

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE WITH PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER, INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)

TOPIC: GOD - PART 1 (THE ETERNAL)

DATE: 14TH JANUARY, 2024

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1:1

Today, I start my First Series for the Year (2024). This Year, our Theme is GOD. And I intend to teach a lot in that direction. And our main Theme Verse for the Year is Genesis 1:1.

So today, I start my "GOD" Series, and this is GOD - PART 1. And next week of course, I will do Part 2.

My Subtitle is "The Eternal" - That means I am going to talk about God and His Eternal Nature.

We will spend time to understand what it means when we say God is Eternal. And what it means for us as Christians to know God as Eternal.

One observation about us (Christians) is that, we want God to do things for us. We expect things from Him, we talk to Him, we Pray but we know very little about the Nature of God.

And so, Pretty soon, we get disappointed about things and we get confused about things. Because we don't truly understand this God that we Worship; this God that we talk to; and this God that we Pray to.

So, I hope that this Series will help us to understand God and to know how He deals with us, so that our Prayer, our Study, our Expectation would be right.

GOD - PART 1 (THE ETERNAL)

Our Key Verse for this Year is Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.

I believe this is the most important Verse in the Bible.

It is the most important because, everything else in the Bible stands on this Verse - Without this Verse, nothing else in the Bible stands. Everything is Premised on God.

The Verse tells us everything about what Life is all about.

Genesis 1:1 is God's Self Introduction to us as He helps us to know who He is.

And so today, from this Passage, the most important thing we want to look at is that, God is Eternal.

That is one of the important things we see in Genesis 1:1 - That God is Eternal.

There are other words that can be used as synonyms to Eternal - Words like: Everlasting, Forever, Endless, Infinite.

All of it in essence, is talking about the same thing, although sometimes, there is a difference.

But 'God is Eternal' can be seen as - God is Everlasting, God is Forever, God is Endless, God is Infinite.

Now, it is very difficult for us as Human Beings to think of anything as Eternal. Because our human experience tells us that nothing is forever - "How things start and how they end."

So, for human beings to think of something to be Eternal, it is an amazing thought. It is very difficult to imagine what it is.

The other time I was watching a Documentary on the Longest Living Things - It was part of my Research as I was going to Preach this Message.

Some of the things that have lived long on this Earth and most of them are Plants or trees; a few were Sea Creatures.

There is actually a jelly fish that is supposed to be immortal, in the sense that it renews its Life every time.

And there are trees that have lived for thousands of years.

In essence, if you look at that tree, you can say, Oh! That's Eternal.

But you know, a tree that has lived for five hundred thousand years can easily be cut and burnt and so it's not Eternal because its Life can come to an end.

And even the jelly fish that is supposed to be able to renew its Life; somebody can catch it and fry it and that's the end of its Eternity.

So, no matter how long something lives on this Earth, just one moment the wind would blow,

fire would burn it. Something is going to end it and it would no longer be Eternal.

Last Year (2023) in Sierra Leone, there was a big cotton tree that the Sierra Leonians considered as Eternal. In fact, People have composed songs about how enduring that tree is - It's being there for over Four Hundred (400) years.

And in 2023 there was a windstorm and the tree fell down after Four Hundred (400) years.

This Year (2024), I read that a tree that supposedly was Planted in Ashanti for over three hundred (300) years; that some People just went and cut it down.

When we talk about God as Eternal, He cannot be cut down, He cannot be burnt, He cannot be fried, a Storm cannot move Him - He is there all the time.

That's the Eternity of God - God is Eternal.

And when we say that God is Eternal, we mean that He is, has always been and will always be.

... You cannot say that about anything that you know.

And of course, human beings use the word Eternal and forever in many ways.

You hear things like: "I am Eternally Grateful to you".

You know that word 'Eternal' is used in a very Subjective sense.

Because, if you tell somebody, "I am Eternally Grateful to you" - Your Gratitude started somewhere, when the Person did you Good. Before he did you Good, you were not Grateful. So, your Gratitude cannot be Eternal - It has a beginning, and it will end the day he disappoints you.

And you hear People say things like, "you are my best friend for Life."

You know that he is not your best friend for ever - He was not your best friend in the womb, he was not your best friend when you were born.

He became your best friend when you met few years ago, say in Secondary School. And one day they will offend you and you will say, we have cut off our Relationship; we are no longer best friends.

When we say God is Eternal, we are saying God is Forever, God is Infinite.

I don't want you to apply this kind of human discussion of forever, eternal and infinite to God because sometimes we do.

I've heard some People say, "God has disappointed me."

And it is because we don't understand Eternal in the God sense as we should.

I am going to explain Genesis 1:1 beyond Eternal; and what it means in this sense.

## TWO (2) IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL WORDS

### 1. Transcendent:

When we say God is Eternal, we mean He is Transcendent.

What does it mean?

It means He exists beyond and outside of all Creation.

When I say that a tree is Eternal, it doesn't exist beyond Creation - Of course, it is part of Creation.

When we say, "this statue is forever." It can't be forever, because it was made from the Earth.

Nothing in this universe can claim to be forever; because it has a beginning.

But when we say, "God is Eternal" we mean He is Transcendent - He goes beyond anything and everything that has been created.

There is nothing you know that exists outside of Creation - Everything you know is inside of Creation: Whether Tables, Mountains, Rivers, Moon, Sun, Planets, Galaxies - They all are inside of Creation.

But God is outside of Creation - And so we say, He is Transcendent!

It also means that God does not derive any aspect of His Being from outside Himself - There is no part of God that comes outside of God.

What does that mean?

It means God is God all by Himself - He is not made God; He is God all by Himself. He is Self Existing, He is Self Sufficient, He is Self Sustaining and He does not depend on anything to be God.

And He has no need of anything - God does not need Worship in order to be God.

We worship Him, but He doesn't need it to be God - Whether you worship Him or not, He is God.

- He was who He was before human beings were created for us to be able to worship Him.

- He was who He was before Angels were created; before they could worship Him.

God does not need worship.

God does not need Sacrifice - If you Study other Religions, most gods need Sacrifices or the food of the gods.

And so, if you don't feed the gods for a long time, they get very angry.

In our Tradition, a Priest or a Diety would say, "the gods are angry, that is why they caused accident - Because they need blood." They need to feed, because if they don't feed, they starve and go out of existence.

God doesn't need Sacrifice, He doesn't need worship, He doesn't need your Praise. He doesn't even need you to believe in Him - He needs nothing.

Why? Because if God needs something, we can use His need to manipulate Him.

... Are you getting it?

It means, "if I withdraw what He needs, then I can now control Him and become His god."

Since God needs nothing, there is nothing you can use to control Him. You cannot deny Him of anything.

He exists by Himself - God is Transcendent, He does not need His Creation. He created it, but He doesn't need it because He was God before He created it.

So, Genesis 1:1 is telling us all these about God, because He is Transcendent. He was before the Creation came. He existed before the Creation, so nothing in the Creation can control Him.

You know, when it comes to worship, we use Natural Things to try to talk about God.

I understand that the intention is not malicious but it is heretic.

For Example, when you are sitting with your father and you want him to do something for you.

And you go and maybe, Prepare his best food, massage his feet and then you say, "Daddy I need this and I need that." And then he says, I will give it to you.

So we think that is how worship is - God is there, we are massaging Him with our worship, "I Love You, I Praise You, I Worship You, O God. You are Mighty."

As if God is an "Egocentric African King" who needs to be Praised - That once you say these things, God will respond with, "Okay, my son, my daughter, I will give you that." No!

Because if you can do that to God, He is not God - You are His god.

If your Praise and your worship can turn Him, then He is at your beck and call.

But God is Transcendent.

He is not only Transcendent; because He has created the world, and the world exists, the Universe and the People exist.

He cannot be so far away and say: "I am so Transcendent, I am not bothered about the things that are in the world - The Moon, the Sun, the Earth, I don't care about the People." No! He cannot do that.

2. Imminent:

There is a Second thing about God - God is Imminent.

What does that mean?

It means, God actively works through and within His Creation - He is not His Creation, but He works through His Creation.

He is aware of His Creation; He is Present in every Part of His Creation. He fills all time and all space of His Creation.

I like how David, the Psalmist puts it (talking about God) in Psalms 139:7-12

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your Presence? If I ascend into Heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the Uttermost Parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the Darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be Light about me; Indeed, the Darkness shall not hide from You, But the Night shines as the day; The Darkness and the Light are both alike to You.

... Very Profound words!

So, basically David is saying that no Part of God's Creation can escape from His Presence and His Power.

Though He is Transcendent, no Part of God's Creation can escape. There is no corner of the Universe that escapes from God.

And if you listen to what David is saying in that Passage (Psalms 139:7-12) - He says, "If I ascend into Heaven," And he is not talking about Heaven (the Abode of God). Of course, God is there.

But he is saying, if I travel into Intergalactic space; at war speed to some Galaxy. He says, God is there, I can't escape. If I go a billion Miles into the Universe, God is there.

Then he says something interesting. He says, "If I make my bed in hell," - You say, hell? The devil is there, God is there.

And by hell David is not just talking about Satan's abode, he is talking about death.

So David is saying, whether I am alive or I am dead, God's Presence surrounds me - That's awesome!

In Heaven, on Earth, in Hell, in Death - God is there.

He says, "And dwell in the Uttermost Parts of the sea," if I go to the deepest Point of the ocean, God is there.

You cannot outrun God's Presence; you cannot stretch beyond God's Presence - That's the Eternal Nature of God.

"The Darkness and the Light are both alike to You" - He is there in Darkness, He is there in the Light. He is there at all times.

So, He is Transcendent - He is beyond His Creation; but He has not abandoned His Creation. He is there at all times and in all Places.

When you look through the Bible, God's Name tells of His Eternal Nature - It says that God is the Everlasting God. He revealed Himself to Moses as "I AM".

Sometimes He is called the Ancient of Days - It doesn't mean He is an Old Man.

He is also called the Living God.

All these terms are expressing one idea - That God is Eternal.

And if you are going to build Faith in God, this is where everything starts - The Eternality of God. Without God's Eternality you cannot understand how He deals with us.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE ETERNALITY OF GOD

I am going to give you Three (3) Implications of the Eternality of God: Practical Application.

What does it mean when we say God is Eternal?

### 1. God is Always Present:

The first Implication is that God is always Present - He is never absent. And nothing can take Him away.

He is Present in our moments of Pain and Suffering; He is Present in our moments of Joy and Celebration.

He is Present when we feel lonely; He is Present when we feel loved.

He is Present when there is crisis; He is Present when there is Peace.

God is always there - He is Eternal. You can't switch Him off.

And for a Believer, you have to understand that there is no moment in your Life that God is not there.

Many times we think God is there because we are happy - "Oh! I just had a Breakthrough, God is with me."

Now I know He is with me because I Prayed and the Breakthrough came - Woow!

Now you know God is there.

What if all the things are taken away from you, would God go? No!

When a child is born, God is there. When a Person dies, God is there.

He is not absent when we die; neither is He absent when we are born - God is Ever-Present.

There would be no time in your Life that He is absent - That is the Eternality of God: He is



always Present.

## 2. God Never Changes:

The Second Implication of God's Eternality is that God never changes - He is always God at all times.

He is not "Half God", "Quarter God", "Three Quarter God" - He is always God at all times!

He never Changes - He is Imutable, He is Infinite.

God never improves, never becomes smaller, cannot be Holier than the Holy He is now. His Holiness is fixed, His love is fixed.

He cannot be more Loving, more Holy because if He can be, then He is not. And if He is not, then He cannot say, I AM. He cannot improve, He cannot learn. So, God cannot Change.

You know, People read the Bible and say: "The God of the Old Testament; He was very harsh. But the God of the New Testament is very Kind - As if God improved over the Ages.

He just looks at them and say: These People are so bad, if I hate them I am going to kill them. So I am going to Love them." No!

