

CALLED TO BE
SONS,
NOT
SERVANTS

Called To Be Sons, Not Servants

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P R E F A C E



The messages shared in these pages were spoken in the Summer Camp Meetings in New Delhi in 2015. We experienced a great move of God in those gatherings with signs and the filling of the Holy Spirit in some lives.

We are very thankful to the Lord for the rich word brought to us by the Holy Spirit. We felt a burden to bring these messages to wider circles of the Lord's people, by printing the same. Our great desire, in presenting these thoughts in printed form, is that the Lord may place them into the hands of those whose heart is set upon Christ that He may become their All. We have sought to retain, as much as possible, the original form of the messages - spoken in English - which we ask our readers to bear in mind when certain manner of expressions are used.

The Lord sent the Word and this sums up the impression left on every one who attended the Camp. *His Presence* throughout was the vital feature of each session. Indeed, we are learning, that His Presence is salvation, for His Presence is everything; it certainly constitutes the 'Ecclesia', since without His Presence we have no right to call ourselves the *body of Christ*. It is not the preaching, the teaching, or anything else that may gather under the category of human activity, but it is HE, Himself, Who

brings and supplies all the constituents of a true gathering. Without His Presence, the word and the work are all in vain.

The burden of the Holy Spirit in these end times is that God's remnant may come into the established knowledge of God's purpose and truth. God is not interested in our head knowledge. **A passing acquaintance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and an elementary knowledge of the truth that the majority of believers have today is not enough.** Many do not have a basic understanding of what they have been called for or saved for. The path of God's people is strewn with wreckage of the lives of His people who had once decided to go the whole way with Christ, but subsequently departed from this calling at the cross-roads of suffering, opposition and battles.

The Holy Spirit has revealed God's divine intention in saving our lives. *"For those whom He did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren."* (Romans 8:29). What a divine intention and objective God has in saving and calling us, *"not according our works but according to his own purpose and grace given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began."* (2 Timothy 1:9). *"God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity He restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in Him"* (Romans 8:29) (The Message Bible).

God has His servants all through the ages. This is something that God laid upon my heart. God has angelic

hosts that are perpetually ready to serve the Lord, day and night; then **why did He ever make man? What was man's role in God's divine economy?** May the Lord help us to find answers to these questions! However, the God, who created heaven and earth, had a longing to have a special relationship with man. Man was a thought in God before he was ever created. "Let us make man in our own image and likeness". **Man was never made in the likeness of angels!** We read in the book of Hebrews, "*Are not the angels all ministering spirits(servants)send out in service (of God for the assistance) of those who are to inherit the salvation*" (Heb 1:14) (Amplified Bible)

When God created man, He wanted man NOT to be a servant but to be His son because he had no shortage of servants. In creating man, God's desire was met. It was His holy will, His desire, His longing and His mind to have many sons for Himself.

A servant always does what the master tells, but a son always does the father's will. A master always tells servants what he wants them to do and they do it, but sons will be concerned about what is upon the father's heart being sensitive to his will. **A son is so different from a servant. A son will speak of his father's deep desires and needs.** And a father delights upon what a son does. **A servant works for wages, but a son does not work for wages. Yes, it is the Son who inherits what is of the Father! Glory! Hallelujah!**

As I meditated on this thought, the Lord led me to the Epistle of the Apostle Paul to Philemon. Verses 10 to 20 tell the whole story of this young man Onesimus. He was a servant unto Philemon, but a runaway slave. The Apostle

Paul met him in a jail and he was saved. This wonderful story unfolds the amazing account of man who went away from God and his eventual restoration to God. The whole incident is intensely prophetic and the Holy Spirit has much to speak to us in these end times. A great transformation happened in Onesimus' life that was completely changed; it was turned around to go in a different direction. What a precious picture of God's working!

Onesimus had a relationship with Philemon before, but when he returns it would be so different. **After he returned, he would not be a servant any more.** "Now not as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?" **Beloved, when you come into the Most Holy Place realm, you are not going to be a servant unto Him anymore, but you are going to be a brother unto our Elder Brother and sons unto our Father!** This light into my spirit blessed my heart and liberated my spirit. My prayer is that this may happen to each reader. **When Onesimus returned and was restored back, his glory was that of a son and brother. In other words, Adam never knew the glory to which we shall return. When we are restored back as sons it will not be as the man Adam. Saints, we are members of the body of Christ and I would like to declare that Adam never knew this place in God, where God has brought us!**

I am confident that the Holy Spirit will speak to the hungry heart across every chapter of this book. **I wish to confess with the help of the Holy Spirit, that the spirit of a son cannot be chained to circumstances, trials and sufferings.** You will experience an empowerment when your spiritual eyes are opened to see your calling to be sons! There are

depths here for the Spirit to reveal many things to us.

May this little volume, according to the desire of the Apostle Paul, lead in some measure, "*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints*" Amen!

Joy Thomas

September 2019



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C H A P T E R O N E



BE STRONG IN THE LORD



Enduring Hardships

The Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to the covenant He made with Abraham. When Moses told Israel to leave the land of Egypt, all Israel obeyed the voice of the Lord. They left Egypt immediately with joy in their hearts. The Lord not only performed great miracles in Egypt, but also all the way to the Promised land, even at the Red Sea. As they began to progress in their calling beyond the Red Sea into the wilderness, they felt hungry and thirsty. When their stomachs were pinched with hunger and their natural desires were not met immediately they wanted to retreat to Egypt at once. The immediate situations they faced caused them to prefer the bondage of Pharaoh to the Promised Land

the Lord had given them. How terribly sad this is!

Saints, the hearts of Gods people have not changed over the centuries. As Israel of old many have embraced the joy of salvation after they had left the old ways and received Christ as their Savior. They were liberated from sin and bondage in their lives. They were so glad within, but as they began to face many trials and situations because of this new life in Christ, they began to question their salvation. Their minds began to waiver and wonder whether the old life was not better than their new life! Dear brothers and sisters, I had been in this ministry for several years; I have seen this turn-about happening in many lives. Many start with a great joy, justified by the blood of Christ in faith, but when the going began to be difficult they preferred the bondage of Pharaoh and Egypt to the liberty and the riches in Christ. This has been the history of God's people through the centuries. **When Gods people were brought face to face with trials and situations then they became weary; they began to be tired of the spiritual journey and they chose to refuse to endure Christ in their lives.**

Let me to share about Orpah, from the Book of Ruth, who presents a classic example of such a turning away from the things of God.

Ruth 1:6-10

Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread.

Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went

Be Strong In The Lord

on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

Many, in contemporary Christianity, are like Orpah in the book of Ruth. Orpah said to Naomi along with Ruth that she will go with Naomi for Scripture says “*And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.*” “*They said, “No, we’re going on with you to your people.”*” (from THE MESSAGE Bible”). They both said that they will go with Naomi, but when Orpah came face to face with her problems she said that she would rather go back. Let us read the following verses.

Ruth 1:11-19

But Naomi said, “My daughters, return to your own homes. Why do you want to go with me? I cannot give birth to more sons to give you new husbands; go back, my daughters, to your own homes. I am too old to have another husband. Even if I told myself, ‘I still have hope’ and had another husband tonight, and even if I had more sons, should you wait until they were grown into men? Should you live for so many years without husbands? Don’t do that, my daughters. My life is much too sad for you to share, because the Lord has been against me!” The women cried together out aloud again. Then Orpah

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kissed her mother-in-law Naomi good-bye, but Ruth held on to her tightly.

Naomi said to Ruth, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back to her own people and her own gods. Go back with her."

Ruth Stayed with Naomi while Orpah went back.

But Ruth said, "Don't beg me to leave you or to stop following you. 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.

And where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. I ask the Lord to punish me terribly if I do not keep this promise: Not even death will separate us."

When Naomi saw that Ruth had firmly made up her mind to go with her, she stopped arguing with her (New Century Version).

When Naomi told Orpah of the price she had to pay in going on with her, Orpah really counted the cost and decided to say good bye and kiss her mother in law. There are many believers today who would rather go back than face the hardships of spiritual life. How many Orpahs have parted with Christ and their calling at the cross-roads of suffering and trials! They walk only a short distance with the pure joy of salvation in Christ. They profess the Gospel and call themselves heirs of the blessings and riches in Christ, BUT when they are put to the test, they quickly grow sick of the journey and refuse to endure afflictions for Christ! At the first sign of hardship and suffering they kiss their Savior good bye and leave Him! They turn to tell their leaders that this calling or this journey is too difficult.

Beloved, the reality is that many believers are unwilling

to pay the price of this calling. Remember, if we are moving on to our Promised Land in Christ the only promise we can lay hold of is that He will go before us. That is the only promise He has given to us. **He never said that there will be no trials: He never said that there will be no sufferings: He never said that there will be no battles. He only said that He would be with us.** The Israelites faced many enemies on the way. Though they had left many enemies behind, they came across many more enemies as they moved ahead on the way. They had to face them; all of them had to face the enemies and move on to the Promised Land. The only promise the Lord had given them was that He will go before them.

Knowing The Hope Of Our Calling

The greatest need in our life is to have an established knowledge of Christ, the established knowledge of God's purpose and God's truth in Christ. Many people have only a passing acquaintance with the Lord and His salvation. For example, many believers know Jesus Christ died for their sins and that they have been saved, but they have no desire to know more about the Lord and His full salvation. Many do not have a true understanding of why God had saved them. It is not very clear to them what the hope of their calling is. Their eyes have not been opened. They cannot tell what their salvation is for. They do not know the lively hope unto which they are born again.

1 Peter 1:3-5

*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*

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*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.*

Many believers are ignorant about why they have been saved, to what they have been saved, and what is their lively hope for which they have been born again? **Many believers can seldom give an account of what they hope for, or in whom their hope lies.** Though some of them have heard the truth, they are not serious about it. Some people, though they have heard the truth such as why God saved them, and unto what they have been saved, yet they take it very lightly. **Therefore, they remain unsettled and disturbed in their spiritual lives; they are like weeds in the wind that are always blown away easily, like the loose tiles on a roof top.**

The Apostle Paul says :

*“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,”
(Eph 4:14).*

“We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another.” (New Century Version).

It is sad that there are many believers all around us who are not open to the ministries and the word that would correct them and establish them. Their commitments sad to say, are very weak and frail.

When Satan tempts and buffets us; and temptations washe over us like a tidal wave, it is then that we must cling to God’s word and His truth that we have received. They are a shelter for us in every raging storm. However, we all must

nurture and nourish them in our hearts so that they are readily available for instant use. Saints, this is the reason that there is a great need for us to be established in the knowledge of Christ and His purpose in this hour! It is imperative that our spiritual eyes be opened so that we are established in the word. That was the prayer of the Apostle Paul for the church in Ephesus. He prayed that their eyes may be opened to behold the hope of their calling.

“By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),” (Eph 1:18 AMP)

Are you serious about your salvation? What is your attitude when you hear the word of God? Many brothers and sisters take God-given opportunities very lightly. When God draws them to establish them in the knowledge of the Son through His word, they are not serious. They do not make use of such opportunities as God-ordained times. **Saints, do not wait too long for your boat to sink. Do not wait until the boat springs a leak or wait for a hole or crack to appear. When you are caught in a sudden tempest, a feeble, weak commitment gives little hope. There is but little hope of safety for such ones.** You have to fill or plug those cracks and holes in your life which seem dangerous. The time and opportunity to do that is when the wind is down and the sails are smooth. So do not wait for the trials to come. Many wait for the tests and trials to come; but it will be dangerous for them. Therefore, the most important thing is that we have our hearts set in the right direction and be prepared beforehand. **A holy determination grounded in the word of God will help you to lift up your head like a rock in the midst of the highest waves.**

Four Valuable Lessons

Beloved, as God's army we are not to look for weapons on the day of battle. That is the great mistake Israel committed. We have much to learn from their mistake.

1 Samuel 13:19-22.

Now there was no metal worker to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears.

But each of the Israelites had to go down to the Philistines to get his plowshare, mattock, axe, or sickle sharpened.

And the price for plowshares and mattocks was a pim, and a third of a shekel for axes and for setting goads [with resulting blunt edges on the sickles, mattocks, forks, axes, and goads.]

So on the day of battle neither sword nor spear was found in the hand of any of the men who were with Saul and Jonathan; but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.

(AMP)

It was bad enough that Saul lacked men, but it was even worse that his men were not properly equipped. When the Philistines moved in and subjected the land of Israel to their rule, they deported all the iron-workers so that the Jews could not make weapons or even repair their farm implements. Furthermore, they had to pay exorbitant prices to have even their own implements sharpened. This parenthetical note explains that the Israelites were at a big disadvantage. **In wartime such services were not available, so only Saul and Jonathan had iron weapons.**

The blacksmiths were in captivity. What a scalding sub-

jugation for the Israelites! The Philistines had carried off all the blacksmiths, broken down all the blacksmith's shops, and abolished the blacksmith's trade in the land of Israel. The farmers and the mechanics having nothing to whet up the coulter, and the goad, and the pick-axe, save a simple file, the industry was hindered, and work practically stopped. The great idea of these Philistines was to keep the Israelites disarmed.

The first lesson we learn from this example of the Israelites is - **HOW DANGEROUS IT IS FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALLOW ITS WEAPONS TO STAY IN THE HANDS OF ITS ENEMIES.** We are so insensitive, and therefore, too willing to give up our weapons to the enemy. The prince of this world boasts that he has gobbled up every institution in the world and the young generation through his lies and deceptions. Infidelity is making a mighty attempt to get all our weapons in its hand, and then to keep them. God's people cannot be callous or careless and allow their weapons to go into the hands of the enemy. Many churches do not gather for prayer. In other words, there is no corporate prayer during the week. Everything ends with Sunday worship for two hours. There is no spiritual stamina and willingness in the people for anything beyond one gathering a week. Parents are caught up with the welfare of their children during the week and the weekends. They have to care for their academics and their sports activities. This is the boast that the majority makes all the time; but after a while, when the great battle between sin and righteousness begins they will be like those Israelites, without any swords to fight with, and without any sharpening instruments.

The second lesson we learn is - **WHAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF THE CHURCH'S RESOURCES IS ACTUALLY HIDDEN, AND BURIED, AND UNDEVELOPED.** The Lord spoke to the children of Israel through Moses that the Promised Land is very rich. He said, "thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass" (Deut 8:9). Yet hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of this metal was kept, under the hills. **Well, that is the difficulty with the Church of Jesus Christ at this time. Its spiritual potential is not developed.** The vast majority of Christians in this day are useless and ineffective because they do not know their calling in Christ Jesus. They are not open to see the hope of their calling. **Most of the Lord's battalions belong to the reserve corps because they have very little light about this great salvation.** They have put it off for another time; a time when they will get to heaven. Many soldiers are asleep in the barracks. Much of the metal is under the hills. **Oh, is it not time for the Church to stir up and understand that we want all the energies, all the gifts, and all the wealth enlisted for Christ's sake? Church history tells us that we have had enough retreats in the Church of Christ; it is high time for us to have a glorious advance in these last days.**

The third lesson is - **WHAT A SMALL ALLOWANCE PHILISTINE INIQUITY LEAVES WITH A MAN.** Yes, these Philistines shut up the mines, and then they took the spears and the swords, then they took the blacksmiths, then they took the grindstones, and they took everything but a file. **O, that is the way sin works; it grabs everything. It begins with robbery, and it ends with destruction. It damages every God-given faculty and keeps**

on until the whole nature is gone. The enemy is very subtle.

The fourth lesson is - **WHAT A SAD THING IT IS WHEN THE CHURCH OF GOD LOSES ITS METAL.** These Philistines saw that if they could only get all the metallic weapons out of the hands of the Israelites all would be well, and, therefore, they took the swords and the spears. They did not want them to have a single metallic weapon. **When the metal of the Israelites was gone their strength was gone. This is the trouble with the Church today. It is surrendering its courage: it has not got enough metal.**

Brethren, let us not forget the Philistine strategy. The meticulous move here by the Philistines to leave no smith in Israel to make any arms for their defense, is a normal policy with conquerors, in order to disarm and keep in subjection those whom they have subdued. Our spiritual enemy, represented by these Philistines, never failed to use the same stratagem. The souls which they hold in captivity they first deprive of their arms, and prevent, as much as possible, the use of any weapons which may save them from their tyranny and regain their liberty. These arms are principally the word of God, and prayer, which are not only a light and lantern to our path, but a buckler of defense, and a sword to smite and subdue our enemies. Thus the spirits of error and lies employ their utmost efforts and craft to take away both the knowledge and means of truth.

No army in the world would go forth to procure arms and to train their men in the day of battle. They procure their arms and train their men and remain in readiness at all times. It is sad to make a comparison with the army of God today. How often we hurriedly go to seek for help of prayer in the

time of trials and testing. Most of the time God's people are unprepared for battle against the enemy. They look for weapons in the day of battle.

In some way, the church of Jesus Christ today may resemble Saul's army, but if we do, the fault is our own. Through His great work on the cross, our Lord has defeated every enemy, and His power is available to His people. We have the armor and the weapons we need (Eph 6:10 ff), and His Word tells us all that we need to know about the strategy of the enemy and the resources we have in Christ. All He asks is that we trust Him and obey His Word, and He will help us to win the battle. God is speaking this word to His remnant that He may raise up an army for Himself in these last days to bring to naught every work of Satan.

This is God's word to His remnant, "*Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might*" (Eph 6:10) for "*the battle is the Lord's*" (1 Sam 17:47).



CHAPTER TWO



A MATTER OF THE HEART



The burden of the Holy Spirit in these end-times is that God's remnant may come into the established knowledge of God's purpose and truth. God is not interested in our head knowledge. A passing acquaintance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and an elementary knowledge of the truth that the majority of believers have today, is not enough. Many do not have a basic understanding of what they have been called for or saved for. The path of God's people is strewn with the wreckage of the lives of God's people who had once decided to go the whole way with Christ, but subsequently departed from this calling at the cross-roads of suffering, opposition and battles.

Our spiritual eyes must be opened to see Christ and this calling in and through His word. When Satan tempts and

buffets us; when temptation hampers and even blocks our way like a tidal wave, we must cling to God's truths. We must have them at hand, ready for instant use. I am reminded of an incident from the life of Daniel. In Daniel Chapter 11, verse 32, we read that an angel told Daniel :

"And such as violate the covenant he shall pervert and seduce with flatteries, but the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for God]." (AMP)

"He will flatter and win over those who have violated the covenant. But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him". (NLT)

The Lord spoke to Daniel very clearly of the kind of people who would stand up and be counted for God when they were tempted and persecuted by others. God's word is clear that some believers would be taken by the seducing ways and flatteries of corrupt men while others would fall victims to intimidation and threats. However, the few who were firmly grounded in the tenets of their faith, would do great things for God. Saints, such people would be incorruptible to flatteries. They would not be conquered by the corrupting influence of power, pressure, force and threats because they had been established in the knowledge of God's purpose and truth.

A Matter Of Heart And Not Of Head

Head knowledge of the things of Christ is not enough. Following after Christ and His purpose is primarily a matter of the heart. I had some head knowledge of Christ even before I was born again. I knew who Christ was; I

A Matter Of The Heart

memorized several well-known verses; I was a member of the choir; and I was a youth leader. I knew many things about Christ. When I was yet young I had memorized the verse that taught me that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. But I didn't know the truth and I had not experienced it. However, that very Scripture brought me to the saving knowledge of Christ. How did this happen? It happened because though I had the knowledge of that scripture portion in my head, and sang about Him and prayed to Him, a day came when my heart turned to the Lord. When you believe in the Lord with your heart and repent of your ways and confess your sins then you are saved. This is what happens to anyone who truly turns to Christ. I know many people who having received the Lord Jesus Christ and being baptized thought that they were born-again. However, they were confused about whether they had been truly born-again or not. **It was a matter of whether they were born of the head or the heart. Remember that to be born-again begins with something happening in the heart and it will continue in our spiritual life all the way to the end.** Some have begun wrongly at the very start, having begun with their head. Yet others began in the heart and even grew to knowing the Lord in their hearts but then tragically began to manage things with their head! This is a common error amongst God's people. The knowledge of Christ, and of salvation and God's purpose is more a mental thing than a heart thing.

The apostle Paul says, "But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." (2 Cor 3:15-16). The veil is upon their heart and when 'it' meaning the heart shall turn to the Lord in repentance, the veil shall be stripped or taken away. And look at the prospect

such people have for they will be changed.

"And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit." (AMP) (2 Cor 3:18).

Saints, being part of a good church, where we hear the deeper truths and end-time word of God does not mean that our knowledge is of the heart and that our spiritual eyes have been opened. No, that is not the proof of the removal of the veil upon the heart. When we talk to brothers and sisters, they say, "Brother what do you think? I have been in this church for twenty years, how can you say my knowledge is of my head and not of my heart and that my spiritual eyes have not been opened?" We say, of course, you are the best judge over your life, but what God desires is that our hearts should be set for God at all times. That is very important.

Head knowledge would deprive us of heart knowledge. It is a day of battle between the two. The head cannot win the heart, but it can disillusion the heart with fears and negativism, thus bringing us defeat. The heart, on the other hand, can renew your head and your thoughts and transform your life. It takes a believing heart to win battles. A head that is fully resolved to go on in Christ Jesus will not take us too far in this spiritual life. But a heart that is fully committed will take us all the way in our progression to the Promised Land.

See what the Lord said to Israel of old, the church in the

wilderness in

Heb 3:7-19.

Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The history of Israel and the warning to the New Testament church in Hebrews tells us that unbelief in our

hearts today could incur substantial loss to the church in the end-times. This is what the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthian believers as a warning.

*"The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did - "First the people partied, then they threw a dance." We must not be sexually promiscuous - they paid for that, remember, with twenty-three thousand deaths in one day! We must never try to get Christ to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of poisonous snakes. We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent destroyed them. These are all warning markers - Danger! - in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel - they at the beginning, we at the end - and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence."
(1 Cor 10:6-12) (THE MESSAGE Bible)*

False Motives Corrupt the Heart

A heart with false motives can never take us very far in our spiritual lives. We have to be careful with the condition of our hearts. A heart that harbours false motives is a danger to the church. Look what happened to a family in the early church at Jerusalem as we read in

A Matter Of The Heart

Acts 5:1-11

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

The Lord asked them why this evil thought had entered their heart. "Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let

Satan fill your heart?" (NLT) (Acts 5:3). *The adversary can fill a heart with false motives very easily if our hearts are not single and focused upon the Lord and His purpose.* A heart with false motives will not take us very far in our spiritual journey towards our inheritance. Many have begun well in Christ but later on they deviated and made a ship-wreck of their spiritual lives because their hearts were filled with false motives. If your heart is not fixed upon God's purpose, all your work, your ideas and so called good intentions, will hang loose and be of no use in the day of battle.

A Divided Heart

Beloved saints, God has something very precious and specific for God's people as we progress in this meditation. It is a word that will liberate us, a word that will help us to overcome and a word that will help us to have victory over the self, the world and the enemy. But we have to be a people who are open in our hearts, not with a heart that is false but a heart that is in the right direction of God's purpose. A half-hearted resolve will not venture far for Christ. Such resolves will not help you to press forward in the times of opposition and challenges. I would say to you saints, that a hypocrite may show some strength of spirit temporarily, but will soon give up his pursuit when he is pitched upon his hidden desires or motives. In other words, when that person is called to deny that which his heart has coveted for himself for long, he will turn away. If you are a serious person do not flirt with any of your own desires which are earthly and not heavenly. Resist all those hidden desires and ambitions. They will play the harlot and steal your heart away from your whole-hearted devotion to Christ! The fleshly desires that will try to divide your heart will create havoc and steal

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your heart from God if you try and entertain them. The apostle Paul again warns the Corinthian believers:

“For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But [now] I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”
(2 Cor 11:2-3 AMP).

Paul's fear was that the marriage may ultimately not take place if your heart goes after another man to whom you have not been promised. What a challenge for His people today in these end times. Our hearts have to be single and whole-hearted. **The enemy always finds his way into any heart that is not single or whole-hearted.**

The apostle James writes his letter to all the saints scattered in different places.

“From: James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. To: Jewish Christians scattered everywhere. Greetings! Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” (James 1:1-4 TLB)

Then in Chapter 4 verse 4 he write very strong words of warning to the disciples of Jesus Christ and the church in the first century.

"You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband's enemies. Don't you realize that making friends with God's enemies—the evil pleasures of this world—makes you an enemy of God? (TLB)

*"You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way".
(THE MESSAGE Bible)*

James says "You are like an unfaithful wife" This is directly speaking about the disciples who are divided in their hearts between two persons, denoting Christ and the world or the enemy who rules the world. That's how God looks at the divided heart.

Is your heart divided between the world and the Lord? I have seen many promising brothers and sisters who have gone away from this call. Most of them did not like the warnings or corrections that was brought to them in the love of Christ. They always felt there was nothing wrong with their lives. They had attended every gathering, they were fairly active, and they were counted among the faithful. Their question was what more could they do? They were always seen in the right places, seen doing right things and therefore, they felt that everything was going well with them. Israel left the slavery of Egypt with a very joyful heart after Moses told them the good news, but having a divided heart with false motives and hidden desires, though blessed by the Lord, they could not possess their inheritance. How sad that is!

Setting Our Hearts in the Right Direction

In the Bible there is a man called Jehu. We read about him in 2 Kings Chapter 9 and 10. In the beginning he had a great zeal for the Lord. He was very gutsy and spirited against every form of idolatry. (I would request every reader to read these two chapters before continuing with this meditation.) How courageous and zealous he seemed in the beginning and how the words of prophecy through Elijah were fulfilled. Why, then, did his resolve to honor God fail him before his work was half done? The reason is that his heart was never set on God alone! The very ambition that stirred up his zeal for the Lord at first, in the end quenched and killed it. To begin with, He compromised with evil men to reach his goal. Then when he gained the throne, he dared not to put God's plan into action for fear of provoking those same evil men and thereby losing his kingdom.

*"But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin."
(2 Kings 10:31)*

The life of Jehu is a great warning to us in this hour. In the end, Jehu's heart, when he came to a place of name and fame on the throne, was not single but divided toward the Lord. He had compromised. **He was a man with a great zeal for the Lord, but his heart got divided and his heart was set in a different direction.** May our hearts be set in the right direction and may they not be divided.

If you entertain the desires of the flesh then it will draw your hearts away from the direction of God's will for your life. Let us put our hearts in the right direction. I **am really**

shocked to see how some believers who had begun well and were used of God lost their spiritual sensitivity later. They were zealous and fervent for God but had no idea that something within them was nibbling away the things of the Lord within them. They had no knowledge that something was corrupting their hearts and drawing them away from the Lord inwardly! The heart which was single at one time became divided with dual devotion. The heart of Eve was defiled by the serpent and in the same manner our hearts also can be corrupted by the enemy causing us to lose our desire for single-hearted devotion to God. That is what the Apostle Paul feared about the church in Corinth and his fears were proved to be true by their lives.

Let me say that God is sending this word to us so that our hearts are set in the right direction. If we are not single-hearted in this calling, we are certain to lose our zeal for the Lord. What we need is not head knowledge but heart knowledge. When our hearts will turn to the Lord, the veil upon the heart will be removed and taken away as the Scripture says. It is a matter of our hearts being in the right direction. Let us not have divided hearts with false hopes, fleshly desires and hidden ambitions. When our hearts are single towards the Lord, all that needs to be done in our lives will be done by the Lord.

One of the things we see in the life of Jacob is that Jacob's heart was in the right direction, but his strong flesh was in a wrong direction. (We can study this aspect of Jacob's life in our book, "This Is None Other Than the House of God".) God had to change his self life and work upon it through many situations. God brought about a deep work in his life that turned the strong self in the direction of God's

purpose. God brought him to a place where Jacob wrestled with God and Jacob thereafter could not walk except with a limp. **Jacob could not change himself, but God did that which was impossible with Jacob. We see God's absolute confidence in Himself in saying, "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."** (Gen 28:15) (KJV). This is a Scripture verse that never fails to encourage me each day of my life. God had to do that work in Jacobs's life so that he could say He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God did that which Jacob could not do namely to change his life. God has made a greater covenant in His own blood and spoken a similar word concerning His church, His bride. (Eph 5:26-27). "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish".

