

SERMON

NOTES

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PREACHING

In the beginning of my ministry I was very aggressive in my preaching. I wanted my people to repent every Sunday! But when the Lord "opened" His Word written in Matt. 28:19,20 my preaching changed.

Before this revelation I preached a lot on the end times. In itself there is nothing wrong with that. I was so "good" that I could even give you the cell phone number of the Anti-Christ. (You should know that's a joke)

But one day Helen came to me and said: *"I love your preaching, but what do I do on a Monday morning when my maid does not pitch up for work; my washing machine is broken and my baby is sick?"* At first I had the idea that there was something wrong with my wife.

But when I pondered on what she said, God told me to read (with enlightened eyes) **Matt. 28:19,20** *"Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

The word "observe" means to "obey and follow it"

Whatever you preach or teach, must be things that you and I can obey and do.

I also remember that morning when my wife talked to me about my preaching she even said: *"If things go wrong and we experience pressure in our family I need Gods Word to give me answers for my problems."*

My whole preaching started to change and became more relevant. It did not happen overnight, but it happened.

PRACTICAL ADVICE ON PREACHING

Paul wrote to Timothy as a young preacher the following words in **2 Tim.4:1,2** *"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **Preach the word ! Be ready in season and out of season** (The Living Bible says: "whenever you get the chance, in season and out, when it is convenient and when it is not") Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*

In **2 Tim.2:15** Paul says: *"Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"*
(This means there is a RIGHT way and also a WRONG way in preaching the Word of the Lord !)

In **2 Tim.3:16,17** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOUR SERMON ?

First get a Word from the Lord.

You ask me: "How do I get a Word from the Lord?"

The best answer is: Read your Bible enough and you will get more sermons than you can use. Do not run to books to find a sermon.

Use books after God has given you a message only to fill in on your own notes.

Do not read the Bible for a sermon. But by reading your Bible sermons will come to you. You will experience the same as Ezekiel.

Ezek.1:3 "the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel"

Ezek.3:16 "the word of the Lord came to me, saying..."

Ezek.6:1 "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying..."

Write down all thoughts concerning your message.
Make notes even in the night when God gives them to you. Get up out of your bed and write these notes down. If you do not do this the devil will steal them from you.

Do good research on the Scriptures you will use in your sermon. Ask questions when you read the Scriptures. God will give you answers. Also read them in other translations of the Bible

Always ask: "What is the occasion and who is the audience?"
What is your theme? And stick to it!
What is the goal you want to achieve? Never preach without a goal!

Before you preach: Take time to meditate on your message and each scripture. Pray over your sermon. Pray over each point.

Let your sermon first preach to your own heart before you give it to others.

WHEN PREACHERS LIVE HOW THEY PREACH AND PREACH HOW THEY LIVE, THEY WILL ALWAYS BE ANOINTED AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR PREACHING!

Your message must have an **introduction** and a good **climax**
Your sermon must have three to five points. Anything more you must put into a second sermon.

A GOOD PREACHER WILL ALWAYS TAKE NOTES OF ANOTHER PREACHER AND LEARN FROM THEIR PREACHING

NINE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF PREACHING

- (1) Sermon preparation and how to deliver it, is important.
- (2) Any skill is built by DESIRE, CONSISTENCY, HARD WORK
- (3) Work on wrong habits
- (4) Be clear on what you say if you want others to understand it
- (5) You cannot know what you are going to say if you do not put it in words
- (6) Let your preaching always be Biblical
- (7) Never use preaching to get rid of your frustration
- (8) Give good information in your sermon mixed with revelation
- (9) Be sure that you can say "Thus says the Lord"

Preacher's style

"*Style*" is not something new. Everyone has their own style. It is there every time when you open your mouth to preach.

Ask yourself the following:

Is my style full of vitality and interesting?

Is my style boring?

Is my preaching clear and loud enough or too soft?

Am I nervous or calm?

Am I flexible or rigid?

God uses our style as we are. Do not try to be someone else. The Lord may say to you that He has someone like that already and doesn't need another one like that.

God used Paul as he was with his long sentences and Mark with his wrong grammar. His whole book is full of "And" "And when"

Use notes when you preach your sermon. But never be a slave of your notes. Good preaching takes place while you are busy delivering your message. When you open your mouth the Bible says that God will fill it.