God has been who He is at all times. His Grace is the same; His Mercy is the same; His Love is the same; His Compassion is the same; His Power is the same; His Goodness is the same at all times - It will never improve.

Human beings improve, because we want to get better - So, we learn and improve ourselves. Trees grow, God doesn't grow. He is always God, He never Changes.

And that is very important! That is why we can trust Him - In Joy and in Sorrow, in Riches and in Poverty; in all situations; the Steadfast Love of God never ceases.

That is what Job understood.

So when he lost everything, he knew God has not Changed.

He said, God still loves me, I know my Redeemer lives;

I don't understand what has happened to me; I don't understand why all of a sudden I have lost everything; I don't understand why my children have died; I don't understand why my Businesses are lost - I don't understand all of that but God never Changes and He loves me.

He loves me when I lose everything, He loves me when I am in Good Health and when my Health is Struggling. He loves me when I have a Good Time and when I have a Bad Time.

God's Love does not correspond to your experiences.

Are you following me?

Now, when you know all that, you become Steadfast in your Faith, immovable through thick and thin, through water and fire.

That's why the Apostles of Jesus Christ never left Him; that's why the Prophets of Old never left God - They were beheaded, eaten by Lions, cut into two, burnt but that never shook them.

They understood the Eternality of God: because if you don't understand that, your Christianity would be Circumstantial.

When Life is Hard, I go to Church.

When I get a Breakthrough, I go to Church.

When things are Good, I go to Church.

When things are Bad, I go to Church.

"Oh! These days I don't even know whether God is there."

Listen, whether God would be there or not there is dependent on you. Because you think, "if my money is not there, God is not there." Then guess who is your god - The money and not the God of the Bible.

If you get broke today God is God, and He has not loved you less - He has loved you with an Eternal Love.

... That is how He loves us - He loves us Eternally.

That is the Second Implication - That God never Changes.

3. God's Presence is not Limited:

And the third and final Implication, because God is Eternal, I can always experience His Presence - God is not far from me:

I can talk to Him anywhere, He can reach me anywhere and anytime.

His Presence is not limited to a spot on Earth - He is not on a Mountain, not in the Valley, not in Jerusalem. Where else? He is not in Accra, not in Nigeria.

Of course, He is in Jerusalem, in Accra, in Nigeria, everywhere: but you cannot confine the Presence of God to a Spot - You cannot!

So, all of us who go to Places to seek God, you don't understand His Eternity.

It doesn't mean you shouldn't go to Places - I mean, if you are a Christian and you want to go to Jerusalem to go and just observe the History of your Faith: The Old Testament, the Life of Christ; and just know how these things happened in the Historical context, that is Great!

If you go to Jerusalem and you go to River Jordan, you are told "this is the water that Jesus was baptized" - That's nice.

But remember, the water that Jesus was baptized in has flowed long ago (laughter).

So, the one you are seeing now is not the water - It flowed long ago.

But if you stand in the Jordan River, thinking that there is a Special Anointing there; you don't understand the Eternality of God - Alright?

God is Eternal, His Presence is not Limited to the Wailing Wall (for example), not Limited to River Jordan - You can go there and enjoy the Historicity of your Faith.

But the Reality of God, David - He was the one who was in Jerusalem, He started Jerusalem. He said, "when I go to the ends of the world You are there: to the Skies, to the Heavens, to the Place of Death, You are there. Wherever I go You are there.

When I am in Darkness, in Light, You are there - Nothing can hide God from You."

God is Eternal.

Let's say that together: God is Eternal!

Don't ever forget that! And that is your first Lesson on God - That He is Eternal.

The Jews call Him the Eternal, the King of the Universe - He is everywhere at all times, we cannot escape Him, and we cannot escape His Presence.

Our belief or disbelief in Him does not Change His Eternality - He would be God after all of us have left the Earth and after a New Generation comes, He would be God.

He would be God if the whole world says, "we don't believe in God." He would say, fine! But I AM.

"We don't believe You are" - He would not even Prove Himself. He is who He is at all times and He is who He is before He created what we see now.

And may the Lord help us to understand that He is Eternal, He is Changeless, from Age to Age He is the same - Amen.

## PRAYER

Let's Pray for a moment!

Just talk to God, He hears you:

Eternal God, we come to You. We Thank You that You are who You say You are.

You are the Changeless One - Time, Space and Location do not Change You. You are always who You say You are.

Thank You! Our Trust is always in You, and our Hope is in You: that even when things are dark, You are the Light.

When we are in the Valley, You are there. When we are betrayed, You are there. When all men abandon us, You are there.

When we feel no Love, You love us - You never Change, You never improve, You never become something. You are always who You are in Eternity

Help us Father, to know You truly as You are: to grow in the Knowledge of who You are.

To Love You and to Serve You all the days of our lives.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE WITH PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER, INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)

TOPIC: GOD - PART 2 (OMNIPOTENT CREATOR)

DATE: 21ST JANUARY, 2024

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1:1

This Year our Theme is GOD. Last week I did the first Part of my Teaching on God:

- And we talked about God's Eternality: That God is Eternal.
- That God is Imutable: He never Changes.
- That God is near to us at all times. He is never far away from us.

And today I will do the Second Part of our Message - And we are focusing on:

GOD - PART 2 (OMNIPOTENT CREATOR).

The God who is Eternal is also Omnipotent and He is a Creator.

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV) says: In the Beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.

That is how the Bible introduces God to us - He is a Creator and that is a very Powerful word.

We are going to look at the Two (2) Words in our Subtitle - "Omnipotent Creator".

1. The first word is Omnipotent:

What does it mean when we say God is Omnipotent?

It means, "He has all Power to do what He wills to do."

It is a big Statement about God - He is Omnipotent.

'Omni' means "All" and 'Potent' means "Power".

So, He literally has all Power to do what He wills to do.

And I want you to Pay attention to how I have defined it. I didn't just sat, He has "All Power";

neither did I just say He can do everything - I said that God has "All Power" to do what He wills to do.

When we look at the Bible, we see God as the first cause of the Universe - He is the One who is causing all things to be. He created the Heavens and the Earth; He has "All Power".

And the reason why we say He has "All Power" is because there is no one here mentioned as helping God, aiding God, or assisting God in any way to do what He is doing

He is doing everything all by Himself - He is not doing it in response to Prayer, in response to a Need. He is not doing it because somebody told Him to do it, or because somebody enabled Him to do it.

... He is doing it all by Himself.

All the Power needed for Creation came from Him.

When we talk about "The Created Universe", He is Omnipotent - "For with God Nothing shall be impossible.

We say nothing is "Too Hard" for God - That God can do anything.

And recently, a Popular one that came up is, "What God cannot do does not exist."

And for a few years, there was a huge debate whether that is a Theologically accurate Statement, or it was a false Statement.

When we say God can do everything, of course Nobody means that God can act against Himself.

That is why we define Omnipotent in the Will of God - God can do all things according to His Will.

When People say, "What God cannot do does not exist" they are not saying that God would do everything, including telling a lie - No!

God cannot act against Himself, God cannot lie, God cannot uncreate Creation and God cannot create Himself. God cannot end Himself either. He cannot at any Point say, "I am no longer God." It's impossible for Him not to be who He is.

So there are things that God cannot do, yes I agree - He can do all things but according to His Will. His Will is Prominent there.

... God is Omnipotent, He has "All Power" to do what He wills to do.

## 2. Creator: God is the Creator.

What does that mean?

It means He Actively and Purposely brought all things into Existence.

He used His Omnipotence to create all things in the Universe - There is no Creator outside of Him.

And though He created all things, He Himself is uncreated: He did not become. He is, has always been and will always be. He created the Heavens and the Earth.

Genesis 1:1 talks about the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth. But we also know that there are Angels and other Spiritual Beings.

So the Question is: At what Point were they created? Were they created during the time the Heavens and the Earth were created? I don't know, because I was not there!

But later on when you read the Bible, it says that the Angels rejoiced when the Earth was being formed.

So that gives us a clue that somewhere between the Creation of the Heavens and then the coming to being of the Earth, somewhere in between, the Angels most likely were created.

Let's go to Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) - By Faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are Visible.

Here the Bible is giving us a further clue as to how God created the Universe - The Earth and all the Planets as the Passage puts it.

And the Passage says God created what is Visible from what is Invisible - He created the seen from the unseen; He created the Material world from the Spiritual world.

There is first, the Spiritual and later, the Physical - Natural or Material.

So it gives us a clue as to how God does things - He doesn't start with Physical Things. He starts from Spiritual Things and then the Spiritual Things Produce the Material Things.

And it's not only about the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth; but it is about every way in which God works in our lives. That when God wants to do something for you, He does it in the Spiritual realm before it manifests in the Material world.

As Human Beings, we want to see it Materially before we can believe it. But God says you have to believe it Spiritually before it becomes Material - He created the seen from the unseen.

Every Blessings you want from God first starts Spiritually, then it becomes Material.

So, if you are always walking by what you see; you walk by sight, it is going to be difficult for you to walk by Faith.

The Passage (Hebrews 11:3) says, "my Faith ..."

There are things you don't see now that God has already made.

There are things in your Life that you don't see, and may not see this Year (2024) and next few years to come; but God has already streamed it and made it - It is done!

"How can we say, it is done?" It is done in the unseen Spiritual world; and it will become Material in your Life time.

The things we see are made from things we do not see.

God creates from the Spiritual into the Physical but you've got to walk by Faith.

You have to learn this Principle - When you learn it, you have to learn to stay cool: when you have Prayed and see nothing, you know God has already done it. But the unseen finishes before the seen manifests it.

The Word of God is not seen; the world is seen. And the one which we see came from the one we don't see - The Word of God Produces the world!

And that is going to be how you walk by Faith in your Life - God says it, I believe it, that settles it!

Let's say it together: God says it, I believe it, that settles it!

When you move in that Premise, there is a Settlement in your Heart that, "what I don't see yet has already been framed by God: He has already done it in the realm of the Spirit."

God is a Creator - He doesn't create the Physical first. He doesn't create the seen first. He kick-starts with the unseen and then He comes gradually to the seen. He creates what is visible from what is invisible.

Now, when you read through the Book of Genesis Chapter 1 and you start from Verse 1, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth."



As you Progress, you'll see that God makes many things and all kinds of things are happening.

There is Light, there firmaments, and then Plants and animals are coming.

So God is making all things - Everything doesn't end in Genesis 1:1. But things continue to happen.

So, when we talk about God "The Creator", there are different Processes in God's Creative Methodology.

In other words, God makes things in different ways.

And there is a Passage in the Bible that captures God as the Creator.

Isaiah 45:18 (NKJV) says, For thus says the Lord, Who created the Heavens, Who is God, Who formed the Earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other."

There are Four (4) words there that I am going to comment on: Created, Formed, Made and Established - All these are different aspects of God's Creative Words.

## ASPECTS GOD'S CREATIVE WORDS

I will speak about each of the Four (4) Aspects:

### 1. God Creates:

There was Nothing, then God created Things (Genesis 1:1).

Out of Nothing, He made things.

When there is zero, He can create one (1).

When there is Nothing, God can make things happen - God creates and makes things out of Nothing.

### 2. God Forms:

God created the Universe, and out of the Universe formed the Earth.

The word 'formed' is very important - It means that God can make New Things out of what He

has already made.

That word is used for the Creation of Man in 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.

He didn't create Man from the dust of the Earth, but He formed man.

Why does the Bible use 'formed'?

Because the Earth was there already and the dust was there already - God had already created the dust, and then out of what He had already created, He formed something New.

That means that God's work is not finished just by one Action - He can start something in your Life and then He can form something New out of what He has already done in your Life.

God can start from Nothing and do something. But after He has done something, He can take that thing and do something else with it.

He can form, He can fashion, He can mould - God is not just the One who brings things out of Nothing; but He can also take what has already been done and do something New with it.