Beloved saints, God has confidence in what He has spoken. Halleluiah!! Glory to God! It is His covenant and His word to change us and bring us to the image of His Son! It is God's work to change us for we cannot change ourselves. How often we try to do that in our strength and are left utterly frustrated! God will do that again in His Bride, His remnant church, in these end-times!

God will do that when our hearts are single and set in the right direction. As we saw clearly, when our hearts are set in the right direction then we provide God a ground to

Called To Be Sons, Not Servants

work upon us. And that is what happened to Jacob. We have a God who has brought us into this calling and He works all things after the counsel of His own will. Nothing He does, is done just in a hurry!

Beloved saints, may God help us to set our hearts in the right direction. The yearning of our hearts should be, "Lord I want to know you. My heart yearns for you. I want my heart to be single for you." The greatest desire of the Lord is that our hearts may be single towards the knowledge of our God so that we may be established in His full purpose. Amen!



CHAPTER THREE



DIVINE TIMINGS



Accepting God's Timings

In our previous meditations, the Lord had made it clear that when our hearts are set in the right direction it gives God a good ground to work upon us. And that is what happened to Jacob in his time. Jacob gave God an opportunity to work upon him. We have a God who brought us into this calling and He works all things after the counsel of His own will. He does nothing in a hurry, just for the sake of it. Many a time we hurry to do things, and how we wish that God would also hurry dealing with us, but the reality is that we are often ignorant of the characteristic of our eternal God to work in us according to His own plan and timetable.

Exodus 13:17-22

And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

The Lord's Way Lies Through the Wilderness

There were two ways of travelling from Egypt to Canaan. One took only a few days; the other was much further about, and went through the wilderness; that was the way in which God chose to lead His people, Israel. **Remember, in God's eternal plan, the Egyptians were to be drowned in the Red Sea, but the Israelites were to be humbled and proved in the wilderness. God's way is always the right way, though it often seems unreasonable to the natural man. When we come to the end of our journey we will surely realize that though God**

had not lead us by the shortest way. He had led us by the best way, as He did with the Israelites. Remember that the Philistines were powerful enemies; it was needful that the Israelites were prepared for the forthcoming battles in Canaan. They were prepared by passing them through the trials and difficulties in the wilderness. **Thus, God in His great wisdom apportions His people's trials according to their inherent strength (1Co 10:13).**

The Lord went before the Israelites in a pillar of cloud, by the appearance of the Divine Majesty. Christ was with the church in the wilderness as we read in 1Co 10:9. **Those whom God brings into a wilderness, will not be left or lost there. God will take care to lead them through the wilderness.** It was a matter of great satisfaction to Moses and the pious Israelites that they were being led under Divine guidance. **Dear saints, those who make the glory of God their end, the Word of God their rule, the Spirit of God the guide of their affections, and the providence of God the guide of their affairs, can be sure that the Lord goes before them. They may not be able to see the way with their eyes of the flesh, but by faith they will be able to move on to the end.**

When Israel marched, the Pillar of Cloud went before them, and pointed out the places of their encampment, as God's wisdom saw fit. The Pillar of His presence sheltered them by day from the heat, and gave light by night. **God's children are not to fear darkness or waters that go before them. He is the Light and we are to move on as long as the Pillar of fire goes before us.** We have to move on even though the sea is before us. The Word of God, which our Savior's love has provided us, is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our paths. It testifies of Christ. **He is to us what the Pillar was to**

the Israelites. Listen to that voice which cries, I am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life, (Jn 8:12).

Exodus 14 :1-9

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and
encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea,
over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the
sea.*

*For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are
entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.
And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow
after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and
upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am
the LORD. And they did so.*

*And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled:
and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned
against the people, and they said, Why have we done
this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?
And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with
him:*

*And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the
chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.*

*And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of
Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and
the children of Israel went out with an high hand.*

*But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and
chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and
overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth,
before Baalzephon.*

It was God who directed Israel to Pihahiroth; it was God who directed Pharaoh to pursue after them. Pharaoh would have imagined that all Israel would get entangled in the

land, and so would become an easy prey to his army. But God said, "I will be honoured upon Pharaoh". Pharaoh could think that the Israelites would become confused after being trapped in the land! But, once again, the Lord would harden Pharaoh's heart and he would pursue and chase after the Israelites. The Lord said that He had planned this in order to display His glory to Pharaoh and his whole army. Then the Egyptians would know that He is the Lord! (Exodus 14:3-4 NLT). The Lord says, "I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh". **All men are created for the honour of their Maker. But those who refuse to honour Him, God will be honoured upon by them.**

While Pharaoh gratified his own malice and revenge, he nonetheless furthered God's counsels concerning himself. He let go of Israel reluctantly, but later was angry with himself for doing so. **God makes the envy and rage of men against his people, a torment to themselves.** How great is His wisdom! but Israel missed it all. **Those who set their faces heavenward, and live godly in Christ Jesus, must expect that Satan will bring his temptations and terrors upon them.** He will not shy away from any of his evil devices. **Beloved, in the wisdom of God, what seems to tend to the church's ruin is often overruled to bring about the ruin of the church's enemies for the glory of God!** May this thought deliver us from many fears and apprehensions in our lives!

God had worked out everything for Israel in His eternal plan and by the covenant He had made with Abraham. **However, Israel failed to see that their God, not only proclaimed His plan and purposes through Moses, but also executed every word He had spoken through Moses.** God's great wisdom was at work in keeping them near the Red

Sea. God's wisdom was given to entice Pharaoh, the very enemy of God's people, thus bringing about his total destruction, for the Lord said, "before it shall ye encamp by the sea." The Israelites were marching forward towards their Promised Land, but suddenly they came face to face with the Red Sea, which looked like a great hinderance, and they immediately felt that it would be impossible to move on, but God knew what He was doing..

God's Way is Through the Sea

Exodus 14:10-13

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

The only way open to Israel was the upward way, and thence came their deliverance. We may be proceeding forward in the way of God's calling, following God, and

hastening toward our inheritance, yet we could be troubled on every side. Some Israelites cried out unto the Lord; their fear led them to pray. God brings us into straits, that he may bring us to our knees. Others cried out against Moses; fear set them murmuring as if God were not still able to work miracles. **They quarreled with Moses for bringing them out of Egypt; and were angry with God for the greatest kindness ever done to them; O how gross are the absurdities of unbelief.**

Moses said, Fear ye not (verse 13). It is always our responsibility, when we cannot get out of trouble, to let our fears and troubles quicken our prayers and endeavors. We seldom take a moment to silence our faith and hope. But **“Stand still,”** is God’s word to us. **We are not to save ourselves either by fighting or flying, but wait for God’s orders and observe them.** Saints, let us compose ourselves, by confidence in God, into peaceful thoughts of the great salvation God is about to work for us. **If God brings His people into straits, He will also find a way to bring them out.**

Exodus 14:14-19

And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his

chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

The Israelites cried, “Lord what has happened to us? Did you bring us out in this wilderness to destroy us?” What did the Lord say, “Why are my people crying? Let them go forward.” But the people said, “How are we to go on?” **But the Lord had told them quite clearly that He went before them. “He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”** That is why the Lord told Moses to tell the people to go forward. God was going before them, but when they came to the Red Sea they questioned the God who had said that He would go before them. Moses was told by the Lord to tell the people to go forward because He went before them. God did not give them a GPS navigation map or a road map to go to the Promised Land. God did not give them a way to escape from the Red Sea. **They were not to take a detour to reach the Promised Land, but they were to go through the Red Sea with the Lord going before them.**

Remember, when the Israelites came to the Red Sea they could not go to their left nor to their right. **How often God’s people look for a detour when they face situations, circumstances and trials of faith! I want to tell you saints that when we face circumstances and situations God’s way does not change. It is His predetermined path that we**

should walk in them! That is His will for His church. There is no way we can take a diversion; the way that God has set before us is the way that we are to walk in our daily lives. God is faithful and as long as we do not go someplace outside the Lords will, His power will keep us. God will make a way. He will also make a way, even if that way is in the sea as the psalmist says. That is our way.

We need to remind ourselves that we must keep our hearts in the right direction and that our hearts must not be divided. Many parents have divided hearts that alternate between their children and the Lord. I am seeing this reality with my spiritual as well as my natural eye. The parents had paid a great price for their salvation and had been single in their hearts towards the Lord, but later on their hearts became divided. May we remind ourselves today that God has kept His calling and salvation before us! Let us keep our hearts in the right direction for God is doing things after the counsel of His own will. In all His workings, nothing surprises the Lord. This word must get into us. We need to really make sure that every word becomes a light to our path.

Moses' silent prayer of faith prevailed more with God than Israel's loud outcries of fear. The pillar of cloud and fire came between them and their enemy. This is where they needed guarding; it was a wall between them and their enemies. **The word and providence of God have a black and dark side towards sin and sinners, but it shall be a bright and pleasant side towards the people of the Lord.** He, who divided between light and darkness (Ge 1:4), allotted darkness to the Egyptians, and light to the Israelites. That will be the great difference between the inheritance of the saints in

light, and utter darkness which will be the portion of hypocrites for ever.

God's Appointed Timings

Saints, we have to be sensitive to our Lord. He is working in the depths of our lives. He does all things in His appointed time. That is one thing the Lord wants to bring to our attention. **God has His appointed time for all things.** And as God's remnant in these end times, we must keep our hearts single and in the right direction. Then we shall be established in God's word and purpose. For God does all things after the counsel of His own will. We must never forget this, but always emphasize that His timings are perfect. How often we are not able to understand His timings in our lives? **Remember that God's timings are always related to Gods eternal purpose.**

We have read very clearly in the word of God that of all the trials and difficulties that Joseph went through in his life. God was unfolding His eternal purpose to him. When God gave Joseph a dream and vision it brought a great division and crisis in his family. His problem was not only centered around his brothers, but also with his father. **The vision of God's purpose is something men cannot understand by their reasonings. That is the way it is.** Men with their reason are not able to understand God and His purpose. We can't change that. God had perfect timings in all that He did in the life of Joseph. Save this word in your 'heart drive' and not in your 'head drive'. The Holy Spirit will open that word one day and enlighten you.

God's timings are always related to God's eternal purpose

Divine Timings

in the life of God's people, whether it be the life of Joseph, or Moses or anybody else. God's timings were perfectly brought into the life of the saints of old. God unfolded His purpose in all that happened in the life of Joseph through perfectly instituted timings. As a foundation of these meditations let us know that God is working out all things in our lives according to His perfect timings. We know this to be true in the life of Abraham, though he tried to hurry through what God had for him.

How comforting it is for us to know that this is true for our lives as well, here and now! Even in the life of the Lord Jesus we see that He moved in complete union with the Father. **He not only did His will, but it is encouraging to see that He always moved in relation to the Father's time.** How precious that is! God is bringing us to this thought and understanding that He is doing things and moving in these end times according to His eternal purpose and time. How much He desires His church to know this and move on with Him. **Jesus was not only in Union with the Father, not only did He do the Father's will, but He also moved perfectly in the Father's time.** That is very important. For example, He did not say that He was the prophet and therefore He would prophesy. He did not say, "I am the teacher and therefore I am going to teach." Nicodemus came to Jesus and said that He was the teacher that had come from God. Jesus did not tell him that He was the Teacher. He never did that. In His earthly walk Jesus did only those things which He had received from the Father by the Spirit. He did all things according to God's eternal purpose and according to God's timing. **He was always found in the place where He ought to be according to the Father's time, doing the Father's will in the Father's time.** This is very important

for His bride to remember in the last days.

We know that the church is called to rule and reign with Him. That is the Father's will for us, but we also must know the Father's time. It is very important for us. This is also important for our daily life. Let us not be divided or half-hearted. Let not the desires of the flesh weaken us, but let the word strengthen our spiritual man to be more sensitive to His time and His workings in these end-times.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten us that we may deeply yearn for Him and for His eternal purpose to be fulfilled in His church in these last days!



CHAPTER FOUR



PRECIOUSNESS OF GOD'S TIMINGS



There are several things that the Lord helped us to see in our previous meditation, in preparation of what the Lord has for us in these last days. As we had considered earlier, it's a matter of our hearts being open for the work of the Spirit. Let us pray for our hearts to be in the right direction. God has His appointed time for all things. He is a God who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. The most important things for His remnant, in these days, is that they must be established in God's truth. God wants to speak to our hearts and open our spiritual eyes so that we may be established in His eternal purpose. **The Lord is opening our spiritual eyes to see the truth that God's time is always related to His eternal purpose.**

There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that surprises our

living God. We saw the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord who always moved in union with the Father. He not only did the Father's will but He moved in the Father's time. And we know that we are called to be the church of Jesus Christ so that the Lord will have a glorious bride in these end times

There are many things that God wants His church to come into in these end times. In other words we may say, there are many appointments for His church, and all those things will come to pass as God brings them about. God wants His church to have a greater realm of sensitivity not only about the will and purpose of the Father, but even the times of the Father. **God's people often know what the will of God is, but get discouraged because God's will is not being fulfilled in His church. This is because they don't know and have little understanding of the time of God.** This is the cause of much confusion in the midst of God's people.

The Spirit of Truth

It is pertinent to observe that Jesus Christ was not caught up with a ministry as such, but He was deeply committed to do the Father's will and to always fulfil it and complete it. **And in doing so, He fulfilled a precious ministry.** Jesus Christ did everything according to the will of the Father; He moved perfectly in the spirit of the Father's will. And we see very clearly from His life that He was sensitive to the need for the Father's will to be fulfilled in the Father's time. **The Son moved in the Spirit of truth and when He moved in the Spirit of Truth, He was always found in God's appointed place, doing God's will, in God's time.** Jesus never succumbed to the pressures of the people. This is a very important matter

to consider for God's remnant church in the end-times.

Beloved, God is preparing His church, His remnant people, to move in the Spirit of truth. As we move in the Spirit of truth we would be always there in His time to fulfil His purpose. We know that we are feeble and weak in ourselves, but God is not going to leave us as we are. Let this be registered deep within us. If you know in your heart what God has called you into and your heart maintains that direction, and is not divided, nor half-hearted, then remember that God would bring about changes to move into His conformity.

Remember how God dealt with Jacob of old causing him to walk with a limp! Beloved, God will deal with His remnant church, the army of God, in a similar manner in these end-times. **As a man of God said, "The sign of God's army is that they will march with a limp." God shall touch them; God shall encounter them and bring them under His mighty arm and sovereign lordship in the end-times.** God is going to encounter His church in these end-times and do a precious work upon them. This is the time of God for us. God will do this work in the present times, that is in our times.

Let us note carefully that Jesus never yielded to pressures imposed by others. How often we are subjected to obligations and pressures from others, even our own brothers and sisters! We come under such heavy pressure and often get affected and influenced by them. This is dangerous for us because it could take us out of God's purpose and bring us into a terrible state of a wide wilderness. However, as we progress on, as we determine in ourselves to move forward spiritually, God will bring us into places of deliverance. Let us take the

example from the Son, who always moved in the Spirit of truth and never yielded to or came under obligations from other people, nor was He ever influenced by pressures from other people.

John 7:2-10

Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

For neither did his brethren believe in him.

Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready.

The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.

When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

The above passage of Scripture shows that Jesus would not be pressurized by others. He told His brethren, who urged Him to go down to the Feast of Tabernacles, that His time had not yet come. And He also said that their time was always ready. **Jesus waited for the Father's will and only when the Father's time was right did He move on. He not only moved in the will of the Father but He moved in the appointed time of the Father in His life.** Saints, this is what God wants us to do, as His church, in the end-times. We

Preciousness of God's Timings

cannot hurry God, but we need to be moving in the Spirit of truth. God will do His perfect will for His church in His time!

In the gospel of John, we also see how grieved Martha and Mary were when Lazarus was ill. But Jesus reacted differently, though they loved Him much and He also loved them deeply. Jesus felt at home in their house in Bethany, which He often visited. He always refreshed Himself in this particular home..

John 11:5-6

*Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.
When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode
two days still in the same place where he was.*

Though Jesus loved them, He remained for two days in the same place after He had received news of Lazarus' sickness. He refused to go to Bethany to meet Martha as also Mary though He loved them as well as Lazarus. But that love for them would not pressurize Him to go out of the Father's will. **Jesus refused to immediately go and heal Lazarus though his life was ebbing away. He could have easily sent a word of healing to Lazarus from wherever He was. He could have healed him by a spoken Word. But Jesus moved only by the Spirit and in the will of the Father. He remained where He was till Lazarus had died. This is because God had a purpose in mind and the Son always walked in the way of God's appointed time for Him!**

It is so difficult to understand this aspect of Jesus. He did not move, but He remained in His Father's will, despite His great love for Lazarus. He had to remain where He was though Lazarus was dead. Why was that necessary? Why

had the Son to remain in the place where He was for another two days? The reason is that God had a purpose in mind. The Son moved in the time of the Father because He wanted the time of the Father to be fulfilled.

“When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” (John 11:4)

This was the purpose of the Father for the Son. The Son remained in strong conformity to the will of the Father and moved on only in the perfect time of the Father, because the Father had a purpose in mind for Him.

This may sound very tall and lofty, prompting us to think that we could never come into this realm in our lives. But let me say that this is where God will eventually bring His church to. That is why God wants to come into His temple, or His Church, in these end-times. He wants to perform a work of significance in His people. The Son always walked in this way, the way of His appointed time. These things may seem high and unreachable to God’s people, but the promise of God is that God will cleanse and wash His church.

Beloved, the church of Jesus Christ will move in His time and the church will bear His glory in the end. There is something very precious that God has purposed for His church in the end-time. When we look at the church today we see all kinds of strange occurrences happening. Men in leadership are doing many confusing and detestable things in the name of the Lord. The church of Jesus Christ which is called to be a part of His glorious bride, needs to know that God has His appointed time for her in these end times.

God is going to work in His people and bring them into the fulfilment of His precious purpose in God's time.

God will Arise in His Church

Beloved, God has His appointed time for everything. We have heard that the 'Day of the Lord' is near at hand. That is a day that God has appointed. **It shall be a day of the encounter of a mighty God with men of all nations. It is a day when the nations will tremble before the Lord.** It shall be a great and terrible day when God will confront the nations. **It is a day when God will arise and confront the powers of darkness. However, before the Lord does that He shall first encounter His church.** God will do a work in His own people. God will bring His church into a realm and place of conformity to His will. He will not leave us in the place where we fulfil our own desires and do our own thing. **God will arise and say, "It is enough."** He will say to each one of us, "I have had enough of your self-concerns, my son, my daughter. **He will arise in His church and declare strongly that it was enough and so He will purge His church.** The church will be purged and cleansed of all iniquity. Let me say that the day and the hour is come for the Lord to arise in the midst of His people. He will say, "It is enough". He will cleanse and purify the sons and daughters of Zion. **For too long have the daughters of Zion been like the daughters of Babylon.** A cleansing is going to take place, beloved. God will purify His sons and daughters. **He will remove the tares that are mingled with wheat as well as the chaff of the threshing floor!** God will perform this work in His church in the end-times.

Saints, if our hearts are set in the right direction, God

will arise in our lives in these days. He will say, "It is enough my daughter, my son. My time has come and I must perform that work which I have been longing to perform in the lives of My people". God encountered Jacob in the same way. He met with him in that lonely place and said to him, "It is enough, Jacob. You have done many things but it is enough now." Jacob met with God in that place. So also will God arise to meet His church, God's Israel today. The day is coming when God will encounter the nations. He will encounter the powers of darkness, but before that He will encounter the church. And the question is will our hearts be open to the Lord? **It will be a day when the Lord will arise and consume "the man of sin" out of His Temple, His Church, with Holy fire from heaven.**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

This man of sin that sits in the temple of our lives, the self that sits there ruling our lives, the flesh having its way even in the church, is a reality. But the Lord says that He will remove him from His temple. "And who shall endure the day of His coming?" He shall come as a Purifier; he will sit as a Purifier and He will consume that man of sin, that flesh, that natural man who is in the lives of His people.

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Have you seen the mystery of iniquity how it operates in our own lives? God will deal with that 'Mystery of Iniquity' that exists in our lives. We see that he is there in our lives. **That mystery of iniquity, that lawlessness, the thing the flesh and self wants to do its own thing and does not want to bend to the Lordship of Christ.** It does not want us to give that place to the Lord in our lives. The mystery man of sin is sitting in our lives, ruling our lives, but the day is coming when the Lord will say, "It is enough".

Malachi 3:1-3

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Here the Lord says very clearly that He shall suddenly come into His temple, even the Lord whom you seek and in whom you delight. Saints, what do we seek? We seek His face. And what else do we confess? Lord, we want to know you. Can we be honest about our convictions and confessions? We may sing new songs, good and beautiful songs. **The Lord has heard our songs and prayers. He has heard our sighs and cries. He has heard it and that is what we read in Malachi. The Lord in whom you delight shall come, He shall certainly come.** We sing and confess a song

and the words are “We do not seek Your hand, We only seek Your face, We want to know You, We want to see You; Reveal Your glory in this place.”

Let me ask you, “Do you believe what you confess? How we wish that His glory would fall just like that. But let me tell you saints that God has heard our cry. He has heard our prayers and He will suddenly come in the temple of our lives, into the Body of Christ, into the midst of His people. **The Scripture says “who may abide the day of His coming?”** He is not coming with mere blessings, but with a purifying fire as He has promised in His time. Surely His glory shall fall in this place; it will fall upon our lives. The church of Jesus Christ shall surely bear the glory of the Eternal Son. God’s timings are sure. And we must move in the Spirit of Truth. And we shall be found in the fullness of the truth. Remember, God has a serious word for us. God wants to speak this to us, but who shall abide the day of His coming even to purge His Temple?

The Lord Shall Suddenly Appear in His Temple

John 2:13-17

And the Jews’ passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables;

And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.

And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

The disciples looked at the Master with curiosity and amazement. They had never seen Him like this before. What was He going to do? He stood in the great door of the Temple, feet spread apart, and breathing deeply as He surveyed the scene. He had climbed the steep paths of Mount Moriah with His disciples in great anticipation. They were approaching the House of God, the Temple of the Most High, and the Spirit of God that rested upon Him quickened His pulse as they came near to this great symbolic structure. He had just recently defeated Satan and returned from the wilderness in the power of the Spirit. Water had been turned into wine at Cana, and now it was the time of the Passover, and they had gone to Jerusalem to worship. **The Passover lamb was to be offered, and this time was especially of great significance to Jesus. He had come to the Temple with great expectation in His heart.**

Beloved, what a disappointment it was, as He stood in the doorway and looked around on this scene of confusion. Oxen were bawling, sheep were bleating, some doves had gotten loose and were flying wildly through the temple seeking a way out, and the stench of manure was nauseating. Men were arguing violently over money, tempers were flaring, and hard words were flying back and forth. Here and there pious pilgrims were vainly seeking a quiet place in which to pray. The Temple priests, oblivious to the confusion, were making a great show of religious form in their long robes and broad phylacteries. Proud Pharisees stood where they could be easily seen and loudly prayed their long and eloquent prayers.

Saints, this was the scene that Jesus saw with His own eyes. He looked just outside the door and saw a pile of small cords that had been discarded. Picking them up, He began to braid them into a whip until He had a good-sized scourge. He did not speak to His disciples; in fact, He seemed to have forgotten them. Perhaps, drops of sweat stood out on His forehead. He made a loop at the end of the scourge and looped it around His wrist, took a firm grip on it and stepped forward.

Suddenly He was striding among the sheep and cattle, untying them and shouting at them, wielding the scourge, driving them toward the main entrance of the temple. Each time He passed a cage full of doves, He opened the latch, turned it upside down and let the doves out. Maybe at first the temple merchants did not know what was happening, and then there was complete confusion and chaos. Some ran to try to stop the beasts from running outside, but to no avail. Others finally saw who it was that was causing the commotion, and maybe they ran to stop Him. There was an anointed glow on His face mixed with the dust and sweat as He turned to face them.

They reeled backward several steps in awe and fear as His voice sounded forth with authority: *“Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise!”* With that He began turning over the tables of the moneychangers, and piles of coins both foreign and Jewish began to scatter across the temple floor. As coins began rolling about, the merchants frantically chased them here and there, trying to gather up their profits. The multitudes that gathered began to mock the merchants for going on their hands and knees to pick up their money, and applauded

this courageous young man called Jesus of Nazareth that had done what many knew should have been done much earlier.

Jesus stood on a stairway and said *“My house shall be called a house of prayer”* He said, *“but you have made it a den of thieves!”*, and He looked boldly in the direction of the chief priests at the edge of the crowds. **The temple had never before seen such a day as this. This is so prophetic about His church!**

“The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up!” This word spoken by the Psalmist and quoted again in John 2:17 referred to the Lord Jesus. He was very zealous for the House of the Lord. And why not? **He was the one that God had promised David who would come and build the real Temple of God, the living Temple in which God would dwell.** Therefore, He was zealous also of the temple at Jerusalem, which was a type of that eternal House of God.

One of the important things Jesus did in His life and ministry was the cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem. When He appeared on the scene, things were in an unclean filthy mess at the temple. Devout Jews were coming from many nations to make their offerings to God. The wicked priests with their clever ideas always ready to make a fast profit had the idea of changing the visitors' foreign money into Jewish currency a big gain. Maybe these *“money changers”* told them that God would not accept their foreign money as an offering. Then they began selling doves and oxen to the pilgrims, telling the pilgrims that God would only accept the *“sanctified”* animals bought in the temple for an offering. Thus, the priesthood was making

merchandise of the house of God until it had truly become “*a den of thieves.*” **Saints, how true it is of our times! May the Holy Spirit open your eyes to see the filth and merchandising in the House of God!**

At such a time as this, Jesus made His appearance, and things began to happen! Twice Jesus cleansed the temple, and drove out the animals and money changers. Once in the beginning of his ministry, recorded in John 2:13-17, and again near the close (Mark 11:15, Luke 19:45, Matthew 21:12). **It is interesting to note that He not only drove out those that ‘sold,’ but also those that ‘bought’.** This may seem strange, but beloved, let me warn you that not only the present-day corrupt priesthood, who are making merchandise of God’s people, but also those people who flock to them and give them the support to keep their on going practices, will be driven out of God’s living Temple in the end times. He will cleanse His House of both the sellers and buyers. There can be no sellers if there are no buyers!!

The Apostle John says that Jesus made a scourge of small cords. Thank God for the “small cords” that He is binding together, today, to use as a ministry in His hand to cleanse His Temple. For all that took place at that time is a picture of what God is doing in these last days in the purifying of the House of God.

The Lord Shall Encounter the Nations

The Lord will encounter the world and He will encounter the nations. **He will encounter the wise men of this world and come face to face with the powers of darkness.** But before

that He must encounter His church. **He will arise in His church, not in judgment or condemnation, but He is arising with a purifying fire.** He will arise and say, "It is enough". He adds, "I will come and do that work to fulfil that desire that you have had all these years." He will consume the man of sin that is within you and me. The mystery of iniquity will be removed. We say we do not like sin but we keep doing it. **I want to do Gods will, but I don't know why I am not able to do it. That is the Mystery or secret of Iniquity.** The evil one that prompts the flesh and tries to have the upper hand within us, will be consumed by the Lord at His coming.

Who can abide the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? Let me tell you that His church will stand the day of His coming. The church will stand by His side. The church will abide on the day of His coming. The church will abide on the other side. His people will abide on the day of His coming. Who shall stand on the day of His appearing? The church shall, the church shall stand when He appeareth. He will be like a refiner's fire and a fuller's soap. He will sit. He will take the seat of the man of sin. He will take the seat of the man of sin in the life of the people and the man of sin shall have no place in their lives any more. And He will refine and purify the sons of God. The mystery of iniquity will be consumed in our lives. This is a work that God alone can do. It is not something we can do for ourselves. No one can say, "This is what I am going to do! This is how I am going to do it!" This is that which only God can do and will do. He will consume that man in His church, in His Temple at that time. Who shall abide? Only the church of Jesus Christ can abide that day.