Practise to use words in your preaching that will describe certain thoughts better.

But never try to use words that normal people do not understand. Or at least explain what you are saying when you use such words.

Effective preaching is when you preach plain as Jesus did so that everybody can understand what you want to say.

Do not shout when you preach and learn to use your breath in such a way that you will not "swallow" some of your words. And please do not "chase rabbits" (This is when you don't stick to your subject.)

Your "BODY LANGUAGE" is very important. You will not show your fist to your wife when you tell her that you love her ?

Be neat on yourself (and that includes your shoes) when you stand up to preach

Do not preach with your hands in your pockets

Do not play with your tie while you are preaching

EYE CONTACT! Do not keep looking into the sky or somewhere in the back of the building when you are preaching. Learn to make eye contact with the people while you are preaching. Find people in the congregation that are opening their hearts towards the Word of the Lord and preach to them. Ignore those that do not listen to you.

Be relevant in your preaching. Preach to meet the needs of the people.

What to do with your sermon notes:

Keep a record of where you preached each sermon (Write it at the back of your notes) Keep a filing system for all of your sermon notes Use some of them to write your books

Note: I want to encourage every preacher to write books. Start by using your sermon notes and write as if you were talking to a person.

As a preacher we need three things to be a good preacher:

The first one is INFORMATION; the second one is REVELATION; and the third one is INSPIRATION.

When using an interpreter

When you use an interpreter you must use complete statements. Finish one thought at a time so that your interpreter can interpret correctly. Some languages will start with the verb first.

Make sure that the expressions you use are understood. You may talk of a "traffic light" and they may use the word "robot"

Make sure that the texts you use are in the same places as the Bibles of the people you are preaching to.

The Russian Bible does not have 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.

They have 1st Kings; 2nd Kings; 3rd Kings and 4th Kings

From Psalm 11 the Psalms in the Russian Bible are one less than in our Bible.

SEVEN SOURCES OF THE DOWNFALL OF A PREACHER

- (1) Poor textual study
- (2) Negative mentality
- (3) Physical tiredness.
- (4) Deadline pressure
- (5) Spiritual dryness
- (6) Laziness
- (7) Poor planning

Discover YOURSELF

I found out that it was important to help my congregation to discover how and why God made them. When He saved them, He placed them in His church for a purpose, that's why He gave us our potential and abilities to use us for His glory. The ministry and gifts God gave us was to serve others and give us fulfilment in our lives.

I believe God made us to enjoy life. Sorry to say, sometimes I saw more "life" in the world than in the church.

King David once wrote these words in Ps 139 verses 1 to 14

*"O, Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up. (Verses 1,2)
You have hedged me behind and before,
and laid Your hand upon me. (Verse 5)
For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb. (Verse 13)
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."(V. 14)*

It is wonderful to know that our birth did not surprise God. He knew us before we were born, and had (and still has) a plan for our lives.

I am so glad that God can change a "minus" into a "plus"
In other words; it is God that can take a negative thing and change it into something wonderful.

The Bible says in **Rom.8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*

THE SPIRIT OF MAN

Discover yourself as Spirit, Soul and Body.

This is something you must understand. It will help you to get new direction in life. You are a spirit being, that has a soul and lives in a body. Stand up in your spirit-man and start making the difference in other people's lives.

A clear scripture in the Bible which shows that man is spirit, soul and body is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete and found blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE REBORN IN YOUR SPIRIT AND NOT IN YOUR SOUL OR BODY!

When God created man He made him out of a material part and a spiritual part.

The body is the "material part" and the spirit and soul is the "spiritual part"

This truth is found in Gen.2:7 "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

When one dies the "spiritual part" (spirit and soul) leaves the "material part" (that is the body) and if the spiritual and material parts (spirit, soul and body) can be united again, that person will live again on earth.

To understand the above read **1 Kings 17:17-24** were Elijah the prophet prayed for a young boy who died.

He prayed these words "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him. Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child (not the soul of someone else) came back to him, and he revived."

Remember: The soul that came back into his body wasn't his blood, but was his spiritual part that united with his material part.

Jesus said in John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Yes, you can worship God with your body, but God wants you to worship Him with your inner man, your spirit-man.

THE SOUL OF MAN

It is not easy to separate the SPIRIT and SOUL from each other. Still the Bible tells us that there is a difference between the two and thus they can be divided.

