotion. And that's why People Promote everything.

They buy a shirt, they Promote it on Social Media - Ha! Look at my New Shirt.

They eat some food - Oh look at the food I ate in the Restaurant! They will never tell us the miserable ones they have been eating.

Because the Social Media Life thrives on everybody blow your horn! And there is some Value in advertising yourself and letting People know what you are doing and what you have.

But when it comes to Giving to God, Self Advertising is a Liability; it's not an Asset.

So, you cannot treat Giving in the House of the Lord the same way you treat your Life on Social Media.

It's not about Publicity, it's not about Applause, it's about watching you and clapping for you and telling you well done, you have done so well.

And Jesus said something, that there are People who give to show off. Their Reward is the Praise they receive from men! So the clap is all you'll get.

And if you are on Social Media the Likes are all you'll get.

God says, I'm not involved in that! If you Give because you want Publicity, yes you'll get the Publicity. The Newspaper will Publish it, People will talk about it, but I'm out!

Because your Reward is what People give you.

So, if that is all you are looking for and by all means Give to show off; if you don't want God's Blessing, Favour and Reward, then do it Publicly and all of us will clap for you and you will get all the Reward.

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But you know, we don't Give simply because we want People to clap for us.

Because after People have clapped for us, they will go home and sleep and you have to deal with your Life.

The one you really want to clap for you is Jehovah God Almighty. He is the One Who must Reward you. He is the One Who must take notice of what you do.

So, if we are motivated by Applause and Publicity, then our Giving is going to be like those guys Jesus is talking about - He calls them Hypocrites.

I know there are no Hypocrites listening to me or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC - You are Good Christians, you love the Lord and you don't Give for show off!

There are People who show off. But if that is your Motivation - You want Applause and Publicity, you want People to take note that you have given? Then Jesus says that your Reward is from men.

And I don't think that's why we give our Time, our Treasure or our Talent.

2. The Second Kind of Givers - Luke 14:12:

Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a Supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.

Jesus has a way of saying things in Places that can really make you unnerved.

He is saying this to Somebody who has invited Him to a Party. And Jesus is saying, if you have a Party, don't just invite People who can pay you back or People who can honour what you have done for them.

... So that gives us the clue as to the Second kind of Givers;

They are: THOSE WHO GIVE WITH EXPECTATION TO BE PAID BACK.

It can be all kinds of Giving, but what they are looking for is reciprocity - They want when they give that they will receive back.

I will never forget years ago, Somebody said: Pastor, when we come to Church and we are Giving Offering; it's like we are doing Contributions. So that when we are in Need, the Church will also give us back.

A Church must be responsible to its Members and people must be responsible to appreciate what is done for them.

And when Somebody does a Good thing for you, you must be Mindful to remember the Good they have done for you. But that should not be our Motivation for Giving.

Although People must remember to respond well to People who give you something.

I mean, if Somebody helped you in a time of Need, of course, when they are in a time of Need, you help them.

But our Motivation as a Giver should never simply be because we want People to pay us back - And that's what Jesus is talking about!

And People who Give with the Expectation to be Paid back; they are influenced and controlled by influence - They want to gain influence, they want to have access to certain important Circles of Life, they want People to owe them.

Sometimes People Give in certain Quarters because they want to enter those Quarters - They want Somebody's Friendship. They want Somebody to invite them to a Party Next Year, they want Somebody to put them on their Phone Contacts.

... But that's not why we Give! - That's what Jesus is saying.

Because the essence of Giving is not to get People to Give you back. The essence of Giving is to do Good - That's it!

Do Good for what? - To be Good!

So after I have done Good, what again? - You have done Good!

That is what Giving is all about - It's about doing something because it is Good to do it.

Giving to God because it is Good to Give to the Lord.

Helping Somebody in Need because it is Good to help Somebody in Need.

... That's all! - That's the Biggest Motivation.

And Jesus says if we are Giving in Church because we want to be Paid back; so when the Church announces who are really "Good" Givers, your name would be mentioned.

Yes it is important for the Church to recognise who gives; but our Giving should not be so that we will be recognised as Givers - I hope you get it?

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Each one of us has a responsibility - Somebody does Good for me, I have to do Good for them. But their other Motivation should not be because they want me to do Good for them.

Their Motivation must be - I want to do Good! My Motivation also should be - I want to do Good!

All of us must do Good. But we don't do Good in Expectation of Reward - That's Bible!

You know many times I wished the Bible is not a Bible. I wish I can go to the Bible and just delete what is not convenient.

Sometimes you who is Preaching the Word know 'this thing is heating you.' But we have no option but to say what the Word says. And the Word says - if you are doing Good with the Expectation to be Paid back, that's not the best way.

And for such People Jesus says their Reward is what People give back to them. That's their Reward - What People gives back to you.

God says, that's what you will get, I am not in there! But People will do you Good; People will be nice to you, they will invite you to their Parties. They would talk well of you. But that's all you'll get.

But I don't think that is the reason why we Give an Offering in Church - So that People will speak well of us! I think we Give because we love God; and the reward we are looking for is not People speaking well of us. The Reward we are looking for is not People clapping for us. We want something more than that!

... So the Second kind of Giver is the one who gives with the Expectation to be Paid back.

3. The third kind - Luke 18:11-12;

The Pharisee stood and Prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other Men—Extortioners, Unjust, Adulterers, or even as this Tax Collector. I fast twice a week; I give Tithes of all that I Possess.'

... I like that! He is Praying with himself.

So this whole Prayer of the Pharisees doesn't even focus on God. You know People do that kind of Prayer these days - They are Praying with themselves. Because they go and learn big, big words. You are Praying with yourself my friend!

Oh you have learned some nice ways to Pray for People to know that you know how to Pray. You are Praying with yourself!

That's what this Pharisee is doing - He is Praying with himself, he is not Praying to God.

He is Praying with himself - He is the Initiator and the listener to his Prayer (laughs).

Oh Lord save us!

There are many times we Pray with ourselves. Whilst you are Praying you are listening to your own Prayer and you are Proud.

Have you been to that Place where you are Praying, you are listening to your own Prayer and you say - "I can Pray oooo!"

Especially when People are Praying in their Local Language and they go to the portmanteau down and pick up some Powerful words; deep, deep words! And you listen and say: This words still exist? And the Prayer is laced with proverbs.

... And when they finish, they themselves know 'I have Prayed!'

You were just Praying with yourself! - You were the listener to your own Prayer. The hearer of your own Prayer - Not God.

So that's what this Pharisee is doing! And I believe none of you here or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC is!

... Go and tell those People that they shouldn't do that.

... But peradventure if they are here, I hope that you will learn.

Can you imagine! You are in a Prayer Meeting, you are saying: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—Extortioners, Unjust, Adulterers, or even as this Tax Collector. I fast twice a week; I give Tithes of all that I Possess.'

... That's his Prayer!

The third kind of Givers are: THOSE WHO GIVE TO FULFILL THEIR RELIGIOUS DUTY.

The Pharisee is Proud! And you can hear the sense of Superiority and Arrogance because I follow the rules - I Pray, I Tithe, I fulfill my responsibilities. God You must hear me, because I tithe.

I have Paid You, You must listen (laughs) - That's what he's saying!

And he is speaking with such audacity 'because I have Paid my the Tithes, and I have followed the Rules - You must listen. If you don't listen to me You are not God.'

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Have you Prayed any of those Prayers where 'God is God's depended on how you feel? 'God if You don't answer this Prayer, then You are not God.'

... You alone that was born just now, you want to erase God because of your Need!

If People have been erasing God from Adam, you would not come to find Him! God is not God because of you. He is God all by Himself.

People like this Pharisee are influenced by Legalism and Superiority. They do exactly as it is required because they are marking their Spiritual Points (to use it)!

And they feel that by their Giving, they have become better than other People - Their Giving is for Competitive Purpose.

So what is the Reward for such People?

Their Reward is a Settlement of Self Righteousness - That's all they get!

They feel Righteous, they feel Pompous, they feel big, they feel Superior. They walk with Superiority.

Because they have Paid God - 'God you know I have Paid you. You owe me Oh God.

God owes you? The One Who created you owes you? The One Who gives you breath owes you? Because you gave money!

Then everybody must take what they gave. Take the money and He will take His breath.

Can you imagine if God says, okay I owe you money; you also owe me Life?

So I will take the Life and afterwards I will give you the money (Laughter)!

So He takes the Life and He says, where are you? I want to give you the money!

It's good to Tithe! We do it: we give our First Fruit, we honour God, we give offerings. But it doesn't put God in our debts. And it doesn't make us "Better Christians".

In fact the Lord Himself said, after you have done all of these, you should say: "I am an Unworthy Servant. I have only done what is required of me."

... That should be our attitude.

When People think we have done so well, we just say, you know if God had not given me that opportunity I wouldn't be able to do it. If God had not given me that job I wouldn't have been able to do that.

If God had not come through for me in my Village and taken me from the Village and given me Education - So that I can get to where I am, Who am I to be able to do these things?

We do what we do because God did what He did! And He gave us the opportunity so that we can give back to Him.

We don't give because it is an Obligation; and we don't give to score Points than other Christians.

It's good to be a Tither, it's good to Give your First Fruit, it's good to give your Offering, it's good to be a Generous Christian; but don't do it by looking down on other People.

Because when you do that, you receive your Reward - Your Reward is Self Righteousness.

They will call you 'Mr. Holy, Mr. Righteous' - That's about all you'll get.

4. Final - This is one we must all seek for: John 12:3, 7-8. It is the Story of Mary.

Then Mary took a Pound of very costly oil of Spikenard, Anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

And you know that after that People complained about the extravaganza of Giving.

And in Verses 7 and 8; But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the Poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

The fourth Group of Givers are: THOSE WHO GIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THE LORD.

... This is Genuine Giving!

It is when you see your Giving as unto the Lord. It is when you don't hold back what you want to Give to the Lord.

Mary didn't hold back - She broke the Alabaster jar, and it couldn't be sealed back. Everything had to be Poured out. It was extravagant, but she did it for the Lord - Giving wholeheartedly to the Lord is where He wants us to be.

And she wasn't really impressed by whether People will like what she did or not. As a matter of fact, People criticised what she did.

Those who Give wholeheartedly to the Lord are influenced by Worship and Service - They see what they Give to the Lord as Worship!

In the Old Testament; it would be considered a Burnt Offering. It's gone! They just give it. And there is no remembrance of it. It's ashes - it's gone!

... In the sight of man it's gone! In the sight of God it is not gone.

So whether it is our Time, our Talent, or our Treasure we are Giving; it must be wholehearted.

You can't give and complain at the same time. You can't Give and cry. You can't Give and criticise - If you are going to Give to the Lord, Give to the Lord. If you are not going to Give to the Lord, don't Give to the Lord.

But if you want to do it right, then the attitude must be right.

There will always be critics of Givers.

You know these days when you hear People criticising those who Give; you hear them say: "You go to Church and you Give your money away." They forget they also give out money! Some give to all kinds of things I don't want to mention this Pulpit.

But they give their money away.

They just can't understand why People go to Church and give an Offering. And sometimes you can get a bit agitated with all the criticism.

But remember, when Mary gave her Offering; there was criticism, there was murmuring. People said, Mary what do you mean? Why do you throw this at the feet of Jesus? It could have been used for something else. It could have been given to the Poor.

Anytime People come with: "Oh, it should have been given to the Poor" you sense the Hypocrisy. Because People who really give don't complain.

People who really give to the Poor don't complain about the Poor. They just do their job. When People complain, it means they do nothing but they want to take comfort in criticism.

Those who really do stuff, they don't complain. People who are doing well don't complain about People doing well. It is those who are not doing well who complain about those doing well.

If you are Generous, you would not complain about other People who are not Generous. You will just do your stuff. But the reason why People complain is because they are doing nothing.

And the sense of guilt is what is driving all their criticism. And that is happening in Mary's case - Sense of guilt.

And apart from that the Bible says that Judas who was complaining was the one who received the money for the Poor!

And the Scripture is Particular to say that he wasn't honest with that money. So his complaint is not even for the Poor, it is for his own stomach.

Mary gave all - For Worship and for Service.

If you Give your Time to the Lord; Give it well, Give it wholeheartedly.

If you Give your Talent to the Lord; Give it wholeheartedly.

If you Give your Money, Give it wholeheartedly.

Whatever you Give to the Lord, Give it wholeheartedly - Let it be from your heart.

And what is the Reward?

Their Reward is God's Presence and God's Favour.

God says to Abraham in Genesis 15:1, I am your Shield and your Exceedingly Great Reward.

Our Reward is not things; our Reward is God.

The Lord is my Reward! And when He is your Reward; in Him is everything you are looking for.

So in our Giving; we are not looking just for things; but we are looking for:

I. The Lord to be our Reward.

II. The Lord to be our Favour.

III. His Presence in our lives.

IV. His Goodness In us.

There is nothing more blessed in Life than "I Am with you, says the Lord

I mean, what more do you want? - If God says "I Am with you" where can I not go?

If God says "I Am with you" what can I not do?

If God says "I Am with you" where can I not reach to?

All I want is God: His Presence, His Favour. And then I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.

So what are we looking for when we Give?

We are looking for God, for His Acceptance, for His Applause - Instead of Men applauding us; For God to say: "I will Pay you back."

Can you imagine if God says: "I owe you, because you gave."

You didn't say "God You owe me". He says "I owe you, I will Pay you back."

And when God Pays you back it is: "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" - Luke 6:38

... He outgives you in Large Proportions.

So today, which one is these Four (4) are you?

We all want to be No. 4 - Isn't it?

So if you are in No. 3 start moving to No. 4; if you are in No. 2 start moving to No. 4; if you are in No. 1 start moving to No. 4.

That means that in all our Giving we must be conscious that:

- This has to be wholehearted.
- This has to be to the Lord
- This has to Worship
- This has to be Service.
- God rewards us with His Presence and His Favour.

All our Giving is for God to reward us with Himself:

I. That whenever you are, He will be with you.

II. That whenever battle you are, He will fight with you.

Your enemies are His enemies; your friends are His friends.

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He said to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who curse you."

He didn't say to Abraham - "Curse People." He said, let them curse you and I will take up the task. Because I am with you. I am your Shield, I am your Exceedingly Great Reward.

May the Lord be our Reward! May He be the Satisfaction of our Soul, the Fulfilment of our heart desires - Amen.

May His Presence go with us wherever we are. May He go with us and come with us - Amen.

May He be the Man of War for us in our battle - Amen.

May the Lord be our Shield defending us against every attack of the enemy - Amen.

... We just heard and we have Prayed about it - That there is a Global Food Shortage;

But the Lord is our Provider - Amen.

The Lord is our Provider - He Provides in the desert, in famine, in Dry Season, when there is drought!

The Lord is our Reward - We hear of Bad News, but He delivers us from it!

And this morning I Pray that the Lord God Almighty would be your Reward - Amen.

For all your Giving, for all your Stewardship, for all the Talents you give in the House of the Lord. Those of you who serve in Departments: Musicians, Band, Ushers, Intercessors, everybody - just giving your Time, your Talent, your Treasure;

The Lord is your Reward! And He will reward you - Do not look to man for Reward, you will miss it.

Yes, we must reward you, yes we must honour you. But you must not demand it - God will Reward you. He is your Shield, He is your Exceedingly Great Reward.

And for every Need of yours, before you even talk about it, Pray about it, lift up Prayer about it.

May the Lord hear you, may the Lord answer you, Provide for you, deliver you, Strengthen you, heal you.

May the Lord touch your children, touch your grandchildren, touch your business.

May the Lord bless your going in and your coming out.

May he Protect you in the air, on the Ground, in the Sea, on Railways. May the Lord give you Safety.

May His Presence surround you wherever you go.

The Lord is your Shield and your Exceedingly Great Reward - ÀMEN.

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MAY 8TH - DEBORAH A MOTHER IN ZION



DATE: 8TH MAY, 2022

TEXT: JUDGES 4:4-5

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Women here and all of you reading this Message on the Label of DMC. God bless you all - Amen.

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Today I am to focus on relating Motherhood to the Church and the Life of the Church.

I am sharing today about an "Unusual Mother" in the Bible - She was the Leader of Israel at the critical time.

When you read the Old Testament you get the impression that all the Leaders of Israel were Men. However, that is not the whole Truth.

Because this woman was a Leader of the whole Nation and her name is DEBORAH. And she called herself a Mother in Israel.

So my Message today is Titled: DEBORAH A MOTHER IN ZION.

I have replaced Israel with Zion, to give her a Role and a Place in the New Testament.

DEBORAH A MOTHER IN ZION OR A MOTHER IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

Judges 4:4-5 (NKJV)

4 Now Deborah, a Prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

5 And she would sit under the Palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the Mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for Judgment.

... That is how the Bible introduces her to us.

And in those two (2) Verses, a few things are said about who this woman Deborah is - Her name is mentioned, and certain other things are mentioned about her.

I just want to run through them with us as we begin our Message.

1. The first is her Name - Her name is DEBORAH.

And the name could have been derived from several Hebrew words.

From another root it means a "Honeybee". And another root says 'To Speak'

So Deborah (depending on which root you are looking at) could mean:

I. A "Honeybee".

And if that is her name; it means a Wise Person, an Industrious Person and also a Person who can fight back.

II. And then if it is 'To Speak' it fits into her Mission which the Bible describes as a bee.

... So Deborah could mean a "Honeybee" or "To Speak".

There are Three (3) Descriptions that are given about Deborah in the Passage:

I. The first is her "Spiritual Gift" - She is a Prophetess.

She was God's Voice to the Nation. And she spoke and Prophesied to the Nation of Israel.

So she is a woman with a Spiritual Gift.

II. The Second thing you see about her is her "Domestic Role" - She was a Wife.

... The wife of Lapidoth!

So Deborah was not only a "Gifted Woman" but she was also a Person in a Relationship - A wife to a man (Lapidoth). Although not much is heard about him after that!

III. And then the third thing we see about Deborah is her "Political Office or Role" - She is a Judge.

She is the Highest Ranking Citizen of Israel at this time.

Now if you know your Bible well, this is the Period in Israel's time when they were ruled by Judges. This is before they were ruled by Kings - And Deborah is a Judge.

So if you would look at it in context, she is a King! She is the Leader of a Nation just like Judges like Gideon and Samson and others would come and be Judges.

And most of the Judges were just Warriors and Military Leaders - Only two (2) Judges were Prophets and Judges and that is Deborah and Samuel.

Samuel was the last Judge of Israel - And he was a Prophet and a Judge.

And that is about the same role that Deborah is Playing - She is a Prophetess and she is a Judge.

So she has a Spiritual Calling, a Spiritual Gift and she also holds a Political Office and she functions well in the house as a wife.

It could appear that Deborah was a woman who knew how to balance her Home Life, balance her Spiritual Gift, and balance her Professional Role as a Judge of the Nation of Israel.

And there are women like that in our world today. And I pray that she will be a Role Model to you if you are a woman.

Now Deborah occupied a very Unique Place.

At the time she came into office, Israel was in a crisis - The Canaanites have taken over Israel.

Because if you read the Book of Judges; you would know that many times the children of Israel would do something bad and then some Group or other would come to their Land and invade them.

And then they would cry to God and God would raise a Judge - The Judge would deliver them. There would be Peace for about forty (40) to seventy (70) Years; and then they go back to Apostasy - God raises a Judge.

DMC NOTES: Apostasy is the formal disaffiliation from, abandonment of, or renunciation of a Religion by a Person. It can also be defined within the broader context of embracing an opinion that is contrary to one's Previous Religious Beliefs. One who undertakes Apostasy is known as an 'Apostate'.

At this time the Nation had sinned, the Canaanites are ruling them, mistreating them - And this is when Deborah rises! So she rises in a time of crises.

I want you to consider the world that she lived in - And it's in Judges 5:6-9.

Here Deborah is singing a Song - This is after she had led Israel to defeat the Canaanites. But in singing the Song, she tells us the kind of situation she met.

So Judges 5:6-9 - In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael; the highways were deserted, and the travelers walked along the byways. Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, a mother in Israel. They chose new gods; Then there was war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. My heart is with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. Bless the Lord!

So Deborah is telling us the condition she came to meet. She didn't meet the best of conditions. She didn't come into office when the Previous Government have left a lot of money (laughs)!

Things were in a bad situation, and she comes into the Leadership of Israel.

There are Four (4) Things I want you to Pay attention to from her Poetry:

1. The first thing is that Deborah tells us that as at the time she came on the scene, there was a lot of Fear.

She says that the highways were deserted, Travelers walked on the byways. And the reason was because the Canaanites terrorised the Travellers.

So, when Deborah came into Office as a Judge, the Canaanites had siezed all the Major highways of Israel; by which they would go and trade with other Nations. The Canaanites controlled it.

So People couldn't go and Purchase Commodities. Businesses were collapsed, Nobody could go out. They had to use long routes to go out and do their Business.

And the reason was because the Canannites had taken over the Business routes of Israel and there was so much fear in the Life of the People.

So that's the first thing you would Notice - That there is fear in the Nation and the Canaanites have taken over the Trade Routes.

2. The Second thing that Deborah says about her - She said, Village Life had ceased.

That means there was despair, there was discouragement, there was no Life in the Communities - The Nation of Israel were in disarray!

There was hunger and deprivation. Even children could not Play happily in the Villages.

Village Life had ceased! The elderly had stopped sitting at the City Gate which was where they would normally sit to deliberate about matters at stake.

... So there is fear, there is despair.

3. And the third thing which is very serious - There is Idolatry.

The People chose "New gods" - The Nation is in Apostasy and Spiritual decay.

As a matter of fact, it is this Spiritual decay that brought in the Canannites.

So there is fear, there is despair, there is Idolatry - Apostasy;

4. And the fourth thing that Deborah talks about - She says that there is War in Gate.

"War in the Gate' speaks of conflicts.

Conflicts flow at home!

Now if she says there was war in the field, it would mean that the war they were fighting were afar off - They go out to fight.

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But she says that there was war at the Gate - That means that the Canannites had brought the battle home to them. And not only at the entrance of the Gate, but the Israelites themselves were at war one with another.

The Nation is in disarray, People are fighting one another, People are destroying one another; the Canaanites are fighting them and they are fighting themselves.

So, this is the world of Deborah - There is fear, there is despair, there is Idolatry, there is conflict; People are fighting themselves, fighting one another; the Canaanites are fighting themselves.

.. And she says, it is in this circumstance that God called her.