Called To Be Sons, Not Servants

Who shall stand on the day of His appearance when He would come as a refiner's fire? Saints we need to know the day and the time is coming. God's appointed times are here. And if we would know this by the Spirit of truth we would be there with open hearts for His workings!

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying!



CHAPTER FIVE



THE DAY OF GOD'S VENGEANCE



God is speaking to those who are hungry and look to Him to fill their hunger. His word is flowing like a river unto His true remnant in these last days as He has promised. The Lord has spoken many encouraging and enlightening thoughts in our previous meditation. I am sure that God has much to speak to each one of us as we maintain the right posture before Him.

As we have considered previously, God has His appointed time for everything. We have the wonderful example of His Son moving in harmony with the Father's will in the Father's time. The Son has set an example for His church. We have heard about the 'Day of the Lord' that is approaching and is near at hand. It is a day that God has appointed. It shall be a day of an encounter of the mighty

God with men of all nations. It is a day when the nations will tremble before the Lord. It shall be a great and terrible day when God will confront the nations. It is a day when God will arise in confrontation against the powers of darkness. But before the Lord shall do that, He shall first encounter His church and do a work in the lives of His own people. God will first bring His church into that realm and place according to His appointed time.

There is much for His people to learn in these last days from the precious example of the Son. That in which the church has failed in the past, she shall come into in these days. A prepared church is God's own need.

The Acceptable Year of the Lord

Luke 4:17-21

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Here we find a clear example of the Son of Man walking in perfect union with the Father. The portion of the Scripture given to Him was from Isaiah Chapter 61. And the Lord

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opened the chapter at verses one and two. But let us see the sensitivity of the Son in reading these verses.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

“To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;”

He read this portion and as the people waited perhaps for some word of exposition, “He began to say unto them, *“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”* **Please note that He did not complete verse two of Isaiah 61. But He stopped half way up to “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”.** And then He said, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears”. **He did not read “and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;”** **The day of vengeance was yet a future event. They were wonderstruck!**

This is God’s way of “doing the will of God”, of doing what the Father tells us to do. Saints, this also amounts to moving in the Spirit of Truth. If we move in the Spirit, we will always be in God’s time. **What an example the Son has left for the sons!**

The Lord Jesus did not read all those portions of the Scripture that were given to Him. He omitted some portion, as the ‘day of the vengeance of our Lord’, which was yet to come. He knew as He always moved in the Spirit that that time was yet to come. Beloved, for the church today, the day is yet to come and the church will

have to be ready to arise and stand with the Lord to fulfil that word. The day of the vengeance of the nations is yet to come and in that day the church will arise to fulfil the prophecy. The 'day of vengeance' is drawing near, but that will also be a day when God will do a tremendous work in His church. It shall be a day of God's appointment as we read in Isaiah 61:3

“To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

Who will be the people who will mourn on that day? It is the church of Jesus Christ. Who shall abide the day of His appearance? Who shall abide the day of His coming? It is only the church of Jesus Christ. She will be comforted by the Lord. There are those who mourn and weep in Zion. **When God rises in vengeance to encounter the nations, God will comfort those who mourn in Zion. The day of vengeance is a day of comfort for His people.** What an encouragement this is. Who shall stand on the day of vengeance? Who shall stand on the day of His appearance? It will be the church of Jesus Christ. In the day of His appointment the Lord will comfort the church that mourns in Zion.

The Lord Jesus was sent to comfort all who mourn, and those who with mourning, would seek His face for comfort. They do not turn to the world seeking for comfort. Christ not only provides comfort for His Church, and proclaims it, but He applies it to them; by His Spirit He comforts them. **There is enough in Him to comfort all who mourn, whatever be their sore or their sorrow; but this comfort is doubly sure**

to those who mourn in Zion. This comfort is for those who have a godly sorrow, according to God's will, for He has chosen Zion to be His dwelling place. He will surely comfort them who mourn because of Zion's calamities and desolations, who mingle their tears and have a holy sympathy for God's suffering remnant. God has a bottle for such tears (Ps 56:8). God has comfort in store for such mourners.

Zion speaks of a spiritual realm which is a higher realm in God's economy. They are spiritual in nature. Therefore, the mourners in Zion are holy mourners, such as carry their sorrows to the throne of grace (for in Zion was the mercy-seat) and pour them out as Hannah did before the Lord. To such people as these, whom He has appointed by His Word, will He, by His Spirit (v. 3), give such consolations which will not only support them in their sorrows, but turn their sorrows into songs of praise.

“The Beauty for Ashes”

In that day, God will comfort them and give unto them the “beauty for ashes”. When do you get ashes? You get ashes when the purifying fire has worked into your life. Then you will see ashes, and those ashes, the Lord says, will be your conformity to Christ. Those ashes will be turned into the beauty of Christ. He will give unto them beauty for ashes. The Lord wants us to live with the purifying fire in our lives. When God will consume this world with His judgments, we will not fear the consuming fire because we would have learned to live with the purifying fire. The purifying fire is so different from the consuming fire. God's purifying fire will turn the ashes into beauty in our lives.

The Lord says that He will give them, “Beauty for ashes”. Saints, while God’s people lie in ashes, in times of their great mourning, they shall not only be raised out of their dust, but they shall be made to look pleasant. I would further say that the holy cheerfulness of God’s remnant is their beauty and a great ornament to their life and testimony. It is so elegant in the original, like a paronomasia (a play of words). The Lord will give them “pbeer” —beauty, for “epher” —ashes. They spell so close and they also sound very close. **This would mean He will turn their sorrow into joy as quickly and as easily as you can transpose a letter; for He speaks, and it is done.**

He will give us *“beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;”* **The oil of joy, is that which causes the face to shine instead of mourn, which disfigures the countenance and makes it unlovely. True saints have this oil of joy from that oil of gladness with which Christ himself was anointed above His fellows as we read in Heb 1:9.**

Have you experienced heaviness in your heart? God’s people are often weighed down by the situations in their lives and experience heaviness in their spirit. We have to give ourselves to God and His purpose. The Lord says that in that day, when He shall appear, it will be a day of vengeance, a day of mourning but He will clothe us with praises in our lives. **We are God’s people and His children, but we often have this burden of heaviness because we have given ourselves to God and His purpose. The garments of praise are such beautiful garments as were worn on special times of great joy and celebration, instead of the spirit of heaviness, dimness, or contraction. It shall be a time of open**

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joys for secret mourning. In other words, they keep the spirit of heaviness to themselves (Zion's mourners weep in secret); but the joy they are recompensed with, they are clothed with as with a garment in the eyes of others. Beloved, when God gives the oil of joy he gives the garment of praise. Those comforts which come from God enlarge our hearts in thanksgivings to God. Whenever we have the joy of the Lord we must also have the praise and glory of God.

“And they shall be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” He is to be a planter; for the church is God's husbandry. Therefore, He will do all this for His people; He will cure their wounds, release them out of bondage, and comfort them in their sorrows. He will do this so that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, and that they may be such, and be acknowledged to be such. He will do this so that they may be ornaments in God's vineyard and may be fruitful in the fruits of righteousness, as the branches of God's planting. “Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified (Isaiah 60:21).

All that Christ does for us is done to conform us to His image and for the purpose that we may be unto Him as living trees, planted in the house of the Lord, and flourishing in the courts of our God; and all this that He may be glorified—that we may be brought to glorify Him. Jesus said *“Herein is our Father glorified, that we bring forth much fruit...”* (John 15:8). Surely God's grace is working in the lives of His people so that He may forever be glorified in His saints.

God's Economy

Jesus read Isaiah 61 and in the middle of verse two He stopped and closed the book because the day of vengeance was yet to come. Let me say that day is very close. It is very difficult at times for the natural man to understand this. The day of the Lord is the day of His vengeance, but it is a day that the Lord will comfort His people. Don't forget that though many things are going to happen in the natural the scripture says that they who mourn will see a mighty working of God in His people as well as a time of God's awful judgments in the day of the Lord. The Scripture says that it will be a day of darkness and also a day of light. No doubt, this can be seen in types and shadows in the Old Testament

We know that when Egypt lay in darkness the land of Goshen, where God's people dwelt, there was light. The Scripture says in Exodus 10:22-23, *"And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings."* We glory in the fact that our God is our Creator. He can do things which go beyond man's meagre knowledge and understanding. Think of it in this way! Imagine that in this state of Delhi where we live, there is total darkness, but in Mahavir Enclave, one tiny, small colony of Delhi, in which we dwell with our families, there is abundant light. Would this not seem absolutely incredulous? The wise people of the world would never be able to understand why and how such a thing can ever happen. That is why the Lord says in

The Day Of God's Vengeance

1 Corinthians 1:19-21

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Beloved, man cannot know God's ways by his own wisdom. God did not give man the intellect to know God, but God gave man the spirit to know Him, because God is Spirit (John 4:24). Great intellectual men say, "Oh God, leave it to me. I'll work it out." However it is only a humble man who profoundly bows to say, "Oh, God reveal yourself to me! Open my eyes that I may know who You are." This contrast is vast and incredible!

Isaiah 60:1 -2

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

The 'day of the Lord' is going to be a day of darkness, but also a day of light for God's people. God will arise in His church; He will do a work in His people; He will comfort those who are in Zion. He will give "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness," that He might be glorified. Beloved, the day of vengeance is not a distant day but a day that is here. In

that day when He shall arise in His vengeance, God will have a people unto Himself. Who can understand this?

It will be terrible in that dark day.

Luke 21:25-29

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.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

The day of God's vengeance is the day of full salvation, a day which is drawing nigh to His people. On this day, there shall be darkness over the earth and gross darkness over the earthly people. However, it will be the day when God will comfort those who mourn in Zion, a day to lift up our heads. **While all the people of the earth, including all the wise and powerful men, will put their heads down, to seek a way of escape, (which they will never find), the people of God will lift up their heads and see Him.** Everything in the earth will be shaken; the powers of the earth shall be shaken; the earthly systems will be shaken; and the financial systems will be shaken. As the Scripture says, God will shake the heavens and the earth.

God will Encounter His Church

We are a witness to the fact that God is shaking the earth. **The shakings of God on this earth will shake the social systems, the financial systems and every other system of man. The heads of nations will try to come together to solve the problems by their own collective wisdom, but every way, every attempt will end in total failure.** Scientists from every field will try to find an answer. They will theorize, they will hypothesize, and they will pool their knowledge, but nothing will be successful. This will be the sign of the end-times. **God will arise and He will encounter the nations. But before that happens, God will arise and encounter His church and purify her so that He would have a vessel for His vengeance upon this earth.**

Haggai 2:6-7

*For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.*

The day of God's shakings will be the day that God will fill His house with His glory. When He will shake all the nations, people will have no idea what is to be done. The hearts of men will shake with fear. *"People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken (Luke 21:26, NLT)." "People will be so afraid they will faint, wondering what is happening to the world, because the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (NCV)."*

Saints, these shakings have just begun. This is not the

end, but the beginning of the end! What is the word for you and me from Haggai the prophet?

Haggai 2:5

According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

I made a promise to you when you came out of Egypt, and my Spirit is still with you. So don't be afraid.'
(NCV)

"According to the promise that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit stands and abides in the midst of you; fear not. (AMP)"

The word of the Lord to the church of Jesus Christ is that His Spirit will be with them in the days of His judgements and shakings. As we all know, for Israel, coming out of Egypt was a divine appointment. Even so it is with the church. The Lord shall bring her out of bondage and her captivity, according to His divine appointment. The Lord will bring her out, for that is His covenant and appointment for them. The coming out of every slavery and bondage is an appointment of God. We will experience the same in our life if we are part of His church, where He is actively working. It is a promise made to a corporate body of people rather than to an individual. That is the reason why it is so important to be a part of a functioning, organic body of Christ which is moving on in His purpose.

This is NO Laughing Matter

It is so unfortunate that many believers today are given to "iniquity" of their soul-man (doing their own thing) and they are not willing to be built-up together with a living

The Day Of God's Vengeance

body of believers. They refuse to practically accept the work of the cross in their lives, by being in a local church. **Some of them may preach and even talk about the cross and the way of the cross, but they look upon the cross only as a doctrinal answer. Though some saints appreciate and relish the truth of the body of Christ, they, however, deny the true application and working of the cross to build them into a body by bringing down every middle wall of separation and enmity in the flesh as mentioned in Ephesians 2:14-16. Therefore, saints, make sure that you do not leave a living and functioning church to which you have been added by the Holy Spirit, because God has an appointment with His church. The church has been predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son. The nation of Israel was predestined to possess the land of promise, but failed. Therefore, it is very important for you and me to be part of a local church. That is God's economy for all of us.**

Some of us, who have read of these things, may laugh like Sarah of old, but the word of God is true and is sure. To the 'Sarahs' of the present times, let us say that you cannot stop the power of God working in you! God will fulfil what He has promised and covenanted. Gen 21:1-3, *"And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac."* **"THE LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for her as He had promised. For Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time God had told him. Abraham named his son whom Sarah bore to him Isaac [laughter]. (AMP)". The Lord visited as He had said, and He did unto her as He had spoken.**

Sarah conceived and brought forth a son at the set time God had said. Halleluiah!! It shall be so with the church of Jesus Christ for He said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

God told His people not to fear for He was going to shake the heavens and the earth. That is only the beginning. The Lord said He will shake the heavens and the earth. Saints, we have only seen the earth being shaken and some earthquakes have caused untold damage and destruction. People are trying to work out how to escape when the earth is shaken. When earthquakes happen, people run helter-skelter find open spaces to save themselves but if the Lord shakes the heavens and the earth where will people go? There will be no place to hide, no place of safety, and no place of protection or security. The Bible says that God has put all things in the space (heavens and earth) by the word of His mouth.

Genesis 1:14-18

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

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Job 9:5-9

*Which removeth the mountains, and they know not:
which overturneth them in his anger.*

*Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars
thereof tremble.*

*Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and
sealeth up the stars.*

*Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth
upon the waves of the sea.*

*Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the
chambers of the south.*

*“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and
hangeeth the earth upon nothing.” (Job 26:7)*

*“I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even
my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their
host have I commanded” (Isa 45:12)*

It is very clear from the word that it is the Lord who is holding the heavens and the earth (suspended on nothing). And when the Lord fulfils His word it will all come down. What will the scientists do? The Lord will shake the heavens as the word of God says. Where will man hide himself? Men's hearts shall surely fail, but the word of the Lord to His church is to “fear not”. He has not only covenanted to bring us out, but He has covenanted to take us into the Promised Land as well.

Heb 12:26-27

*Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath
promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth
only, but also heaven.*

And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of

*those things that are shaken, as of things that are made,
that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

He will shake the heavens and He will shake the earth in order to secure those things which cannot be shaken, that they may remain. **Beloved, the one thing and the only thing, that will remain unshakeable is the Kingdom of God and the church of Jesus Christ.** That is why we need to allow the purifying fire to fall upon us in these days.

“God is a Consuming Fire”

The fire of God is a purifying fire; but the ‘consuming fire’ is a fire of judgement. The purifying fire is for God to give us beauty for ashes. It is a work that God wants to perform in His people so that all things in us will appear unto His glory in the end. That is why we must allow the fire of the word of God to carry out a purifying work in our lives in these days.

Hebrews 12:28-29

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

For our God is a consuming fire.

So, God’s remnant should listen and grasp very acutely what the Holy Spirit is saying to His church in this hour. When all these things happen in the heavens and the earth, the Lord says, fear not, church of Jesus Christ for thy salvation is drawing near. The Lord is going to appear to His people. It will be a day of light. But we need to have one thing. We are not to fear but we must have the fear of the Lord in our lives.

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God's people must serve the Lord acceptably with reverence and godly fear. We are not to have the fear that the people of the world would have, but we are to have a godly fear. Let me quote Hebrew 12:28-29, from The Message Bible,

"Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. 29 He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. God himself is Fire!"

I believe that God is preparing His church. He is preparing a people once again, causing them to seek His face. God will arise and He will say, "It is enough; it is enough; I will come into my temple." The day of encounter for us is at hand, beloved sons of God. These are the days He will purify the sons of Levi!

God is jealous over His people and so He will come to us. Who shall stand on the day of His appearing? Who shall abide the day of His coming? Praise the Lord that the true remnant of His people will surely abide and stand on that day. Beloved, if you are open to His word you will be found standing on His word on that appointed day for His people.

The hearts of men are failing. God is shaking the social, religious, and economical systems of man. He is already shaking the earth, and He will soon shake the heavens as well. Man's wisdom will never be able to cope up with things that are going to happen in the days ahead. God will comfort

those who mourn in Zion today. What a consolation that is? He will give us a song in our hearts for every heaviness in the spirit. We will sing, as it were, a new song of victory.

Beloved saints, our need is to exercise ourselves with spiritual wisdom and not the wisdom of this world. God wants us to walk circumspectly in these last days. *“Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.”* (Ephesians 5:15-17 AMP).

May the Holy Spirit quicken our hearts with these thoughts!



CHAPTER SIX



SIGNS AND WONDERS ON THE EARTH



We rejoice that the Holy Spirit is leading and ministering to God's remnant in a special way in these days. We thank the Lord for the liberty with which the Spirit is working in the hearts of those who are open to the Lord. God wants us to be a people who have set our hearts in the right direction. Let our hearts be open to God, His Holy Spirit and His word. God, in His kindness, is speaking so that our hearts may grow in fullness by His grace. God in His mercy has brought us out of Egypt and He has made a covenant to bring us into the land of Promise. He will work out all things according to His own plans, in His own appointed times. We are not to be a people of unbelief; we are not to be a people with divided hearts, nor be given to the desires of the flesh, for all these can take us away from the fulfilment of His purpose.

The Day of the Lord is drawing nigh as we all know. God is preparing His church to be His peculiar vessel and instrument to bring forth His judgments. His church is to be His accurate measuring rod to bring about His judgements in the earth. Therefore, it is so necessary for the Lord to take His church through His dealings and workings in preparation of His purpose. God will meet with the forces of darkness face to face in His time, but first He must arise in His church. God is preparing His church to this end in this hour. He is presently engaged in doing this precious work. As we have seen in our meditation, we must move in the spirit of truth in our lives so that in that Day of the Lord we would be found in Him and with Him.

The Covenant of Glory

The book of Malachi and Chapter 21 of the Gospel of Luke, have many prophetic expressions about the end-time church and about the things that God would do in and through her. Beloved, we must believe that the Lord wants to reveal His mind to us. He wants our eyes to be opened. He wants our hearts to be turned to the Lord so that the veil that covers our eyes and hearts could be taken away. Let us, therefore, hear the voice of the Spirit very carefully. God will not alter what He has purposed in His heart from the beginning. He will stand by the covenant He has made with His people. This is something that He has purposed in Himself. He cannot turn away from that.

We know that the New Covenant is something He has signed in His own blood. Hence it can never be altered. Let this be as an anchor to our hearts. **Saints, the New Covenant is a covenant of glory and we should always remind**

ourselves of this. The covenants of God shine like jewels even in the Old Testament times. There are many wonderful examples of the covenant He had made with Old Testament saints. We read of the distinctive appointments that men of old had with their God in Old Testament times. And remember Saints, God has made His own appointments with New Covenant people, His church, as well. Many times, we dismiss God's appointments with the saints of the New Covenant by thinking that such appointments were only made in the Old Testament times. We reject them, saying that they were only for that dispensation and not for our times. Let me assure you that, God has His appointed times even in the New Covenant as well. Often, we think that the visitations we read about in the Old Testament are not for us in the New Covenant. But it is not so, for we know that the New Covenant is BETTER than the former one. It is better and let there be no doubt on that score. If the Old Covenant people knew that it was immensely important for them to have an experience of the visitation of God that would bind their relationship with God, then how much more is it needful for His church in the end-time. To experience His appointed times in our days when He is fulfilling His promises is our unique privilege.

As regards the appointments of God, you know very well that the Holy Spirit was poured out on all those who gathered at the Upper Room (Acts 2:1-4). That was an appointment that God had with His people in the New Covenant. But remember, God's appointment with His church has not ceased with the Day of Pentecost. His appointments with His people have not ended. There is yet another appointment that is to be fulfilled in His Church which is known as the Feast of Tabernacles. (I would recommend

the book, “The Destiny of the Church” to get a fuller understanding of this truth.) Those who believed and waited for the Feast of Pentecost experienced its reality in their lives. Though there were five hundred who heard the Lord Jesus urging them to wait for the promise of the Father in Jerusalem (Acts 1:8), only a few took it to heart. The three hundred and eighty unbelieving - the majority of people to whom he appeared after His resurrection, had no heart to wait for the day of appointment or the day the Father hath appointed for His people. However, the humble and believing disciples, including the apostles received the power of the Holy Spirit as promised. **Truly, a humble and believing remnant of God will surely come into all that the Father has appointed for them in His great redemptive plan.**

In the book of Hebrews, the author proclaims that we have something better than the Law of Moses. He brings us to a place where we are able to see that whatever we find in the New Testament is the ultimate truth for believers. This is well reflected in the letter to the Hebrew Christians. The book of Hebrews talks of a better covenant, a better sacrifice, a better priesthood, and a better country. Everything is better in the New Covenant. Yet we do not yet see an excitement, enthusiasm and exhilaration for God, reflected in the hearts of God’s people. The writer of the book concludes by remarking, “*And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*” (Heb 11:39-40). Another Bible version says, “*All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.*” They could not enter in with

“all that God had promised” because they were all kept for God’s people in the New Covenant. Halleluiah!

Our spiritual eyes need to be enlightened to this truth. O how much our eyes need to be enlightened to what God has spoken in the New Covenant. Today in the Evangelical world, the Pentecostal and the Charismatic world, everything is limited to some foundational teaching and many activities unto the Lord. For instance, they limit this great salvation to merely going to heaven. Many do not have the light that they have been saved and called with a Holy calling according of God’s eternal purpose (1 Tim 1:9). May God apprehend our lives and enlighten our spiritual eyes!

God Looks For Inward Changes

There is no doubt that the New Covenant is a covenant of glory, but what is the nature of that glory? The Apostle Paul says in the book of 2 Corinthians that what believers need is not mere head knowledge and mental agreement, but heart knowledge so that our spiritual eyes (the eyes of our heart) may be opened. The Apostle tells the believers in Corinth, who were not able to understand the purpose of their salvation that their eyes needed to be reopened. They were languishing in the realm of their carnality though they had been born-again, baptized in water, baptized in the Holy Spirit and had the gifts of the Spirit. They had not yet apprehended what the Lord had saved them and apprehended them for. They were at such a low spiritual level that Paul could not even tell them of the most important and deeper things pertaining to their salvation. He wrote to them,

Called To Be Sons, Not Servants

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

Beloved, it is necessary to realize that in this day and age, we can also be found in that very same carnal realm as the Corinthian believers, though we are saved, baptised, filled with the Holy Spirit and have the gifts of the Spirit. If we are not open in our hearts to the Lord, we also would lose all that the Lord has for us. O how significant this is for our spiritual lives! My prayer for those of us, who are still lingering in that realm of spiritual infancy, is that the Lord would open their spiritual eyes, so that they may see the glory of this great salvation in Christ Jesus. As the Scripture says,

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:7-10).

The glory that Moses had after meeting the Lord on the Mount was a temporary glory that was destined to fade away. But the ministration of the Spirit in the New Covenant to God’s people is much more glorious. The Apostle Paul

explains that our calling in Christ is far more glorious. It is better, and higher and more glorious. It will revolutionize our lives if our spiritual eyes are truly opened.

“Now if the dispensation of death engraved in letters on stone [the ministration of the Law], was inaugurated with such glory and splendor that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [a glory] that was to fade and pass away, Why should not the dispensation of the Spirit [this spiritual ministry whose task it is to cause men to obtain and be governed by the Holy Spirit] be attended with much greater and more splendid glory?” (2 Corinthians 3:7-8 AMP)

Beloved, we are living in the digital age and many things can be done through the use of ‘smart phones’ or smarter computers. Software such as ‘Photoshop’, can easily alter the photographic appearance of a person to make him or her more handsome or beautiful than they actually are. The portrait of a person can easily be “managed” or ‘air brushed’ by the genius or photographic software, **but when it comes to spiritual things, God looks for inward changes. He is not looking for outward temporal changes in us. We are not ‘photo-shop’ sons of God. God is not trying to change us by the use of some modern technique that will make us look ‘good temporarily’, while the realities are far from what appears to be, when He shall come back again. God is not trying to produce a ‘photo-shop’ bride for His Son!**

God is doing a great and permanent work in the inner life of His chosen, elected, redeemed people. We need to realize that on that Day we shall be fully and completely changed and appear as God has desired of us. *“Beloved,*

now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3).

The Corinthian believers who were born again, baptized and spirit-filled did not have hearts that were open for the word of God. What a tragedy it is that the church at Corinth could not accept the counsel of the apostle Paul who said:

“Indeed, in view of this fact, what once had splendor [the glory of the Law in the face of Moses] has come to have no splendor at all, because of the overwhelming glory that exceeds and excels it [the glory of the Gospel in the face of Jesus Christ].” (2 Corinthians 3:10 AMP)

This was Paul’s conclusive statement regarding the glory that was manifest in the Old Testament. For if that which was done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Another translation says, “*for even that which was made glorious will not glory in this respect by reason that glory that excelleth.*” (KJV). May God help us to see this by the Spirit! Though the apostle Paul talked about this gracious calling in the life of the saints they had a limited openness to that truth in their lives.

Note carefully that the ministration of the Spirit is much more glorious than the ministration of the Law? It is far more glorious than that which is seen in the Old Covenant. This is the precious covenant that God has made with mankind in and through the cruel death of His only begotten Son. God is not doing some outward temporary, patchwork upon us. **God is not performing ‘cosmetic’**

changes in His people. He is changing us inwardly so that we shall be transformed into His likeness and the conformity of His Son. Today a large section of God's people, who have been saved and baptized, are caught up in the realm of "service" unto the Lord and are not bothered about inward changes of character. Their hearts are not open to the work of the Spirit within their lives that would bring them to the new level or place of spiritual glory. **The Lord has promised all those in the New Covenant that the covenant of glory shall not be done away. It shall be a glory that shall not fade away.** Paul, impelled by the Holy Spirit, moves on further to say that the glory of the New Covenant goes from glory to glory. Hallelujah! *"Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor 3:16,18).* **While the Old Covenant glory faded away, the New Covenant increases from glory to glory!** May God open our eyes! Beloved, we are being worked upon by the Spirit into glorious heights.

God Will Have Many True Sons

Let me say again, that God will arise in His church and He will say, "It is enough"; the Lord whom you see shall come into His temple and He will confront His church. This is God's appointment with His church. In these end-times, God has an appointment with His church. Saints, surely God has greater things, far greater and better things for His New Covenant people. **I am confident that in these end-times God will perform wondrous things through His people who seek Him and walk with Him. They will be known as walking signs of the Mighty God they serve!**

There are many prophetic expressions of God's desire in this regard, which we cannot go into in any depths at this stage. However, I wish to share one of the expressions from Hebrews Chapter 2 and verse 13, *"And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me."*

*Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.
(Isa 8:18)*

The people whom the Father hath given to Jesus Christ, the Son, are "for signs and wonders" in the earth! That is what the Scriptures say. The Apostle Paul brings it from Isaiah 8 and quotes it, "...are for signs and for wonders in Israel ..." in Hebrews 2:13. This talks about the New Covenant people whom the Father hath given to the Son who are for signs and wonders in the earth. Hallelujah!

Saints, this is the calling of the New Covenant people. And let me say that the church will move into that realm as we come to the end-times. There will be a people who will be signs and wonders because of their very lives, and works they will perform, and the wonders they will do in the earth. That was so true in a sense in the days of Noah. The lives of Noah and his family and the works that they did were a sign and a wonder in the earth at that time. As we read in Hebrews, *"It was by faith that Noah heard God's warnings about things he could not yet see. He obeyed God and built a large boat to save his family. By his faith, Noah showed that the world was wrong, and he became one of those who are made right with God through faith."* (Hebrew 11:7)(NCV). This is the calling of the church. God has a son in Jesus Christ

and the Son has sons of God and they are to be sign and a wonder in the earth in the end-times, just as Jesus was in His time. This is the calling of this church. This is what we are called to be in these end-times.