When we sing the Song: "Do something New in my Life; something New in my Life..."; we don't mean, God create me again.

You've already made me, but I want You to take this Life and mould it into something else and do something Fresh, New, Awesome in my Life.

God can take what is already existing in your Life and mould it differently - He forms Human Beings, forms animals (cat, dogs).

In other words, what God forms is not the same. He can do different things out of the same Raw Material.

He can do Strange, Awesome, Beautiful Things out of the same Source.

God is able to do things out of Nothing; but after He has done that, He can take what He has done and mould something New out of it.

### 3. God Makes:

It means to do, to Perform - It means that God can make things happen.

God can work in your Life and make things happen - It is not only in terms of the material things, He can make Day and Night. And Day and Night is not Physical.

He can make things happen in my Life.

So, He can create Things out of Nothing - He can take what He has done and do something New with it and then He can make Things happen.

For Example, when we Sing: "God will make a Way, where there seems to be no Way..."; we don't mean that He will create something Physical.

God making a Way for me is not that He will actually go and create a Path like the Contractor does. It just means that God will create Opportunities for me and God will turn Things around for me.

So, the God who can create Physical Things can also make Things happen in your Life - Where there is no Way, He will make Way.

When you are down, He can lift you up - Because God can fashion things, He can make things happen.

And may God cause things to happen in your Life - Amen.

So look at the senses in which God works;

- He can make Things out of Nothing;
- He can take the Things He made out of Nothing and do something New for them.
- And then, He can make Ways, He can make Things happen for the Things He has made.

So, when God makes you, He also makes a Way for you - He creates a Path for you.

God can make Things happen!

4. God Establishes:

It means to be Instituted, to be Shaken, to be Prepared.

God makes things be, but He also establishes what has been made.

In other words, after He has created the Heavens and the Earth, after He has formed it, after He has made a Path for the Earth ...

And those who Studied Astronomy would talk about Orbits within which every created thing moves - Every created thing moves in a Prescribed Orbit. Whether it's a Galaxy, a Planet, a Sun, a Star - They have to move in a Path that God created for them.

In the same way, when God creates us, He establishes us.

What does it mean?

It means that He gives us what is required to sustain us - He sustains what He has made.

When God created the Heavens and the Earth, He gave the Laws of Physics, Chemistry - Every Law required to sustain what He has done, He puts in Place.

## IMPLICATIONS OF GOD AS A CREATOR.

When we say God is a Creator, it has serious Implications; and I am going to talk about Three (3) of those Implications, and then I will be done for the Day:

1. Implication 1: God is my Creator, Maker and Owner.

Let's say it together: God is my Creator, Maker and Owner.

This is serious!

And that's why He has rights on you - You belong to Him, as you didn't make yourself.

God did not create and leave us by the wayside, but He also owns us.

And the thing about Ownership is that the Owner can do whatever He wants to do with the things that He has made.

And God can do anything with you: Your Life is His - He owns us, and we don't own ourselves.

And He doesn't want us to give our Ownership to anything else.

That's why He says, "You shall have no other gods before Me" - Exodus 20:3

That is the only time God says "I am a "Jealous God"."

He didn't say "I am an envious God." He says, I am a "Jealous God".

Jealous means, I Protect what is Mine; and I Protect it with every Source at my disposal.

So, if you go and make something else your god, God has to step in and correct it because you are His Property.

Don't give Ownership of your Life to any other god and neither should you give Ownership of your Life to any Human Being - Not to your Pastor, not to your husband or wife; not even to your Parents.

Parents have responsibility, but they are not Owners.

That's why a Parent cannot look at the children and say, "I brought you into this world, I can take you out - "Because if a Parent kills the child, it's murder. Why? Because he or she is not an Owner.

As a matter of fact, you don't own yourself - If you kill yourself it is a crime.

If we have a Chance we would imprison you (Laughter)! - We call it Suicide but it's a crime. You can't kill yourself. Why? Because you don't own yourself.

If you own yourself we can say Suicide is fine. But if you kill yourself, we should imprison you. Why? You don't own yourself.

Husbands, you don't own your wives, wives, you don't own your husbands. Parents, you don't own your children. Pastors, you don't own your flock.

Who is the Owner? God!

Why is He the Owner? Because He is the Creator and the Maker. And He is the Only One who can say, "I Own this Property."

He has put His mark on me, He has put His Image on me.

In Modern Terms we say, "Brand". You know.

If you bought an Armani Suit - Armani would put his brand in the suit (a mark). And wherever People see that suit they would know, this is Armani Suit - Meaning Armani is the owner of this suit, he has loan it to you for a thousand dollars (Laughter).

DMC NOTES: Giorgio Armani S.p.A; commonly known as Armani, is an Italian Luxury Fashion house founded in Milan by Giorgio Armani which designs, manufactures, distributes and retails haute couture, ready-to-wear, leather goods, shoes, accessories, and home interiors.

In the same way, when you check your Life, at the back of your neck somewhere, there is a brand that says, Jehovah owns you.

God owns you, you are God's Property - He is your Maker, and He is your Owner for ever!

God owns us and that is why, when People want to mess with you, He Protects you.

When somebody says, "God, kill him." God says, can't you see that's my Property? You want me to kill my own Child?

... That's for another day!

So God is my Creator, Maker and Owner.

2. Second Implication: I am here because God wants me to be here.

I didn't choose to come to the Earth.

We are not here by accident - God willed our existence, He determined that we should be born.

Your Parents may think they brought you into the world; but God used them.

That is why, no matter who your Parents are, you have to know who your Owner is.

If I go to find an Armani Suit at the wayside with Nobody claiming Ownership of it, I still know who the owner is because the image has been branded - An Armani Suit, if it is thrown away, still has value.

Don't ever say, "I was dumped by my Parents, Nobody cares for me."

But you have an Owner; and your Owner decided that you should be born. And He decided you should be born at the time you were born.

If He had not willed it, you would never be born. Yes!

If God says, "I don't want you" - You won't come.

You are here because He wants you and He wants you because He has a Purpose and a use for you.

... I am here because God wants me to be here.

3. Final Implication: God is continually working in me to make me for His Purpose.

The Creator doesn't just do one (1) work; He continues to do His work in our lives.

So that even when I mess up, God does not just take me and kick me and say, "This is a wasted Product" - He takes me and remoulds me.

When you go wrong, God takes you and remoulds you.

You lose your way, He creates another way for you because He is the Way Maker.

God your Creator - He doesn't just create you, but He creates the environment and space you to live in. And He creates the Opportunities that come your way and He creates the Times and Seasons of your Life.

So that you were made by Him, and you live in "Equal System" - It is in Him you live and move and have your Being.

We don't just have our Being in Him, we live in Him and we move in Him.

Listen, your Life is not an Accident - There is a Plan that has already been fixed in the unseen, and it is manifesting in your Life.

All you need to do is to say, "Lord let Your Perfect Will be done in my Life."

I don't understand what I am going through, I don't understand what is happening but I know Lord, that You have a Plan for my Life and my Life is going according to Plan.

That is what we learn when we know God as Creator!

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, this Morning, we Pray that each one of us will know You as the Creator;

Not only in our lives, but also of the world we live in, of the Path we follow.

For we know You have made a Path for us - You have opened the Way for us.

I Pray Father, for each one, that we will find Value in our lives and we would find Purpose in the Opportunities that You give to us.

That no one of us would live a Life of despair and hopelessness, thinking that all is lost.

That in You we will find meaning, Purpose and direction.

And I Pray for you, that God who created you would also Order your Path.

That if you've lost your Way, you will see the New Way He has opened for you.

That if People have thrown you out, you will see the Hand of God bringing you in; because your Creator never abandons you.

In Life and in Death, He is your Creator for ever.

And He will lead and guide you in the Way you should go

In Jesus' Name - Amen.





SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE WITH PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER, INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)

TOPIC: GOD - PART 3 (GOD IS SPIRIT)

DATE: 28TH JANUARY, 2024

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1:1-2

Today I am doing Part 3 of my Teaching on God, which is the Theme for the Year (2024).

- In Part 1 we talked about God as the Eternal;

- In Part 2 we said God is the Omnipotent Creator.

And today, we are going to look at:

GOD - PART 3 (GOD IS SPIRIT).

One of the things you have to learn as you read Genesis Chapter 1 is that, God is revealing Himself to us - It is a Self Revelation.

And so everything we read is God showing us step by step: Who He is, what kind of Person He is, His Nature, and all of that.

So we learnt that God is Eternal;

We learnt that God is a Creator - And He creates without any help.

He is Omnipotent - No one helps Him to create.

But who is God?

We know that the Heavens are Material, the Earth is Material - You can see it, you can touch it.

But who is this God who is Eternal, and this God who is Omnipotent and a Creator?

That is what Genesis 1:2 tells us about God:

Genesis 1:1-2 (NKJV)

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.

The word I want us to look at is 'Spirit' - It has several Connotations like breath, Wind, Strength.

The word 'Spirit' is very difficult to define.

How do you define Spirit?

As you read the Bible, both in Greek and in the Hebrew; the word that is used for Spirit has different Connotations.

Generally, Spirit is something that is not Physical.

So I am going to attempt to define it in a way that makes sense to all of us.

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SPIRIT

### 1. Spirit is Immaterial:

The first thing I'll say about Spirit is that, it is immaterial - "Spirit is immaterial".

What does that mean?

It means that it does not have Physical Properties.

And that is why it is difficult to describe because everything we know has Physical Properties.

Even the air has Physical Properties - It has an Atomic base, it has Neutron, Protons, and then there is an Atomic base.

Although we don't see it, the air is Material.

The wind is Material - Although we don't see it.

But when we say something is Spirit, it means it has no Material.

That means it has no Physical Properties - You can't touch it. It is there, but it is not Physical.

Everything in the Universe has Material Properties - The Sun, the Moon, the Stars are all Material.

You and I are Material, the Church Auditorium is Material, as we can see it.

But when we say something is Spirit, it has nothing of these Properties.

So, how do you define it?

There is no Language in the Universe to describe Spirit because it doesn't occur in the Universe - It occurs somewhere outside of the Universe.

... First, Spirit is Immaterial: it has no Physical Properties.

2. Spirit is Invisible - You can't see it.

So how do you describe something that is not Material and that is not also seen? What kind of Qualification can you give to it?

The best is to say, "it's like air."

That's why sometimes, People say "God is air - When you want to talk to God you speak into the air." Because air is the closest Element we can use to describe Spirit.

But air has Material Properties - It has Hydrogen in it, it has Oxygen, Carbondioxide and Nitrogen. And all of these are Atomic.

But Spirit has no atoms.

So, although we use air to describe Spirit, Spirit is not air because Spirit is Immaterial, and it is Invisible.

What does Genesis 1:2 tell us about God?

Let's read it again - "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."

What does that tell us about God?

It tells us very Simply that God is Spirit -This God who created the Universe, He is Spirit.

- He is not made of the same Material as the Universe is made of.

- He is not made of the same Material as the Earth is made of.

God is spirit - ELOHIM.

But in the Passage, "God is Spirit" is described as the Spirit of God.

So this is what I say - The Spirit of God is God. The Spirit of God is not different from God. It is not that God is one Person and that He has a Spirit He sent into the world.

The Spirit of God is God - God is Spirit.

Right there in Genesis 1:2, we are told that God is a Spirit - The Creator is a Spirit.

Because God is a Spirit, it is very difficult to discern Him.

There is no Laboratory - The most Sophisticated Laboratory in the world cannot discover God.

Because a Laboratory can only discover something that has atoms.

Since God is a Spirit, and Spirits have no atoms, no Laboratory can find a Spirit; theb no Microscope can find a Spirit; no Telescope can find a Spirit; no Scientific Discovery can ever locate a Spirit.