Let's look at her Response:

Deborah said: I arose, a Mother in Israel.

In this conflict and situation, in this Idol worship situation, in this fearful situation - "I arose as a Mother in Israel".

Two (2) Things there to Notice about her are - Awareness and Initiative.

Deborah was aware of herself, she was aware of the situation facing the Nation and she took the initiative "I AROSE."

She didn't sit down, she didn't add to the Problem - She was determined that: "I'm going to do something about this Problem."

... I arose, a Mother in Israel.

May God touch the Deborah's of today, who in the midst of chaos, hopelessness, despair, conflicts, fights, would arise as Mothers in the House of the Lord - Amen.

You know, in this Church we call the women who are above fifty (50) years of age: "MOTHERS OF ZION."

This is where I got the whole idea from - A Mother of Zion is a Deborah. She is a Woman who comes into a difficult situation, but doesn't sit in it but rises!

And that situation may be a situation in your home. You don't sit in it - You rise!

It may be a situation in your family, you don't sit in it - You rise!

It may be a situation in your Nation, you don't sit in it - You rise!

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Deborah said: "I arose, a Mother in Israel."

And I like that! - It is her Action.

She didn't even say: 'God raised me up'; She didn't say: 'The People of Israel raised me up'; she didn't say the People came and said: "Deborah, Mrs. Lapidoth, can you come and lead us?"

She said: "I AROSE!" - She took charge!

We are looking for Deborahs who knows how to rise; who knows how to resist the situation they find themselves in; who don't just sit and complain that everything has gone bad. But those who are able to arise!

Somebody say - I AM DEBORAH (not the men).

Being a Mother in Zion is not about Age; neither is it just about joining a Group

Because you know many times we want to join a Group - It's good to join a Group!

But Deborah didn't join a Group, she arose! - Taking Personal Responsibility. Rising up to say "I am of age, and I will do something about this Problem." - I arose, a Mother in Israel!

We don't know whether Deborah had any actual children because the Passage doesn't talk about her children. It just talks about her husband, Lapidoth. It doesn't say whether she has children or not.

It is quite instructive, because looking at the way records go in the Bible, if she had children, it will be Noted.

If she did have children, then Deborah saw herself not only as a Mother of her children, but a mother of a Nation, of a Community, of a Society.

If she didn't have children, it didn't stop her from mothering the whole Nation.

So for women who have children, you have to look beyond your children.

For women who have no children, you have to look beyond your situation.

Because to Deborah, children or no children did not stop her from becoming a Mother to the Nation - A Mother in Israel, a Mother in Zion, a Mother in the Church.

And in the Church we need a lot of Deborahs who will rise up and do something about the Calling God has given to them, and the opportunities that God has given to them.

So I am going to look at Four (4) Things that Mothers in Zion do:

And this goes to every Christian Woman who is grown both Spiritually and in age - You may not be very old, but there are Younger women (and men) who look up to you.

And this is the interesting thing about Deborah - She was leading both men and women. She was leading the Nation.

So what did Deborah do, and what can we learn from her?

1. The first thing that Mothers in Zion do is that they settle Disputes - They end Conflicts.

This is the first thing we see Deborah doing - She sat under a Palm tree and settled matters amongst the People. The people would come to her and she would settle their matters.

And why was that important?

Because Israel had a big enemy - The Canaanites.

But the bigger enemy was the People themselves - They were fighting one another.

If you cannot unite the People, they cannot win the bigger battle.

And Deborah decided "I'm going to end the disputes in Israel." - So, she started Patching People.

I have to say this for Women - That most women in most family, are the GLUE that hold the family together.

Most People would say that about their mother - "My Mother was the one who held us together. My Mother was the one who kept the family together.

However, when women move outside of the domestic situation, that ability to hold everything together seems to disappear. And instead, they become those who separate others.

Sometimes with the very, very Powerful Gift of Communication; they talk! In talking, they separate.

So must times you find, when women are together, they don't work together. There's too much disputes, too much conflicts, too much quarrels. And unfortunately, even sometimes as they grow older, it gets worse.

Where you would expect that there will be a rally Point; the Mother figure that everybody rallies around; they become the one who say: "Do you know what this one is doing? Hey, don't talk to

this one, don't do this and that." And before long, instead of doing what Deborah did (settling disputes) they are creating disputes.

But it will not be so with you! You are a Deborah - One who holds the Nation, the Church, the Community, the family together - Amen.

Sometimes Women are able to hold their children together when the children are Young. Then as the children grow older, they are not able to hold them together.

And sometimes unfortunately (sadly) they divide the children.

Or you put these women in a Group, and the Group can't work.

... That's not Deborah!

If you are a Mother in Zion - And I am not talking about Mothers in Zion of ICGC; I am talking about Mothers in Zion as a Woman who understands her Giftings, her office and her roles in life; then you must rise!

And the first thing you do as a Mother in Zion is that you learn to settle disputes and bring People together. Not separate People - Bring People together.

You have the Gift, you have the Ability, you have kept family together for Years.

All of us can testify - "But for our Mothers, our lives (our homes) won't be together."

Take that Gift, use it at the National Level; take that Gift, use it at the Church Level; take that Gift, use it at the Larger Group Level - That's what the Mother in Zion does; (They settle conflicts).

2. The Second thing that Mothers in Zion do is that they Inspire God's People.

She began her Victory song in Judges 5:2.

It says: When Leaders lead in Israel, when the People willingly offer themselves - Bless the Lord!

Deborah inspired People to willingly offer themselves.

People stopped thinking about me, myself and I and everybody says: 'Let's come together, let's work together, let's fight the Canaanites.'

How did it happen?

*Because this Woman was able to bring People together and create an atmosphere where there was Voluntary Commitment to Service and to the uses of Gifts!

A Deborah does not look at Somebody who is serving hard in the House of the Lord and say 'is that your father's Church? Is that for you alone? Why are you doing it as if it is reserved for you alone?'

No! Deborah said 'go ahead and Volunteer, work for God and give your best.'

That's what she is doing!

When Leaders lead, the People willingly offer themselves.

Deborah came in and took a fractured Nation and put it together. And now People are ready to enlist into the Army of Israel; People are ready to take up weapons and go and fight.

The Scriptures says when she came, Nobody was ready to fight. There was even no Ammunition for the People to fight with. But she changed all of that! The People had a heart to work.

May God use you as a Deborah, as a Mother in Zion. That wherever you go: you will inspire People to love God. You will inspire to serve God. You will inspire People to give their best to the Lord - Amen.

My wife always tells me that one of the People who inspired her (in this Church) the most to give ALL she had was Mrs. Hermon.

And she would come to Church and see this old woman give everything. And she decided "when I grow up, I want to be like this woman - I'll give my heart."

... That's the Pastor's wife inspired by a Member of the Congregation.

That means that to be a Deborah, you don't need Titles and Positions to inspire People to give their heart, their Service to the House of the Lord.

That's what Deborah did: she got the People to give themselves to the Lord.

3. And the third thing Deborah did - She Motivates a New Leader called Barak.

Mothers in Zion motivate New Leaders in a time of crisis.

That's what Deborah did! _

- She called for Barak and reminded him of God's Calling on his Life.

Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy Troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; and against you I will deploy Sisera, the Commander of Jabin’s army, with his Chariots and his Multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand’?” And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!” - Judges 4:6-8

She called for Barak and the way she speaks to Barak, it's as if Barak was a very reluctant man! He is one of those 'Sidon look men' - They sit and look! They don't want to get involved. But God has Plans for Barak but Barak was afraid.

And Deborah said: 'Go and get that Army General Barak for me.'

General Barak comes, she says: Has God not been talking to you Barak, that you must deploy Troop?

Now get away and deploy Troop - Let us go and face the Canaanites because God says: "I will deliver Sisera, the Commander of the Canaanites into your hand."

This is woman who dares People to jump to their duty. When they see a Gift they don't like, they won't let the Gift die!

They won't see a Potential and let the Potential to rotten.

They won't see a Person with a Destiny and just let him be.

They interfere in People's lives to inspire them to become all that God wanted them to be - They Raise Leaders!

The Deborahs are not afraid to raise New Leaders - To raise Younger women, to raise Younger men.

If you are a 'True Mother in Zion'; your greatest Joy is to see Younger People coming up after you doing great things inspiring them and you motivating them.

Don't get threatened because a Young Person showed up! - You get excited because the Youth are now on fire for the Lord.

4. And the final thing about Deborah is that - She got Involved in doing God's work.

... She got involved in the battle.

Because Barak said to her: "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!" So she said, "I will surely go with you."

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She is not a Soldier, she is not the Army General.

The Army General says: "Madam President, Madam Judge, Mrs. Lapidoth; I know I have the arms, but your courage is what I needed."

And if you are going with me, I will go. And if you don't go, I am an afraid man - I'm going nowhere!

And Deborah says: "I will go on the battleground with you."

She is not trained as a Soldier but she went as a "Foot Soldier" of Israel - She got involved in the work. And of course, God gave Victory to Israel.

Deborah a Prophetess, a Wife and Judge, who rose up in a time of crisis and turned the tide of History.

And I Pray that on this Mother's Day; there will be a New Generation of Deborahs - Amen.

Maybe in our Natural lives, when things are down in our Nation; you would rise up!

Maybe in your office, when things are down; you would rise up.

Whatever you are up in, you are not going to join the People and complain about the Problem. You will arise as a Deborah - as a Mother in Zion, God's Person, and you will go and do exploits - Amen.

... Every woman rise up!

God is speaking to you to do Great things - It may not be at the National level. It could be just in your family. Maybe you need to:*

I. Start: solving the Problem in your family:

II. Settling the quarrells in your family amongst your Cousins and some other Members of the family.

Maybe God has raised you as a Deborah to bring Peace.

III. Maybe God is saying: "In your family start inspiring the Youth and Young People or in your local Church.

Whatever God is laying in your heart, you must rise up!

I pray for you today:

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May the same God Who called Deborah ad Gifted her, Gift you!

I speak that every Gifts of God in you would be "Stirred Up" this morning!

Every Anointing and Grace rested on you would be "Stirred Up" this morning!

Your Gift would not lie dormant!

And I speak that whenever you are - Whether you are a wife or you are not a wife; you will arise from that situation.

That your Domestic Life will not be a hinderance to your Purpose in Life.

And may the Lord Who has placed you wherever you are, use you tremendously.

May you be a Nation Changer; a Family Changer, a Church Inspirer, a Youth Inspirer.

May God use you to raise up the New Baraks - A New Generation, New Warriors for the Kingdom of God.

And may the Grace of God upon you "Stir Up" on the Battlefield, that when you step into every battle there will be Victory!

By your hand may the Lord give Victory to His People wherever they are!

May the Lord use you; so that you would know without a Shadow of doubt that the hand of the Lord is upon you.

May Grace rest upon you; Favour rest upon you; Increase rest upon; Ability rest upon you you; Courage come upon you!

May the Lord use you tremendously in your time and in your Generation as a Mother in Zion!

In Jesus' Name - AMEN.

God Bless you all Women! - You are our Hope for the Future!

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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MAY 15TH - HOW TO INCREASE IN WHAT WE DO [PART 1]



DATE: 15TH MAY, 2022

TEXT: PROVERBS 27:23-27

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

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In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today I am going to share one of the Verses that had shaped my attitude towards the work that God has called me to do. It is a Verse from the Book of Proverbs.

When I started Full Time Ministry in the early 80s, I discovered that several attitudes shaped the way People who were Called by God did the work of God. I was a Young Man at that time.

And I noticed that People did not seem to focus on the work God had Called them to do, they were not intentional about their work and their Ministry.

For example, there were Pastors who could travel for long Periods of time, and they would leave their Congregation unattended to. I also noted that a number of Pastors failed their "Spontaneous Speaking" - Speaking without Preparation was a Sign that you were anointed by the Holy Spirit.

So Sermon Preparation (especially among Pentecostals and Charismatics) was not done. You just stand, open your mouth and trust God to fill your mouth with something. And normally, what came out was not good!

And then a lot of Pastors also specialized at that time (from the late 70s to the early 80s) in what was called 'Blasting People' - That means that the Strength of the Pastor and Ministry was based on how much he can criticise People.

So they spent time criticising their Members - Their hair styles, dress code. And basically been Negative against their Members.

Other Pastors just allowed anyone who was in town to come and Preach for them. And so sometimes the Pastor would go to Church on Sunday and just called Somebody or another 'Guest Pastor' just comes in and they say: 'Oh, Please can you just come and share God's Word briefly with us.'

... So there didn't seem to be much seriousness in the way People did Ministry.

Then there was the troubling situation of Sexual Immorality which affected the reputation of quite a few People.

And so when I grew up as a Young Pastor (from the late 70s into the early 80s); I observed these conditions and I was determined that God would help me not to repeat the mistakes I came to meet and help me do the right thing.

You know, seeing the wrong thing and doing the right thing is always very difficult because the wrong thing can be so common and so established, that the right thing would be foreign.

And the Passage I am about to share with you within this week (15th May, 2022) and next week (22nd May, 2022) was one Verse that helped me to understand how to do the work that God has given to me.

So I have Titled my Message today: "HOW TO INCREASE IN WHAT WE DO - PART 1".

No matter what you do, what I do, what we all do, God wants us to increase it, grow it, Excel in it and do it well.

This is a Two-Part Message - I will start today (15th May, 2022) and I will finish it next week (22nd May, 2022).

My Text is from Proverbs 27:23-27 (Passage has helped me a lot) and it says (NKJV):

23 Be diligent to know the State of your flocks, And attend to your herds;

24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations.

25 When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs of the Mountains are gathered in,

26 The Lambs will provide your clothing, And the goats the Price of a field;

27 You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

... I'm sure you are wondering "how could such a Verse help you?"

So I am going to explain what I have learned from this Verse and what it means to us.

Now, you have to understand that the Bible was written within a certain Culture. And this would be thousand of years removed from our world.

But sometimes it is important to pay attention and try to bring the meaning to our Present day.

In the Old Testament days, the wealth of People who lived in the Palestinians area consisted of their Livestock - The animals they rared. And if a Person managed his Livestock well, then they would become Prominent in the Society.

For us to learn from this, we have to understand what the Livestock means.

If you read the Passage, it says - Be diligent to know the State of your flocks, And attend to your herds. (Proverbs 27:23).

WHAT IS FLOCKS AND HERDS?

It represents what we have to make us Productive.

For the Person living at the time, their flocks and their herds are the animals they had, which they would use to make their lives Productive.

Flocks referred to goats and sheep; and Herds would refer to any other animal.

Sometimes it refers to cattle and other animals.

Basically flocks and herds were the animals that the People reared.

Flocks and herds, then would be like Stocks today. The Stock that People trade in (In the Stock Exchange).

It is Wealth that you use or you trade in, in order to make your Life very good.

Of course, most of us today, we don't have flocks and herds. I don't how many of you own goats, sheep, cattles, camels, squirrels.

Here we have the flocks and herds; and it represents what we have to make us Productive.

Today when we talk about flocks and herds it doesn't mean much to us because we don't own flocks and herds. So we have to take the Principle and bring it down to where we are today - And I am applying this Principle to our day to day works.

Flocks and Herds represent Three (3) Things:

1. First, it represents what we do.

What we do - Our Vocation.

Your Vocation is your flocks and herds; your Vocation is the thing that occupies your time and your attention.

My Vocation is that I am a Pastor - That's my vocation!

Your Vocation maybe a Teacher, a Nurse, a Doctor, a Mechanic, a Tailor - That's your Vocation. It is what you do.

So my work as a Pastor, your work as a Tailor is similar to a man in that era who owned flocks and herds because that is what you are going to us to Produce what you want.

... First, it represents our Vocation - What we do.

2. Secondly, the flocks and herds there can be applied to where we work - our Company.

Our Company is the organization we work for - We may work for an organization we started or an organization that Somebody else started.

So think of it, your work Place is your flock and your herd - It's your Treasure, your Stock and you need to Value it.

Sometimes I get the impression that People do not see the link between the Company they work for and the kind of Life they live - Especially if they don't own the Company.

Many of us hate the Place we work. It's one of the things I have come to Note in our part of the world - People hate the Place they work.

You go to a Shop and there are Shop Attendants and their Salary is paid on how well the Shop functions. But if you are a Customer coming, they start talking down their Shop.

Sometimes they actually want to teach you how to cheat their Company and sometimes they want to direct you to somewhere else. And the People forget that if this Company goes down, I go down.

Somehow we think that Company is very different from our lives. But I want you to think of the Place you work for as your herd and as your flock.

... Your Vocation is your herd and flock. Your Company is your herd and flock!

3. And the third thing that is your herd and flock is your Reputation - How Others see us.

Our Reputation is our flock, herd, goat, cattle. So if you always deliver results, People will trust you with what is important to them and Reward you accordingly.

Now when I got into Ministry - I wasn't a Cattle Rearer, I didn't have goats. All I had was my Vocation - The Calling that God had given to me. That's all I had. And I have a Church that God had allowed me to start. That was my Company.

That's all I had. That's my herd and flock.

And my Reputation - How People would see me. If People thought I was a "Bad Pastor"; they wouldn't come to my Church. If they thought I was "Lazy Pastor"; they wouldn't come and listen to me. If they thought I didn't take time to Prepare what I was going to say, they wouldn't Value what I say.

So, this is all I have! - This is my flock and my herd.

And for you, this is also all you have - These are your flocks and your herds (Your Vocation, your Company, your Reputation).

The Company may not be yours, it may belong to Somebody else. But if it goes down, you are going down with it.

And in these days where it's very difficult to get a job, you must Thank God when Somebody employs you.

I'm telling you! If Somebody employs you, every day in the morning, you must kneel down and Thank God for that Person because if that Person or Company has no Capacity to employ you any longer, you are in big trouble.

Anybody who is able to pay you every Month deserves your "Full Time Prayer" - I'm telling you that!

Don't take it for granted that you get up in the morning and say: 'My Salary is not enough' - That's not what I am talking about. What is not enough, if you don't have it, you don't even have something to say 'It is not enough.'

So that's all you have! - Your Vocation, Company, Reputation.

That's how I saw my Calling - That was all I had.

And for me it was very Significant because of my History and where I was coming from and the situation of my Life.

And I just Thank God that I have a Calling - That He has allowed.e to start a Church.

Although we were Meeting in a classroom but that's all I have.

There was no Electricity in the classroom but that's all I have.

Just a few People there but that's all I have.

... Those are my flocks, those are my herds. And if I took care of that, then God will give me something Significant.

So what does the Passage say we should do with our flocks and herds?

What should we do with them?

I will read the Verse again, then I will tell you what the Passage says we should do.

It says, "Be diligent to know the state of your flocks" - Proverbs 27:23

What is it saying?

1. First, know the State of your flocks - Know their State.

It means to notice, to listen, to learn - Pay close attention to them.

The Hebrew word used there is 'Yadah' - Yadah means to know something experientially. It's not sitting afar to know information.

It's getting down there to know it for yourself - Having first-hand experiential Knowledge about your Vocation, your Company, your Reputation; your flock and your herds.

In this Particular Verse, the word "Yadah" and the way it is used is very interesting;

It means to be aware of the voices and the faces of your flock.

Can you imagine, you are a Shepherd in those days; and the Passage says, if you are going to do well, you must not just know your flock, but you must be aware of their voice and faces.

How can the Shepherd know the voice and the faces of his Sheep? Because, as far as I know, all Sheep look the same. Don't you think so? Except if the colour is different.

If it's black, I will say 'that's a Black Sheep.' If it's white, that's the White One. If it's a black and white, I will say that's the Black and White One.

But the Passage doesn't even talk about their colour; it just talk about their face and their voice.

So the Passage is saying you should be able to tell what is happening to your flock - That's what it's saying. Pay attention to their voice and faces.

In other words, the goat would not look the same to you - Each one must be known! You must know each one; Pay attention to each one.

That is what helped me when I started as a Pastor. I had a small Church, meeting in a small classroom.

We didn't have Electricity in that classroom; we didn't have a drum set, equipment, we didn't have anything; we didn't have a Sponsor, we didn't have money and Nobody in the Church had a car (including the Pastor). How am I going to take care of these Flock?

The Passage says: Pay attention! Know them intimately. You cannot sit, fold your legs, arms, issue instructions and think thing would work. You have to have "Experiential Knowledge.

This Proverbs tells us that we must pay attention, we must list and learn if we want to improve our Vocation, Place of work or our Reputation.

How well do you know your work? How well do you know the Place you work for? How well do you know the People you serve? - Know them well.

2. Then the Second thing it says is that: Attend to them.

It means to be always ready to serve.

The Hebrew word that is used there means to Stand at attention, ready to go to work.

It says that is how you should attend to your herds - Stand at attention, ready to work. Interesting! It means you cannot be Passive and Casual about what you do.

The closest situation I can apply this to is to a Doctor who is on Call - A Doctor on Call.

For all of you Doctors and Nurses - God bless you!

A Doctor on Call is one of those things that is so facinating.

I remembered when my wife used to get Pregnant (laughs)! - We have come out of that train a long time ago.

When my wife used to get Pregnant, especially when it comes to Delivery Time, and we will talk to her Doctor. Within the week of Delivery, the Doctor would say (there was no Cellphone then) anytime of the Night if so and so happen, call me (that is Landline Call).

... Anytime of the Night!

And if you can't even call, come.

Can you imagine! Now you have Phones, Somebody can give you Notice that I'm coming.

Those days you just pop in! And the Doctors would say, anytime.

And it used to facinate me. The Doctor, just like everybody else, he also wants to sleep. Everybody gets tired, he also gets tired. His family needs him. But he says, at this Point you are my flock, and I Stand ready (to my own inconvenience) to serve you.

That is what the Writer of that Proverbs mean - Attend to your flock, Stand ready at anytime, Morning Noon and Night, to take care of your flock. No excuses! Take your work seriously.

And of course if the Doctor says you can call anytime, don't take advantage of it!

And most times you may never have to make that call. But just to show you it's a Mindset that the Doctor has.

And there are few other Professionals who have that Mindset. Who would say, I'm working in this Project for you, call me 24/7.

Now there are People who say, call me 24/7, but when you call them, they never respond or reply your Messages.

If that is how you work (we would learn that later) you are not going to do well. And it will not be the devil, it will not be demons, your grandmother, a curse; it will not even be that the Nation is hard. It simple means, you didn't apply yourself.

You know, when I started ICGC it was during the hardest time in Ghana. Those of you who are old enough to know, those day we had chain that were attributed to our President at that time. People were growing lean, People emaciated.