When we think about a 'glorious church without spot, wrinkle or any blemish', many believers would say, "Well, I know God has said He would have a glorious church without spot and wrinkle or blemish, but it cannot happen till we get to heaven". The majority of God's people are waiting for 'the rapture' to bring the church to that place! No one, neither the leaders nor the saints, wants to take the responsibility of living a Christ-like life! May we listen to the travail of the Spirit in this hour in the midst of decline and departure of the church. There is a Laodicean spirit working in the lives of God's people! **Not even the leader or the leaders ever knew their true condition! O that some would hear the knock of God at the door of His church in this hour and open the door for the Lord! I am sure, some saints are hearing the knock at the door by the Hand of God (the five-fold ministry) to enter-in again and bring His remnant to the full stature of Christ Jesus and eventually to His very throne! (Rev 3:21).**

Beloved, let us get things straightened out! Jesus came from heaven to the earth to bring about and fulfil what the Father had purposed in His people in the earth. God is not going to take His church to heaven when the Father's purpose on the earth is yet to be fulfilled. The belief of people who have not got it right is that - that is God's responsibility and not ours. They do not want to own up to any responsibility. **They do not want to be changed; they do not want to give up their own ways; they will not bend their minds**

to God's ways; but they want God to change them at the last moment as and when they are raptured. They totally ignore the counsel of John, the apostle, "*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*" The apostle Paul says, "*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*" (Titus 2:11-13). O the blindness, O the deception!

The question that we need to ask ourselves is, why did Jesus come down from heaven to the earth? **It was to show us the way. It was to show us the Father. It was to show us how to live a life that is pleasing to the Father. He came to show us the way to become like the Son who had always put the Father first.** But the evangelicals, the Pentecostal and the Charismatics insist that Jesus came down from heaven to the earth to show us the way to heaven. **Beloved, He came from heaven to the earth to show us what is upon the heart of the Father, to show us that the Father delights in making us like His Son.** Let us take note of the fact that God did not create man in heaven and then place him on the earth. **No, God created man on the earth. He made man in His likeness and placed him here, upon the earth. And God's desire was that Adam and Eve, who were created by Him, would reign upon the earth. Beloved, if man fell into sin here, on the earth, and if man's redemption is to take place here, upon the earth, then man's full restoration and fulfilment of all that God purposed for man before He created man shall also be here on the earth. The fullness of all that God wants from man will also be here upon the earth. God's restoration of all things will take effect, here, on the earth,**

for Jesus came from heaven to the earth to bring about all that the Father had purposed for man. May God open our spiritual eyes to this truth!

Saints, what we need is not a mental understanding, but a heart understanding of these things; we very much need a spiritual enlightenment of His Word. What we read in Isaiah 8 is that the Lord hath given 'me' sons and daughters for a sign. In other words, God has given sons and daughters unto the Son, Jesus Christ. And, hallelujah, they shall be for a sign and a wonder upon this earth. **They are those who are born of the same Spirit by which Jesus was born.** When Mary asked how shall it be, *“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”* (Luke 1:35). **And remember that we are also born again of the same Holy Spirit.** Hallelujah! Unfortunately, many believers do not realize that they have been born-again by the same Spirit as Jesus was born.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

This is very important and very foundational. Beloved, this truth must be laid strongly in the life of every disciple of Jesus Christ. We are born of God. This is where the true Christian faith is different from all other faiths. Many people think they become Christians when they are baptized but that is not correct. The church where I grew up believed

that the baptism that I had as an infant or as a little child, by the sprinkling of water, (when the sign of the cross was made upon me using holy water by the priest) made me the Christian that I am today. That belief of traditional Christianity is not true and is not grounded in the Word of God. Many believers do not have a sound understanding about their foundations and therefore, they believe that they became Christians on the day they were baptized in water by immersion. **Note carefully, therefore that we do not become Christians by water baptism because we are baptized, but because we are born from above.**

In order to convert people to their own faith or religion, people of this world will give you their holy book to read and instruct you to obey or comply with it. The day you agree to their 'beliefs' and obey their instructions, you are considered to be a part of their faith. The Christian faith is unique in this regard. This is not the way of the Christian faith and life. A person cannot be taught Christianity. No one can be instructed to become a Christian. A true Christian is born of God. He is born from above! That is why Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again". *Jesus told him, "I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God. (John 3:3). Marvel not [do not be surprised, astonished] at My telling you, You must all be born anew (from above) (John 3:7)(AMP).* That is what the Bible says about becoming a Christian. This is where many Christian believers have foundational problems. If we were to ask them when they were born-again, or when they were saved, or when they had received Christ into their life, they will always talk of their baptism. They will reply that they were baptized

on such and such date. Baptism does not make anyone a true Christian. Every true Christian has to be born-again. He has to be born from above! Marvel not, but this is the naked truth!

The works of man can never make anyone a true Christian. Nor can baptism do this. Why did John the Baptist say, *“O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?..... Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”* (Matt 3:8-9). *“Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.”* (NLT version). The people of his time flocked to John the Baptist thinking that all they needed to do or observe to become Christians was to be baptized. But John the Baptist had otherwise to say. Those people, who were prepared to undergo baptism by his hand were definitely more religious and open hearted than thousands of others who were busy with their religious activities in Jerusalem. They said to John, *“We are are willing to go through baptism, if it is just a matter of a baptism, John.”* That was their attitude. But God desired that they should turn to God from their hearts in repentance. God wanted a work to be done in their hearts, rather than mere procedure of baptism in Jordan. John by the Holy Spirit knew the attitude of their hearts and he cried out to them not to be like vipers. Today also, many people desire to be baptized in water thinking that that is what God wants them to do to become Christians. But they need to know that a true Christian is born from above through repentance. This is the reality. A true Christian is a child of God born not of the blood, nor of the will of man, but of God. Amen.

Was that the way Jesus was born? He was born, not of

the will of the flesh, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God. May God open your eyes! This is the clear teaching of the Word. Our natural minds find it difficult to understand what God is saying. Nicodemus had problem to accept what Jesus said because of the condition of his natural mind. The Scripture says that the natural (carnal) mind is hostile to God. *“For the sinful nature is always hostile to God.”* (Rom 8:7) (NLT).

During the Delhi Youth Camp we heard that when God revealed His plan to Joseph, his brothers misunderstood him. Joseph’s father also did not believe this. God’s wisdom is always rejected by man. That is the way the vision of God’s purpose is always treated by people. It is rejected because of their natural mind. And God, in His own wisdom, does not always make it easy for the natural mind to accept His plans. He keeps His plan and purpose hidden as it were. It is man’s responsibility to seek God to reveal His plan and purpose to him. May God help us! He came from heaven to this earth to show us the way, to show us the way to the Father and all that the Father has in His heart for us. Amen!

God will have His sons and daughters and they will be signs and wonders on this earth!



CHAPTER SEVEN



CALLED TO BE SONS



The Lord has been speaking about His deep longings to His people. Those who are open will not miss what God is offering to His church in these last days. There are precious Scriptures to be fulfilled before He returns for His glorious church. At such a time, let us not be among those who want to settle in the plains of Jordan. We can be sure that the Lord is “working after the counsel of His own will” here and now on the planet earth. Therefore, let us not be caught up with something which we will be reluctant to give up, to be part of those workings of God. I want to urge the saints of God to be open and willing to the word of truth He would minister to us.

Chapter eight of the book of Romans, as we all know, is a very precious chapter of the Bible. It is a chapter that has

turned many people towards the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:31-39

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses reveal to us the great love of God for His called, His elect and the purpose of God in Christ Jesus that cannot be changed. Who can be against this love of God to bring His church into all that He has purposed? The Apostle Paul by the power of the Holy Spirit was able to see this precious truth and also experience the love of God in Christ Jesus in his own life. There is much to ponder over in these passages, but we would move on to what the Spirit is burdening us.

Called To Be Sons

As we saw in our previous meditation, it is a tremendous thing to be born again; born not of blood nor of flesh, and born not of man, but of God, by the Spirit. What a marvellous state it is! There is a great scope, potential and purpose in the life that is given unto us, which is the very life of the Son.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)

These sons were born of the Spirit who had been given the power to be the sons of God. They are predestinated.

“For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29 AMP).

God’s Divine Intention

What a divine intention and objective God has in saving and calling us “*not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began*”! “*God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity He restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.*” (THE MESSAGE Bible).

The Lord has predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among

many brethren. Just as in the natural family, we have many brothers, so also in the family of God there are many brethren. But He, Jesus Christ, is the firstborn among many brethren. Each one in a family know very well the bonds that tie them together. **Every son is a distinct member of the family. They know the voice of their Elder Brother! They are to follow the footsteps of their Elder Brother Jesus Christ and be conformed to His likeness in all things!** Remember saints, that God's mind cannot be changed. The New Covenant is far more glorious. It is a glory that shall never fade away. It is a glory that shall remain forever.

God has His servants all through the ages. This is something that God laid upon my heart recently. God has angelic hosts that are perpetually ready to serve the Lord, day and night. However, the God, who created heaven and earth, had a longing to have a special relationship with man. Man was a thought in God's heart before he was ever created. Therefore, the Lord said, "Let us make man in our own image and likeness". **Man was never made in the likeness of angels..** This was God's longing from the very beginning. We read in the book of Hebrews, *'Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?'* (Heb 1:14) (AMP). **When God created man, He wanted man not to be a servant but to be His son because He had no shortage of servants. In creating man, God's desire was met. It was His holy will, His desire, His longing, and His mind to have many sons for Himself.**

A servant always does what the master tells, but a son always does the father's will. A master always tells servants what he wants them to do and they do it but sons will be

concerned about what is upon the father's heart being sensitive to his will. A son is so different from a servant for he always looks for ways and means to meet the father's desires, longing and satisfaction. A son will speak of his father's deep desires and needs. And a father delights upon what a son does. **A servant works for wages but a son does not work for wages but he inherits what is of the Father!** Glory, Halleluiah! A son always sets his heart upon doing the father's will. It was so true of Jesus Christ and His Father.

Hebrews 5:8,9

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Jesus Christ, the Son, lived His Father's will. And through the things He suffered He learned obedience as a son. **The Perfect One was perfected through a life of obedience.** The first Adam as a son was also to become perfect through obedience, but he failed. His failure has affected us all, but the obedience of the last Adam has delivered us forever. This truth has depths which need to be explained and realized in greater measures, but we shall see them as the Lord will help us. Let the scales from our eyes fall and deliver us from any spiritual apathy that we may have to be made whole in this call of God upon our lives. God desires to have many sons and He is bringing them to the glory in Christ that shall never fade away. We need to understand that God's call upon our lives is to be a son and not just a servant. That is our precious calling and praise God He will bring us there.

The Son Hears The Father

The Apostle Paul used the word ‘servant’ many times in his epistles to reiterate that he was a ‘servant’ of Jesus Christ, but he very clearly acknowledged that his calling was to be a son in the family of God. Paul always talked about coming into ‘sonship’ in the books of Romans and Hebrews where he constantly talks about this aspect of a ‘son’ relationship. May the Lord help us to see this! Saints, the spirit of the son is so different from the spirit of the servant. There is much here and may the Holy Spirit open our eyes wide, yes to see our calling as sons.

The day of the Lord is a day of vengeance. He will bring forth His judgments upon the earth. He will encounter the nations and the powers of darkness along with His church. The church is His instrument, His vessel and His helpmeet.

Paul lived by the spirit of sonship. He was changed by the Spirit of God; the old was gone and the new had come when he met the Lord on the road to Damascus. The prison walls, the whip lashes, the shipwrecks, could not really keep him down. He was not a servant but a true son. Look at what he enumerates as to his sufferings.

2 Corinthians 11:23-29

In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.
Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*

Called To Be Sons

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

The spirit of the Son was actively working in the Apostle Paul's thoughts which were always on things above, on that which is upon the heart of God. The Romans had imprisoned him, but they could not chain his spirit. They had him where they wanted him, in an earthly realm, but his spirit was like that of an eagle that soars to the heavenlies of divine revelations. From the heights above he could see the things that were of a heavenly value. **Saints, circumstances in our lives could sometimes rob us of many spiritual things that would be the cause of nuisance, discomfort and disturbances in the mind, but in the life of Paul we see that he would not let any of the circumstances govern him or affect his relationship with the Lord.**

Therefore, Paul could say by the spirit of the Son, "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,*

shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He did not quote from Romans Chapter 8, as you and I would today. He wrote it from his very life as the Holy Spirit impelled him. Paul could reach the saints in Rome with this revelation and experience in his life. Today we have the revelations written to the Roman saints that need to be revealed to us by the same Spirit! It is not enough to have the Book of Romans with us and quote it, but it must be revealed to us by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit must open our eyes to see the call of the sons in God’s purpose. May it ever increase!

Let us take a cue from Paul’s life. In small measures we shall be able to lead a victorious life if we do not let circumstances rob us of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul always maintained his relationship of a son to the Lord. This is very important in our lives. Paul also would not allow anything to spoil his relationship, communion and spirit in negotiating those spiritual heights where he had ascended. His fellowship with the Lord was a sacred ground of trust and dependence. Paul was stripped of everything in the earthly realm. Everything that concerned the earthly realm was taken away from him including those things in his personal possession. But even in prison, shackled to the walls, he was richer than all his persecutors. He was richer than all others who caught him and brought him to that place. **In other words he was richer than his captors.**

Paul wrote in his letters, *“to who is least of all the apostles is this grace given that I should preach to the Gentiles the riches, the unsearchable riches of Christ.”* This, my brothers and sisters, is the spirit of a son. This is not the spirit of a servant but of a son that soars to great heights. Paul reached great heights

and nothing could bind him to the earth. He wrote this while he was in prison. **The devil thought that the voice of this man could be silenced and extinguished, but his voice could not be suppressed.** He wrote several letters, from the prison which have been a testimony to believers for over two thousand years. The Holy Ghost burdened this man and he wrote those precious letters to the churches.

Let us read what Paul wrote to Timothy in his last letter from prison just before his death.

“Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.”
(1 Timothy 2:9)

The Living Bible says, *“It is because I have preached these great truths that I am in trouble here and have been put in jail like a criminal. But the Word of God is not chained, even though I am.”*

The Amplified Bible says, *“For that [Gospel] I am suffering affliction and even wearing chains like a criminal. But the Word of God is not chained or imprisoned!”* He said that the word of God was not bound or imprisoned. How true it was! And today we have that same word with us. Satan thought that he could silence that vessel but under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the words he wrote will live forever and bless millions of God’s children over centuries!

Growing Sonship

Oh, sons of God who have been born from above, consider whether John Chapter 1:12 is a reality in our lives or not. If it is, then surely we are sons of God. What does

that mean? It means we are to grow. **We are not to remain in our infancy, as babes, as children! As long as we are children we are no different from a servant.** Paul very emphatically says this in his letter to the Galatian believers. “Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; “(Gal 4:1) So it is necessary that the sons grow in their sonship. We must grow and come unto maturity. Growing sons of God, read this diligently. You and I are not to be in bondage to our circumstances. You have the spirit of the son as we read in Romans 8.

Romans 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

We are born of the Spirit and we are the sons of God. But that is not enough, we are to mature; we are to be formed into His image. We are to be growing sons in our daily lives. **As many as are led by the Spirit in their daily lives, they are growing sons.** If you have received not the spirit of bondage but the spirit of adoption, whereby you cry Abba, Father, then you have not received the spirit of a servant and you have a relationship with the heavenly Father as a growing son. This is very important in our lives. It is not a matter of doctrine and teaching. The issue here is of life and not doctrine. We have the wonderful example of our Lord Jesus Himself in this.

Called To Be Sons

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;” (Heb 5:7)

In the days of His flesh [Jesus] offered up definite, special petitions [for that which He not only wanted but needed] and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was [always] able to save Him [out] from death, and He was heard because of His reverence toward God [His godly fear, His piety, in that He shrank from the horrors of separation from the bright presence of the Father]. (Heb 5:7 AMP)

In the days of His flesh, He cried with strong cries saying, “Father I don’t want to be separated from your presence.” In that prayer to the Father, He was heard. The Father heard his Son crying, “Abba, Father, I don’t want to be separated from your presence; I want to maintain a pure relationship with you.” **We are to be led by Spirit in like manner crying Abba, Father and He will surely hear our cry as the Father heard the Son’s cry.** Oh may the Holy Spirit register this with us!

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” *Hallelujah, Amen.* This is what happens the moment one is born-again. He or she is able to say, “I am a child of God”. And as children we are heirs of Christ, if we suffer with Him that we may also be glorified together. Oh sons of God, who are growing in His grace, listen carefully. **We need not be in bondage to our circumstances. It does not matter what earthly things have seemingly bound you.** You may be bound in some way with health issues. Or it may be your unsaved husband/wife or your children who are not walking in the ways of God,

rejection or isolation of people because of your faith – whatever your situations, whatever be that thing that is binding you, none of these things can bind your spirit. **None of these things can ever bind you down to this earth unless you have surrendered or submitted to those things. You can arise above any situation. Unless you have chosen to submit to those things, the spirit of the Son is with you who is crying out to the Father and you will surely arise in your spirit despite the situation. Halleluiah!**

Overcoming Sons of God

The spirit of the son is a spirit of overcoming. That is why He said, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Rev 3:21). We have not been given the spirit of a servant to be in fear again. We do not have to be bound with any of our circumstances. Sometimes our jobs bring us into isolation from the true body of Christ if we happen to live in a remote place. Beloved, you can rise above any situation. To rise above is possible because He is living and His Spirit is in us.

This is our calling in Christ. He has not given us a spirit of fear but we have received a spirit of adoption. Let us be encouraged by the life of Paul. But many of us struggle every time we face a difficult situation; many negative thoughts come up. Sadly, many come under some kind of bondage in their thought realm. **Remember, unless you have given yourself to those thoughts and situations, they have no power over you. No situation or circumstance, no man, and no enemy has any power over your and mine unless we have submitted to it. May the Lord open our eyes!**

Before I conclude this meditation let me share the example of the Apostle John. He was in exile and alone in the isle of Patmos. He was cut away from everyone and left there to die. No longer did he have anything called a ministry. He was tempted and made to feel that his opportunities were all over; there was nothing left behind him and nothing before him. He was almost ninety-six years old and left to die on the Isle. He had nothing to look ahead for; no place to go, no churches to visit, no people to preach to; all alone, no sick to heal or anything at all to do. **Saints, have you been where John was in your situations?** The reality is that none of us have ever been where John was in all the terrible or bad situations we may have experienced. His situation was by far the worst one could ever imagine. But remember that John was very much aware of the fact that he was a son. Look at his spirit! **Yet the highest point in John's earthly experiences in God came only AFTER he got into such terrible circumstances! Glory to God!**

Note that it was **AFTER** and **NOT** before! **The experiences he had while at Patmos were the most precious experiences he had ever had.** The Romans threw him there isolated and bereft from people's contact. He was left to die a horrible death, but we see that the systems of men and their power and supremacy could not chain his spirit. He was not bound. The Spirit of the Son in him did not surrender to the dreadful situations he faced. He was not wrapped up in any kind of self-pity. The Spirit of the Son sought the Father in those moments and cried out, Abba Father! And the Father heard him. **That is how he soared to such great spiritual heights he had never ever attained hitherto.** He cried out to God; his eyes were opened and he had a glorious vision of the Glorified and Exalted Son and *"things which must be hereafter."* (Rev 4:1).

Beloved saints, cheer up in your spirits, for nothing can hold you and me down. No circumstance can bind the one who cares only for the fellowship of the Father. There is liberty for those whose heart is not bound by the things of the earth. God has an appointment with His sons in His church. This appointment of God for the church will surely come to pass. We are moving towards that end. It will surely take place on that day.

May God help us! May our eyes be opened to what the Spirit wants to show us! Let us not be like the Corinthian believers who had all the help, but disintegrated in the end. They never grew up as sons and never identified with this calling. They could not receive the word beyond milk. They remained carnal and sensual. Their eyes were not opened and they were not also open to God's word in their lives. Remember that the New Covenant is a covenant of glory and shall not fade away, but continue to grow brighter and brighter, never fading away but remaining forever!

What a calling and what an election! Halleluiah!



CHAPTER EIGHT



THE RESTORATION OF A SON



Our Deliverance is Nigh

We thank God for the Holy Spirit who shows us the things of Christ. We have heard many precious counsels of God ever since we began this meditation. We thank God that He has brought us so far that we may continue to be open to what God has to reveal to us. Praise God that He is ever willing to do in us as we come around His word with hungry hearts.

As I was preparing for this session, I was cautioned in my heart today to be sensitive and alert to what the Spirit is going to do in our midst. There is a need for alertness within our spirit. We do not know the times and seasons in God

and there are many aspects that could pass us by if we are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit's ministrations. That is why we have to come to Him with faith knowing that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Heb 11:6. But without faith it is impossible to please Him for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

We have heard in the previous sessions that God's sons are to be found growing in the Lord's house and pursuing His purpose. Beloved, let me reiterate that God's longing and desire is not for servants but for sons. We have already meditated on many precious Scriptures in this regard. God has not given us a spirit of the servant. He has not given us a spirit of fear, but He has given us the Spirit of His Son and the spirit of adoption wherein we will be brought to maturity. **God has liberated us from bondage so that we may enter into the liberty of His will.**

We have heard very clearly that the spirit of the Son was working mightily in the life of the Apostle Paul. He was not in bondage to earthly things. Nor was he limited by the spirit of the world. So also we must not be bound to anything which is earthly. I do believe that the Lord will bring many of us to a place of deliverance from earthly desires in our lives. He has ministered His wholeness to us in the realm of our spirit, soul and body. Only He can do it. May God help us!. He is sending His word and performing His word even in the midst of us. We have seen the examples of men like the Apostles John and Peter who were not bound by anything. May God help us to maintain such a ground in our lives. Let us now move on in our meditations.

Replicas of the Renegade Onesimus!

There is a spirit of sonship working in us. As I was meditating on this the Lord led me to something from the life of the Apostle Paul. He had been to prison many times. And while Paul was in that prison, he had a visitor or an inmate named Onesimus, who was a young runaway slave who was in jail for some reason. It is likely that this young man was put in the same jail as Paul was for a while. As we read through the letter of Paul to Philemon, it is made very clear that this young man was a runaway slave. It could be that Onesimus took something from his master's house and ran away. He had fled from his master who was a leader and a believer. He ran from Asia Minor and came to Rome. That was how he met Paul in the prison. And we see that Paul appeared to have already met his master before. The Apostle Paul, most probably, had met the young man in Philemon's house where he was a servant. Philemon was brought to meet the Lord by the Apostle Paul and thus he owed his very life to Paul.

When we turn to the book of Philemon we see this wonderful story unfolding through the holy Scriptures indicating that this was something that was in the heart of God. It was something that really happened and was recorded in the word of God. It could be that this young man was rebellious, perhaps he was in a hurry daring to show what he wanted to do. Nevertheless here we see this young man meeting with the Apostle Paul, the mighty man of God who had changed his master's life. I am sure that young Onesimus did not expect what he got.

Called To Be Sons, Not Servants

Philemon 1:10-21

I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

When the young man Onesimus met the Apostle Paul, there was something that brought about a great change and transformation in this young man. And his life was changed completely; it was turned around in a different direction after

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he met the Apostle Paul. What a wonderful picture of God's working! We see the mercy of God in a runaway sinner, running away from a Christian home. Now he found himself locked up in a jail with none other than the great soul-saver of those days, the Apostle Paul. Here now he finds himself to be a part of that group of people from which he can not get away. **A run-away who cannot now run away! How great are God's mercies and wisdom!** And thereafter, God began to deal with this young life.

The powers of darkness had once ruled this young life. The powers of darkness had driven this young man away from his home, causing him to run around throughout the country as one possessed. This is what we read in the book of Philemon about Onesimus.

Onesimus was a renegade, a runaway, but he met the Apostle Paul and now Paul is writing a letter to Philemon, to his spiritual son in a sense, to the one whom he brought to Christ. He is writing to tell him that this young man is returning to Colossi, where Philemon lived. What he says in this letter is that this young man had run away, he failed to live up to what was expected of him. **The word Onesimus means "profitable". The important thing to notice is that this young man who once failed to live up to the meaning of his name, because he was very unprofitable, now is totally changed and become profitable to both Paul and Philemon.**

Phm 1:10,11

I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

Changed from Unprofitable to Profitable

Paul says here that Onesimus was unprofitable in the past, but then God changed him and he had become profitable to both Philemon and the apostle Paul. As growing sons in the house of God, let us pay attention and see ourselves through these Scriptures. This book has only one chapter but it is covered by precious truths and the revelation of God's precious counsels. We are not just seeing the life of a young servant who ran away from his master, but here we see the story of the sons of God and how our lives are changed when we meet our great Apostle and High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul says that he had begotten Onesimus in his bonds and that he became a spiritual son. Just as the Lord met with each one of us, so also we see Onesimus meeting the Apostle Paul. In other words if Paul had not been in that jail or cell in Rome he might never have met Onesimus in that big city. **In the same way, Jesus had to strip Himself, take upon Himself the form of man, limit Himself to being a human being, in order to come to where we are and then to redeem us!** God met with us in our own lives in the prison-houses where we once were. And I will say, unhesitatingly, that is how every one of us met with the Lord. We all were enemies of our God; we were sinners and had come short of the glory of the God and we were separated from His purpose.

The Apostle Paul says, "whom I have begotten in my bonds". Just as Paul had begotten Onesimus, even so Jesus met with us and brought forth His life in us. How true it is. Jesus Christ came into this world; He came to where we

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were so that He would meet with us. His one intention was to meet with us and change us. He came into our lives to meet with the runaways we were in God.

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” (2Co 8:9)

What a declaration, saints of God! How glorious it is to know that though He was rich yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might become rich. Glory to God! What a declaration that we might be brought to that place where we might be rich through His poverty. The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to know what this meant, that Jesus Christ gave up the glory He had once with the Father. **Jesus became what we were. Hallelujah! He became man so that He could make us what He was and bring us into that place as sons.**

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

*“He has made Him who knew nothing of sin to be sin for us, in order that in Him we may become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor 5:21)
(Weymouth Translation)*

Philippians 2:6-8

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled

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himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Phil 2:6-8

Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit.

But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing.

He was born to be a man and became like a servant.

And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death — death on a cross. (NCV)

Jesus Christ emptied Himself and took upon Himself the form of a servant. The Son became a servant. He was found in fashion as a man, humbled Himself and became obedient to death on the cross. **Dear brothers and sisters, He came a long way with only one intention that He might find us. It is not that we found Him, but the glory of God is that He found us.** We ought to know that He came a long way to meet us and to find us. And what was the intention of His meeting with us? That is the most important thing.

Saved For a Higher Purpose

Today if we look at the Evangelistic, Pentecostal, Charismatic world, we see a blindness towards seeing the purpose of our salvation. The Lord Jesus came a long way, we accept that He took the form of man, and was found in the form of a servant, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death on the cross. Every Christian believes

that. **He came a long way to find us, but when He found us what was upon His heart?** This is where we find the blindness in the midst of God's people.

The Apostle Paul says, "*Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (2 Tim 1:9)* Many are ignorant of the purpose of our salvation. Everyone rejoices and sings about their salvation. But they are ignorant of the reason why He came to save us. **What you have been saved for is far more important than what you have been saved from!** Most of the time, we hear people testifying and sharing about what they have been saved from, even the terrible sinful lives they had been living. We thank God for that wonderful salvation in our lives. However, what we have been saved for is much higher and more precious. We don't hear many people share and testify of that! nor do many sing about it.