In Heb. 4:12 we read these words "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of *soul* and *spirit*, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

A good definition for our soul will be our *intellect, emotions* and our *will*.

Prov. 23:7 "For as he (man) thinks in his heart, so is he"
You and I are what we think. Yes, the "battlefield" is our minds. It is in our minds where the enemy attacks us first.

We all have a "Philosophy" "Philo" means love and "sophy" means thoughts Philosophy is "**love for our thoughts**"
Change the way you think and your whole life will be changed!

That's why we must think things of above, things that please God.

Col.3:2; "Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth."

Rom.12:2; "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Also read Phil. 4:8

It has been said that most illnesses are psychosomatic. In other words what we think has an effect on our physical well being. Fill your mind with the good things of life and your body will enjoy good health. In your soul you will experience emotions such as love and hate; enthusiasm; disappointment, joy and depression.

We have to work on these emotions!

What does the word "enthusiasm" mean?

It comes from the Greek word: "entheos"

And the word "entheos" is used for God.

I believe the more enthusiasm a person has, the more of God he has in himself.

WHAT INFLUENCES MY SOUL?

Meaning, what influences my: **Intellect, emotions and will?**

What I SEE (Matt. 6: 22, 23) Jesus said: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

What I HEAR (Ps. 92:11) Decide only to listen to successful people, and shut your ears for any negative words!

What I SPEAK (Prov. 18:21) "Death and Life are in the power of the tongue."

THE BODY OF MAN

Our BODIES are important to God. **The Bible says in Rom. 12:1** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present ***your bodies*** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Paul writes in 1 Cor. 6:19,20 "Or do you not know that ***your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit*** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Discover COMPLETE FORGIVENESS

When we read **1 John 1:1-10** we find that two words "we and us" are used 25 times in these ten verses.

I found that John the apostle was not writing to the world but to the church.

Some of these verses we use to help sinners to come to Christ and confess their sins. The message of "FORGIVENESS" is not only for the sinners, but also for us that says we are Christians.

It was when Daniel confessed his sin and those of his people that God answered him. (Daniel 9: 4-16; 19: 22)

If you want an answer to your prayers, then you must be able and willing to confess all sin in your life.

When **Isaiah** confessed, the live coal from God's altar touched his mouth and his guilt was taken away. (**Isaiah 6: 5-7**)

And remember, he was already a prophet!

Many want God's fire, without confessing their sins.

IF YOU WANT COMPLETE FORGIVENESS THERE ARE THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD DO:

FIRSTLY: You must get forgiveness from the Lord for your sins.

Ask Jesus to forgive you and to cleanse you with His blood.

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 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."

If blood does not reach a certain part of our body, that part will die.

If Jesus' blood does not flow through your life, you will die spiritually. And the only way to get His blood to cleanse your soul and mind is to confess your sins with all of your heart.

SECONDLY: Forgive YOURSELF

As the devil accused *Joshua the high priest* before God (**Zech.3: 1 to 5**) The same way the devil accuses us before God.

Revelation 12: 10: "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven. Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." Never help the devil in his dirty work by accusing others as well as yourself!

REMEMBER: All sins that are honestly confessed are forgiven and forgotten by God.

Colossians 2:13, 14 (The Living Bible)

"He forgave all your sins, and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of His commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross."

Psalm 103: 12

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us." **Where is East and where is West?** No one can determine a specific place. In other words, He separates our sins from us so that we can never meet up with them again.

Isaiah 44: 22

"I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

Mist is something that prevents you from being able to see where you're going. When God has forgiven us, he takes this "mist" out of our way so that we can see God's way and walk in it.

Micah 7:19

"You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. "

It literally means that God feels sorry for us, tramples on our sins, and throws them into the deep sea.

Jeremiah 31:34

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

If God doesn't remember them, you and I mustn't remember them either. If God Himself can forget, He can also help you to forget.

But how can you forget if you keep that letter to use against someone; or the negative notes in that book, or even that conversation on tape? Destroy all those things so that you truly can forget.

You ask: "What must I do if the old wrong thoughts come back?"

Colossians 3: 1, 2 "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" Fill your mind with the good things in life.

QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN AGAIN?

1 John 2: 1 "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."

As Christians we should not sin. But if you sin you can once again go to Jesus for forgiveness. Believe that His grace is more than enough.