We were eating yellow corn. I mean, People would go to queue for corn before it is cooked. We were having our bath with some miserable soap (corrosive). The Stores were empty, Shelves were empty.

That's the situation I was called to. You can't even talk to your Members about Giving, because you look at their faces and you know that this one, you can't even tell him to Give! All you have to do is pour your heart because it's not Reward time.

Attend to them!

And why does the Passage say we should care for our flock? Why did it say that?

"For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all Generations" - Proverbs 27:24.

1. It is because money can easily be wasted.

As good as money is, it can easily be lost. When you seek for money without diligently working for it, you will waste it.

I can guarantee you that any money we make that we did not work for it would be easily wasted.

You see, the reason why thieves continue stealing till they are caught is because they go and take People's labour, and they don't go and invest it. They steal the money, and overnight blow it! They have to go the next night to go and steal again.

Because when you don't earn something, you waste it.

Anybody who sweats for their money doesn't waste money. People who make money easily waste their money.

And you can apply it in different ways. Anybody you see frivolously using money, wastefully using money; they are earning the money in an easy way. Because if you earn it and it is your blood, you won't go and buy things with it that you don't need.

The Passage says money can easily be wasted.

Although we all need money, although we want money, that should not be our focus.

If you Pursue the money and never Pursue work, whatever money you have will be wasted.

But if you Pursue work and labour, whatever money you have will be invested.

... Money can be easily wasted.

2. It says the Crown is not for ever.

What does that mean? - It means Position and Privilege are not enduring.

Crown refers to high Position, Privileges. If you are looking for Crown, you will be disappointed in Life.

You know, when I started this Church (ICGC) right from the beginning I was called Senior Pastor. And the reason was very Practical, because there were other Pastors with me.

Our Church was small but we had a couple of other People who were Pastors. And to distinguish the Pastors; I was called the Senior Pastor and the others were the Pastors.

And then when we started Planting Churches few years down the line, I was called the General Overseer, because I was overseeing Churches - It is not a Title or a Crown to aspire to.

My Position as Senior Pastor is secure. I have been in this Position for Thirty-eight (38) Years, I have never been Promoted - Same Title for Thirty-eight (38) Years.

There's nothing like 'Senior, Senior Pastor', 'Chief Senior Pastor' or 'Major Senior Pastor.'

No Promotion, same thing for Thirty-eight (38) Years.

General Overseer, probably for about thirty-two (32) Years - No Promotion.

That make me then say well, I have the Position. But my Mindset which I have had all these years is that, although I am not interviewed for my job, and nobody determines my Promotion. I must justify my inclusion.

So everyday when I am Preaching in Church, I am on trial. If I don't do well, you will leave.

Are you following what I'm saying?

I can not say well, I have been a "Successful Pastor" for Thirty-eight (38) years, so the People of course, must come here!

Yes, they must appreciate what I have done for Thirty-eight (38) Years but that is not guaranteed.

The only guarantee is, I must take care of my Vocation, so that when I Stand here I will be given another week.

And next week I have to come for test again, and I will be given another week. And I go week by week justifying myself.

Now there are People who see Life as a Title. And you give them a Title, the worst will come out of them.

Sometimes there are Pastors who take on "High Sounding Titles", and all of a sudden dress a certain way, walk a certain way, talk a certain way, behave a certain way. And never think about the voice and the face of the flock. And they think they can eat Title - But nobody eats Title.

Listen, you can call yourself the Managing Director, Global Director, Intergalactic Director. You can call yourself President of the Universe - Choose it, it's free!

But this Passage says, the Crown does not endure.

That is why I don't accumulate Titles, because it is totally irrelevant to your future. I can call myself by whatever Title, it doesn't matter!

Your work will have to speak! And if your work does not speak, Title will not endure for you.

And those of you who get facinated with Titles and Positions, and want to walk a certain way because he has been made a Bishop. Foolishness has entered his head.

Listen, don't be in a hurry to impress People with your Titles and with your Crown. Even if somebody Promotes you to an office, you must justify the Promotion.

... You must justify it!

You know, in this Country when Somebody wins a Position - Maybe went for a Parliamentary Election and then he wins. And the People would rob white Powder on him (laughs). In other words, it's finished!

Somebody is made a Minister of States, we Pour him white Powder - It's finished! Because something we think is that Title is the job.

But I learned from this Proverbs - The Title is not the job and the Money is not the job.

My job is to attend to my flocks, pay attention to the Vocation, to the Company, to the Group I belong to, and to the Reputation I am building. So that I can have a Reputation of Someone who can be trusted at everytime to deliver.

If I don't have that Reputation, I may be called Senior Pastor, Zonal Pastor, Global Pastor, Universal Pastor, Galaxy Pastor (laughs)! - Choose whatever you want, it's a free world, Adjectives are free.

But we don't rule the world with Adjectives and with Titles. All that God done is, He has given you something small and He says, take care of it and if you take care of it you will be fine.

So, take good care of your Vocation, Protect the Place of your work. Protect it, even if you hate the Person who gave you the job, Protect that job because it is the Source of your Revenue.

And Protect how People see you - Your Reputation. Let them see you as a Doer, not just somebody who shows up.

And if you do these three (3) things, then next week we will see how they will benefit you.

So basically this is the Verse that helped me to get my thoughts sorted out when I started Ministry as a very Young Man.

Let's us Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father Thank You that You teach us Wisdom and You teach us Lord, not to waste what You give to us.

You teach us Lord not to be foolish but wise. To be Present Minded and to take care of the things that You have given to us.

So, I Pray for every man and woman listening to me today (or reading now on the Label of DMC), whom you have entrusted some flocks to and some herds to. It may not be much, but You have given them something.

Help them Lord to have the heart of Wisdom. That with the heart of Wisdom, they will not sabotage what You have given to them.

That they will not take Positions for granted; they will not take Titles for granted; they will not take themselves and their work for granted.

But that each one of us here and all those reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, with what You have given to us, we will labour and make the best to what You want it to be.

So that we can live the Life that You have Promised us; that our lives will increase in every sides, because we took care of the flocks and the herds You have given to us.

In Jesus' Name - Amen.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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MAY 22ND - HOW TO INCREASE IN WHAT WE DO [PART 2]



DATE: 22ND MAY, 2022

TEXT: PROVERBS 27:23-27

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

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Last week I started talking about: HOW TO INCREASE IN WHAT WE DO - PART 1. So we are going to continue from there.

DMC NOTES: We can get to read the Full Text of Part 1 of this Series on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/How-To-Increase-In-What-We-Do-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

And in my Introduction I noted that the Text (Proverbs 27:23-27) is a Passage of Scripture that helped me very early in my life as a Minister - Especially when I started Pastoring and leading the flock God.

And this was one of the critical Verses that helped me understand what my work was, and what I was supposed to do with the flock that God has given to me. And I trust that as I share it with you, you will apply it to your own life.

You are not to be a Pastor like me but in every areas of your life, these Principles can be applicable.

So, we will go back to the Bible Text which we started with last week, which is: Proverbs 27:23-27.

23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds;

24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations.

25 When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,

26 The lambs will provide your clothing, And the goats the price of a field;

27 You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

And I noted Last week (15th November, 2022) that we don't deal in flocks and herds this time. Many of us have chickens that we rear in our homes. Many of us have jobs that take us out of Agriculture. We are not Goat Herders - We are Bankers, Teachers, Carpenters, Lawyers, Doctors, etc.

In Part 1, I said the flocks and herds there applies to:

I. First and foremost our Vocation.

II. Secondly it applies to our Company or the Organization we work for.

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III. And thirdly it applies to our Reputation.

So the Three (3) Important things we must take care of is our Vocation, our Company and our Reputation.

Last week I dealt with Verses 23 and 24.

And so today I am going to move from Verses 25 to 27 - Those are the three (3) Verses I will be focusing on today.

So let's look at Verse 25 again. It says: When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,

What is it talking about? And if you pay attention to this Verse 25, all of it is talking about grass. But grass in different form.

It is basically talking about how to feed your flocks and herds - Feeding your flocks and herds.

So, I will take those three 3 categories of feeding our flocks and herds;

1. The first one is the Hay - "When the hay is removed..."

The hay is grass that is cut and stored.

If you are a Goat Herder, or a Cattle farmer, you will know that sometimes you have to cut some of the grass and store them for a time when it will be needed.

That grass that is stored is called hay.

So, the Proverbs is saying - There is a time to feed your flock with what you have - The hay that you cut is what you have!

So basically it is saying feed your flock with what you have. Use what you have!

The hay is what the farmer has.

You use the Knowledge you have, the Skills you have!

And that is very important, because many times when we are building something - Whether it's our vocation or a company or a reputation; we constantly look for what other People have. And we are constantly complaining of what we don't have. And we are constantly yawning for what we need.

But whilst you are talking about what you need and complaining about what you don't have; there is always something that you have!

... There is something that is already available for you to use.

When we started this Church (ICGC, in Ghana); we didn't have many things - We didn't have a building of our own, we didn't have a microphone, loud speakers, nice lights. Of course we didn't have screens.

Screens had not been invented at that time!

We didn't have anything but we had something! - We had the Bible. We had the Word of God and you can Preach the Word of God - Microphone or no Microphone.

And you can Preach the Word of God whether under a tree or in a building. You can Preach the Word of God to ten (10) People or to a thousand People.

So, although you don't have so many things, you have something - That is your hay and that's how we start building everything.

Don't think about what you don't have, think about what you have and use what you have. That is the starting Point for everything.

For me the starting Point as a Pastor was just, read the Bible, make my Notes and Preach from it.

I didn't have a car - I had feet and I could walk.

I didn't complain about: "Oh, I don't have a car."

Those days I could walk long distance daily - I walked all over Accra Preaching because that's what I had.

I don't have a car, I have feet. I don't have a Microphone, I have a Bible.

The hay is what you have - You have to stop complaining about what you don't have and consider what you have. And use what you have to the highest extent.

So, that is the first way that the Passage says you take care of your flock.

But that is not the only way - it says something else:

2. It says the Hay must be removed.

You cannot live on hay forever! You cannot only use what you have and say this is all I have; and live with what you have and die with what you have.

It says something - It says you have to feed them with tender grass.

"The tender grass shows itself."

So what is Tender Grass? - Tender Grass is freshly growing grass.

God has a way of helping us so that even though we start with little, we are able to grow what we have.

Even though we start with hay; that is dry, that is old grass, that is something we stored - God wants us to also look for freshly growing tender grass.

And freshly growing tender grass represents coming up with something New.

The idea is - You don't only rely on what you had in the Past to take care of the flock, you must Plant or look for fresh grass for them.

You have to look for New things! You have to desire New things. You have to learn, you have to expand your knowledge.

... Fresh grass!

I remembered when this Church (ICGC, Ghana) was Young and we had moved from the classroom we were in and we went to a Cinema Hall. And we had our first Public Address System (Loud Speaker).

... Because when I was in a classroom I didn't need a Loud Speaker - My voice was enough for the classroom.

But the Cinema Hall was a bit bigger. So we had a two-in-one Combo. And the Combo was a box, which was the Loud Speaker. And the Microphone was Plugged into the box.

And we were so excited about it!

And not only could we Preach with the Microphone into the Combo; the Combo also could record.

So this thing was Advanced Technology (laughs)!

That I could Preach into the Combo, it will magnify my Voice and then it could record the Message while I was Preaching.

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... That's fresh grass for me! - That's something New.

I wouldn't say: "Oh God; I started only Preaching with my Voice; with my Voice I will end Preaching." Because God always wants us to go the next Step Higher!

It may not be the next ten (10) Steps; it's just the next Step.

It was not a big Public Address System, it was a small Combo.

But for us, it was the Pride of our Church (back then).

For other People, it would be nothing but for us, it was fresh grass.

So, when God starts with you, whatever you are building - Whether you are building a Vocation, a Company; you are going to start with what you have but in addition to what you have, you have to look for fresh things: fresh ideas, fresh concepts.

I will never forget the first chairs we got as a Church and we got some old boards and constructed our first Church pews. And I was there, Painting the Church Pews.

We painted them nicely, People came to Church they were so excited that the Church now has Board Pews (Laughter)!

... We had moved from benches to Pews - And it was so exciting.

The only thing is that the wood quality was so bad that weavers were always eating this board. So we were constantly repairing them, constantly trying to kill weavers.

... But it was better than where we were!

For other People, they will see that as nothing - For us it is fresh grass.

When God is taking you higher, not everybody would see that you are going higher because your high may be Somebody's low.

But just because your high is Somebody's low doesn't mean you should be embarrassed by your high. You have to go for your high and you have to build it up.

Because you will never get to the height unless you start trusting God for the little things that He is giving to you.

... So the Passage says, you start with the hay, you go for the fresh grass.

3. And the third thing that He says you would do is: "The herbs of the Mountains are gathered in."

What are they talking about? - It is widely growing grass.

The Mountains refer to the higher Plains of the land where there is rain and the grass is the best!

So what does it mean? - It means, go and search for the best!

So if you look at it there is a Progression - You start with the hay, you go to the freshly growing grass and then you go for the grass of the Mountains - The best

Every Organization starts with something old, begins with something fresh but you must end with always going for the best - Seeking for the best!

I. Making sure that wherever a fresh, best, good idea is, you would get it for your Organization.

II. Wherever good Talent is, good information is, great ideas are; you are going to get it to build your Vocation, to build your Company and to build your Reputation.

The challenge most of us have is that we are okay with the hay: we came to meet it, this is how I am. We are okay with the fresh ideas. But when it comes to looking for Mountain grass, we are not okay because many of us find it difficult to move to gather New ideas.

Even if somebody is doing better than us, we would not go and visit him to find out what he is doing better than us.

If somebody can do something better than us, all we do is just knock down the Person - Just downplay the Person's Success.

We will never learn!

And if you never learn from People who are higher than you on the Mountain, you would never get to the Mountain yourself.

So, He says: You go to the Mountain and get grass! - This is Superior, Higher and Better.

Most of us are stuck in the Valley and we never get to the Mountain because 'climbing a Mountain is too hard!' - 'It is too difficult and tough.' So we stay where we are, in whatever Vocation.

Do you know one of the reasons why we are where we are - Not as individuals, but as a Nation, as a Continent? - It is because we like the hay.

We like what we used to have:

I. This is what our fathers used to do, this is how our Tradition is, this is our Culture.

II. And then sometimes we get some fresh ideas.

III. But when we have to move from those two (2) and move higher, it is so difficult for us - It is so tough for us!

And if you find it so difficult to get to a higher level, your Progression will be limited by what you feed your flocks with.

When God gives us flocks, Vocation, gives us a Company, and a Reputation, we must feed it with hay, with fresh grass, and with the grass of the Mountain.

Every well-fed flock does Two (2) Things:

1. First, they Reproduce - They don't die out.

Everything is well fed, well managed, well led, will reproduce.

Reproduction is the means by which we replace what we lose. Because nothing in life remains the same!

Everything goes through a Circle of death. But Reproduction is what replaces what is lost.

Consider this - Every morning when you wake up (for those of you who have hair on your head) when you comb your hair some hair drops every morning!

And sometimes it can be very scary, when you see the hair dropping from your head. But you still have hair.

Why do you have hair? - Because just as hair is dripping off, the head is Producing new hair. So, some would drop off, new ones will be Produced.

The day new ones stopped being Produced, you would go bald - It's as simple as that!

So, whatever is lost must be reproduced. You cut your finger nails, they grow back. You lose and then you gain.

That is how God has designed it.

You donate blood and you get New blood back.

In the Natural flocks and herds; they also reproduce to replace themselves. And when you stop reproduction you go extinct!

When a Vocation, Business or a Reputation is well taken care of, they will be Self Sustaining.

And listen to this - Each one of us loses at a Point.

There is Nobody who says: 'Oh since I started working I have never lost.' - We lose People.

This Church (ICGC, in Ghana) started with Probably twenty (20) to thirty (30) People. Only a few of those twenty (20) to thirty (30) People are still here. Over the Years, many People have come here and many People have left.

No Pastor, Church, Organization is able to sustain everybody they have - People would leave you, money would leave you, opportunity would leave you. Something would be lost.

But the good thing is - There is something called Reproduction. If the thing is being taken care of, then as People are being lost New People are also coming in.

And when your rate of replacement is good, then you don't feel your lost.

But everybody is going to lose something.

There would come a time you would lose your job - I am not cursing you, I am telling you Life!

You would lose your job, lose an investment, money, your reputation. Your Company would make losses. Sometimes even a Company you start may be lost! - That is Natural.

But God has given you the ability to also reproduce.

So it's also like your hair - Some are falling off, some new ones are growing.

There are People who are in this Church - They just joined us, Probably few Months ago.

There are some People who left this Church Permanently few Months ago - "I am tired, I won't go to that Church again."

They went somewhere else. I can't spend my Life running and chasing after them - 'Please, come back!'

That's not how it works - That's the hair that has been combed out.

But I have to make sure my hair follicles are healthy - They are well fed; I am using the right Nutrition. And if I am using the right Nutrition, then I will grow back hair.

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The Problem with most of us is that we can't stand loss.

Somebody works with you and leaves, you feel like all hope is lost - Just like the Person came and left, another Person would come!

Don't live your Life as if People are irreplaceable - People are very, very replaceable; especially if God is with you.

You would lose money, some of your Investments would go bad; no matter how well you Plan it, it would go bad! But, if you are feeding your System very well; you will reproduce and you will fill-in what you are losing.

Everybody who has achieved anything in Life, goes through loss and reproduction.

Every Single Church goes through that!

Some of you sitting here - Nice Church Members, you would leave!

And I am not saying that as if you are bad People - No, you would leave!

I. Some of you would marry People in other Churches and leave.

II. Some of you would get tired of coming to Church here and leave.

III. Some of you would be offended by an Usher and leave.

IV. Some of you would hear me Preach something once and then say: 'Pastor is talking about me, I won't go to that Church again.' And you would leave.

V. And some of you would leave without letting me know you have left. Just like People join without letting me know they have joined.

It's a Circle - All you have to do is get the hay, the fresh grass, the Mountain grass, feed the flock well: some would go, but some would come in. And if you do it very well, then you would not just reproduce, but you would Increase.

Because your rate of reproduction would be greater than your rate of loss.

Infact that is all that everybody wants. That's why People have busy hair. They call it afro hair in our time. People had big afros. Why? Every morning they lose hair but Every morning too, they grow hair.

... And the rate of growth is always greater than the rate of loss.

And that's how you must look at your Life, your business, at everything you do - That you are going to lose something.

And Please, when you lose, don't spend your Life crying about what you have Lost - Oh Life is unfair, People are so disloyal, People are so whatever. If there is anything you have to understand - People are People!

The great Apostle Peter said to Jesus - "I would die with You, I would not leave You." He is a nice man!

Sir, he mean it when he said he would die with Jesus? Yes! Did he think he would stay? Yes!

Did he think he would betray Jesus? - NEVER! Until a little girl asked him: "Are you one of His Disciples?" He said No, I have never met this guy before.

People are People! - It's just Human Nature. They are not evil People, they are not bad People. They are just People - They are fragile, they are weak!

People would disappoint you; People would let you down. Some people you trust would leave you. And when they leave you, if you are feeding your System well, New People would come. And may times they would be better than what left!

And because they are better than what left, you will not just reproduce, you will increase.

So for everybody here today or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, who has lost something, may God cause you to reproduce, to fill-in and to get Greater - Amen.

If you lose money you will reproduce more than what you have lost - Amen.

If you lose one Company, you will gain Greater Company than what you lost - Amen.

... Because if you build it well, it would grow.

These are Principles I have lived with as a Pastor - Because over these Thirty-eight (38) Years Pastoring this Church, I have seen People come, People go; while some stay!

And for those who stay, you are the hardcore People. You are the head that is at the root - You don't stay, you move! Others too come, they make a lot of noise and then you don't see them again.

And you try to guide your heart from Human failures and Human disappointments; because Humans are Humans - They will fail and they will disappoint.

And when something is leaving (that must leave) and you try to keep it, you are just Prolonging your Pain because it would leave. As for going, it would go!

But you just trust God that He would replace what has been lost!

And that is what the Proverbs is saying: If you take good care of your flock and you feed the flock well, there would always be replacements.

If you take care of your Vocation, Gifts, Talents, your Ability; if you lose another chore, there will be ten (10) other businesses looking for you! Because your talent is needed by Somebody else. You were laid off by another one but you will be called by another.

So build your Vocation well, be the best at what you do. Make yourself needed, so that at every Point in time, there will Somebody who needs your Services, your Skills, your Ability, your Grace, your Anointing and whatever God has blessed you with.

... And what happens if we do all of these things?

The last two Verses (Proverbs 27: 26-27) talks about the Benefits you get from your flocks and your herds.

The first three Verses (Proverbs 27: 23-25) talks about the flocks and herds - Taking care of them.

Proverbs 27:26-27 says: The lambs will Provide your Clothing, And the goats the Price of a field; You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

1. They Provide for your Sustenance.

To be sustained is to be kept alive and well for a long time.

When you invest in your Occupation, your Company, your Reputation; they will in turn feed you and keep you.

If you help your Company to succeed - Whether you own the Company or not. It will feed you!

You know there are People who work as if they want to collapse their own Company - It would not feed you!

But if you help the Company to survive; it would feed you. If you help the Institution to do well; it would feed you.

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The Passage tells us how we would be fed - In Space, in Medicines, Milk (Goat's Milk).

Milk is a byproduct of the goat. You don't kill a goat to Produce Milk. A goat must be alive and healthy to Produce Milk. You don't sell a goat to get Milk.

So what it is saying is - You are going to keep what you have. And what you have will Produce for you what you need.

You don't kill what you have; you don't sell what you have; and what you have Produces for you what you need.

And it says it is going to Produce so much for you that it will take care of you and your household.

... That's common sense to it!

And for those of you who work for other People; make that Business succeed, let it do well. Because when it does well; it would take care of you, it would feed you.

You say - Well Pastor, my salary is small. Make the Company so big that it cannot afford to pay you a small salary. It would feed you.

And it's your own Company, take good care of the Company and don't kill it.

Whether it's a Church or whatever you are running, don't kill it to get Milk, keep it alive.

... And if it stays alive, it would take care of you. It would Provide for your Nourishment.

2. It will Provide for your Adornment - Clothing.

Adornment means they would cover and beautify you.

