



Message  
in a bottle  
Bill Partington

# CONTENTS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

INTRODUCTION

1. REJOICE BECAUSE YOUR NAME IS WRITTEN IN HEAVEN
2. HAVING 20/20 VISION
3. A LIFE LIVED ON PURPOSE
4. THE SIMPLICITY WHICH IS IN CHRIST
5. THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM
6. HAVING, WALKING OUT AND MAINTAINING A VISION
7. A DAY IN THE LIFE..... (of Jesus, & You?)
8. A GODLY PERSPECTIVE OF YOURSELF – AS A CHRISTIAN
9. JUST DO IT!! LIVING on PURPOSE (not under PRESSURE)
10. THE PURPOSE OF THE STORMS OF LIFE
11. CALLED TO BE WITNESSES
12. YOUR AVAILABILITY - NOT YOUR ABILITY - QUALIFIES YOU
13. REVIVAL
14. KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING
15. THE GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE
16. TIMES & SEASONS
17. GOD CAN DO IT THROUGH YOU!!!
18. SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY
19. WOUNDED WARRIORS
20. THE PRODIGAL SON
21. DOING AND BEING
22. OVERCOMING IN A CRISIS SITUATION
23. THE “LORD’S PRAYER” - PART 1 - Matthew 6:9-13
24. THE “LORD’S PRAYER” - PART 2 - Matthew 6:9-13
25. THE “LORD’S PRAYER” - PART 3 - Matthew 6:9-13
26. THE “LORD’S PRAYER” - PART 4 - Matthew 6:9-13
27. THE “LORD’S PRAYER” - PART 5 - Matthew 6:9-13
28. THE “LORD’S PRAYER” - PART 6 - Matthew 6:9-13
29. PUSHING THROUGH THE CROWD – PUSH IN, PUSH THROUGH, PUSH ON
30. FINISHING YOUR COURSE, FULFILLING YOUR MISSION
31. CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY
32. HAVING THE SPIRIT OF CALEB
33. MEDITATE THE WORD OF GOD
34. STEP OUT!! MIND THE GAP & WATCH OUT FOR TRIP HAZARDS
35. COVENANT KEEPING GOD
36. ANTIDOTE TO A PANDEMIC OF PANIC

© Copyright Bill Partington.

Correspondence to: billpartington1@gmail.com

## **About the Author**

Born in 1953 and raised in a Christian home, the son of an itinerant preacher, Bill Partington made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ from the age of 10.

Following a career in sales Bill was ordained in 1992 and spent the following 2 years traveling as an itinerant preacher in the UK, India and the Philippines. In February 1995 he began working for UCB UK (United Christian Broadcasters), promoting the ministry and building the distribution of their daily devotional and the database of supporters.

He served as Promotions Manager, Head of Ministry, Executive Assistant to the CEO, Head of Strategic Ministry Relations - hosting & leading Leadership events with many of the world's leading ministers - and then, most recently, Head of Affiliate Development - where his responsibility was to help several UCB affiliated ministries across Europe to grow and impact their own nations more effectively.

Since leaving UCB UK's employ in April 2019, he has continued to serve on 6 Boards of Trustees of various UCB ministries in Europe, whilst also returning to itinerant ministry, preaching across the UK as well as much further afield.

A strategic Kingdom leading connector, Bill flows with and across the 5-fold ministry. His life and ministry is marked with integrity, humility, longevity and consistency. He has preached in over 10 nations, spoken and operated in many more – and now heads up the ministry, Global Missions, serving Churches, Conferences and Outreaches - always with a word in season.

This year he and his wife, Therese, will celebrate 40 years of marriage. Together have also hosted around 10 tours of Israel and plan more in the coming year. They have two sons, one daughter, a granddaughter and a grandson.

### **ENDORSEMENTS**

I am head of a large Indian Mission in South India. There are more than 120 churches with several helping projects. We reach both north India and south India by planting churches & several projects. I travel widely to many countries preaching the Gospel. I met Rev. Bill Partington in one my travel. I met him in his father's house in Stoke-on-Trent in England. When I heard his preaching I found out that he has anointed preaching and apostolic word of God. He invited me to his house where I found out that he also has evangelistic ministry which made people to respond by accepting Jesus as a saviour and also favours the miraculous happening. I invited him to India. Large crowds of people were blessed through his prayers and people started to attend his meeting in larger members. He was invited to several countries in Europe, USA and Eastern countries. I found him to be a very humble person and man of prayer. People wanted him to be the head of several organizations in different countries. His ministry in UCB (the media ministry) expanded to reach many countries of the world. He and his wife has become a model of a ministry. Wherever he goes he leaves unforgettable memories of his meetings and fellowship. I wish him a source of harvest of many souls. He is honest and faithful minister whom I recommend.

***Rev. D.F. Hallelujah Israel, Village Evangelisation of India Mission. Chennai, India***

I met Bill and Therese in England in 2014 when I moved with my wife to the UK for 7 months. They immediately welcomed us as part of their family, and encouraged us in every aspect of our lives. I have never met anyone more helpful than Bill at any time of day, always ready with a resolute word in the difficulties of the ministry. Through his experience of wisdom and spirituality, he always has an idea of how to get out of difficult situations. For several years now we have been working together to spread the Gospel through the media in Italy, and for us they are a point of reference in the decisions and development of Italian projects. Bill and Therese are reliable, humble, helpful and loyal friends. My wife and I are happy to have them as an active part of our organization in Italy. At least twice a year we spend time together, and every time we are always encouraged by their enthusiasm, self-sacrifice, preaching, passion and love for people and for God's work, which they transmit to us all the time. God is using them and will continue to use them for the advancement of His Kingdom - and us with them.

***Michele Plasmati, Pastor of the Assemblies of God Church in Varese, Italy, and President of UCB Italy***

We have known and served with Rev Bill Partington for many years as trusted friends and confidants. His life and ministry is marked with integrity, humility, longevity and consistency. A strategic Kingdom leading connector who flows with and across the five-fold ministry worldwide. He always brings a word in season, always building and encouraging. A leaders' leader.

***Pastor Terry Eckersley. River Network Church, Matlock, Derbyshire, UK***

Bill has a heart for evangelism, he has supported local mission in the Staffordshire Moorlands working with various churches, to promote the Kingdom of God, to my experience from as early as 1990 when we worked together on the "JIM" campaign and tent mission at the local carnival. He supported fully my missionary work in Romania, which started in 1994 and continues today, and has been a spiritual encourager. In 2009 we pioneered a new church plant and Bill and Therese have supported, encouraged, and been a blessing to the church. We look forward to Bill's regular ministry to the church and he is well received and well-loved when he comes.

***Pastor Chris Longhurst. Cheadle New Life Centre, Staffordshire, UK.***

I have had the pleasure of knowing Bill Partington for a number of years and have even had the privilege of ministering alongside him on mission in Chennai, India. As the founder / CEO of Out of the ministry I was delighted when Bill came on the advisory board of our ministry. Bill also worked full time for numerous years at UCB Christian Broadcasters as Head of European Affiliate Development. His natural and more so, his spiritual gifts, knowledge and experience are an asset to any ministry or organisation. Bill is a down to earth person and is known for reaching out to support the average lay person in developing and achieving their potential. His commitment to preaching and teaching the Christian message is second to none. I would recommend Bill Partington to any Christian ministry knowing that they will gain a man full of integrity, passion and drive.

***Evangelist Peter Gladwin, Founder and CEO, Out of the Ashes Ministries, UK***

# Introduction

This book was inspired by the verse in Matthew 13:52, in which, to paraphrase, Jesus said that someone who is instructed – or skilled – in things of the Kingdom of Heaven, is like someone who “brings out of his treasure both new and old things.

When thinking on that scripture, it struck me that if a man were to be baking or cooking a meal, some of the ingredients he would use would be fresh and bought specially from the supermarket, but some would be already in his own stock cupboard – to be drawn upon as and when needed. Maybe – in order to make spaghetti bolognaise - he would buy the meat in fresh, but the pasta, spices and so on would be taken from what he already had in stock.

Similarly, if a workman were to set about building a wall, he perhaps would have the correct number of bricks needed for this particular task delivered on the morning he planned to start work, but perhaps the sand and cement would be something he would have an abundance – ready to use as and when required. Certainly, he would make up the mortar to bind the bricks together only as and when he needed to, in the same way the cook would only make the bolognaise sauce when he needed to.

When preparing a sermon to preach to an expectant and, hopefully, ‘hungry’ congregation, a preacher may prepare hours, days or even weeks in advance, but he will draw content from his “stock cupboard” or previously learned knowledge of God and His Word – and mix it together with fresh insights the Lord stirs in his heart specifically for “serving up” on this particular occasion.

With this in mind, I realised that over the many years I have been a Christian I have built up a store of knowledge of the Lord, His Word and His ways. Over the 40+ years I have been preaching I have delivered hundreds of sermons. Many of those are held in store mentally – but many have been left in note form around the house, loose-leaf or in notebooks, etc.

I realised that these were resources or ingredients which I, or perhaps others, could draw upon from time to time – to mix with the fresh, rhema Word of God, His anointing, His inspiration and His leading – to minister in these days when people need as much as ever to hear what God is saying to His Church. Many are also ready-made Bible studies which can be used by individuals or as a group.

If they in some way inspire you, or me, in our preparation to preach or teach - then for that I am grateful to God for his prompting to compile this collection of past sermons.

***In closing, please bear in mind that my vision is that you use the following notes as sermon or Bible Study outlines – which you can and should adapt and add to them whatever the Lord puts into your heart, in line with the both the written Word - and Spirit - of God.***

I pray that God will bless and inspire you as you read further.

# **REJOICE BECAUSE YOUR NAME IS WRITTEN IN HEAVEN**

## **Luke 10:20**

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

## **Story - feeling important or significant.**

1. Invited to White House
2. President takes a call, says can't speak now as he's in a meeting with you
3. President takes call and says "it's for you."

Imagine the feeling of being honoured when a well-known person acknowledges YOU in front of others, many of whom you feel are so much more "qualified" and "quality" than you.

## **Song of Solomon 2:4**

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

## **READ (Whole of) Psalm 23**

The Lord is **MY** shepherd, I shall not want, He make **ME** lie down, He leads **ME** besides still waters, He restores **MY** soul, He leads **ME** in paths of righteousness, though I walk., I will fear no evil for thou art with **ME**. Thy rod and staff comfort **ME**. You prepare table before **ME** in the presence of **MY** enemies, You anoint **MY** head with oil, **MY** cup overflows. Goodness and mercy will follow **ME** all the days of **MY** life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **Hebrews 13:5**

I will never leave you nor forsake you

## **Matt 28:20 (The great commission)**

(As you go, remember) I am with you always - even till the end of the world

## **Isaiah 49:16**

I have graven thee (Zion - His people) on the palms of My hands (tattoos / nail prints)

**Song "King of King's, Majesty" - "In royal robes I don't deserve..."**

**Jesus stood and stands by YOU**, like He stood by the woman at well, the woman caught in act of adultery, Zacchaeus, (impetuous, denying) Peter, (Doubting) Thomas, Elijah (who ran from Jezebel, his under a juniper tree & in a cave, Abraham & Isaac who both lied about their wives - saying they were their sisters, Gideon - who was hiding at a threshing flood from the enemy (angel called him a mighty man of valour).

**"Never judge someone based on a Season"**

## **Hebrews 4:15**

High priest - touched with feeling of our infirmities.

## **Psalm 103:12**

He removed our sin as far as the east is from the west

## **Hebrews 10:17**

Your sins and iniquities I will remember no more (Not a bad memory - He chooses to not remember them and hold them against us).

**John 13:5**

Jesus even washed His disciples' feet

**1 Corinthians 1**

For you see your calling brethren

**"Here I am wholly available." Chris Bowater song**

**He equips and anoints those He calls and appoints - not on their merit, their qualifications or brownie points earned - but simply because of His grace and mercy.**

# **HAVING 20/20 VISION**

## **FOCUS ON KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING**

**2 Cor 11:2-3** “For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to **ONE** husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest as the serpent beguiled Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **SIMPLICITY** which is in Christ.”

“The only thing you’ll take into Heaven is a relationship.” (That is, your relationship with **JESUS**).

**“DON’T LOSE PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS”** (Sign).

Don’t lose people in the process of living, in the pursuit of accomplishing goals, targets, agendas, ambitions or aspirations.

**Remember:** This may be your one and only opportunity to impact this person, possibly today, this week, this year, this lifetime – for all eternity. You never know what can happen before you see them again – nor if that one interaction could make a life-changing impact on their lives.

## **FOCUS ON THE CALLING DISPLAYED BY ISAIAH 61 – READ V1-9**

- God has anointed and appointed you for a PURPOSE – not just to feel the goose-bumps.
- You are anointed and appointed to DO SOMETHING, to make a difference, to make things different for you having been here.

## **FULFIL GOD’S CALL AND PURPOSE UPON YOUR LIFE – 2 Timothy 4**

**V 2. PREACH the WORD.** Be READY in-season and out-of-season

V 5. Be WATCHFUL in all things. Endure afflictions. Do the work of an evangelist (spread the GOOD news),

**FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY.** Draw upon and utilise ALL the skills, talents, and abilities He has given you.

They are not given you in order to display them like certificates or qualifications – NOR medals and Blue Peter badges on your lapels – but to be utilised for HIS GLORY.

**2 Cor 12:15** (Paul) “I will VERY GLADLY spend and be spent for you. (NKJ “for your souls.”).

**Example** – of being prepared to spend more in order to have/get the best – “not to make do.”

**“You can’t take it with you.”** It counts for MORE THAN finances, resources, “stuff” and other outward manifestations of our commitment to and for one another. It also covers our commitment to doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

**2 Tim 4:7-8** (Paul). “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith (paraphrased) ‘in order that I may receive the crown of righteousness which the Lord will give to me. And not only to me, but to all who have loved His appearing.’

# **A LIFE LIVED ON PURPOSE**

**Romans 8:28 (AMP)** “We are assured and know that (God being a partner **IN THEIR LABOUR**), **ALL** things work together and are **FITTING into a PLAN**) to those who love God and are called according to His **DESIGN AND PURPOSE.**”

## **SHOW HOUSE PLANS – ESTATE – AND THEN WOULD BE DOWN TO MINUTE BUILDING PLANS**

**Question on Facebook:** “How would you define achievement?”

**My response:** “Fulfilling your God-ordained and God-given **PURPOSE** and **MISSION** in life – and, on the journey striving, by His grace to do all you can towards that end.”

**Moses** – “Let My people go.”

**Joshua** – Fight the battles, walk around Jericho and possess the land.

**Elijah** – slay the prophets of Baal.

## **Paul to Timothy**

**2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NKJV).** “I **charge** you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> ***Preach the word!*** Be ready in season *and* out of season. ***Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*** <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup> ***But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY.***”

## **Paul – of himself**

**2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV).** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will give me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

## **Parable of the talents.**

**Matthew 25:14-30.** Those who fully and correctly put to best use the talents given them received the reward of the Master. (v21 “Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

## **TALENTS / EXPERIENCE (endurance) – WE CANNOT BOAST IN EITHER**

**The challenge to us all: Hebrews 12:1-2** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ***let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*** <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**Jesus of Himself: John 17:4-5** “I have glorified You on the earth. ***I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TO DO.*** <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

**1 Samuel 3:10.** (On the instruction of Eli, the priest). “Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other time, ‘Samuel, Samuel.’” And Samuel answered ‘Speak, for your servant hears.’”

### **Spiritual Gifts: Unity in Diversity (OF GIFTS). 1 Corinthians 12 (PARAPHRASED)**

1. “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant”

4. “There are a wide range gifts and talents, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works in all of us. <sup>7</sup> But the variety of gifts of the Spirit is given to each of us is for the benefit of all of us. <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But the one, same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wishes. <sup>12</sup> For even though the body is one it has many parts, and, likewise, all the members of the body of Christ – (or the Church as a whole) are one body. – made up of many different parts.

<sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body,” is it therefore not part of the body? <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body,” is it therefore not part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body was an eye, how would we hear anything? If the whole body was an ear, how would we smell anything? <sup>18</sup> But God has set in their place all the different parts of the body just as He pleased. <sup>19</sup> If every part of the body were exactly the same – what sort of body would that be?

<sup>20</sup> But we all know there are many differing parts that make up one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor can the head say to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> In fact, those parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. <sup>23</sup> Those members of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> but our presentable parts have no need to be kept protected and covered up. But God composed the body, having given greater honour to those parts which lack it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no schism, jealousy and fighting between the various parts of the body. Members of the body should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one part of the body suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. (If someone has a stomach, tooth or head ache – the whole body knows about it and wants to make the pain leave the part of the body that hurts. But if the body eats a wonderful meal – the whole body enjoys it – not just the mouth or the stomach.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

**1 Corinthians 12 teaches us to walk and function IN AND BECAUSE OF LOVE**

**VARIOUS TOOLS IN THE TOOL BOX – all different – all having specific purposes and uses.**

# **THE SIMPLICITY WHICH IS IN CHRIST**

**Ephesians 5:22-33 / v 32** “...But I speak concerning Christ and the Church.”

**2 Cor 11:3** “But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

- **SUBTLETY**
- **MINDS**
- **CORRUPTED**
- **SIMPLICITY**
- **IN CHRIST**

**Jesus was totally focused on fulfilling His mission, His calling, His purpose, to redeem us back to God.**

**1 Cor 7:33** “He that is married cares for the things of the world, how he may please his wife.”

## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Man’s chief aim is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”

**Rev 4:11** “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour and power, for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.”

## **EXAMPLES:**

1. A child is only interested in seeing its parents, and knowing they are pleased
2. Parents / grandparents are only interested in looking for and seeing their child/grandchild

As a marriage relationship deepens, we grow to know and notice “THE LOOK”

**Psalms 32:8** “I will guide you with My EYE.”

**2 Cor 11** “The SIMPLICITY which is in Christ”

## **The SIMPLE gospel message**

**John 3:16** “For God so LOVED the world that He gave...” He gave His BEST, His ONLY begotten Son.

**John 17:23** (Jesus praying) “And (You) have loved them AS you have loved Me.”

Stop over-complicating things. It’s ALL about our relationship with God. It’s the ONLY thing we will take into Heaven.

**Augustine said** “Love and do as you will...”

**Mark 12:30 and Luke 10:27** “You shall love the Lord your God with ALL your HEART, SOUL, MIND & STRENGTH

**If we truly love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we will only do what pleases Him.**

# **THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM**

**The uncomfortable situations and questions we sometimes ignore rather than deal with.**

**The 2 sides of the same coin**

**John 10:10** “The thief comes only to steal, to kill and to destroy (but I am come that you may have life – and that more abundantly).”

**JOSEPH: The PIT, POTOPTAR’s House, the PRISON, the PALACE.**

**Genesis 50:20** (NKJV) “But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

**RUTH:** Naomi, Orpah and Ruth’s husbands died. None of that was “GOOD.”  
But Ruth committed to stay with Naomi. “Where you go, I will go, where you live, I will live, your people will be my people and your God will be my God.”

As a result, Ruth married Boaz. They had a child called Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of David, who became the King of Israel – and was the great, great, great, great grandad of Joseph, who married Mary – Jesus’s mother.