Heb 2:9-11

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

As we read the letter of Philemon, we see that the first thing that came upon the heart of Paul for Onesimus was that he must be sent back to Philemon's house. The Lord Jesus Christ has come a long way to find us. **His longing is to send us back to our home where we belong. He wants to send us back to the house where we belong, which is the Father's house. Praise God! May God open our eyes!**

It is not enough to say that Jesus Christ died on the cross; He met me, gave me salvation, and forgave me, but of equal significance is the reality that after He met us He is sending us back to the Father, back to the home from where we had run away from a relationship with Him. We must be restored and get back to the place where we had run away from. We must get back to the relationship that we had with the Father. How precious that is, to turn us back to our house where we belong, back to that relationship, back to that intimacy with the Father as His sons.

Beloved, it is my prayer that our blind eyes may be opened by the Holy Spirit to see why He came to us and saved us and unto what is our salvation! There is a great restoration work here for every son who returns to his Father's House. There is an establishing of a deeper relationship that we may partake of His glory!

May the Lord be blessed!



CHAPTER NINE



A PROFITABLE SON



The greatest need in the midst of God's people is for their spiritual eyes to be opened to see the great purpose of their salvation in Christ Jesus.

As we saw in our last meditation, the Lord Jesus came a long way to find us so that He may reveal to us what is upon His heart for us in the divine economy of God which He has desired from the foundations of this world. As we saw from the life of Onesimus, the desire of God is to send us back to our home and to our Father, where we belong. We were runaways from the Father but He brought us back so that we may have a relationship and intimacy with Him. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit to further open our spiritual eyes to this truth.

“Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now

profitable to thee and to me.” Philemon v 11

How true this is with regard to our own lives for we were all grossly unprofitable to the Father. Of all the things that God created on the earth, of all the creation, God said, on the sixth day when He made man, that what He created was ‘very good’. However, that same man rebelled against God! That same man whom God had created in His image and likeness sinned against God. The man He created became unprofitable to God. All that God had created was profitable in every way, but this man whom He created in His own likeness, turned away from God and became unprofitable. God had created everything by the word from His mouth, but **when it came to the creation of man, He breathed into him His very own life.** And yet, this man rebelled against God and He was not able to have any fellowship with this man that He had made in His likeness. **And later, God had to buy this man back to Himself with the shed blood of His Son!** The Bible says, *“Ye are bought with a price.”* God paid a great price for this, a price that was much more than what we are worth. **God paid it because He saw something in man when He created man. He saw something that would eventually be profitable to Him!** God knew that a day would soon come when **Man, who was presently unprofitable will one day become profitable to Him.** This is what the Apostle Paul says in verse 11. *“Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me.”*

The Illustration of the Prodigal Son

Saints, God saw that man could become profitable to Him. **The Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is turning us back to the Father, back to that relationship that was broken and lost, and back to the house where we belong.** When we

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repent and return home, we will not be servants but we will be sons. Glory to God! When we return to the Father's House, we may be like the prodigal son who returned to the father.

Luke 15:20-24

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

God will do all that is in His will that we may become profitable unto Him and thus fulfill His eternal purpose. What is God going to do with us to make us become profitable? He will arise and reveal His eternal plan to His church so that we would become profitable to Him. This is the reason why the Holy Spirit is turning the hearts of the sons back to the Father. He is bringing them back to the Father that the sons would no longer be unprofitable but would be immensely profitable to Him. God is doing something precious in their lives according to His preordained will.

Romans 8:17-19

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs

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with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

The Father's Destiny for Us

What a plan the Father has for us! He is sending His unprofitable sons back to their Father and to the Father's house that we might become profitable sons. He is bringing forth a company of sons as we read in Romans.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

Beloved, He is moulding us into the image of His Son! This is the work that the Father is doing in and through all our situations and circumstances. We read of this in Romans chapter 8 and verse 28, *"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* (NLT) **He is moulding us into the image of the Son so that we may share inwardly His life upon the earth.** Therefore, we share in His sufferings to also share in His glory. And when we come there, Jesus Christ will be the first born among many brothers. He will be the first born among many sons.

This is God's great plan. He has a great plan for us in His kingdom because He made man in His own image and likeness. And now He will fill them with His glory.

A Profitable Son

The Scripture is very clear in John 3:16. For God so loved the world..... And what did He do in His great love for the world? He gave them His only begotten Son. **He gave His one and only Son to them that they may have the unspeakable gift of God. He gave His ONE Son, and now He is getting back many sons. One Son died and was buried to bring forth many sons.** The intention of God was to bring forth much. He gave His Son that He may get back many sons unto glory. **As growing sons in His House let us praise His wonderful name! To rejoice in His wonderful name is profitable for us.**

The many sons are going to be profitable to His kingdom. And they all shall bear the image of the first born. They will be the same as their elder brother. We were not profitable but we are becoming profitable now that He has turned our hearts to the Father. We have come into that relationship and are growing as sons in His house. And this is something that searches my heart. **Day by day we are becoming more profitable unto the Father that we may come into that place of adoption.**

Oh glory to God! This is something to shout about loudly, that the Spirit is opening our eyes to see that we are being brought back to the Father's house and that we are becoming more profitable. Not only that, but we are soon going to be sons in His kingdom. What a love and grace of God upon our lives! What a Redeemer we have in our lives! Saints this must bring a change to our attitudes and perspective. The Lord is commuting and moulding us into the life and nature of His Son. He is now making us as profitable sons. We are no longer runaway sons but we are returning, profitable sons. What a tremendous heart of God

we see reflected in this thought. The mind of God is that we might become profitable. God is working so that this may be seen in our lives.

Beloved saints, our mentalities and attitudes will have to change in these days if we want to experience the fulfillment of God's purpose. We are no longer runaway servants. We are returning home. God is turning our hearts to the Father. This work began the day we met Christ in our lives. And all that Jesus has to say to us is about the Father. How true this was in the days when Jesus ministered upon the earth. He always spoke about the Father. He always pointed to the Father. And He said, "I am the WAY and the TRUTH and the LIFE and no man can come to the Father but by me." Hallelujah! Each of us know the reality of this the day we met Him,

Jesus drew our hearts to the Father. He joined our hearts to the Father that we may come into a close relationship with the Father. I want to make it clear that everything in our spiritual lives depend upon our attitudes and mentalities. Many of us know the truth in our minds intellectually, but our lives have not been changed. Intellectual knowledge cannot change our lives because the mind of man always reasons things out. But when the word is received in our spirits by the help of the Holy Spirit, then our minds can be renewed by the Spirit of God. That is a work that only God can do in us. My prayer is that these messages will not just bring us some more knowledge, but bring radical changes in our lives.

Those who are receiving the light of His word will not be rebellious to the Spirit any more. We will not behave like unprofitable ones, but profitable ones for the Lord. **It is not**

a matter of how long we have been in the Lord and in the work. Many believers are concerned about the years they have been in a local church and they are often upset that they have not been given some office or position in the church. Many compete with one another for position and authority in the churches. How blind such ones are! Saints, our calling as sons is much higher and more precious than the positions one may crave for in the church!

Called to be Sons with Christ

What is the use of being an elder or a secretary in the church when it is better to be a son? It is far better to be a profitable son than to be engaged in unprofitable things. **Is it a small thing that we have been called to be sons with Christ, our elder brother and first born in the family? Is there anything higher? How sad it is for people to compete and compare with one another in the church realm? Many a time, their eyes are upon one another to merely please some one. That is not being profitable.**

Sons on the other hand, are always out to please the Father only. So the prayer of my heart about myself is that the Lord may help me in these days to be a son who pleases the Father. Let that be our prayer as well. It will bring about changes to our attitudes, mentalities and behavior. Pray to remain in that place where He has brought us and where we are being moulded into the image of His Son so that He may be the first born among many brethren. That is the desire of God and I am sure that God is doing that work in the earth in these end-times.

God has an appointment with His sons. And the whole earth and creation is waiting for that day when there will be

a manifestation of the sons of God. That day is coming and God must have those sons, who are prepared and ready to come back to that realm and place in Christ. Glory to God! Let me stop and shout! What a love! What grace! What a Redeemer!

Philemon 13, 14

Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

Paul says he could have retained Onesimus with him so that he could be useful to him while he was yet in the bonds for the Gospel. He first of all desired Onesimus to return to Philemon. This was the sole desire of the Apostle Paul to first send Onesimus back to Colosse to have a reunion with Philemon. We get a clear picture in the verses above of Onesimus returning to Philemon with the precious letter from Paul. With a burning heart and persuasive voice Paul begs Philemon to let him return to him. Philemon is more than willing for as Onesimus returns to Paul, it is as though Philemon himself is going to be with Paul. This illustrates the desire of the Lord Jesus Christ for us to be those who would come to the Father. This is the desire of God for us.

Beloved, God will bring His sons into that perfect place with the Father. God wants His sons to return to Him in this hour. There is a catching up into the glory for the sons, even to bring them to the place behind the veil, the Most Holy Place. And they are going to meet with the Father

and there will be a union with the Father such as mankind has never known.

Returning, Not as Servants

“Onesimus was in the father’s house before he fled or ran away. He was there in a relationship with Philemon but now when he returns it is going to be different, dear Saints. When he returns to the house of Philemon he will not be a servant as before.” Philemon 16

Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

The Apostle says that Onesimus was not a slave any more but more than a slave. A beloved brother to me but how much more to you, the Apostle says. **Beloved, when we come into the Most Holy Place you are no more going to be a servant unto Him, but you are going to be a brother unto our Elder Brother!** This blessed my heart and liberated my spirit. My prayer is that this may happen to each of you. (Now when you return home after these camp meetings, you will return as different people. Can you accept this by faith? I will not go back home as I came here. Remember that God’s desire is that we should all return home as a different people. In God’s economy your life will be changed, and your attitudes would change for now you are not a servant but a son, a brother. Not now not as a servant but as a son thou shalt return.)

In conclusion let me say that now you are not a servant but above a servant. In the Most Holy Place we do not meet with Him now as a servant. Do not forget that the

Most Holy Place is a realm of sonship. Behind the veil you cannot be a servant any more. God has changed your status. And your attitudes and position has also changed as Onesimus' had. That was the ministry of the Apostle Paul, but in your life and my life it is the ministry of Jesus Christ that brings forth this change.

Brethren, may we reconcile to the fact that our status has changed. Now our status is not of a servant but of a brother, of a son. I feel sad for many of my brothers and sisters who are like sifting sands. They are not willing to accept God's mind and submit to it. They suffer in that realm and God is unable to help them because they reject God and His will for their lives. God wants us to be profitable sons. Let us be available to the Lord these days.

Let us therefore accept God's word into our lives. It is His ministry that will bring about a change in us. It is His Word that will change us in our lives. Let us be available to the Lord.

Though we are runaways, the Lord has met with us and He has sent us back to the Father and Father's house. One Son was given so that God may have many sons. Glory to God! Our relationship with the Father is as a son. We shall share the glory of the Son. Brethren, beloved in the Lord, **Adam never knew this glory to which we shall return. When we are restored back as sons it is not as the man (Adam).** In other words, when Onesimus returned and was restored back, his glory was that of a son and brother. Glory to God, brethren! May this bless your heart and open your eyes!! *Hallelujah!* How great Thou art!



CHAPTER TEN



THE COMING GLORY OF THE SONS



The Lord, in His mercy, desires to speak to us of His eternal thoughts for His church. He would like to make His expressions very clear because He is doing a specific work in the lives of many of us. The Lord would like to set many of us free from our bondage and release those who are shackled by Satan. Whether we are brothers in leadership or saints in the house of God, there is something that God wants to do specifically in each one of us because we are all called to be sons in God's house. The apostle Paul was moving and living with the Father till the end of his life as a son unto Him. As we progress in our meditation I am sure that God will open our eyes to see this. Let us also be available for that work that God wishes to do in us. May we experience the out working of His transforming work in our lives through the word we have received. The prayer of

my heart is that there will be an inward transformation in each one of us.

As we have read in the previous issue, there are depths in the book of Philemon that are very prophetic and deep. God would like to minister to us something more than what we have already meditated upon. There are depths that God wants to reveal to us concerning the sons of God from the letter of Philemon even though it has only one chapter. As we heard before, this book is packed with truth for His church. This is not just a story of a young servant who ran away, but it is the life story of a true son of God. We have already read of several principles from this epistle but there is much more that God wants to reveal to us.

The apostle Paul writes that he had begotten Onesimus in his bonds in verse 10. He says that he was a son in Christ whom he had begotten in his chains. The Amplified Bible says in verse 10, "I appeal to you, my own spiritual child Onesimus meaning profitable." As we have seen before, his name meant profitable but in reality he was unprofitable. He had not lived a life that was true according to his name. Paul had begotten him in faith while a captive and in chains. He goes on to say that once Onesimus was unprofitable to Philemon but then he became profitable not only to Philemon but to the apostle as well. The Lord spoke many precious things to us from this Scripture during the Camp through some prophetic utterances about the manifestation of sons in the end time. The desire of our Father is that we would come to Him in a new relationship

Beloved, Jesus Christ has not only saved from us from our sins, but He has brought us home in a new relationship

with the Father who loves us. **This has brought us into a glorious union with the Father that man has never known before. Adam was the first man but he never knew this glory. This is unique for us today.**

As we know, Onesimus fled from the house where he lived as a servant. The relationship he had with Philemon was of a servant. But the epistle makes it clear that on his return he would no longer be a servant but something much more for he came back as a son to him.

Towards the end of our previous meditation we were able to comprehend that we **return to the Father as a son. Our service undergoes a dramatic change.** God is bringing us into that Most Holy Place realm. There is a knowing of God in that realm which we have never experienced. And saints, remember that all of us need to have a strong desire to return to God and be willing to be transformed and come into those changes that He wants to bring about in our lives.

There is a strong and deep conviction within me that the Holy Spirit has something more to reveal to every hungry heart. May we remain open to His ministration and experience a change in our lives. We are not only returning home to the Father, but our status has been changed, just as it happened with Onesimus.

We Have What Adam Knew Not

The history of humanity tells us that man has left the realm of God and moved into the Adamic realm. That is what happened to mankind. Man's being left the presence

and the fellowship of God and moved to the realm of Adam. But through the Lord Jesus Christ we have now turned back to God in the realm of Christ. **So, when we now return back it is into the realm of the great economy of God in Christ Jesus as saints of God born from above by the Word and Spirit. Saints, we are members of the body of Christ and I want to tell us one thing, Adam never knew this place in God where God has brought us!**

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” (1 Corinthians 15:45)

This Scripture portion makes it very clear that there is a great transforming work that the Lord shall accomplish in every born-again child of God. The great salvation of God is much beyond the evangelical teaching that there is a heaven after death. **Beloved, there is a moving from “the first man Adam” to “the last Adam”.** The apostle Paul says by the Holy Spirit “And just as we have borne the image (of the man) of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image (of the Man) of heaven”. This is the divine intention of God that can never be changed.

Saints, Adam did not know this realm that we have been brought into through Christ. We see here the intention of God. May we be open to the Spirit of God! When we return back to home, as we now return back to the Father, it is a totally different realm. It is no more the realm of the Adamic man. Saints, we must accept God’s word into our lives. God will bring about those changes in our lives. His word has the power to do what it says in our lives. Often it happens that we are unwilling to change and our lives remain stagnant. **Note carefully what the written word says here,**

“so shall we” and it continues “so let us also bear the image of the Man of Heaven”.

This is our sacred calling. Our natural man will say this is too high a calling. **God has kept this calling high intentionally, so that when we reach there we would know it is God who has done this and not us.** The Lord says, “I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another”(Isa 42:8). God does not desire any man to boast in himself. Therefore, Paul the apostle says “But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord”(2 Cor 10:17). God has kept this calling high and we must not try to bring it down to our level of thinking. **In all the past two thousand years the efforts of man have been to bring this high calling down to our own state of earthiness, but God has kept this calling high and above the reach of men. It will always remain a heavenly calling.**

So let us take this call seriously and also bear the image of the heavenly man. Remember when the Father brings us back to Himself, our relationship with the Father is in the realm of the heavenly man. We are to bear the image of the heavenly man as much as we bear the image of the earthly man. Remember, Adam never knew the realm of Christ, but let us thank God for that which God has done in our lives.

No Longer Lower Than Angels

God is bringing the man He created back to Himself in a totally different and new realm through His Eternal Son. So sons who are growing in the house of God listen carefully. **Back to the Father we must all go in our lives! There behind**

the veil there is a precious work that shall be accomplished, even the putting on that glory.

May God help us to know that, we are now returning no longer as servants but now as sons and brethren of Jesus Christ, the first born of many sons. It is going to be a different life. Hey Onesimus of present times, you will have a different life, a new nature, a new stature and a greater authority when you go back. You will no more bear the life and image of the earthly Adam, but now living the life of Christ. Bearing the life and image of Christ; no more the lower nature of sinful man! Amen, hallelujah! Now we are no more going back to that lower nature of sinful man. Now we are partakers of that divine nature of Jesus Christ. The apostle Peter says “*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*” (2 Peter 1:4.) **Beloved, the time has come to an end when we are lower than the angels and subject to the attacks of principalities and powers. Beloved saints, rejoice for that time has come to an end.**

Hebrews 2:7-10

Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

The Coming Glory Of The Sons

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

May God open our eyes to see the depths in these Scriptures. The Word says here that “Thou madest him a little lower than angels”. This talk of man being made lower than angels.

In the above verses, 7 and 8, speak of man whom God created in His own image. When we look at the creation of man we see that for a little time man was ranked lower and inferior to the angels. God has crowned man with glory and honor and set him above the works of His hands. Please reflect on these verses “*For You have put everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to man, He left nothing outside [of man’s] control. But at present we do not yet see all things subjected to him [man].*” It was for a little time and I don’t know how long or short that “little time” is; for the times are in His hands.

Verses 9 and 10 above speak of Jesus Christ our Lord. And the writer of Hebrews is lifted up in his spirit and encouraged by God. What is it we see? We see Jesus! Although we do not yet see the glory and honor of the complete dominion over all creation yet manifested in man (us), we do see Jesus “crowned with glory and honour”. We could see those eternal promises of God fulfilled in Him, because He lives in us, and is our link with the unseen realm of eternity. **And because we can see that fulfillment of complete dominion working in Him, and because He has taken that physical earth body into that eternal realm and glorified it, and because He is going to return to receive us**

unto Himself and change our earth bodies into the likeness of His body of glory: we have hope. We have a glorious hope. This is the hope of the Church.

The Hope of the Church

Beloved, our spiritual eyes need to be opened to see that the hope of the Church is not a mere geographical rapture that will transport our bodies to some other location. **But our hope is for a very real physical rapture that will change this earth body and catch us up into that glorified realm that He is in, so that we may rule and reign and have complete dominion here on this earth!** Some may say: “I don’t want to miss going to heaven”. Dear saints, when you are caught up and changed into the likeness of that body of glory, you are going to find out you are in a heavenly realm already, but just not able to recognize it because the carnal veil of flesh has separated you from the fullness of His presence. “In Him we live and move and have our being”. This is a deep mystery, and beyond our understanding and explanations. Yes, there is a very real heaven. Jesus and the saints that have passed on are there. Yes, there is a very real hell. Yes, this is a very real earth. A lot of changes are to happen in these end times and the remnant of God must get ready for that change the Lord wants to bring in.

Now in verse 10 we see the purpose of God in bringing forth a body of many sons. He is bringing them to glory. And the Amplified Bible puts it so beautifully: “*For it was an act worthy of God and fitting to the divine nature that He, for whose sake and by whom all things have their existence, in bringing many sons into glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect (that is, should bring to maturity the human*

experience necessary for a perfect equipment for His office as High Priest) through suffering.”

Notice in the closing verses of this beautiful chapter, how that Jesus identifies with sinful humanity in a way that He never did with angels. He never left the realm of omnipresent Deity to take on the nature of angels. He descended much lower than that. “For a little while” He was made lower than the angels. The term in verse 9: “made a little lower than the angels”, is a time phrase, and means that He was “made, for a little while, lower than angels”. When He took upon Him the seed of Abraham and was in all things made like unto His brethren, he descended far, far beneath the dignity of the great archangel. But it was only for a little while. All this was necessary that He might become (through association with our needs) a merciful and faithful High Priest, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

To take upon Him the seed of Abraham, means that He laid hold of their needs for the purpose of helping them. Galatians 3, 16 and 29 show clearly that we who are the called of God are the seed of Abraham. We are His brethren. Hebrews 2:16 in the Amplified reads: “*For, as we all know, He (Christ) did not take hold of angels (the fallen angels)—to give them a helping and delivering hand; but He did take hold of the fallen descendants of Abraham—to reach them a helping and delivering hand.*” The Clementson translation says: “*For verily, not of angels doth He take hold, but He taketh hold of the seed of Abraham.*” In the Interlinear Greek-English New Testament it is worded: “*For not indeed of angels takes He hold, but of the seed of Abraham He takes hold*”. Other accurate translations bear out the same thought. **He came down to**

lay hold of us. He apprehended us. He chose us and ordained us. We did not choose Him, nor did we apprehend Him in the beginning. But we press forward that we might apprehend that for which we have been apprehended (Philippians 3:10-14). For what purpose did He apprehend us? We will discover more and more of the answers as we progress on in this glorious calling with a sensitive ear to the Holy Spirit.

The Scripture is very clear that back to the Father we must go and when we return to the Father's house then we will have a different life. **We are now a new creation and we return with a great authority bearing again NOT the same image and likeness of Adam but now bearing the image of Christ.** No more of the lower nature shall we be. Saints, the time is coming to an end, the times have ended in one sense. Man shall not be found any longer in that lower realm subject at all times to the powers and principalities. As we see here, God is putting everything in subjection to man. He left nothing outside of man's control. But NOW, at present we do not see all these things being in subjection.

Remember the time is coming when the sons will come into their realm of power and authority. Let me say that verse 9 makes it very clear to us and I marvel at the insight that the apostle Paul had in his heart. But we are now able to see Jesus who was crowned with glory and honor for His having suffered death in order that by grace He might experience death for every individual person. We see Him in a place of authority and power crowned with glory and honour. God clothed Him with honor and glory.

The New Realm in Christ

Saints, this is our calling and the time is close at hand for the reality. **We are no more to be in that realm of being a little lower than the angels. The change is coming. God will clothe us with power and glory; Just as we see Jesus while He was a little lower than angels, but now found with glory.** He suffered as a man, was humiliated as a man, tasted every temptation, tempted in all respects as a man who was lower than angels but now crowned with glory and honor. **Jesus is seated on the throne.**

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”
(*Revelation 3:21*)

Many people have misunderstood this verse and not seen it rightly and therefore many are so scared of this word. Jesus is set down with His Father in His throne. **How many thrones are there? There is only Throne!** It is mind boggling to the natural man to try and figure it out with his physical mind. Jesus is seated with the Father and now He is inviting us to sit with Him in His very Throne! Hallelujah! **The Throne is a realm of life, saints!** May God open our eyes of understanding! He has overcome. **Even as we overcome, we shall also be found in that very realm with Him.**

Beloved saints, since we are living in the last days, and are witnessing the closing of one age and the coming in of another, this truth is of vital interest to us. Let me quote here from Hebrews 2:5: **“For unto the angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.”** Let

us now look at this verse in the Phillips' translation: "*For though in past ages God did grant authority to angels, yet He did not put the future world of men under their control, and it is this world that we are now talking about.*" Williams' translation says: "*For it was not to angels that He gave authority over the world to be, of which we are speaking.*"

God is saying that the angels who have been rulers of the darkness of this present world, will be stripped of their power and have no authority in the next age. They will be bound. **And we would begin to see how the sons of God (the overcomer of Revelation 2 and 3) will rule the nations with a rod of iron! Glory to God! Hallelujah!** Beloved, there is a change coming and it is a great change of realms which is beyond our pitiful human understanding. But it is well within His great economy in His Eternal Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! Remember, the first Adam did not know this realm.

What a calling! What a purpose! May the Holy Spirit open our eyes!



CHAPTER ELEVEN



THE REALM OF THE THRONE



Let Our Eyes be Opened

The Holy Spirit has very specifically ministered to us about our calling to be sons. We have been told that the time was at hand for the reality of that in our lives. I am sure that our eyes have been opened to see that we are no more to be in that realm of 'being a little lower than the angels'. There is a change to take place in us which we need to see here. God will clothe us with power and glory, as He did with Jesus. It will be just as Jesus was 'a little lower than angels', but is now found with all glory! Jesus is seated with the Father and now He is inviting us to sit with Him on the throne. Hallelujah! The throne is a realm of life, saints! May God open our eyes of understanding! Jesus has overcome and is seated on the throne. Even as we

overcome, we shall also be found in that very realm with Him. What a calling! What a purpose! What an election!

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Revelation 3:21)

This is what your Bible says about true believers, but many Evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians do not care what is written in the Scriptures! The people pray, "Lord, give us a small place in one corner of heaven. That is all we want". How sad this is! Our calling is so different, brethren. **We were made lower than the angels only for a while and not forever!** Yet we find a Christian realm around us that has brought down this calling to an earthly and human realm.

Beloved, God is opening the eyes of a remnant on the earth in this hour! They are living with a "lively hope" (1 Peter 1:3) every day, while yet in this present world of challenges and trials. "Faithful is he that calleth you who will do it." (1 Thess 5:24). "...steadfast is He who is calling you, who also will do [it]." (Youngs Literal Translation). "Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you]."(AMP)

Brethren, if God has called us to this life of being His sons, He is responsible to fulfill such a calling. We only confuse this calling and purpose of God by trying to understand it by virtue of our own intellect, logic and reasonings. We only complicate this life by interjecting human concepts and ideas. The reality is that God will never complicate this life. His salvation and His calling are very

simple. Look what God said about Israel, "And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand and power of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and large, a land flowing with milk and honey [a land of plenty] — to the place of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite." (Exodus 3:8). "And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it to you for a heritage: I am the Lord." (Exodus 6:8). It was so simple. However, Israel complicated it. They brought in the logic and reason of their minds. They asked, "Where and how will we get food to eat? How will our children survive? What's their future going to be?" Truly, they unnecessarily complicated their lives. Israel knew that they could not have saved themselves from Egypt. God had to do it and He did it. So could they not have trusted God to take them on and bring them to the Promised Land? It is strange to see that they were found trying to instruct God! They were asked to do something very simple in accordance with God's divine economy. All they had to do was to trust God and obey His voice. In a similar fashion, the Apostle Paul, quoting the example of Israel, warned the New Testament believers not to complicate their lives. Yet all through the past 20 centuries, the very same thing has happened, again and again, in the lives of the people of God.

Today we see the same mentality being displayed in the saints. God knows our lives and our circumstances and situations fully well. Yet, many a time, believers think that God does not know every detail about their specific daily situations. And therefore, many try to counsel God and tell Him what to do. Let me give you an example. People often ask God to provide them with a good job, but when God

gives them a job and they come across difficulties in doing their jobs, then they complain to God and say, "Lord, you do not know how difficult my work is, or how hard my boss is, or how complicated my colleagues are, and so on." Saints, we must believe that God knows our life situations inside out. Let us not complicate our lives, for He is God! If we were to ask the Apostle Peter, he would tell us that the Lord Jesus who was only a carpenter by profession knew where the fishes were, for He knew how to tell an experienced fisherman like Peter, who had toiled the whole night and could not catch even one fish, where to throw his net. Thank God Peter obeyed and experienced the mighty hand of God in his life.

Peter's Surrender

Many years ago, the Lord ministered a personal word to me from an incident in the life of Peter. I am led of the Holy Spirit to share those thoughts from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 5:1-11

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,

And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a

draught.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Jesus said, "Peter, I have a question for you. Can I have your boats now as you have finished fishing and are ready to go home? Peter and others with him were absolutely tired and discouraged over the wasted night. Indirectly the Lord was asking Peter for all that he possessed. Peter willingly gave his boat to Jesus. In other words, **Peter surrendered his possession to Jesus.** Then Jesus made him another request. "Peter, take the boat further into the sea." This done, Jesus began to preach from the boat. He reminded Peter that he had told Jesus that he had caught no fish all night. Jesus made one last request to Peter. He asked him to let down the nets into the deep. Peter honestly confessed that they had labored the whole night and caught nothing. Peter did not counter the Lord nor ask him about His knowledge of

fishing. By asking Peter to let down the nets into the deep, the Lord was encountering Peter's profession. Peter said that he would do it at the word of the Lord. **Peter humbly surrendered his profession.**

The result of Peter's surrender was that Peter and his companions had the greatest catch of fish which they had never, ever had before. There is much that God can do when one surrenders one's profession unto the Lord. He knows all things. He is the Lord! He is your boss and not your earthly boss! Did Peter and his companions gladly take the loot and leave with their fortune? No. Look at what Peter did, "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Here we find that **Peter surrendered his personality to the Lord.** We further read "And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him." What a change? What a surrender? Beloved surrender your lives to the Lord and He will do things much beyond any man can ever think. He is the Lord.

