

TRUTH

that will set you

FREE



Jesus once said: "And you will know the Truth,
and the Truth shall make you free"

John 8:32

Pastor Dan Nell

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***Jesus once said: "And you will know the Truth,
and the Truth shall make you free"***

John 8:32

*You must remember that Truth always comes to you
negative the first time.*

Pastor Dan Nell

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DISCIPLESHIP

The first and great command to the church of Jesus Christ is “ therefore go and make disciples of all nations....Matthew 28 : 19

WHAT DOES THE WORD DISCIPLE MEAN?

GREEK: Mathétés

It means being a follower of Christ.

IS THERE SOMETHING ONE MUST DO TO BECOME A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

Yes, the following:

- You must firstly understand that you are a sinner.
In Romans 3:23 we read: *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*
- Then you must obtain forgiveness by confessing your sins to God.
1John 1:7,9 *“the blood of Jesus Christ...cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.”*
- Now receive Jesus Christ into your life as your Saviour according to John 1:12
“as many as received Him (Christ) to them He gave the right (the authority) to become children of God.”

Now tell others, your family and friends, what God has done for you (Rom. 10:9,10)

LOOK WHAT GOD DID WITH YOUR SINS WHEN HE HAS FORGIVEN THEM.

Psalm 103:12 He removed our sins from us as far as the East is from the West. There is no place on earth what we can call East or West. We can do that with North and South.

Isaiah 44:22 God blotted out our sins like a thick cloud

Micah 7:19 God said He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea.

Jer 31:34 God said He will remember our sins no more.

IF GOD HAS FORGIVEN AND FORGOTTEN MY SINS, I MUST DO THE SAME FOR MYSELF.

If you have understood this *and* done it, you are a child of God! You have eternal life!

1 John 5 : 12, 13 : “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

What happens when we sin again? Was everything that the Lord did for us in vain? NO ! Look what is written in 1 John 2 : 1,2.

“ My little children, these things I write you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world”

NATURALLY YOU CAN EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE PERSECUTION AND OPRESSION BUT DON'T BE AFRAID TO CONFESS CHRIST.

Christ didn't promise sunshine and roses for His disciples. On the contrary, He said that there would even be division in households when you follow Him.

Jesus said in John16:33 *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

2 Tim 3 :12 *“and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

Why do we talk about discipleship?

Because it is written in the Bible.

Matt. 28:19 “ Therefore go and make **disciples** of all nations...”

Luke 11:1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his **disciples.**”

Acts 14 : 21 “They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of **disciples**. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.”

In Antioch disciples were called Christians for the first time. Acts 11: 26 “ and the **disciples** were first called **Christians** in Antioch”

THERE ARE FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP:

1. **Luke 9 : 23 :** “Then He said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”
(Matt 16 : 24; Mark 8 : 34,38)

Self-denial means to make myself nothing, and this every day! This also means crucifying yourself with Christ.

We must all come to the place where we can say: *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” Gal 2: 20*

2. **John 15: 8** “ This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.”

A true disciple bears spiritual fruit !

Investigate your life in the light of the fruit mentioned in **Gal 5: 22**

The Living Bible translates Gal. 5:22 as follows.

“But when the Holy Spirit controls your lives He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control;”

3. **John 8 : 31:** “To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said: "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples". (John 15 : 7)
A true disciple of the Jesus Christ does what the Word of God says, irrespective of the opinions of others. Can you pass this test?
4. **Luke 14: 26-35: This is a scripture to study.**

To be saved costs nothing (Isa. 55:1) But to be a true disciple costs everything.

The word “**hates**” in Luke 14 means to “**love less**”.

In Romans 9: 13 we read: “**Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.**”

We must expect that God will love those who don't honestly serve Him less than those who seek Him with their whole heart.

The word “hate” in Luke 14:26 is not a good translation because God requires that I should love and honour my parents.

Eph 6: 2,3: “Honour your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

In addition the Bible teaches that no-one will hate his own flesh! (Eph 5:29)

However what Jesus wants to teach us in Luke 14: 26 is that I must love my mother and father, my wife, my children, and my life less than I love God.

Luke 14:26 is translated in the Living Bible as follows:

“Anyone who wants to be my follower must love Me far more than he does his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers or sisters- yes, more than his own life.- otherwise he cannot be My disciple.”

And what about my possessions? (**Luke 14: 33**)

My possessions must not possess me. This means that I must not become a slave of my possessions. It's not sinful to possess certain things but it is a sin if they rule over me.

Read what happened to the man in Luke 12 that was possessed by his own possessions

A closing statement :

- It's a pity that there are so many "**secret disciples**" today
John 12: 42; John 19: 38; John 7: 13
 - What would a bridegroom say if his bride says : "I will be your bride but only in secret; no-one must know " Such a relationship would be worthless. Those that don't want to be disciples will lose their flavour like salt and become useless. Luke 14: 34,35;
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THE BAPTISM OF THE BELIEVER

The first command in Matt. 28: 19 is : “Go and make disciples” but there is also a second command namely baptism, and we need to look at this.

After we have confessed our sins and received Jesus as our personal saviour, the next step is to be baptised according to the command in the Scriptures. Let us examine this command verse by verse and decide after this to be obedient to God.

If you haven't undergone believer's baptism, follow Jesus through the waters of baptism. If you have been baptised, study this teaching to insure a strong foundation in your life.

1. Matt. 3:11 The words “with water” do not refer to the method of baptism, but rather the element that is used. In other words, a person uses water to baptise.

2. Matt. 3:13-17

Jesus was baptised in the Jordan river at the age of thirty (Luke 3:23) by John the Baptist. Take note of the words “He went up out of the water” which surely indicate that Jesus was actually in the water. Jesus was in the water so that John could baptise him by immersion: Otherwise what would the value be of Jesus going into the water if he was just going to be sprinkled?

3. Matt. 28:19 It is not stated here that the nations must be baptised but rather the disciples out of the nations.
4. Mark 16:16 This was the last message Jesus preached to His disciples. This emphasises the importance of baptism.

There must definitely first be faith in our hearts before we can be baptised (Acts 8:37)

Because babies do not have faith, they cannot be baptised.

What happens to babies, will they not be lost if they are not baptised ?

No, according to Mark 10: 14 the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

5. John.3:23 – John needed a lot of water to baptise because baptism occurred by immersion. This is also why the people had to go to Aenon near Salem to be baptised because there was enough water. These days we still need a lot of water to baptise people by immersion.

6. Acts 2:38,39 You must first repent before you can be baptised. Baptism is a definite **COMMAND** as given by Peter in verse 38. However the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a **PROMISE**, and therefore the promise in verse 39 refers to the Holy Spirit.
7. Acts 8: 12 - It is clear that men and woman that believed were baptised.
8. Acts 8: 35-39 – The one doing the baptising as well as the one baptized were **IN** the water. Why? Because it is necessary for both to be in the water so that immersion can occur. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch would surely not have wet the most of their bodies only to put a few drops on the eunuch's head?