## **The “PURPOSE” of the storms of life**

**Mark 4:35** “Jesus said ‘Let **US** go over to the other side’.”

This followed on from Jesus teaching them about FAITH. The parable of the Sower, the explanation about the seeds (of faith) growing/not growing. Teaching about faith being like the mustard seed – tiny, but powerful enough to move mountains.

**AFTER THE LESSON COMES THE TEST, TO CHECK YOU’VE REALLY LEARNED THE THEORY.**

**4:37** “And a great windstorm arose and the waves **BEAT INTO** the boat so that it was filling.”

**(“It’s not the storm around the boat which sinks it, but the water that gets in it.” We ALL face various storms of life – but it’s all about how we handle and whether or not we allow the storms of life to flood into us – and sink us).**

**4:38** “But He was in the stern **ASLEEP** on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher / Master, do you not care that we perish?’

**He was relaxed because He knew He would reach the other side of the storm – because He had a job to do there.**

**v39** “Then He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea ‘Peace, be still.’ And the wind ceased and there was a **GREAT CALM.**”

**v40** “But He said to THEM, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it you have no faith?’”

**v41** “And they feared exceedingly and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?’”

**Turbulence when the aeroplane was flying over the Alps. People were frightened and calling out – even/especially the men. It made me wonder if the PILOT was as worried as the passengers – or if he/she knew we would arrive safely.**

**Psalm 23:4** “Yea, though I **WALK THROUGH** the **VALLEY** of the **SHADOW** of death, I **WILL** fear **NO EVIL, FOR THOU ART WITH ME.** Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.”

**GOD DID NOT SEND THE STORM**

**GOD DID NOT ORCHESTRATE THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

**BUT – GOD WILL BE WITH US IN BOTH SITUATIONS & BRING US THROUGH SAFELY**

**AFTER THE STORM ON GALILEE, JESUS DELIVERED LEGION OF (AT LEAST 2000) UNCLEAN SPIRITS (CAST INTO 2000 PIGS), RAISED JAIRUS’S DAUGHTER, HEALED THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD (12 YRS).**

**Romans 8:28 (AMP)** “And we know..... that **ALL THINGS** work **TOGETHER** for **GOOD** – **AND ARE FITTING INTO A PLAN** for **GOOD** to those who love God and are called according to **HIS DESIGN and PURPOSE.**”

(Like the recipe for a cake – ALL the ingredients mixed together make up the cake – and without ALL of them, just one being missing, the outcome would not be the same).

We need the self-raising flour, the eggs, the butter, the sugar, a pinch of salt – and the heat (of life) to produce the perfect result.

**WHAT IS HIS DESIGN AND PURPOSE? - TO BRING US TO MATURITY – just the same way as we, as parents, discipline and train our children to become GROWN-UPS**

**Satan may send the storm to sink us – but God wants to teach us to WALK ON WATER, to learn He will NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US. He wants to raise our level of faith so that we can, through Him, accomplish and do the work He’s called us to on the other side of the storm.**

**YOU MAY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR STORM – BUT HANG ON IN THERE  
GOD’S GOT A PLAN AND A PURPOSE TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR LIFE.**

# **HAVING, WALKING OUT AND MAINTAINING A VISION**

**Proverbs 29:18** “Where there is no VISION the people PERISH, but he that keeps the law, happy is he.”

**Another translation (NJJV)** says “Where there is no revelation the people cast off restraint, but happy is he who keeps the law.”

## **THE PURPOSE OF HAVING A VISION**

1. To give you a GOAL – or something to aim towards

**FOOTBALL** – It’s a nice and enjoyable game – and a pastime (something enjoyable you can do that will pass the time) – but UNLESS YOU SCORE A GOAL - passing the time is all you will do by just passing the ball

### **IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING – HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE?**

2. To keep you on track – on the right road, in the right direction – towards the end result you are striving for.

SAT-NAV – Navigational guide – provides constant instruction, guidance and direction – to take you from where you start out from to where you want or need to go

3. To provide motivation – even when you are tired and the journey is hard
4. To stir up a passion and a desire in you to ENJOY the journey, knowing you will reach the goal you are aiming towards – as well as the sense of achievement in getting there. (ENJOY THE JOURNEY – NOT “JUST” THE DESTINATION)

## **Proverbs 29:18 - PARAPHRASE**

Without a clear vision of where you are going – and how you are going to get there – and what you should be doing on the way there – you will perish, cast off discipline and restraint. (That is you will, like fruit when it’s picked but left unused and uneaten, begin to rot – very gradually, become barren and unproductive – and stink).

## **STILL WATER STAGNATES**

## **WE NEED TO SEEK GOD & ASK HIM FOR A PERSONAL VISION FOR OUR LIVES**

Your vision will usually/always be linked/connected to the talents, giftings and abilities that God has put within us – and the PASSION and STRONG DESIRE He has built into us to see something accomplished. *(What you are ENTHUSIASTIC about)*

### **IS IT ATTAINABLE / UNATTAINABLE – ACHIEVEABLE / UNACHIEVEABLE?**

If your vision can be accomplished **ON YOUR OWN** and without **FAITH** – and without working in partnership and cooperation with others in the Kingdom of God – and in a Kingdom-building way – **YOU ARE NOT THINKING BIG ENOUGH.**

(Living and acting in FAITH is the only way we will please God)

(Living and acting in FAITH with STRETCH you)

**ACTS 2:17-18** “YOUNG men (and women) see VISIONS – and OLD (or older!!) men (and women) dream DREAMS”

The young PROPHECY (of things to come {the WHAT},) and older men and women dream the HOW – the way they can encourage the younger VISIONARIES to accomplish their visions.

### **KEEPING or CASTING OFF THE RESTRAINTS THAT LIMIT US ACCOMPLISHING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES**

(There are restraints – disciplines - we should NOT cast off – like an athlete training for a marathon – or someone studying hard to pass an exam or get a university degree). But there are restraints and limitations others or even ourselves put on us that we need to throw aside – if God is calling us to accomplish something significant in our lives)

**Hebrews 12:1-2** *Which follows on from Chapter 11 – which talks of all the men and women of God who have gone before us and are now in Heaven (Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Samson, David, etc).*

“Therefore, seeing we are surrounded by a great cloud (or crowd) of witnesses (like spectators watching from the grandstands), let us lay aside the weights (and the NEGATIVE {NOT the necessary, discipline forming} restraints that so easily tie us down and limit us, and let us run with patience and endurance the race set before US – looking unto Jesus (keeping our eyes or our vision on Him) the author (or the starter and reason for) and the finisher of our faith who – for the joy that was set before Him (the joy He knew He would feel when He saw those who believed upon Him and received Him) when He endured the cross of Calvary – despising the pain and the shame He felt at that point – and is now seated in Heaven (having achieved the goal of purchasing our salvation).

**2. Timothy 1:6** & Ch 4 Paul challenged Timothy to stir us the gift of God that was in him – to fan the fire and passion within him into flames once again. He charged – or gave him a clear order (like a captain in the army to a sergeant or corporal), to preach the Word – when it was convenient and comfortable or not – to endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist and to FULFIL HIS MINISTRY (to keep his eye on his calling and God-given vision).

## **AS FOR PAUL**

**2 Timothy 4:7** Paul says “I have fought a GOOD FIGHT, I have finished MY race, I have kept the faith.

He kept his eye upon his vision, his goal, and, as a result fought a good fight, won HIS (PERSONAL, GOD-ORDAINED) race and did it still in FAITH.

## **NOTES:**

1. We do not always have a CLEAR vision of EVERYTHING the Lord is calling us to do – nor every detail of the road ahead. And, we may have BLIND-SPOTS – so it is always good (wise) to discuss our vision with trusted mentors in order to get advice and input
2. You will NEVER have a vision to do something for God that does not fit into unity with the rest of God’s people. And it will always be TIMING-specific.
3. You may / will have a significant period (and it MAY be PERMINANT) when you must submit your vision and calling into someone else’s. Your vision may actually be a component that fits perfectly into the bigger picture vision God has given someone else.
4. Christopher Columbus is known as the person who discovered America – but it would not have been the first time he sailed in a boat, let alone a ship. There will have been years in which he learned to sail, submitted to more experienced and more senior leadership before he got his own “command.” Even then, when you are able to “run with” your own vision – you still need to submit it and yourself to those who can speak into your life, so you are not a “single, ‘cross-Atlantic’ sailor.
5. Joshua was apprenticed by Moses, Elisha by Elijah, Timothy by Paul, etc., before God gave anyone of them freedom to move fully into their own ministry and calling.
6. Nehemiah had the vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem – but many others did the work WITH him in order to fulfil HIS vision in 52 days.
- 7.

**NOW THE CHALLENGE TO EACH ONE OF US IS TO SEEK GOD’S PURPOSE AND VISION FOR OUR LIVES – TO KEEP OUR EYES UPON HIM – TO RUN OUR RACE – AND TO KEEP THE FAITH – TILL WE SEE HIM FACE TO FACE**

# **A DAY IN THE LIFE..... (of Jesus, & You?)**

**Luke 8:22** “On a certain day.....”

## **CALMED THE STORM**

Stunned His disciples – and calmed THEM too

## **CAST OUT DEMONS FROM LEGION**

## **APPROACHED BY JAIRUS**

## **INTERRUPTED BY WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD**

He made time for her, despite the seemingly more important man, Jairus, being there first

## **COMMANDED & COMMISSIONED THE DISCIPLES TO GO OUT AND PREACH THE KINGDOM**

Saying God would provide for their needs.

They went out preaching - and healing everywhere they went.

## **JESUS FED THE 5000**

After He had told them to do so (which meant that they could have done it – in His strength.

**John 21:25** “And there are also any other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.”

**1 John 3:8** “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

**John 10:10** “The thief comes only to steal, and to kill and to destroy, I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.”

**Luke 4:17-18** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**John 20:21** “**AS** the Father has sent Me, **SO** send I you.”

**Matt 10:7-8** “As you go, preach, saying ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. Freely you have received, freely give.”

**Mark 16:15** “**GO** into **ALL** the world and preach the **GOSPEL** (the **GOOD** news) to **EVERY** creature.”

**Mark 16:17** These signs shall follow them that believe. In My name (not their own – seeking to build their reputation) they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, (talk differently than they did before), they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.”

**NONE OF THESE THINGS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF THE BOAT HAD SUNK ON THE SEA OF GALILLEE**

# **A GODLY PERSPECTIVE OF YOURSELF – AS A CHRISTIAN**

**QUESTION:** Do you know who I am?  
Do you **REALLY** know who I am?

**QUESTION:** Do you know who **YOU** are?  
Do you **REALLY** know who you are?

Many of our problems tend to stem from the lack of knowledge of our TRUE identity in Christ. That is a true knowledge of who we are **IN HIM**

**Romans 12:3** “For I say through the grace of God given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself **MORE HIGHLY** than he **OUGHT TO** think, but to think **SOBERLY**, as God has dealt to each one a (or the) measure of faith.

**SOBER** (Dictionary). “Free from exaggeration. Not intoxicated”

People who are not sober tend to be either easily depressed OR the opposite - to think they are invincible and able to do more than they realistically can do.

## **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**    **READ**

**Summary:** For you see your calling brothers (and sisters), not many wise, mighty or noble are called **BUT God** has specifically chosen the FOOLISH, the WEAK, the DESPISED – and those who “ARE NOT” – so that no flesh should glory and boast in His presence.

**2 Corinthians 4:7** “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels – that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”

## **THE EARTHENWARE CONTAINER.**

**EXAMPLE – THE ORDINARY COFFEE MUG – LOW IN VALUE WHEN EMPTY – BUT CAN BECOME PRICELESS DEPENDING ON THE TREASURE PUT WITHIN**

**God has chosen ordinary containers in which to deposit the most incredible treasure that can be imagined – HIMSELF, His presence**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (Therefore) if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a NEW creature (something made completely new again; a NEW CREATION), old things have passed away and ALL things have become new.

**1 Corinthians 1:30** “But, of Him are you IN Christ Jesus – who, of God is made unto us WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION and REDEMPTION.”

If Jesus is our Saviour and Lord, His WISDOM is available to us at all times, He puts us in right-standing with God the Father, He sets us apart from the ordinary and He Himself covers the cost of bringing us into that position through His death, burial and resurrection.

**Hebrews 10:14** “For by one offering HE has PERFECTED (or made PERFECT) those He has chosen and set apart for Himself.

### **ARE WE PERFECT??**

**YES** - in our inward being, our spirits – where He lives and has made us holy.

**BUT** not in our souls, where we have feelings, temptations and have to choose to follow Jesus Christ on a daily basis. That is the area of our lives we have to daily choose between God’s Word and our natural instincts to be self-centred.

**AND** – certainly not in our bodies – which are weak, which are prone to be tempted to do what we want to do and go where we want to.

**Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you (or I beg of you), to present your **BODIES** as a LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (or daily act of worship). And do not be conformed to the worldly way of doing things – but be **TRANSFORMED** by the **RENEWING** of your **MIND** – so that you will prove (for yourself, by experience) what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

### **THE DAILY OUTWORKING OF THIS LIFE**

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is FAITHFUL and JUST to FORGIVE us and CLEANSE us from ALL sin and unrighteousness.”

**BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN CLEANSED AND ACCEPTED BY GOD – WE CAN COME BOLDLY TO HIM AT ALL TIMES**

**(Example – my boss and my daughter have direct access into my office – without even knocking – one because of position and authority – but the other because of RELATIONSHIP**

**“It is NEVER God’s desire to condemn us – but His desire is to RESTORE us”**

**Hebrews 4:13-16 (Paraphrased)** “Seeing we have a High Priest – Jesus – who has passed before us into heaven and pleads our case before Almighty God, let us hold tight to the confession of faith we have in Him – and come **BOLDLY** to the throne of **GRACE**, and obtain **MERCY** (when we don’t get the punishment from God which we deserve for our wrong-doing) and find **GRACE** (where we do get the goodness of God in our lives, even when we don’t deserve it) – which will help us in our time of need.

***Because of these things we can live boldly, with confidence in our relationship with our Father God – while also living humbly before Him – because our acceptance is totally in and because of Jesus Christ and His finished work of salvation on the cross of Calvary.***

# **JUST DO IT!! LIVING on PURPOSE (not under PRESSURE)**

**John 2:1-11 – FIRST MIRACLE OF JESUS’S MINISTRY – WATER INTO WINE, WEDDING FEAST OF CANA**  
**v5 (Mary) “WHATEVER He says to you – DO IT.”**

*They filled 6 waterpots, each containing 20-30 gallons of water*

*That’s between 120 and 180 gallons – or 454 and 681 litres OR between 605 and 908 bottles of wine*

They delivered it to the master of the wedding feast – who told the bridegroom while others served the best wine first and the inferior later – they had kept the best wine till last.

**V11** “This beginning of miracles.....”

## **THE FIRST MIRACLE OF JESUS’S MINISTRY HAPPENED BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE**

**1 John 3:8 “For this purpose Christ was revealed, that He might destroy the works of the evil one”**

**Luke 19:10 “The Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost.”**

**John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal, to kill and to destroy, (but) *I AM COME THAT* they might have LIFE and that they might have it more abundantly.”**

**John 17:4 (Jesus) “I have glorified Thee on the earth, I have *FINISHED THE WORK* you gave Me to do.”**

**Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came not to provide us with endless supplies of wine – but to give us LIFE**

**THAT was His purpose and goal in life.**

**Luke 9:51 “He (Jesus) SET HIS FACE TO GO TO JERUSALEM.”**

**Isaiah 50:6-7** (Speaking prophetically of Jesus) “He gave His back to the smiters and his cheeks to those who plucked out His beard. He hid not His face from the shame and the spitting. For the Lord God will help Me, therefore I shall not be confounded. Therefore I HAVE SET MY FACE LIKE A FLINT and I know I shall not be ashamed.”

**“Set face LIKE A FLINT” means to be RESOLUTE, DETERMINED, RESISTANT TO OPPOSITION.”**

**Matt 16:21-24** “When Jesus began to teach His disciples that He MUST go up to Jerusalem and there to suffer many things and to be killed – and then rise again – Peter began to rebuke Him, saying ‘Be it far from Thee.’ But Jesus said to Peter “Get thee behind Me Satan, you are an offence to me because (paraphrase), you are looking at this from man’s point of view not God’s.” FOLLOWED BY “If any man will come after Me (will follow Me), let him deny himself, **and take up HIS CROSS (HIS CALLING – AND THE COST INVOLVED)**, and follow me.”

**Mark 4:19-22** “When Jesus saw Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John fishing at Galilee, He called them to follow Him. And **IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THEIR NETS** and followed Him.”

**Luke 5:11** “...they **FORSOOK ALL** and followed Him.”

**Matt 9:9** “When Jesus saw Matthew sitting at the receipt of the custom (collecting taxes on behalf of the occupying Roman army), He said to him, ‘Follow Me,’ **AND HE AROSE AND FOLLOWED HIM.**”

**ALL OF US HAVE AN INBUILT NEED TO FULFIL OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE  
TO DO WHAT WE WERE MADE TO DO**

**2 Tim 1:9** “He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS** but according to **HIS OWN PURPOSE and GRACE** which was given us in Christ before the world began.”

**GOD CALLED & ORDAINED A PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES BEFORE WE WERE EVEN BORN**

**Rom 11:29** “The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” (**AMP** “God never withdraws or cancels out His gifts and calling once they are given.”)

**Isaiah 61** We, like Jesus, have been anointed and appointed for a specific purpose.

**God has equipped us in line with His calling and purpose for our lives.**

**Chose to set your face (as a flint – resolute and determined) towards your Jerusalem – to be where God has called you to be – to fulfil His calling and purpose for your life.**

**2 Tim 4 Fight a good fight, finish YOUR course, keep the faith.**

**And – as with the first miracle of Jesus’s life, our miracles will only happen when we obey Him and follow His call upon our lives.**

# **THE PURPOSE OF THE STORMS OF LIFE**

**Mark 4:35** “Jesus said ‘Let **US** go over to the other side’.”

**4:37** “And a great windstorm arose and the waves **BEAT INTO** the boat so that it was filling.”

**(“It’s not the storm around the boat which sinks it, but the water that gets in it.” We ALL face various storms of life – but it’s all about how we handle and whether or not we allow the storms of life to flood into us – and sink us).**

**4:38** “But He was in the stern **ASLEEP** on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher / Master, do you not care that we perish?’

**(They saw Him teacher/master not someone who intimately cared for them).**

**v39** “Then He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea ‘Peace, be still.’ And the wind ceased and there was a **GREAT CALM.**”

(Matt 21:21 “**Speak to the mountain, telling it** to be moved into the sea, and it will be done.”)

**v40** “But He said to THEM, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it you have no faith?’”

**v41** “And they feared exceedingly and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?’”

**Turbulence when the aeroplane was flying over the Alps. People were frightened and calling out – even/especially the men. It made me wonder if the PILOT was as worried as the passengers – or if he/she knew we would arrive safely.**

**Psalm 23:4** “Yea, though I **WALK THROUGH** the **VALLEY** of the **SHADOW** of death, I **WILL** fear **NO EVIL, FOR THOU ART WITH ME.** Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.”

**GOD DID NOT SEND THE STORM**

**GOD DID NOT ORCHESTRATE THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

**BUT – GOD WILL BE WITH US IN BOTH SITUATIONS & BRING US THROUGH SAFELY**

**Romans 8:28 (AMP)** “And we know..... that **ALL THINGS** work **TOGETHER** for **GOOD** – **AND ARE FITTING INTO A PLAN** for **GOOD** to those who love God and are called according to **HIS DESIGN and PURPOSE.**”

(Like the recipe for a cake – ALL the ingredients mixed together make up the cake – and without ALL of them, just one being missing, the outcome would not be the same).