THIS BRINGS US TO THE THIRD MATTER CONCERNING FORGIVENESS: FORGIVE ALSO YOUR FELLOW MAN.

To really be forgiven you need:

- (1) Forgiveness from God
- (2) You need to forgive yourself
- (3) But it is also important to forgive others

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray as follows:

Luke 11: 4 "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us "(Also read Matthew 6: 12)

Did you know that many people cannot move "mountains" of problems because they cannot forgive?

Mark 11: 23, 24 is a wonderful scripture. But just to "BELIEVE" and to "TALK TO" your mountain is not enough.

We must also read the 25th and 26th verses:

"And whenever you stand praying, *(in front of your problem that's your mountain)* if you have anything against anyone forgive them, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses "

The Living Bible translates Mark.11:25 as follow:

"but when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too."

What happens if I forgive?

I unlock the spiritual door of the person I forgive and I release myself.

What happens if I don't forgive?

Then I am given over to the "torturers" according to what Jesus said in Matthew 18: 34, 35 ("torturers" are things that will punish you)

If I do not want to forgive, the Bible says I will be thrown into a spiritual prison, and I will stay there until I have paid what it takes to get free before the Lord. **(Matt.5:23-26)**

REMEMBER: The MAIN REASON why I forgive others is not because they deserve it, but because I want to be free. **Luke 6: 37**

A lady that was chronically sick for 40 years:

While on leave my wife and I met a Christian woman who was previously in our church. As believers together we each decided to draw "Manna cards." (That is a little box with cards that have Bible Scriptures written on them) This woman was amazed when she selected Colossians 3: 13 for the second time in one week. It read: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." While others drank coffee I sat next to her and asked her if she realised that the Lord wanted to speak to her from this Scripture. She confirmed it. My following question was: "but you are chronically sick aren't you?" The answer was that for 40 years she had been sick with various ailments. I asked her immediately "Is it possible that there are people that you needed to forgive?" the answer was: "Yes, for 40 years!"

I felt a strong urge to encourage her to make right with these people as soon as possible. I found out that she did so during the following week! Six months later I attended her funeral.

The most beautiful testimony was from her children and friends: "She was a difficult, sick person for the past 40 years, but for the last six months she was an angel on two legs and healthy as well!" She could have been like that for 40 years.

How many times must I forgive?

The Bible says in Matthew 18:21, 22 that I must forgive **70 times 7**
The Bible also says in Luke 17:3, 4 up to **7 times a day**

Discover COMPLETE FORGIVENESS and live a life of overflowing joy.

Discover your POSITION IN CHRIST

Read 2 Cor.5:17-21

In verse 17 Paul writes these words: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."*

Strong's (2537) explains this word "**new**" and says the Greek word used is "kainos" **Meaning:** "unused, fresh, novel" It also means that it's new in regard to form or quality, rather than new in reference to time. **Praise the Lord, we are new creatures!**

Christians are always told what they should be like.
Many Christians don't know their position in Christ.

In The Living Bible 2 Cor.5:17 read as follows: "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun."
In Greek "new creation" means "a new human race that did not exist before"

That is why you are unique. There was no one like you before and there will never be one like you again.

Did you know that we find the words "IN CHRIST" and "IN HIM" 134 times in the Bible?

WE MUST WORK "OUT" WHAT GOD WORKED "IN" US.

Phil.2:12,13 "Work **out** your own salvation (work on the salvation God has started in your life) with fear and trembling. For it is God who works **in** you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

ONE OF THE BEST STUDIES IN THE BIBLE TO DISCOVER YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST IS FOUND IN EPHESIANS ONE.

Ephesians is a wonderful book. We can divide it into 3 parts

- Chapter 1: My POSITION in Christ
- Chapters 2 to 6:9: My WALK in Christ
- Chapter 6:10-24: My WEAPONS in Christ

Eph. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."

- Salvation is a blessing
- Healing is a blessing
- The Holy Spirit is a blessing
- Financial prosperity is a blessing

Thank God for the blessing of Abraham in Deut. 28:1-14

You will see that material blessings are included in this promise. Through Christ the blessing of Abraham became mine! Gal.3:13,14 Jesus said in Matt.6:33 "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all **these things** shall be added to you."

What things? What we eat, drink, and wear.