It's unthinkable that the eunuch would have undertaken this long trip to Jerusalem without carrying water. Nevertheless, Philip did not use this water because baptism is not sprinkling
9. Acts 10:44-48 – Cornelius and his family were people filled with the Holy Spirit and who spoke in tongues. Therefore they qualified to be baptised in water.
10. Rom 6:3-4 – Baptism represents a spiritual burial, and to bury means to cover. By immersion we undergo a spiritual burial to be resurrected with a new life. One wouldn't bury someone with a few grains of sand would you ?
11. Eph.4: 5 “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.....How can there be different types of baptism then ?
12. Col 2: 11-12 – Baptism did not come in the place of circumcision, because this circumcision refers to “not done with hands” in other words a circumcision of the heart, is namely repentance. (Compare Deut. 10: 16) Deut 30:6; Jer. 4: 4; Rom 2: 28-29 -- Circumcision is that of the heart. Circumcision was only for Israel and only for males! If baptism came in the place of circumcision, then only males could be baptised.
13. 1 Cor 1:17 “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.”

We must understand this text correctly.

Baptism is part of the gospel but because there was division amongst the

Corinthians, Paul wrote these words to them. (Read the preceding verses to understand it better: v 10-16) Paul definitely preached about baptism and baptised people himself. (Acts 16:10-15;30-33; Acts 18:8)

14.1 Pet. 3:18-21 – “ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Christ.”

In the Old Testament the ark saved 8 people. According to the New Testament everyone who believes and is baptised will be saved. Mark 16:16

No wonder the Pharisees and Sadducees wanted to be baptised. They were afraid that God’s judgement would fall on them if they weren’t baptised. Matt. 3:7,8

We challenge you:

Be baptised so that you can have a good conscience before God !

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Peter said this to the crowd on the day of Pentecost: Acts 2: 38: "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

In verse 39 Peter says that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for everyone.

Have you received the Holy Spirit?

Someone may ask: Didn't I get the Holy Spirit when I repented ? The answer is: Yes, you received the Holy Spirit when you repented since it is the Holy Spirit that convicted you of your sins. (John 16:8), and it is the Spirit that leads you and, together with your spirit, testifies that you are his child. (Rom. 8:14,16)

However with the baptism with the Holy Spirit the Spirit has a hold on you.

GENERAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a promise for every child of God....no one is excluded because God is not a respecter of persons.

John the Baptist said that Jesus is the baptiser in the Holy Spirit. (Read Matt.3:11 and also Luke 3:16)

As Jesus committed himself to John the Baptist to be baptised in the Jordan river, so we must commit ourselves to Jesus so that He can baptise us in "the river of living water" namely His Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is for all of us. Jesus said in Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Do you think God will forget you? No, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is also for those who are still far off. (Acts 2:39)

2. What was the experience of those that we read of in the scriptures, who were baptised with the Holy Spirit?

Acts 2:1-4 Those filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost spoke in tongues as the Holy Spirit enabled them (v.4) and experienced power and boldness. Peter was initially shy and denied knowing Jesus in the palace but after he was filled with God's Spirit he had no fear in testifying about Jesus and preached a great sermon that helped 3000 to come to Christ on that day !

On Pentecost 16 languages were spoken, given by the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is a sign meant for unbelievers. (1 Co 14:22) On Pentecost they cried out "*What must we do ?*" Acts 2:12: and Peter gave God's message in Aramaic, a language all understood.

Acts 4:31

Here the disciples are again filled with the Holy Spirit and the effect was that they proclaimed the Word of God with boldness.

Acts 10:44-46

When Cornelius and his family were baptised with the Holy Spirit they spoke in tongues and glorified God just as the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Throughout time the experience has always been the same when people were filled with God's spirit

Acts 19:6

"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied"

NOTE: It is very clear that one of the first signs of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues.

3. "How can I be baptised in the Holy Spirit?" If this is your question, the answer is:

By faith alone (Gal 3:2,5) but also if someone prays with you.

Acts 8:17: "Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."(Compare Acts 19:6).

An anointed servant of God can pray with you and lay hands on you.

Luke 11:13: "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM!" You can therefore yourself pray for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and wait on the Lord for it.
(Acts 1:4,5; 2:1-4)

4. "What requirements are there before I can be baptised in the Holy Spirit?"
 - I must repent and be baptised (**Acts 2:38 Acts 10:44-48**)
 - My heart must be right with God (**Acts 8:21**)
 - I must be obedient to God (**Acts 5:32**)

5. Why do we need the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Matt. 10:19,20: “But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” In emergencies when the child of God must defend him or herself, the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak! (Also compare Mark 13:11)

John 6:63: “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”

If we long for spiritual life, we need the Holy Spirit in our lives.

(2 Cor.3:6)

Do you “thirst” for a awakening of your spirit? Then desire the fullness of the Holy Spirit!

John 15:26 "When the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me." (Also compare John 14:26)

The Holy Spirit will teach us and glorify Jesus in and through us.

John 16:13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.”

We need the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Rom.8:14

Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The Holy Spirit gives us power to testify.

As believers we must be witnesses for Jesus, and therefore we need the fullness of the Spirit in our lives.

Rom 8:16: “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.”

The presence of the Holy Spirit gives us absolute assurance that we belong to him.

Romans 8:26 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

Indeed we need the Holy Spirit to help us in our prayer life.

6. Why is tongues so important?

- You are talking **DIRECTLY** to God. (**1Cor 14:2**)
 - You speak **MYSTERIES** through the Spirit. (**1Cor 14:2**)
 - When you speak in tongues, you **EDIFY** yourself. (**1Cor 14:4**)
 - When you speak in tongues, you don't pray with your mind, but with your **SPIRIT**.
 - You can **WORSHIP** God by praying in tongues. (**Acts 10:46**)
Tongues form a new dimension of worship in your life.
 - Because you pray in the Spirit, your prayer is not **limited** to your intellectual abilities, because the Spirit **intercedes** when we pray. (**Rom 8:26,7**)
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F A I T H in GOD

Study chapter eleven in the book of Hebrews.

God values the teaching concerning faith so important that an entire chapter in the Bible is devoted to faith. Many name Hebrews eleven as the “Faith Chapter”.

Heb. 11:1 Reads as follows in the Living Bible “What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it ahead.”

THINK WHAT HAPPENED TO MOSES.

In Heb. 11:24-27 we read: *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”*

Moses had a dream in his heart about the real God, even if he did not see Him as the Egyptians saw their idols as their gods.