**WHAT IS HIS DESIGN AND PURPOSE? - TO BRING US TO MATURITY – just the same way as we, as parents discipline and train our children to become GROWN-UPS**

**James 1:2-3** “Count it all joy when you **FALL** (not deliberately jump) into various trials, knowing that the **TESTING OF YOUR FAITH** produces patience....”

**Rom 5:3-5** “We glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation works patience, and patience experience, and experience – hope. And hope makes us not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost (**THE COMFORTER**) who is given to us.”

**James 1:4** “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be **PERFECT and COMPLETE, LACKING NOTHING.**”

**“NO PAIN, NO GAIN”** – as in keep-fit, exercise, body building, the exercising of our faith – through the trials and the pressures, problems and tribulations of life makes us strong. **GOD IS NOT INTERESTED** in seeing us crawl – or be carried like babies in a carrycot into Heaven – but to see us, by His mercy and grace, walk boldly to the throne of grace – as strong, mature, full-grown men and women of God).

**James 1:5** “If any you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally, and without reproach (without assessing our qualification for asking or tut-tutting at us in a critical way), and it will be given him.”

**Knowledge:** Knowing certain facts, figures or methods – theoretically-speaking

**Wisdom:** Alongside that knowledge, having the ability, understanding, knowledge and sound-judgment of how to correctly use that knowledge – with confidence.

**James 1:6-7** “But, let him ask **IN FAITH, WITHOUT DOUBTING**, for he who doubts is **LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, DRIVEN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND**, for let not that man think he will receive anything from the Lord, because a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

God is wanting to produce strong men and women who will stand in **HIS STRENGTH**, with **CONFIDENCE IN HIM** and **HIS ABILITY** to bring them through the storms of life, & anything life throws at them, because they know HE will not allow them to sink. His plan and purpose is to build His Church, which the Bible calls His **BODY** – not so that they can strut around like Mr Universe, showing off their muscles, but so they will be strong **IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT** – and so that the Gates of hell will not stand against them.

## **CALLED TO BE WITNESSES**

**Acts 1:7-8.** Jesus (Paraphrased) “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons. My Father (God) has reserved that power and knowledge to Himself.” “But you will receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth.”

And – the implication from Revelation 5:9, is that this calling is to reach into every NATION, TRIBE AND TONGUE, to every people group

**What is a witness?** Someone who has seen, heard, experienced or knows something because they were present when something happened, to the point that they can even testify and give evidence in a court of law – because they are certain of the truthfulness, accuracy and genuineness of what they are saying.

**If we were called upon to testify in a court of law, we would be required to swear, or promise, to TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH**

If we have experienced and know that we have been born again, we know a transformation has taken place in our lives. We know because we have experienced it personally.

We have heard and experienced the **GOOD NEWS** of the Gospel – and it is only normal and natural, even an automatic response to that transformation, that we want to tell others about what we have experienced – so they can experience it too.

**LADIES – Would tell their friends about their new saris or shoes.**

**MEN - Would tell their friends about their new suit, shirt, tie and shoes (or their new tools)**

We are told not to neglect gathering together as followers of Jesus Christ – so that we can learn more about Him – and encourage one another in our day to day lives as Christians.

**BUT** - We ARE also then called to **GO OUT**, and not stay on our knees or on our church seats. Jesus commanded us to “Go into all the **WORLD** and preach the Gospel.” (That is – **OUTSIDE** the church building and congregation).

Someone once said “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if (and when) necessary, use words.”

In other words, our lives should show we are different from those who do not follow Jesus – who live all around us. People should be able to witness that our lives are different because we are Christians.

Church services and meetings are to equip us to reach out and it be evident by our lives that we are followers of Jesus. We are made to accomplish great things for God outside the church building – not **just** within it.

Pastors and ministers are to equip the SAINTS to do the work of the ministry – outside the church.

One Pastor said “We want to be successful in our scatterings (our “goings out”) as well as in our gatherings (our coming in).”

**Matthew 4:19** Jesus said ‘Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.’

Several of the disciples were fishermen and knew how to catch fish – so they understood that Jesus was going to train them to “catch” people – and invite them into the Kingdom of God.

But we are not called to bait or trick people into the Kingdom of God but to invite them in.

Fishermen cast nets, cast fishing lines with bait on. They do not just sit on the river bank or in a boat - waiting for fish to jump out of the water at them. They actively look for and work out the best place and the best time to catch fish.

Nor should sit and wait for people to almost “accidentally” jump into the church building.

We are to make the most of every opportunity to be a witness to the difference Jesus has made in our lives. Our changed lives are the “BAIT” that people will see and want to know more about.

God will use each of us to reach out to those specific people in our everyday environments – be that our neighbours, our work colleagues, the people in our local shops and businesses.

We are made, called and intended to live our normal, everyday life with and around people – to connect with others - not to be isolated from them.

**We are called to be SALT and LIGHT.**

The salt is no good, has no effect, if it stays in the salt pot or container.

The light has no impact if it is “hidden under a bushel”

Because we live such varying life styles – being a witness in our everyday lives will be different for all of us.

We cannot expect every Christian to look and sound exactly the same as each other – and in the same way, we should avoid a cookie-cutter approach when we witness to other people – giving the idea that they have to look, sound and BE exactly like us in order to be a Christian.

(OR like a set of coloured building blocks, made into a model – expecting every other model to look exactly the same as the first).

Jesus told us to be fishers of men – but it is HIS job to clean them up – not ours.

**Ephesians 1:18-23** (SUMMARY) Talks about the eyes of our understanding being enlightened. In other words, God opened our eyes to see and understand the Gospel message. Because of that we can see and experience the peace, the joy, the awareness of God's presence with us.

The Bible says it is the goodness of God that leads people to repent, believe the Gospel and become followers of Jesus Christ. So – it is our job to be a witness but His job to convict, convince and open people's eyes to see Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

We cannot argue people into becoming Christians. They need Jesus Himself to open their eyes in order for them to have a heart and life transformation – rather than a mental acceptance. They may start off seeing our lives are different from theirs and hearing why that is – but their decision to follow Jesus themselves must become a decision in their hearts – not just in their heads.

Most of us don't really feel qualified or confident to witness to others – because we see our own weaknesses, failures and limitations – but that's when we need to ask God to give us His strength in these situations. And He will.

### **Quotation**

"I am a Christian. When I say that I am a Christian I am not shouting that I am clean living. I am whispering "I was lost, but now I am found and forgiven." When I say I am a Christian, I don't speak of this with pride. I am confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide. When I say I am a Christian, I'm professing that I am weak and need His strength to carry on. When I say I am a Christian I'm not boasting of success. I am admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess. When I say I am a Christian, I am not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it. When I say I am a Christian, I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name. When I say I am a Christian, I am not "holier than you." I am just a simple sinner who received God's good grace somehow."

**LET US GO FROM HERE AND BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE JESUS CHRIST HAS MADE IN EACH OF OUR LIVES – AND SEE THE LORD BRING MANY MORE SOULS INTO HIS KINGDOM – FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE AND PEOPLE GROUP**

# **YOUR AVAILABILITY - NOT YOUR ABILITY - QUALIFIES YOU**

**Photo of people** - Normal, everyday people in an everyday situation

**Romans 12:3.** “For I say to everyone of you not to think of yourself MORE HIGHLY than you OUGHT to think, but to think SOBERLY, as God has dealt to each of us a measure of faith.”

**SOBER:** (Dictionary): Free from exaggeration. Not intoxicated.

People who are sober tend to have a balanced impression of themselves, not easily depressed or elated. Intoxicated people tend to think they are invincible and able to do much more than they realistically can.

**1 Cor 1:26-31: READ:**

Summary: For you see your calling, brothers and sisters, that NOT MANY, wise, mighty or noble are called – BUT GOD has specifically chosen the FOOLISH, the WEAK, the DESPISED, and those who “ARE NOT.....” so that no flesh should boast and glory in His presence.

**2 Cor 4:7** “But we have this treasure in EARTHEN VESSELS – that the excellency of the power may be of God – and not of us.

**EARTHENWARE CONTAINER: Vert ordinary, low in value of itself when empty, but can be priceless depending upon the treasure placed within it.**

**“Pete’s Dragon” film quote:**

“You were nothing when I found you – and all these years later – you’re STILL nothing!!”

**1 Cor 1:30** “But of Him are you in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us (or who became for us) wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption, so that he that glories, let him glory in the Lord.” (That it’s the Lord in me that makes all the difference.).

**Isaiah 61:7** “For (**Instead of**) your shame you shall have **DOUBLE (honour)** and for (instead of) your confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall **POSSESS THE DOUBLE.** Everlasting joy shall be theirs.”

**IN OURSELVES:** We are foolish, weak, despised. We are NOT....

Paul described himself as the chief of sinners, that in himself, in his flesh, dwelt NO good think.

**IN HIM:** He is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Paul said “I can do ALL things, THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.” “He is able to do EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL that we can ask or think ACCORDING TO THE POWER (OF GOD) AT WORK IN US.”

You may have ALL YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW.

You may even be someone who is so quirky you don't fit in with all the other ducks.

You may not fit into the mould others think you should to be used by God

**BUT GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR AVAILABILITY THAN YOUR ABILITY.**

**HE ANOINTS WHOM HE APPOINTS**

**HE EMPOWERS THOSE HE CALLS TO DO WHAT HE CALLED THEM TO DO**

**KITCHEN UTENSILS:** Ordinary, everyday, simple – but UTILISED for a specific task

**Song:** “We're an army of ordinary people.”

**Altar calls:** “JUST AS I AM..., without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou didst me come to Thee, Oh Lamb of God, I come.”

**Chris Bowater song:** “Here I am, Wholly available..... As for me, I will serve the Lord.”

**Isaiah 6:1** “In the year King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up and His train filled the temple....”

**6:3** “One (of the seraphims”) cried ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory’.”

**6:5** “Then I said ‘Woe is me, for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips and dwell in the middle of people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the KING, the Lord of hosts.’”

**6:6** “Then flew one of the seraphims to me, having a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs from the altar and laid it on my mouth and said, ‘Behold, this has touched your lips. Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.’”

**6:8** “And I heard also the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for US?’ Then I said ‘HERE AM I, SEND ME’.”

**5-9** **“And He (GOD) said, ‘GO.....’.”**

# **REVIVAL**

## **WHAT HAVE YOU COME EXPECTING?**

*If we are expecting something – or we are expecting nothing – we will receive exactly what we are expecting – because according to our faith it will be unto us. (Matthew 9:29)*

**Dictionary:** Restoration to life, consciousness, energy, strength. An awakening.

**What does the word REVIVAL mean to you and me?**

**What do each of us think that revival will look like?**

### **1. Refreshing**

**Acts 3:19** Peter, speaking after healing the lame man begging at the Gate Beautiful “Repent and be converted, so that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord.”

*When you are parched and dry, hot and drained of energy, it is wonderful to have a refreshing drink, a shower, or even jump into a swimming pool or the sea.*

### **2. Repentance**

**Isaiah 6:1-5** “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims; each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet and with two he could fly. One cried to another “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” And the doorposts moved at the sound of his voice, and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips – and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.”

*We have no written record have Isaiah having sins / faults / failings (though we know because “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) that he obviously had them. However good and “clean-living” he was, he recognised his own shortcoming as repented before God as he saw that in comparison to the goodness of God he was, indeed, a sinner. Because “it is the*

goodness of God (and us seeing and witnessing His goodness) that leads us to repentance” (Romans 2:4)

### 3. Refining

**Isaiah 6:6-7** “Then one of the seraphims flew to me with a hot coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from off the altar. And he put it on my mouth and said “This has touched your lips, and your iniquity is taken away and your sin purged (or cleansed and healed.”

**NOTE:** The fact that the angel placed hot coal on his LIPS – was this an indication that Isaiah’s sin was perhaps connected to his lips? What he said – or even what he ate?

**2 Timothy 2:19-21** “The Lord knows those that are His. And everyone that names the name of Christ (or – who calls himself a Christian or a follower of Christ) depart from sin and iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but of wood and earthenware, some that are seen as being honoured and some that are simple and ordinary. If a man purges himself from these sins he will be an honourable vessel (one that brings honour to God), and will be fit for his master’s use.”

Plates, dishes, cooking utensils etc., that are thoroughly washed and cleaned regularly get utilised more than those that do not. You would not serve a meal to a king on dirty dishes – and certainly not to the King of Kings.

**Gold and silver are refined by heating them up to a high temperature, so that the impurities are burned away. Sometimes it feels painful when God points out our sin and calls on us to repent – so that we become clean again.**

### 4. Restoration of Relationships

**Ephesians 4:31-32** “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be crucified on a cross in order to forgive us and restore the relationship between Him and each of us. To the extent God

has forgiven us – we are commanded to forgive each other. Restored the relationship between us and Him, made it just as if we had never sinned. God has reconciled everyone to Himself from His side of things. The reason not everyone will receive that forgiveness is because they chose not to be reconciled with God from their side of things.

## 5. Renewal of Sinners

RENEWAL = REPLACEMENT. RENEWAL is being BORN AGAIN.

**John 3:3** “Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

**John 3:7** “You MUST be born again”

**Ephesians 1** (Paraphrase) “When God raised Jesus from the dead, He set Him above every one and every thing and made Him the Head over all things.”

**Ephesians 2:1** “And YOU he has quickened and made alive – even though you had been dead in your trespasses and sins.”

**Colossians 2:13** “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has quickened, made alive, and joined to Him, having forgiven you all your trespasses.”

## 6. Restoration of Backsliders

**Revelation 3:20** (Speaking to the Church of the Laodiceans) Paraphrase – “You have become lukewarm in your love for and your relationship with me, despite having lots of things and do not realise you are actually poor, blind and naked.” “Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with Me.”

RE-STORE:-

1. When a shop has run out or various products it needs to be “re-stocked” or, we could say, “re-stored” to its former, “fully stocked-up” state.
2. When a piece of furniture has been damaged, scratched and neglected – it can be cleaned up and restored to its original, “like-new” state.

## 7. Rekindling of first love

**Revelation 2:2-5** "I know your works, your labours and your patience and the fact you cannot stand the people who do evil, and you can even tell who are speaking the truth about God and who are not. BUT you have left your first-love. Remember the place you have fallen from, repent and do the first works."

**Put first things first**

RE-KINDLING:- Putting more wood on the fire makes the fire come to life again

## 8. Restitution to God's People

**Psalms 51** When David acknowledged his sin before God, he asked God to create in him a clean heart and renew a right spirit within him, to purge him, to wash him and make him clean.

**Psalms 51:11-13** "Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. RESTORE unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. THEN WILL I TEACH TRANSGRESSORS THEIR WAYS AND SINNERS SHALL BE CONVERTED TO YOU."

**Romans 11:29 Amp** "For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable-He never withdraws them once they are given and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace and to whom He sends His call."

## 9. Raining – Former & Latter

**Hosea 6:3** "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain comes to the earth."

**Joel 2:23** "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He has given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause the rain to come down for you, the former rain, and the latter rain."

**FORMER RAIN = A SHOWER**

**LATTER RAIN = A MONSOON DELUGE**

## 10. Reigning as Kings and Priests

**Revelation 1:5-6** "Unto Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And has made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever."

**Revelation 5:9-10** "And they sang a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals on it: for You were slain, and have redeemed us

to God by Your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;  
And have made us kings and priests to our God: and we will reign on the earth.”

KINGS:- Kings are people who (firstly) have position, then power, authority and gifting in the natural, earthly realm.

PRIESTS:- Priests are people who (firstly) have anointing, then position, power, authority and gifting in the spiritual and ministry realm.

***If you want to know where does or where will revival begin?***

***Go and look in the mirror – because it starts within me and it starts within you***

## **KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING**

**2 Timothy 2:11** “This is a faithful saying – for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.”

**This refers to both BEFORE and AFTER our physical deaths**

**Galatians 2:20** “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless {and we will be never-the-less for it} I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a NEW creature (or creation), OLD things have PASSED AWAY; behold ALL THINGS have become NEW.”

### **FIRSTLY**

If our old, sinful nature died with Jesus when He was crucified on the cross of Calvary, then we **HAVE** already risen with Him into a new and vibrant LIFE – to enable us to live **VICTORIOUSLY** in the here and now – as well as in Heaven when we physically die.

### **We have ETERNAL LIFE**

**John 17:2-3** (Jesus speaking of Himself directly to His Father in Heaven). “You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him. And this is **LIFE ETERNAL**, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

(Evie sang a song in the 70’s that said “If there were never any streets of gold, neither a land where we would never grow old, it has been worth having the Lord in my life; living in this world of darkness, yet He brought me the light.”)

### **We have EVER-LASTING LIFE (That is life that will last for ever)**

**John 3:16** “For God SO LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him (that is CLINGS TO, TRUSTS IN & RELIES UPON) shall not perish but have **EVER-LASTING LIFE**.”

**John 10:10** Jesus said “The thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy, but I have come to give you **ABUNDANT LIFE**” (here and in heaven for eternity)

### **WHETHER YOU HAVE “STUFF” (THINGS) OR NOT – BECAUSE TRUE LIFE IS KNOWING JESUS**

**John 14:1-3** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s House are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to

prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to Myself - so that where I am – you may be also.”

**John 14:19** “Because I live – you will live also.”

**IF WE ENDURE, WE WILL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM (2 Timothy 2:12 NKJV)**

**Matthew 10:22** “And you will be hated by all men for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

**James 1:12** “Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved (that is, ***has passed the test***), he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

**2 Timothy 2:12-13.** (Paraphrase) “If we endure – we will reign with Him. If we deny Him (reject, refuse to receive Him, refuse to own, cling to, rely upon and acknowledge Him as our Lord and saviour, He will (out of necessity) have to deny acceptance of, ownership of and relationship with us)”

*So – if someone rejects the opportunity of accepting Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross for their sins – and refuses to believe in, trust in, cling to and rely upon Him for their eternal salvation – in order to receive eternal life (the position of knowing Him) – He will, of necessity have to deny them access into Heaven and to everlasting life. He will say “Depart from me, I never knew you” (either).”*

**So – to non-believers: “TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION”**

**AND YET.....**

**“If we are FAITH-LESS, He remains faithful, He cannot deny Himself.”**

God cannot deny or cancel out His Word, His promises, His commitment, His in-dwelling presence, His commitment to keep us and present us fault-less to His Father in Heaven.