And why did they Provide for the Clothing? The Passage says: "Your lambs will Provide your Clothing."

How does the lambs Provide the Clothing? - By Providing Wool.

So you don't kill a lamb to get its wool. When it's still alive, buy you shear the wool and the wool clothes you. And if it stays alive for a long time, it's going to give you wool for a very long time.

Basically, when God gives you something don't destroy it to have instant Gratification from it.

It's like you start a business and you put your hand into the money of the business as if it is your own money. In the end you will kill the business - It dies and you die.

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From the beginning of this Church, I think we have one of the strictest rules for Financial Management. Even when we were a small Church, I have never kept Church money, I don't Sign Church Cheques, I don't ask Church for money - because the Church must survive! The Church must grow, the Church must take care of itself.

If you kill what you have began by making excessive demands on it, it will die and you will die.

You sacrifice for what you have given birth to, so that what you have given birth to will live and survive.

... And that is what it is saying - It Provides Milk and Wool for you.

3. They will help you expand in your area of Operation.

The Passage says the goat would Provide the Price of a field.

That means that if you keep your flocks well, they will help you to expand the field you operate in - Expand your work, your business, your Vocation. Whatever you do it expands it.

And that is the Benefits you get! - You get expansion, you are adorned, it beautifies you.

Can you imagine how People feel - You talk to Somebody he says: "Oh, I work for Apple Computer." You know the moment Somebody says, I work for Apple (not Apple fruits) Computer!

Immediately he says that, your attitude towards the Person would Change. Is that not so?

Somebody says 'I work for Goggle' you sit upright because somehow you confer Wisdom to the Person.

What is happening?

The Business is adorning him especially if the Person says: "I was there when it started! I started with Steve Jobs. We were in the garage together.

All of a sudden, this Person's Reputation changes before you.

What has happened is that - The Company he helps to build is now decorating him. The Company is now honouring him.

It's like Somebody who goes on and say: I am Pastor! Which Church? ICGC. Oh, ICGC, which one? The one Pastor Mensah Otobil Pastors!

All of a sudden, if you are a Pastor, your value shoot up.

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Isn't it true Young Pastors? They were not there when we started, but they say 'I work for ICGC.'

You can mention other Church and they simply respond with 'is that so?' Because it doesn't adorn you, it doesn't beautify you.

That's why some People hide where they work because where they work doesn't add Value to them.

But how can it add Value to you if you are inside it to let it down? It can only add Value to you if you add value to it. Then you can talk like that Person from Apple - You can say: 'I work for Apple Computers' and everybody feel you are Somebody.

They think you are a "Tech Guru", you are Smart, while you may not know anything (Laughter)! Maybe you work there as a Sweeper.

But they think you are a Techy! That say woow, he understands computer! But you are just a Sweeper - It confers honour to you.

Proverbs 27:23-27 is the Foundation Philosophy I have lived my Life with for the last thirty (30) Years.

This is how I started, this is how I thought, how I Pastor, lead this Church.

This is why we can have nice grass at Christ Temple West. But we have to go to the Mountain and get fresh grass. We have to do something different - We have to Venture into New Areas.

You cannot keep doing the same thing and still grow - You have to do things differently; you have to always Venture to do something New.

That's why we started a University. We had to take a bold step - Because until you take those steps you would be stuck in the Valley.

And I recommend the same Verses to you - In your Life, business, reputation, in every areas; build yourself to such an extent that you will not be ignored by anyone. And nobody would ignore you!

And you do that by taking care of your Vocation, taking care of your Company or Organization, your Business. Making sure that you feed these three (3) very well. You improve on them, build in them and whatever you need to do to become the best in these three (3) areas.

And when these three (3) work out well, you will lose some sometimes, but you will always reproduce to fill-in. You will always have and you will increase. And in the end you will never lack.

Because what you have been doing will take care of you, increase and expand you in all that you do, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

Just lift up your hands to the Lord! And I want you to commit your Vocation, your Company - Whatever Company you work for. If you work for even Government, commit it to the Lord;

You work for the Civil Service, you have a Small Business; commit it to the Lord.

Just commit yourself, your Vocation, your Company and Reputation to the Lord.

And ask the Lord to grow up Extraordinarily, to contribute Value to the Place you work, to be the best; so that where you work will adorn you, feed you and help you to expand your fields.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, I Pray for this Church and for every Members of this Church and all those reading this Message on the Label of DMC:

Let them be Wise Men and Wise Women - Men and Women who love You, who serve You, and who Excel in their Fields.

And I Pray Lord, that Greatness would be bath out of these ones. That You would raise a Generation of People who would make a difference wherever they are.

And I Pray for every Business here represented, every Business owned by our Members and those reading this Message now on the Label of DMC:

I Pray Lord that your Blessing rest upon those businesses - Whatever form of business they are, may Your Blessing be on it. If it's a Consultancy, Building and Real Estate, Health Delivery System; Father whatever it is may You bless it, increase it,

Grant them Wisdom to feed their Companies until it becomes a Mighty Giant that is able to take care of them.

And bless the work of their hands Lord, that each of them would Prosper and will bring Glory to Your Name.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Somebody say: I am going to be the best for the Lord Jesus Christ - 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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MAY 29TH - KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT [PART 1]



TEXT: ROMANS 14:4

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

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I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am going to Preach on the Topic: KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is Somebody we hear about; we hear His Name used a lot. But many times we are not too sure who He is, what He is doing in our lives, and how we respond to Him.

... So, this is Part 1 of KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT".

And in this Part 1, I am going to focus on Three (3) Important Aspects of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives.

So we'll start from Genesis 1:1-2 - The Portion of the Bible where everything begins. It establishes the most important Principles of our Christian Faith.

Genesis 1:1-2:

1 In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.

2 The Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

That is how we got to know that there is a Spirit of God. Later on that Spirit of God is called the "HOLY SPIRIT".

So, the Holy Spirit did not come on the Day of Pentecost; the Holy Spirit was there right from the beginning and He had never left!

There are few things we want to look at concerning the Holy Spirit:

1. The first important Point we want to recognize concerning the Holy Spirit is that - HE IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

He is the Spirit of God and He Signifies the Presence of God.

So, if you look at the Passage it says: "... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God.

I. *And because He is the Spirit of God, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.*

He is God! He is not less God - He is God.

The Spirit of God and God are one - My Spirit and myself are one.

God and His Spirit are one - You cannot be separated from your Spirit. You and your Spirit are one!

So, the Holy Spirit is God. He is Divine, He is Unique.

II. *And the other thing about the Holy Spirit is that: HE IS PRESENT.*

... He is Present, He is always there.

So, when we are introduced to the Holy Spirit for the first time, He is Present on the Earth. He is Present!

If you want to experience God, you experience God through the Holy Spirit.

Because He is Present; He is the Manifestation of the Presence of God.

He is Present in the midst of darkness, He is Present in the midst of chaos, He is Present when there is no Light, and He is Present when there is no form.

Because that is how the Passage (Genesis 1:1-2) describes the Earth - "The Earth is without form, darkness is upon the face of the deep; AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRESENT."

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So, the Holy Spirit is Present at all times - Even when you think things are not working, He is Present. When you think there's too much darkness, there's so much chaos in your Life, He is Present. He is Ever Present and He is there at all times in the lives of the Believers.

... So, the Holy Spirit is Present!

III. *And the other thing you'd notice about the Holy Spirit is that: HE MOVES!*

He moves, He is not Stationary - He is constantly walking.

So, the Spirit of God is Present in a chaotic world; and the Spirit of God is Moving.

You know, many times when we go through difficulties in Life: there is trouble, there is chaos, and some bad things have happened to us. We wonder - Where is God? Where is the Spirit of God? He is Present!

What is God doing about this? He is Moving.

What is the Holy Spirit doing when the whole world is in chaos? - He is Present.

You know, People sometimes, because of cares and worries, they wonder - Where is God? He is where He's always been - He is Present by His Holy Spirit.

... And His Holy Spirit is not imprisoned - The Holy Spirit is moving.

Even if you don't feel Him, He is Present. You don't see Him, He is Present. You cannot see what He is doing, He is Present.

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He is always Present and He is always moving!

In this Auditorium and right where you are reading this Message on the Label of DMC, He is Present and He is moving.

You may not feel anything, but He is moving. You may not have goosebumps, but He is moving. You may not fall on the ground, but He is moving. You may not scream and shout, but He is moving.

... The Holy Spirit is always moving and He's always moving.

If there is anything you want to learn about the Holy Spirit from the first two (2) Verses of the Bible (Genesis 1:1-2) it's that: "He is always Present and He's always moving.

And He is Present when we don't see Him, we don't feel Him, we can't appreciate Him - He is Present!

This morning, remember He is Present in your Life and He is moving in your Life; He is Present in your Marriage and He is moving in your Marriage; He is Present in your Home and He is moving in your Home.

You say, "But there's too much chaos in my home!" He is Present and He is moving.

Don't ever forget that - He is Present and He is moving.

So, that's the first thing we see about the Holy Spirit - That He is the Spirit of God: He is God Himself, He is always Present and He is always moving.

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And when you read the Bible, there are many ways in which the Holy Spirit is described - And the first and Primary way is what we have talked about - The Spirit of God.

But that is not the only way the Holy Spirit is described. The Holy Spirit has other descriptions:

2. *HE IS ALSO THE BREATH OF GOD.*

He is the One Who inspires us, awakens us and brings Life to us.

The Holy Spirit is The Inspirer - The Breath of God who inspires us.

Genesis 2:7, And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of Life; and man became a Living Being.

The Breath was the Holy Spirit activating us, animating us. As, the Holy Spirit is our Life Giver, He gives us Life and helps us to awaken to God's world.

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In the Passage, the Bible clearly teaches that God made man from the dust of the Earth. The dust of the Earth was inanimate like the dust of the Earth we have now.

But God formed man out of already existing Material - The Dust of the Earth.

But man is not the only Being that came from the dust of the Earth - The animals also came from the dust of the Earth; the trees came from the dust of the Earth.

So, at a certain level, man shares Commonality with trees, with animals at the Biological Level, at the Cellular Level - The same cell in the sand, in the trees, in the animals, are the cells in your body.

So how different are we from all of that?

Because God did something Special when He was creating man - He breathed into man the Breath of Life and that awakened the man.

So the Life of the man is based on the Breath of God - God breathed in!

That breathing in is Inspiration.

To Inspire is to breath in - Inspiration; God gave His Life to us. He inspired us.

But if you know anything about Life; if you breathe in and never breathe out, you will die.

So, God gave His Life to us - That is Inspiration.

But we must give back our Life to Him, to complete the Circle of breathing in and breathing out.

There are People who have breathed in, but they haven't breathe out! And the Bible says "they are dead in sin."

The day they learn to breathe out - Take the Life that God gave to them and give it back to the Giver of that Life, at that time they complete the Circle of Inspiration, Expiration; breathing in and breathing out.

Our Life came from God, but our Life must be given back to God, to Complete the Circle.

Your Life is not your own, your Life depends on God; and you must give it back to Him.

The Holy Spirit is the One Who awakens us! And that is one of the Unique things that the Holy Spirit does for us. And when He awakened us, He made us aware of ourselves.

... The Holy Spirit makes us aware of ourselves.

The Passage (Genesis 1:2) says: "... And man became a Living Being (or a Living Soul)."

God's Breath does not just impart Life to us; but we become People of reason, conscience, awareness.

That is why God is able to communicate with us because He has given us reason by which He can make Himself known to us - He makes us aware of ourselves!

You can never know your true self without the Holy.

You can know about your father, about your mother, about your Tribe, about your Ancestors; you can know the food you like. But your true self, who you are - You can only know through the One Who gave you full awareness. That's the Holy Spirit.

In Job 32:8, it says: But there is a Spirit in man: and the Inspiration of the Almighty giveth them Understanding.

The Breath of Life that was breathed into us is what makes us "Reasonable People".

That is why we can reason, think, have arguments. We can go on Radio and debate.

Horses cannot go and debate on Radio; Crocodiles cannot go to Parliaments and write Bills.

Why is it that of all of God's creation we are the only ones who know who we are - That we are human being?

We are aware of other People as well, and we can reason, we can remember, we can know what is happening now and most importantly, we can imagine what has not happened?

... Animals cannot do that. They can't imagine what has not happened!

And the reason we can do that is because God breathes something into us - He is the same Yesterday, and Today and Forever. And He gave us the ability to think of Yesterday, Today and Forever.

The ability to remember and to imagine; that is the work of God in you. And that is the work of the Holy Spirit. He gives us Understanding of ourselves; and beyond that, He make us aware of God.

The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit is what makes us aware of God - There is a God Awareness in every Human Being.

I have said, and I believe with all my heart that there is no real Atheist in this world. It is impossible for a Human Being to be an Atheist.

Why? - Because the Knowledge of God is instinctive to man.

That is why you have to go to School for a long time; and develop a very, very, very strong argument, to convince yourself there is no God.

You would hardly find an Uneducated Person who don't know God and acknowledge Him.

You'll find out that the only People who do that are People who have to make Mental Effort to try to deny something they know without any Shadow of doubt; within them, that it is.

And that is why Atheists spend a lot of time arguing against God. If there is no God, you shouldn't even bother. Is that not so?

I mean, I don't spend my time arguing whether there is Ghost or not. I don't bother.

But for somebody to write Books - "There is No God." Writing Books - Philosophical, Biological and all of that, "There is No God." And developing all these arguments.

You know he is arguing against something inside him, which he knows is there, which he cannot deny. Because God breathed into him, he has been inspired. He only hasn't given back his Life to God.

But that Knowledge of God is deep in every Human Being - No Human Being can be an Atheist.

That's why the Bible says in Psalms 14:1 - The fool has said in his heart, '?"There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

The fool has has said to himself. What does it mean?

He has convinced himself - When you convince yourself, then it means there is something inmate inside of you that you are trying to use external argument to overcome.

... The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

He knows there is God, but he has to debate that.

You know Why? - Because if he accepts that "there is God" then he has to be accountable to God and his Life will now be regulated.

When God says: "Don't do that"; he has to obey.

People don't want to do that! They want to have a "Free Life". So they say: "There is No God."

But I have to guarantee you - No Philosopher: All of you who hear these People with great arguments. I have read most of their Books. They are just convincing themselves!

Most People who say there is no God, say that because they are angry with the Pastor, the Church, with the Religious Institutions. They are angry with Somebody who hate them when they were Young.

They are just breathe. But inside them, they are Atheists; but their mind tells them: "There is God."

It is impossible to be an Atheist. You can't be. You don't have the Capacity to. It's like a Human Being who says, "I won't be a Human."

You don't have a Capacity to be Non-Human. You can say: "At this Point, I identify myself as a monkey or as a dog; I identify myself as this or that." But you don't have the Capacity to.

In the same way, you have no Capacity to be an Atheist. But you can convince yourself that there is no God - That's your matter.

And why am I saying all of these? It's because of the Holy Spirit. He is God's Witness to our Conscience; God's Witness inside of us because God in breathes the Holy Spirit in us.

And He constantly convinces us of sin, of God, of Judgement; and some Voice inside of us always reminds us that we owe account to someone. We may deny it, but we know it deep inside.

So, the Holy Spirit is the Breath of God. He makes us aware of God; He makes us aware of God's Creation - Isn't that amazing?

I mean, the awareness Human Beings have - That we can get up and Somebody says: "I'm going to look at a Mountain; I'm going to look at the Sun set.

What is it that drives us to do all of that - To admire beauty? Do you think an antelope will get up one day and say "I'm just going to admire the grass on the other side?" No!

But God has made us, not only aware of Him and aware of ourselves, but also aware of His Creation.

The Holy Spirit is the Breath of God. And He is working on you - Whether you acknowledge Him or not, He is working on you! When you do the wrong thing, He will tell you: "You have done the wrong thing".

Even without any Bible, you know what is right and wrong: because the Holy Spirit is His breathed into all of all.

... The third and final thing we want to talk about the Holy Spirit is that:

3. *HE IS THE WIND OF GOD.*

The Executor of God's Word and God's Will.

A Wind is like breath, but it's forceful breath.

Just like the wind is air, but it is air with force.

So, when we say, "The Holy Spirit is the Wind of God" at one level He is Breath - Gentle. But at another level, He is forcefully: and carries out the Will of God and the Word of God.

Two (2) Passages I want us to look at, to see how that works:

I. Exodus 14:21 - This is when Israel was in front of the Red Sea. And it says:

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a Strong East Wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

II. Then Ezekiel 37:9-10: Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, Prophecy, Son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" So I Prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly Great Army.

You know, we are familiar with the concept of the Trinity. And sometimes it's very difficult to explain the Trinity.

But I want you to think of the Trinity as - WILL, WORD, WORK: "I will, I say it and I do it."

So there is 'I' who has a Will - We call Him the FATHER.

"Who says it" - We call Him the Word; later called Jesus Christ.

"And Who does it" - We call Him the Holy Spirit.

So the Holy Spirit takes the Word from the Will and makes the Word and the Will Manifest.

... Are you following me?

For example, when you read Genesis 1, it says, And God said "Let there be..." That is the Word.

"And there was" - The Word is not the One who made it to be! There's something else who took the Word and made the Word be.

And that is the work of the Holy Spirit - He executes the Will of God; He Executes the Word of God.

So when God says something to you, or God has an intension for you; the One who makes it happen is the Holy Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit, we only have the Will, the Word but no Manifestation!

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The Holy Spirit is the Executor of God's Will and God's Word - He works out God's Will and God's Word.

When you look through the Bible, many times you would find that when God is Performing something, making things happen, you will see frequently, Wind involved in it.

So, Moses lifts up his hand over the Red Sea, something must happen - Wind opens the Red Sea.

God tells Moses, "I am going to bring in quail to feed you." What happens? - Wind brings it in.

The Holy Spirit as the Wind of God is the One who manifests the Will of God and the Word of God.

What is God's intension for you - When God says: "I know the Plans I have towards you?" - That's Will. And he says it - That's Word. Now it must come to Pass - That's the Holy Spirit.

And that is why He is always Moving and He is always working because the Holy Spirit is the "Chief Executor" of the Purposes of God.

He is the One who brings every Will and Word of God into Manifestation in your Life.

And when you know Him well, then you will see Fulfilment of God's Will and God's Word in your Life.

The degree to which you know the Holy Spirit is the degree to which you will receive the Manifestation of the Word and the Will of God in your Life.

Without the Holy Spirit, you will have the Word, but there will be no Manifestation. Without the Holy Spirit God has good intentions for you, but there will be no Manifestation.

But with the Holy Spirit, God's intention and God's Word always get manifested.

May He work in your Life! May your Spirit be open to Him. May your Mind be open to Him - Amen!

May we get to the Point where He works Supernaturally, in every areas of your Life - Amen.

And I believe there is a working that is working in your Life right now.

... And He (the Holy Spirit) enables us to be what God wants us to be.

In Ezekiel, we see similar to what happened in the Garden of Eden - Dry bones Prophesied on, muscles, skin. The bones come to come together and it has flesh, it has muscles, skin, everything but it's not alive!

And God says to Ezekiel, we have to bring breath. But He says, speak to the Wind to bring the breath.

You wonder - Why Wind to bring breath?

Because the first time there was only one man - Adam's breath. But this is an Army. It needs far more than one breath. It needs a massive force to cause an Army to rise up.

*So, when God wants to do something Powerful in your Life, He will release His Wind in your Life
- A rushing Mighty Wind in your Life; It would move every obstacles in it's way. It would divide every Red Sea. It would shake every Mountain in your Life.*

Because the Wind of God would shake your Foundations; would shake the Foundation of Earth;
would cause every System to quake.

And this week, may there be a Wind; may there be a Shaking in your Life - Amen.

And every Systems that is resistant to God, will experience the Moving Wind of God - Amen.

The Moving Wind of God, normally they would say in the Old Testament, it was like Earthquake
- The Mountains shook! They would say, it was Thundering, it was Cloud.

It's all the Wind activities of the Holy Spirit, shifting things on behalf of God's People.

May the same Holy Spirit touch your Life today; touch your circumstances today, touch your situation today - Amen!

May everything that has stood in opposition to God's Will in your Life, to God's Word in your Life; may the feel the effect of the Executor of the Wind - Bringing things to Pass, moving Mountains, closing Valleys, opening Red Seas!

May you experience Him Supernaturally, 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 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!!!

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MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

© DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW (DMC) 2022*SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE BY DR. MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)*

TOPIC: *KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 1*

DATE: *29TH MAY, 2022*

TEXT: *ROMANS 14:4*

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

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Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am going to Preach on the Topic: KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is Somebody we hear about; we hear His Name used a lot. But many times we are not too sure who He is, what He is doing in our lives, and how we respond to Him.

... So, this is Part 1 of KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT".

And in this Part 1, I am going to focus on Three (3) Important Aspects of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives.

So we'll start from Genesis 1:1-2 - The Portion of the Bible where everything begins. It establishes the most important Principles of our Christian Faith.

Genesis 1:1-2:

1 In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.

2 The Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

That is how we got to know that there is a Spirit of God. Later on that Spirit of God is called the "HOLY SPIRIT".

So, the Holy Spirit did not come on the Day of Pentecost; the Holy Spirit was there right from the beginning and He had never left!

There are few things we want to look at concerning the Holy Spirit:

1. The first important Point we want to recognize concerning the Holy Spirit is that - HE IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

He is the Spirit of God and He Signifies the Presence of God.

So, if you look at the Passage it says: "... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God.

I. *And because He is the Spirit of God, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.*

He is God! He is not less God - He is God.

The Spirit of God and God are one - My Spirit and myself are one.

God and His Spirit are one - You cannot be separated from your Spirit. You and your Spirit are one!

So, the Holy Spirit is God. He is Divine, He is Unique.

II. *And the other thing about the Holy Spirit is that: HE IS PRESENT.*

... He is Present, He is always there.

So, when we are introduced to the Holy Spirit for the first time, He is Present on the Earth. He is Present!

If you want to experience God, you experience God through the Holy Spirit.

Because He is Present; He is the Manifestation of the Presence of God.

He is Present in the midst of darkness, He is Present in the midst of chaos, He is Present when there is no Light, and He is Present when there is no form.

Because that is how the Passage (Genesis 1:1-2) describes the Earth - "The Earth is without form, darkness is upon the face of the deep; AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRESENT."

So, the Holy Spirit is Present at all times - Even when you think things are not working, He is Present. When you think there's too much darkness, there's so much chaos in your Life, He is Present. He is Ever Present and He is there at all times in the lives of the Believers.