We must give space or place for Christ in our lives. We must give place in our lives for the Lord. It is sad that many believers give no place to the Lord in their lives thinking that He is out of date! We must let Him in and obey what He says to us in every area of our lives. Let me tell you that even if you work all night your boss would never be satisfied. You will still lag behind many others. Then what should we do? My one request to all my brothers and sisters is to bring in and make way for Christ. Believe God's word. Give place for His work in your lives. Don't let the flesh sway you, but submit to God's word. And break away, depart from your

own intellect and mind that refuses to accept God's word. We need to surrender our profession to the Lord. This is what we have to do as sons in this hour.

Peter surrendered his personality. This is what will happen in our lives if we give place to God's word in our lives. So we need to believe God's word for every area about which God would speak to us. This life in Christ is simple if we would just believe His Word and obey His voice. If Peter had gone by his intellect and reason what a great loss he could have incurred in his life.

Saints, He is the Lord of our salvation. Jesus, our Lord is the author and the finisher of our lives. It is His power and might that will accomplish what He has spoken and undertaken to fulfill! So remnant of God, let us yield ourselves to the great performer, to even Jesus Christ our Lord!

From the Guttermost to the Uttermost

God's word says very specifically that we are to overcome as He overcame, and to sit as He sat down in His Father's throne with Him. Saints, this is God's word to us. We are called to be with the Lord on the throne with Him. We need to accept that word. At present we are lower than the angels, but that day is coming to an end. Jesus was made a little lower than the angels for a time. But He was crowned with glory and honor and seated on the throne of God. The Son said we shall sit with Him on the throne. Do you believe that? God said to the Son that He will sit with the Father on the throne. The Son believed the word of the Father and overcame all things and sat on the throne. Now

the Son is saying to the sons to overcome as He overcame and then to sit on His throne! And praise God that there will be a company of sons who will believe that word and overcome as the Son overcame and sit with Him on His throne! That word will be fulfilled. Hallelujah!

We know that servants labour to earn a wage, but sons are with the Father not for wages, but for an inheritance. The sons are with the Father doing the Father's will. They sit with the Father to do the Father's work, and to complete it, knowing that everything that the Father has will be theirs. There are so many Christians today who are working for the Father not to do His will but for some benefit, some wage, some blessing and some advantage of their own. They are thinking about the 'crowns' and the 'precious stones' in the crowns that they will get. But sons have a totally different attitude. They never look for rewards in their lives, for wages or any other thing, but they are always found working along with their Father because they know that whatever the Father has will belong to them. It is only a matter of their possessing all that their Father has kept for them.

Saints, God is at work in the sons who are moving from one realm to another – from servants to 'many sons'. They are moving from the realm of "a little lower than the angels" to the realm of their dominion and authority as sons. Let me say boldly that as a result of God's work our character is to undergo a great change. Beloved, **our status with God is undergoing a change.** A man of God once explained this by saying, **"We are moving from the guttermost to the uttermost!"**

We have been lifted up from the miry clay. Saints, remember **we have been transported from the lowest place to the highest one!** We were enemies of God and inmates of hell, but God brought us out. He has lifted us out of that realm. He has taken us from the pitiful sinful humanity to be the glorified sons of the Most High. **He has lifted the race of fallen Adam to the heights of His presence and great salvation!** What a calling! I tell you my spirit has been stirred afresh with these thoughts. The Lord is apprehending me afresh in these days. I am experiencing the fresh power and strength of God in my whole being. To experience the power of God is very precious in one's life. Our calling is to move from sinful humanity to be the sons of the Most- High.

Now let us consider some of the steps of change that God wants to bring about, and is bringing about in some measure, in our lives. May our spiritual eyes be opened to see this truth and this work of God in our lives!

Enemies of God

“When we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more we shall be reconciled and saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10)

What was our relationship with this great God before we were saved? The Scripture says that we were enemies of God. That was the poor relationship we once had with God. The relationship that every man has with God, to begin with, is that of an enemy. We were enemies of Almighty God. What a pathetic, abominable, inscrutable relationship we had when we were in sin and lived in bondage to Satan? The Lord Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." (Matthew 12:30). Saints there is no neutral ground

that any man can take before God. **We are either with God or we are not with God; to be without God is to be against God!**

No man on earth will ever accept that he is an enemy of God. If you ask any man whether he is an enemy of God, they will confidently say that they love God and that they do this or that for the God they love. No man ever thinks that he is an enemy of God. Did you ever think that you were an enemy of God? Certainly not! You would have said that you always pray to God, you attend church, you help the people of God and so on. But the Bible says that EVERY man is an enemy of God. That was the relationship which every one of us had with God, but when we turned to Christ and were born again we were no longer enemies of God. The Scripture says in Rom 5:8. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." In other words, when we were yet enemies of God, Christ loved us and died for us. The truth is that it is God who loved us when we were enemies of God and He gave His only beloved Son to reconcile us to Himself. Amen!

People get puzzled and confused when they read these Scriptures that tell us that by the death of one man, humanity would be reconciled to God. Even the most intelligent men find this difficult to accept. The salvation of God is very simple to understand, but intelligent man has made it complicated. Let me assure you that God's salvation is very simple. His plan for forgiveness is so simple and His way to live this life is also very simple. This is what man is not able to accept. The reason and logic of men have made them hard and resistive. They are not able to submit to God's

wisdom and His way of salvation which is essentially very simple. It is a phenomenal tragedy that man is so reluctant to do God's will.

1 Corinthians 1:18- 21

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (KJV)

The Principal of Reproduction

Man has to humble and submit to God's way of salvation. Many a time people are puzzled as to why it should take the death of one man to obtain forgiveness and eternal life for another! There is a great principle here. It is the principle or the law of reproduction. Every man is familiar with that principle in the natural. Even a simple farmer who has not been highly educated knows that he has a great hope when the harvest comes. His great expectation is that one seed will reproduce many times more at the harvest. Man knows that principle in the natural but does not reckon that it is God who placed that principle to work in this universe.

Genesis 1:11-12

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

He is the God of creation, but when God uses that principle in the spiritual realm man does not accept it. It is so simple. One seed is sown, it dies in the earth, and it reproduces itself as a great harvest. Jesus was that Seed of life. Remember that Seed did not fall into sin as Adam had fallen into sin. And we know one thing for sure that Jesus was not of sin but it was the Adam of old who fell into sin. Therefore, death had no place in Jesus' life. He had never tasted sin in any form. As a man without sin, he walked upon the earth. Disease had no place in Him. Death had no hold on Him because He had never fallen into sin. He walked the earth as a perfect Man. No one could murder Him though several people had tried to do it, nor could any accident kill Him. The angels had charge over Him to keep Him from every plot of man and Satan.

John 10:17-18

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus laid down His life that He may take it up again. He laid it down, but not due to sin. "No man taketh my life from me", He said. See the depths of this word. No one could take away anything from Him because He had not

fallen into sin. Nothing had any power to bring Him down. He kept Himself away from all sin. He had the power to lay down His and the power to take it up again. He has the authority to take away and also the authority to give. This is the commandment my Father gave me. **Remember the process of death was not working in Him because there was no sin in Him!** He was a life giver! The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit" (1 Cor 15:45-46). He was a life-giving Spirit. Beloved, death did not work in His life. Remember this when you think of the vicissitudes of your life.

The living Christ had not taken on the sin or disease of humanity. If He had then He would not have been a life-giving Spirit. He became sin for our sake. He tasted death for our sake. This is what the Bible says. **Christ demonstrated the life of true Sonship.** He is the only one that has attained to that place. When we return to our Father's home, we will not be walking in the ways of our natural or Adamic life. This is what God is bringing about in our lives. Our status in Christ is undergoing a change at the hand of God. We are moving from the gutter-most to the uttermost. We are moving from the realm of sinful man to the realm of the Most High.

Those of us who were walking in the Adamic life, flesh and blood, could never come to this alone. That is why the seed of Christ was planted into the earth of humanity. Jesus tasted death for every man and He has become our Seed. And Jesus said in John 12:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." This He

said signifying what death He would die. This is talking about death, about dying and bringing forth much fruit.

What happened when Jesus died and the Seed was planted? **The divine life of the Son was planted in the earth of humanity so that all who receive Him are given the power or privilege of becoming the sons of God.** Saints, those who have faith to believe would move on to partake of His divine nature! **The harvest is sure because the Seed has fallen to the earth of Humanity!** The husbandman, the Lord, has long patience as He waits for the harvest! *Hallelujah! And Hallelujah again!*

When He gathers the harvest of mature corn in the likeness of the Corn that has fallen into the ground and died, **will you and I be part of that gathering of His sons unto Him?**

May the Lord continue to open our eyes of understanding to see our calling in Christ Jesus!



CHAPTER TWELVE



NO LONGER SERVANTS, BUT FRIENDS



The Life of True Sonship

The Lord is revealing the desires of His heart to His people in these meditations. In this we rejoice. The Bible says that the last Adam was made a quickening spirit, a life-giving Spirit (1 Cor 15:45). The living Christ had not taken on the sin or disease of humanity. Had He done so, He would not have been a life-giving Spirit. Jesus Christ became sin for our sake. He tasted death for our sake. In this way **Christ demonstrated the life of true Sonship**. He is the only one who has attained to that place. When we return to our Father's home, we will no longer be walking in the ways of our Adamic life. This is what God is bringing about in our lives. **While we are here, our status in Christ is undergoing a change at the hand of God.** We are moving from the gutter-

most to the uttermost. We are moving from the realm of sinful man to the realm of the Most High. Praise be to God!

When we were enemies of God we were servants of sin as the Bible says in Romans 6:20, “For when ye were the servants of sin”. But God is changing us; we are undergoing a thorough change at His hands. We were servants of sin at one time for we gave our members to sin. We yielded our members to sin at one time. But thanks be to God, Jesus has redeemed us so that we can become servants of God. That is what we read in the book of Romans. *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”* (Rom 6:22).

There is a glory there, is there not? Yes, surely it is a glorious thing that we are no more servants to sin. Praise His Holy Name! At one time we were sold out as slaves to sin, but He redeemed us from that realm and we became servants of God. We can say Hallelujah to that, is it not? **It is far better to be servants of God than servants of sin.** In fact it is a wonderful privilege to be able to say we are servants of God — just to be a people who obey God. A people who obey His voice and do what He tells us to do.

Going down the memory lane, I recall that when I was saved and Christ came into my life, there was a newly-found hunger within me to do something for God. When we go from the servitude for sin to the servitude of God we always have a desire to do something for God. In the evangelical world there is an emphasis on service for God when this happens. The moment we come to Christ we yearn to serve God in some way. We think and always have a feeling that there is a reward waiting for us in heaven “What have I

done for Christ today? How many people have I brought to God today? What plans can I make to bring more people to the Lord? Since Christ will come any moment, what immediate thing can I do to earn a reward?" We all have grown up as Christians with such thoughts and persuasions. This is the mind of servanthood. The mind of a servant is always upon the wages and rewards that would come his way. He thinks of what he is going to get for his labour.

When people talk of the Second Coming of Christ, many of us in our younger days always felt conscious of not having done anything as a service before His return. We were eager to register ourselves as helpful members in our zeal to be counted as those who would be rewarded by the Lord. Then there are people in the church who are more than willing to do things, small favors and manual help for the church. They are volunteers to clean, to help in projects and to take part in activities where they can be counted having done something for the Church and the Lord. There are others who cannot wait for the day of the Lord but are ready to wait for their personal promotion! There are many such subtle ways in which the flesh of man responds to calls to doing something for God in the hope that there will be a right reward for them. Some love to work as ushers in the church, others love to help the weak and marginalized. It can be said with candidness that almost everybody in the church looks for something to do that will result in a reward for the recognition of their service and labour for the Lord.

Saints, being in service unto the Lord is always a thrilling experience. But this is not the best that God has for us! It is not God's highest for His redeemed! People display of lot of zeal when it comes to doing activities that would earn them

rewards, but the Lord has something much higher and better for us. Today, churches face many problems because people's eyes are not open to see that as sons we have an inheritance to enter into. All the time people's thoughts are upon doing something that will bring them much earned rewards either from man or from the Lord.

A Higher Step in God

Saints, let us remember that the Lord has something higher for His sons. **Though at one time we were servants of sin, we are now servants of the Lord, and yet that is not our final destination in Christ. Let us be happy and content that we are no more servants to sin, but servants unto God.** Beloved, each and every one of us is called to be sons of the Most High. Do not be content with this status and think that it is good enough for us. Oh no, God has something more for us; our destination is His throne. Oh may God help us and open our blind eyes.

Luke 17:6-10

And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that

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were commanded him? I trow not.

*So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things
which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable
servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

The Lord here is speaking in a parable about a servant doing what he was commanded to do. We read that we are unprofitable servants called to do what we are commanded to do as our duty. So if we do many things which we are commanded to do, then all we can say is that we are unprofitable servants for we have only done what is our duty to do. **The mark of the servant is obedience and faithfulness in service. Let us note that the servant does not have to know the reason why he is doing that work for the Master.** He does not need to know why he has to do it; he only needs to know that he has to do it. **However, God wants to bring about a change in our status; we are not to be servants but to be sons.** A servant does not know why a master wants him to do a thing. He does not have to know the reason to do what he is called or commanded to do. (In the armed forces there is a well-worn phrase, "Mine is not to reason why; mine is but to do and die".) The servant has only to dutifully do what he is told to do by the master. He only does that which is told to him.

Beloved, you have not been called to be a servant but a son. When you go home to the Father you will have a new relationship. **Those servants of God who are faithful and obedient will be brought to a higher realm.** We were servants to sin but now we are servants to God and to righteousness. God will always bring us to higher realms and we are not to remain in lower realms of spirituality in His kingdom. We are moving forward in a progressive life in Christ Jesus. We

see this truth revealed in Jesus' words in the Gospel of John.

John 15:15-16

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Saints we are no longer working for God as His servants. **Our calling is not merely to be servants but to be friends. We move from the realm of servants to the realm of a friend!** Jesus says He has chosen us and ordained us to be His friends. This is not something of man but of God. It is an eternal relationship for His own name's sake.

While the mark of a servant is obedience, sometimes even blind obedience, the mark of a friend is revelation. Jesus said, whatsoever I have received of the Father, I have revealed unto you.

These translations give us a wonderful understanding of the truth. **A master does not confide in his slaves. Servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning.** Jesus clearly said, "I called you My friends because I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from My Father." *Hallelujah!*

The mark of a friend is revelation of what the Father is saying and why He is saying. A servant does not have revelation and understanding. It is a limited realm though

he is obedient. What a love of the Father we behold here, brethren? **Sons do not work FOR God, but they work WITH God. The servants work for the Master but the sons work with the Father.** Let the light of this divine illumination break upon the hearts of the sons. This is the hope of their calling. From henceforth they will live in the high places in Christ Jesus all the more. Amen, Hallelujah. What a glorious calling it is.

This revelation has stirred my heart and lifted me up in my spirit. Saints, this is our calling. Jesus said whatsoever I have received from the Father, I have made known unto you. He has revealed them to us. He said, I have chosen you and you have not chosen me. He says, "I am the builder, I am the master builder". In making a house there are many areas. Christ is the Master-builder. He said, "*I will build my house, my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" We are co-laborers with Him as the Scripture says, "*For we are labourers together with God*" (1 Cor 3:9). "*For we are fellow workmen (joint-promoters, labourers together) with and for God*" (AMP). **We are joint promoters and builders with the Lord! The Lord reveals to us the divine knowledge of the plans and purposes of the Master Builder.** We are not servants, for the Master does not confide His plans and purposes to us.

At a construction site, we see labourers carrying things from one end to another while the architect and his friends take time to look at the blue prints and decide what is going to be done at different places. Take this analogy to the spiritual realm and bless the Lord! How precious that thought is! They share their burden among themselves that at the end what matters is that the work is progressing and

conforming to the plan and meets the end purpose!

The Builder looks with great concern at the finished product and how it shall look like when it is completed. That is the place of the sons, beloved ones. They are as much concerned about the finished product as the Father is concerned about it!

In the last days in which we are living, God has laid a prophetic assurance upon my heart. Jesus said to the disciples, “..... for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” “I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him”. **That Scripture is being fulfilled prophetically in these end times.** We are living in an hour and a time when God will raise up a people for Himself. In these end times He is sending forth a revelation of what He has upon His heart. All that He has received of His Father He is making known to His church in these days. Let me say authoritatively that this hour is an hour of great revelation that is breaking forth upon God’s people. **We do not have men like the Apostle Paul, nor like the Apostle John to reveal to us what God is going to do. But God still has a remnant church that will hear what He has to say through men who are tuned to God’s voice and burden in this hour. Indeed God is revealing His mind to the church. This is the day of His revelation.** That is what we read in the prophets.

Isaiah 60:1-2

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Thy Light is Come

Church, thy light is come. Thy understanding and revelation is come. We are living in the days when His light is come upon His people. **The majority of Christianity is living in darkness (ignorance) but His light (understanding and revelation) is coming upon the minority, and the few remnant of God.** Many have been blinded by the Babylonian system that has brought bondage into their lives. They are unable to see that there is a higher place in the economy God. God is sending His light and opening the eyes of some who are open in this hour. We read in Thessalonians what the Lord will do as we come to the end times.

1 Thess 5:4-9

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Lord is giving His church a battle-dress for the end times which are drawing nigh. It contains the armour of light. God is giving the armour of light to the church to stand in the evil day of darkness. **The Lord is not providing His church with wings to fly away but with armour to stand**

and fight the darkness by letting her light to shine in the darkness! May the Lord grant us a great awakening to the seriousness of the present day situations.

I am stirred in my heart. I am lifted up in my spirit for this time in which we are living. To be in that place with Christ where He would call us His friends is a great privilege. However, to be in that place of union with the Father within the veil, is yet greater. God wants us to come into that higher realm. Not just to remain servants but to be His friends as Jesus said. And remember, He wants to bring you into yet a higher place. Let us chew upon that spiritual nugget. God is revealing; His light is coming; that is what He said to His disciples. He said that whatsoever My Father has made known or revealed to me I have made known to you. The servant does not know what the Master does or what the Master's intentions are. Only a son is in the position of a friend who knows what the Master says. Amen. Aren't you glad of your status in the Father? Let us come out of our bondage of a servanthood. It will not be an overnight work, but let our hearts be set in the right direction — the direction of being a son. And let us come out of all the bondage of servanthood.

Finally, brethren, there are so many who have either become satisfied with a servant role or become blinded by Babylonian bondage, that they cannot see that there is a great place in God that His people are yet to enter into. The lives of God's children like you and me are being transformed and changed into His image, from glory to glory, as we behold His face as in a glass, the mirror of His revealed word! What a thrilling time to live in fellowship with Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord! He is progressively bringing us

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into His highest. May God help us and open our eyes of understanding to the glory that is awaiting His church in these last days!



CHAPTER THIRTEEN



OUR BLESSED PREDESTINATION



We praise God that we are called to be His sons. The Holy Spirit has been speaking many precious thoughts from God's word. We are not to be servants but to move on from there to be sons of God. It is my prayer that this may not be a head knowledge but a heart knowledge for all of us — that we may truly be apprehended by God's word and experience that transformation in our lives through His word.

God is encouraging many of us in these days. He is stirring our hearts afresh through His word. We thank God for all that He has done in our lives as we opened our lives to Him. But we need to realise that what God has done in us must bear, not just some fruit, but 'much' fruit. Many believers are satisfied having been touched and encouraged

by the Lord because they experienced something from the Lord in the early part of their lives. But we must remind ourselves continuously that there is an onward or on-going work that God desires to do in each one of us. When our Lord Jesus Christ healed a person or did a work in someone's life, His desire and interest was that that man be drawn to the Father and that an ongoing work be done in that life to move him in the direction of abundant life. His concern was not merely that they would experience something and then go back or be satisfied by God's hand upon their lives, but that they would move on in the Lord to a place of wholeness.

Henceforth, You shall be Friends

In these meditations we have considered several aspects about servant-hood and sonship. We have seen that the servants of the Lord who remain faithful are always obedient to the master. They are keen to become friends and move on with the Lord. In John 15:15 we saw what the Lord said, "*Henceforth, I call you not as servants for the servant knoweth not what the Lord doeth, but I called you friends that all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. You have not chosen me but I have chosen you.*"

So we see from the word of God that we are not servants any more but friends. As we know the mark of servants is that they are obedient to what they have been told. Many times they are obedient without receiving any specific knowledge of what they are to do, but the mark of a friend is that he has a revelation or knowledge of what he is to do..

Servants work FOR God or their master, but the sons are friends who work WITH God. They have a divine illumination of what is upon the Father's heart. They come into the understanding and knowledge of the Father's purpose and plan.

The Lord is revealing what is upon His heart to His remnant people. God is bringing forth and making known the mind and thought of God to His people. So there is an understanding of God's heart and God is illuminating our eyes to see the hope of our calling and the purpose of our salvation in Christ Jesus.

In this day of light many are still living in darkness; they choose to remain in darkness. They have no desire to be in the light. That is the tragedy we see even among God's people today. **People are blinded by a Babylonian bondage.** There are many young brothers and sisters in Christ who are trapped in a Babylonian bondage and become blind in their lives. However, to lives which are open, (and that is what is encouraging me) God is causing their eyes to be opened. **In this very hour of God's workings, there are many who are dragging their feet but there are some who are putting their feet forward with all deliberation, faith, and sacrifice to move on in God.** Surely, God is doing a transforming work in such lives. God is doing a delivering work that will bring a transformation in their lives for they shall surely be conformed into His image, from glory to glory, as they continue to behold Him in their lives with an unveiled face. **When their hearts turn to the Lord, the veil in the Most Holy Place will be taken away and they will see Him face to face.** Beloved saints, I believe by faith that we are coming into a thrilling time of walking with the Lord, as a son to his Father.

Our Blessed Predestination

What we are hearing from God in these precious days is not a matter of some Bible knowledge. We are hearing the Word of God that is able to change us and bring us to the fulfilment of His purpose in our lives. So let us pay attention to all that we read or hear. It is time to take God's word very seriously into our hearts. **Unbelieving hearts will continue to remain in an unbelieving state as long as they continue to reject the word.** If they are not open they will continue in unbelief. When God's word is coming to His people they should not allow unbelief to linger in their hearts. The Lord has kept you in a place of hearing His voice and therefore, it is your responsibility not to harden your hearts.

Our Blessed Predestination

We read very clearly from the life of Onesimus that the Apostle Paul took him to be his son. At one time he was not profitable but then he became profitable, not as a slave but as a son. We thank God for all that He spoke to us. To go from servants of sin to be servants of righteousness unto God is a great thing and to come to a place of righteousness from a place of unrighteousness is not easy. To come out of being slaves and to become friends of God is great and we bless the Lord for His mercy upon us. However, **to move on further and to be His sons is the greatest wonder of all!** Oh glory to God! Hallelujah! Beloved, friendship is not the highest and best in the divine economy of God.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)

This Scripture is very familiar to most of God's people. The word of God is very clear and it reveals God's highest

to us. This is the mind of God in Christ Jesus. In the Amplified Bible we read: *“For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.”* How precious and enlightening it is to know that those He called and forgave, He also destined from the beginning to be molded into the image of the Son and share inwardly His likeness. **Not in the outward but in the inward we are to be made into His likeness that He might become the first born amongst many brethren. So His image and likeness can only come through an inward work in us.** Saints may the Holy Spirit enlighten us to understand that it is by an inward work. It is not a matter of being excited by a doctrine, but it is a process to which we must commit ourselves to grow into the image of His Son. We must share inwardly His life. In doing this precious work in us, the intention of God is that Jesus Christ might become the first born among many brothers. **So from the beginning the mind and thought of God is not one Son but many sons.**

“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,” (Hebrews 2:11)

This is a very precious Scripture portion that we should lay hold of. **For both Jesus who sanctifies and those who are sanctified, that is spiritually transformed, made holy and set apart for God’s purpose, are all from one Father.** So we see that they become and are one. Therefore, He is not ashamed to call them brethren because they are of the same, all of one Father. God is not ashamed to call them one family. “Jesus, who makes people holy, and those who are made

holy are from the same family.” (New Century Version).

The Apostle Paul writes to the Hebrew believers quoting from Psalm 22:22, *“I will declare thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee”*. This is a quote from this prophetic Psalm of David about the Lord Jesus Christ. This Psalm of David is quoted by the Spirit and brought into the epistle to the Hebrews by the Apostle Paul. Though David talks about his own sufferings and situations in the Psalm, he brings forth several prophetic utterances about the Messiah. *“For He says, I will declare Your [the Father’s] name to My brethren; in the midst of the [worshiping] congregation I will sing hymns of praise to You”* (Amplified). We can see that he declared the name of the Lord Jesus in the midst of the congregation, which is the church. *“I will declare thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the church will I praise thee.”* (Douay-Rheims Bible)

God is revealing His plan OF God’s Son and FOR God’s sons. As it is written, *“I will declare thy name to my brethren,”* which **speaks of a body of sons, a harvest from God’s divine workings, a people who are hundred-fold.** That seed that is on good ground will grow from thirty-fold to sixty-fold. **We can thank God that some will come to the hundredfold realm. So God will have a harvest of sons which in His time will be a hundredfold unto God.** While many are happy with a thirtyfold and a sixtyfold, there will be those who will move on unto hundredfold in their lives. Finally this is an expression of the Man-child which we read in the Book of Revelation *“And she brought forth a male Child, One Who is destined to shepherd (rule) all the nations with an iron staff (scepter), and her Child was caught up to God and to His throne”* Rev 12:5 (Amp). Here we see the overcomer who will sit

on the throne with the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”* (Rev 3:21). *“Overcome even as I overcame”*. **The overcomer or the overcoming church, the many membered Christ, will sit with Him in His throne.** This is the calling of the sons, sitting with the Lord in His throne. They are the Melchizedec order of kings and priests who will rule and reign on the earth. *“And hast formed them into a Kingdom to be priests to our God, And they reign over the earth.”* (Rev 5:10)(Weymouth translation). **The Father is forming this company of sons on the earth.** Beloved, as the Scripture says, *“ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father”* The Spirit is crying Abba Father in the hearts of these sons in their everyday life, just as it was in the life of the Son, their Elder brother. *“In the days of His flesh [Jesus] offered up definite, special petitions [for that which He not only wanted but needed] and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was [always] able to save Him [out] from death, and He was heard because of His reverence toward God [His godly fear, His piety, in that He shrank from the horrors of separation from the bright presence of the Father].* (Heb 5:7 AMP). These sons are being formed; they are maturing in His will.

The Progressive Work of God in Our Lives

Sometimes people ask me, *“Brother I have heard you speak these things before. You have been speaking this truth for years.”* I tell them that they will keep on hearing it as long as we know that we are called according to His Purpose to this High Calling in Christ Jesus. **We thank God that**

God has given us books to read but these are not to keep us away from the Book, the Bible. But we thank God that these books, which were written by men of God who truly walked with God, are available to us in this generation. And we thank God that we can read them and that we can continue to hear what God wants to bring us to in our lives.