Verse six in this chapter says: *“But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God believes that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

Believe that God exists and that He will provide whatever you need if you seek Him in your life.

Past. Reinhardt Bonnke, the renowned world evangelist in Africa, once said that if you trust God for a caravan you should start building a shed for your caravan.

Faith is as a signed cheque! You just have to fill in your need.

Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho from Korea believed for his first bicycle and desk.

In faith he told his assembly during a morning service that he owned a bicycle and desk. At the end of the service the whole church went with him to his flat to see his bicycle and desk. (At that time he had a small congregation)

When they arrived at the apartment there was nothing! In the group that came with them there was a pregnant woman. He asked her if she had a

baby. "Oh yes" she answered. "But I can't see the baby" he replied. She answered "The baby is inside me"

He then answered the group: "Likewise I am pregnant with a bicycle and desk" . Nobody in his church ever forgot this message.

Faith is to know that the things that we expect will happen.

Heb. 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Yes, sometimes we have to wait for the things we hoped for. But never lose the dream (or passion) in your heart for those things you are trusting God for.

Faith is to confess with your MOUTH what God had said.

In Romans 10:8 we read: *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is the word of faith which we preach)*

And in 2 Corinthians 4:13 Paul writes: *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written 'I believed and therefore I spoke' we also believe and therefore speak."*

When we speak with our mouth what we believe in our hearts, we release faith. No wonder Bartholomew, the blind man, shouted louder and louder, when the crowd wanted to stop him from calling out to Jesus. In Mark 10:48,49 we read these words: *"The many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me !' So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."*

Nothing should stop you from crying out to God in faith.

EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE HOW MEN OF GOD SPOKE OUT WORDS OF FAITH:

Elijah on mount Carmel, when he was confronted by the four hundred prophets of Baal.

Between him and them they decided that the God that will be able to answer with fire will be the real God of Israel. They prayed to their gods and nothing happened but when Elijah prayed we read: *"Elijah the prophet came*

Near and said: 'Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.....Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.'" (1 Kings. 18:36-39)

Paul was, as a prisoner, on a boat on his way to Rome when the storm came up on the ocean. A lot of fear came over everyone on the boat, but Paul had faith in his heart in his God. He told everyone that God met with him through an angel the night before and told him that all will be saved. If they listened to him. His words of faith was *“Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.”* (Acts. 27:25)

Did you know that you can speak to your “mountain” of problem ?

Jesus said in Mark. 11:23 these words: *“I say to you, who-ever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”* (Whatever he what ? Whatever he says with his mouth)

You can speak to your “mountain” of sickness, because through Jesus’ wounds we are healed. In 1 Peter 2:24 we read: *“by whose stripes you were healed.”*

Speak to your FINANCES.

To your mountain of finances you say that because you give God your tithes you know that He promised to open heavens windows over your life according to Malachi 3:10.

Speak to your financial mountain and tell that “mountain” that you believe that God will supply all your needs according to His riches.

Also make the promise in the book of Philippians 4:19 your own.

Quote the scriptures over your finances, trusting God to confirm His Word.

Confess God’s promises over your life like Mary did in Luke. 1:37,38 “For with God nothing will be impossible. Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word.”

Faith is the willingness to SACRIFICE.

“Show me what you are willing to sacrifice and I will know how much faith you have.”

In Gen. 22 we learn that FAITH is willing to SACRIFICE.

The lessons that we learn in **Gen.22** are:

- 1) All of us are tested (verse 1,2)
- 2) Abraham (age 125) where asked to sacrifice Isaac (age 25) as a burnt offering. (Lev. 1)
- 3) Abraham had to offer what God promised him, namely Isaac his only son.

- 4) Listen to someone who has faith in his heart (verse 5) Abraham said: "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we WILL COME BACK to you".
- 5) Read Gen. 22:6-11

If you believe rivers of living water will flow out of your heart (John. 7.37-39)

But listen very carefully:

If you have faith in God you will sometimes do things that others will not understand.

Noah built an ark far from the ocean while it has never rained before!
Heb.11: 7

Abraham moved away to an unknown land when he was called by God not knowing where he was going! **Heb. 11:8** *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called (by God) to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."*

We usually say that if God leads He leads very clearly.

However Israel did not always understand the journey through the desert. God said they must move while just ahead the enemy was waiting to fight them and often killed many of them. How do we understand this?

The only clear thing Israel had in the wilderness was the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

What we have today is God's Word and His Holy Spirit that will lead us.

THERE ARE TIMES THAT GOD TAKES AWAY THE THINGS THAT WE CAN SEE SO THAT WE WILL TRUST HIM COMPLETELY

Think what happened to the widow of Zarephath we read of in 1 Kings 17. She had to give away the handful of flour and the little bit of oil she had to the prophet of God. So she had to give away what she could see to a man of God before God could multiply what she gave. We read that all her needs were met.

Read for yourself the story in 1 Kings 17:13-16

IF YOU CAN BELIEVE, YOU WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD.

This is what Jesus said to Mary after her brother Lazarus died.

John. 11:40

RAISE YOUR SHIELD OF FAITH BEFORE THE LORD SO THAT HE CAN CONFIRM HIS WORD AND HIS WILL IN YOUR LIFE !

THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

Our words have great power. Positive as well as negative.

Prov. 18:21 “ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

THERE IS DEATH IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

With the tongue friendships are destroyed
Prov. 16:28 “ a whisperer separates the best of friends”

The tongue is the cause of many spiritual wrecks along the path of life.
Take time to read James 3:1-9

WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO OUR WORDS. WE USE OUR WORDS WRONGLY

“I’m afraid this and that is going to happen”
“How is YOUR sickness” (Sickness belongs to the devil)
“This is a family sickness – the Lord visits us into the 3rd and 4th generation”
(Read Ex. 20:5 and you will find that this is for those who “hate” God. If you do not hate God, but love Him, this does not apply to you and your loved ones)
“I know I’m busy getting the flue”
“Each year this time I’m getting the same sickness“

Stop doing this and start speaking life, health and prosperity.

Take note of some other wise words Solomon wrote in Proverbs:
Prov. 13:3 “He who guards his mouth preserves his life. But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.” (Meaning if you speaking too much)

Prov. 21:23 “Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.”

Jesus added the following in Matt. 12:37 “ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”

Peter taught us what we should do if we wanted a long and blessed life. He said in 1 Pet. 3:10 “For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil. And his lips from speaking deceit”

THANK GOD; THERE IS ALSO LIFE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE!

Prov. 16:24 “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb. Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones” Remember this scripture whenever you visit the sick.

Never tell the sick person what you see with your eyes, even if they look bad.

Always speak life and health into their hearts.

WE CAN EVEN OVERCOME THE DEVIL WITH OUR TONGUE.