... So, the Holy Spirit is Present!

III. *And the other thing you'd notice about the Holy Spirit is that: HE MOVES!*

He moves, He is not Stationary - He is constantly walking.

So, the Spirit of God is Present in a chaotic world; and the Spirit of God is Moving.

You know, many times when we go through difficulties in Life: there is trouble, there is chaos, and some bad things have happened to us. We wonder - Where is God? Where is the Spirit of God? He is Present!

What is God doing about this? He is Moving.

What is the Holy Spirit doing when the whole world is in chaos? - He is Present.

You know, People sometimes, because of cares and worries, they wonder - Where is God? He is where He's always been - He is Present by His Holy Spirit.

... And His Holy Spirit is not imprisoned - The Holy Spirit is moving.

Even if you don't feel Him, He is Present. You don't see Him, He is Present. You cannot see what He is doing, He is Present.

He is always Present and He is always moving!

In this Auditorium and right where you are reading this Message on the Label of DMC, He is Present and He is moving.

You may not feel anything, but He is moving. You may not have goosebumps, but He is moving. You may not fall on the ground, but He is moving. You may not scream and shout, but He is moving.

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... The Holy Spirit is always moving and He's always moving.

If there is anything you want to learn about the Holy Spirit from the first two (2) Verses of the Bible (Genesis 1:1-2) it's that: "He is always Present and He's always moving.

And He is Present when we don't see Him, we don't feel Him, we can't appreciate Him - He is Present!

This morning, remember He is Present in your Life and He is moving in your Life; He is Present in your Marriage and He is moving in your Marriage; He is Present in your Home and He is moving in your Home.

You say, "But there's too much chaos in my home!" He is Present and He is moving.

Don't ever forget that - He is Present and He is moving.

So, that's the first thing we see about the Holy Spirit - That He is the Spirit of God: He is God Himself, He is always Present and He is always moving.

And when you read the Bible, there are many ways in which the Holy Spirit is described - And the first and Primary way is what we have talked about - The Spirit of God.

But that is not the only way the Holy Spirit is described. The Holy Spirit has other descriptions:

2. *HE IS ALSO THE BREATH OF GOD.*

He is the One Who inspires us, awakens us and brings Life to us.

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The Holy Spirit is The Inspirer - The Breath of God who inspires us.

Genesis 2:7, And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of Life; and man became a Living Being.

The Breath was the Holy Spirit activating us, animating us. As, the Holy Spirit is our Life Giver, He gives us Life and helps us to awaken to God's world.

In the Passage, the Bible clearly teaches that God made man from the dust of the Earth. The dust of the Earth was inanimate like the dust of the Earth we have now.

But God formed man out of already existing Material - The Dust of the Earth.

But man is not the only Being that came from the dust of the Earth - The animals also came from the dust of the Earth; the trees came from the dust of the Earth.

So, at a certain level, man shares Commonality with trees, with animals at the Biological Level, at the Cellular Level - The same cell in the sand, in the trees, in the animals, are the cells in your body.

So how different are we from all of that?

Because God did something Special when He was creating man - He breathed into man the Breath of Life and that awakened the man.

So the Life of the man is based on the Breath of God - God breathed in!

That breathing in is Inspiration.

To Inspire is to breath in - Inspiration; God gave His Life to us. He inspired us.

But if you know anything about Life; if you breathe in and never breathe out, you will die.

So, God gave His Life to us - That is Inspiration.

But we must give back our Life to Him, to complete the Circle of breathing in and breathing out.

There are People who have breathed in, but they haven't breathe out! And the Bible says "they are dead in sin."

The day they learn to breathe out - Take the Life that God gave to them and give it back to the Giver of that Life, at that time they complete the Circle of Inspiration, Expiration; breathing in and breathing out.

Our Life came from God, but our Life must be given back to God, to Complete the Circle.

Your Life is not your own, your Life depends on God; and you must give it back to Him.

The Holy Spirit is the One Who awakens us! And that is one of the Unique things that the Holy Spirit does for us. And when He awakened us, He made us aware of ourselves.

... The Holy Spirit makes us aware of ourselves.

The Passage (Genesis 1:2) says: "... And man became a Living Being (or a Living Soul)."

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God's Breath does not just impart Life to us; but we become People of reason, conscience, awareness.

That is why God is able to communicate with us because He has given us reason by which He can make Himself known to us - He makes us aware of ourselves!

You can never know your true self without the Holy.

You can know about your father, about your mother, about your Tribe, about your Ancestors; you can know the food you like. But your true self, who you are - You can only know through the One Who gave you full awareness. That's the Holy Spirit.

In Job 32:8, it says: But there is a Spirit in man: and the Inspiration of the Almighty giveth them Understanding.

The Breath of Life that was breathed into us is what makes us "Reasonable People".

That is why we can reason, think, have arguments. We can go on Radio and debate.

Horses cannot go and debate on Radio; Crocodiles cannot go to Parliaments and write Bills.

Why is it that of all of God's creation we are the only ones who know who we are - That we are human being?

We are aware of other People as well, and we can reason, we can remember, we can know what is happening now and most importantly, we can imagine what has not happened?

... Animals cannot do that. They can't imagine what has not happened!

And the reason we can do that is because God breathes something into us - He is the same Yesterday, and Today and Forever. And He gave us the ability to think of Yesterday, Today and Forever.

The ability to remember and to imagine; that is the work of God in you. And that is the work of the Holy Spirit. He gives us Understanding of ourselves; and beyond that, He make us aware of God.

The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit is what makes us aware of God - There is a God Awareness in every Human Being.

I have said, and I believe with all my heart that there is no real Atheist in this world. It is impossible for a Human Being to be an Atheist.

Why? - Because the Knowledge of God is instinctive to man.

That is why you have to go to School for a long time; and develop a very, very, very strong argument, to convince yourself there is no God.

You would hardly find an Uneducated Person who don't know God and acknowledge Him.

You'll find out that the only People who do that are People who have to make Mental Effort to try to deny something they know without any Shadow of doubt; within them, that it is.

And that is why Atheists spend a lot of time arguing against God. If there is no God, you shouldn't even bother. Is that not so?

I mean, I don't spend my time arguing whether there is Ghost or not. I don't bother.

But for somebody to write Books - "There is No God." Writing Books - Philosophical, Biological and all of that, "There is No God." And developing all these arguments.

You know he is arguing against something inside him, which he knows is there, which he cannot deny. Because God breathed into him, he has been inspired. He only hasn't given back his Life to God.

But that Knowledge of God is deep in every Human Being - No Human Being can be an Atheist.

That's why the Bible says in Psalms 14:1 - The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

The fool has said to himself. What does it mean?

He has convinced himself - When you convince yourself, then it means there is something inmate inside of you that you are trying to use external argument to overcome.

... The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

He knows there is God, but he has to debate that.

You know Why? - Because if he accepts that "there is God" then he has to be accountable to God and his Life will now be regulated.

When God says: "Don't do that"; he has to obey.

People don't want to do that! They want to have a "Free Life". So they say: "There is No God."

But I have to guarantee you - No Philosopher: All of you who hear these People with great arguments. I have read most of their Books. They are just convincing themselves!

Most People who say there is no God, say that because they are angry with the Pastor, the Church, with the Religious Institutions. They are angry with Somebody who hate them when they were Young.

They are just breathe. But inside them, they are Atheists; but their mind tells them: "There is God."

It is impossible to be an Atheist. You can't be. You don't have the Capacity to. It's like a Human Being who says, "I won't be a Human."

You don't have a Capacity to be Non-Human. You can say: "At this Point, I identify myself as a monkey or as a dog; I identify myself as this or that." But you don't have the Capacity to.

In the same way, you have no Capacity to be an Atheist. But you can convince yourself that there is no God - That's your matter.

And why am I saying all of these? It's because of the Holy Spirit. He is God's Witness to our Conscience; God's Witness inside of us because God in breathes the Holy Spirit in us.

And He constantly convinces us of sin, of God, of Judgement; and some Voice inside of us always reminds us that we owe account to someone. We may deny it, but we know it deep inside.

So, the Holy Spirit is the Breath of God. He makes us aware of God; He makes us aware of God's Creation - Isn't that amazing?

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May we get to the Point where He works Supernaturally, in every areas of your Life - Amen.

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The Moving Wind of God, normally they would say in the Old Testament, it was like Earthquake - The Mountains shook! They would say, it was Thundering, it was Cloud.

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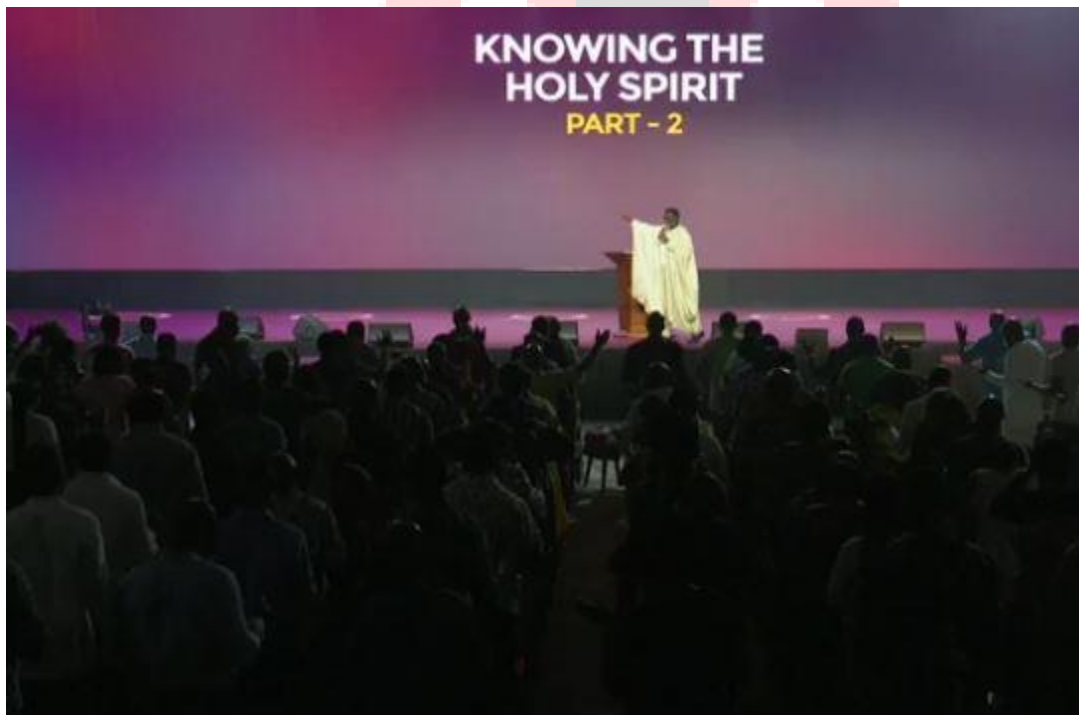
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May you experience Him Supernaturally, in Jesus'Name - AMEN.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

JUNE 5TH -KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT [PART 2]



TEXT: *GENESIS 15:17*

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Today is Pentecost Sunday, and throughout the Christian world, we recognize today as Pentecost Sunday.

The word Pentecost come from the Greek - Pentecoste - Pentecoste mean fiftieth (50th).

And the reason why it is called fiftieth (50th) is because the Pentecost Sunday happened fifty (50) days after Passover.

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Passover is when we have Good Friday and Easter. And Pentecost Sunday comes fifty days after Easter.

In the Old Testament, Pentecost Sunday was called the Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Firstfruits.

And the reason why it is called the Feast of Weeks is because it happens Seven (7) Weeks after Passover.

As you know, a week is made up of seven (7) days. So seven (7) weeks and 7×7 .

Today I will be Teaching on: THE HOLY SPIRIT PART 2.

As you know, last week (29th May, 2022); I started teaching about the Holy Spirit. And we said a few things about the Holy Spirit. And we will continue today, talking about the Holy Spirit.

Let's go back to where we were, when we started talking about the Holy Spirit. We started with Genesis 1:1-2. And it reads:

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. The Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

This is the first time the Holy Spirit is indicated in Scripture - He is just right there at the opening of the Bible.

I said last week (29th of May, 2022) that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. And I said that because He is the Spirit of God, He is God.

And in the Passage we find out that the Holy Spirit is Present. He is always there! He is right there at the beginning of the Story. Also, we said that the Holy Spirit moves!

So, these are the things we said about the Holy: He is the Spirit of God, He's always there and He moves.

In addition, we said that the Holy Spirit is the Breath of God and He is also the Wind of God.

... These are Metaphors used to represent the work of the Holy Spirit.

It doesn't mean that the Wind is the Holy Spirit; or air is the Holy Spirit; or Breath is the Holy Spirit. But it is used to explain to us, His work in our lives.

Just like breath gives us Life, the Holy Spirit gives us Life. Just like Wind moves things, the Holy Spirit also moves things.

DMC NOTES: We can get to read the Full Text of the Part 1 of this Message on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Knowing-The-Holy-Spirit-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

Today we are talking about the HOLY SPIRIT AS FIRE - The Holy Spirit is the Fire of God.

Now, what do we mean when we say, the Holy Spirit is the Fire of God?

When you read the Bible, you come to appreciate some Truth, or get some Understanding as you read the Bible. You find out that generally, Fire is used to denote so many things.

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I want going to talk about Four (4) Main Ways in which Fire is Presented in the Bible:

1. *FIRE REPRESENTS LIGHT.*

Light comes from where!

Our Primary Source of Light on Earth is the Sun. That is what gives us all the Light.

Daylight is from the Sun. And the Sun is basically a ball of Fire.

And if you will also know that, every Light Source is Fire. The balls we have, they are all Fire. The Candles, the Lanterns, they are all Fire.

Fire represents Light. And it is one of the Primary ways in which the Holy Spirit is represented in the Bible.

2. *FIRE ALSO DENOTES JUDGEMENT.*

So you read the Bible, you find out that sometimes Fire speaks of Judgement.

Particularly in the Story of Sodom and Gomorreh, where Fire is used as Judgement.

And also in the future Judgement, where there will be God to judge.

So Fire is Judgement.

3. *FIRE ALSO STANDS FOR PURIFICATION*

It is used to make things Pure!

Of course, it makes gold better. Fire burns the chaff so that the wheat is known. Fire is used for Purification.

And in the Old Testament, the Offerings were Purified with Fire.

So they would lay an Offering on the Altar, it will be burned with Fire - It's a form of Purification.

... So Fire means Light, Judgement, Purification, and finally;

4. *FIRE ALSO DENOTES EMPOWERMENT*

It stands for Power - Where People are empowered to do things for God.

Isaiah has a coal of fire put on his tongue so that he would be empowered to do the work of God.

So Fire stands for Empowerment.

And all of these Symbol of Fire also speak about the work of the Holy Spirit.

And today we will look at Four (4) of the works of the Holy Spirit as Fire:

1. *HE IS EVIDENCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE.*

How can we know that God is Present in a Place?

Sometimes it is through Fire! And you find that many times in the Bible.

In Genesis 15:17, we read:

And it came to pass, when the Sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that Passed between those Pieces.

Now, this is when God was putting a Covenant with Abraham. And He told Abraham to lay down some animal Pieces. And when Abraham put the animal Pieces together, God put him to sleep. He went into a Trance!

He was in a trance but he could see what was happening. And whilst in the Trance he saw what is described here - A touch of Fire, walking through the Path. And in that day, God made a Covenant with Abraham.

This is the first time Fire is used to represent God in the Bible.

The Holy Spirit's Presence is to show Abraham, God is here; God is Present in this Place.

And so, many times in the Bible, the Fire of God shows that God is Present in a Place - That God is here.

Of course now, we don't need to see Fire to know that God is Present because we have Christ inside of our heart.

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And so in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is the evident and the Seal of our Salvation in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit's Presence is the One Who makes us know that we belong to Jesus Christ. He is the evidence of God's Presence!

In the Old Testament it was Physical Fire showing. Now it is His Presence within that is evidenced that we are saved, and we are Born Again; we are Children of God.

2. *HE REVEALS GOD'S GLORY.*

Now that word "Glory" is a very heavy word literary. Because the word Glory comes from a Hebrew word that means: "Heaviness" or "Weight" - Something that is heavy.

You know, sometimes you see some People and when you Stand in their Presence all your thoughts disappear. And people would say "their Presence is heavy."

I remembered a friend of mine who spoke about an encounter he had with a certain Head of this Country at the Point. And he said they were workers, they all had issues with that Particular President of this Country.

One day they heard News that this President was coming to their Company. So they all went. He thought he was a very Confident Person: they were going to speak their grievances and you know, confront the President.

And he said, when this President showed up, everybody kept quiet! And later he came and said, "his Presence is heavy!" So they couldn't talk.

Now, if a Human Being can be that heavy for rebellious Souls not to talk. Can you imagine the Presence of the Almighty God? His Presence is Heavy.

... And that Heavy Presence is called the GLORY OF GOD.

So anytime you find in an Old Testament that, "the Glory of God..." It's God's heaviness. And when that happens, sometimes People's attitude Change. People would fall down as if they are dead;

Even when that Glory shows up, the Priest couldn't Minister: because they have come into this Heaviness. And that Heaviness is the Presence of God. And that's one of the works of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit reveals God's Glory: He makes us aware of the Heaviness of God.

And the first time that Israel had this encounter with the Glory of God, it was just an awesome sight recorded in Exodus 19:17-18:

And Moses brought the People out of the Camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the Mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole Mountain quaked greatly.

And then we go to Exodus 24:17-18, a similar experience: The sight of the Glory of the Lord was like a Consuming Fire on the top of the Mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the Cloud and went up into the Mountain. And Moses was on the Mountain forty days and forty nights.

... That's when Moses went to receive the Law.

On the Mountain, when the children of Israel gathered, they saw this awesome Fire. And the Fire descended upon the Mountain. It didn't come up upon the Mountain, it went into the Mountain.

There are People who have said, the Israelites saw a Volcano, and they said: "This is God."

Two (2) Things that shows it wasn't a Volcano:

I. First, when there is a Volcano, Nobody stays around the Mountain - Everybody runs.

II. Secondly, this Fire was not coming from the Mountain, it was descending on the Mountain.

In Volcano you have Fire going to the Mountain; you have Fire going out of the Mountain.

So this is not a Volcano. This is something else!

As the children of Israel gathered on the Mountain, Moses said: you are going to the God Who delivered you from Egypt; the God Who brought the Plagues upon Egypt;

Now He has set you free, He has opened the Red Sea, you have come through. Now come meet your God. And they got to the Mountain - Mount Sinai is enveloped with Smoke. He saw Fire from above hit the Mountain.

Very similar to what Moses himself had seen in the burning bush, where he saw the Fire. He saw a small part of it but a tree; but this one is upon the Mountain. And everything was shaking.

And the Bible calls that, the Glory of God!

When the Glory of God appears in a Place; that appearance is the work of the Holy Spirit. Because He executes, He brings to Life; He brings into reality that which God intends to be.

So, what they saw there was a Manifestation of the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit in Manifestation.

And this morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC, that same Fire that descended upon the Mountain is Present in our midst - Amen.

We don't need to go to a Mountain; we don't need to go to Mount Sinai to see that Fire. Because the For is with us and the Fire is in us and the Fire is Present.

So what the Holy Spirit does, He makes us Spiritually Sensitive. He makes us aware of God's Presence. He makes us recognize the Presence of God. He makes us recognize that the Place we are Standing is a Holy Ground.

You know, God can be in a Place, His Glory can be in a Place; His Power can be in a Place, and we would not know it.

You can actually be in a Place where God is moving and you would be joking, you would be having fun.

It's Possible to be in a Service, like to be in Church - When the Spirit of God is moving and you would just be totally oblivious. Probably on your phone WhatsApping somebody. And the Spirit of God is moving right before you.

The things that you Prayed for has been brought close to you, but you are WhatsApping. Or you are reading some crazy Story on your feed and God is moving.

One of the things the Holy Spirit does is to make us sensitive to the things of God: so when the Glory of God is in a Place, we recognize it.

Of course, we may not see the Glory of God, as the children of Israel saw on Mount Sinai. You are not going to come to Church and see Fire on this building. That may not be what you'll see.

... Although it's not impossible; but that may not be what you'll see.

The Presence of God is real - Whether we see Fire or not!

So you don't want to wait to say, "I want to see the Fire before I know the Presence of God is real." The Fire is there! But the One who makes us recognize it, is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit connects our Spirit with the Spirit of God.

And this morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC, may He connect your Spirit to the Spirit of God - Amen.

3. *THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES GOD'S PEOPLE.*

Exodus 13:21-22 - And the Lord went before them by day in a Pillar of Cloud to lead the way, and by night in a Pillar of Fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

He did not take away the Pillar of Cloud by day or the Pillar of Fire by night from before the People.

The Holy Spirit leads us; He leads us!

And in the New Testament, He leads us through our Spirit - Not through a Pillar of Fire and a Pillar of Cloud; but through our Spirit.

... And finally - and I am going to end with this, and we will Pray.

4. *THE HOLY SPIRIT SIGNALS GOD'S APPROVAL.*

In the Old Testament, you find out that Sacrifices would be made with Fire. But once in a while, a Sacrifice would be made and before the People could light the Fire, God Himself lights the Fire.

So you would see the Fire of God would come and consume a Sacrifice, without the People Lighting the Fire.

And anytime that happens, the People would know that God approves of the Sacrifice; God is in this Place; God is aware and God likes what is going on.

And I'm going to show you Two (2) Instances, then we would pray.

I. *The first instance is in 1 Kings 18:38-39.*

Then the Fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt Sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the People saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

This is talking about Elijah's Sacrifice.

When he made a Sacrifice, challenged the Prophets of Baal, who also made a similar Sacrifice. And he said, the God Who answers by Fire, He is the God. And God showed up with His Fire.

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II. *And then 2 Chronicles 7:1-3.*

... This is after the first Temple of Israel had been built.

David was the one who wanted to build the Temple. But he couldn't build it. He laid up resources, laid up materials (money).

And Solomon took over from David and he built the Temple. And it was a Grand Day in Jerusalem. For the first time they had built a Habitation for the Lord. It had been David's desire!