Because a Spirit is made out of a Material that is not Atomic; and there is no way Science can discover a Spirit, it is the same as the Spirit in you - There is no Scientific way to discover the Spirit in you.

So People say: How do we find Spirits?

People die and they say the Spirit is gone - How do you find the Spirit?

Well, the Spirit is made up of an essence that is not Atomic - it is Material.

The Spirit in you is not part of your Physical Being - So they can cut you, dissect you in all pieces. Scientists, Psychologists can do all they can, they would never discover Spirit because, Spirit has no Material base - It is Invisible.

... Are you getting me?

And the Original Spirit of God is not the only Spirit. But He is the Original Spirit. Because, later on He also gave us Spirit - And Angels are Spirits.

Unfortunately, the 'Bad Boy ' is also Spirit (we would deal with him later).

You cannot invent a Human Instrument of any form to discover God. Because, every Human

Instrument is Atomic-Based. And Spirit is Non Atomic - It is not Material, and it is Invisible.

Genesis 1:2 tells us that, although God is Spirit, He is not Material, and He is Invisible - He is real and active.

The Passage says, the Spirit of God was "hovering".

The Spirit of God is real. Although it is invisible and does not have a Physical Property; He is real. He is not an Imagination, He is not something we speak of to comfort ourselves - The Spirit of God is real.

... So, there is a Reality that is not based on the Material world.

3. The Spirit of God can be Sensed and Felt.

He is not Material, but He can be Sensed - His Presence can be Sensed.

You can know when He is in a Place, and feel it but you cannot dissect it.

How does the Passage tell us that?

It says the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters - It gives the impression of a bird flapping its wings on water. When that is happening, the water would feel the Presence and be despaired.

So that is the impression that Genesis 1:2 tells us - That when the Spirit of God moves in a Place, although you can't see it; and although you cannot Physically feel it, you would still have a sense that God is there.

In the real sense, when People say: "I feel the Presence of God" there would be something that gives them that sense.

Sometimes in a Service you sense God's Presence:

- For some People, they would cry, shed tears.
- For some People, they would feel goose bump.
- For some People, they would feel like trembling.
- Some People would fall down.

All of these Physical Manifestations are telling you: that something you felt; which you couldn't

see in the Spirit realm, had an impact on you.

Just like in Genesis 1:2, the Spirit of God had an impact upon the Waters - He moved upon the Waters, He affected the Waters, He affected the Earth.

So, the Spirit of God is Immaterial, Invisible; but He is Real, Active, and you can feel His Presence.

And God has designed Human Beings with the Capacity to sense His Presence.

Now, you can sense His Presence and deny it;

- You can sense His Presence and say, I think it's just me.

- You can sense His Presence and say, I feel it's "Something-Something".

Whether you call it Something-Something, or Something-Nothing; the Spirit of God is Real, Active and He Witnesses to you all the time when He is Present in your Life.

And there are times you go to a Place when People are conscious of the Presence of God - Sometimes when Worshipping in His Presence and you would know that, although I can't see it, and although I can't Physically feel it; something is happening to me.

And that something happening to you is the Spirit of God - The Creator of the Universe telling you "I am here and I am working."

So, the Spirit of God is Real and Active; the Spirit of God can be sensed or felt - He is a Real Person.

4. The Spirit of God is Distinguished from Other Spirits.

Because at this Point, He is the Holy Spirit.

But by the time Human Beings were created, they also have Spirits.

So the Spirit of God has to be distinguished from the Human Spirits and also from other Spirits - The devil and his gang.

So that the Spirit of God is called the Holy Spirit.

Why is He called the Holy Spirit?

It's because He is not the Only Spirit - There are other Spirits but He is Unique! And so we call

Him Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God - That is what I want you to understand when we say "God is Spirit"; you cannot Materially dissect it.

If you were the only Human among dogs, the dogs would hear a sound you don't hear.

Because dogs hear sound at a Level Human ears cannot hear.

And the fact that you are not hearing it does not mean it's not occurring.

... Are you getting me?

Even in the Natural world, there are Colours we cannot see - We cannot see Ultra Violet.

We cannot see Ultra Violet Rays but other Beings can see them.

The fact that you didn't see it doesn't mean it's not there - If you go under the Sun and you expose yourself to Ultra Violet Rays, the effect will manifest in your body and you will get all kinds of things happening to your body.

Because, although you don't see it, it is real.

Of course, Science later on is able to discover all these, because they are all Atomic based.

But God is a Spirit: whether you respond to Him or not, "He is Spirit."

Now, what I want you to note in Genesis 1:2 is the Condition under which the Spirit of God is moving.

It's very, very instructive. It says: 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.

It says the Earth is void and dark" - All these are Negatives, they are not Positives.

The Waters there are a Symbol of chaos - Something Chaotic is not Good but the Spirit of God is moving.

The Bible is giving us a clear Picture of Who God is and How He works in our lives and where we can feel Him.

TWO (2) IMPLICATIONS

1. The First Implication is that: The Spirit of God rules over all Conditions of Chaos.

No matter how dark or Chaotic Life can be, the Spirit of God rules over it.

- And Darkness cannot hide the Presence of God.

- Darkness cannot stop the Presence of God.

- Chaos cannot stop the Presence and the Working of God.

Many times we think the Spirit of God is only Present when things are Perfectly in order. But Genesis 1:2 tells us that things can be extremely Chaotic in your Life; but the Spirit of God is still there.

And one of the things we have to learn as Christians, is how to sense the Presence of God in the midst of Chaos - When everything around us is wrong.

For us to know the Spirit of God is hovering; that the Spirit of God is moving: "God has not left me, and God is still at work "

If we equate the Presence of God only in Peaceful Environments, we only have half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) Picture of the Presence of God.

The Presence of God is with you when there is Peace, when things are Settled - The Presence of God is there.

But when things are Chaotic and you can't see your way through; the Spirit of is still Present.

And no matter the Chaos in your Life, the Chaos cannot bury the Presence of God.

The Chaos cannot hide the Presence of God - The Spirit of God is moving over your Life (Amen).

I believe there is somebody sitting here today, inclusive all those reading now on the Label of DMC: this Past week has been the most Chaotic week of your Life. And you probably think "God has left me."

But did God leave the Earth in Genesis 1:2? No! He was there. There was Chaos, there was Darkness, yet He was there.

And interestingly, His Presence does not necessarily Change the circumstances.



Because somehow, we think that, "if God is here, everything must Change."

God is there, Nothing has Changed: it's still Chaotic, it's still dark, it's still formless and void.

... Is God there? Yes!

Sometimes God can be in your Life; God can be Present in your situation and the situation may not Change.

I am not saying "Will not Change." I'm saying, "May not Change".

And in the Period when the situation is not Changing, never Conclude that God is absent.

2. Second Implication: The Spirit of God Prepares me for the Word of God.

Now, if you know the account of Genesis Chapter 1 (this is what I am going to Preach on next week) - "In the Beginning God..."

Who is this God? He is a Spirit.

But then Genesis 1:3 would later tell us that as the Spirit of God moved.

Something else happened - God Spoke!

So, the Spirit of God is a Predecessor to the Word of God.

When you sense the Spirit of God moving in your Life, don't just roll on the floor and get up and go. Because, this Spirit of God in Genesis 1:2 is going to lead to Verse 3;

... Where God is going to release a Word. And it is by a release of the Word that Transformation begins.

If God's Word is not implanted in you, that experience of the Holy Spirit may still leave you in a Chaotic State although you have fully experienced the Holy Spirit; because it is just the beginning of a Process.

You must get the Next Process in other for things to start manifesting, and Change occurring in your Life.

When the Spirit of God moves, we feel His Presence, we sense His Presence - But that is not the end.

... The Spirit of prepares me for the Word of God.

I don't know about you: but I like the Anointing that makes me Stand! And if I fall, fine. But I like the one that makes me Stand.

Because I read in my New Testament that when Jesus Christ was baptized, He rose up (He didn't fall) and the Spirit of God was upon Him.

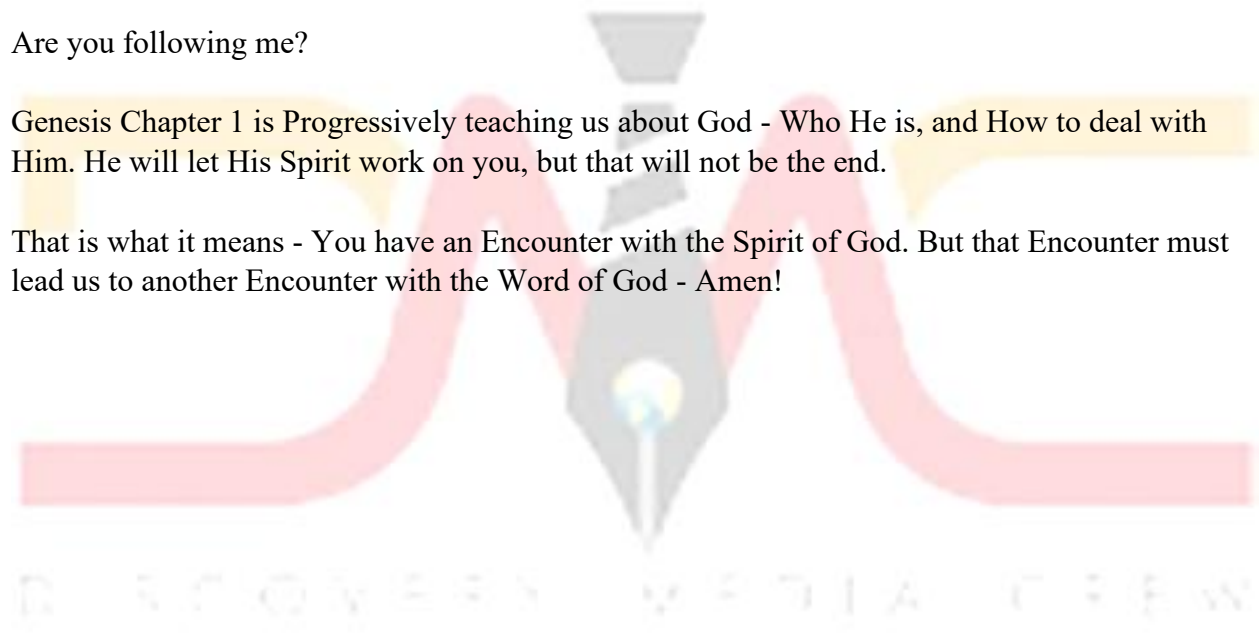
That's the one I like - I want the Anointing that make me Stand and hear Clearly the voice , "This is my beloved son and daughter."

Because if you have an Experience with the Spirit of God and don't have an Encounter with the Word of God; there is no Transformation in your Life.

Are you following me?

Genesis Chapter 1 is Progressively teaching us about God - Who He is, and How to deal with Him. He will let His Spirit work on you, but that will not be the end.

That is what it means - You have an Encounter with the Spirit of God. But that Encounter must lead us to another Encounter with the Word of God - Amen!



SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE WITH PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER, INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)

TOPIC: GOD - PART 4 (THE WORD OF GOD)

DATE: 4TH FEBRUARY, 2024

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1:3

I continue with my Series: GOD - PART 4. Today my Subtitle is, "THE WORD OF GOD."

Genesis 1:1 introduces us to God - It is God's Self Introduction.

What we see happening in that Chapter of Genesis is He saying, "This is Who I AM."

- So far in Genesis 1:1 we discovered that God is the Creator.

And not only is He the Creator;

- He is an Omnipotent Creator - Because He created without anybody's help. He did all things by Himself, He has all the Power to create.

- We also discovered that God existed before Creation - So He is Eternal and He is Infinite.

That is the Nature of God.

And in Genesis 1:2, we discovered that God is not only the Creator who is Infinite and who is Omnipotent and created all things; He is Spirit.

- A Spirit is not matter, and is not material.

- A Spirit does not have Atomic Composting.