**Mark 9:24** “The father of the child cried out with tears “Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief.”

Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8, Luke 12:28, 19:17 Jesus said “Oh you of LITTLE faith”

## **SO – FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**

- 1. Don't fall out over things that are inconsequential – that don't really matter**
- 2. Be diligent to fulfil God's call on your life, "be a worker on a shirker", fulfilling your purpose in life**
- 3. Shun unproductive "babblings"**
- 4. Depart from evil. Separate yourself from evil things and habits**
- 5. Strive to be a person who honours God by obeying His instructions and commands**
- 6. Flee youthful lusts – the desires that take us away from the purpose of God for our lives and into sin, and PURSUE (chase after) righteousness, faith, love and peace.**

**FLEE (run way from) youthful lusts – Not just sexual immorality but selfish ambition, seeking power and position, self-centredness.**

**PURSUE a right-standing relationship with God, to live in faith, live in peace, live with a heart of love towards God and all men and women.**

## **PURSUE ONE OR THE OTHER – AS YOU CANNOT RUN (or PERSUE) IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS**

**You cannot pursue selfish ambition and self-interest at the same time as pursuing after the things of God. They are in opposite directions. ("My way (the narrow way which leads to life) or the highway (which leads to destruction").**

## **IN CLOSING**

**John 1:29 & 36 (John the Baptist, speaking of Jesus "Behold the Lamb of God – who TAKES AWAY the sin of the world."**

The death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary TAKES AWAY our sin. It does not just cover it up. It takes it away. This is why it is important to confess our sin, our weaknesses, faults and failures – rather than hiding it or covering it up – putting it where we think no one can see it. Bring those things to His attention – so He can take it away – freeing us from guilt and condemnation.

**1 John 1:8 "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."  
As with rubbish and clutter that can build up in our homes, as followers of Christ (Christians) we need to regularly get rid of the rubbish which builds up in our lives – or it begins to stink. Sometimes we even need to get a friend to help us take away a truck load of it – or help us burn a pile of mess that has grown up in our lives.**

# **THE GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE**

Speaking to the widows of Nain – mourning the death of their only son.

Speaking to the Jairus's – who's only daughter is dead

Speaking to the Mary and Martha's mourning the death of their beloved and only brother.

**It's not over till the fat lady sings – or it's not over till it's over.**

**NEVER JUDGE SOMEONE BASED ON A SEASON – READ**

**You may feel unqualified, discounted, dry, barren and empty, but it's not over till God says so.**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 – READ**

For you see your calling brethren. God has chosen the weak, base and foolish, the despised, the things which “are not” – to bring to naught the things which “are.”

**1 John 3:19-21** “For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts condemn us not then we have confidence towards God. (And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment - that we should believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. And he that keeps His commandments dwells in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us.”).

**Isaiah 55:10-11** “For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven, and returns not there but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, SO shall my Word be that goes forth out of My mouth, it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it.”

**Romans 11:29 (AMP)** “The gifts and calling of God are (KJV ‘without repentance’) irrevocable – He never withdraws them once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He send His call.”

**“10,000 Reasons” song:**

“The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes.”

**Ezekiel 37:1-14 – READ** - The valley of dry bones. “CAN THESE BONES LIVE?” “THOU KNOWEST!!”

**TAKE IN BREATH – AND STAND UP LIKE AN ARMY AGAIN**

# **TIMES & SEASONS**

**Baldrick's cunning plan.** Play YouTube video

**Romans 8:28 (AMP)** "And we are assured and know that (**God being a partner in their labour**), **all things work together and are (fitting into a plan)** for good to those who love God and **are called according to (His) design and purpose.**"

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 – READ**

For you see your calling brethren. God has chosen the weak, base and foolish, the despised, the things which "are not" – to bring to naught the things which "are."

**Dry stone wall building.**

Meticulously fitting the stone blocks together – without even using cement

**Housing estate being built using bricks.** Seems like slow progress being made

**No Pre-fab buildings** being assembled for instant homes.

**No microwave Christians** – superfast preparation

**And yet**

**1 Kings 6:7 Solomon's temple:** "And the house, when it was in the building process, was built of stone made ready before it was brought there, so that there was no hammer or axe or any other tool made of iron heard in the house (of God) while it was being built."

The church/fellowship is a place of encouragement, training and teaching – but the majority of the building of our Christian lives goes on outside of our gatherings.

**BUSHES.**

Bare in winter. Then bulbs start to appear. Then leaves. Then suddenly they are all green. Then they start overgrowing paths – and need cutting back so you can walk passed them

**TREES.**

Watch as the seasons progress. Autumn's browns and reds. Winter bare and "barren."  
Spring – buds, bloom – like magnolia trees. Then summer. Everything is green and luscious.  
What looks dead at one time – is then "suddenly" alive – and even needs pruning back.

**NEVER JUDGE SOMEONE (including yourself) BASED ON A SEASON – READ**

**The Lord's work in our lives takes time – and happens in seasons.**

**(Ecclesiastes 3 "To everything there is a season.....").** **The work is always ongoing.**

**You may feel unqualified, discounted, dry, barren and empty, but it's often because it's not yet YOUR season to bloom.**

**Philippians 1:6 (Amp)** "I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you, will continue till the day of Jesus Christ – right up to the time of His return – developing that good work and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you."

**When you move into a new house – as perfect as you think it looks when you move in – there is always something needing to be done, something to be developed, something to be repaired, house-keeping to be done.**

**Remember**

Don't judge a person, even yourself, based on a season. It takes time for things AND people to grow.

You don't always know what something will grow and develop into. You have to wait for the DUE-TIME.

A baby born before the "due time" is premature. If it's born way too early, it's a miscarriage. At the "due time" – it's "on-time." ("I don't care if it's a boy or a girl as long as it's healthy.").

Dahlia, Lilies and Gladioli bulbs. Plant in March/April. Water, protect, watch and wait. At the "due time" (Between August and October) they will bloom.

# **GOD CAN DO IT THROUGH YOU!!**

A message for those of us who have ever said that even God couldn't do that through me!!

## **ADAM**

**Geneses 2:25** "Adam and Eve were both naked and were not ashamed."

After they had disobeyed God, and sinned – by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve realised they were naked – so they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When God came walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord."

God called out "Adam, where are you?"

He wasn't asking Adam where he was – like a father looking for his son – like they were playing hide and seek, because He didn't know where Adam was. God was giving Adam the opportunity to confess where he was and face up to why and how he came to be there.

Adam replied "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself."

**WHY was Adam suddenly afraid and, by inference, ashamed that he was naked?** He and Eve had, until then, been naked all the time. They had seen each other naked and God had seen them both naked. There was no one else around to see them anyway.

## **ZACCHAEUS**

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and labelled as a sinner and a traitor to his own Israelite nation – collecting taxes for the occupying Roman army. He had climbed a tree – because he was short – and possibly not wanting to draw attention to himself (as a tax collector, sinner and traitor), BUT he wanted to see Jesus. Jesus called him down and went to eat with him at his house. So impacted by this was Zacchaeus, he repented, vowed to give half of his possessions to the poor and reimburse four-fold anyone he'd cheated.

## **GIDEON**

Gideon was by a winepress, threshing wheat, hiding from the Mideonites, when the angel of the Lord called him..., calling him "a mighty man of valour." Gideon's response was "WHO, ME?"

## **ELIJAH**

Elijah was discouraged and sulking in a cave when God asked him "what (on earth) was he doing there." This is recorded in the Bible chapter immediately after he'd slayed the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves – who ate at Jezebel's table.

## **DAVID**

David was hiding in the cave of Adullam – with many other, similarly discouraged people – while Saul trying to find and kill him.

**The “WOMAN AT THE WELL”** came to draw water from the well – AT NOON, in the heat of the day, so she would not be seen by the “nice” ladies from the town – when she met Jesus.

**The WOMAN WITH THE “ISSUE OF BLOOD”** (a non-stop menstrual cycle) for 12 years, which would have meant she would be forbidden from touching other people, particularly her husband, nor her – and would have had to be very careful not to even accidentally touch them – as it would have made them “unclean” – and unable to go to the temple. She sneaked through the crowd on her hands and knees – just to touch the hem of Jesus’s garment – got healed and tried to get away without being seen and acknowledge (even to Jesus) that He had healed her.

**Sometimes God will ask each of us the question, “Where are you John, Ruth, Chris, calling each of us by name. As with Adam, it’s not because He doesn’t know – or because He can’t find us, but He wants us to confess where we are, our current state of being and what brought us to being in the state we are in.**

God calls us out of where we are “hiding away” and challenges and demands of us to work out in our everyday lives the truths He shows us – the truth we sometimes run and hide from.

God is NEVER shocked, nor even surprised, at us or what we do. **HE WANTS US TO BE REAL.**

He wants us to recognise we **WERE** (past tense) saved by **GRACE**, through **FAITH**, and that was not of ourselves – it **WAS**, and **IS** the **GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS, IN CASE ANYONE SHOULD BOAST.**

### **PAUL**

Paul, who called himself the “chief of sinners”, said “I am what I am by the grace of God.” (Sometimes I add “or by my own silly fault”). Paul recognised his only standing, despite having things in the natural realm that he could, foolishly, boast about, was by the grace and enabling power of God.

**The PRODIGAL SON** (The “big shot” who, effectively, wished his father dead – so he could have his share of his father’s heritage – thinking he could go off and live a wild life – without consequences, “came to himself” (saying “even my father’s servants are better off than me”), and went home to his father. His father accepted him as he was – put a ring on his finger, shoes on his feet and the best robe on his back – this covering up all the negative of the pig swill and dirt. He even commanded the one fattened up calf be brought and slayed – ready for a party!!

**Ephesians 6** We have been instructed to put on the whole armour of God – which implies it wasn’t on before this – and then, “having done all (we’ve been instructed to put on) to stand.

**John 3:17** “I have not come to condemn the world, but to save it.” Jesus did not come to condemn sinners – but to save them.

### **1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)**

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-and the things that are not-to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the LORD."

# **SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY**

**Imagine a new-born baby.** Perfect, Innocent, adored by its parent, who would give their lives to protect and be with their child. **Now imagine** that child growing to be 33 years of age – and never having sinned in thought, word or deed, **BECAUSE THEY CHOSE NOT TO SIN AGAINST GOD’S WORD.**

**NOW** – imagine that instead of that, the child grows up to be the most wicked person the world has ever known.

**JESUS** was the child who grew up to be as innocent, sinless and holy as the day He was born.

And yet, ISAIAH 53 says the Lord – His Father – laid up Him the sin and iniquity of us all.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** (Slightly paraphrased) “For He who knew no sin was made sin for us, **SO THAT** we (who knew no righteousness), could be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

## **SUBSTITUTION**

Jesus took our place on the cross, when the Lord laid on Him the sin and iniquity of all of us.

**John 3:16** “For God **SO** loved THE WORLD that He gave His only begotten Son, that **WHOSOEVER** believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.”

## **BURIED IN BAPTISM**

**Romans 6:4-6** “Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **EVEN SO**, we also should **WALK** in **NEWNESS OF LIFE**. For if we have planted (or united) together in His death, certainly we shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

**Colossians 2:11-14** “...putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh has He quickened (made alive) together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, taking it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.”

## **Romans 11 (Paraphrase).**

Has God cast away His people (ISRAEL)?

**NO** – God forbid. He is a **COVENANT KEEPING GOD**. He **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT** break His covenant once He has spoken it into being.

**BECAUSE WE ARE PART OF THE WHOSOEVER OF JOHN 3:16**, despite our sin nature, even though we were and are Gentiles, God has grafted us into the olive tree, whereas the Jews, who (until the times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled) did not receive Jesus as Messiah, were cut off. **BUT** God is a **COVENANT KEEPING GOD**, and He can and will graft them back into the olive tree again. (So we ought not to boast that we are currently in and they aren’t).

Olive branches cut off and laying on the floor, can be grafted in or replanted after even a year – and they grow again and will have the same DNA as the parent tree.

**Romans 12:1-12** “I BESEACH you **THEREFORE** brethren, by the mercies of God that you **PRESENT** your **BODIES** a **LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD**, which is your **REASONABLE SERVICE** (AMP: **ACT OF SPIRITUAL DEVOTION**), and **BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD**, but be **TRANSFORMED** by the **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, that you may **PROVE** (experience) what is that **GOOD**, and **ACCEPTABLE** and **PERFECT** will of God.”

**RENEWAL: READ THE DETAILS, AGREE TO TERMS & CONDITIONS, APPLY, SUBMIT & PAY THE PRICE**

**Hebrews 10:14** “For by one offering He has **PERFECTED FOR EVER** those that are **SANCTIFIED** (set apart by and for Him).

**Hebrews 12:13** “....to the spirits of **JUST** men (**JUSTIFIED** men), **MADE PERFECT.**”

**Hebrews 12:1** “....let us **LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT**, and the **SIN** which **SO EASILY BESETS US...**”

### **A POOR EXAMPLE.**

Losing weight initially is one thing; it takes time, discipline and much self-control (whereas losing the weight of sin when we get born-again happens in an instant, when we believe in and put our trust in Jesus. But maintaining the weight loss on a day-to-day basis can be much harder and take much more discipline and self-control – and avoiding the things, known as “triggers” which we know are bad for us.

The born-again experience happens in an instance, immediately we repent and put our trust in Jesus, but walking and staying free from sin takes a day-to-day walk with God, presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice – daily renewing our minds – and avoiding the “triggers” we know are bad for us.

**Philippians 3:13-14** “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

# **WOUNDED WARRIORS**

**Warrior** (Dictionary): A person who is engaged in, whose occupation is warfare, who is experienced or distinguished in fighting.

**Warrior** (Thesaurus): Champion, combatant fighter, a fighting man, gladiator, man at arms, a soldier.

**1 Corinthians 10:3-4** "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

**Ephesians 6:11-18** Put on the whole armour of God.

**Psalm 23:4** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

**THROUGH** the valley.

"Yea, though I walk **THROUGH** the valley, I will not build a house and live there, making it my permanent dwelling place."

STUFF HAPPENS – and sometimes we get **wounded** (not killed) in the battle, in the valley.

**Psalm 30:3-5** "O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

## **STEPS TO RECOVERY**

### **1. REPENT**

Repentance is having a change of mind and direction.

**Mark 1:14-15** "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

The gospel is the good news, that if you repent, have a change of heart and direction, by putting your faith and trust in God, you can enter into an eternal, everlasting relationship with God.

### **2. FORGIVE**

**From "The Lord's Prayer" Luke 11:4** "Forgive us our trespasses **AS WE FORGIVE THOSE** who trespass against us."

**Mark 6:14-15** "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

**Matthew 5:23-25** (Paraphrased) If your brother has something against you – be reconciled with him before you get so bad you become imprisoned and cannot get out until you’ve paid the uttermost farthing. (Everything you have and could give to buy your freedom).

**3. KEEP WALKING - IN LOVE**

**Walk the walk - with endurance, patience and determination.**

**Psalm 23:4** “Yea, though I walk THROUGH...”

**4. SPEND TIME IN HIS PRESENCE – RENEWING YOUR MIND**

**Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

**5. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

**1 Timothy 6:12** “Fight the good fight OF FAITH.”

**6. AND GO INTO ACTION**

**2 Timothy 1:6** “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

**Romans 11:29 (AMP)** “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.”

**7. CARRY THE ANOINTING**

**1 Samuel 16:1** “And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? **FILL THINE HORN WITH OIL, AND GO**, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.”

# **THE PRODIGAL SON**

## **Luke 15:11-24 READ**

**v 12** “Give me the portion that falls to ME, so the father DIVIDED to THEM (both), his livelihood.”  
The son wished his father dead – and yet the father divided all he had between both sons.

**Psalm 106:14-16** The Children of Israel in the wilderness: “He gave them their requests BUT sent leanness to their souls.”

**v13** “Not many days after he gathered ALL his things together (not like kids today, who have half their possessions at the parent’s home long after they’ve moved out!!), and went into a FAR COUNTRY (where there was no influence of the father’s house left in his lifestyle) and wasted all he had on extravagant living.”

**v14** While there was something left of the blessing of having been brought up in his father’s house, he was OK; he was in SURVIVAL MODE – TILL it was all gone – and he was “drained.” THEN he realised his NEED. He realised ALL he had had was because of his father’s presence, blessing, anointing and provision.

**v15** But rather than going home, he went and hired himself out to a stranger, a citizen of another country and heritage. He compromised his beliefs, upbringing and normal lifestyle – just to survive.

The citizen of the other country was a stranger. He had no heart-connection with him, no empathy towards him, no care towards him. He did not understand his heritage, nor his customs or standards. So he sent him into the fields to feed the pigs (against all the customs of a Jewish person).

Having now lost all restraint and self-respect, the son went and did whatever he needed to do to simply survive – rather than thrive.

**v16** He gladly went - and accepted the negative – and would happily have eaten the food that was only fit for the pigs.

**2 Peter 2:22** “The dogs returned to its own vomit and the pig that was washed returned to wallowing in the mire.” The son was not used to eating his own vomit – nor wallowing in the mire – but was so desperate, he sank as low as a dog or the pigs he was feeding.

Dogs and pigs will eat anything and everything.

He got so accustomed to the negative – he just accepted it as the “norm.”  
Story of wounded eagle, kept with the turkey’s – and yet, even when it was healed, did not automatically soar into the sky. The farmer threw it heavenwards saying “You were meant to soar – not wallow and waddle with the turkeys).

**Have YOU got used to living like a turkey – when you were meant to fly like an eagle?**

**v17** When he came to himself, he effectively said, “What am I sitting here like this for; perishing from hunger (spiritual & physical), even my father’s servants are doing better than this.”

**v18** “I will ARISE AND GO BACK.”

He remembered the heights from which he had fallen: SONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP, PROVISION

**Revelation 2:4** “I have something against you, because you have left your first love.”

**v5** “Remember where you have fallen from, repent and do the first works.”

**REPENT:** Change your mindset, retrace your steps into the opposite direction and do the first and most important things.

**v19** FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE: “I am no longer worthy to be called a SON, make me like a servant.

**John 15:14-15** Jesus does not consider us servants – but friends – because friends are people you share your heart with – and tell them what you are doing.

**v20** He acted upon what he decided to do in his heart.

His father saw him from a long way off – because he was looking out for him, longing for him to come home to his father.

While the shepherd will leave the 99 in order to go and search for the one lost sheep, this father did not go after him because he knew his son needed to “bottom out”, to come to his senses and make the decision to come home.

The father showed love and forgiveness – even before the son said a word.

The Father’s heart is ALWAYS towards His children.

**v20** He had compassion on him, ran, “fell on his neck” (hugged him) and kissed him.

**v21** “The son said ‘Father (realising he still had relationship with his father), I have sinned (confession) against heaven (seeing his sin was firstly against God) and in your sight. (in a way that has impacted others on the earth). I am no longer worthy to be called your son”

Of course, he wasn’t “worthy” before he went away, but thought he was. He had done nothing to become his father’s son. His father had “fathered” him – and he’d just accepted his position – till he became proud.

**v22** But his father said “Bring the **BEST robe**, put a **ring** on his finger and **shoes** on his feet.

1. Song “In royal robes I don’t deserve....” The BEST robe – even before he was cleaned up – the father covered up the mess he was still in.
2. Ring – a sign of position, relationship, authority and responsibility. Modern day equivalent – a credit card in your father’s name.
3. Feet shod – not like a servant, who would generally be bare-footed. NOW he was already shod with the gospel of peace – with a responsibility to tell others the good news of reconciliation.

**v23** “Bring the fatted calf (Vines Dictionary says something young and delicate, tender – hence “the best”) and kill it. (“Let us relax and rejoice together – in tenderness and softness – because all is forgiven.”)

**v24** “For this **MY SON** was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry.”

## **CLOSE**

Have you drifted or run away from your Heavenly Father?

**It's time to come HOME!!**

One of the reasons Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son was to make the simple point:

**Never mind what you've done, JUST COME HOME!!**

**The other reason** was to say to those “elder brothers”, the Scribes and Pharisees, who never left home, if the *lost sheep* is found and brought back into the fold – **REJOICE**. If the *lost coin* is found – **REJOICE**, *and if someone comes to faith or comes back home to Father*, don't judge..., **REJOICE and WELCOME THEM** into the fold.