And Solomon gave such Profuse Offering unto the Lord, and then lifted up his hands and began to Pray in the Temple, to Dedicate it. And this is what happened when he Prayed.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 - When Solomon had finished Praying, Fire came down from Heaven and consumed the burnt Offering and the Sacrifices; and the Glory of the Lord filled the Temple. And the Priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the Glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's House. When all the children of Israel saw how the Fire came down, and the Glory of the Lord on the Temple, they bowed their faces to the Ground on the Pavement, and Worshiped and Praised the Lord, saying: "For He is Good, For His Mercy endures forever."

In the first instance, when the Fire came and Picked that Offering, the People said: "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

And this is including Idol Worshippers who saw that - "This is the doing of the Lord."

In the Second instance, it was in the Temple. They bowed and said: "For He is Good, For His Mercy endures forever."

There is something about Encountering God, that causes Worship to swell up inside of you!

You don't even need anybody to tell you what to say. Your heart just responds to the Glory of God and to the Power of the Holy Spirit.

This morning or as you are reading now on the Label of DMC, for the few minutes that we have left, I just want your heart to register the Presence of God in your Life. I want you to just allow God swell you up by His Spirit through you.

We don't need too much time for the Holy Spirit to do a Complete Work in our lives.

I believe this Morning or as you are reading now on the Label of DMC, He will do a Complete Work in our lives, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

... Everybody just rise up wherever you are now and lift up your Holy hands to the Lord.

And say LORD; You are here and I know it. Your Spirit is here and I know it. Holy Spirit You are here and I know it.

I feel Your Presence and I sense Your Presence. Your Glory is all over this Place.

And I receive from Your Glory, from Your Fire, from Your Presence. Thank You Holy Spirit!

Touch my Life and do a Special Work in me!

... Begin to talk to the Lord in Prayer!

Holy Spirit show Yourself to Your People:

I. If you want Him to fill you, ask Him to fill you.

II. If you want Him to touch you, ask Him to touch you.

III. If you want Him to move in your Life, ask Him to move in your Life; for He is here!

We worship You Lord! Because You are Good and Your Mercy endures for ever!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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JUNE 12TH PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT [PART 1]



TEXT: *1 CORINTHIANS 14:2*

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

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So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am teaching today on: PRAYING ON THE SPIRIT - PART 1.

... Or some people would say: PRAYING WITH THE SPIRIT.

It is a Phrase that many of us may be familiar with - Normally, People associate it with Praying in Tongues.

And so I am going to talk about that for this week and next week. And explain some things from the Scriptures; and also get us into Prayer in a certain direction.

So, I am going to focus most of what I'll teach today on 1 Corinthians 14. And the background to this is that Paul had set up a Church in Corinth.

The Church in Corinth was a very enthusiastic Church and very Spiritually active. And so Spiritually active that sometimes, they go into excesses.

And so in 1 Corinthians 14, Paul is correcting some of the mistakes in the Church. Prior to 1 Corinthians 14, he had spoken about Holy Communion;

In Chapter 12 he talked about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; in Chapter 13 he talks about Love and how they should walk in Love. And in Chapter 14, he is talking about Speaking in Tongues and how it must be done in Church.

So I am going to focus on 1 Corinthians 14:2:

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the Spirit he speaks Mysteries.

So Paul talks about something he calls 'Tongue.' Popularly this time we call it Tongues: we add an 's' to it. But when Paul was talking about it, it was "Tongue" (as a Singular). But it still talks about the same thing.

That word in the Greek can be applied to the Physical tongue we have in our mouth; it can also be applied to any language you speak.

So, English is a "Tongue"; "Fanti" is a tongue; and every language is a tongue. Some more tongued than the others but every Language is a tongue.

But in a context that Paul is using the word tongue, he is not talking about the Physical Tongue; neither is he talking about just any Language at all - Like any Language we know.

In this context, he means a Special or Spiritual Expression in an Unlearned Language.

... Sometimes it is called, "Unknown Tongue(s)".

So, This is the context in which Paul is using this word (Tongue) - A Spiritual Expression in an Unlearned Language.

It's a Spiritual Expression, it's a Language, but the Language is not the normal one you know, have learnt and see familiar with.

So, this is the Holy Spirit empowering People to be able to express a Spiritual Idea in Language they have not learned.

Speaking in Tongues is or should be by the Spirit! It must be in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

Because if you read the first expression of it in Acts 2:4; the Bible says: "... And began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

So the utterance is given by the Holy Spirit; but the speaking is done by human beings.

But the utterance, the Origin of it is the Holy Spirit. The Expression of it is human!

So Speaking in Tongue must originate from the Spirit - It's very important! It must be an utterance inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In this 2 Corinthians 14:2, Paul talks about Speaking in Tongues, and he says: first, the Person who speaks in Tongues speaks to God - That simply means that God understands what the Person is saying.

1. *When a Person is speaking in Tongues, they are speaking to God!*

And it makes sense because, if it is inspired by the Holy Spirit, then God understands what the Person is saying.

... It is a Language that God understand!

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However, the Passage (2 Corinthians 14:2) also says, apart from God Who understands what the Person is saying, no one understands what the Person is saying.

No one understands! Including the Speaker himself or herself - They don't understand what they are saying. And the Hearers also don't understand. But God understands because they are speaking to God.

So that's the first thing Paul says, that when you speak in Tongues, you are speaking to God.

2. *Then Secondly, he says that when People speak in Tongues; they are speaking Mysteries.*

That's a very important word.

And I am going to explain what he meant by Mysteries.

Mysteries mean that Nobody understands what the Person is saying - We don't understand what the Person is saying; he speaks to God and God understands.

At the same time, for the Person who is speaking and those who are listening; it's a Mystery they don't understand.

Now that word Mystery is something we have to breakdown, because we need to always understand the Scripture as it is to be understood.

He says: "For no one understands him: "... for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh Mysteries."

So the Question you would ask is: "If the Person is speaking Mysteries, whom is he speaking the Mysteries to?" Because a Mystery is something you don't understand.

So, if he is speaking Mysteries, is he speaking Mysteries to God? Of course not! Because God understands what the Person is saying.

And if God understands what the Person is saying, it is not a Mystery to God.

Something is a Mystery to you only when you don't understand it.

When Apostle Paul said, the Person who speaks in Tongue speaks in Mysteries; the Mysteries are not Mysteries to God - They are Mysteries only to those who don't understand!

Even in the Natural: If somebody comes here from Afghanistan and starts to speak Afghan. And start talking Afghan up and down, very animated and gibbering in his Language;

It will be a Mystery to us.

Why? - We don't understand! But for those who understand that Language, it is not a Mystery.

When the Bible says that when a Person speaks in Tongue they are speaking Mysteries - They are not speaking mysteries to God because God cannot be mystified by what we say.

It is only a Mystery to the extent that both the Person speaking and those listening do not understand. And in-so-far as they don't understand, it is a Mystery to them.

... I hope you are following that? Okay.

Because sometimes People use speaking in Tongues as a talisman. So when they Pray they feel somehow, they are talking about Deep Spiritual Mysteries from somewhere.

And somehow People think that once they can Pray enough in Tongues their Problems would be solved because they are dealing with Mysteries.

But you have to understand the context in which Mystery has been used here:

It is used because, it is a Mystery to the Speaker and to the Listeners but not a Mystery to God.

Paul doesn't end there! He is saying, if Speaking in Tongues is a Mystery to us, what should we do? How do we move it from the Mystery Stage?

He answers that Question in 1 Corinthians 14:13-14 - Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue Pray that he may interpret. For if I Pray in a tongue, my Spirit Prays, but my Understanding is Unfruitful.

So what is Paul saying?

Paul is saying: to cure the Mystery, then you have to Pray that God will help you to understand by the same Holy Spirit Gifting you, that what you said that you didn't understand, He will make you to understand.

... Later on he explained why that is so.

So, he says, because it is a Mystery to you, you need to understand what you are Praying about - Alright!

Now, he makes the Statement: "When I Pray in "A TONGUE" ..."

Today we would say: "When I Pray in Tongues!

I want you to note something, even before I make any further explanation;

First, he talks about he that speaks in Tongue - There are Three (3) Action words you would Notice in relation to Tongue:

I. Speaking - Is an Action word;

II. Now he is talking about Praying;

III. And later on he will talk about Singing.

So, there is a SPEAKING in Tongues; there is a PRAYING in Tongues; there is a SINGING in Tongues.

... But we are focusing more o PRAYING - Not Speaking. But Praying!

Now, when we Pray in Tongues, we normally call it: "The Prayer Language of the Spirit." It's a language of the Spirit that is expressed through us.

And when a Person is Praying in Tongues, they themselves don't understand what they are saying; the People listening don't understand what they are saying.

What they are saying is a Mystery to them; it's a Mystery to their Audience but they are Praying.

It's not rubbish, it's not nonsense. It is not gibbering! Because sometimes People say, "Speaking in Tongues is nothing." It is something! According to the New Testament, it is Prayer.

What type of Prayer is it? - It is Praying in the Spirit.

So Paul says, "For if I Pray in a tongue, my Spirit Prays."

What does that mean? - It means, my Spirit is actively involved in what is going on.

That's why we call it, "The Prayer Language." Because, my Spirit is Praying. And it is a Glorious thing when your Spirit is Praying; when your Spirit is expressing himself.

If he is truly expressing himself, led by the Holy Spirit, then what he is saying would be right.

Because the Holy Spirit would not lead your Spirit to Pray the wrong kind of Prayer.

So Paul says, when I Pray in Tongues, my Spirit Prays. My Spirit is Praying; my Spirit is the one who is Active.

Now when he says, my Spirit - The "My Spirit" there is not the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is not your Spirit. That's God's Spirit.

But he said, when I Pray in Tongue, my Spirit Prays. He didn't say the Holy Spirit Prays. But "My Spirit Prays."

Now how does that happen? - The Holy Spirit inspires my Spirit to Pray!

... The Spirit gave them utterance.

The Holy Spirit inspires your Spirit. But that Prayer is not coming from the Holy Spirit. It is coming from your Spirit, which is United with Christ, is Born Again. Now being given the Expression to Pray: through the Agency of the Holy Spirit.

"My Spirit Prays!" - My Spirit is actively involved!

But then he says something very troublesome: "... My Understanding is Unfruitful." My Mind is not engaged.

So this is a kind of Prayer - He says, I'm Praying in Tongues, my Spirit is Praying but my Mind is in Neutral Gear. My Mind is not doing anything beneficial.

And that is why, People can Pray in Tongues and be absentminded. They can be absentminded!

Sometimes somebody is watching Television and going around speaking in Tongues.

And we do that a lot you know! As someone used to say: Perambulating, walking round the Place (Laughter). Even in Prayer Meetings People are speaking in Tongues and waving to each other.

And why are they doing that? It's because their Mind is asleep, their Mind is unfruitful.

Is it a Good thing for you to Pray - Your Spirit is actively Praying, but your Mind is Unfruitful?

So, if my Spirit is Praying and my Mind is Unfruitful, it's not good for me. Because if my spirit is Praying and my Mind is Unfruitful, it means that Faith is not activated.

So that Prayer I am Praying - Although it's in the Spirit, it's not of Faith. Why is it not of Faith? It's because Faith comes by hearing, believing and declaring the Word of God.

Praying in Tongues therefore, because my Mind is Unfruitful, will not become a Prayer of Faith. It is a Spiritual Prayer, but it is not a Prayer of Faith.

Because I don't know what I am talking about; I don't know what I am believing; I don't know what I can continue to trust God to.

So, if I Pray in Tongues today, and let's say my Spirit led me to Pray for a Particular Person who is going through a Marital Challenge. And my Spirit wants me to intercede. So I Pray in Tongues for that Person. But I don't know why I am Praying.

The next time I am Praying, I cannot pick up that Prayer topic again (Praying for that Particular Fellow with a Marital Challenge). And Prayer has to be Persistent.

How can I Persist in Faith when I didn't know what I Prayed for?

... Are you following what I'm saying?

I know some of you are getting very nervous - "Hey Pastor, are you saying we shouldn't Pray in Tongues?" I'm not saying that. I am explaining how you can make the Spirit effective.

Faith comes by hearing: you must hear and understand and believe and declare. That's is Faith.

If you heard and you didn't understand it, Jesus says it's like a Person who heard the Word of God and the birds of the air came to steal it. There'll be no fruit! That's why the Bible says, my Mind is Unfruitful. Because I don't even know what I am talking about.

HOW DO WE SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

When a Person is Praying in Tongues, his Spirit is Praying Current of Prayer to God. But he doesn't know what he is talking about. Because it is a Mystery to him.

How do we reconcile the two? How do we solve this Problem?

Paul anticipated the Question; and so in 1 Corinthians 14:15, he says: What is the conclusion then?

So, he has shown us the dichotomy - When I am Praying in Tongues, my Spirit is Praying; my Mind is not Fruitful.

... What should we do then? What's the conclusion?

He says, the conclusion is: I will Pray with the Spirit, and I will also Pray with the Understanding. I will sing with the Spirit, and I will also sing with the Understanding.

So, two (2) Things he says he will do:

I. I will Pray with the Spirit.

I want you to note, "I will" - It's a Choice.

Praying with the Spirit is the same thing as Praying in Tongues. And we must all desire to Pray in Tongues.

Once you get Born Again, you must desire that you are filled with the Holy Spirit; and that you'll have the Prayer Language of the Spirit because your Spirit must Pray.

So, Paul says, I will Pray with the Spirit. And then he continued to say:

II. I will Pray with the Understanding also.

Now what did he mean by "I will Pray with the Understanding also?"

Does it mean I'll just say something in Tongues and then say something in English or my Local Language? Is that what he is saying?

That's not what he is saying!

Remember, he said earlier on, that when you Pray in Tongues, you must also Pray that God gives you the ability to interpret.

So what Paul is saying simply is: When you Pray in Tongues, don't put it in Neutral Gear and just keep on blasting in Tongues all the way for three (3) hours or so.

But as you Pray in Tongues, Pray, God help me to understand what my Spirit just said to You; so that my Understanding would be Fruitful.

So I can know exactly what my Spirit is Praying for in the Spirit; I can believe! And Faith can now be met with my Spiritual Language. And that makes it a very Powerful Force.

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The Practice most of us have developed over the years is what I call, "Endurance Praying in Tongues".

People have developed a bad habit of determining Prayer or Spiritual Vitality by how long a Person can Pray with his Mind Unfruitful.

So, People go to a Prayer Meeting - Shall we Pray! We don't even know the Topic, we don't know what we are Praying for; we don't know the Word of God we are believing.

Let's Pray! And then they start speaking in Tongues all the way - three (3) hours! And People will come and say, Ha, it was Powerful. Hey, today it was Powerful. We went three (3) hours Non-Stop!

Was your Mind Fruitful? - No! Do you know what you talked about? - No! Was it a Mystery? - No! What did you believe God to do? - I don't know! My Spirit has taken care of it.

Please says No. We have to move away from ignorance - So whilst your Spirit is Praying, you must Pray that your Mind would be Fruitful.

And how do you do that? The same Holy Spirit, Who gives us the ability to Speak in Tongues, also has another Gift called the Interpretation of Tongues.

And if you go to Him and say - You are now inspiring me to say these things, now help my Mind to understand. He will now drop into your Mind what your Spirit said!

... Are you following me?

So, when that happens, You can now do what Paul says: "I will Pray with the Spirit, I will Pray with the Understanding."

How did he get the Understanding? - Through the same Holy Spirit, making his Mind Fruitful.

Then the next verse (1 Corinthians 14:6). I think this is quite explanatory - If you Pray with your Spirit without Praying with your Understanding, he says:

Otherwise, if you are bless with the Spirit, how will he who occupies the Place of the Uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of Thanks, since he does not understand what you say?

How can anybody agree with you in Prayer if you gibber in Tongues and they didn't know what you said? How can they say: "I agree"?

... "Amen" means "I agree".

So you Pray in Tongues (whatever you said). You can even tell People: "Say Amen". But what did they say Amen to?

So Paul is saying: You have blessed the Person with your Spirit. The Person must know the Blessing so that he can say "Amen" to it.

Because the Prayer that God answers is the Prayer of Faith.

God responds to Faith.

Faith is not squeeze your eyes hard: "I believe, I believe, I believe!!!!!" No, that's not Faith.

Faith is simply, "God has Promised it, He is a Faithful God. This is what He Promised; I believe what He has Promised, because He is a Faithful God. And I rest in Him and what He had Promised because He will do what He has Promised."

But for that to happen, I must know what God has Promised. For me to even know, how to waive my Faith, I must know what we Pray for.

You know, sometimes one Person Prayed - Father, we Thank You for this and continue the Prayers. And when we finish, all of us say "Amen!"

Do you know why we say "Amen"? We are saying that the Prayer that was Prayed by one Person is our Prayer too.

So, God's Presence is no longer one Person's Prayer; it is called a "Corporate Prayer" - All of us who said "Amen" have agreed to that Prayer. Therefore, it is our Prayer also.

If I Pray that God will increase you more and more; and expand you. And you say "Amen" you are saying, "God, what he said is also what I am saying."

But if I said that in Tongues, you wouldn't know what I said. Even if you said "Amen" you wouldn't know whether I was Praying for somebody in Africa or I was Praying for somebody in Afghanistan - You wouldn't know!

So you said Amen to something you didn't understand. And Paul is saying, how can someone you are Praying for say "Amen"?

One of the things that everybody who has the Prayer Language of the Spirit should have is that, they must Pray for the ability to Understand what they are Praying for in the Spirit.

And we can ask the same Holy Spirit, and He would give it to us.

That is why when you Pray in Tongues, it's always important to keep quiet at a Point: to ask the Holy Spirit to interpret to you what you just Prayed in the Spirit. So your Mind would not be Unfruitful - Your mind would be Fruitful.

So, from now onwards you would know - This is the burden the Holy Spirit Places on my Spirit to Pray about. And now I can continue Praying in that same direction, believing God for the Perfection of what my Spirit initiated in Prayer.

But if all you did was just Praying in Tongues, and you think that it's a Magic one, you are waving somewhere. And because you Prayed in Tongues, Power has been released!

Yes, Power has been released! But we have to also get into Understanding.

It's a very Powerful Weapon that God has given to us, but ignorance would make us fall short of the expectation of the Power of our Prayer, as we Pray in the Spirit.

So, when we pray with our Understanding; the basic way to Pray with our Understanding is to read the Bible; take God's Promise and Pray according to it.

But it could also be that the Holy Spirit interpret back to you what you have just Prayed in the Spirit.

Since about 1979, that's how I have Prayed - If I Pray in Tongues, I have to wait, I have to Pause.

I have to ask the Holy Spirit:

- What was that all about"?

- What are you Communicating to me?

- What are You telling me?

- What do you want me to continue Praying about?

You don't just go like a horse that is broken free, and is just galloping Non-Stop! And thinks that it's Powerful.

Now I know that because these days there is Plurality of Preaching; and you will hear all kinds of Preaching; you will hear other People who just say otherwise. You know, I am fine!

You know, I always stick with the Scripture. I don't care what anybody's experience.

Somebody said, at Midnight I Pray in Tongues three (3) hours and this happen.

Fine! That's your experience. But I can't find the Validity of it anywhere in the Scriptures. And until we can ground our Christian Actions in the Scripture, we can easily move into error. Our Actions must come grounded in the Scriptures!

So, by all means, Pray with the Spirit. But also Pray that the Holy Spirit would give your Mind of Understanding so that you can say like Paul: "I would Pray with the Spirit, I would Pray with the Understanding".

And then he goes ahead, "I would Sing with the Spirit, I would sing with the Understanding."

... I would deal with Singing in the Spirit next week. But today, it is Praying in the Spirit.

You cannot Pray in the Spirit if you have not received the Prayer Language of the Holy Spirit. If you have not received it - What people call the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the infilling of the Holy Spirit or whatever term it is.

It is the Holy Spirit giving you that Spiritual Language, so that you can Communicate to Him in the way He wants you to communicate.

And then the same Holy Spirit enlighten your Mind so that you will know where your Spirit is going: what your Spirit is leading you to, what your Spirit wants you to focus on.

Now, even after you have Prayed in the Spirit, you can now go searching the Scriptures to now add Faith to what you were Praying for in the Spirit.

And that is the way to Pray effectively, Powerfully and receive answers to your Prayer - AMEN.

Now we are going to Pray!

And if you are here now or reading the Message on the Label of DMC and you say: I want to receive the Prayer Language of the Holy Spirit, the ability to Speak in Tongues - I want to receive that.

Jesus says, ask! That's what He said - "Ask the Father, He will give it to you".

So, we are going to Stand up as we Pray. Let's rise up everybody.

Is there anybody who desires the Prayer Language of the Holy Spirit?

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You desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to be Praying in Tongues.

You haven't done that before, and you want God to give you that ability, just lift up your hands wherever you are.

Now, everybody just Pray along with me and say: Heavenly Father, I believe Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I am Your Child, and I ask you Father, give me the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Let my Spirit Pray by the Inspiration of Your Holy Spirit.

And grant me the Prayer Language of the Holy Spirit, that I can Communicate to You by Your Spirit, the way You want me to Communicate.

And Father, give me Understanding so that my Mind would know what my Spirit is saying.

I receive today, the Gift of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

.... Now begin to talk to the Lord!

And I Pray Father, that You give to Your People the Interpretation of the Prayer Language. The Interpretation of Tongues, that they will Understand what they are saying in the Spirit.

That their Minds will be Fruitful. Take us beyond the Spirit into Faith. So we will walk in the Spirit and we will walk by Faith.

Let there be a Release of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit over God's People, in the Name of Jesus.

And we give You Lord, Praise for answered Prayer - Amen.

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... Let us celebrate the Lord for His Goodness and for His Mercy.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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JUNE 19TH - PRAYING ON THE SPIRIT [PART 2]



TEXT: *1 CORINTHIANS 14:14-15*

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

Last week I started Preaching on: "PRAYING ON THE SPIRIT" and I did Part 1.

DMC NOTES: We can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 of this Series: "PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT" on this Link:

<https://discoverymediacrew.com/Praying-On-The-Spirit-Part-1-Dr-Mensa-Otabil>

So today I am doing: "PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT - PART 2".

1 Corinthians 14:14-15;

14 For if I Pray in a tongue, my Spirit Prays, but my Understanding is Unfruitful.

15 What is the Conclusion then? I will Pray with the Spirit, and I will also Pray with the Understanding. I will sing with the Spirit, and I will also sing with the Understanding.

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Today I am going to focus on - SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT.

... Some would also call it: "Singing in Tongues".

Just like Praying in the Spirit includes also Praying in Tongues.

Worshipping God with words we have not learned and Music we have not learned.