- A Spirit is a totally different kind of Entity:

And God is Spirit.

If you pay attention to what we are learning so far, you'll find the Foundations of Major Christian Doctrines in the very first Verses of Genesis - God the Creator, God as Spirit, God as the Word.

And these are things that would later come up in the Bible eventually, in the New Testament, developing such Profound Theological Position of the Trinity.

Today we are going to Genesis 1:3 (NKJV) - Then God said, "Let there be Light"; and there was Light.

Usually, when I read that, I tell People, "Tell your neighbour, it is not your Uncle who said it."

This is the Third (3rd) Picture of God we see in Genesis Chapter 1;

- The first (1st) Picture: He is a Creator.

- Second (2nd) Picture: He is a Spirit.

- The Third (3rd) Picture: He is Word.

And so we see the Word of God here, "Let there be Light" - and there was Light!

We find that Phrase "God said" - Although word is not used, 'said' there implies word. It means, to have will or intend to utter a word. God had a will, a Purpose, and intention; and He spoke it.

When we are talking about God speaking, it's not just words that originate from His mouth or from His tongue; but words that come from Himself, from His intention - His will and His Purpose.

The Word of God has roots in God.

In Genesis Chapter 1, many times you find that Phrase "God said" - about eight (8) times.

In all the levels of Creation God speaks and He acts - The Word of God and then the acts of God.

When we say that something has been said, it implies that a word has been spoken.

When God said, "let there be Light" He released words.

It is very important! Because, from Genesis 1:3, we realised that God transmits His Will through His Word. And His Word Performs His work.

... His Will, His Word, His Work - It is Will that Produces the Word and it is the Word that Produces the Work.

So, if I want to see the Work of God, I must receive the Word of God. And the Word of God must come from the Will of God.

You cannot see the Word of God in a vacuum. You cannot just say: Oh! I want to see the work

of God; I want to see the Power of God, I don't have time for the Word. Or I have time for the Word, but I don't care about God's Will.

His Will Produces Word; His Word Produces Work - That's the Trinity right there in Genesis 1:3: "The Will, the Word, the Work!"

That's the sequence - God has a Will.

We know His Will because He speaks His Word. And when He speaks His Word, He does His Work.

That's the way God works.

And when we master these concepts, it helps us to receive from God. He transmits His Will through His Word.

The Apostle John, in the New Testament captures this Magnificent Truth in John 2:3 - The first Chapter of John is a reflection of Genesis Chapter 1.

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth.

This is the Foundation of Christianity - The Word is God.

The Word did not just come from God, the Word does not just represent God, the Word does not just carry God's idea - The Word is God.

And John develops that to the Point where He talks about the Word becoming flesh, and we know Him as Jesus the incarnate.

The Word is God - That is the big difference between Christianity and every other Religions.

Jesus is not just a Good Teacher, He is not just a Prophet, He is not just a Religious Leader; He is the Word of God. And the Word is God.

The Word became flesh. Right there in Genesis 1 and John 1; we are encountering the Word of God.

The Word is God, so we can say that God and His Word are one.

It is a Fundamental Doctrines of Christianity - The Word is God!

What does that mean? It means that God reveals Himself through His Word.

We know God because He has made Himself known.

How has He made Himself known?

Through His Word - His Word reveals Him.

If you have a Christian who devalues the Word of God, they are devaluing God's Revelation of Himself.

Unfortunately, we are in an era where there are Preachers who don't have any respect for the Word of God.

They believe that the Prophecy they deliver is more important than the Word of God that God had revealed about Himself.

And unfortunately, there are Christians who believe that the Prophet's word, it a Man of God's word, or a Pastor's word is more important than the revealed Word of God.

You cannot know God outside of His "Revealed Word" - At least the God of the Bible.

You may know other gods; but not the God of the Bible - The God of the Bible is known in the Bible. He reveals Himself through His Word.

Certainly, He works through His Word - "Faith comes through His Word."

Everything God does, He does through His Word.

God is desiring to touch the Earth - The Bible says in Genesis 1:2, And the Earth was without form, and void; and Darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And He wants to reformat the Earth so it can move from Unproductive to Productive.

And how does He do it? He doesn't just move things in the Earth; the first thing He does is speak.

Guess what? If God wants to solve a Problem in your Life, how do you think He is going to solve it?

You hear People say, "we want to see the Power of God; we want to see the Hand of God; we want to see the Work of God.

That's true. But how are you going to see it? Though His Word!

If you don't get the Word, you will not get the Works: if you devalue the Word, you devalue the Works in your Life.

So, God Speaks!

And of course, when we say 'God said let there be Light'; sometimes the logical Question you will ask is: "What Language did God speak?"

The Bible is written in Hebrew; so was He speaking in Hebrew?

Well, at that time Hebrew has not been invented as a Language - No man had been created then, to even speak.

So God Spoke!

The Words He spoke would not be a Human Language, but He spoke.

Because speaking is not always in the form of an audible Human Language. You can speak without Speaking - It's Possible.

For example, if you have a Television Set - I remembered when the first Televisions came to Ghana. If you want to make the Television work, you have to go to it; you want to turn the Volume, you go to the Television and turn on the Volume. You want to change Channels, you go to the Television to change the Channel.

In those days we had to hit the Television set for Picture Quality and Clarity.

That was our Language to the Television back then. And then something happened, called Remote Control.

And when you use the Remote Control, you stand somewhere and the Remote Control speaks to the Television.

What Language is it speaking? It is speaking a Coded Language of numbers through infra Red.

It speaks to the Television Set and the Channel changes, the Volumes goes up or down. And all the things you used to do by Physically touching the Television, are now being done remotely. Because a coded information is Passed to the Television, it responds to the Language coming from the Remote Control.

I can understand when the Bible says, "And God said". I believe God released a Coded

informational; Coded with His Will, His Purpose, into the Atmosphere.

God can speak into your Life without you hearing audible voice - God and His Word are one; God works through His Word.

... Let's go a little further:

## WHAT DID GOD SAY?

He said, "Let there be Light." Which also means, 'Let light be!'

He calls the things that be not as though they were.

He doesn't Plead with a thing, He speaks it and it is.

Light be!

That's the first lesson we learn about the word of God.

Of course, we know the Creation itself was spoken by the Word - The Word of God Produces Light.

The Word of God does not Produce Darkness, it Produces Light - Light be!

In Genesis 1, this is the first time we are learning about God from the Bible. And it is telling how God works, what does what.

It is telling us that the essential nature of the Word of God is to Produce Light.

In John 1:5, the Bible says, And the Light Shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness did not Comprehend it.

If there is Darkness in a Place and God wants to dispel the Darkness, guess what He is going to do? He is going to send His Word.

His Word would Produce Light and the Darkness cannot resist the Light - That's how God works.

If there is Darkness in my Life, in my family, anywhere around me; and God wants to deal with the Darkness because I want Light, or even before I Pray without diminishing the Power of Prayer because we need to Fast and Pray.



But we also need to learn God's Processes well.

So if He wants to dispel Darkness, what is He going to do? He is going to speak a Word into the situation and that Word would Produce the necessary Light to dispel that Particular Darkness.

## WHAT DOES LIGHT REPRESENT?

Three (3) Things that Light represents:

### 1. Light Represents Illumination:

It simply means, making things clear.

Light dispels darkness, light brings about illumination.

When we find ourselves surrounded by Darkness, understanding God's Word enlightens us.

The Darkness that the Bible talks about can be Physical Darkness or Metaphysical Darkness.

And when we say something is Physical Darkness, this is when we turn off all the Light, then we'll have Physical Darkness.

When you say it is Metaphysical, it can be Spiritual. That means Darkness that is not of a Physical Source and it can come in different forms;

- It can come through Demonic Activities;
- It can come through Ignorance;
- It can come through all kinds of things.

But it is Darkness! And its Source is not Physical.

Whether the Source of the Darkness is Physical or Metaphysical; the Light of God would disperse it - Amen.

And no matter how Gross the Darkness is, the Word of God would disperse it - Amen.

Illumination! The Word of God Producing Light make things clear.

Staying under the Word of God and the Light of God brings Deliverance.

I understand that there are Deliverance Ministries. People are used to but the Greatest Deliverance comes from the Word of God entering a Person and dispelling every Darkness.

Whether it is Ancestral Darkness, Demonic Darkness, Witchcraft Darkness, Mammy Water Darkness; the Light of the Word of God will dispel it - Amen.

And sometimes all you need to do is to get the Word of God deep inside of you, and every deep Darkness will be evicted.

... The Light of the Word of God dispels Darkness.

That is what God did in Genesis Chapter 1 - He is telling us, if you have Darkness, get the worse. Let the Word Produce Light and the Darkness does not comprehend it.

Just coming to Church and hearing the Word of God beign rightly taught and rightly delivered, will bring Deliverance.

Some of you have no idea of the kind of Deliverance taking Place in your Spirit.

In your Mind, you are going to find out all kinds of things that were harassing your Life just dispersed: simply because the Light of the Word of God has come into the Darkness.

Don't ever underestimate the Power of the "Written Word" of God - Don't confine it to a Low Level, because Satan's number one job is to make you doubt that the Word of God is real.

That's what he did to Adam and Eve. That's what he is going to tell you - That all you need is the teaching of the Word of God.

But If you believe what God says, it will dispel Darkness.

Whether it is Physical or Metaphysical, whether Demonic or Social, Cultural or Ignorance; it will dispel it - Amen.

Sitting under the Word of God dispels Darkness. That is why you need to find a Church where the Word of God is Properly taught. Because just by exposing your Mind to the Intelligence of God, it dispels all forms of Darkness.

You are being Changed gradually without you knowing it that you are being Changed - The Word of God brings Illumination!

2. Light brings Information:

It tells us something: when we receive God's Word - We receive Information about the things He

wants us to know.

And it is that Information that Produces Transformation.

The Earth's Transformation - From a Non-Productive ball to a Productive ball that could sustain Life was accomplished through the Word of God.

Value the Word of God; it will give you Information that would Transform you - Information Transforms!

- It would Transform you from a small Faithing Person to a Big Faithing Person.
- It would Transform you from a Timid Oppressed Person to a Liberated Free Person.
- It would Transform you from a Person running away from Demons to a Person who is chasing Demons.
- It would Transform you from a Person afraid of Witches to one who walks into the Territories of Witches and Wizards, shakes their hands for them to fall.

Because, when you have His Word inside you - People say, when you go to the Village don't drink water (maybe the water is Polluted).

But if you are telling me that Demonic Forces have Possessed the water, I will drink the water. Because if I listen and do not drink, I am saying, 'greater is he who is there than He Who is inside of me.'

If I believe the Greater One is in me I would drink the water.

How do I know? Where is my Confidence? It is not in my Anointing, it is not because I am a Pastor:

It is because I know the "Sure Word" of God - It has fortified me. The Word had "Cooked" me; and I am 'Cooked' in the Word of God.

The Word of God is inside of me, it is outside of me, it is in my Mind, it is in my Heart, it is in my world!

When you have the Word of God in you, you will walk like a Champion.

Wherever you go, you know that "Greater is He who is in me."

You'll walk on serpents and scorpions, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Because the Word of God has impregnated your Mind - The Word of God brings Information.

... And finally,

3. Light brings Instruction to us:

It gives us direction; it is our Instruction Manual - The Manufacturer's Manual on how we should run our lives.

When God said, let there be Light, He instructed Light to appear and there was Light.

God's Word is instruction - When you buy any item, like Speakers, Microphones, already made branded Clothes (except it's a wayside clothes); they all come with instructions - How to wash it, what kind of washing cycle you should use.

Anything Properly manufactured must have an instruction manual, to show us how to Properly manage and use that thing.

If you are Properly made by God, you have an Instruction Manual - It's called "The Bible".

And that Instruction Manual tells you what to say, what not to say. How to say, how not to say. How to see things, what not to see. What to look at, what not to look at.