# **DOING AND BEING**

## **A POINT OF VIEW OFTEN EXPRESSED**

“To **BE** is more important than to **DO**. To **DO** unless you **ARE** is mere hypocrisy.”

**BUT: To **DO** without **BEING** is **EMPTY** and **HOLLOW**.**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** (NIV) “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

**So to **BE** and **not to DO**** is merely to be a theorist. Like a professor or leadership, an armchair football club manager or coach.

### **It's like:**

A child saying, “My dad’s bigger than your dad!”

“I can do this or that better than you can.”

“I know more than you know.”

“My car can go faster than your.”

**Answer:** “Well if you’re so good, come here and do it then!!”

Example:

1. To have a car sat in the garage, or even on the road – without an engine, fuel, power – leaves you with no power – and going nowhere.
2. To sit in a child’s go cart, making all the noises of a car (or even sitting in the body shell of a Rolls Royce), means you’re still going nowhere, have “engine”, no inner life, power or endurance.
- 3.

If we really **ARE** something, it should be working in our lives. But it won’t just automatically work, even if you have an engine and fuel. You **MUST** turn the key and activate the power in order to put things into **MOTION**.

If there is no power in the engine, consult or take it to the manufacturer, or His agent. Consult the Owner’s Handbook. Take whatever remedial steps are necessary and try again.

### **BLUNTLY**

If the car isn’t working like it is supposed to, how it was made to perform, you don’t say “Maybe it isn’t a car after all. Let’s put in in the garden and plant flowers in it instead.” You find out what’s wrong with it, put it right – and start going places in it.

**DOING is also IMPORTANT and NECESSARY**

**James 2: 17, 20 & 26** “**FAITH** without **WORKS** is **DEAD**.”

**BUT it **MUST** flow from an **INNER LIFE** and**

**Romans 4:23** "Whatsoever is not of FAITH is sin."

**MOFFATT TRANSLATION:** "ANY action that is not based on faith IS A SIN."

### **STORY TO CLOSE**

Once upon a time, there were three men. WILL, WANT and DO.

Something needed to be done.

WILL was willing.

WANT wanted to.

DO didn't do – because he could not find the WILL, and he really didn't WANT – and without their input, he didn't really know HOW.

And when they all heard it was a call to them ALL to DO, WILL was still willing, but he didn't really WANT. WANT was willing, but he didn't know how and DO said he would – as long as the others came too.

**SO** – it was only when WILL, WANT AND DO got together than the job got done.

# **OVERCOMING IN A CRISIS SITUATION**

Before a pilot is allowed to fly solo, fly at night, fly over a certain height, carry passengers, or fly into potentially hazardous conditions, such as poor viability or bad weather, they are tested to ensure they are competent to survive and to bring themselves, the plane and any passengers safely back to an airport. These are some of the steps they need to remember in the event they encounter bad weather or poor visibility.

**In the event of a crisis:**

## **CALM DOWN**

Remember:

**Isaiah 43:1** “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.”

Always remember, God has promised to take care of you – because you are HIS.

**Hebrews 13:5** “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.”

He has promised to stay with you, whatever happens, through every circumstance or storm.

**Isaiah 26:3** “Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in Thee.”

However bad things appear, keep your mind stayed on God – and He will keep you in peace

**Psalms 37:1** “Fret not yourself because of evil doers.”

Whatever the devil or people may throw at you, do not fret – as God has promised to bring you through.

**Isaiah 49:16** “I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.”

The nail prints in the palms of Jesus’s hands are his, and our, constant reminder of His love for and commitment to us.

## **CHECK INSTRUMENTS**

**AS ABOVE - Isaiah 26:3** “Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in Thee.”

He has promised you His peace if you keep your mind stayed on Him. Check if you have His peace. If not – it’s a clear indication your mind is NOT stayed upon and resting in Him.

**Colossians 3:15** “Let the peace of God RULE (AMP “Act as a umpire”) in your heart.”

**Isaiah 30:21** “You will hear a voice behind you saying ‘This is the way, walk ye in it – when you turn to the right or to the left’.”

Therefore, ask yourself “Am I fulfilling the instructions I’ve already been given?”

**James 1:21-22** “Receive the word with meekness and be **DOERS** of the Word, not just hearers.”

## **COMMUNICATE**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** “Pray without ceasing.”

**Matthew 26:41 & Colossians 4:2** “WATCH and PRAY”

**John 16:13** “The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.”

**In the aeroplane – keep your eyes focused and locked on “the cross”**

**Keep your eyes on Jesus – not the problem or the circumstances**

**Philippians 4:6-7** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and (then) the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

**What is GOD saying?**

**Speak with trusted counsellors, who will speak truthfully to you. What are THEY saying?**

**Proverbs 11:14 & Proverbs 24:6** “In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

## **COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

**1 Samuel 15:22 (To King Saul)** “To obey is better than (to) sacrifice.”

**John 21:22 (Jesus to Peter)** “What has it got to do with you (what others do/don’t do), YOU follow me.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

Proverbs 16:9 “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

## **CLIMB**

**Rise in Praise**

**Psalms 34:1-2** A declaration: “I WILL bless the Lord AT ALL TIMES, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make her boast in thee, Lord.”

**1 Samuel 30:6** (At Ziklag), David encouraged himself in the Lord, even though things looked bad – and the people were talking about stoning him.

**Romans 8:37** “IN ALL (these) THINGS, we are MORE THAN conquerors.”

Isaiah 40:31 “Those who wait on the Lord WILL renew their strength – they SHALL mount up with wings like EAGLES (above the situation), They shall run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.

# **THE “LORD’S PRAYER” Matthew 6:9-13 - PART 1**

**“Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.”**

## **OUR FATHER:**

1. A declaration that we are FAMILY, and children of the same Father.
2. However, we only come into that family through ADOPTION

**John 3:7** “Ye MUST be born again.”

**1 John 4:7-8** “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone that loveth God and knoweth God is born of God and knoweth God, for God IS love.

**1 John 3:14** “We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. He that loveth not the brethren abideth in death.”

**John 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give unto you that you LOVE one another AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. By THIS all men shall know you are my disciples, because you love one another.”

**One of the clear evidences that we are born again and sons and daughters of God is that we love one another. And an evidence that we are NOT born again is that we do NOT love one another.**

It is a natural, automatic tendency to love the brethren. In the same way we instinctively tend to defend and care for our natural brothers and sisters, even family (“blood is thicker than water) we should instinctively want to seek the best for our spiritual siblings.

We are a diverse people, and we will never just agree with everyone – and like them or what they do, say or sometimes even stand for all of the time, certainly not in our own strength – and with our own, natural love. The “natural” tendency is to love those who love us. But God’s love loves even the unlovely and the unlovable. (Well, He loved YOU and ME, didn’t He?!!).

The characteristics of the Father will always come out in the children. (In the same way that in John 8:44, Jesus said to the Jews who opposed Him, “Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there was no truth in him.” (This followed on from when Jesus said they were seeking to kill Him (v 40).

1 John 3:10 “In this the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil, whosoever DOETH not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

**WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME, ONE FAMILY, EQUAL IN STANDING, BUT WITH DIFFERENT TALENTS AND CALLINGS.**

## **WHO ART IN HEAVEN**

While God is omnipresent, He is said to live in HEAVEN. While He abides with and in us, is involved in our daily lives and situations and is intimately aware of our problems and struggles and well as the “good stuff”, He is above being adversely impacted by them. He can see them from His Omniscient perspective. He sees the “BIG PICTURE” and where all of these things fit into His plan and purpose for our lives. He knows the WHOLE situation and how it will turn out (if we follow His instructions regarding them).

**EXAMPLE:** While we may wander around in a maze for hours, if we listen to the instructions and follow the directions of someone looking from a nearby, tall building, our “escape” would be so much simpler and quicker.

We acknowledge God is above ALL, and remind ourselves that HE is unperturbed by our problems, stresses and strains – and is not sitting, wringing His hands, worrying if it will all work out. He can overrule and bring us through – if we will ASK Him, allow Him and let Him.

## **HALLOWED BE THY NAME**

**Hallowed** The Greek word used in our Bibles is “HAGAIZO” – which means “to make holy.” It means to set for God, to sanctify, to make a person the opposite of common, ordinary or insignificant.

**EXAMPLE:** If a child came to us and told us to move our car, we would perhaps just smile, ignore them and tell them to go and play. But if a police officer said “Move that car – NOW!”, we would move it – and move it NOW!! Why – because of the authority invested in the person saying it.

**Numbers 20:8-12 - READ**

**Deuteronomy 32:48-52 - READ.**

**Moses did not sanctify the Lord before the people. He did not set what GOD had told him to do over and above the opinion or the people. For THIS reason he did not enter the promise land.**

**Philippians 2:9-10** “God also hath HIGHLY EXALTED HIM and given Him a Name which is ABOVE EVERY (other) name. That at the name of JESUS, every knee should bow, of things in Heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth. And that EVERY TONGUE should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**WE ARE COMMANDED TO EXALT HIS NAME ABOVE ALL OTHER NAMES, ALL SITUATIONS.**

Whatever it is, if it has a name, be it sickness, poverty, guilt, condemnation, the Name of Jesus is ABOVE it – and we are called and, indeed privileged to exalt the name of Jesus over it. At HIS name – every other name and situation MUST bow.

## **THE “LORD’S PRAYER” Matthew 6:9-13 - PART 2**

**“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”**

**(“Thy Kingdom come” – Moffatt translation: THY REIGN BEGIN.)**

**KINGDOM** The Greek word used in our Bibles is “BASILEA” – which denotes sovereignty, royal power, dominion.

The Kingdom is the domain in which HIS rule is acknowledged. God has not given up His sovereignty in the face of rebellion, be it demonic or human. Instead, He has declared His plan and purpose to establish it.

**QUESTION:** What is your idea or impression of Heaven? Do you think in Heaven people and all authorities and powers will bow to the authority of God? Is there sickness, defeat, problems, poverty, mental or physical deformity or handicap, selfishness, jealousy, envy, strife, pride, depression, sin, rush, panic, self-will or tiredness? “NO!!” Why? Because GOD rules there – and is in command – and people in Heaven bow to His authority.

When we say “THY Kingdom come” we are saying “YOUR reign begin HERE.” We are not robots who automatically do whatever God wants. We have to CHOSE to obey, abide and live His way.

God’s will does not automatically come to pass in our lives. We have to bow before His authority, lean on and trust in Him, receive what He promises and offers. He will not force His will on us. “Thy Kingdom come” is bowing to His Kingship authority – and is saying, “Do here, in my life, reign in my life AS You do in Heaven.”

Not everything that happens in our lives is sent by God. Sometimes through our own stupidity, we bring situations upon ourselves. If you go skiing down a mountain at 150 miles per hour, don’t blame God if you break your leg!! If you jump out of a perfectly good aeroplane at 10,000 feet without a parachute, you’ll certainly die – and not be able to blame God for that!!

**Ecclesiastes 10:8-9** “He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it, and whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent SHALL bite him. Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith, and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.”

Sometimes we have not because we ask not (James 4:2). Sometimes we ask amiss, to heap it to ourselves in greed and for other wrong motives. (James 4:3). God will not pamper to our lusts or tantrums. (“Give me, give me, give me, or I will scream and scream until I’m sick” like a spoilt child).

**John 10:10** “The thief comes not but (or, “he only comes”), for to steal, and to kill and to destroy.” Sometimes the devil attacks us. We have to resist the devil in order for him to flee (run in terror) from us. But FIRST we must submit ourselves to God (James 4:7), THEN we can resist the devil with the whole authority we receive from the Godhead behind us – not our own authority. THAT is why he will flee from us – because of the authority we receive by submitting to God’s authority. REMEMBER, the centurion said he was a man set UNDER authority. Because he was subject to the authority ABOVE him, he was able to yield authority over those set under him, telling them what to do, and they did it. (Matthew 8:90)

## **MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY**

We MUST to be prepared to do and be what God says. Obedience releases the power of God. We cannot say "Your will be done on earth – but not in me. I will not do what you tell me to do, or go where you tell me to go, unless it suits me."

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven" declares a total surrender of my will to His Lordship over my will and my life to God, to His Kingship and Lordship.

THEN we make a declaration that we want to possess all that God has for us, translated from the heavenly realm into our natural lives. Victory, power, dominion, health, provision, prosperity, joy, peace, consistency. BEFORE the benefits comes the submission.

# **THE “LORD’S PRAYER” Matthew 6:9-13 - PART 3**

**“Give us this day our daily bread.”**

## **God’s Covenant with Abraham – BLESSING**

**Genesis 12:1-3** “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

### **YOU HAVE TO BE BLESSED BEFORE YOU CAN BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS**

And

### **YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE A BLESSING.**

**Genesis 17:1-2** “I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

<sup>2</sup>And I will make my **covenant** between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.”

**v4-7** “As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.”

**NOTE:** Abraham is **never** again referred to as Abram.

**Galatians 3:13-14** “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

### **ALL THE BLESSINGS PROMISED TO ABRAHAM NOW APPLY TO ME - THROUGH FAITH**

**Psalms 37:25** (David speaking). “I have been young, and *now* am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.”

**REMEMBER:** We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

## **PROSPERITY**

**3 John 2** “Beloved, I wish above **ALL** things that thou mightest prosper and be in health **even as** thy soul prospereth.”

**Psalm 35:27** “Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favour my righteous cause; And let them say continually, “Let the LORD be magnified, Who **has pleasure** in the **prosperity** of His servant.”

**Job 36:11** (Elihu speaking) “If they (the righteous) obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasure.”

**Psalm 1:1-3** “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, **and in His law he meditates day and night.** He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and **whatever he does shall prosper.**”

**Joshua 1:8** “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

**PROSPER:** To thrive, succeed, flourish (OR: “Having enough of God’s supply to accomplish God’s instructions – and enough left over to bless others.”).

**Psalm 68:19** “Blessed be the Lord, Who daily **loads** us with **benefits**, The God of our salvation! Selah

**Matthew 19:16-25** - **READ** – The story of the rich, young ruler

**Proverbs 19:17** “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.”  
(See also Proverbs 22:9; Psalm 41:1; Proverbs 21:13)

If the rich, young ruler had received and remembered the promises of God in Proverbs 19:17., he could have given and given and still been none the less because God would have kept repaying him.

### **Philippians 4:11-19**

**v11-13** “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Paul had learned to be consistent in his walk with God. Whatever came his way, he remained the same – trusting God.

**v14-18** “You have given to me (Paul) when no one else did.”

**v19** “But my God shall (now) supply **ALL YOUR** needs according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus.”  
(refer back to Proverbs 19:17, above).

**2 Corinthians 6:10** “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

**1 Timothy 6:6-8** “But god-li(ke)-ness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”

Having the likeness of God revealed in our lives is of great gain.

READ in own time:

Luke 12:15-31 – especially 19, 23-31

Matthew 6:19-34 – especially v 19-21 & 31-34

Put all things into perspective, and seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness – and all these things will (then) be added unto you.

# **THE “LORD’S PRAYER” Matthew 6:9-13 - PART 4**

**“Forgive us our debts/sins/trespases as we forgive our debtors/everyone that is indebted to us / who trespasses against us.”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**READ:** Ephesians 2:1-9 and Colossians 2:9-14, especially v13-14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that were against us.”

**Isaiah 40:1-2** “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand DOUBLE for all her sins.”

**DOUBLE:** Hebrew: “KEPHEI” – FOLD.

In those days, in the Middle East, if a man had debts that he could not pay, he could write those debts on a piece of paper and nail it to the gatepost of his house. As rich merchants would pass by they would point to those “statements”, instructing their servants to take particular pages, fold them over and write the merchant’s name across it. From then on, anyone who was owed money by that man would have to approach the rich benefactor for payment. The more wealthy the benefactor and the more he wished to show how wealthy he was, the more people he would help. Jesus had the sin and iniquity of all mankind laid upon Him (Isaiah 53).

**Colossians 2:14** “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”

## **Luke 7:36-48 READ – In Simon the Pharisee’s house**

The woman had come into the house, washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and dried them with her hair, before anointing them with the ointment from the alabaster box. The pharisee was critical of both Jesus and the woman – in his heart – but Jesus, reading the man’s unspoken judgments answered the man’s unspoken criticisms.

**v47** “Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins which are many are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

**Luke 23:34** “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

The sins of the whole world were forgiven on the cross: past, present and future. Jesus died once for the forgiveness of all mankind. People that go to Hell, to a Christ-less eternity, will do so because of their refusal to accept that pardon.

(See also: 1 John 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Romans 11:15; John 3:16-18).

We have ALL been forgiven SO much, so we should ALL love and appreciate God SO much, being forever grateful to Him.

**1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV)** “Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and ill, and a number of you have fallen asleep.”

**1 Corinthians 12:14-27 (Paraphrase):** WE are the body of Christ. ALL particular, specific members, all needing every other member in order to function properly and in unity.

**OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS EACH OTHER DETERMINES  
BUT ALSO INDICATES WHERE WE ARE IN GOD**

**Matthew 18:21-35 READ – The unforgiving servant**

If we do not forgive others their trespasses and debts, neither will our heavenly Father forgive our trespasses.

(See also Matthew 6:14-15 & Mark 11:26)

**Hebrews 12:15** “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”

Roots are unseen, but the root life determines the fruit life, both in the positive as well as the negative. If we allow unforgiveness to take root in our hearts it will gradually grow within us. It is hard to imagine how large oak grows from a small acorn – but it does.

**Ephesians 4:31** “Let **ALL** bitterness and wrath and anger and evil speaking be **PUT** away from you, **WITH** all malice.”

**Malice:** evil intent, ill-will.

**Bitterness:** Greek: “PIKRIA” – denotes bitterness, hatred, to embitter, to irritate, to make bitter.

**Defiled:** Greek: “MIAINO” – to stain, tinge, dye with another colour, like staining glass. To pollute, contaminate, soil.

**Ephesians 4:32** “And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, **EVEN AS** God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

**EVEN AS:** in as much, to the same extent, in the same way, as much as, to the same degree, to the same measure – as much as God **HAS** forgiven us **ALL** our sins and **ALL** our trespasses.

**FORGIVE:** Dictionary: to let off, to pardon.

**FORGIVE:** Greek: to send away, completely cancel debt, to cancel the punishment righteously imposed. Involves the complete removal of the cause of the offence, based on what Christ did on the cross, in taking away the punishment upon Himself for that wrong conduct. Means to loose, to release, to set free.

**“Love is not a feeling it’s an act of your will.” Don Francisco song**

As you have to choose or decide to love someone who is unlovely, when you don’t want to or feel like it, (by allowing God’s love for them to flow through you), SO you have to decide and choose to forgive even when you don’t feel like it (and are maybe still feel upset, hurt or angry about what they have done).

**“Jesus did not die for you because it was fun, He hung there for love because it had to be done.” (the same) Don Francisco song.**

## **FORGIVE AND FORGET(?)**

A phrase that comes up in some Christian circles is that if we haven't forgotten, then we haven't forgiven. Many people then have great condemnation because they find the thoughts about the hurtful situations don't go away. What does the Bible say in the subject?

**Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12 & Hebrews 10:17** all say,  
**"Their sins and iniquities I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."**

**REMEMBER:** Hebrew: "KAKAR": To imprint, or to print it on your mind.

**REMEMBER:** Greek: "MNEMUNEUO": To remind oneself, to remember to be mindful of, to **CALL** it to mind, to remember to **KEEP** it in mind.

### **You remember what is important to you.**

How many people above the age of understanding cannot remember their own birthday?

### **You CHOOSE to remember what is important to you.**

**FORGET:** Dictionary: To lose remembrance of or about something. To neglect or fail to bring it to mind, or mention or attend to something. To PUT it out of your mind. Cease to think of, disregard it, NEGLECT ONE'S OWN INTERESTS, lose consciousness.

### **You have to choose to forget something.**

If something is of little or no importance to you, you can choose to forget it (in fact, you WILL forget it unless you choose to remember it).

### **EXAMPLES:**

1. Who won the Soccer World Cup in 1974?
2. Who is the President/Prime Minister of Argentina/Brazil/Denmark/Uzbekistan?
3. How many men have walked on the moon?

## **SO – GOD HAS CHOSEN TO FORGIVE AND NOT REMEMBER ANY MORE – OUR SIN**

### **The extent of that forgiveness is:**

**He has JUSTIFIED us.** Sometimes described as making us "just as if we had never sinned."

**Romans 5:1** "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

This means He has PUT us back into a right relationship with God. He has made us righteous (in right-standing with God), by putting His righteousness into us, when we were joined together with Him. (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 6:17).

**He has RECONCILED us.** This means: made friendly again, healing the broken relationship, friends again, united.

**2 Corinthians 5:18** "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

**v20** “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

**(NOTE:** When we pray “forgive us AS we forgive those that sin against us, we are effectively telling God “Don't forgive me, if I don't forgive them.”)

**How can we tell the world to be reconciled to God, when we actually choose not to be reconciled with one another?**

**Romans 8:19 (NIV)** “For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.”

**The world is waiting to see the manifestation of the sons of God. They are waiting to see that we have something that works in the everyday situations of life – and that we truly have a Christ-like walk, not just talk.**

# **THE “LORD’S PRAYER” Matthew 6:9-13 - PART 5**

**“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”**

## **FOUNDATION: JESUS IN THIS WORLD**

**1 John 3:8** “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that he might destroy the works of the devil.**”

**Acts 10:38** “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed (AMP: harassed) of the devil; for God was with him.”

### **EXAMPLE:**

**Luke 13:16** “And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”

God sent Jesus to destroy all the works of our enemy, the devil. He equipped Him with the Holy Spirit – to empower Him to fulfil His calling. The woman was under the covenant of Abraham and (even) under that covenant, she should be healed (or, more accurately, to be in health), because of God’s covenant promise to Abraham and his descendants.

## **COMMISSION TO CHRIST’S FOLLOWERS**

**John 20:21-22** (Jesus speaking). “Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, **EVEN SO** (in the same way, with the same mission, with the same power and authority) send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost.**”

So – firstly He gave them PEACE (which passes all understanding. Philippians 4:7., as they would need the peace of God to face the situations that would come against them shortly). THEN He commissioned them to do what He was doing. He commanded them to receive the Holy Ghost – to empower them, give them the ability to do what He had given them the authority to do. We are commissioned, empowered, given both ability and authority to destroy the works of the devil.

**NOTE:** Jesus knew they - and we – could not do what we were called to do on our own, so He told them to tarry in Jerusalem till they received the manifested power of the Holy Ghost, before moving out. (Luke 24:49 & Acts 1:8).

## **SATAN IS OUR ENEMY**

**John 10:10 (AMP)** “The thief comes ONLY in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].”

The implication is that the devil comes ONLY to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus comes ONLY to give us abundant LIFE. We know from **John 17:3** that **ETERNAL LIFE is KNOWING GOD – and JESUS CHRIST.** In other words, having a close and intimate with our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, His Son.

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

So – God ONLY send us GOOD things – and there is no variation from that, nor does he ever change His mind about that.

**Mark 4:15-17** – Parable of the Sower. “And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

We see that Stan comes IMMEDIATELY to TAKE AWAY (or steal) the WORD that was sown in their hearts. Likewise, others receive the Word with gladness – but have no root in themselves; they only endure for a time, but when affliction or persecution arise FOR THE WORD’S SAKE, they are offended (AMP “become displeased, indignant, resentful and they stumble and fall away.”).

**NOTE:**

The devil hits us with persecutions, afflictions and problems to rob us of the Word of God that is within us. He knows he has no power against the Word of God – nor us when we stand upon it. That is because he has no power over the God of the Word – Who spoke it. (See Hebrews 1:3). However, he knows that if he can steal the Word out of us, take away the “sword of the Spirit, which IS the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17), from our hands and hearts, we will be powerless. He is trying to steal, kill and destroy our faith, which is founded and built upon the Word of God – to make us defensive, inactive and impotent.

**James 1:3** “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, **neither tempteth he any man.**”

So – God does **NOT** send temptation (there are enough trials, temptations and problems in life that the devil throws at us, without us getting the idea that our own, loving, heavenly Father is hitting us with them too).

(Additional note: God cannot be tempted with, or do evil. He cannot do evil, so He cannot be tempted to do evil. Temptation is only temptation is there is a choice to be made; to yield or not to yield. The devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness – because He had laid aside His divinity and become a man, so was tempted in all points – like we are, and yet he chose not to sin. It would not have been a temptation to Him if it were not possible for Him to choose to yield to it. Jesus was tempted in the areas of man’s natural desire for provision, popularity and power – but He refused to allow the temptation to conceive within Him – which would have led His to sin).

**James 1:14-15** “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (desire), and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

**John 17:15-16** Jesus praying “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

**v17 (AMP)** “Sanctify them [purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy] by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.”

In other words, “You (God) keep them from evil (NOT put it on them). They are not like or of this world. Keep them different and separate; purify and make them holy through Your Word, the truth (not trials and temptations).” This was the prayer of the Son of God – and surely we believe He got what He prayed for!!

**John 15:3** “Now ye ARE clean through the WORD I have spoken unto you.”

God’s Word will keep us and make us holy – not tempt us to do evil.

**1 Peter 4:12-15** “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.”

## **ESCAPE**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “There hath NO temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also MAKE A WAY OF ESCAPE, that ye may be able to bear it.”

**2 Peter 2:9** “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations.”

SO – You NEVER face ANYTHING worse or different from anyone else. We all face the same temptations - although maybe in different guises. God WILL and HAS given us a way of escape – and HAS empowered us with the indwelling Holy Spirit, to overcome ALL temptations. We have to rely on HIS strength to be able to endure and escape. (See Revelation 12:11).

**2 Timothy 2:22** “FLEE also youthful lusts: but (instead) follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

**1 Timothy 6:6-12** “But godliness (God-like-ness) with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and

hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money (NOT the money itself) is the root of all evil (selfishness): which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, FLEE these things (wrong motives); and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH, lay hold on (take hold of, grasp, confidently cling to and walk in the benefits of) eternal life (relationship with God and with Jesus), whereunto thou art also called (See Romans 8:29-30), and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses (See Romans 10:9-10)."

**SO, FIRSTLY THEN, REMEMBER:**

**1 John 4:4** "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

And

**Colossians 1:27** "CHRIST in you the hope of glory."

**SECONDLY:**

**Matthew 26:41 & Luke 22:40 & 46** "WATCH AND PRAY (so) that you enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing (Mark 14:28 "ready") but the flesh is weak."

The spirit, which is born again, is joined to Christ, is strong and ready to fight and win – in any situation. It is the flesh part of us which is weak and prone to failing and falling.

**Romans 8:6-8** "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal (natural, five-senses-aware) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh (that is, those who live after the dictates of the flesh) CANNOT please God."

**SO:**

**Romans 12:2** "Be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING of your MIND."

**Isaiah 26:3** "Thou WILT keep him in PERFECT PEACE, whose MIND is STAYED ON THEE, because he TRUSTETH in THEE."

Renew – and keep your mind stayed upon God. "More battles are fought in the human mind than on all the battlefields in the history of the world." However, it is in the mind that the battle is won or lost.

**Matthew 6:13** "LEAD us not into TEMPTATION but DELIVER us from evil."

**LEAD** – Greek – "EISPHERO" – To bring into.

**TEMPTATION** – Dictionary - Tests, trials, to try, to improve.

**DELIVER** – Greek – "RHUOMAI" – To rescue from, preserve from, linked with "away from". So: "rescue us away from, deliver us away from, pull us away from."

## **GOD'S PROMISE – HE WILL TAKE US “THROUGH”**

**Psalm 23:4** “Yea, though I walk THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: FOR THOU ART WITH ME, THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME.”

### **NOTES:**

1. I will not fear because God is with me – and He can survive and overcome anything.
2. His ROD and His STAFF **COMFORT** me. His protection, guidance and discipline promised me gives me assurance, confidence and comfort.

**Isaiah 43:1-2** “Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee (or me either).”

**Ezekiel 47:4** “He BROUGHT me THROUGH the waters.”

**1 Peter 1:3-6** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.”

**v7 (AMP)** “So that (the genuineness) of your faith may be tested, (your faith) which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire. (This proving of your faith is intended) to redound to (your) praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One is revealed.”

**Zechariah 13:9** “And I will BRING the third part THROUGH the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”

### **CONCLUSION:**

**Revelation 12:11 (AMP)** “And they have overcome (conquered) him {Satan – the accuser of the brethren} by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love *and* cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing].”

They overcame him, (Satan) by the BLOOD OF THE LAMB. (NOT by their own efforts, works, holiness, righteousness or shedding their own blood or giving their own lives). They overcame by what Jesus had done (past tense), standing in faith on what Jesus had done, not earning or trying to earn the ability to overcome in themselves.

Jesus's death was, and still is, enough to overcome all sin, death and the devil. Everything has already been done – and everything overcome – by His death, by the shedding of His blood on the cross.

**Colossians 2:15** “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

**Hebrews 12:12 (AMP)** “So then, brace up *and* reinvigorate *and* set right your slackened *and* weakened *and* drooping hands and strengthen your feeble *and* palsied *and* tottering knees.”

# **THE “LORD’S PRAYER” Matthew 6:9-13 - PART 6**

**“For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.”**

## **THE KINGDOM**

**Foundation:** Being God and Kingdom-minded, not self-centred.

**Numbers 20:1-17** The TEN COMMANDMENTS consist of 4 “God-ward” and 6 “man-ward.”

**Numbers 20:3** The FIRST commandment - “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

**READ:** Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

**Mark 12:29-31** “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”

**Matthew 22:40** “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

## **IN OTHER WORDS**

1. The whole law can be summed up by these two commandments, and
2. If we are in a loving, right relationship with God and man, we will not desire to commit ACTS of sin against either.

## **DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS**

**Dependant:** One who depends on another for support

**Dependence:** Depending upon, being conditioned or subordinate or subject, living at another’s cost, reliance, confident trust, thing relied on.

**Dependency:** Something subordinate or dependent.

**Independence:** Being independent.

**Independent:** Not depending on authority, not depending on something else for its validity, efficiency, etc. Unwilling to be under obligation to others.

**Sovereign:** Supreme, supreme ruler.

**Subject:** Person subject to political rule, and member of a state except the sovereign. Under government, not independent, owing obedience.

**Submit:** Surrender oneself to control, give way, yield, cease or abstain from resistance.

**Subordinate:** Of inferior importance or rank, secondary, subservient, person working under another.

**Rebel:** Person who rises in arms against, resists or refuses allegiance to the established government. Person or thing that resists authority or control.

**Rebellious:** In rebellion, disposed to rebel, insubordinate, defying lawful authority, difficult to treat, unmanageable.

Since “the fall” of Adam, man became his own god, the sovereign ruler over his own life. He refused to be subject to a higher authority than himself, namely GOD. This relationship with self, living to please self, resulted in ACTS of sin. Sin produced death in the spirit of man.

**Romans 3:23** “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

**Romans 6:23** “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.”

The unregenerate man’s desire is to be independent, the sovereign ruler of his life and destiny.

**Deuteronomy 12:8** “YE SHALL NOT do after all the things that we do here this day, every man, whatsoever is RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.”

This was a commandment, and yet we see:

**Judges 17:6 & 21:25** “In those days there was no king in Israel, EVERY MAN did that which was right IN HIS OWN EYES.”

To our modern, “free-spirit” mind, this may appear to be an ideal situation, at first glance. One could quite literally live to “please yourself.” (Bear in mind, it is impossible for everyone to please themselves. Pleasing YOURSELF will ALWAYS be at someone else’s cost).

Above everything else though this attitude is rebellion AGAINST GOD.

**1 Samuel 15:23** (Samuel to King Saul). “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

**Galatians 5:19-20** “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **idolatry, witchcraft**, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.”

Living in the flesh, not in the spirit, will produce the natural “fruits” or works of the flesh.

**A DEMOCRACY**: A state in which one can chose a person to govern a realm, to carry out the wishes of the people. Should the government fail to perform as the electorate desire, they can replace it with another, and another, and another. The government “is OF the people and FOR the people.”

**A THEOCRACY**: A state where Almighty God’s position is acknowledged. HE is the supreme authority and we are His subjects. We willingly submit to and obey Him. All things were created BY Him and FOR Him. WE were made BY Him and FOR Him, and our desire should be to please Him. (Genesis 1, John 1:1-3, Revelation 4:11, Romans 11:36).

## **EVEN IN THE PHYSICAL REALM**

**Psalm 24:1** (Also Psalm 50:12, 89:11, 1 Corinthians 10:26 & 28). “The earth IS THE LORD’S and the fulness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein.”

In finality, ownership remains God’s, while occupancy may have been given (by man) TEMPORARILY to the devil. (2 Corinthians 4:4, John 14:30).

**THE “KINGDOM”**: Greek – “BASILEIA” – Denotes sovereignty, royal power, dominion, denotes the territory or people over whom a king rules. The KINGDOM is 1. The sphere of God’s rule, and 2, the sphere in which GOD’S RULE IS ACKNOWLEDGED. God has not relinquished His sovereignty in the face of rebellion, be it human or demonic, but has declared His purpose to establish it. (Daniel 2:44, 7:14, 1 Corinthians 15:24).

God calls upon ALL men, everywhere to repent and submit voluntarily to His rule. Where the King is and where His rule is acknowledged, is firstly in the heart of the believer. (Acts 17:30, Ephesians 3:17, Luke 17:21). Entrance into the Kingdom is by NEW BIRTH (Mathew 18:3, John 3:16). Nothing that a man can be in his own nature or do himself will make any change to his spiritual position. We are born again, we accept by faith the atoning work of Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as supreme, sovereign ruler over our lives (Romans 10:9-10), and the KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS comes to live within us. Then: **Luke 17:21** “The kingdom of God is within you.”

**Matthew 6:33** “Seek FIRST the KINGDOM OF GOD and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS and all these things shall be added unto you.”

We are instructed to have our relationship with God as the priority in our lives, to be righteous, in-right-standing with Him. Our FIRST motive should be to be pleasing to Him, His-Kingdom-minded, not self-interest minded.

### **EXAMPLE:**

The difference between working in a nationalised industry and in our own business. “Who are we working for, SELF or GOD?”

## **THINE IS THE POWER**

**Colossians 2:6-7** “AS ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the LORD, SO WALK ye in him: Rooted and built up IN HIM, and STABLISHED IN THE FAITH, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For BY GRACE are ye saved, THROUGH FAITH, and that NOT OF OURSELVES, it is the GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast.”

We came into the Kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ, not our own works, and we must live and walk in through faith in Him, in His strength and His ability.

Jesus knew His disciples could not do what they had been called and commissioned to do on their own. He had already given them the “exousia” AUTHORITY power to do the “job”, but they did not have the ABILITY to do it, SO:

**Luke 24:49** “...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” (The POWER they would receive was from ABOVE).

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

**POWER** – Greek – “DUNAMIS” – Ability, might, strength.

**Psalms 62:11** “...power (strength) belongeth unto God.”

Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the strength, ability, capability, the very POWER OF GOD is made available to every believer. We are the ANOINTED to do what God has APPOINTED us to do. WE ARE INCAPABLE OF DOING WHAT HE HAS APPOINTED US TO DO WITHOUT THE SUPPLY OF **HIS** POWER AND **HIS** ANOINTING.

EXAMPLE: AN ELECTRIC LAWNMOWER. You can push it around all over the lawn, but it will not do the job it was designed and made to do unless it is plugged into the power source. Unplugged from the power it is of no use whatsoever.

**2 Corinthians 4:7** “But we have this TRESURE in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

We are simple clay pots, but HE is the treasure within us.

## **“THE GLORY”**

**GLORY** – Greek – “DOXA” – Signifies an opinion, the honour resulting from an opinion, dignity, honour, praise, worship.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31** “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

**QUOTATION:** “It is not HARD to live the Christian life, it is impossible. The ONLY way to live a Christ-life life is to have JESUS CHRIST Himself come and live HIS life in and through us.”

When we KNOW the source of our strength, anointing and power is GOD, we have to acknowledge ALL the GLORY, PRAISE, HONOUR and WORSHIP belongs to HIM and not to us.

### **FOREVER**

“Thine IS the Kingdom, the power and the glory FOREVER AND EVER.

That will NEVER change. It will ALWAYS be the same, FOREVER, FOR ALL ETERNITY.

**AMEN** – “steadfast”

We are steadfast and confident about what we have prayed.

“SO BE IT”, OR “SO IT WILL BE” or “IT WILL BE SO.”

We are confident in our God’s willingness and ability to accomplish all we have just prayed and entrusted into His hands. By faith we receive the answer to our prayer. (1 John 5:14-15).

# **PUSHING THROUGH THE CROWD**

## **PUSH IN, PUSH THROUGH, PUSH ON**

### **PUSH IN**

#### **Mark 5:22-34**

And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, ***When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.*** And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

#### **The Press: The multitude thronged Him (pressed Him)**

**Mark 3:20** "...so that they could not so much as eat bread.

**Mark 6:31-33** "'Come apart into a desert place and rest awhile', for there were so many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. So they went privately by ship to a desert place, And when the people saw them departing they ran out of all the cities and "out went" (out-ran) them and came together to Him."

**Luke 8:19** "Then came to Him His mother and His brethren, and could not come unto Him **for the press.**"

**John 6:26** (paraphrasing what Jesus said the crowd) "You seek me not because you saw the miracles – but because you were fed. Don't labour and seek after meat (or things) which perish – but for the "meat" (of the Word of God) which endures and gives everlasting life – which I will give to you."

### **CHANGE OF HEART AND MOTIVATION**

**Luke 5:1** "And it came to pass, that, **as the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God,** He stood by the lake of Gennesaret." (He got into Simon's fishing boat, cast off a bit from the shore – so He could teach them all from it).

**Mark 3:10** "For He had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon Him for to touch Him, as many as had plagues."