If God has given me some insight into God's word; if I have ever grown in the Lord; it is because of the hunger and thirst of God's people in the local church and in other places, who are into a lively fellowship with us in the Son. I have shared this several times with different audiences. A shepherd looks for the pastures which are green and luscious, not for himself (not that I don't need the word) but for his sheep. If it were not for the hunger and longing of God's people for more of Him, my own spiritual eyes would not have opened to any great extent. I have witnessed and testified this truth at several places, here and abroad. I can say confidently that I would never have grown in my calling outside of the Body of Christ where I am being built into a local body of Christ which is a living organism. There have been men of God who have walked this way before and it has been my great privilege to have learned from their lives and writings. I thank God for that and so I can say honestly that if I have seen something in Christ it is because of the hunger, thirst and longing of God's people for God Himself. I can thank God that what I have received from others has an infinite place in my life. It is not just a mental thing but something that worked in the depths of my being.

The Apostle Paul says, *"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him...."* (Gal

1:15-16). I would say in all humility that God did work in me in a small measure through these years that I may preach Him and His purpose to others. That which in His mercy He imparted to me I was able to give back in measures. The reason I am saying this is that which God has imparted to us in our lives cannot be overlooked. Paul says in his testimony before king Agrippa what the Lord spoke to him on the road to Damascus – “.....for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;... to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (Acts 26:16-18). This has to be true of every disciple of Christ Jesus. Saints, it is very clear from the words of the Apostle Paul that this seeing is progressive, for the Lord says, “which thou hast seen and of those things in which I will appear unto thee.”

If your eyes have been opened to see anything in Christ you want to be in that place where God wants you to be, despite all the difficulties, battles, challenges and problems you face from time to time. No one can move you away from where you are, you are where God wants you to be because of what you have seen of the Holy Spirit. We receive strength from the Holy Spirit to stay where God has brought us and move on to our destiny. The power we receive even through the Holy Spirit is for seeing those things which are in the heart of God. That seeing is very powerful that cannot be easily overcome by the natural man and the flesh. Paul, the apostle, says “*Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision* “ (Acts 26:19). Paul

could not be quiet but declared what he had seen. He could not be disobedient to that which the Spirit had revealed. He had to face much opposition, suffering, rejection and reproaches for what he preached and lived. Brethren, we cannot keep quite but share those eternal things God has opened our eyes to see.

There is a lot of Christian literature that is sent to me by institutions and different groups. It is sad to see that much of all that comes does not have a ring of truth. Most of it relates to the realm of generalities and is very elementary. I have often waded and scanned through the publications to get to see if there is anyone who is touched by a revelation of what is upon the heart of God or about His eternal purpose in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. However, rarely did I ever come across the writings of such a man of God in the manifold literature that was addressed to me.

We want to be faithful to the One who has called and opened our spiritual eyes. That is why we do all that we can to reach this word to others. Some would say you have been sharing such things in the house of God and we would in reply say - yes we shall continue to share because here is something God has revealed from the word as His eternal purpose for our lives. The important thing is that we have to give our lives to God for what He has helped us to see as Paul confessed before Agrippa. **We cannot be disobedient and incredulous. There may be many struggles, many things that are spoken and done against us, but we need to move on.**

The Imperative of Moving On in God's Calling

Beloved saints, we need to always move on in this calling

of God upon our lives. People may say or have their opinions about us and do many things against us, but we must move on in this purpose of God unto which He has saved us. Read the words of Apostle Paul:

Romans 8:28-39

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor

Our Blessed Predestination

*angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present,
nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be
able to separate us from the love of God, which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God has brought you to this body because He loves you; He has opened your eyes in small measures and so be faithful to God. We shall undergo many pressures, but these come into our lives so that we may move on. Let us identify our calling to be the sons of the living God. To be growing sons in God's house is our greatest privilege and highest in our lives. Who could be against us if God has willed it in our life? None, absolutely no one. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" No one. No power in hell or the scheme of man could ever separate us from the love of God to bring us into the full expression of His eternal Son to be mature sons unto the Father. May the Lord open our eyes!

What a calling! What a purpose!



CHAPTER FOURTEEN



UNTIL THE APPOINTED TIME



God's eternal plan, which He has purposed before the foundations of the world, cannot be changed by any power in heaven or in the earth (Ephesians 1:4-12). God is working "according to the counsel of his own will" towards this very end. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* (Romans 8:27-28).

We see a beautiful picture of sonship in Galatians Chapter 4. I pray that God will open your eyes of understanding as we progress in our meditations.

Until The Appointed Time

Galatians 4:1-7

*Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child,
differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;
But is under tutors and governors until the time
appointed of the father.*

*Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage
under the elements of the world:*

*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent
forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
To redeem them that were under the law, that we might
receive the adoption of sons.*

*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of
his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

*Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a
son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

The Scriptures make it very clear that we are heirs. You are an heir of God and that you are the lord of all things. The Amplified Bible says very explicitly,

*NOW WHAT I mean is that as long as the inheritor
(heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a
slave, although he is the master of all the estate;*

Remember that you are heir and master of all that the Lord has. You are the heir and ruler of all that God has. Some people want to be very humble and say, "Lord, all I want is just one corner of the Kingdom." This is pride talking. It is the heart which is not willing to submit to God's plan and purpose and wants to live for the self. The humble heart will always accept the will of God denying their own will. The Lord will have His humble remnant that will sync to God's will in all humility. Nevertheless, this is God's calling upon God's church.

The Scripture in the Amplified Bible (AMPC) also renders Gal 4:2 very well:

But he is under guardians and administrators or trustees until the date fixed by his father.

But this lordship or rulership or heirship comes to us only when we come to maturity. It is a matter of giving ourselves to the working of God in our lives and to the process that God has in mind for us.

As long as the son is a child he is treated as a child. Though he is the heir and ruler of all, he is yet a child and is treated as a servant - he does not differ from a slave. It is very important to understand this carefully. The thing is that though you may be a son you will only become eligible when you come into maturity at the time appointed by the father. Praise the Lord!

This sonship is not a matter of getting excited and throwing your weight around because you are now a son. You have to see the other side of the coin. Who are you? Yes, you are a ruler and heir of God, but the same word of God says that till we are children we are no different from being a servant. You may be lord of all, but you are now under tutors.

How often we desire not to be under tutors and governors (and live like rascals)? God wants us to live as sons. He wants us to come into our inheritance. God wants us to be disciplined sons who will come into the day appointed by the Father. This is what God has in store for us.

The Need for Maturity

We have heard many times in this house that we are under tutors and governors. What does that mean? **That means that our lives are governed by someone else.** It is very pleasant to say that we are sons and will rule and reign sitting upon the throne, but that is not how God's government is. **The kingdom of God comes with character. That is how God's kingdom works or functions. To be under tutors and governors means that henceforth your life will be guided, prepared and disciplined by tutors.** We have the example of Saul in the Old Testament as one who was brought to the throne without any trials and workings. His character did not change despite the mercies of God upon his life. He was a man without character who sat on the throne of Israel. In comparison take the life of David. He was tested and tried and then was brought to the throne. He was a man of character while he ruled on the throne! We see many today in the world who have much power, but do not have character. The governments of the world work like that, but not the government of God. **It is sad to hear that today many saints of God get so caught up with the end time truths that they get swollen heads and disregard the character of the government of God. They walk about in a brash and proud manner talking about the power that the sons of God shall come into.** However, they forget that His kingdom is one of character, the very character of God Himself.

Some children in the present age think they have come to be what they are by their own efforts and their natural abilities. The reality, however, is that someone in the family had prayed and cared for them. Is it not true? It is good for us to remind ourselves about this. It is true that in our

childhood none of us liked instructions, disciplines and corrections. Some of us did not even know what it meant to be physically clean, but we had to be taught even though we did not like it then. May be some young brothers and sisters did not like to spend time on their studies and school-books, but they had to be helped with the disciplines of learning. So the parents had to discipline them in love. They were under tutors. Our parents did not allow us to have our way. They tutored us. Today we are grateful to our parents for the concern they had for us. **No parent will ever let a child govern his/her own life!** It was because our parents loved us that they did not allow us to have our own way. This is true in the natural even though some children are hardhearted and question their parents saying, "What have you done for me?" In the present generation, many young folk in the teens do not realise what hard times their parents had gone through for them. **Parents who love God and love their children are prepared to suffer as long as their children do not go the way they want to go. On the other hand, there are parents who love their children more than the Lord, and let their children choose their easy ways without correcting them for fear of losing them.** It is good to let youngsters know that believer parents are always mindful and careful to give themselves to God first and also pray that the children will not stray away. The Kingdom of God is like that. As the Scriptures teach us, a true local church is the family of God.

As long as we are children we need someone to care for us. We cannot do what we want to do in the way we do. In the natural life we appreciate this, but in spiritual life we do not want the rod of discipline to work upon us. We all agree very readily when it comes to natural life that we need to be

Until The Appointed Time

looked after by our parents. The Apostle Paul uses this example of living realities and applies it to our spiritual lives in the House of God. Here in the House we have to be under tutors and governors. When I was young I moved from one church to another church as a young believer. I did not know the truth of the purpose of my salvation. I was raised up with an Anglican (CSI) background. I was born-again in a Methodist Church; I was baptised in a Brethren Assembly and then I was baptised in the Holy Spirit while I was yet a Brethren believer. However, God in His great mercies, gave me a hungry heart for Himself. God's love helped me to survive every wind and storm that I faced in the church realm. Then the Lord mercifully brought me into a local church 41 years ago, where I have remained ever since. I bless the Lord for His wisdom in building me together with other lively stones into a spiritual house! It is in this Body that I have learned and am learning the myriad ways of God, and the depths and the heights of Jesus Christ. I had shared similar thoughts in our last meditation

Today many believers talk about end time doctrines with great zeal. However, many of them are aliens and strangers to the reality of Body life. They are just roaming about without the word of God having any authority in their lives. They never come to know the tutors and governors in their lives. They speak of having authority in the House of God, without having lived under authority in a local church. They fail to submit themselves to the government of God in the local church and thus cause division, misunderstanding and disturbance. Let me also say that many believers use the word "control" in a very loose and meaningless way. I have heard some people criticize local church authorities for controlling the lives of believers. Though there could be

instances of abuse of spiritual authority and extremes, this should be seen as the way the enemy tries to neutralize the truth and make it of no effect. We should know that irrespective of such malpractices and extremes, the truth continues to live on in the lives of every true remnant!

If we are placed in the Body of Christ it is the mercy of God to have brought us to a place where we could be governed by tutors set up by the Lord. That is the reason they bring corrections to us; they bring a hard word so that the children they love do not go in their own way any more. They know what it will amount to at the end. They are able to gauge what children cannot discern because of their immaturity. We have the example of the Apostle Paul in the Bible who was the ‘seeing eye and hearing ear’ for many local churches. In Acts Chapter 20 verses 28 to 31, we read how he spiritually saw what would happen to the church in Ephesus after his departure and he warned them of it seriously. When we are in this calling we all need help and protection from deceptive powers of evil. That is the reason why the Apostle Paul says: *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”*

The Place of the Local Church

It is in the local church that we get the help we need to grow unto maturity. We are preserved by those who help us to go the straight and narrow way and not fall into something evil that could hurt us and many others as well. May the Lord help us!

Ephesians 4:12-16

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the

Until The Appointed Time

*ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto
the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and
fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by
the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they
lie in wait to deceive;
But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in
all things, which is the head, even Christ:
From whom the whole body fitly joined together and
compact by that which every joint supplieth, according
to the effectual working in the measure of every part,
maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in
love.*

When we are children, the elements of the world will have influence over us and try to bring us under it. We are so immature that we are attracted to everything we see.

“Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.” (Galatians 4:3)

Children have their likings and they come under bondage to whatever they like. The apostle Paul says that in the former times we were under that slavery of hateful and evil things. As long as we remain in our childhood we continue to be influenced by worldly things. We are unable to see the value of those things that our parents impose upon us. We see in our own lives that when we are in that childhood how much we are drawn to the elements of this world, its fashions, its styles, its values. We are concerned with what our friends are doing, what our neighbors are doing, what many Christians are doing and also what they are not doing. These are all elements of bondage that we are swamped

with. We are unable to see that we are called to be sons. But if our eyes have been opened to see that we are 'sons' then we shall not fall a prey to these worldly elements. We are not to be slaves to the world or to the flesh any more. We are never to be under their bondage.

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

(Galatians 4:7)

This Scripture portion is so precious! We are no longer servants but sons, hallelujah! How clearly this is enunciated. The Lord, our God, does not want us to be servants any more. The apostle Paul had to tell the believers in Galatia that they were no longer to be children but sons. God did not want them to remain children. To be a child is necessary and a part of our life, but that is not where we are to stop. We are to move on to our maturity and possess our inheritance in Christ!

Saints, we are no more servants but sons. **God does not want anyone of us to be mere servants and receive a servant's reward for the labour here on earth! He wants us to have His own life and nature in us to the extent that we bear His image and do His will because we have His mind. He is our full inheritance.** Glory to God! This is God's desire for us. He desires that we should grow and give ourselves to Him for this work. There is no shortcut to this process.

"To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:5)

In Galatians 4:2 we read that as children we are under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. This helps us to see that there are appointments of God

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that are applicable to us in our lives. There are appointed times under the Father which the Father has appointed from the beginning. And verse 5 says that we might receive the adoption of sons. The Scripture says that until then we are under a process. And when the time comes we might receive the adoption of sons. **The purpose of our redemption is that we might receive the adoption.** The purpose of our salvation, of our being saved from sin, is to bring us into that state or stage of the adoption of sons.

This word 'adoption' used in Galatians 4:5 does not mean adoption as we know it today, which is being used for adopting someone else's child. The word adoption here stems from a Greek word "HUIOTHESIA" which means **placing of a son**. A son grows through his childhood and 'teens' and then comes to an age when he is mature in his manhood. The father, then, officially brings him to a place of being a partner with him in business and possessions. That is called adoption. It is so different from adoption as we understand in the world today. Here the father officially appoints and makes known that his son is now a partner with him, having now come to that place of maturity.

The Appointments of God

So there are appointments of God in our lives. The appointments of God will never fail. They are sure, dear saints. In His appointed time God brought you into salvation and brought you into the body of Christ to hear the truth. May God open our eyes to see the great purpose of God! We have come to a time when we can no longer be governed by false things. The time has come to be serious and to be responsible and to behave ourselves. The time has

come for us to be open and to give ourselves to that which God wants to do in our lives. There is an appointed time for all things in God's government. There is a time to come under the tutors and governors that God has secured so that they may cause us to grow and mature in His domain. And when the right time comes we shall be His sons.

This is a very precious truth. It is not just a doctrine. There has to be an outworking of this word in our lives and let us be quick to accept our responsibility. Let us be open to receive God's end in our lives. It is not enough to appreciate this principle and live our own lives the way we want to. We must be wide open to receive corrections in our lives. We must be open to allow the cross to work in our lives so that we come into the reality of this word. This is the way the nature of Christ will come into our lives. Remember you cannot grow into the full stature of Christ all by yourself. Neither can anyone crucify himself. The Scripture says that Jesus learned obedience. He trusted the Father and then He was made perfect. We come into Christ likeness by living in the Body of Christ. Yes, some can show others how humble they are by some outward manners, but that is very different from an inward humility. Humility is an inward disposition. Humility is tested in true body life. This is God's wisdom and it is reflected in the building up of the local church. That is why we are in a Body. This is where the work of the Spirit is done in us. May God help us for the day is coming when the sons shall be brought into that adoption. Therefore, you are no more as servants but you are sons. And if sons then heirs of Christ. And remember that this is something that will happen here on the earth. Let me say that the unbelief of some will never see that day, but those that are believing will see it and come

into it. God will do it.

Revelation 21:7-8

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The Scripture is very emphatic, **“I will be his God and he shall be my son.”** He that overcometh shall inherit all things. What a destiny! This is the mark of sonship — that you will inherit all things. **And the Lord says I will be his God and he shall be my son!** This is the ultimate! This is why we read in Galatians that it was necessary that Jesus should die to make this inheritance a reality.

“For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.” (Hebrews 9:16)

It was necessary for Christ to die so that we could come into our inheritance. **In our case, the Testator not only died to bring us into our inheritance, but is also risen again ever living and is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us till we come into our inheritance. He has written His will for His sons in His own blood.** No one can annul or abrogate His will written in His own blood. He is our intercessor and advocate to bring us into our full inheritance! Hallelujah! What wisdom! What Glory! I want to tell you saints that the appointed time is drawing nigh.

The day and the time of adoptions is drawing nigh. The appointed time of the father is drawing to a close. And he

that overcometh shall inherit all things. **Beloved saints, let me share with you that something of this very thing happened about two thousand years ago.** It is the shadow of that which is to happen in the end times. We all know from Matthew Chapter 3 how Jesus came to the waters of baptism. We know all that happened there. John the Baptist baptized Jesus. When Jesus came out to the waters and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, lo a voice from heaven came and said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Here we find the adoption of the elder Son among many brethren. Let this stir faith and hope in us. This should really enlighten us. This should bring us to a place where we will look forward, with a great hope in our hearts, to that day of adoption. Jesus Christ did not start His ministry for 30 years. He did not start His ministry in His teen age. He waited for the time appointed of the Father. **Until He came to the age of 30 (remember, His ministry was for only 3 1/2 years!), He was under the government of tutors and governors.** If anyone wants to be like Jesus let him not forget how He submitted Himself to His imperfect parents (while He was perfect) for 30 years, as a carpenter.

Hebrews 5:8-9

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

This is the Jesus to whom we are to be conformed. But when the time appointed by the Father in Heaven came, Jesus was told to go to John the Baptist and submit to him.

In fact John refused to baptize Jesus for John saw his unworthiness. The answer of Jesus is very ministering for He said *“And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.”* (Mathew 3: 15). **If there was anyone who never needed to be baptized it was Jesus. He used a precious word - “for thus it becometh US to fulfill all righteousness”. He did not say John you have to obey the Father. He said let US obey the Father and fulfill all His righteous demands over our lives.** He subjected Himself to the governors and tutors ordained by the Father. This is the Scripture that convicted me and brought all my human arguments to an end. It helped me to take baptism by immersion though I was excommunicated from the Anglican Church(CSI).

Though He was a Son, yet he learned obedience. What an example for all of us who are called to be sons. **Beloved brethren, a day is coming when there will be an open declaration, “these are my beloved sons in whom I am well pleased”.** And they and their lives shall manifest the Father’s will.

That day is coming and will happen so that there may be many sons like the first born, the Lord Jesus. Jesus is an example for us. **What happened will happen again!! Glory to God! And many sons shall be changed from glory to glory.**

May God help us to have faith and give ourselves to the outworking of this word in our lives, by the Spirit. Let us be open to becoming sons, no longer to remain as servants. He that overcometh shall inherit all things. *“And I shall be his God and he shall be my son.”* That shall be the mark of our

Called To Be Sons, Not Servants

sonship. And we shall reign with Him. His appointed day is drawing nigh and no powers can ever stop it. Hallelujah!

May the Spirit of revelation and understanding be upon each one!



CHAPTER FIFTEEN



THE INHERITANCE OF THE SONS



The Holy Spirit has ministered to us deeply and impressively throughout this series of messages. A lasting work has been done in the inner man of each and every one who has been open to the Lord. The Holy Spirit is opening our eyes to know what our calling is. The Lord has called us to be sons and not servants and we are to continue to be sons and fulfill the Father's will.

The Calling of the Son

“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;” (Galatians 4:1)

The Scriptures here make it very clear that as long as a

believer is immature, he remains a servant, though he may be the lord of all things in the house. That means that if a son really understands his calling he would never like to remain in the realm of a servant, but would always desire to become a son. To put it in another way, a servant who realizes that his calling is to be a son would never like to continue to be a servant, but he would long to come into maturity. Many a time people hear of a truth that gets them excited about some new things, but as we have seen very clearly in previous issues, that understanding the truth is a matter of our heart and not of our head. We have to make sure that we really open up our hearts and our lives for God's word for the Spirit to do that work in our lives.

Every born-again child of God must have a true longing to move on to maturity. **Is there an intense longing within your heart to leave your immaturity behind and to move into maturity in every area of your lives?** We must make sure that God's word has found its entrance into our lives and that it is not a matter of our mind, intellect or of our head.

Pride is a great enemy of our growth. **Pride is the one constant thing we have to battle against.** There is a significant difference between faith and pride. Many a time believers make great statements from God's Word with pride, out of their intellectual knowledge of the Scriptures. They are not expressions of faith! In the days of our Lord Jesus, the Pharisees and the Jews made many such expressions.

"Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham". (Luke 3:8)

The Inheritance Of The Sons

“They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?” (John 8:33)

“Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is”. (John 9: 28, 29)

The Pride that Blinds

They were filled with pride of their knowledge of who they were by tradition and by their head knowledge. Faith makes one humble and helps one to see the eternal things of God progressively. Sometimes, God’s people clothe themselves with mere, naked pride and not with garments of true faith. They boast about God and His power and might, but they fail to prove their faith in their day to day life. **Faith brings changes to our lives.** Pride, on the other hand, will keep God at a distance from our lives. Most of us have to be extremely careful how we behave in this respect.

Nowadays it is common to hear people talk of the ‘end times’; they are caught up with the doctrine, but they are not able to shed their pride, arrogance and thus remain **insubmissive in their lives.** Had they given themselves into the hands of governors and tutors, their lives would have reflected a greater degree of maturity for they would have received help to grow spiritually. They are not given to the governors and tutors that could help them to grow in their lives. They are strangers to the local church or body life! Galatians 4:2 makes this clear that as believers we are to remain under tutors and governors until the time appointed by the Father. Until the fixed time arrives they need to remain under the provisions of the Father. It is not

we who choose, but the Father who chooses where we are to be. This is very important. Why many are not able to grow into maturity is that they would like to choose how to come into maturity and not leave it to God to choose and lead them. It is until the time fixed by the Father comes that we are to remain under the administrators or in the words in the local church. We need to understand that it is not we who choose under whom we ought to be, but it is God who chooses and adds the solitary to families.

“God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land” (Psalm 68:6).

Most of the groups of believers I have come across in my travels in India and abroad, have the same doctrine, yet they cannot come together in understanding the truth. **My question is, if their doctrines are the same why cannot they be together and gather in one place. Though they are few in number and have the same doctrine yet they give different names to their fellowships!** The main reason is that there is no true revelation of the body of Christ, the church, and therefore, they do not take up the cross to work in their lives. They do not like the cross' deliverance, which alone could build them into a body, into one man in Christ Jesus. Our Heavenly Father always guides a hungry soul to a true company of believers where the cross is at work and it is important to recognize that that is the place we must remain to grow.

If the believers have the same doctrine, then why cannot they be one? Why do they have different gatherings instead of one large gathering? They have no answer to that question, other than that they choose to do so according to their

individual likes and preferences. So many believers are meeting in a variety of groups all around us, but they are not always found in the place where the Father has kept them. It is important to remain there and be under the disciplines of God. **Beloved, this is God's to sonship in our lives. Therefore, we need to honor and respect God's sovereign plan in the body of Christ. People can have their doctrines but they will not be able to grow until they are given to the Father's sovereign plan in placing them in the local churches, where the truth of sonship and Gods eternal purpose is the vision and life.**

The Inheritance of the Sons

Let me bring an example from the book of Genesis to illustrate a particular thought regarding the inheritance of the son. We see the beautiful picture of the son in the relationship of Abraham and Isaac.

"Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah." (Genesis 25:1)

And so we read, ABRAHAM GAVE ALL THAT HE HAD UNTO ISAAC. The Scripture says that though he had many sons under Keturah, yet Abraham gave ALL that he had to Isaac. (Genesis 25:6)

Here we see very emphatically that Abraham gave ALL that he had to Isaac, the son of promise. However to his sons by the concubines, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away. Remember, they were living in a different place or location than that of Isaac. May the Holy Spirit open our eyes and help us to see the precious principle of the promised

sonship! It is important to see that in the light of the Scriptures Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, while the other sons were sent away.

The Inheritance of Many-Membered Sons

Beloved saints, hear the voice of the Lord – there will be gifts, blessings and heaven for “whosoever will believe in His name..” No doubt about this. It is His word. There are many today, both leaders and believers alike, who are caught up with the Lord solely for gifts and blessings. When we look at contemporary Christianity, there are so many who are living only for gifts and prosperity. Abraham gave gifts and blessings to the other sons of the concubines and sent them away. But to the son of the promise he gave all that he had, **The Lord will give gifts to those who merely seek prosperity and other blessings and will send them away, but the son of the promise will get all that the Father has.** Hallelujah! This is the difference between the sons of God who grow to maturity and the rest of the believers.

There are multitudes whose only concern is with what will happen when they die, whether they would go to heaven, what gifts and rewards will they get, and so on, but there are the true sons who know from the beginning that what they are called into - the purpose of God by their calling and salvation. They have a desire to come into that greater, brighter light. **The inheritance of all that God has will be reserved for the many-membered-son of promise, the overcomer, the man-child, the glorious bride, the people who bear the image of Christ and come into the fullness!** Glory to God! And we see that Isaac’s position and place was different from the rest of them. It is very clear that other

sons were sent away by Abraham. **But Isaac remained in that position and relationship. He remained in the realm of special intimacy with the Father.**

Dear saints, let us gather up this truth that the many-membered-son of promise, the overcomer will dwell with the Father (in the Spirit) while others live in a lower realm.

Are our hearts really longing for our inheritance or are our hearts looking for gifts and blessings and some good things here on this earth? There's a great temptation here and we have to be extremely cautious. We have to clearly look into our lives and see where and what our hearts are set upon. Often we are drawn to the other side of the fence where many believers have chosen to live. We are tempted by their prosperity and blessings in the natural realm. We need to remind ourselves that we are called to be heirs of all that the Father has. We see this very clearly from Genesis 25 that God has called us to that unique relationship of sonship. We cannot continue to be in the realm of generality and immaturity, but we must move on to the realm of the fullness of the Son.



CHAPTER SIXTEEN



SONSHIP - GOD'S HIGHEST



God does not want us to be in any realm other than the realm of maturity, intimacy and fullness. However, there are those who cannot come into that realm because of the wrong choice they have made. This is very clear from the following Scriptures.

The Example of the Sons of Zadok

Ezekiel 44: 9, 10

“Thus saith the Lord God; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel.

And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me

after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity.”

We see that the Levites went away when Israel went away. So the picture here is that when the people went away from the Lord, the leadership also went away from the Lord. The trend is the same today. The leaders are giving the people whatever they want. This dangerous trend is seen all over the world. The Levites were to show the people the way of the Lord, but they compromised with the people and went with them. The following Scripture makes it very clear what is the responsibility of the priests, the Levites.

*“Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.”
(Ezekiel 22:26)*

“Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them.” (Ezekiel 44:11)

Because They Went Away

The Lord says that because they have gone away with the people and failed to keep the sanctity of the House and the testimony of the Lord, they will be the keepers of the gates of the house and they will slay offerings and sacrifices for the people and minister to the people.

“Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity;

therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord God, and they shall bear their iniquity.”

(Ezekiel 44:12)

So the Lord told them that **they would bear their iniquity** because they ministered to the people before their idols and went along with them in their iniquity.

Ezekiel 44:13, 14

And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed.

But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein.”

The Lord made it very clear that the Levites would remain in His house but would not come near to Him. They would come to his house and be keepers of the gates, they would help to offer sacrifices on the altar, they will stand before the people and they would minister to them but they would not come near to Him. What a terrible thing it was that the Lord said that they would not be able to come near to Him.

What a tragedy it was for these Levites because they went away when the people went away. They went along with the people and hence the Lord said that they would continue to keep the gates and do their general duties **but they would not come near to God and minister unto Him.** They were not to come near to any of God's holy things;

they were not to come into the most holy place. **They were to bear their shame because of the abominations they had committed.** So the word of God is very clear. God will allow many to be in the realm of the outer court; they would minister to the people and stand before the people, but they would not be able to come to the holy place nor touch any of God's holy things. This is nothing but the truth of God's word.

*"But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept the charge of my sanctuary when the people of Israel went astray from me, shall come near to me to minister to me."
(Ezekiel 44:15)*

When the Levites went away they lost the privilege of ministering to the Lord. But the sons of Zadok did not go away with the people. They kept the charge of the House or the Sanctuary. They stayed on with their convictions. They stayed with what God had convicted them with and their commitments. The Scriptures say that they did not go astray when the majority went astray.