And it says, "if you do these things, you will be above only and will not be beneath."

The Christian Life is not a Magical Life; it is a Life of Illumination, Information and Instruction.

It is an Intelligent Life designed by God for His Greatest Creation to live successfully in the Planet He has made for that Person.

You don't go out living your Life anyhow, saying, "I believe it will be well."

Yes, it is good to believe it would be well but on what basis? Where is the Manual? Have you read the Manual about how you should think?

It tells you what to think about.

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

It tells you how to deal with People; how to deal with those who offend you. And if you follow

the Manual your 'machine' will operate at its optimal.

You are the Human Machine, and God is the Manufacturer.

He gave you the manual - It is the Word of God.

The Word that He used to bring all things (including you) into being. It's the same Word He tells you to use to maintain yourself in the world He has created.

The Word of God is actually God Himself: and when I walk in the Word, I am walking in God.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father, this Morning let Your Word touch every Life, break every barriers, bring Light.

That Your Children will not walk in Darkness, but they would walk in Your Word - The Word from God.

Not the word of a man, not the word of a Gift; but the Word of God Himself - The Great Manufacturer who made us.

Let Your Word have free course in us.

Let Your Word shape our Minds, our Thoughts, our words, our activities, our behaviour.

Let Your Word rule our Minds, that we may live a Life of Dominion that You creates us for.

That we would not be Subservient Slaves to the forces of Nature.

That we would be Master over every force of Nature and walk in Divine Power and Authority by Your Word.

In Jesus' Name - Amen.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE WITH PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER, INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)

TOPIC: GOD - PART 5 (HIS WORKS ARE GOOD)

DATE: 11TH FEBRUARY, 2024

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1: 4-5

I am doing my Series: GOD - PART 5. And today my Subtitle is: "HIS WORKS ARE GOOD."

We've talked about the fact that in Genesis 1:1, God introduces us to God - It is God's Self Himself as an Eternal Creator, He existed before creation.

- He also introduces Himself as the Omnipotent Creator: The Creator who didn't need anybody's help to create all things.

- Then God introduces Himself as Spirit: God is Spirit. We looked at that in Part 3.

- And in Part 4 God is His Word: The Word of God is God.

Today we are looking at how God sees His work; how He approaches His own works - His attitude towards His work, which is Good.

So, we'll look at Genesis 1:4-5, and let us hear the reading of God's Word:

4 And God saw the Light, that it was Good; and God divided the Light from the Darkness.

5 God called the Light Day, and the Darkness He called Night. So the Evening and the Morning were the first day.

This is the first (1st) Statement in the Bible that talks about how God sees His own work - God has created some things, but how does He see His own works?

This is the first (1st) Verse in the entire Bible, introducing us to God's attitude towards His own Work - Is God Purposeful? Does it serve any Purpose? Is there any real reason behind things that happen to us?

These are very important Questions, because when you are in this world things happen; People say, "Life happened." And sometimes you wonder, is there any Purpose in the things that are happening? Is there any reason why the things should happen?

... And that is what we are going to try to discover from this series.

Now, when you look through Genesis Chapter 1, there is a Pattern beginning from Verses 3, 4

and 5, that is repeated throughout the Book of Genesis Chapter 1.

In other words, God says something will happen then the thing would happen. And He would see what has happened, and He would give verdict about the thing that has happened.

And then he would define what has happened.

Sometimes He would name what has happened and locks it into a Day.

There is a Process that starts and goes through the whole of Genesis Chapter 1 - God's verdict about what he has created that is Good.

God saw the Light that is us Good.

The Question is: WHAT DOES THE WORD 'GOOD' MEAN?

What is 'Good?'

It means that something is well, something is in order, something is beautiful.

So, when He says it is Good, it is not just Good because it is Morally Good; it is Good because it is in order and it looks nice.

God looks at His Work and He says, it is Good! It is in order, it is beautiful - This is what I wanted to do.

God called His Work Good!

And the Lesson we learnt here is that: God is the Judge of His own Work.

We do not determine the Value of God's Work - He determines what His Works mean.

Because many times we feel we are the ones who must determine whether something God has done is Good or Bad.

You go through something in Life and you determine whether it's Good or Bad.

But the Bible says we don't determine it - God is the Judge of his Works; I am not the judge of God's Work.

In our Local Parlance, there is a very Popular saying that, "The one who makes the Path does not know whether it is crooked or not".

So, the idea is that, when you are doing something, you are not the one to judge it - Somebody else must evaluate it; because the Path you are cutting may be crooked.

May I just let you know - It doesn't apply to God as it applies to you (Humans). It doesn't apply to God.

We cannot say that God is cutting a Path and He doesn't know whether it is Good or Bad: and then you are the one to go and say whether it is Good or Bad. No!

God did His Work and then He judged His Work. God is the Judge of His Work - He determines what His work means.

So when you are going through some things in Life - Maybe a Challenge or something happens and you want to pass Judgement on it; God says, "No! You don't have a right to do that: Because if it is happening in my world, I Am the One who determines what it is".

... In the first (1st) instance, He says that His Work is Good - God's Work is Good.

God is a "Good God", and His Works are Good.

## WHY DOES GOD SAY HIS WORKS ARE GOOD?

1. Because, His Works are in line with His Will.

The Word 'Good' means that something is in order. It is exactly as it was intended to be.

So God says, "what I have done is exactly as I intended it to be - It is Good, it is in order. That is what I wanted."

That's a very Powerful Concept!

Because things happen in your Life you think God has made a mistake and so you ask, "why me Lord?"

And normally, when you say 'why me Lord?' it means, why not Him? Why should it happen to me? It shouldn't have happened to me - Why me Lord?

But everything God does fits into His Will - It is according to His Will.

He Charges what He does, He determines whether what is happening to you is Good or not Good. He is the Judge of His Works; His Works are in line with His Will.



2. It also means that His Works are Purposeful and Pleasing to Him

God's Work is Purposeful - He delights in His Work and He Celebrates His Work.

What you read in Genesis 1:4 is that, " And God saw the Light, that it was Good;"

It is like somebody who has accomplished a task and after he has done the task he says, Woow! You are saying, "this thing is exactly how I wanted it to be and it looks Good; and it is Purposeful. It is doing what I want it to do."

God's Work is Purposeful.

There is nothing happening in your Life, as a Child of God that has no Purpose.

When you are an Unbeliever, you can say, "I don't even know what's going on."

But when you are a Child of God, nothing happens in your Life that is not Purposeful - It may not seem Good, it may not feel Pleasant or it may not be what you wished would happen;

... But God never makes mistakes with His Works.

So, he looks at what He has done and He said, it a Good!

And it is interesting as you read Genesis 1:3-4, the Bible says, Then God said, "Let there be Light"; and there was Light. And God saw the Light, that it was Good; and God divided the Light from the Darkness.

But He didn't banish the Darkness forever - It is not that Light came and Darkness disappeared, and there was no more Darkness. The Light came and Darkness also was there and He appointed Spheres for them.

- So, can God use Darkness to accomplish Good? Yes!

- Can He use Light to accomplish Good? Yes!

So, there will be some Darkness in your Life.

The fact that you are Light, does not mean Darkness would never come - Darkness would come!

Light comes, Darkness comes; but God remains the same - He is Good all the time!

If you are going through a dark Path in Life, God is Good!

God is Good in the Light as well as in the Darkness.

That's where our Christian Faith starts - Our Christian Faith is not just Positivism.

Christianity is not Positivism - Meaning everything is okay.

But the Bible clearly teaches us that sometimes Darkness comes - Even after God has brought Light, sometimes Darkness comes but God is constant.

He is Good in the Light, He is Good for in the Darkness.

Interestingly, if you read the Passage (Genesis 1:5) the Bible says, God called the Light Day, and the Darkness He called Night. So the Evening and the Morning were the first Day.

He called the Light 'Good' but He didn't call the Darkness 'Good' and neither did He call it Bad. He just left the Darkness to be what it wants to be.

But the Constant there is not even the Light or the Darkness; because God overrules both the Light and the Darkness - The Constant is God:

- He is Good in the dark, He is Good in the Light.
- He is Good when you are down, He is Good when you are up.
- He is Good when everybody turns against you, He is Good when everybody is Praising you.
- He is Good when you are happy, He is Good when you are sad.
- He is Good on Pay Day, He is Good on Broke Day.

Everytime He a Good: That is why we say, "God is Good - All the time!"

It is a nice Slogan!

But when you are going through Life, it doesn't feel that way. Because sometimes when you are going through Life, you are like, God is not Good. You say, "God, as for this one, I will mark and fail You."

Unfortunately, He doesn't give you the right to mark Him - He marks Himself.

And He says, whatever you are going through, He is Good. Because we see Life only from a short time. The oldest Person on this Earth at this time (I think) is about one hundred and fourteen (114) years. That's not too old.

Even that Person, looking at Life, he or she has a hundred and fourteen (114) years Perspective. Whereas God has an Eternity Perspective.

And if you squeeze one hundred and fourteen (114) years into Eternity, it disappears!

Because, we see Life only from our Point of view and expands of our lives; we can change things now and not know how they will be five hundred (500) years from now. And they will be a thousand years from now.

But God looks at something from now and He sees how it will be a thousand years from now; five hundred (500) years from now.

So, when He says "it is Good", His Perspective is far wider than your Perspectives.

There are actions you are taking now, the consequences will be for a thousand years but you don't even know;

There are People you are talking to now; and the effect that conversation is having on those People can be for a thousand years.

For you, you are just living your Life but God sees the end from the beginning - That's why, He says, "I Am in it, it is Good!"

Somebody say: God is Good!

### THREE (3) ACTONS OF GOD IN GENESIS 1:4-5.

When you look through the Passage, there are three (3) Actions of God that we are going to look at in that Passage (Genesis 1:4-5);

1. God "saw" the Light He has made.

"God saw" - What does it mean? It means God is aware of what He is doing.

You may not be aware, but He is aware of what He is doing. He saw the Light that He had made.

God does not hide from His Works - He is aware of His Works. He is Present before His Works.

... He saw the Light.

And just get this: God is aware of what He is doing in your Life - He is aware of it.

There are things that have happened in your Life - At the time they happened in my Life I thought it was the most horrible thing to ever happened in my Life; most horrible!

I would never say, God is Good - I would rather say God is wicked; He is terrible. What can come out of this?

1975 I lost my mother; 1976 I lost my father.

Of course, when you lose your Parents in one (1) year, what are you going to do?

We didn't own the house we were in, we were tenants in the house. All kinds of trouble came!

And because we were Young and Poor, Relatives came to pick all of us - My siblings and I were scattered to Relatives.

And I was sent to my Aunt in Accra who lived in Kanda Estate. And in that Estate I found other Believers, and we started a Christian Fellowship called, "Kanda Estate Christian Fellowship."

And out of that Kanda Estate Christian Fellowship came something called, "International Central Gospel Church (ICGC)."

Now, I cannot say God killed my mother; but if she had not died, there was no way I would live in Kanda Estate. And there was no way I could meet the People I met in Kanda Estate. And there was no way I would have started a Church!

Because, my mother would have told me, "Mensa don't!" - She would never have encouraged me to start a Church. Never!

I can almost imagine what she would have said if I told her God has called me - She would say, "No! God hasn't called you, be Patient."

Was it God who killed her? I don't know! But now I can look back and say, it was tough and it was Good because God had something in Mind that I could never ever had anticipated.

If I had to make a Choice, I would never make that Choice - Who would make a Choice to kill their mother?

So, when God does something and He says it is Good; you may not see it but God sees His Work, He is aware of His Work, He knows what He is doing. He is not crazy, He is Purposeful.

Somebody say, God knows what He is doing in my Life! I don't know it, I don't understand it all.

But God sees what He is doing. He is aware of it. He is not an absentminded God!