Rev. 12:11 “ And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, (Read from verse 7)

- Listen to the conversation David had with Goliath.
He said to Goliath *“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you (listen to David’s statement of faith) And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”* 1 Sam. 17:45-47
- Think what happened to the Greek woman that came to Jesus so that He could deliver her daughter from a demon.
Jesus answered her by saying that He could not take the bread that He wanted to give to Israel (His children) and give some of it to the Gentiles. And even referred to the Gentiles as “dogs”
This did not put her off because her need was a great one. This is what we read in Mark. 7:28 – 29; “And she answered and said to Him. ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.’ And He said to Her. “FOR THIS SAYING go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.”

This is a great story to teach us about the power of our words.

WHEN YOU HAVE RECEIVED A CLEAR WORD FROM THE LORD YOU CAN CONFESS IT BOLDLY.

The Bible says in 2 Cor. 4:13; “ And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke” we also believe and therefore speak.”

We have creative power in our words. Use your words to the glory of God.

Faith is in your mouth and must be confessed. Rom. 10:8-10

BECAUSE WE CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS OF PROBLEMS WITH OUR TONGUE ACCORDING TO WHAT JESUS SAID IN **Mark. 11:23-24** WE MUST ALWAYS KNOW HOW WE TALK TO OUR "MOUNTAINS"

1. Make sure that you speak out of a position of authority. Do not feel that your "mountain" is too big for you. Remember: With God all things are possible.
2. Make sure that you use the right words when you address your "mountain".

HOW WOULD YOU TALK WITH THE FOLLOWING MOUNTAINS? .

Financial mountain? Use a scripture as written in *Phil. 4:19* and believe God will supply all your needs

Sickness? Use a scripture as written in *1 Pet.2:24*

Sin ? When sin wants to knock at your hearts door. Remember what God has done with your sins He forgave. He took them away from you as far as the East is from the West. (There is no way you will find where that is ! -- *Ps. 103:12*)

Use God's Word each time you talk to your problem.
Jesus overcame the devil's temptation by using the Word against him.
(Matt. 4)

CONFESS THE WORD OF GOD LOUD ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN HEAR IT.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Rom. 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."
- Say aloud: "Because I am in Christ I am free from condemnation!"
- Rom. 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
- Rom 8:37 "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."
- Rom. 10:11 "Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame"
- 1 Cor. 3:16. I am the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in me.
- 1 John 4:4 "He who lives in me is greater than he who lives in the world."

- 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away: behold, all things have become new.”
- 2 Cor. 9:6 “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
Our weapons are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. We can disrupt the devil’s plans and bring every thought into captivity to obedience to Christ.
- Eph. 1:3, 7, 11 In Him I am blessed!
In Him I am redeemed through His blood and I have obtained an inheritance !
- Phil. 1:21 ”For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”
- 2 Tim. 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
- 1 Pet. 5:7 Casting all my care upon Him, for He cares for me.
- Rev. 12:11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

Oh! For a touch with God’s live coal of fire on our lips, as what happened to Isaiah the prophet in Isaiah 6.6-7.

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sins purged (washed away)’”

PRAYER and INTERCESSION

Thank God for the power of prayer. Just think, what has already been attained through prayer.

The Red Sea was parted.
Mouths of lions were locked.
Hezekiah had 15 years added to his life.
Elijah prayed and fire and rain came from above.

OUR PRAYERS ARE PRECIOUS TO THE LORD.

Rev. 5:8 " And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having everyone of them harps and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints."

David calls out in Ps. 141: 2; "Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

In Ex. 30 we read of the altar of incense.

The altar of incense was square, and made of acacia wood. The length and breadth was one cubit, and the height was 2 cubits. It was covered with pure gold, and had two golden rings on both sides, with which it was to be carried. Where did it stand? It stood before the veil. The incense would permeate the veil.

Observe what the High priest had to do here:

Ex. 30: 7-8: " And Aaron shall burn thereon (on the altar of incense) sweet incense every morning, when he dresses the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lights the lamps in the evening, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generation".

WHAT IS THE STATE OF YOUR "ALTAR OF INCENSE" OR IN OTHER WORDS: "YOUR PRAYER LIFE"?

The word of the Lord tells us to pray without ceasing. 1Thess. 5:17, Luke 18:1.

WHAT IS PRAYER ?

Prayer is a conversation with God. For that reason, it is a dialogue, and not a monologue. I talk to God and then listen when He speaks to me. He speaks to me in my heart, through His Spirit and through His Word.

WHAT CAN I PRAY FOR ?

1. FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS

Romans 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."

1 Tim. 2:3,4. It is God's will that all men should be saved

2. FOR OUR LEADERS

1 Timothy 2:1,2 says " I exhort therefore that, first of all, (take note!) supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Many governments are corrupt because we as Christians do not pray for them as we should.

3. FOR REVIVAL

Ps. 85: 6 "Wilt Thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee? Before the Welsh revival in 1903/1904, Evan Roberts prayed continually for 15 months for revival. During the first five weeks of this revival 25 000 people were converted.

4. FOR HEALING

(1) For physical healing, as did Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20.

(2) For spiritual healing for the nation. 2 Chron. 7:14 " If my people, which are called by my name, humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.

5. WE CAN EVEN ASK THE LORD TO GIVE US CHILDREN

1 Sam. 1:27; Hannah prayed for Samuel.

Luke 1:13; Zacharias, the priest, prayed for John the Baptist. (He was frightened by the angel who stood on the right hand side of the altar of incense). "But the angel said to him: Fear not, Zacharias, because your prayers are answered, and your wife shall bear a son, and you must call him John."

WE CAN PRAY TO BE RESCUED IN TIMES OF CRISES

Think of King Jehoshaphat, (disguised) where he went out in alliance with his brother-in-law, Ahab, to fight against the Syrians. 2 Chron. 18:31

Dr Paul Y Cho, the pastor of the largest church on earth, in Seoul, Korea, said his church was in crises from 1969 till 1973.

They were building their church to seat 10 000 people, as well as a block of flats. The value of the currency declined and there was an oil embargo. Church members lost their jobs, and the church was faced with bankruptcy.

The devil told him to commit suicide by jumping down from the block of flats. He then went and prayed in the stuffy basement of their prayer mountain.

The assembly prayed and fasted with him. God provided. The heavens are now open above Korea, with thousands of people being saved!

WHAT IS AN INTERCESSOR?

An intercessor is someone who stands between man and God in prayer. An intercessor pleads on behalf of someone else, he stands in the gap and prays for others. Christians should be intercessors.

Read 1Tim. 2:1-8 prayerfully.

JESUS IS AN INTERCESSOR

John 17:20; Rom. 8: 34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1Tim.2:5: " For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus". Also read 1 John 2:1.

Jesus interceded for Peter.