**Luke 19:3** Zachaeus – was a small man, but climbed a sycamore tree to be able to see and connect with Jesus.

## NOTHING comes to those who JUST wait

We are commanded to ASK so that we can receive, SEEK so we can find and KNOCK so the door will be opened

(Even if we are **WAITING ON / UPON / FOR the Lord**, we must do it **IN FAITH** (SO WE ARE NOT JUST WAITING))

Prayer Opens heavens door *Pushing up in faith opens the loft door for us to receive our answer from above.*

## PERSISTENT FAITH PRODUCES PERSISTENT RESULTS

**Mark 2:4** In Capernaum there were so many gathered together that there was no room to receive (or host) them (in)...., and He preached the Word to them. A man, sick of the palsy (paralysed), was brought to Him, carried by four (presumably) friends. When they could not get near because of “the press”, they uncovered the roof where Jesus was and let down the bed the paralysed man was in. “And when Jesus saw THEIR FAITH, He said to said to the sick of the palsy. ‘Son, thy sins be forgiven.’ (After the scribes accused Him of blasphemy, Jesus said to the man – v11) ‘Arise and take up thy bed and go thy way into thy house’.”

**We need to surround ourselves with people of faith, rather than people of doubt and unbelief – so that when we are weak or unable to press through ourselves, they will stand with us and help us do what needs to be done to get what we are believing for.**

**Matthew 11:12** (Jesus) “And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth Violence, and the violent take it by force.”

**THEY WILL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO GET THE ANSWER OR SOLUTION THEY NEED FROM GOD**

## PUSH THROUGH (“EVEN NOW” FAITH)

**Matthew 9:18** (Another account of Jairus’s daughter) “While He yet spake these things unto them (These things: no man puts new cloth on an old garment or new wine in old wineskins) “there came a certain ruler and worshipped Him, saying, ‘My daughter is **EVEN NOW** dead, BUT (if you) come and lay **THY** hands upon her, and she shall live.”

**John 11:21-22** Lazarus IS DEAD “Then said Martha to Jesus, ‘Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother had not died. But I KNOW, that **EVEN NOW**, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God **WILL** give it thee.”

**Psalm 23:4** “Yea, though I walk **THROUGH** the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...”

**John 16:21** “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour has come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.”

During her labour she may even say she’s changed her mind, doesn’t want this baby after all – and wants to go home, but the midwife coaches her through, breath, pant and only push at the right time.

## PUSH ON

**Philippians 3:13-14 (AMP)** “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **I PRESS TOWARD** the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Someone once said **“BLESSED ARE THE DESPERATE, FOR THEY SHALL BE DELIVERED.”**

**James 1:6-8** (if we need wisdom, we are to ask God for it) “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

Stuff happens in life which may seek to hinder our walk and our victory. We need to **PUSH INTO THE PROMISES OF GOD, PUSH THROUGH the CROWD OF PEOPLE AND THINGS, with PERSISTENCE, ENDURANCE, DETERMINATION, and TENACITY and (above all else) PUSH ONWARDS with FAITH.**  
An anagram of “DEPRESSION” is “I PRESSED ON”

***I’m not saying “pressing on” (or “pushing in” is the antidote to all forms of depression – but there is a Biblically based mind-set we need to adopt in order to not only survive but also thrive in life.***

### **Habakkuk 3:17-18 (AMP)**

Though the fig tree does not blossom  
And there is no fruit on the vines,  
Though the yield of the olive fails  
And the fields produce no food,  
Though the flock is cut off from the fold  
And there are no cattle in the stalls,  
Yet I will [choose to] rejoice in the LORD;  
I will [choose to] shout in exultation in the [victorious] God of my salvation!

# **FINISHING YOUR COURSE, FULFILLING YOUR MISSION**

**Acts 17:6** (Said of Paul and Silas) “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”

What was it about these men that made them have such a testimony?

**We will examine the life of Paul to find out.**

**Acts 20:18-38** – READ – Final instructions, knowing he would not see them, nor they him, again.

**v18** (paraphrased) “I’ve been with you in all seasons, through thick and thin.”

**v19** “Serving the Lord, despite of all the negative things that have happened.”

**v20** “I’ve kept nothing back that was profitable to you, (not to himself). I’ve poured myself out for others.”

**v24** “None of these things move me – and I don’t count my life as dear to me.”

(Philippians 1:23 “I’m a straight betwixt two, having a desire to go and be with Christ, which is far better for me, but it’s better for you that I stay”).

**Remember the saying** “Everybody wants to go to Heaven but nobody wants to die.”

**v27** “I’ve not shunned to declare everything to you. I’ve kept nothing back.”

**v31** “Night and day, tired but untiringly.”

**v33-35** “I’ve not been after your gold, silver or possessions, but have endeavoured to be an example to you.”

**v37-38** They were sorry to see him go – and were not saying “Thank heavens he’s going!!”

## **Hebrews 12:1-4**

**v1** (paraphrased) “It’s like we’re in an athletics stadium – in front of all the witnesses, the spectators. Let us lay aside everything that will slow us down, trip us up, make us fall or hinder us. Let us RUN the RACE with PATIENCE (consistency, evenness of pace, **not** a mad-dash, stop/go, slow/fast). RUN the race set before US (individually or collectively).

**v2** “Looking unto Jesus who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame. He did the work He was sent to do (and then went back to His Father)”

**v3** “**Consider Him** who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your **minds**.” (thinking it’s all against YOU, then your mind, not your spirit, faints and gives up).

**v4** YOU haven’t resisted to the point of sweating blood or pouring it out on a cross (yet), like Jesus did, striving against sin.

**v12-13** “SO – lift up your hands that hang down (discouraged) and strengthen your feeble, knocking knees. Don’t be discouraged, make straight paths for your feet, keep your life straight, simple, uncomplicated, level, so you won’t trip up or lose your way – or go off course.”

## **Philippians 3:4-16**

**v4-16** “Look, naturally speaking, I’ve got my life together, all in order; I’ve been a good person – overall.” (“I speak as a fool”).

**v7-10** “But I count ALL I have going for me as dung and rubbish, horse manure even, compared to being in a deep, intimate, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”

**v12-14** “While I know I haven’t “arrived”, I do this; **I forget the past and press on, reaching forwards.**”

**v15-16** “Let us, as many as be perfect, be thus minded. (**Greek** – “TELEIOS” – fully grown and mature).

“Nevertheless, whatever we’ve learned so far, at least let us walk in it, keep those things in mind and don’t slip back from that stage of development.”

## **2 Timothy 4 – READ FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TIMOTHY**

Written to Timothy, from Rome, shortly before Paul’s execution, not knowing how long he had left to live, but knowing “his time of departure was at hand.”

**v1** “I charge thee, before God. (Paraphrased), “This is SO serious a thing I’m going to say to you, that I call upon God to witness to what I tell you.”

**v2** “Preach the WORD, be INSTANT in season and out of season, when it’s convenient and comfortable or not.” Preach the WORD, not stories or theories or opinions. Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (By the WORD OF GOD, not yours, and spoken in love.”

**v3** “For the time will come when people (Christians), will not want the Word of God, but will prefer stories, quick, slick, one-liners, things that tickle their ears; “nice” things, unchallenging things. “Whisper ‘sweet nothings’ in my ear.”

**AMP** “They will heap to themselves teachers chosen to satisfy their own liking and foster the errors they hold.” *It will be OK with them only if it coincides with what they already believe.*

**v4** “And they will TURN from the TRUTH to man-made ideals, rules and doctrines.”

**v5** “Watch in all things. Endure afflictions, (against you). Do the work of an evangelist.” Always be ready to tell others the good news of the Gospel.” (Even though Timothy was actually a pastor). “Make FULL proof of your ministry. Do ALL and ANYTHING God calls you to do. (As much as possible, to as many as possible, whenever possible, as long as possible, and in every place possible). Remember – He knows your limitations better than you do. You can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens and enables you.

**v6** “I’m now ready to go. Ready and prepared.” And he knew in advance that soon he was to die, and yet he was not disheartened nor afraid.

**v7 (1)** “I’ve fought a good fight.” I’ve fought hard; battled against a real enemy (not just shadow boxing), fighting with all my might, against someone who was trying to defeat me. It was not easy, **and** God did not send the enemy. (John 10:10).

**v7 (2)** “I’ve finished my course. I’ve done ALL God wanted me to do in my life. Every task and test that was set, I completed. I’ve avoided nothing. I’ve jumped every hurdle, long-jump, water-jump and run up every hill (Like a steeple chase or cross country race).

## **COMMENTS**

1. God wants us to be faithful sons who are confident of their relationship with Him, their Father, who will do what He has called them to do, in His strength and ability. Are we living as more than conquerors or as the conquered? Are we living in the benefits of what Jesus purchased for us at the cost of His death on the cross? Many times we live like paupers while all the time our Father is a multimillionaire. Are we living in the benefits – or settling for second best?
2. Am I doing everything God has called me to do? The particular, unique work He gave ME to do. Am I running MY race, finishing MY course, MY mission, doing MY “job”? We cannot use the excuse, “I didn’t do it because brother or sister so-and-so didn’t think I should. (Try telling that to an earthly boss!!).

**v7 (3)** “I have kept the faith.” Despite all the devil threw at Paul – to kill him, steal from him and destroy him (John 10:10), he maintained the stance “I am still here, still in faith, still working for Him.”

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18** “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal (temporary, subject to change), but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

**Acts 23:11** “Be of good cheer, Paul: for AS thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, SO must thou bear witness also at Rome.”

And just look at how he was treated at Jerusalem!! Most of us would regard the above as a threat rather than a promise!!

What “light affliction” was Paul talking about in 2 Corinthians 4:11-12? Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 and find out?

Despite all of these things Paul was saying “I’ve stayed in faith.”

**2 Timothy 4:10** “Only Luke (the physician) is with me. “Everyone else had left him. He had preached to thousands and written half of what we now know as the New Testament, and yet he was left alone.

**v17** “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; **that** (so that) by me the preaching might be fully known, and that **all** the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”

(No explanation given, but remember, he was in Rome, where we know many Christians were thrown to the lions.).

**v8** “Henceforth there is **laid up for me**.” Laid on one side, reserved, waiting for me to come for it. For ME, of all people, ME, who persecuted the church), “a crown of righteousness.”

**CROWN** – Greek – “stephanos”. A symbol of triumph, usually presented at games, etc. A reward or prize. At the time the garland was woven from oak, ivy, parsley, myrtle, olive – or imitations of them in gold.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-25** “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but **one** receiveth the **prize**? **So** run, that **ye** may obtain (run flat-out – as it only one person gets the prize). And every man that striveth for the mastery is **temperate in all things**. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.” (Living a fighting with determination – as this prize is worth winning).

**2 Timothy 4:13** (paraphrased). “Bring the books and the parchments – but especially the parchments.” This was Paul the Apostle, but he still did not think he knew it all. He was still intending to learn some more, and write some more – as close to death as he was.

## **CONCLUSION**

This was Paul’s lifestyle, all out for God, passionately. That was why they said of him and Silas that those who have turned the world upside down had come there also.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. When was the last time YOU were accused of that?
2. Would people be bored by reading your autobiography?

## **COMMENTS**

1. If you have not found something truly worth being passionate about, you have not yet found your purpose in life.
2. If you have not yet found something worth dying for you have not yet found your purpose in life. Nor have you found something worth living for.
3. In any sport, game or match it’s not over until the final whistle is blown. Keep going till the trumpet sounds and the rapture happens!!

4. Winston Churchill's shortest speech was simple – "NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER."
5. If we have to have an epitaph written, let it be said of us, "He/she never gave up. He/she finished his/her course. He/she finished their course. He/she was faithful to the end. And, above all, he/she pleased God. NOT – "He/she never did anything wrong but, then again, he/she never did anything."
6. Remember – even the tortoise goes nowhere till it sticks its neck out.
7. So – fight a good fight, run your race, finish your course, keep the faith and fulfil your mission.

**WITH THIS ATTITUDE WE WILL TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN (RIGHT-SIDE-UP!!)**

# **CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY**

## **IN THE BEGINNING – ADAM and EVE**

<b><u>Genesis 3:8-10</u></b>	God came to commune with Adam and Eve in the garden in the cool of the day.
<b><u>Genesis 4:6</u></b>	The Lord SAID TO Cain (Re his countenance)
<b><u>Genesis 4:9</u></b>	The Lord SAID TO Cain (Re “Where is Abel, your brother)
<b><u>Genesis 5:22</u></b>	Enoch WALK WITH God
<b><u>Genesis 6:9</u></b>	Noah WALK WITH God
<b><u>Exodus 19:12</u></b>	God SPOKE WITH Moses BY A VOICE
<b><u>Exodus 20:19-20</u></b>	The PEOPLE said they wanted God to speak to them VIA MOSES – NOT DIRECT, “lest they die.”
<b><u>Exodus 33:11</u></b>	The Lord spoke with Moses FACE TO FACE AS A MAN SPEAKETH WITH HIS FRIEND.
<b><u>Exodus 34:92</u></b>	After talking on the mount with God, Moses’s face shone, so much so they had to put a veil over it.

## **TABERNACLE - MOSES**

<b><u>Exodus 15:2</u></b>	“I WILL BUILD HIM a habitation. Moses wanted to build God a dwelling place
<b><u>Exodus 25-27</u></b>	So, God gave him instructions for its design.
<b><u>Exodus 35:4-9 &amp; 36:3-7</u></b>	Freewill offerings given to provide for its building materials, etc.
<b><u>Exodus 40:34-35</u></b>	The cloud covered the tent and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. MOSES WAS UNABLE TO ENTER BECAUSE OF THE CLOUD AND THE GLORY OF GOD FILLED THE TABERNACLE.

## **THE TEMPLE - DAVID**

<b><u>1 Chronicles 17:1-15 &amp; 2 Samuel 7:2-16</u></b>	DAVID’S desire to build a house for God, as he loved in a house of cedars, while the ark of the covenant within curtains (a tent). God responded through His prophet, Nathan. “Have I said ‘why haven’t you built Me a house of cedars? I haven’t dwelt in a house since I brought you into the land, but I have gone from tent to tent and from one tabernacle to another’.” God said David could prepare for the house to be built, but Solomon would build it.
--	--

## **TEMPLE – SOLOMON**

<b><u>1 Kings 8:15-39 &amp; 1 Chronicles 6:14-39</u></b>	Solomon build the temple for God and then <b><u>dedicates</u></b> to the Lord.
<b><u>2 Chronicles 6:18</u></b>	“But will God in very deed dwell with men on earth? Behold heaven and the heaven of the heavens cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built.” PARAPHRASE:- “However, please let your eyes be continually towards it – and when Your people pray towards this house as a focal point – please hear them.”

## **GOD’S RESPONSE**

<b><u>2 Chronicles 30:27</u></b>	Their prayer came up to His DWELLING PLACE, even unto Heaven
<b><u>2 Chronicles 7:12</u></b>	And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him “I have heard they prayer ad have chosen this place to Myself for A HOUSE OF SACRIFICE.”

- 2 Chronicles 7:14** “If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray..., then I will hear FROM HEAVEN.”
- 2 Chronicles 7:16** “I have chosen and sanctified (set apart) this house – that MY NAME may be there perpetually.”

### **FORCASTING THE NEW COVENANT**

- Isaiah 66:1-2** “Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? (**AMP** What kind of place would you build for me? And what kind can be My resting place? For all these things My hand has made, and so all these things have come into being for me, says the Lord).  
God is not asking them “Why haven’t you built Me a house? But saying “What sort of house do you think you could possibly build for Me to live in? I’m so big I made everything you can see. How do you think you are going to contain me?”
- Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:23** “Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a Son, and they will call His name EMMANUEL, which is, being interpreted GOD WITH US.”

### **NEW TESTAMENT POSITION**

- Matthew 17:2 & Mark 9:2** “Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter wanted to build three tabernacles. God said, “This is My beloved Son, hear ye HIM.” In other words, “Listen to what HE has to say.”
- Ephesians 3:17** “That Christ may dwell **in your hearts** by faith.”
- Romans 10:17** “So then faith cometh by **hearing**, and **hearing** by the word of God.”
- Romans 10:8-10** “The **word** is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the **word of faith**, which we preach; That if thou shalt **confess** with **thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in **thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved**. For **with the heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and **with the mouth confession** is made unto salvation.”
- Philemon 6** “That the **communication of thy faith** may **become effectual** by the **acknowledging** of every good thing which is in you **in Christ Jesus**.”
- Galatians 3:2** (re “O, foolish Galatians”) “**Received ye the Spirit** by the **works of the law**, or by the **hearing of faith**?”
- Galatians 3:5** “He therefore that **ministereth** to you the Spirit, and **worketh miracles** among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the **hearing of faith**?”
- John 15:4** “**Abide in me**, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; **no more can ye, except ye abide in me**.”
- Hebrews 13:5** “I will **never** leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
- Matthew 28:20** “...lo, I am **with you always**.”
- Acts 17:24 & Acts 7:48** “God dwelleth not in temples made with hands, as saith the prophet.” (Solomon in 1 Kings 8:27).
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17** “...**ye are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth **in you**?”
- 1 Corinthians 6:19** “What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, (and ye are not your own)?”
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-2** “For we know that if our **earthly house** of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.”

**Hebrews 9:24**

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the **figures of the true**; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

**Luke 17:21**

“The Kingdom of God **IS within you.**”

**John 17:23**

“**I in them, and thou in me**, that they may be **made perfect in one.**”

**1 Corinthians 3:16**

“...he Spirit of God dwelleth in you.”

**1 Corinthians 6:17**

“But he that is **joined unto the Lord** is **one spirit.**”

**Colossians 1:25-27**

(Paraphrase) Paul made a “minister of the mystery.”

**Colossians 1:26-27**

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”

**2 Corinthians 4:6-7**

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, **hath shined 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 excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

**EXAMPLE:**

Having a valuable item of jewellery kept in an insignificant, old, cracked, cup, the value of the cup is the value of its contents.

**Ephesians 3:20**

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us.**”

**John 7:38 (AMP)**

“He who believes in Me [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Me], as the Scripture has said, ‘From his innermost being will flow *continually* rivers of living water.’”

**Luke 17:20-21**

(Jesus said) “The kingdom of God **cometh not with observation**: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

**“Observation”** – Greek – “parateresis” – An intense watching.

**Luke 12:31**

“...seek ye (first) the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

**“Seek”** – Greek – “zeteo” – To seek, desire, require.

**Questions:**

**When you are a Christian:**

1. Where does God live?
2. Where will you find Him?
3. Do you have to FEEL Him to KNOW He is there?
4. Where do you pray to?
5. Do you go in and out of His presence, or just the conscious awareness of His presence?
6. Do you approach Him boldly?

**WE SHOULD APPROACH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER BOLDLY, CONFIDENTLY AND WITH ASSURANCE, BECAUSE WE KNOW WE ARE RIGHTEOUS, SANCTIFIED, AND JUSTIFIED**

# **HAVING THE SPIRIT OF CALEB**

**ANAKIM** The Amalakites, Hitites, Jebusites and the Amorites  
(Numbers 13:28-33, Deuteronomy 1:28, Deuteronomy 2:10, Deuteronomy 10:9, Joshua 11:21-22, 1 Samuel 17:4, 2 Samuel 21:21-22).

There were children of Anak, who lived in the cities and mountains around HEBRON. They were a strong people, many in number, greater and taller than the Israelites – and the Israelites said in the sight of the children of Anak, they would be like grasshoppers. Their cities were great and had walls that reached to the heavens. Hitites, Jebusites and Amorites lived in the mountains.

Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who said they believed God could bring them into the land. (“We are well able to overcome it.”)