... The Second (2nd) Action is that:

2. He separated the Night from the Day.

He divided it - He set things in their rightful Place.

God is a God of order - He separated the Light from the Darkness. He brings order out of chaos. But the Light did not abolish the darkness - It didn't!

- So, God is saying: there are moments in your Life, you are going to experience Darkness. And there are moments in your Life, you are going to experience Light.

- There are times you can't see your way clear and there times you can see your way clear.

- There are times you can get confused and there are times you can get clarity.

But in both Seasons, God is Good!

If you are going through divorce, it's a dark spot. You think 'No Good can come of this.' But God sees the end from the beginning.

He sees things and outcomes we don't see.

He sees things far into the distance.

And He is able to Position you in Places you would never have chosen to be - Left to you, you would never choose it.

But in His Big Scheme, He needs you to do it. So He is going to contrive and create the right circumstances to Position you where He wants you to be because 'Greater Good' comes out of what He does in your Life.

When He says, it is Good, it is 'Greater Good'.

It may be Good for you as an individual - It benefits only you.

God wants what He does, not just to benefit you, but to benefit ten thousand (10,000) People. And benefiting ten thousand (10,000) People is more important than benefiting one (1) Person.

In God's Providence, He is going to Place you in a Place where you can be of more benefit to

your children and grandchildren.

Some of you, what God is doing in your Life is not for you, it is for your children;

Because your children need certain impetus - And He is going to create it because of the Purpose He has for them twenty (20) years down the line. And you would never make that Choice if you were given that option.

Even if you were told the benefit of it, you won't choose it - Thank God for His Mercy!

... God divides and sets things in their rightful Place.

The Third and final action we see in the Passage is that;

3. God called the Light Day, He called the Darkness Night.

I like the Final Declaration - He saw that the Light is Good and called it Day. And He called the Darkness Night.

... He didn't call it evil; He called it Night!

He says, there's going to be a Day Season and there's going to be a Night Season - A Night Season is not necessarily an evil Season; it's just a Night Season. A Day Season is just a Day Season.

And if you've lived on this Earth for a while, you know that, no matter how long the Day is, Night will come - No matter how Prolong the Day is, Night will come.

And no matter how Prolong the Night is, Day will come.

God says, the Light is just a Day, the Darkness is just a Night.

"Weeping may endure for a Night, But joy comes in the Morning" - Psalms 30:5B

Don't throw away your Life because you are in the Night Season - The Day Season is going to come, because of the Goodness of the Lord. He can show you Mercy in the Darkness, and in the Night. He can show you Mercy in the Light, in the Day.

... God is God of both during the Day and the Night; His Works are Good!

And this is how the Apostle Paul reflects on what Genesis 1:3-5 means to Believers. This how he puts it in 2 Corinthians 4: 6-9:

For it is the God who commanded Light to Shine out of Darkness, who has shone in our Hearts to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this Treasure in Earthen Vessels, that the Excellence of the Power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are Perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

He is drawing it in the New Testament Era, how we see what God did in Genesis 1:3-5; Then God said, "Let there be Light"; and there was Light. And God saw the Light, that it was Good; and God divided the Light from the Darkness. God called the Light Day, and the Darkness He called Night. So the Evening and the Morning were the first Day.

What is Apostle Paul saying? He is saying, the same God who said, let there be Light, and there was Light, is the same God who said let there be Light in our Hearts.

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, He brings Light into the Darkness of our Hearts.

If you are a Child of God and you are Born Again, you have received God's Light in your Life; and He says, because of that, we are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are Perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

The intended Purpose of what is happening to us doesn't happen - In other words, we got a big blow from Mike Tyson; we were struck down. But when we went down in the Boxing Ring and Probably for a moment, we were counted out!

But have you noticed that People who were counted out in a Boxing Ring don't die? They get up and continue living.

It's not as if when they count one (1) to ten (10) - Knock out!

For your Life you are knocked out - No! You can get up after that, go and continue with your Life.

Apostle Paul says we are struck down but we are not destroyed. Why? Because the same God who said let there be Light, has given us Light in our Heart.

If you are a Born Again Believer, you have the Light of God inside you. And because of that, you cannot lose in the battle of Life.

Because of that, you will never fail in the battle of Life.

Even when People think you have failed, God will find a way to turn your Failure into Success - Amen.



You can have somebody who Probably doesn't have a child and may never have Biological children. But who has influenced and trained somebody - A Nephew, a Niece, a child from the Children Church, a Student, etc

And that Person they have trained and influenced would Probably be the most influential Person fifty (50) years from now. And Probably, if they had children, they would never have taken care of that Person.

God has a way of turning your Darkness into Purpose.

And this Morning, we want to trust Him with our lives: that He knows what He is doing, and He is aware of what He is doing.

Please, let's get up on our feet - We are going to Pray shortly before we close.

## PRAYERS

1. Lift up your hands to God and Thank Him for your Life.

Thank Him for the Darkness, Thank Him for the Night Seasons.

Thank Him for things you don't understand - Things you are going through that doesn't make sense to you.

Thank Him that He is working out His Purposes, He is bringing beauty out of it.

He says you are in the Night, but He would bring you out of it.

Romans 8:2 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.

Lift up your hands and Thank Him for your Life - Thank You Lord!

2. Ask the Lord to help you to see and Understand His Purposes for your Life.

Tell Him: I am not a Mistake, I am not a disgrace, I am not a failure - You are working Your Purposes for my Life.

In Your Scheme of Things, I fit on well. I am not a misfit; I fit into God's Plans, into God's Purposes.



Thank You Lord!

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, Thank You that You see what You have made and You call it Good.

You see us, You made us in Your Image; Patterned after Christ Jesus, with the Light of Christ and You say, it is Good.

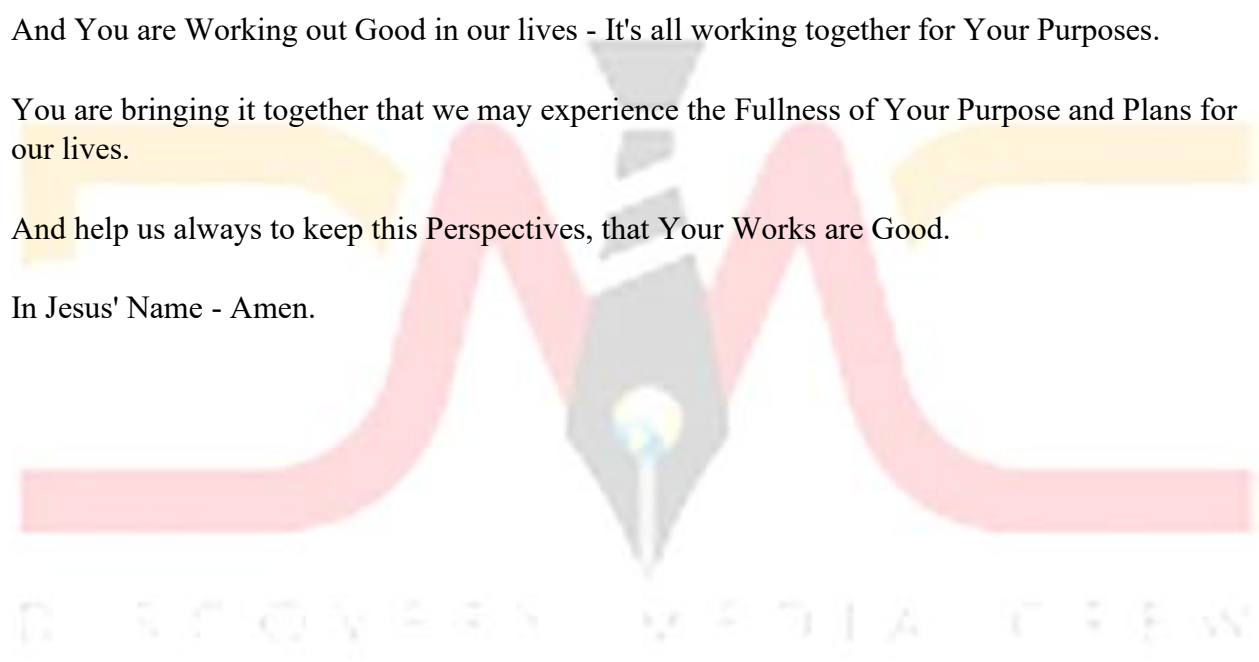
We declare Lord, that You are Good; Your Works are Good, and our Experiences are Good.

And You are Working out Good in our lives - It's all working together for Your Purposes.

You are bringing it together that we may experience the Fullness of Your Purpose and Plans for our lives.

And help us always to keep this Perspectives, that Your Works are Good.

In Jesus' Name - Amen.



SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE WITH PASTOR (DR) MENSA OTABIL (GENERAL OVERSEER, INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) CHRIST TEMPLE, ACCRA GHANA)

TOPIC: GOD - PART 6 (THE JUDGE)

DATE: 17TH MARCH, 2024

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1:4-5

This is Part 6 of my God Series; and my Subtitle is: "GOD - THE JUDGE."

One of the things we know about God is that He is a Judge - God is a Judge!

A Judge is the one who decides the final outcome of a matter. He or she determines how things should rightly be. A Judge is there to defend what is right and Just.

In my opinion, and it may be subject to debate but that is my personal opinion, "Judging is the most Powerful responsibility on Earth."

And by extension, I believe Judges are the most Powerful People on Earth - They decide between right and wrong on all Natural matters; and Pronounce verdicts on them.

Judges overrule Presidents.

They can just make a verdict and get everybody into trouble.

They are very, very Powerful - It's a very Powerful Position.

And the Judges of this Earth derive their Power from the Ultimate Judge - God Almighty.

And so, that is what we are going to look at today - God as a Judge of the Universe.

The God who is Creator is also our Judge.

Many times we want to see God as One who loves us, One who is Merciful, full of Grace and all of that - And that is all true of God!

But don't also forget that this God who is Merciful is also a Judge.

And that, we find also in the Book of Genesis: In "God - Part 5" I quoted from Genesis 1:4-5, but I looked at a different aspect of God and His Works.

Today we are referencing the same Bible Text; and we are going to look at God as Judge.

Genesis 1:4-5 (NKJV)

4 And God saw the Light, that it was Good; and God divided the Light from the Darkness.

5 God called the Light Day, and the Darkness He called Night. So the Evening and the Morning were the first Day.

... God is the Judge of His Works!

I made the same Statement in Part 5 but did not expand on it very much.

The idea of God as a Judge is not something that comes up later in the Bible. As I said, the Book of Genesis is very, very important (especially Genesis Chapter 1).

Because all the important Doctrines about God are in Genesis Chapter 1.

Later on, they are expanded in the rest of the Scriptures. But right from Genesis 1, we see God that He is Eternal, a Creator, a Spirit, His Works are Good and we see that He is also a Judge - These are very important!

We see also that God is the Word - What we later come to formulate as the Trinity; these are all ideas Present in Genesis 1.

In Genesis 1, God is introducing Himself and He is telling us who He is.

Here we see that God is a Judge - He is a Judge of His Works.

Now, how do we arrive at the idea that God is a Judge, just by reading this Passage?

THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT GENESIS 1:4-5.

There are couple of things I want you to pay attention to:

1. GOD SEES:

God saw the Light that had been made - He sees!

He observes and inspects His Works.

When we say "God sees", it means that He looks at something and He pays attention to it.

In the context that we are using it in Genesis 1; it means He examined what He had done - God sees!

And it is an idea that you find through Scriptures - That nothing is hidden from God. He sees what is obvious and hidden; and no Creature, Thoughts or Actions can happen without Him seeing it.

That's the first thing we see about God from this Passage is that He sees.

And whatever we do, He sees.

As a matter of fact, He even sees our Thoughts before they become Actions.

## 2. GOD CALLS:

He called Light Day.

Not only does He see the Light, He also calls it.

What does it mean?