Luke 22:31, 32: "And the Lord said: Simon, Simon, behold Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail, and when you are converted strengthen your brothers." Jesus prayed for Peter before he was sifted as wheat. We should not wait until negative things effect us, but rather pray and intercede before hand, in order to prevent it.

AN INTERCESSOR CAN PREVENT GOD'S WRATH

(1) Abraham prayed for Sodom (Gen. 18:20-32)

(2) Num. 16:1-50; Korah, Datan and Abiram stood up against Moses. The Lord condemned them, and they were swallowed up in the earth. (verses 27-33) The people were angry with Moses because of what happened to these men and their families (verse 41-45) 14 700 people died (verse 46-48).

AN INTERCESSOR DOES NOT SEEK HIS OWN INTEREST

Listen to how you pray, and you will know if you are a true intercessor or not. Make a study of Exodus 32 and Numbers 12.

A TRUE INTERCESSOR IS SOMEONE WHO FORGIVES.

If you want to move mountains, you must be able to forgive. Mark 11:25,26.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INTERCESSOR CHANGES WHEN HE PRAYES FOR OTHERS.

Job 42:10 " And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before". God increased his possessions, his family brought him money (v11), and he was blessed with long life (verse 12. 16 -17).

AN INTERCESSOR CHANGES A DEFEAT INTO A VICTORY

Hezekiah and Sennacherib - 2 Kings 18 & 19.

In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib (king of Syria) conquers Judah.

He removed the silver and the gold out of the temple. He even took the gold from the doors and door frames.

His men challenged the Israelites in their own language, and humiliated God. Hezekiah tears his clothes and takes Sennacherib's letter to the temple and places it before God. (2 Kings 19:1, 14-19).

Look at what God did ! (2Kings 19:35-37).

A second example: Acts 12

Because of the intercession of the assembly in Acts 12, three things happened:

- (1) Peter was **set free**. (This is what people need today).
- (2) The **judgment of God struck** Herod Agrippa, and worms devoured him (verses 21-23).
- (3) The **Word of God spread** and increased (verse 24).

THE POWER OF AGREEMENT IN PRAYER

In Matthew 18:19 Jesus said: *"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."*

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO INTERCEED.

Rom. 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered."

We can pray in tongues (1 Cor.14:2) "For when I pray in an unknown tongue, I pray mysteries to God, and no one understands, but God."

If you do not know how to pray in your own language allow the Holy Spirit to help you pray in tongues to God.

Also read 1 Cor.14:14-15

Decide to be an Intercessor! Develop a life of prayer to God's glory.

DIVINE HEALING

Please note we call it Divine healing and NOT faith healing. In faith healing the emphasis is on the person's FAITH.

Although faith is needed to be healed, it's **God** that heals. Therefore we talk of **Divine healing**

1. IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL.

Right at the beginning of the Bible God revealed himself as Jahweh-Rapha Ex 15:26 "I am the Lord who heals you"

God doesn't make you sick and then heal you.

A kingdom that is divided against itself cannot stand. Luke 11:17,18

It is God's will that you be healthy. 3 John verse 2

Healing forms part of the work of Reconciliation Jesus did on the cross.

Isa 53: 4, 5; 1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 8:17

2. JESUS' WHOLE MINISTRY WAS HEALING AND DELIVERANCE.

Matt 4:23; 8:16; 14:36; Luke 7:21; Acts 10:38

4. THE MINISTRY OF HEALING WAS CONTINUED BY THE EARLY CHURCH Acts 3:1-9; 8:5-8; 9: 33-34; 14:8-10; 9: 11-12; 28: 8-9.

5. THE CHURCH IN ACTS GREW TREMENDOUSLY AS A RESULT OF **SIGNS AND WONDERS** Acts 4: 4; 5: 12-16; 9: 32-35

There were times in church history where miracles occurred to a lesser extent but they have never ceased!

6. THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF SICKNESS

a) Sickness caused in our **spirit** through personal sin.

b) **Emotional** sickness and problems (like stress) caused by wounds from the past.

c) **Physical** sickness in our body caused by diseases and accidents.

7. HOW DOES HEALING TAKE PLACE ?

a) When we pray in the **name of Jesus** (John 14:3; Ac 3: 6, 16)

b) By the **laying on of hands** (Mark 6:5; 8:23; 16:18; Luke 4:40;13:13.)

c) By **anointing with oil** (Mark 6:13; James 5: 14)

d) By applying **cloths** or **handkerchiefs**. (Acts 19 :11,12)

8. THE TIME SPAN OF HEALING:

- a) Some healings are **instantaneous**.
- b) Others take place **later**.

Think of the 10 lepers that were healed on the way to the priest.
Luke 17; 14)

9. WHY DO SOME PEOPLE NOT RECEIVE HEALING?

- a) Lack of faith (Matt. 13:58)
- b) Wrong concepts such as:
 - God has placed sickness on me as a cross
 - Sickness will enrich me spiritually
 - Sickness keeps me humble

Sin can be the cause that healing doesn't come (Isa 59:1,2; John 5:14)
But sin is not always the reason. (John 9: 1-3)

10. HOW CAN ONE KEEP YOUR HEALING ?

- a) Honour the LORD for your healing. (Ps 50:15; 103:1,2)
- b) Witness about it to others. (John 9:24,25 Acts 4:29,30)
- c) Do not allow doubt. (Matt 14:31)
- d) Do not sin any more (John 5:14)
- e) Commit yourself to God's service (Rom 6:13)
- f) And obviously seek refuge with the LORD (Ps 91)

CONCLUSION:

- Jesus is the Great Physician and has never changed.
 - Just as it is God's will that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)
so is it His will to heal (1 Pet. 2:24)
-

THE NEW BIRTH

1. What is the meaning of The New Birth?

The word “New Birth” or “Born again” says it all. In other words it is a “second birth”. The first birth is necessary to live on earth, and the second birth is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God. The new birth experience is the only way God gave to mankind, by which to receive a Godly nature. **(2 Pet. 1:4)**

The new birth is when God gives you a “New Heart”

Ezek. 36:26 & 27 ”I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

Let us read **John 3:1-10**: “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. Jesus answered and said to him: Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to Him: How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born? Jesus answered: Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said to Him: How can these things be? Jesus answered and said to him: Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?’

Jesus did not say: “Unless a bad person gets born again.” Jesus was speaking to a ruler of Israel; yet he needed to be born again.

John 3: 8 “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit”

Here we read of the moving of the leaves, the dust blowing and the sailing of the ships. By this we know the wind is at work! Therefore we do not understand how the Spirit of God works, but when He works in our lives everybody will know that.