So, What is "SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT?"

I'll give you Two (2) Definitions:

1. It means Singing a "Known Song" in an "Unknown Tongue".

What does that mean?

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It means that in Prayer, in Worship, you can use the Music of a Song you already know; but the words of the Music would be in the Spirit - In Tongues.

Whether it is a "Known Chorus" or a "Known Hymn"; instead of Singing it in the regular way that the Song is sung (in English or some other Language you know) you sing it in Tongues.

That is Singing with the Spirit - Singing a "Known Song" in an "Unknown Tongue".

... That's the first one!

2. Singing with the Spirit is Singing an "Unknown Song" in an "Unknown Tongue".

In that case the Holy Spirit releases a New Melody - A Melody you have not learnt before.

So whilst you Pray, you find your Spirit forming a New tune (as we say it).

A New Tune - A tune you didn't know before. And as the tune comes up, you also find out you are Praying with Tongue alongside that Melody or that Music.

And that is called - Singing with the Spirit.

So Singing with the Spirit can be done in Two (2) ways - Sometimes it's with a tune you already know, but the Language is with Tongues. And sometimes, it's the Music you didn't know at all and the Language is still with Tongue.

So, you can Sing with the Spirit in these Two (2) Main Ways.

Now the Message that is carried as you are Singing with the Spirit can be a Message of Thanksgiving, Worship, Exaltation or Prophecy. And usually, it is a Message to yourself.

And just like you need to Understand your Prayer with the Spirit; you also need to Understand your Singing with the Spirit.

Because the Holy Spirit is able to bring Understanding to you so that you would Understand the Sounds you are creating and what it means.

Because it may be a Word that God is giving to you; it may be an encouragement that God is giving to you; it could be an assurance that God is giving to you.

So, Singing with the Spirit can be a Word of encouragement to yourself.

The Passage also talks about Singing with the Understanding.

... I'm not going to spend too much time on that.

Singing with the Understanding is similar to Praying with the Understanding:

It is Worshipping God with "Known Words" and "Known Music".

So when we come to Church and we are having Praise and Worship. And a Song is raised and all of us sing it. We know the Music and we know the words. We know the Melody line, we know the tune and we know the Song.

So what we are doing is not Singing with the Spirit. It is Singing with our Understanding - We Understand the tune, we Understand the word.

But when we are Singing with the Spirit, we don't sing with words we Understand; we sing with Tongue.

So these are two (2) different Expressions - "I will sing with the Spirit, I will sing with the Understanding."

Now I want you to know and note how the Passage (1 Corinthians 14:15) - "I WILL..." That's the Apostle Paul talking.

"I WILL..." That means it is something I can "Switch On" and "Switch Off". It's something I can do.

I can decide in Prayer to sing with the Spirit, and then I can decide to sing with the Understanding
- The Choice is mine.

The Holy Spirit is not the One making the Choice for me. I am making that Choice! As for the Holy Spirit, He is always inspiring.

But whether I would walk with Him in line, or do it another way, that isn't Choice. "I will sing with the Spirit, I will sing with my Understanding."

And as Christians we have to learn to come under the influence of the Holy Spirit, so we can Sing with the Spirit - Especially men.

Because we have to be Spiritually Sensitive Men who discern the Purposes of God for our families. So we can lead our families closer to the Lord.

So, we have to learn to sing with the Spirit; Song also with our Understanding.

I am going to go into the Old Testament very shortly, and show you a Module in the Old Testament, about something that happened.

It is not Singing with the Spirit as I have talked, but it would give you an indication that there is something similar to it that used to happen in the Old Testament - Similar, but not the same.

Because I will show you the Old Testament, and hopefully, I will come back to the New Testament to show you how it's done in Practice.

So, we are going to look first at: "THE WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT".

1 Chronicles 25:1; before I read it, I'll just do a little explanation.

You know that before Israel became a Nation, one of the things God gave them was the Tabernacle. And they had Priests - The Priests were the Levites.

And these Levites are the People who worked around the Tabernacle - They did all the Services there.

In the Old Testament, there is the Tabernacle and there is the Temple. The Tabernacle was moveable. And they had it when they were in the wilderness because they were moving from Place to Place, to the Promise Land.

When they got to the Promise Land, God told them now, build a Permanent Structure - That Permanent Structure became the Temple.

And David was the one who started the Process; and Solomon was the one who built the Temple.

The Worship in the Tabernacle was a little different from the Worship in the Temple.

One of the big difference was that, in the Tabernacle Days, there was very little Singing - Almost no Singing.

But in the Temple Days, Singing and Music became a very important Part of their Worship.

So now we are going to look at Parts of the Temple Worship. And I want you to Pay attention to a description that is made here.

1 Chronicles 25:1 - Moreover David and the Captains of the Army separated for the Service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should Prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the Skilled Men Performing their Service was:

... Let's leave the number!

But the Point I want you to Note is: "... Who should Prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals" - "Propheying with Instruments" is a very Strange Terminology

How do you Prophesy with the harp, with the keyboard, with the drum, with the guitar?

But that is what they were told to do - Propheesy with an Instrument.

So, these Levites and Worshippers would come to the Temple; and they would Propheesy.

But you and I know that when a Person is Propheying, he must say something. In this case, they are going to Propheesy, but they are not going to say a word that People can Understand - Like a Hebrew language;

But they are going to use the Language of a Musical Instrument to do the Propheying.

The Instrument did not Propheesy, the People Propheesied - The Levites (Asaph), the Worshippers, the People from the Tribe of Judah who were Worshippers.

These Worshipers had the ability from the Holy Spirit to Prophecy. But the Language was not Hebrew - The Language is the Language of an Instrument.

... I want you to note that very carefully.

So, here we are - People doing something Spiritual with an Instrument, which is not Spiritual.

So there is a Marriage there, between the Gift of the Person who is Worshipping and the Instrument he is using to Worship.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PROPHECY?

It simply means to operate under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

So, what does it mean when the Bible says: The Instruments were going to Prophecy?

They are going to Play their Instruments under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

You see, normally when we come to Church and the Instrumentalists are Playing the Instruments, they are very Mindful of what they have learned - They know the beats they should use, they know when to Change to something else.

They know all of that as they have learned what to Play.

So, when the Instrumentalists are Playing to Support the Worship People, they know what they are doing - They have learned; they are Playing something they know; something they have rehearsed. They know!

When the Bible talks about Prophesying here, these People were going to Play the Instruments, not based on something they have rehearsed.

But instantly, by the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they were going to use the Instruments in a way that is directly influenced by the Holy Spirit.

... They call it, Prophesying with the Instruments.

Why did they do that? And what did they do?

They did three (3) things:

1. *To create a Spiritual Atmosphere.*

So, when they began to Play the Instruments, even without any word; even without any Song that People could recognise, they would just be Playing the harps, or Playing the cymbals, or the trumpet. And People would say: "This is the Presence of God."

And the reason they say it's the Presence of God is not because the Instrument is Anointed; but the Player is Anointed.

And because the Player is Anointed, he is Channelling the Anointing through a Musical Instrument. And you can feel it, as they play that something is taking Place.

We see a bit of it on the "Other Side". And when I say, 'The Other Side' - This is not the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Because there are many Spirits that are not the Holy Spirit.

But when you go through some of our Traditional Settings and the People who Play the Instruments, and all of that. They can Play in a certain way that all of a sudden you would feel the Place has become 'heavy.'

What are they doing? - They are Channelling a Spirit through an instrument.

In the same way, the Holy Spirit (His Presence) can be made real, through the Playing of an Instrument.

Here, the Bible calls it, Prophesying with an Instrument - The helpers create a Spiritual Atmosphere.

Not only do the helpers create a Spiritual Atmosphere;

2. *They herald God's Presence.*

Now, remember these People are already Priests of God. So they know the Temple, they know how the Presence of God is.

When they are in a Service and they sense the Presence of God is in a Service, they Play on a way that heralds the Presence of God.

So, they are literally saying, "LORD, You are welcome, because we sense You are here today. And they Play to say, You are welcome Oh LORD."

3. *And thirdly, they Minister to God's People.*

When the Instruments Ministered, they brought Life, Energy, Inspiration to the People.

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Now, if you read the full Passage (1 Chronicles 25:1-end) it says that they did all of these under the Supervision of some Leaders in the Temple.

In other words, they don't just take off and do things by themselves - It has to be managed. Very similar to what Paul says, that the Prophet in the New Testament also has to be Judged.

You don't just move anyhow and say, "I am in the Spirit." - Somebody must Judge whether what you are doing is in the Spirit or just for Showmanship.

Here we see in the Old Testament, something similar to Singing with the Spirit - Playing in a Language that is not known - That is, the Instrumental Music; but led by the Spirit.

But in the New Testament God has given us the Holy Spirit to live in us. And we can also (by the Spirit of God) use our Voices as Instrument. Just like they used then, your Voice as an instrument to sing a Song that is not a regular song; but a song of the Spirit, to touch God's People.

... I hope you understand it?

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Now let's jump quickly to the New Testament and I would be winding up!

THE NEW STATEMENT MODULE.

Ephesians 5:18-20, and this is what it says:

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (dissipation means wastefulness); but be filled with the Spirit,

19 Speaking to one another in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Singing and making Melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 Giving Thanks always for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here the Bible is talking about the infilling of the Holy Spirit - Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

And the Picture you get is that when a Person is being filled with the Holy Spirit, there will be Joy and there will be Happiness.

A Spirit filled Person has a Joyful and a Singing Spirit.

When a Person is full of the Holy Spirit, they want to sing - They are Joyful, they are Happy.

The Passage contrast that with a drunken Person.

Have you noticed that when People are drunk with alcohol, they also normally sing? Have you noticed that? - They sing or attempt to sing.

Why are they Singing? - Because they are under an Influence. And the Influence is making them sing.

The Passage says, don't be like that! -That is the way is the world.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit can also make you sing!

But this Singing is not like the Singing of a drunk man; which is wastefulness. But this Singing is going to Produce a Supernatural effect in your Life.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, one of the things that manifest is the Joy of the Lord. And the Joy of the Lord is seen in Singing.

So you can't come to Church when People are Singing and you are there like a Piece of wood - No!

If being filled with the Holy Spirit is working, one of the things we learn is that He moves! - You would be moved.

"He is the Mover Who moves Immoveable People."

So, the Holy Spirit is moving, you would move. And as you are moving, one of the movements is that you are going to sing.

Just like in the Old Testament, the things the Priest would do is they would Prophecy with an Instrument;

When you are also filled with the Holy Spirit, out of your belly shall flow something that would move you. And one of the Manifestations of that Movement is Singing.

You don't need to have the best Voice to Sing because you are not Singing in a Choir; you are not Singing a Special Song. But you are Singing to yourself and you are Singing the Song of the Lord.

In that Singing, there are Three (3) Types of Singing that is mentioned there:

1. *You are singing to yourself in Psalms.*

... Everybody say, PSALMS!

What is a Psalm?

A Psalm is a written Music accompanied with Instruments: Known Melodies, Known words. Both the words and Melody is Known!

In the Old Testament - If you read your Psalms well and take note, it will say, "To be Played with this Instrument, to be Played on that instrument."

A Psalm normally, is a Spiritual Song or a Song sung by the Believer under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit but in a known language and it is usually accompanied by Instruments.

Normally when we come to Church and we are doing Praise and Worship, it's a kind of Singing in Psalms.

You say, "But we didn't say Psalms 35." - It doesn't have to be Psalms 35. It is a Song we are singing and it is backed by Instruments - That's a Psalm.

Technically, the Psalms are one hundred and fifty (150). But in terms of its full Understanding, it's Music that is backed with instruments - That's a Psalm.

So, Part of what the Bible says the Holy Spirit would do is that He will lead us to sing Psalms - Praise God, honour Him and so on.

2. *And then he talks about Hymns.*

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Hymns are Music and words in Praise of God.

In a Purely Theological, Technical sense, a Hymn is always in Praise of God.

A Hymn does not describe your situation.

So you cannot sing a Hymn about how fearful you are; how hard Life is; how difficult Life is. That's not a Hymn! It could be a Psalm. But it's not a Hymn.

A Hymn, so to speak, is Purely in Praise of God:

I. "Lord, You are Good and your Mercy endures forever."

II. "Lord You are Mighty, Lord You are wonderful, Lord You created the Heaven and Earth."

... Everything is about God when it is a HYMN.

When it is a Psalm, it can be about Life's situations. But when it's a hymn, it's about God.

You know when you read the Psalms, you can get to a Psalm saying, "My enemies have multiplied; many are my enemies."

... That's a Psalm - It describes your Life Experiences.

But the Hymn is for God alone.

In these times when we say something is a Hymn, we mean it has got Stanzas.

But Hymn is not a Musical Structure. So it's not the Stanzas - Verse 1, 2 that makes it a Hymn.

What makes a Song a Hymn is that it is directed to Praise God. That's a hymn, from a Technical Theological Point of View.

3. *And then third thing that it says we would do when we are under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit is Spiritual Songs.*

Spiritual Songs are Unrehearsed, Inspired Songs - Usually Spontaneous.

And that is what the Apostle Paul had in Mind when he said, "I will sing with the Spirit" - It's a Spiritual Song.

... Singing in a Language you haven't learned.

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One of the things we have to be opened to, as we wait on the Lord; is that many times at certain Points in Prayer, you will feel inside you as if God wants you to sing.

But the Song you are Singing is with a Melody you don't know.

So, you are Singing something, you cannot say, "I heard it there, I rehearsed it here." No! You are just Singing.

And don't stop it because, it's the Holy Spirit doing that.

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And then you will find out as you are doing that - Singing it in Tongues, Singing it in the Spirit; sometimes you may not even be Speaking in Tongues as we normally do.

But it will be Singing.

You don't even know what it is; but the Holy Spirit, inspiring that Melody, is beginning to convey a Divine Message to you, so that your Spirit would be edified, renewed and Uplifted.

When you understand these Spiritual Dynamics, your Prayer Life take on a New dimension. Because Prayer is not just Standing, going Marching up and down and repeating one phrase of Tongues but Prayer is when your Spirit is so sensitive to God, that at various times there are different things that the Holy Spirit is doing through you.

And the things you don't understand, you are asking for understanding, to understand what is happening - "Why am I singing this Song? What is this Song saying to me? Lord, what are you telling me through this Song?"

And the same Holy Spirit, Who inspired the Song would give you Understanding of the Song.

So, Paul says "I will Pray with the Spirit, and I will sing with the Spirit."

Are you ready to sing with the Spirit?

Alright! Let's get up and for two (2) Minutes, Practice what you have learned.

Lift up your hands to the Lord.

Let the Instrumentalists Prophesy with the Instruments. You are not Playing something you know.
Just Flow with the Holy Spirit.

And as the Instrumentalists Prophesy with the Instruments, you also want to sing with the Spirit.

We welcome You Holy Spirit! We worship You. We declare Your Majesty. And we honour You this
Morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC. Move through us and show us Your Glory.

In Jesus' Name we have worshipped - 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!!!

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JUNE 26TH - PRAYER AND FASTING

TEXT: *LEVITICUS 20:25-26*

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am teaching briefly today on Prayer and Fasting.

Leviticus 20:25-26:

25 You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

26 And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

... You see the word 'separated' occurring a few times in this Passage.

God wanted His People Israel, to live a 'Separated Life'. And the reason why He gave them the Laws, the Rules and all those things that He told them to do was so that they can live a "Separated Life".

And when we say that God wants us to live a "Separated Life", God wants us to be Separated from something; but that is not all. He also wants us to be Separated unto something.

So He separates us from; and separates us to.

And you find in the Old Testament that God asked the People to separate everything that is blemished - That is not Whole; everything that is not Perfect.

In the Old Testament you find a lot of Laws. And sometimes you wonder, why all these Laws? What's the Purpose of it?

It is because the Laws basically, is to remind Israel that they are different from other Nations. That they are separated and they are Whole, they are Perfect unto the Lord. Or they are supposed to be Perfect unto the Lord.

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In Israel the Lord would say: An animal that has any Imperfection could not be sacrificed to God. And so, if any Part of the body was missing, you can't give it to God. An animal that had spot could not be given to God.

So, if its colour was White, it must be White throughout. If there is one spot, and spoils the White; it can't be offered to God.

If it is brown, it must be brown throughout. If there is one spot of white, it is blemished.

If it is black, it must be black throughout. If there is one spot, it is blemished.

And the reason is, God wanted to remind them, "I want you to be Holy." I don't want mixtures. I don't want imperfections, I don't want spots.

And so anytime they make a sacrifice, they are reminding themselves, "God wants us to be Holy."

Anytime they gave an animal to the Lord, they are telling themselves, "God wants us to be Holy."

And that is true of God - He wants us to be Holy. He doesn't want us to come before Him with blemishes.

But you know, it's very difficult to come before God without a blemish. It's very difficult!

Because all of us know, each one of us is blemished. Each one of us has an Imperfection; each one of us has a spot.

And here God wants us to be Holy, He wants us to be without blemish. And we look at ourselves, we say, "Oh boy! I am blemished big time!"

So what do we do when we find that we don't match up; we don't meet God's Standards - We are not there. Even when we try our best, we are not there. What do we do?

How does God still use us when we look at ourselves and we see that we are not Perfect, we have spots, we have wrinkles?

Will God use us? Can God use us? Can God bless us? Does He want us to be so Perfect before He blesses us?

Now, we are going to read another Passage of Scripture. And what we are going to read characterises the way most People who were called by God in the Bible - That when God called People to do something, the People would give excuses to God: "God, I am not Perfect, I am not Good enough."

I. Moses said, "Lord, I can't even speak."

II. Gideon said, "Lord, I am the least of my father's house. I am just a "Fearful Timid Guy"."

Almost all the People God called to use were aware of their imperfections. Rarely will you find anybody.

Infact, there was Nobody in the Bible that God called that said, "Hurray! I'm qualified."

Nobody felt that way!

Everybody felt Imperfect, everybody felt there was something wrong with them.

And there is this Young man that God called, he felt the same way. And in Jeremiah 1:4-8 God start Speaking to him:

4 Then the Word of the Lord came to me, saying:

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I Ordained you a Prophet to the Nations.”

I mean, that's Good News! Isn't that Good News?, God comes to you and say: Hey, before you were born I knew you, I Ordained you, I called you as a Prophet. I mean, the Person should be able to say, hurray!

But Jeremiah didn't say hurray! Because when God wants to do great things for you; you are still aware of your Imperfections.

So, listen to what Jeremiah said:

6 Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

... I am Imperfect, I am blemished.

Because in Israel, even for a sacrifice to be accepted by God, it has to be Full Age - Of a certain Age. For a Person to serve in the Priesthood, they have to be of a certain Age.

So, Jeremiah says: By Age, I don't qualify. And by experience, I don't even know how to speak.

Probably he is saying: I am timid, I am afraid of People.

... Because if you look at what God said to him later;

7 But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a Youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.

8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,” says the Lord.

So it means that Jeremiah is one of those People who sees People's faces and tells them what they have to hear based on their face.

He is the kind of Person who sees somebody and says, "I'm going to tell him the truth." When he sees the Person with a fixed gaze he says, "Oh, you are Wonderful!"

He says, God this is the kind of Person that I am. I am not correct; I am Young and I don't fit in. I am blemished, I am not Perfect.

And many of us feel that we are not Perfect. We know what God wants us to do, but we feel that we are not Perfect.

... And some of you are like Jeremiah!

9 Then the Lord put forth His Hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

10 See, I have this day set you over the Nations and over the Kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.”

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WHAT DID GOD DO FOR JEREMIAH?

He says, Lord, I am not worthy! Lord, I am a sinner, I am a bad boy. Because when you are a bad boy, you know you are a bad boy.

And some of you listening to me now or reading now on the Label of DMC, you all know you are bad boys. And some of you are very, very bad girls.

And that's why some People are afraid of the Power of God because they know they are bad. They say, "if I get too close, God will mess me up!"

So Jeremiah is saying Lord, I don't qualify!

And I like what the Bible says God did:

1. *God stretched out His Hand to him.*

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God says, I qualify you. By yourself you are nothing! But my hand will make the difference.

The Hand of the Lord is called the "Grace of God".

We Stand before God through the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without Him we have no merit to Stand before God. But with His Grace we can stand, covered by the Righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

... And not only did God stretch out His Hand towards Jeremiah;

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2. *God touched his mouth - God touched his Imperfection.*

And He says, now I have fixed the Problem. So, go out and do My work.

When we talk about Consecration and Sanctification, we are not talking about Personal Perfection. We are not talking about you being so Good that you qualify because of your Goodness.

When we say we are Sanctified, we are saying, God is so Good, that He has qualified me by His Goodness.

But you know what Jeremiah did before the Hand of the Lord was stretched out to him?

... He acknowledged his Imperfection - He didn't hid it.

And these People who hid their Imperfections; they live a very Hypocritical Life. They come to Church, they are the Perfect People; everything is Cool with them. They sing and dance.

But they know that they are not Living for the Lord! And instead of them confessing, they say "Ah Lord God, I don't qualified." "Ah Lord God, I am a mess."

"Instead of acknowledging they have sinned, they want to force their way through. Thinking that God is a Man, who can be deceived.

So this Morning, we want to Pray. And we want to be like Jeremiah - There is a Purpose of God for your Life; there is an Assignment of God for you; there is something God wants to do with you!

We are not here by accident; we are here by Assignment.

And many of us are Living way below where God wants us to be:

I. Have you ever felt that your Life is not where it ought to be?

You feel there is something bigger you should be doing than what you are doing now; something Greater that you should be doing and sometimes it may not be a sin (like Jeremiah).

It's not a sin! It's just an Inadequacy. You can't speak, you are careful, you can't Plan. There's something you can't do. There's a Character flaw. And that is keeping you from your Assignment.

So, God says, I knew you before you were born, I Ordained you, I sanctified you even before you caught your first breath!

Yet you say Lord, I don't qualify. And God says, if you acknowledge your Weakness, I will be your Strength.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way - I rejoice in my infirmities;

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. 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 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

God wants to do something with your Life, where you can say: This is not me. Because on my own, I could never have done this.

But this is the Hand of the Lord that had been stretched towards me. This is the finger of the Lord that has touched my Infirmary and Perfected me in Christ.

And this morning, as we sanctify ourselves, before the Lord, we want to Pray that:

I. Everything that is wrong in our lives will be nailed to the Cross.

II. That everything that is right from the Cross would be brought to us.

Let's rise up, as we come before the Lord and seek His face and as we Pray.