**HEBRON** Originally called KIRJATHARBA (City of Arba or Strength of Baal). Renamed HEBRON (Ford or Company).

## **Background**

**Genesis 13:18** When God told Abraham to walk through the land, he went here first – and built and altar to the Lord.

**Genesis 23:2** Sarah died and was buried here.

**Genesis 25:10** Abraham was buried here.

**Genesis 49:29-31** Isaac, Rebecca and Leah were all buried here, and Jacob gave command that he should be buried here.

**Genesis 50:13** Jacob buried here by his sons.

## **SPIES SENT TO SPY OUT THE LAND**

**Numbers 13:22 & 24** Spies came and cut down the cluster of grapes

**Joshua 10:36** Under Joshua’s leadership they went and took Hebron and utterly destroyed all the souls in it.

**Joshua 11:21** They destroyed MOST of the area.

Some of the area remained unconquered in GAZA, ASHDAD and GATH, the land of the Philistines, from where we get the name PALESTINE. This is where Goliath, the Gittite of Gath, came from – and was slain by David. (He knew he was in a covenant relationship with God and that “this uncircumcised Philistine” {by that very definition} wasn’t). Other giants came later and were slain by David, his servants and Jonathan. Despite God telling Joshua that much of this land remained to be possessed, it remained unconquered till David did so.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES REF LATER**

**2 Samuel 2:1-4 & 1 Chronicles 29:26-28** David was appointed king in Hebron and reigned there for 7 of his 40 years as King.

**1 Chronicles 12:28** “All these men of war that could keep rank (unity), came with a perfect heart to Hebron to make David king over all Israel, and all the rest of Israel were of one heart to make David King.”

**1 Chronicles 12:33** (Reference these men). They were not of a double mind. (James 1:6-8 “Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. **A double-minded man is unstable in all of his ways.**”

**1 Chronicles 12:40** **There was joy in Israel after this.**

## **CALEB**

**Numbers 13:6** Of the tribe of Judah (Praise), and the son of Jephunnah.

### **Tribe of Judah**

**Genesis 49:8-12** The blessing of Jacob over Judah. He called him a **lion’s welp.**

**Revelation 5:5** Jesus is called the **LION of the tribe of JUDAH.** (Remember: the devil goes around AS a roaring lion – trying to impersonate one – because he isn’t the real deal!!).

### **Son of Jephunnah.**

**1 Chronicles 7:40** “All these were the children of Asher, heads of their father’s house, choice and mighty men of valour, chief of the princes.”

### **CALEB**

**Numbers 13:17-33** Spying out the land for 40 days (The Children of Israel failed to move forward in faith – so they spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness as a consequence).

**Numbers 14:6-9** He rent his clothes – saying “We ARE able to possess it.”

**Numbers 14:20-24** God’s promise to Caleb he “hath another spirit with him and hath followed Me fully.”

**Numbers 14:37-38 & 26:63-65** All the others died – except Joshua and Caleb.

**Numbers 34:16-19** God’s final instructions to Moses included to give Caleb the land as his inheritance.

**Deuteronomy 1:36** “Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will **I give the land that he hath trodden upon**, and to his children, **because he hath wholly followed the LORD.**”

## **Joshua 14:6-14 READ – “GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN.”**

**Joshua 15:13-14** He drove out the inhabitants.

**Joshua 21:12-13** Caleb was given the fields of the city and villages. The suburbs and the city itself were given to the sons of Aaron (The Levites). It became a city of refuge to “the slayer.”

### **God’s promise to Abraham at Bethel**

**Genesis 15:20** “Unto thy seed have I given this land” (The land of the Hitites) – HEBRON.

### **God’s promise to Moses**

**Deuteronomy 11:24** “Wherever the sole of your foot treads – I’ve given it to you.”

### **God’s promise to Joshua**

**Joshua 1:3** “Wherever the sole of your foot treads – I’ve given it to you.”

**Joshua 1:4** “ALL the land of the Hitites.”

Besides the promises given specifically to himself, he also stood on THESE promises (the soles of your feet).

**Joshua 18:2-3** “And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. And Joshua said unto the Children of Israel ‘**How long will you be slack to go to possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers HATH GIVEN YOU?’**.”

**Hebrews 3:19** And they could not enter in because of their unbelief.

## **LESSONS**

1. CALEB was a man of vision. QUOTE – unknown author: “If you don’t see it BEFORE you see it, you will NEVER see it.” It’s no use being a man of vision if, when God says “MOVE”. You won’t move into it.
2. Caleb was a man of Vision **AND** Action.
3. Possess ALL God tells you is yours. Do what God calls you to do. (Galatians 6:4-5).
4. It’s a waste of time JUST having vision; you MUST possess too.
5. The majority is not always right.
6. What God says you can do – you CAN do.
7. If you say you cannot, you will not.
8. Watch your confession.
9. You are ensnared by the words of your mouth

# **MEDITATE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Romans 12:1-2 (AMP)** “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, *and* beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service *and* spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed **(changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind** [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].”

**RENEWAL** – Greek – “anakainosis” – The adjustment of the moral and spiritual thinking to the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon the life. This verse stresses the WILLING response on the part of the believer to the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**COMMENT** In order to get a man to consistently act differently to how he normally would by his nature, one would have to CHANGE HIS MIND about himself, who and what he is and what he can and cannot do. Any thoughts of what he should or should not do would need to be established firmly in his mind. Effectively this is like completely wiping clean and reprogramming a computer. Without a TOTAL TRANSFORMATION of his thinking you may succeed in changing some outward actions – but any change would, and could, only be temporary and superficial. Leave him without the restraint or pressure that caused him to act differently and he will revert to his former behaviour.

**2 Peter 2:22** “The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

**Proverbs 26:11** “As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, **all** things are become new.”

**It is evident this “newness” is in the spirit-man, not the soul or body. If a person is fat/thin, tall/short, decisive/indecisive before they are saved, they will remain the same afterwards.**

## **HOW DO WE RENEW THE MIND?**

**Ephesians 4:22-25** “That ye put off concerning the former conversation **the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye **put on the new man**, which **after God** (after His likeness and image) is created in **righteousness and true holiness**. Wherefore **putting away** lying”

**James 1:5-8** “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, **nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A **double minded man** is **unstable in all his ways**.”

**Double-minded does not mean undecided.** This is when you're your spirit-man is in faith and believing God, and yet your mind is believing the physical/natural – the information you are receiving via your senses. Your natural mind must be renewed to bring it into line with the spirit-man.

### **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK OF NOTHING**

We cannot think of NOTHING. We have “programmed” our minds with information and, like a computer, they will process it and work out things according to the information it contains. **RUBBISH IN – RUBBISH OUT.**

**MEDITATE** (Dictionary) To plan mentality, design, exercise the mind in contemplation. It does not mean blanking out the mind and thinking NOTHING. That is impossible.

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

**Meditate** (Hebrew) – “hagah.” To meditate, mutter, moan, growl, utter, speak, reflects the sighing and low sounds one may make while musing. (In modern language – speaking to yourself”).

#### **Benefits**

**Isaiah 26:3-4** “Thou wilt **keep** him in **perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.**”

### **YOU BECOME WHAT YOU EAT**

**Proverbs 23:7** “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

#### **(RUBBISH IN – RUBBISH OUT)**

**Joshua 1:8** “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy **mouth**; but thou shalt **meditate** therein **day and night**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then **thou** shalt make **thy** way prosperous, and then **thou shalt have good success.**”

**Psalms 4:4** “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your **own** heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.”

**Psalms 1:1-2** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. **But his delight** is in the law of the LORD; and **in his law doth he meditate day and night.**”

**Psalms 143:5** “I **remember** the days of old; **I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.**”

### **David was described as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)**

**Psalms 119:11** “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

**SEE ALSO:** Psalms 19:4, Psalms 63:6, Psalms 49:3, Psalms 104:34, Psalms 77:12, Psalms 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148.

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

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

**1 Corinthians 2:16** “...we **have** the mind of Christ.”

**Philippians 2:5** “**Let** this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

**Colossians 3:2** “**Set** your affection on things **above, not on things on the earth.**”

**1 Timothy 4:14-15** “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. **Meditate upon these things;** give thyself **wholly to them; that** thy profiting may appear to all.”

**Romans 12:3** “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself **more highly** than he **ought to think;** but to think **soberly, according as God** hath **dealt** to **every man the measure of faith.**”

**Linked to living and thinking according to your calling**

**1 Corinthians 7:20** “Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.”

**1 Corinthians 7:24** “Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.”

**Philemon 6** “That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the **acknowledging** of every good thing which is in you **in Christ Jesus.**”

### **Meditate on what God says He HAS done**

**For example:**

**Ephesians 1:3** “...who **hath** blessed us with **all** spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

**Colossians 1:13** “Who **hath** delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath** translated us **into** the kingdom of his dear Son.”

**Isaiah 53:5 & 1 Peter 2:24** (combined) “By His stripes we WERE and ARE healed.”

**1 Peter 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy **hath** begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”.

**2 Peter 2:3** “According as his divine power **hath given** unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.”

**GOD HAS PROVIDED EVERYTHING WE NEED. HE HAS COMPLETED THE WORK ON THE CROSS. THAT COST THE LIFE OF JESUS ON THE CROSS. WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT, PRESS INTO IT, INHERIT IT, POSSESS IT - AND LIVE IN IT**

# **STEP OUT, MIND THE GAP & WATCH OUT FOR TRIP HAZARDS**

**Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Many of us have heard the announcement when boarding a train “Mind the gap between the train and the platform.” We will all have seen signs saying “Please mind the step.”

Both are very useful warnings to have, as they remind us to be careful as we move from one place to another so we do not trip and injure ourselves.

Often in life there are hazards to be aware of when we move from one place to another and this means we step forward with both eyes open, rather than shut, whilst continuing to move forward in faith.

God told Moses and Joshua He had given them every place their foot trod upon. (Joshua 1:3). Similarly God said that as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests carrying the ark of the covenant rested in the River Jordan He would stop the waters flowing so the Israelites could cross over on dry land. (Joshua 3:13-17). And that’s just what happened.

When Peter said to Jesus “if it is you, tell me to come and walk to you on the water”, Jesus said “Come.” (Matthew 14:28-29). But in order for Peter to walk on the water he had to step out of the boat.

In all of these cases there was a “gap” or a “step” where faith was necessary for those involved to move forward. Moses, Joshua, the priests and Peter, all had to believe the Lord would honour His promise to “come through” and not let them down when they moved forward at His command.

The same applies to you. Those things which God is calling you to step into will only be accomplished if you chose to accept His promise and step out in faith. You will only be able to walk on the water if you step out of the boat!

## **Step out in faith**

**Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

When standing at the underground station waiting for a train to arrive, you are relying upon and entrusting your life to a train driver you have probably never met before and will probably never actually meet personally, to take you into a dark tunnel - believing that he or she will take you safely to a destination you may never have been to before, nor know much, if anything, about. And yet you go, believing the destination will be worth the effort of the journey.

You could describe that as “Hope.” Hope that what you are stepping out in faith to journey into does in fact exist - and that it will be a better place than the one you are leaving - even though it has not yet been revealed to your natural senses.

The journey from “here” to “there” could be described as a journey of faith. On the way there things may seem dark and yet you continue to trust the driver you’ve never met to take you safely to your final destination.

From the moment you stepped into the train you continued in faith, believing you will see the light at the end of the tunnel and arrive safely at a destination which far surpasses where you were when you began your journey.

Unlike the train driver whom we’ve never met – but trust, we know our Heavenly Father loves us passionately and unconditionally, and we know He will take us to safely into all He has promised us.

In order to enter something or somewhere better than you are in now, you must step out and begin a journey of faith, trusting the Master will take and accompany you there.

### **Watch out for trip hazards**

**Hebrews 12:1 "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."**

When runners or joggers go out for a training run there are some things they have to learn to do and a some not to do. One of those is being aware of cars and other vehicles - to watch carefully where they run so they do not get knocked down and seriously injured or killed.

They have to watch the road beneath their feet in order to avoid uneven surfaces, rocks or stones on which they could easily trip, and slippery materials like banana skins, ice or snow. Such things can easily result in injuries; sprained or broken ankles, or far worse if they fall badly enough or into the path of oncoming vehicles. Runners get accustomed to watching the road ahead, the traffic and the road surface all at the same time and hence they usually arrive safely at their destinations.

Some athletes train or race with others who are running at approximately the same pace, but they soon learn to run their own race. Those with them may breathe loudly and at a different rate than them; their stride may be longer or shorter, so runners learn to block out the sound of others' footsteps or loud breathing.

The writer of the book of Hebrews warns us to watch out for the hazards of sin which so easily beset and trip us up. We are encouraged to run with patience the "race" set before us, looking into Jesus, Who not only started us off on this journey, but will be waiting for us as we cross the finishing line at the end of our lives. Run your life's race looking unto Jesus. Keep your eyes on Him and watch out for the things that can so easily trip you up and cause you to fall into sin.

### **Three Simple Rules of Life**

- If you do not GO AFTER what you want, you will never have it
- If you do not ASK, the answer will always be no.
- If you do not STEP FORWARD, you will always be in the same place

# **COVENANT KEEPING GOD**

**Example One:** Someone asked “We’ve been friends for 25 years, but you’ve stayed faithful while others have dropped and forsaken us. Why?”

## **There’s a friend who sticks closer than a brother**

**Proverbs 18:24** “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.”

**Example Two:** A pastor friend had an extra-marital affair. The comment was made: “You are probably one of only a few people who’ve stayed in touch with him.” There was an underlying, though not actual question as to why I/we had done so.

## **Answer: Because we cannot judge:**

Like with the woman caught in the act of adultery, and Jesus challenged her condemners “whoever is without sin, cast the first stone.” AND “neither do I condemn you - go and sin no more.”

We’ve all seen those situations and been in similar, if not the same, and God didn’t condemn us, but stayed faithful to his relationship to us. So we should be less condemnatory and more forgiving of those we witness fall in all the ways mankind tends to.

## **PLUS – BECAUSE WE HAVE, EFFECTIVELY, COVENANTED OUR FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS THE PEOPLE IN BOTH OF THE ABOVE EXAMPLES**

### **Handshake:-**

Sign of Commitment: of our bond, our relationship as friends. Proves there is nothing else in our hand - so we cannot use a weapon to attack them.

We seal the verbal deals we make with a handshake

Comes from blood covenant when hands were cut before the then “blood brothers” shook hands.

### **Ancient tribes exchanged gifts as tokens**

Story of tribal chief’s staff given to a missionary. Others knew when they saw that staff in the hand of the missionary, that he was in covenant with that chief - and if they harmed the missionary but was as if they were attacking the chief. Their fight would then be with the tribal chief, not just the missionary.

### **Wedding ring – sign of:**

Commitment

Covenant

Have forsaken all others, to “Cleave” to one another

Body, all worldly goods, heart’s affection

In sickness or health, rich or poor, whatever comes

## **God has made a covenant with his people; firstly Israel, then His Church, which is His body.**

### **God swore by Himself - as He cannot lie**

**Hebrews 6:13** “For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by himself.”

**V 17-18.** Confirmed by an oath - because it was impossible for God to lie.

**Ezekiel 16:8** “Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine.”

**Hebrews 13:20** “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.”

**Hebrews 10:16** “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.”

**This was done through God’s gift of salvation by His grace – and our receiving it by faith:**

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever **BELIEVETH** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**God’s UNCONDITIONAL LOVE towards the WORLD meant He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER: BELIEVES IN HIM would not perish but have everlasting life.**

**Ephesians 2:8** “For by **GRACE** are ye saved, through **FAITH**, and that not of yourselves, it is the **GIFT OF GOD.**”

**Matthew 26:27-28** “And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; **For this is my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many for the *remission of sins.*”

*Remission is the taking away – not the mere covering of our sin.*

**The bread and wine are symbols of His covenant oath towards us.**

**So - we see God has made a covenant - an everlasting promise - AND He cannot break His promise**

**Once God has given His gift – OR gifting - He will not take it back - but will accomplish what He intended to do through that person when He gave it.**

**Romans 11:27** “For this is My covenant unto them, *when I shall take away their sins.*”

**V29** “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

**AMP** “*For God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable – He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.*”

**When your feelings don’t exactly line up with and match your theology - remember you didn’t choose God, He actually, deliberately CHOSE YOU. He chose you and swore a covenant relationship with you. So it’s impossible for Him to abandon or let you go - as it’s impossible for Him to lie**

**GOD HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO FULFIL THE WORK HE HAS BEGUN IN YOU and me.**

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

# **ANTIDOTE TO A PANDEMIC OF PANIC**

**Luke 21:25-26** “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

**2 Timothy 1:7** “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

## **10 THINGS WE NEED & NEED TO PRAY AND BELIEVE GOD FOR (OURSELVES & OTHERS)**

### **1. Peace**

**Do not fear – We are commanded many times in scripture to “fear not”, to “let not our hearts be trouble,” to not be anxious for anything.**

**John 14:1** “LET NOT your heart be troubled.....”

**James 1:7-8 (Paraphrase)** “Do not be double-minded – because a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways AND will not receive anything from the Lord.”

### **WITH JOY**

**Galatians 5:22** “But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace**, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.”

**Romans 15:13** “Now **the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

**Romans 14:17** “For **the kingdom of God is** not meat and drink; **but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**”

### **2. Provision**

**Proverbs 4:20-22** “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and **health to all their flesh.**”

**Matthew 10:29-31** “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”

**1 Timothy 6:6-8** “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.**”

**Philippians 4:19** “**But my GOD shall supply ALL your need according to his riches** in glory by Christ Jesus.”

### 3. Protection

**Psalm 91** “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; **THERE SHALL NO EVIL BEFALL THEE, NEITHER SHALL ANY PLAGUE COME NIGH THY DWELLING.** For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.”

### 4. Presence

#### **An enduring sense of the presence of God**

**Matthew 28:20** “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

**Hebrews 13:5** “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

**John 15:4** “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”

### 5. Prayer

**Matthew 26:41** “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**Mark 13:33** “Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.”

**Mark 14:38** “Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.”

**Luke 21:36** “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

**1 Peter 4:7** “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

## 6. Proactive

**“In order to walk on the water, you first have to get out of the boat.”**

**Matthew 14:25-29** “And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.”

## 7. Preach

One of the most common sayings is **“Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.”** This quote is popularly attributed to **St. Francis of Assisi**. The saying is often used as a recommendation for how we should primarily or even exclusively evangelize.

**But:**

**Romans 10:17** “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine”

## 8. Passion

**For JESUS - and towards people**

**K.I.S.S. = KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID**

**2 Corinthians 11:3** Paul to the Christians at Corinth “I have ESPOUSED you to ONE HUSBAND, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

**(Espoused – like Mary to Joseph – in a binding agreement – an engagement contract – during which it was as if they were actually married – without the physical consummation).**

**2 Corinthians 1:12** “For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.”

**Luke 10:27** “And he answering said, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.’”

**(Also: Matthew 5:43, Matthew 19:19, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Mark 12:33, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14, James 2:8).**

## 9. Petition

**Philippians 4:6** “Be careful for nothing; but in **everything** by prayer and supplication (“asking earnestly or humbly), with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

**1 John 5:14-15** “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

## **10. Plurality**

**Do not self-isolate in terms of standing with other members of the Body of Christ**

### **A three-cord strand not easily broken**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** “And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly (or easily) broken.”

### **2/3 gathered together, there am I in the midst of them.**

**Matthew 18:20** “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

### **Praying in agreement**

**Matthew 18:19** “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”



# Message in a bottle

Author: Bill Partington