2. How does the New Birth take place in our lives?

- Firstly it is necessary for us to turn to God and to repent. Repentance means to turn from my sinful ways and to turn to God. The Word of God must reach into the heart of man to bring about true repentance. We read in **1 Peter 1:23**: “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”
- Secondly it is also necessary for us to go through the “washing of regeneration” **Titus 3:5**: “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”
Please Note: Baptism is not the new birth. Baptism completes the new birth. This is what happened to Paul in **Acts 22:16**.

That is why Titus does not say that the washing is the new birth, but that it is the washing of regeneration. This washing (the baptism) is strongly connected to the new birth. Examples in the word, of people that were baptized after their new birth experience, are found in **Acts 8:37, 38**: “Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may, (be Baptised – see verse 36) And he answered and said: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water and he baptised him”

Also **Acts 9:6,18**: So he, trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what do you want me to do? Then the Lord said to him: Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do. Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptised.”

Acts 16:31-33: So they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptised.”

3. The Results of the New Birth.

- a) You become a Joint Heir of the Kingdom of God.
John 3:3: Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- b) You receive eternal life
1 John 3:14: “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”

1 John 5:12-13 : “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

c) You have the authority to say you are a child of God.

John 1:12-13: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

d) You are made a new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

4) How will I know that I am Born Again ?

a) **1 John 3:9** ” Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”
The same author tells us what to do if we fall into sin.

1 John 1:7,9:”But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

*The Living Bible translates 1 John 3:9: as follows: “**The person who has been born into God’s family does not make a practice of sinning, because now God’s life is in him; so he can’t keep on sinning, for this new life has been born into him and controls him – he has been born again.**”*

*The Amplified Bible reads as follows: “**No one born (begotten) of God (deliberately and knowingly) habitually practises sin, for God’s nature abides in him – His principle of life, the Devine sperm, remains permanently within him – and he cannot practise sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.**”*

A child of God should not want you to sin, because he is born of God. If he does sin then he should know that he has somebody that is standing in the “gap” (one who intercedes for him) before our Heavenly Father, namely JESUS.

By repenting of his sins, God will forgive him.

1 John 2:1,2: “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

b) 1 John 5:1: “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.” The name Christ means Saviour. Thus if you can testify that He is your personal Saviour, you are born again.

Can you testify of the day that Jesus Christ saved you?

Have you received Jesus as your personal Saviour? **John 1:12:** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

c) 1 John 5:6-8 “This is He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth; the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.”

Do you have all three these witnesses in your life? It will affirm your new birth.

The Witness of the Blood ?

In other words **all** your sins are washed away through the Blood of Jesus.

1 John 1:7: “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.

The witness of the water ?

In other words, were you baptised as Jesus was baptised?

Matthew 3:13-17: “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness,” Then he allowed him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The Witness of the Holy Spirit ?

In other words, can you confess that the Spirit of God witnesses with your spirit that you are a child of God ?

Rom. 8:16 “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”

AS A NEW BORN CHILD OF GOD, HELP OTHERS TO ALSO
EXPERIENCE THIS!

SANCTIFICATION

What is Sanctification?

It is the process that takes place in a person's life that brings them into a walk of holiness.

The meaning in Hebrew is: "To set apart" also translated as: "cut off", "placed one side" & "Dedicate to the Lord."

The meaning in Greek: (Hagiazo) "Isolate", "Separate"

2 Corinthians 6:17: "Therefore, come out from among them. And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean. And I will receive you."

In which area of our life must we strive for (holiness) sanctification ?

I Thessalonians 5:23: says that we must be sanctified in our spirit, soul (our mind) and body.

Why desire (holiness) sanctification?

Because it is God's will for us.

I Thessalonians 4: 3-7: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in passion of lust, like the gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."

I Peter 1:15-16: "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all you conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Leviticus 20:26: "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine."

Hebrews 12: 14,15: "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled:"

HOW DOES SANCTIFICATION TAKE PLACE?

1. Through the Word of God. John 17:17

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”

Holiness can only come as we allow God’s Word into our hearts.

No wonder that Billy Graham once said: “If you want Revival in your church, preach Holiness.”

Psalm 119:25: “My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your Word.”

If we are reading everything else except God’s Word, how can we expect to become holy? Remember the words of Jesus in **John 15:3:** “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

The person who hungers and thirsts for the Word of God will find that by reading the Word, the process of holiness will take place in their life.

2. By laying down the wrong things in our lives:

2 Timothy 2:15-21: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal; “The Lord knows those who are His,” and “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. ”But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. “

3. By self-denial and crucifying the old man.

We do not stand under the reign of the old man, but under the new. Remember, holiness is a process that takes place in your new godly nature, and the more it grows, the more you stand under its reign, and the holier you become. Allow God to do the forming in your life. After all He is the sculptor.

The story of a world-renowned sculptor Michel-Angelo was told: that he was given a piece of marble that was so crooked and distorted that nobody wanted it. It was given to him to see if he could do something with it. After standing in front of it for a long time, he took his hammer and chisel and started to chisel it. Out of that Marble rock he made the world famous statue of David with his sling, which can be seen in Florence in Italy. Out of the one crooked side of the rock he made, the outstretched arm of David, and the other side, his foot, standing ready to throw the stone.

When we experience the new birth, we are placed into the hands of the Holy Spirit as a crooked rock so that He can change us day by day. That great task starts the very moment when Jesus said: "This rugged rock is mine – place it one side, he is set apart, I have claimed him. I have called him by his name, he is mine!" From that moment the Holy Spirit starts to work on the "rock". It remains a lifelong task. It continues to be a lifelong struggle between the old man and the new man.

"When I see a tree in my garden that carries bad fruit, I prune it, then I graft in a healthier shoot or stem. I use the old branch and root system that is already firm in the ground, and place the shoot of another tree that bears other fruit. The old tree feeds the new to develop.

Every rose tree in our garden is grafted into a branch of a wild rose bush. The reason is that the wild rose bush is a very tough tree with strong roots and a quick grower. It gets cut down to the roots, then out of the new shoot that gets grafted on, grows out the most beautiful roses! Now you must be very careful, because if you are not careful you will find the old wild rose tree will send out it's own shoots again. It grows out of the ground again. When a rose tree has not been pruned for some time, you will find that the old roots grow out again. They never have flowers, they grow luxuriant and kill the shoots. There you have an example of the old and new life!" (As quoted from: The Fruit of the Spirit – by: F.E. O'B Geldenhuys.)

4. Holiness takes place as I walk in the Holy Spirit!

Galatians 5:16: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

The Living Bible: "I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to."

WRONG CONCEPTIONS REGARDING HOLINESS.

Holiness is not perfectionism.

It is a process. It happens step by step.

When God said in **I Peter 1:16**: “Be holy, for I am holy.” He did not mean “As I am holy”. A Cup of water from the sea, is the same water as in the sea – but not in quantity.

Even Paul was striving towards holiness.