If you have a blemish why don't you talk to the Lord about it?

It may not even be a sin; it could be a sin, it could be habit, it could be something you are doing right now.

Something you do constantly that is going against you: It could be just a flaw. It could be an inherited Weakness. It could just be a Qisqualification.

Whatever it is, just lift your hands and say: Lord, I know I am this, I know I cannot do that, I know this Weakness Lord. And I Present it to you.

Just talk to the Lord!

It could be a Weakness you inherited from your father or your mother. It could be a habit in your family. It could be just a Limitation - Maybe you are timid, a Fearful Person, you are not Courageous; you are Indecisive; you can't make Decisions, or you make Bad Decisions all the time.

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But God still says, I have Purpose for you - All you have to do is to acknowledge it.

Talk to Him about it.

As Jeremiah talked to God about his Weaknesses, the Hand of the Lord was Stretched to him.

I believe this morning, God is Stretching His Hands to you. He is giving you Strength. His Grace is becoming your Sufficiency. He is becoming your Help.

Receive Help from the Lord; receive the Grace of God; receive Forgiveness of sin.

Receive Deliverance from your fears; Receive Deliverance from Timidity; Receive Deliverance for every Weakness of your Character that makes you go back, doing the same thing over and over again.

This morning we Proclaim Liberty from everything that holds us back.

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Just ask the Lord and say: Lord, touch me with Your Hand, touch me with Your Grace, touch me with Your

Mercy, touch me with Your Love, touch me with Your Holy Spirit, touch me with Your Power.

Touch my Inner Man, my Inner Person. Touch my Mind, touch my eyes, touch my brain, my thoughts Lord - Touch my thoughts. Touch my words, my fears, my worries, my anxieties.

The Hand of the Lord touched Jeremiah.

The same Hand of the Lord is touching you this morning. The Lord is your Deliverer, the Lord is your Help, the Lord is our Help!

Of ourselves we can do Nothing. But with Him we can do all things. All things are Possible in Christ Jesus. Thank You Lord!

And after God touched Jeremiah, He said go, I have sent you.

This morning, I want you to receive God's Commission over your Life - God's Assignment.

You are God's Commissioner. You are God's Battle Axe. You are a Tool in His Hand.

Just say Lord, use me for Your Glory. Everything Lord, that You want me to be, use me to be it. I will not cut myself short, I will not settle for Nothing, I will not settle for the Lowest. I reach to the Highest of God.

CLOSING PRAYER.

In the Name of Jesus: Everything that has been a hindrance to you, everything that has held you back, everything that has made you doubt yourself - This morning, be free from it!

Habits: you inherit it and cultivate it. Habits that make you feel Unworthy and condemned, be free from it, in the Name of Jesus!

Everything that has imprisoned your Mind, and held your Mind under Bondage, so you cannot think as God wants you to think; be Free from it, in the Name of Jesus!

Every Power that has dominated you and Influenced your Actions, influenced your behaviour, be free from it, in the Name of Jesus!

Every Spiritual Dominion over your Life that is not of God, every Spiritual Power that influences your Action that is not of God, be Free from it, in the Name of Jesus!

And now, lift up your hands and begin to Thank God for your Freedom.

Oh yes, we are Free!

Whoever the Son sets Free, is Free indeed!

Begin to celebrate your Freedom in the Lord!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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JULY 3RD - THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LEADING

TEXT: *ROMANS 8:14-16*

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am teaching briefly today on The Holy Spirit's Leading.

We just want to make time to hear from God - The Leading of the Holy Spirit; How God guides us.

One of the Challenges that we all have as Christians is, Knowing the Will of God - What does God want me to do? I am going to make a Decision - What is the Right Decision?

And especially when it comes into areas like Marriage; People want to be sure - Is he (she) the Right Person? Should I be married to him (her)? Between these two (2), whom should I Choose?

And beyond that we make Choices of, where should I work? Should I travel? Should I stay in my home Country? What is God's Will for my Life? What is God's Purpose for my Life?

We are always Struggling with that. And everybody Struggles with that because we need to be certain that God is leading us.

So, the Scriptures give us some Clues, and there is no Power Point - I'll just throw in a couple of Scriptures and we will Pray.

Romans 8:14-16 says:

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

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,

Now remember, when the Bible says 'Sons' it is not in a Gender sense. It is in a Generic word to mean "Children of God".

1. Firstly, the Bible teaches us that God's Children are led by the Spirit of God.

2. The Second thing we learn is that the Holy Spirit's Leading does not create bondage.

And so, when the Holy Spirit is leading a Person, He doesn't create fear in us; He doesn't create apprehension, bondage; He doesn't make you feel like something terrible is going to happen to you.

Because the Spirit's Leading does not create bondage - We are led by the Spirit of God. And the leading of the Spirit of God does not create bondage.

3. And thirdly, when we are led by the Spirit of God, the Bible says our Spirit bears Witness with the Spirit of God.

So, God leads us by His Spirit, His leading does not create bondage and everytime God leads us, our Spirit would bear Witness to it.

What does that mean - That our Spirit would bear Witness?

It means that when God is leading you, you would sense it; or you would feel it in your Spirit.

Even if somebody told you, "I saw a Vision about you". First of all, whatever they saw about you must not create bondage.

Because sometimes, People are in the habit of telling us things to put us under bondage, put fear into you - "Oh I saw a coffin and you were lying in it. God says if you don't Pray this is your end."

And by the time you hear those words, you are so afraid, that you don't even know how to Pray again.

But if it's the Spirit of God leading you, the Witness will be different!

It will not be "I saw a coffin and you were lying in it."

God will Promise you Life, and walk in the Life. It's the same thing: I give you Life, walk in it, you are not going to die. Because the Spirit of God doesn't lead us into bondage.

Any leading that puts you into bondage is not of God.

If you are given any Prophecy, ask yourself - Does it create fear in me? Or does it create Liberty in me?

If it's of the Spirit of God, it creates Liberty. Why? Because God wants us to walk by Faith, and not by Fear.

Anything that inspires Fear is not of God. If it's of God, it would inspire Faith.

Because it is only by Faith that we overcome - By Fear, we succumb, by Faith, we overcome!

So, if it is of God, it will not create bondage.

And then He says, if it is of God, your Spirit would bear Witness with it.

Every Child of God, every Believer, no matter their level of Spiritual Maturity; if a Person is a Believer, just got Born Again today or last night; they can hear from God, as well as a Believer for fifty (50) years.

Both of them have the same Father!

God does not treat His Children differently. He does not say, "I will only speak to my Older Children, I don't speak to the Younger Children."

No, He speaks to all - The Older, the Younger and the Teens. He speaks to all of us.

And so, even if you are not an Old Christian: you haven't known the Lord for a very long time, God speaks to you! And He speaks to you by His Spirit living inside of you.

This is how Jesus puts it, in John 16:12-15 - He says: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all Truth; for He will not speak on His own Authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will Glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."

Remember, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth - Not the Spirit of lies; Not the spirit of Deception.

There is a Spirit of Deception, and there is the Spirit of Truth.

Anything that leads to Deception is not of God.

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How am I going to know whether it's of God or Not?

I. Is it true or it's Deception?

II. Is it creating bondage and fear? Or it's creating Faith in me?

And not only is the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth, He leads into all Truth. And Jesus says that, He speaks for Christ and He Glorifies Christ.

HOW DO WE HEAR FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I will talk about Four (4) Things, and we will start Praying.

1. *You have to Respect the Holy Spirit and His Person.*

You cannot dishonour the Holy Spirit and hear from Him.

If you are going to hear from anybody, you have to respect the Person.

If you don't respect me, you wouldn't listen to me or be reading now on the Label of DMC.

I suppose you are in Church today listening to me or reading now on the Label of DMC because you respect me!

So, when I say something, you pay attention - You would consider it; you would give it a thought. You would say, okay it did make sense, let me think it through.

That is respect!

If you don't respect me, then no matter what I say, you will say, "Oh, let him go! Who does he think he is?"

If you have the same treatment about the Holy Spirit, then you can't hear Him! For you to hear His voice, then you have to respect the Holy Spirit:

You don't have to speak evil of the Holy Spirit, you don't have to criticise the Holy Spirit. You don't have to live a Life that shuns the Holy Spirit.

If you are living in sin, walking in sin, walking in total disobedience against God; then you don't respect the Holy Spirit.

So it's going to be difficult hearing His Voice.

It doesn't mean that He is not speaking - He is speaking, but your disrespect shut your ears from Him!

... You have to Respect the Holy Spirit.

2. *You have to Recognize His Presence.*

You have to recognize when He is in a Place, when He is talking to you

You have to recognize moments when the Holy Spirit indicates something to you.

Especially when you are in a Service and you want to hear from the Holy Spirit, you have to recognize His Presence.

I. You can't be in Church and texting with a friend and still hear from God.

II. You can't be Praying and your Mind is still imagining something else, and you hear from God.

It can't work!

So, you don't even recognize that this moment is for God. Because this moment, which is supposed to be for God, your Mind is at home! Or your Mind is in the office; but you are Praying.

And many times, People are Praying, but their Mind is not there - You have to recognize Him!

3. *You have to Respond to His Promptings.*

The Holy Spirit leads us in many, many ways, in little, little things!

Some time you are talking, and you just feel a Prompting within you - Stop talking, you are talking too much!

And when that comes, stop talking. Because if you keep taking, you don't show respect to His Prompting.

The Holy Spirit Prompts us so many times - Sometimes He says, "Talk to that Person, Pray for that Person, Intercede for that Person, Give to that Person!"

... And it doesn't have to be a very loud instruction - It is a Prompting.

When we say something is a Prompting, it is Subtle.

You know, my wife and I, we Prompt each other in many, many ways. Nobody would know we are Prompting each other. Just a little twinkling of the eye I will know what she's saying.

All of you husbands (wives) you do that! - A little Sign, you get the beat.

And that's how the Holy Spirit is - You have to get the beat. He's not coming to shake you, "I am talking to you oooo."

No, it's a little Prompting, it's a little Notch, it's a little discomfort in your Heart, it's a little "Shut Up, don't do it", "Sit Down, do it!"

You know, maybe you are driving your car and you are just zooming and you just hear, "Slow Down!"

That's a Prompting - He is not going to hit your head "Hey, slow down."

No, No, No! He is not going to say so. It's a Notch, it's a Prompting. And if you respect Him, you will slow down.

As you learn to respect the Holy Spirit, with these little, little things; He begins to lead you in big, big things.

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Because if you can't Recognize Him and Respect Him in the "Little Things" He is leading you into; you cannot recognize when the Life and death matters are coming.

I believe that God never does anything without telling us about it. The thing is, most times we don't listen.

Nothing happens to the Believer that God doesn't tell us about it - He Prompts us, He Notches us, He tells you "Don't do it!" He tells us, Pray a little bit more.

Sometimes He can wake you in the Night - You just wake up at 2am.and you don't know what to do. And you just feel, I should Pray.

Pray for what? - Pray!

All you'll do is Pray because that's all He says you should do - Pray. Sometimes it can be a Prayer for Somebody else - Pray for that person!

Or you can be in your car and you just feel a Prompting, "Park! Wait and Pray."

Do it! Because that's how we obey the Holy Spirit.

... Are you here with me?

Many of us think the only time the Holy Spirit is going to speak to us is when a Prophet tells us something. As a matter of fact, that should not be the way which the Believer hears from God.

The way the Believer hears from God Primarily, is that, the Spirit of God living inside of him Prompts him all the time.

And then when a Prophet or Somebody comes and say, "Oh, God said this about you." The Spirit of God in you must bear Witness.

Sometimes even what they say may be true, but something inside of you says, be careful.

Although what he is saying seems to be true, but the Prompting inside of you says, be careful.

Please, obey what is inside you. We are led from the inside out; not from the outside in.

... The Spirit within us leads us.

So this Morning, we are going to Pray. And one of the things we want to Pray for is:

1. God, help me to Honour the Holy Spirit and Respect His Presence;

2. Lord, help me not to grieve the Holy Spirit;

3. Father, Help me not to turn the Holy Spirit away when He is Present in my Life.

We want to welcome Him and His work in our lives - Amen!

Let's rise up together as we Pray!

Lift up Holy Hands to the Lord!

Somebody says: Pastor, why do we have to lift up Holy Hands?

It is a Physical Symbol of a Spiritual Condition.

When we lift up Holy hands we say: Lord, we surrender; it's all for You. We give it all to You.

So, let's begin to talk to the Lord on the above Prayer Points.

CLOSING PRAYER

We Thank You Father, for Your Presence is like a "Sweet Fragrance"; like a "Sweet Aroma" in this Place.

We Thank You for Your Presence - Holy Spirit, we know You are here.

Thank You for Your Promptings;

Thank You for Your Leading;

Thank You for touching our Minds, guiding our Prayers.

Thank You that You deliver us from all harms, by ordering our Steps.

"The Steps of a Righteous Person are Ordered by the Lord."

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We Thank You Lord that our Steps are Ordered by Your Spirit.

This week, we walk in "Ordered Steps"!

Oh, things are going to break out in your Life Powerfully this week!

Ordered Steps, Ordered Steps, Ordered Steps!

We give You Praise, we give You Glory, and we give You Adoration Father.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen!

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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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JULY 10TH - OVERCOMING MOUNTAINS



TEXT: *Zechariah 4:6-9*

DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

Let's rise up together as we take our DECLARATION OF INCREASE in this Year of Increase:

Are you ready? Say with me:

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Saviour. In Him I have life, His Abundant Life.

The Lord is my Light and Strength. As He is, so has He made me. By His Spirit I Increase in Word and in Wisdom. In Faith and in Favour.

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The Lord has said: "In Blessing, I will bless you. In multiplying I will Multiply your Seed."

So, I can boldly say: My God shall Increase me more and more. What I Place in God's Hands grows into Overflow.

Though I begin small, my end shall Greatly Increase.

In this Year of Increase, I grow in Grace and in Strength. To be all that God wants me to be.

In Jesus' Name - AMEN!

I am teaching briefly today on Overcoming Mountains.

Any Part of your Life that has come to Stagnation, today we are going to Push it forward - Amen!

... And God is going to break every Limitations - Amen!

Zechariah 4:6-9

6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

7 'Who are you, O great mountain?

Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

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8 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

Now, the Prophecy is given by Zechariah, to a man called Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was one of the first Leaders of Israel; Particularly of Judah, who on returning from Captivity; after Seventy (70) years of Captivity, he led the Group that is going back.

His name (Zerubbabel) means, Son of Babylon. Basically it means, Born in Babylon. So, he is a Person who was born in Captivity.

He had not lived in Jerusalem before the Captivity - He was born into Captivity. But then, God gave them Freedom to return.

Their returning from Captivity, from Babylon and Assyria and Persia. And they are coming in to rebuild the Nation.

And Zerubbabel's Group had a main Task - And their task is to rebuild the Temple.

When Nebuchadnezzar attacked Judah, he destroyed the Temple and took away all the Sacred things in the Temple.

So, Zerubbabel and his People decided - "We are going to rebuild the Temple and we are going to build the City of Jerusalem."

Now, you have to imagine - These are People who have come from Captivity. They are very Poor People, they don't have anything and the Land has nothing.

They went to meet the People who were in the Land, called the Remnants - They didn't go into Captivity, but they are worse than those who came.

Because for years, the Land has lied fallow, wasted! And so they tried to build something that is very difficult.

And Zerubbabel is assisted by the High Priest at that time - His name is Joshua.

But God also raised Prophets for Israel at that time, and one of them is Zechariah, whom we read about. The Other Prophet is the man called Haggai.

There are two (2) Prophets - Haggai and Zechariah, who are speaking into the Project. And then there is Zerubbabel and Joshua who are building the Project.

So, there is a Spiritual Declaration at the Top, and there is a Physical action by Zerubbabel down there.

The Project at this time has come to a halt, because they don't have money, and People are opposing them - They don't want the Temple to be built. Even some of their own People are against the rebuilding of the Temple.

I don't know who is against what you are doing, but you will Push through - Amen!

Somebody say: You will Push through.

It is at this Point that the Word of the Lord came to Zerubbabel - God spoke to Zerubbabel.

And there are Three (3) Components of the Word that I will just draw your attention to quickly, and then we will Pray:

Zechariah 4:6 says, So he answered and said to me: This is the Word of the Lord to Zerubbabel. 'Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of Hosts.

1. *'Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of Hosts.*

It's not going to take your efforts, It's not going to take your Physical Action. It's not even going to take your Mental Ability.

... But this is the work of the Spirit of God.

I came to announce to somebody who is Struggling - You have come to the end and nothing is happening; you have Pushed hard, you have Struggled, you have Cried.

God says to you, this one: 'Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of Hosts.

The Spirit of God Executes the Word of God.

What God says by His Word, He achieves by His Spirit.

So, what God is saying to Zerubbabel - 'There is no Physical Force on Earth that can help you.'

There is nothing you can do Physically about this situation - You have come to the end of your Physical endeavour.

You have done all you can do Naturally, but this one is going to move - But it's not going to be by Power or by Might, but by my Spirit.

There are things that our Power can move. There are things that our Might can move. And there are things that only the Spirit of God would move.

And this Morning, we are trusting that the things our Might and Power cannot move; the Holy would move out of the way - Amen.

Something is going to move in your Life - Amen!

So, that's the first Word that comes to Zerubbabel - 'Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,'

2. Then, a Second Word comes to him in Zechariah 4:7 - Who are you, O Great Mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a Plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, Grace to it!"

... It's a word of defiance.

Who are you, O Great Mountain?

They call the Problem a Mountain.

Why is it a Mountain? - Because it's a "Big Obstruction".

I don't know what Mountain is Standing before you, but you are going to ask that Mountain a Question of Defiance - Who are you, O Great Mountain? Who are you, O Poverty? Who are you, this Sickness? Who are you, this Problem? Who do you think you are? When God speaks, who are you? When the Spirit of God is moving, who are you?

It's a Question of Defiance.

And then He says: Before Zerubbabel. Before this Returnee Refugees, this Mountain would become a Plain.

Before you, the Mountain will become a Plain - Amen.

Before your own eyes, you would see it - That which was a Mountain, that which stood tall, that which you couldn't move with your own eyes:

... You would see it become a Plain - Amen!

That means the Mountain is going to move, the Problem is going to shift. And this Morning, we are going to trust God for Shifting of Problems.

And then He said: Zerubbabel shall bring forth the Capstone With shouts of "Grace, Grace to it!"

This is Zerubbabel who is stagnated, he can't move. But the word to Zerubbabel is, you would bring forth the Capstone.

What is the Capstone?

The Capstone in those days is the "Final Stone" you Place on a Project to declare that the Project is completed.

So, when you finished the building, you go and bring the Capstone - You put the Capstone there, and everybody shout, "Yeaah it's finished, Congratulations!"

The Prophecy says: Zerubbabel is going to bring the Capstone. And when he puts the Capstone on the Temple, the People shall shout Grace, Grace, to it!

... Favour, Favour, is what is going to bring the Capstone!

What God is saying to Zerubbabel - Now it's Stagnated, but you will finish it - Amen!

3. The Third thing He said to Zerubbabel is in Zechariah 4:8-9 - Moreover the Word of the Lord came to me, saying: "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the Foundation of this Temple; His hands shall also finish it." Then you will know That the Lord of Hosts has sent Me to you.

The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the Foundation of this Temple; His hands shall also finish it.

The hands that laid the Foundation would also finish it - Amen.

These words were spoken to Zerubbabel by the same God we worship.

My name is not Zerubbabel: I am Mensa Otabil (We are The DMC FAMILY MEMBERS). But the God of Zerubbabel is my God - Amen!

The God who spoke to Zechariah is my God - Amen!

Although I am not Zerubbabel, I have his God. And He is a God who never Changes - What He did Yesterday, He can do Today. And what He does Today, He would do Tomorrow.

So, we connect to the God who spoke to Zerubbabel - Although we are not him; the God of Zerubbabel is still our God.

And this Morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC, this same God who spoke to a Refugee, Returnee; whose Project had come to a Standstill is speaking to somebody here and He is saying to you - 'Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of Hosts - Amen.

He says, this Mountain would be moved and become a Plain - Amen.

And He says to you - You will establish the Capstone over that Project - Amen.

And He says to you, the same hand that laid the Foundation, shall also accomplish - Amen.

This morning we want to activate our Faith. Because there are things in our lives that must be Completed. They must be done!

God spoke to you about it. You started it in Faith and the enemy has come against it.

But this Morning, the Mountain shall move, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

... 'Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,'

Lift up your hands to Heaven and begin to talk to the Holy Spirit - Talk to the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God who executes the Word of God.

You, Who takes the Word of God and executes it. Oh, You Wind of the Spirit; Oh Breath of God; Oh Fire of God - Move on behalf of Your People.

Oh talk to the Spirit - He is the Mover, He is the Shaker. The Holy Spirit is the One who moves and shakes situations.

This Morning, there is going to be a Moving; there is coming a Shaking!

Hey, it has been there for a long time, but it will move! It is moving, the Mountain is moving, in the Name of Jesus.

Who are you O Great Mountain? Who are you this Sickness? Who are you? Defy the Problem; don't accept it. Don't tolerate it!

Who are you?

Talk to your Problem, talk to the situation - Who are you to defile the Spirit of God?

PUSH IT!

Who are you? You have harassed the People of God for too long. You have stood in our way for too long. You have made us unhappy for too long. You have made us sad for too long.

Who are you, O Great Mountain? How dare you Stand before God? How dare you Stand before the People of God?

O yes, we defy the Mountain, we defy the Problem!

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Pray! Don't let it Stand before you.

CLOSING DECREES

... Lift up those hands to the Lord!

By every "Outstretched Arms", representing People of God:

By your "Outstretched Arms" that represents your Faith, your endeavour, your Project, your Assignment.

By these hands, God will bring you Victory!

By these hands, the Lord will bring you Deliverance!

By these hands, you will accomplish what you started!

By these hands, you will not stop halfway! You will not be a disgrace, you will not be a reproach;

People will not say, 'he started, and he didn't end.' But you will start and you will Perfect it!

You will start and you will Perfect it!

You will not go halfway, you will go through to the end, in the Name of Jesus!

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In the Name of Jesus, I speak to your hands, I speak to your Life - Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of Hosts.

This Mountain is out of the way!

The Capstone is set in Place!

By your hands, there is Victory!

In Jesus' Name - Amen.

And if you truly believe that - You are going to Rejoice!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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