A Deeper Separation unto God

Many times we come under pressures from the world, but more than that we come under pressure from the spiritual and religious system, the church realm around us. And this is where we see many believers, brothers and sisters, stumble and drop away. This is where many believers compromise their stand. Today many leaders and believers alike are drawn away by the unholy pull of the present world. The leaders want to please the people for fear of losing them and reducing the size of their congregation. I have not merely

heard of leaders and groups of believers who have compromised their stands, but I have personal and intimate knowledge of such retractions.

It was so different with the Lord Jesus, as we read in the Gospel of John chapter 6 verses 60 to 71. It says “*From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will you also go away.*” **Jesus was never fearful of losing the number of His disciples. He didn’t justify Himself or go after them to tell them that He would explain later what was meant by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. He was here to do the will of the Father and that was all that mattered to Him. He was not feverishly trying to do a ‘ministry’ like many do today. And in doing the will of the Father, He fulfilled a ministry!**

My young brothers and sisters, you are surrounded not only by a world around you but also by a religious world. And many a time the argument that goes on in your mind is, “They are also believers, also Christians, also baptized in water and in the Spirit and so why are they doing this?” **The word of God is very clear that although people are born-again they are not all of the same level.** Every seed sown in the ground does not bring forth a hundred fold. The seeds fell on good ground but yielded only thirty fold. Some brought sixty fold but the Scriptures say that some brought hundred fold. So we need to understand that though there are many who are born-again, baptized and Spirit filled, yet they do not have an openness to receive the purpose of their salvation and come into a hundred fold. They are not open to receive that truth progressively into their lives. This is the reason they are living a life of compromise today. When Israel went away the Levites also went away. And the Lord

said, "They shall not come near to me." It is only the sons of Zadok, who maintained their calling, that could come near to God. God said, "They shall come near to me to minister unto me and they shall stand before me to offer unto me." So often the Lord repeats the word "unto me". This speaks of closeness and an intimate relationship.

The Lord says in verse 16 of Ezekiel 44,

"They shall enter into my sanctuary and they shall come near to my table to minister unto me and they shall keep my charge."

We can see the difference the Lord has drawn among Levites and where the emphasis has been placed. They shall enter into MY sanctuary. They shall come into MY table to minister unto ME and they shall keep MY charge.

What do you want in your life? Do you want to be a son or to be a servant? It is very clear from this example that the Levites could do many things. The service of the sanctuary was not given to them but to the sons of Zadok bringing to the fore that the minority of God's people shall minister to the Lord. They shall enter into MY sanctuary, to My table and minister unto Me. They shall minister to MY charge. This is the privilege of the Sons.

Saints, it is not easy to stay aloof when everybody is compromising. Whether it be in your college, your study circles, your offices, or in your society or even among your own relatives; to take a stand for this call is not going to be easy. It is never easy. We come under many influences. Parents have been influenced by their own children though they, at one time, stood for this calling, against all odds. Yet,

when their children grew up they quietly gave in and compromised their stand in the Lord. In their natural relationship they found it difficult to hate their own children and love the Lord more than the children. (Luke 14:26, 27). So they compromised their lives and missed the purpose of God. It can happen the other way as well. It can happen in the places of our work. We have to be vigilant and watchful. The enemy's strategy is to cause you to miss the purpose of your salvation.

The Safety of Sons in His Kingdom

When we receive Christ into our lives, the only intention of Satan is that we may not manifest the life for which His life was given to us. The life is given that it may be manifested. The enemy knows that he cannot remove the life that has been imparted to you by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, his sole intention is to prevent the life of the Son from being fully manifested. The life of Christ is given that it may grow and manifest itself in all fullness. So we see that there is a need for us to manifest this call upon our lives. And we must stand by those convictions. The Lord is revealing to us by His grace that we are not called to be servants but to be sons who would manifest His life. God is opening our spiritual eyes to see this clearly.

Saints, we must also remember that we are called to overcome everything that tries to prevent us from manifesting His life. We all go through situations in our lives wherever we are to test us. So we need to remind ourselves of the example in Ezekiel 44 where God made a real difference between the priests and the sons of Zadok who had come to Him, to His table, to His presence that

reflects closeness and an intimacy of relationship.

We see therefore that there is a ministry in the Most Holy Place. That is the place which is the highest for all of God's children. If you desire to have the highest and best of the Lord, which is the fullness of His Son, then you must continue to focus on becoming His sons. It is always a separation "unto ME, unto MY", so that we have closeness and a relationship with the Lord Himself in the Most Holy Place. This signifies a relationship behind the veil in the Most Holy Place. **What a high calling! What love of God in Christ Jesus!**

Truly, as the Word says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor 2:9).

God wants each born-again child of God, to come into the highest and best of the Lord. God's desire is to bring them into full salvation and sonship. God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose before the world began. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian Church that he was convinced and determined to press on to the highest of God.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

The Apostle Paul speaks of nothing else but growing into sonship. The high calling in Christ is to grow into maturity, that is to be a mature son! Our focus at all times should be upon growing into the full stature in Christ. In my experience, when we see someone whose heart is fully

or wholly upon the Lord, having a strong desire to grow on to God's best, then the church elders do not have to tell him to give up this or that. When we see someone whose heart is set on God's highest then in my experience we do not have to say anything to him or her about the need for applying the restraints of the Spirit. That person can be led by the Holy Spirit easily because his heart is open. It is the same in this House. We have seen how some lives moved on because their hearts were set to follow in the way of the Lord. Their hearts were wholly set upon the Lord. Their hearts were set in the proper direction though they were young. They were brought to places of understanding by the condition of their hearts. What a joy it is to see young lives turned to and in the direction of God! It is thrilling to see that their hearts were fully given to God though they have not seen much in God yet. We are blessed when we see progressive work taking place in their lives. This is true about God's people on the one hand, but on the other side, there is always anxiety when the hearts of God's children are not wholly set upon pursuing God's highest. Then it becomes difficult to know in which direction their lives are going because their daily walk is uncertain, and their decisions are not one of separation from the world and the flesh. This can be a matter of grave concern, for we do not know in which way will they conform and compromise with the world.

This does not mean that the first category of people are perfect but because they were fully given to the things of God, they were learning and were moving on. That meant that changes were happening in them that could be seen by others. God was bringing about a progressive change in them. But as regards the second category, there is

uncertainty and anxiety!

Pursuing to the Utmost

In the first book of Thessalonians, we note that the heart of the Apostle Paul rose up to thank God for the saints in Thessalonica. He did not rank them to a place of great spiritual heights, but he always rejoiced over them in his heart.

1 Thes 1:9, 10

*For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;
And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

The Apostle had a joy in his heart about the saints who had turned to the living God from their idols and futilities of the world. He thanked God for them. We do not find Paul having any anxiety about these saints. He was really at peace about these lives. **Although we don't know how much Paul could teach them about the whole counsel of God, we know that he was confident that they would be able to move on in Christ.** Throughout the two books of Thessalonians, we see that Paul's heart was filled with joy for these saints. In contrast, when we turn to the letters of Paul to the Corinthian churches, we find that he was troubled about the church. Paul was full of anxiety for the believers. There was a terrible situation of people with divided hearts. Their hearts were to be single towards the Lord, but that was not so with them. Their hearts were divided between the world, the flesh, and the soul on one side, and the Lord on the other side. This caused Paul a great amount of anxiety.

When our hearts are set for God's highest, God is able to work in our lives.

Beloved, God is speaking a very important word to us. It has been brought to us by the Lord in His sovereign will. God has touched many lives and God wants to see their lives change. **Despite all the pressures of life that we have, let there be a heart that would give in to the Lord.** Paul says that he pursued the highest. That's how we ought to be in our lives these days. We must be seen pursuing God to the utmost, without giving any room for the flesh and the self to bring other pressures upon us.

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor 1:10)

1 Cor 3:1-3

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

In the letter of Apostle Paul to the Corinthian believers, we observe his extreme anxiety for he questions them, "Shall I come to you with a stick?" The heart of their spiritual father was full of anxiety concerning their growth all because of

their divided hearts.

1 Cor 4:15, 18-21

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

Saints, let me ask you, “What is the condition of your heart?” Is it single toward the Lord or is it divided towards the Lord? Or is it hard and inflexible? We must settle this once and for all in our lives. In the past some of us may have been inconsistent, but we cannot continue with that kind of life. People often remark that as long as they are in the flesh they have no alternative but to continue to be in the flesh. This may sound appealing and reasonable, but this is not what the Bible teaches.

The Lord said unto Abraham “I am the Almighty God, walk before me, and be thou perfect” (Gen 17:1). **The Lord told Abraham to WALK before Him, not to TALK before Him. There are many who would advise the Lord, talk to the Lord, but God is telling His church to walk before Him and be Perfect.** When it comes to talking we are very good, but when it comes to walking we are those who slip and fall. May God help us to realise what God really wants from us at this hour!

Let Us Reason Together

Beloved, let us reason together. There was a time when we had our ups and downs, but now it is time to change. Once we talked like a child and behaved like a child, but NOW we have grown up and there is a change that must happen in us and come about in us. **This life is about a walk and not so much about a talk.** It is a matter of our heart. Are we hard-hearted? Are we divided in our hearts? Or is our heart single before God?

The church at Corinth was going through a wilderness situation, like Israel of old. Therefore, Paul had to write to them and remind them of the example of Israel and the way in which they had perished in the wilderness (See 1 Cor 10:1-13). What an agony for a spiritual father who had birthed them in Christ! The Apostle Paul said that God is faithful to these believers in Corinth on two occasions.

“God is faithful by whom you are called into the fellowship of the son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor 1:9). “There hath no temptation taken you but such 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 to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Cor 10:13). However, **they were not faithful to God’s faithfulness.** God did not force Himself on the old generation of Israel; God did not force the Corinthian believers nor will He do it today to anyone! Paul also said to them, “Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:8).

In 2 Cor 11, Paul says he feared that they may be

deceived. He had a deep seated anxiety for them.

2 Corinthians 11:2,3

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for 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.

Paul feared that the marriage of the church may not take place though the engagement had taken place. Their minds could yet be corrupted from their wholehearted, sincere and pure devotion to Christ. And we know that Paul's anxieties were justified. **History tells us that the Corinthian church disintegrated and fell apart towards the end of the first Century!** What a tragedy! What a warning this is to the church today!

Paul was very anxious that the marriage may not take place if the church defiles herself with the world. It is clear from Paul's words that the engagement is not binding if the woman defiles herself! Let us listen to what the word of God says through James, the Apostle.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God (James 4:4).

You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband's enemies. Don't you realize that making friends with God's enemies—the evil pleasures of this world—makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy the evil pleasure of the unsaved world, you cannot

also be a friend of God (Living Bible).

These verses are self-explanatory. Let every one of us listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and take heed. This is a very important counsel for our lives. The tendency among leaders and saints today is not to care whether the marriage takes place or not. We know that no earthly father, who is serious about his son's future, will ever get his son married to a girl who flirts with others, though the engagement is over. How much more our Heavenly Father looks at our attitude with seriousness. And remember the price He paid to obtain her."Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph 5:25-27). We read, **God created the whole universe by the word of His mouth**, "For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command" (Ps 33:9 NLT). **But when it came to having a Bride He did not say – let there be a Bride!** He came into this world in the form of man, suffered and died. He rose again and is now interceding at the right hand of the Father to bring forth the bride to that place of fullness of life. The spotless Bridegroom would need a spotless Bride! What wisdom of God!

Beloved, it is time to submit to God and His wisdom. This is your calling in Christ Jesus. Is your heart divided or single? You need to settle in your hearts whether the leadership in the local church is anxious about you in their hearts. We need to examine ourselves in the light of His present word.

The Apostle Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Moving on is very needful. **Coming out of immaturity and moving to maturity is the mark of a son.** We all will face many situations in our lives as we decide to move on. **We would face many trials and strange situations that have come upon us from different quarters if we are going on with the Lord.** God does not promise us an easy way to the throne. He takes us through difficult paths. That is why the Lord said that if we suffer with Him then we will also reign with Him. **Suffering with Him for His namesake is the hallmark of a believer.**

There are many things in our spiritual lives where one could easily settle down. **In other words, we can have a settled life even today because God has blessed us both in the natural and in our spiritual life.** So, one could live a settled life. We have ceased to have questions and doubts on those matters. But now we are challenged in those very areas. **Let me tell you that the challenges are not from the enemy but from the Lord Himself.** Though we are settled in some things, there is a fresh challenge coming from the Lord in those areas. This is not a question of whether the trial is from God or not, for it is from God. **Now God wants you to move on and not to settle down there though these were from God and God-given.** It was of God only unto a point of time, and then God wants us to move on. This is where many are upset, disappointed and not able to understand God. They may have been born-again, baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit and happy about going to church, but now when the Lord calls them to move on they find it difficult.

The Good Must Give Way To The Best

When we talk of growing as sons, there are many things we have to leave behind. Unless we do that we will remain in the lower realms. **There are so many good things that God has done in our lives and we do not want to ever leave them.** Certain things that God has given us are only for a time. After that, we are to leave them aside and move on in God. The good things, alas, can be an enemy of God. Unless we go on to that ‘some more’, unto the highest and the best that the Lord has for His people, the **GOOD becomes the enemy of the BEST!** So we have to leave behind what is GOOD for the BETTER! And we have to leave behind the BETTER for the BEST! Amen!

Our heart should always seek God's highest. As Paul says, “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” (Philippians 3:13, 14).

So our hearts must go beyond the present and from the present to God's best in our lives. And this can happen only if our hearts are set in the right direction. And that would require a clear-cutting away or separation of everything of the self and the flesh. It requires a heart that is determined to say, “I have no part in the world. Lord, I want my heart to be given to you utterly and to this alone. Lord, I want your highest in my life. I do not want to settle in lower places in my life anymore. Lord, I was going up and down but from now onwards, I want to give myself utterly to your purpose. Amen”

Sonship - God's Highest

It is time to be serious and examine our lives meticulously. Let us not come under the pleasures and pressures of the world at large as well as the religious world. Let me assure you that if your heart is single towards the Lord, then God will be your rewarder. **It is not that you will be perfected in a day, but that heart will take you where you should be.** God will take responsibility, for He is faithful. Let your hearts be set in the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ. And let the Holy Spirit bring those changes and transformations in your lives these days.

I thank God for this word that has been working in my own life. I am experiencing this word in my life in a new way. God's word is powerful to bring about changes in the realm of the body, in the soul and in the spirit. And surely God will have a company of sons at the end of the age; there is no doubt that God's word will be fulfilled at the end of the age. There will be a manifestation of the sons for which the whole creation is waiting.

Let us lay hold of this word by faith as it has been confirmed to us through healing and other manifestations of the Spirit even in our midst. There is no reason for anyone of us to be disheartened or negatively preoccupied or to come under any untoward pressure. **If you are a son your answer lies in the Father. There is no situation that is outside or beyond your Father. Amen.**

As I conclude these precious meditations wherein we are NOT called to be servants but to be sons, **let me emphasize that Jesus redeemed us to bring us back to God and certainly NOT to the Adamic realm in the Garden before sin entered, but it is above that realm; all the way to**

the Christ realm, to bear the image of His Son. We are called to be partakers of His divine nature! It is beyond the Veil, where Jesus Christ has already entered as a forerunner for us! **We are definitely NOT to remain in the invisible realm of glory, but to have that glory bestowed and manifested in us, in you and me, in His Bride, in His church!** While Onesimus journeyed geographically from Rome to Colosse and then to Rome, our journeying and moving is beyond geographical realms. It is a journey to a place that cannot be measured physically in miles or time. **Many people are waiting to leave from this world where there are problems and sufferings of all nature. But God wants a people, a company of sons who will come into His glory and bring that glory into this world until every creature is set free from bondage and every enemy is conqueredincluding the last enemy even death! Hallelujah!**

Glory to God! Amen and Amen!

OTHER BOOKS BY BRO JOY THOMAS



I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

As the title suggests, Jesus is the Alpha, the Beginning and He is also the Omega, the End or the Finisher. In the Book of Genesis, we see Him as the Beginner and in the Book of Revelation, we see Him as the Finisher....If we know Him as the Beginner then in these last days we need to know Him as the Finisher as well.

THE MARK OF THE LORD AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The book brings out enlightening Truths from the Book of Revelation demolishing the traditional teachings on the mark of the beast. The author in his own inimitable style writes in the Preface : "undoubtedly certain things have been brought to light which are radically different from the sensationalized uttering of prophetic speculators of this day..." The book details Cain, a man with a mark of the beast and Jesus, a man with the Mark of the Father. It describes the False Church , with the Mark of the Beast and the Glorious Church , with the Mark of the Father. If we understand the Truths contained in this book, we are truly privileged to progress on in the plan and purpose of God for His people!

THE THREE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST

The book expounds the Three Appearances of Christ recorded in Verses 24, 26-28 of Chapter 9 of the Book of Hebrews. To understand the subject, one has to know the important Feasts celebrated by Israel in the Old Testament. The author has therefore taken great pains in giving a brief gist of all the important feasts recorded in the Bible. If the book understood as it should be with the help of the Holy Spirit, it would create a deep desire and longing in the hearts of the readers for the Lord Jesus Christ to appear in our lives. His third appearance will be at the Outer Court near the door of the tabernacle for those that are looking for Him !

THE CHURCH - GOD'S ONE CORPORATE MAN

The chapters of this book are excerpts taken from a series of messages spoken in the House of God at New Delhi in 1989. The book details the setting aside of one nation - the natural Israel and the establishing of another nation - the Spiritual Israel , which is the church. The clear teaching of the New Testament has been expounded, that the Church is God's One New Corporate Man for ever. God's whole purpose in the out pouring of the Holy Spirit, the demonstration of the 5 fold Ministries is to build His Body, the Church - which is the Spiritual man , a corporate many-membered man under the Headship of Christ, to fulfil God's ultimate purpose in this generation! God's anointing on the pages of this book can be sensed, if read prayerfully!

THE BRIDE OF THE LAST ADAM

These messages were first spoken in the Bangalore Camp Meetings in December 1993. Thereafter, it was also ministered in the House of God in Delhi. The author, along with his fellow brothers felt a guidance to have these published in print.

The book brings out the truth of the Body of Christ, the bride of Christ, who prepares herself and makes herself ready for her union with the Lord. The Lord is calling His church in these days to have a greater union , closeness and intimacy with the Lord. Therefore, all else is to be set aside to the one great priority to fulfil the desire of God for His people upon the earth. The one who has ears to hear, will surely respond to the call and voice of the Holy Spirit in these last days!

THE TENT OF HIS GLORY

The substance of this message was shared in Camp Meetings at Hyderabad, in December 1989. The book is an eye-opener to all who hunger and thirst for the Truth of God's word. In a time when many Christian leaders the world over are expounding the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple, the only promise of re-building in the New Testament concern the Tent of David, which is a spiritual one! It would be a privilege to read this book with the eyes of our understanding opened to see the fulfilment of God's ultimate purposes in the shining forth of God's glory through a

many-membered Body of Christ, the Church, of which we are a part !!

BRINGING MANY SONS UNTO GLORY

The message in this book was shared in the Summer Camp Meetings in 1990 in Delhi. The book has been dedicated to all the saints in the body of Christ who are committed to God's purpose of bringing many sons unto glory. The book begins with God's desire in the Book of Genesis for man to have Dominion over all His creation. Many enlightening aspects of the responsibility of Sonship, the adoption of Sons, the aspects of Sonship etc. ,are dealt in the book. The desire of God is that we be conformed to His image and we grow to become mature saints in the house of God. We are privileged to read and understand and appropriate His desire in our lives to make our calling and election sure, in bringing many sons unto glory!

THIS IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HOUSE OF GOD

To-day, many in the Christian world do not have a clear understanding and revelation of the house of God. The common understanding is that of a physical or a natural house. The house of God represents a divine order where the working the cross is central and supreme.

THE BRIDE HATH MAKE HERSELF READY

This book contains a series of messages delivered at the Winter Camp Meetings held at Delhi in 1994. The author very clearly brings out the burden of the Holy Spirit, which is to prepare a people for His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The book brings out a wonderful exposition of the preparations of Rebekah on her way to be united with Isaac. A purging and a cleansing through the situations in one's life is part of the preparations of the bride, the church, to be united with the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will not compromise on the quality and character of His bride. The Lord will open the eyes of all those who are hungering and thirsting for reality in their lives!

THE NEW GENERATION ARISE! (SECOND EDITION)

In the history of mankind there have been many generations. But

there is only one particular generation that the heavens are interested in. Which is this generation? Is there another generation that inhabits the earth in this hour?

COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE

There are many Jonathans today, who could either continue to remain a part of Saul's house (the organised church) which is decaying and dying day by day or they may arise, separate themselves and be a part of David's House (the body of Christ) which God is establishing by His Spirit. This book is a 'sign-post' to many in the valley of decision.

MY TIMES ARE IN THY HANDS (SECOND EDITION)

While many are keen to know the happenings in the natural, few know how to determine the times in the spiritual. If one does not know the times in the spiritual, one will seldom know what to do or what not to do.

THE PURSUIT OF A HEAVENLY PATH

'Heaven' is not merely a location but a rule, an order, a system and a realm, which is the true one and the ultimate one. Church, the masterpiece of God is of heavenly origin, of heavenly calling and of heavenly destiny.

THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

The book brings out valuable historical background of the Church to portray its ordination, deterioration, restoration and the church's ultimate destination. The Church means more to Christ, than all the wealth of the universe. The Lord loved the Church and gave himself for her.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SON

The word 'Fellowship' is one of the most misquoted and misunderstood words which carries a very shallow meaning today. We are called to know the Eternal Son and to have fellowship with Him, without which we will not be able to progress spiritually.

"YE ARE COME UNTO MOUNT ZION" (VOL I, II)

For many today, Zion means a mountain or at best a city in the

natural. But Zion is a people in the complete and perfect work of Christ.

I KNEW A MAN IN CHRIST (VOL I, II)

The great Apostle Paul, expressing his deepest yearnings from a Roman prison near the end of His life worded it thus: ‘...that I may win Christ, and be found in Him...’ (Ph.3:8b,9a). What does it mean to be IN CHRIST?

THE RECOVERY OF GOD’S ORIGINAL THOUGHT.

The Church has lost its primal and original character and nature. God’s people need to know what is God’s original intention for mankind and for the Church.

GOD’S MANIFEST PRESENCE.

If you are hungry for the Lord and nothing but His fulness will bring you satisfaction, then here is a message that will accelerate your steps in the direction of His presence.

PURSUING GOD’S PRESENCE

By showing the way to enter into the very presence of the Lord this book is a signpost for the famished soul in hte painful trail of God’s presence. It reveals the secret that can unlock the door to His presence, even a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

DISCOVERING GOD’S PRESENCE

God’s people have become too familiar with the pleasures of His provisions; they have become too familiar with the blessings from His hands that they have discarded tears of repentance. This book shows how passionate desperation and dependance upon God enters His church, you will discover God in the folds of time!

THE GLORY OF GOD

Here is a gripping 2 part book that unveils the secret of David’s tent which the Lord say’s He will rebuild in these last days. Ezekiel the prophet too was shown a temple not made with hands in which the glory of God descended. Learn more about it in this book.

A PECULIAR PEOPLE .

The calling of God in our lives is to be "His People" and also to be " His Bride ". Like Queen Esther of old, the church of God is to prepare herself and do that which pleases the king.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

The apostasy of the last days is now in full boom. The false and the counterfeit abound in every nook and corner of the world. We have not only to contend with other religions, new age promoters and cults, but also with countless perversions that are mushrooming within the very ranks of so called believing churches. A must read to know and discern the times.

A SURE FOUNDATION

Spiritual growth demands the provision fo strong, solid and stable foundations. You cannot hope to progress spiritually with weak and insecure foundations, however hard you try. This book could not only help you lay a sure foundation but also enable you to examine whether your spiritual growth is according to His pattern.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

The majority in Christendom believe that Holy Jerusalem or the City of God is a literal place. The hungry and searching heart of a true child of God has to be open to the Holy Spirit for a fresh input. It is my prayer that your spiritual eyes may be opened to behold Holy Jerusalem, the City, of God as you read the pages of this book.

THE TRUE REMNANT

This message on God's True Remnant is released in printed form so that those who have deviated from God's revealed purpose may hear God's corrective word and be aligned to His thought; and those who are discouraged by the moral deterioration and declension in the Church may be encouraged; those who are confused may hear a clear voice in the midst of many voices; and those who are hungry may be fed by His Word to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord!

A PROPHETIC VOICE FOR THE END TIMES

The prophet and his ministry is the focal point of God's recovery movements. This means that such a ministry is brought in at a time when His people have departed from God's full intention. God brings a voice in the midst of His people when things have departed from God's full intention.

THE UNVEILING

The thoughts shared in these pages are based upon the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation. The word 'revelation' means unveiling – the unveiling of something that is hidden or unknown. This is a sovereign act of God.

THE SCRITURAL STAND ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

we can believe whatever we want on divorce and remarriage, but on the Great Judgment Day, we will be judged by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for what we have done and what we have encouraged others to do. Each person is entitled to have an opinion on divorce and remarriage. However, having an opinion, even a very strong opinion, does not make it a truth or make it right.

ENTERING BEHIND THE VEIL

In Acts 3:2, we read of a lame man who sat at the temple entrance for 40 years. If he knew anything about what was happening inside the temple it would only be a second-hand knowledge. Like this lame man, the church has been waiting before the veil of the Most Holy Place for several years. Now is the time for the church of Jesus Christ to enter in, leaping and praising, to know for herself what the Lord has wrought for her. This booklet is presented to throw some light on the pathway to God's purpose in Christ Jesus. God's purpose is a vast subject, but it is offered here in a condensed and abridged form.

THE CALL OF THE REMNANT

To those who are called to be part of the overcoming company in these last days, this message is written to encourage, to comfort, to strengthen, to challenge and to prepare. This book draws from

the biblical account of the faithful and enshrines the divine principles they overcame the enemy's forces and triumphed in the fiery trials of their faith. In the face of satan's mounting deceptions and flood of iniquity in these present times, Christians find their faith floundering like ship in troubled waters.

In this challenging times the saints of God need a definite word, a strong message from the Lord not only to show the way, but to prepare them to be God's faithful witness before the nations and to endure through the tribulations until the end comes....

GOD SHALL BE FOR A SANCTUARY

The burden of the prophet for Israel, the people of God, was that the Lord shall be sanctuary and a sacred and indestructible asylum to those who reverently feared and trusted in Him. In these perilous times, the Lord Himself must be our sanctuary. It is the Lord Himself who must be our defense, our deliverer, our sanctuary and our security. However, this is not rightly understood by the majority today. The thrust of this book is to clearly bring this home to the remnant of God. This is not so much a matter of confessing that God is our sanctuary and asylum. But this speaks of an intimacy and a union with the Living God. It signifies a relationship and intimacy established by the Holy Spirit to which we must come into experientially these days.

THE MYSTERY OF FELLOWSHIP

This book stresses God's desire to have fellowship with His people in splendid fullness. It offers practical guidelines for experiencing His fellowship and shows how light, fellowship and life are so linked together in God's divine economy. As you read these pages, you will discover how God intends to bring His people into His ultimate purpose. Unless His remnant will come into an exclusive, pristine fellowship with the Father and the Son and with one another there is no way He will be able to fulfill His purpose.

THE VOICE OF THE DRY BONES

There is a distinct prophetic word for those who are growing up

in God's sovereign grace and living in these end-times in the midst of many events. Joseph saw far ahead of his days by the Spirit. He longed to be part of that which was yet to come, he hungered for it, and not only that he went ahead and made provision to be found in it. And he was part of that great event about which he prophesied and prepared for. If you and I catch the same vision for the end of the age as God has promised for His church, your heart will be thrilled with the glory of what God is about to-do!

HANDFULS OF PURPOSE (VOL 1,2,3)

The contents of this book are taken from the weekly devotions which were sent by email to the remnant of God both in India and abroad. This book is for the hungry that yearn for more of God and are willing to glean in the fields of the Heavenly Boaz, Jesus Christ our Lord!

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