Philippians 3:12: “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

What about I John 3:9? Combine it with I John 1:7,9 and 1 John 2:1,2.

He that is born out of God does not sin, because he is born out of God.

He might sin, but then he must know that Jesus will forgive again and again.

Holiness is not being free from temptation.

You will find the closer you are living to God, the closer the devil lives to you!

The devil even tempted Jesus **Matthew 4:, Luke: 4.**

Also read: **Hebrews 4:15**: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Although Jesus was tempted He did not sin.”

Remember this: You have not sinned when you are tempted!

You cannot help it when a crow flies over your head, but you can prevent it from making a nest in your hair.

Holiness is not Isolation.

John 17:15,16 (Jesus praying) “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

We are in this world, but do not allow the world to come into us.

Holiness does not mean that you must isolate yourself from the rest of the world, but it is separation from that which is evil and sinful. With the measure we withdraw from sin and dedicate ourselves to the Lord, we will develop the Christ-like nature.

Holiness does not mean keeping certain Laws.

For many people holiness is what you wear, your appearance, lack of make up and refraining from many things.

Col. 2:16-23: “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbath, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. Let no one cheat you or your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations – “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using – according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

In fact, in the end holiness will be revealed through your general behaviour or appearance, but – it is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit in a persons life, and not the application of certain rules and laws. Holiness takes place from inside out, and not the other way round.

AND NOW: WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLINESS TO ME?

It prepares me to appear before God.

Heb. 12:14: “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord;”

I Thess. 5:23: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I John 2:28: “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

A Holy life is a life of power.

In **2 Kings 20:1-6:** we are told how God saved Hezekiah because of his sanctified life. “In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’ “

Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears, surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. "And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of my servant David." ' "

Especially take a look at **verse 3**; Hezekiah's sanctified life had so much power that it moved God to add fifteen years to his life.

James 5:16: "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Righteousness before God releases power in your life.

Conclusion: Is this not the time to repeat the words that Joshua of old, called out, to the believers in **Joshua 3:5:** "And Joshua said to the people: Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

God is a God of wonders, and He wants to perform wonders for His people.....But then we must sanctify ourselves!!!!

TEMPTATION

If I get tempted, what then??

How many well meaning Christians have asked this question? Many are under the impression that the devil has lost their address when they gave their life to Jesus Christ. Oh No!, The closer you live to Christ, the more you will find the devil shooting his arrows at you. Fortunately we have the full armour of God to conquer the devil!

Ephesians 6:10-17: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;”

LET US STUDY THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

We read of this in Matt. 4 and Luke 4.

If the devil tempted Jesus, he will certainly tempt us.

In we read in 1 Cor. 10:12,13 these words: *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”* (You can also read 1 Peter 5:8,9)

Jesus was tempted by the devil straight after Jesus was baptised and the Spirit came upon Him in the Jordan River. Is that not our experience as well? The moment we obeyed God to be baptised, the enemy came with his attacks.

The devil is a sure enemy, but as child of God, I will not have to be ignorant to his plans.

2 Corinthians 2:11: “lest satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

There are three types of temptations.

Luke 4:13: “Now when the devil had ended **every temptation**, he departed from Him until an opportune time.(for a season)”

The devil used all three tactics to tempt Jesus, and left him for a season. These words: “for a season” tell us that the devil does not give up on you, but will return to tempt you again.

1) The devil usually tempts the weakest spot in your life.

Luke 4:2-4: “being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”

After forty days Jesus was hungry, that is why the devil came with the temptation to turn the stones into bread. Normally this would have been a great miracle. If Jesus obeyed this instruction from the devil and performed the order, He would have bowed down to the devil.

Having fleshly desires is not sin, but to satisfy these desires in the wrong way is sinful. Think about Esau. It was not wrong to be hungry and desire soup, but to exchange his birthright for the soup was completely wrong.

2) The devil also tempts us in what we see.

Luke 4:5-8: “Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. “Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours. ”And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord Your God, and Him only you shall serve.”

Jesus was tempted in what the devil showed Him. (the kingdoms of this world)

To see is not sin, but to desire things we see, if it is not the will of God for us, that is sin.

3) In verses 9-12, the devil uses God’s Word to tempt Jesus.

Don’t think for one moment that the devil does not know the Bible. Learn this lesson

how Jesus overcame the devil by saying: “It is written”

Know God’s Word so that you can quote it to the devil

In 1 John 2:16: temptation is summed up like this:

“For all that is in the world: **the lust of the flesh**, (Jesus was tempted when He was hungry) **the lust of the eyes**, (See what the devil showed Jesus) and **the pride of life**; is not of the Father but is of the world.”

The question now is: How can I overcome temptation?

- Be filled with the Holy Ghost. **Luke 4:1,14:** “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the Wilderness.” “Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.” The power that Jesus had, was because He was filled with the Holy Spirit. No wonder Paul said the following: “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” **Galatians 5:16.**
- Make sure you find yourself in the place that God’s Spirit led you. **(Verse 1)** “When you are out of God’s will, you are in total darkness”
- Know God’s Word, so that you can use it against the devil. Make sure you know enough Bible verses so that you can use them, when needed.
- Have higher goals in life. We read this about Moses Hebrews 11:24-26: “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

Joseph is another example. Even though he had to flee from the wife of Potiphar and was thrown into jail completely innocent. He kept his eyes on a higher goal in life (Gen. 39 and 40)

One thing we must clearly understand, and that is:

I have not sinned if I have only been tempted. If temptation was sin, then Jesus sinned. He was tempted just as any of us, but did not give in to temptation and thus did not sin.

Hebrew 4:15: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Remember God tempts no one, and He will also not let us be tempted more than we can endure.

I Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

The question: “If I get tempted, what then?”. Is clearly answered in the first chapter of James.

Let us look at **James 1:2-4:** “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Thus it is very clear that James wanted to teach us not to get disheartened when temptation comes, but rather to receive it with joy.

Further James goes writing in **James 1:12-15:** “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

Achan only sinned when he desired and took it...

Joshua 7:20,21: “And Achan answered Joshua and said, “ Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: “When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

Now we understand **James 1:15** better where it says:” Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

- There is a crown for everyone who overcomes temptation. **(verse 12).**
- God tempts no-one. **(verse 13).**

Here are more texts on temptation.

Matthew 26:41: “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Luke 22:40: “when He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Galatians: 6:1: “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

2 Peter 2:9: “then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgement.”

SOWING and REAPING

Gal 6:7-9 *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit, will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.”*

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SOWING AND REAPING?

It means that you give away that which you have – as seed which you put into the ground – so that you receive more back than what you gave.