It means He names and He identifies things as they are - He sees and He Calls.

God calls Light by its rightful name, and calls Darkness by its rightful name.

God has names for all things - It is also a concept that runs through the Bible.

Not only does God see, but He calls.

He names things, Proclaims things and identifies things.

When God sees sin He doesn't hide it, and He doesn't decorate it.

When God sees that you've done something wrong, He is not going to massage it - He is going to see it, and He is going to call it as it is.

If you commit Adultery God will call it Adultery - He will not call it a Generational Curse.

If you are jealous and envious, He will call it Covetousness - He will not call it a desire to get.

... He calls things as they are!

Human Beings have a way of messaging things especially in our Community; when 'Big' People do bad things we try to rename the bad things.

And these days, we see that even among Preachers, we try to rename what Preachers do.

A Pastor is doing something wrong, we say "Touch not the Anointed."

A Pastor is committing Adultery you say, Oh don't touch him, he has Special Grace.

And a lot of that foolishness is settling down in Christianity.

But what does God call the sins of His People?

- He named and called the sin of Adam and Eve - He didn't hide it.

- He named and called out the sin of Cain.

- He called out the Drunkenness of Noah - The man who redeemed the Human Race.

God didn't say, for all the Goodness you've done, your Drunkenness is nothing. It's just your own Personal matter. No!

God calls things the way they are.

- He calls out the father of Faith, Abraham who lied, that his wife (Sarah) was just his sister.

- He calls out the Anger of Moses and the murder of Moses.

- He calls out the sins of both Eli and Samuel's children.

- He calls out the Adultery and the Murderous act of David - The man after God's Heart.

God doesn't say well, He is a man after my Heart and so I am not going to see what he wrong.

No! God sees, and He calls!

And don't ever get deceived that you are so Special to God; that because you give a lot of Tithes and Offering, Fasting and Praying; you are God's Special - No!

Nobody is God's Special - He will see and He will call.

... He sees and He calls.

### 3. GOD DIVIDES:

The Word 'Divide' means to separate, and to set things apart.

So God divided the Darkness from the Light.

He saw it, He called it, He separated it.

It's all Part of God's Judgement - He sees, He calls, He divides or separates or sets things apart.

And this is also an idea that continues throughout Genesis and throughout the Scriptures:

- God separated Abraham from his father's Land.
- He separated Lot from and Sodom and Gomorrah.
- We see it in the Laws of Moses: The Holy is separated from the Unholy.
- We see it in the Parables of Jesus: The wheat is separated from the tares; sheep are separated from goats.
- We see it in the concept of Judgement in the Book of Revelation: The Righteous are separated from the Abominable.

God does not mix things - He separates them.

When God is going to Judge, He doesn't judge brackets; He separates and judges - Two travelling together, one would be taken, one would be left.

... God sees, He calls, He separates.

In God's Judgement, He doesn't say, Oh you are a Pastor's son so you are accepted - He separates you from your father.

- Your father's Righteousness doesn't cover you.
- Your husband's Righteousness doesn't cover you.
- Your wife's Righteousness doesn't cover you.
- And your children's Righteousness doesn't cover you.

All of you men who don't Pray but rely on the Prayer of your wife; you think because your wife

Prays, God would be Merciful to you - Well, in God's Judgement, He sees, He calls, He separates.

There is coming a time when God will separate - Our Membership of a Local Church does not give us Salvation. Even in the Church, God will separate People.

Being in Church is Good; but if you don't belong to Christ when He is coming to Judge, He is going to separate!

Don't think that belonging to something that is Holy, you become Holy. Or that you belong to the right means you are right - No!

You can be wrong and still belong in the right Group.

Those are the ingredients of God as Judge and we see it right in the Book of Genesis Chapter 1.

God put all these concepts together in the first Judgement that He brought to Mankind.

And the first Judgement was on the first Parents of Human Race - Adam and Eve. They were the first to be Judged.

Now, I want us to go to Genesis 2 and see how "God as Judge" in the concept worked out - Let's look at how God Judges us.

Genesis 2:9 says, And out of the Ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is Pleasant to the sight and Good for food. The tree of Life was also in the midst of the Garden, and the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Remember, two (2) trees - The tree of Life and the tree of the Knowledge of Good.

Then Genesis 2:16-17 says, And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the Garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God does not just judge us.

You don't know what you are doing then God slaps you with Judgement - No!

## THERE ARE PROCESSES

When we read the Passage we see the Processes:

1. God gives us Options to Choose from.

This is because He created us to have Freewill.

Freewill allows us to choose and act responsibly - And that's what enables Human Beings to respond to God's Word: Either to obey or to disobey.

Human Beings have got a Freewill - We are the Authors of our own Actions.

That is why we are able to sin and that is why we are able to be accountable for our sin.

If we didn't have Freewill, then there will be no sin; then we will not be judged because it just happened. But we have Freewill.

And Please, listen to me carefully; because there is a lot of very wrong Doctrines all over being taught:

- Bad Doctrines that make People not to be responsible for their Actions.
- Doctrines that make Witches, Ancestrals, Yokes, Principalities, Powers, all kinds of things responsible, except you.

Now, if all of these things were responsible for your Actions, then there was no need for you to be judged because you had no Power.

But we read from the Scriptures that God would give us Options.

Listen carefully, you have Options in Life - You can be Good, you can be Bad; you can be a Fool, you can be Wise; you can be Rich, you can be Poor.

I have always said that Poverty is not by force - We are not poor by accident; we are poor by Choice.

So God would give us Options to choose from.

Freewill is what makes us higher than animals but freewill can also demote us and make us lower than animals - It is a free world!

God gives you options: You can decide which way you want to go.

I call Heaven and Earth as Witnesses today against you, that I have set before you Life and Death, Blessing and Cursing; therefore choose Life, that both you and your Descendants may live (Deuteronomy 30:19).



Your Life is in your hands.

2. He shows us the Best Choice to make.

Although Adam had two (2) Options to choose from, God Pointed him to the Right Choice:

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the Garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" - Genesis 2:16-17

God doesn't leave us to blindly determine what He wants us to do; He Points us to the Right Way.

In addition to Freewill, we have Divine Guidance - "I have given you freewill; but if you want what I want for you, this is it".

"You have Freewill, but you also know my Choice." It is not that you have Freedom, and you don't know what is right or wrong; you have Freedom, and I have told you this is right and this is wrong.

We have Freedom, but God also Points you to what is best for you.

He said to the Children of Israel, I Place before you Life and Death, Blessings and Curses; but choose Life - Deuteronomy 30:19.

In other words, the fact that you have options doesn't mean He leaves you blind - No! That's not what He does: "You have options, but this one is better for you."

You can commit Adultery, but being Faithful is better for you. But if you want to commit Adultery, it's a Free Choice!

If you want what I want for you, stay with the one you are married to.

3. He tells the Consequences of our Choices.

He said to Adam, "for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Now, some of us want to experiment and see what it is.

You have the Choice of experimenting with your foot for a car to run over. But you know what's best for you - You know the consequence! "If I put my foot there, I would find out but in the wrong way."

So why do you want to commit Adultery to find out how it is like?

Why do you want to have sex before Marriage to find out how it is like?

Why do you want to do that?

You will find out as Adam and Eve found out! Because there are some Lessons that doesn't reach you anything.

You would find out what you want by jumping from a building, but you would learn nothing from that.

There would be no Lesson to be learned, because by the time you find out, you are gone!

Experience is not always the Best Teacher; some times, experience is the worse Teacher in Life.

4. He judges us based on the Choices we make.

By the time we get to God's Judgement, we would have no one to blame, but ourselves.

God's Judgement is certain; it does not come suddenly, it comes after we have ignored the Options He gave us, the Guidance He gave us, and the Consequences He told us about.

And if you ignore all of that, then there is none else to blame but to receive the full Judgement of God.

And the Bible says, there is a Day of Judgement coming.

Maybe you'll say "well, let me find out whether there will be a Day of Judgement" - Do you really want to find out?

Or the People who say, "I will find out when I die."

Really? Is that when you want to find out?

There are certain things finding out doesn't help you. Because, by the time you find out, there is no way out - By the time you find out, there is no Redemption.

And some of us are making Choices that we know are wrong.

I am not saying it's wrong - You know it's wrong.

How do you know?

You know! God has Pointed it to you.

You say Pastor, how do you know?

Your Conscience told you it's wrong!

You know it's wrong, unfortunately like Adam and Eve, when they found out it was too late: they were kicked out of Eden.

And with them, the rest of the Human Race - They found out, but they never went back to Eden.

God who is the Creator, who is the Eternal, the Merciful God, the Kind God, the God of Grace, the God who came in the form of Man to die for us is also the God of Judgement.

And He didn't become a Judge at the end of the Human Story in the Book of Revelation; He shows us He is a Judge right from Genesis - He judges here on Earth and He judges after Earth.

Some People don't have Judgement here on Earth - They can escape all Human Judgement but one thing you can never escape is God's Judgement.

They can never escape it - He sees, He calls, He separates or divides and He judges.

As we live our lives as Christians, all of us get tempted.

The Options of Life be thrown at you - "Of every tree of the Garden you may freely eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

I don't know about you, but I think with a little Self Control, we can live a far better Life than the lives we are living.

Just a little Self Control - Just a little, "I am not going to do it." I feel it, but I am not going to do it.

Just like:

- I felt like putting my foot on the road - I never did it.

- I felt like jumping from a building, but I never did.

Have you ever asked yourself, "what will it be like to do a lot of things you've never done - To drink Poison, to do all kinds of things but you never did them?

There are many things in your home that can destroy you that you've never used to destroy

yourself because you have a Will and you exercised Choice not to go that way.

That same Will you use to overcome sin is the same thing.

For some things, People will hail you here on Earth, and God judges you.

For some things, People will judge you on Earth and God will judge you.

The fact that People hail you doesn't mean God is also hailing you - Your fans are not God's Fans and God is not in your Fan Club.

It has nothing to do with Witches Ancestral Spirits or whatever Yokes you are carrying, and all kinds of nonsense People are Preaching these days - Taking Personal Responsibilities for our Actions.

## ALTAR CALL

So today, before I Close: If you are here or reading now on the Label of DMC, and you know your Life is not right before God.

There are lots of People living two-timing Christian lives - They love God, but they love the world too. They do this right, that right.

And then there are People who have never given their lives to Jesus Christ.

If you are a Christian and your Christian Life has been wishy-washy, in and out, inconsistent.

You say you are a Christian, but you are doing all the wrong things and you know it's wrong!

No Pastor says this is wrong, you know it is wrong because God Pointed His finger on your head and your conscience judges you.

You are a Christian but you are living that Double Life. Or you've never given your Life to Jesus Christ; you always say Oh! I think I can live my own Life - There is Judgement Coming.

## PRAYER

I just want us to Pray a Simple Prayer for God's Forgiveness and for a New Life in Christ Jesus - That Christ would come into our lives and make us Brand New People.

Every eyes close, every head bow;

If you are here or reading now on the Label of DMC, and you're saying Pastor, I want to give my Life to Jesus; I want to be Born Again, I want a New Life in Christ, I want Christ to be the Lord of my Life.

Or you say Pastor, I gave my Life to Christ but my own Christian Life is not Stable. I want to really make a re-dedication of my Life to God. I am re-dedicating my Life to live a Consistent Life.

If you fall into any of these Categories of People, just lift your right hand wherever you are now.

And Point one hand on your heart and say with me:

Heavenly Father; I come to You today just as I am. I have sinned against You and my own Conscience.

I ask You Father; have Mercy on me, forgive me, wash me and Cleanse me with the Blood of Jesus.

From today, I ask You for Grace to live for You. Help me to do Your Will. Give me the Will, give me the Power, give me the Ability to make the Right Choice and stay with it

I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Saviour and I Thank You for Your Free Gift of Salvation.

In Jesus' Name - Amen.