Anything you can GIVE is seed:

- Thoughts are Seeds *Your thoughts rule your life. Whatever you thought until this day made you as you are*
- Words are Seed *You have the power of life and death in your tongue*
- *(Prov. 18:21)*
- Love is Seed *The more love you sow the more you will receive love from others.*
- Time is Seed *Use your time correctly and you will experience great joy.*
- Patience is Seed *The more patience you give others, the more you will have.*
- Mercy and Grace is Seed *You know why I give grace ?Because I need grace.*
- Money is Seed *According to (2 Cor. 9) we must give in abundance, then God will give us enough for ourselves and more than enough to give to others.*
- If you are a “Sower” *there will never be a day in your life that you have nothing.*
- Something you already have to give is your Key to your Future. *Use it !*
- If you keep for yourself what you presently have, *that is the most it will ever be*
- When you let go of what is in your hand, *God will let go of what is in His Hand*
- Name your seed *when you give it away (when you sow it)*
- When you increase the size of your seed, *you increase the size of your harvest*

- If you have a NEED sow a SEED (Don't just pray about your need !)
- When God talks to you about a seed, He has a harvest for you on His mind

1. THERE IS A POSITIVE AS WELL AS A NEGATIVE THOUGHT IN SOWING AND REAPING:

- If you sow outside the will of God, you will have trouble! Beware of the day when your land accuses you! **Job 31:38**
- King Hezekiah sowed that which was right during his lifetime, and he reaped 15 years. Read about this in **2 Kings 18:3-6**.
- Honour your parents and you will reap a good and long life!
Eph. 6:2,3 "*Honour your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*"

2. WHATEVER YOU SOW YOU WILL REAP:

This is a law of nature, but it is also a law of God's Kingdom.

1. You reap the same **sort** (kind) that you sowed! Jacob deceived his father Isaac, and Jacob's uncle deceived Jacob with Leah and Rachel.
2. You reap **more** than you sowed.
3. Sometimes you reap sooner than at other times.

Just be patient: **Gal 6:9** – "*And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*".

3. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO CAN TEACH US ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING:

1. ELIPHAZ TAUGHT JOB THE FOLLOWING:

Job 4:1-8 – *Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said (vs 3) Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou has strengthened the weak hands. Thy words have upheld him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees. But now it is come upon thee, and thou art troubled.*" (Is God's Word perhaps speaking to you?)
(vs 8) "*Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same*". Job! You will not sow wickedness, you need not be troubled.

Read what Job reaped in **Job 42:10-12**.

4. WISE SOLOMON WANTS TO TEACH THOSE WHO DO CHARITY WORK, THE FOLLOWING ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING:

Eccl 11:1,6 “ *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. In the morning sow the seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand : for thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all*”

Another translation says: “*Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well*”.

Eccl. 11:4 – N.I.V. –“*Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap*”

Then Solomon adds: Prov 19:17 – “*He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord.*”

5. JEREMIAH TEACHES US SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING:

Jer. 4:3 – “*For thus saith the LordBreak up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.*”

Watch where you are sowing!

I would definitely not sow on cement.

Do not sow on places where you know that the seed would have no chance to grow.

IF YOU WANT PEACE – SOW PEACE!

James 3:18 – “*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace*”

The Living Bible translation says: “**And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness**”.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A “BEAUTIFUL AGED” PERSON?

Then you would have to plant the right seed **now**. Do not allow bitterness to take root in your life.

Try to make many friends with people – otherwise you will become lonely as an aged person!

DO YOU WANT THINGS TO GO WELL WITH YOUR CHILDREN?

Then you will have to sow the right things immediately!

Do well to other young people.

HOW AND WHAT DO YOU SOW IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

How do you speak to each other?

Men must always remember that if they do not respect their wives

God will not answer their prayers according to 1 Peter 3:7

REMEMBER: A person gets older and not younger!

PAUL, WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT RENDERING SERVICE TO FELLOW CHRISTIANS, SPEAKS ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL ALTOGETHER:

Read what God's Word says in **2 Cor 9:6-11**

- With this Scripture I want to put a key into your hands which will open financial doors.

PAUL WAS COLLECTING FOR THE POOR CHRISTIANS IN JUDEA.

He started in Greece that had two regions, namely Macedonia and Achaia. Palestine was divided into three regions namely: Galilee, Samaria and Judea. Paul was gathering material things for the poor Christians in Jerusalem and surroundings.

IF YOU STUDY 2 Cor 8 and 9 YOU WOULD FIND THE FOLLOWING:

That Macedonia gave to the poor Christians of Judea while they themselves were very poor.

THE LIVING BIBLE STATES IT VERY CLEARLY:

2 Cor. 8: 1-3 – *“Though they (Macedonia) have been going through much trouble and hard times, they have mixed their wonderful joy with their deep poverty, and the result has been an overflow of giving to others.*

(Verse 3) They gave not only what they could afford but far more ...”.

PAUL ENCOURAGES THE CORINTHIANS TO GIVE THEIR BEST – SO THAT HE NEED NOT BE ASHAMED OF THEM. 2 COR 9:4.

He had told them a year previously to collect funds for the Christians at Jerusalem. **2 Cor 8:10; 1 Cor 16:1-5.**

ONE OF THE GREAT LESSONS WE LEARN HERE IS: YOU MUST GIVE (YOU MUST SOW) EVEN IF YOU ARE GOING THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

Have you just come through a time of tears?

My word to you is: **Psalm 126:5** – “They that sow in tears shall reap with joy!”

Isa 60:20 – “Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself; for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended”.

Maybe you say as so many others: “Oh, I just wish that I also could give, then I would gladly do so”.

- Look what happened in **Mark 12:41,42** – *“And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them: Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury..... for she cast in all that she had, even all her living”*
- What about the widow of Zarephath:
Note Elijah visiting the widow. See how he acted.
After she had taken what she had (a handful of flour and a small bit of oil) and given it to Elijah, we read about a miracle that took place
1 Kings 17:16 *“The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry”.*

GOD CAN MAKE MUCH FROM A LITTLE!

ACCORDING TO 2 COR. 8 and 9, IF YOU SOW MONEY YOU WILL REAP MONEY!

- Never forget that God will give to you, so that you can give more and more.

2 Cor 9:8, 11 – (Living Bible) – *“God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much ...”*

- Do not become like the Dead Sea. This sea receives water from the Jordan river and yet this sea is without life, because there is no outflow of water.
- HOW MUST WE GIVE? **2 Cor. 9:7** – *“Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver”*
The Amplified Bible translates this as follows: “God loves (takes pleasure in) a cheerful, joyous giver – whose heart is in his giving.”

READ THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING GIVING:

Exod 25:2; Deut. 16:7; 1 Cron 29:9

Test your own attitude in the light of the above Scriptures, when you give.

DO YOU EXPECT A HARVEST? WHAT HAVE YOU SOWN?