Eph. 1:4 "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."

In 1 Pet.2:9 Peter wrote: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."

The Amplified Bible says: "He actually picked us out for Himself as His own."

Eph. 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*

THANK GOD, WE ARE FORGIVEN THROUGH THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS!

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

Eph. 1:11 *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance"*

WE ARE HEIRS IN CHRIST.

What does it mean to inherit? It is when we receive from a will things we never worked for. We become an heir when the person that made a will dies and our name is found written in it as a beneficiary. (One who is left a legacy under someone's will)

JESUS LEFT US HIS TESTAMENT AND IT CAME IN FORCE THE MOMENT HE DIED. (Heb.9:17)

JESUS AROSE AND BECAME ALSO THE EXECUTOR OF HIS OWN TESTAMENT.

Eph. 1:13,14 *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*

WE ARE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS GIVES US PROTECTION AND AUTHORITY.

The Amplified Bible says:(Eph. 1:14) "The Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance – The first fruit, the pledge and foretaste. The down payment on our heritage."

STAND IN THE POSITION GOD HAS PUT YOU.

"For greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world."

1 John 4:4

Someone once said: "I am bigger on the inside than on the outside"

STUDY EPHESIANS 1:20-23

You will find the following truths

Believe this and walk according to this wonderful promise in Gods word that everything is under our feet!

- *Jesus is the Head of the Body (His Church)*
- *We are His body*
- *Everything that has "a name" is under our feet!*

Discover your MINISTRY

All over the world God is restoring MINISTRIES.
God wants to use every member.

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO A MINISTRY

MINISTRY BRINGS FULFILLMENT IN OUR LIVES

Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:5

"Do the work of an Evangelist, fulfil your ministry"

THE CHURCH IS FULL OF UNFULFILLED PASTORS and CHRISTIANS. AND IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE WE ALSO FIND UNFULFILLED PEOPLE

A Bank manager that wanted to be a farmer!

A Teacher that wanted to be a motor mechanic!

THE MAIN REASON FOR MINISTRIES

- IS NOT TO GIVE YOU A "TITLE"
- IT IS TO SERVE OTHERS!

1 Pet.4:10 *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another"*

YOU WILL NOT HAVE SUCCESS IN YOUR MINISTRY:

If you lose the anointing that God gave you.

Even Jesus needed to be anointed: Luke 4:18 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel."*

It may be that God needs you in a NEW MINISTRY

We have become too "Specialised" in Ministry

The needy we send to the Welfare Committee

The Sick we refer to those with "The Healing Ministry"

The seeking soul and hurting we refer to a trained Counsellor.

1 Corinthians 12:18 we read: *"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body (the church) just as He pleased."*

- God decided on my function the day I was added to His church.
- I have to discover my place in the body of Christ and once I've found it, I must operate in it. This will give me fulfilment.

What does the Bible say about "the body of Christ"?

The "Body of Christ is not a church denomination or a church building, but it's all those washed in the blood of the Lamb!

1 Cor. 12:27 Eph. 1:22,23

How do we become part of the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12: 13 "for by one Spirit are we baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and all have been made to drink into one Spirit."

When you are reborn, you become part of the body of Christ and associate yourself with Christ and believers. It is obvious that one cannot "join" the true church of God.

The members in the body need one another.

1 Corinthians 12: 12 and 26. Which part of your own body can you say that you don't need? You even need your little toes. You will lose your balance without them!

This was the strength of the first church. **(Acts 4: 32)**

No member is unimportant. If one in the congregation suffers, then everyone must suffer, because Galatians 6:2 says; "bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ".

We must see who is: Lonely, grieved, burdened with sin, ill, in temporary need. And then do something about it.

But also listen to this: And if one is glad, we all must be glad!

Christ wants to introduce a healthy church to the Father.

Ephesians 5: 27 "that He might present her (the church) to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish".

Communication in the church is very important

The body of Christ sometimes experiences pain due to the lack of communication. Do you know that a wound in the body only heals because the red and white blood cells fight together against any virus that attacks the body.

THANK GOD FOR THE "FIVE-FOLD" MINISTRY GOD GAVE

Eph. 4:11 "And He Himself gave (always remember that it is God that gives) some to be apostles, some prophets, some teachers, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers."

Use your five fingers to understand the "Five-fold" Ministry.

APOSTLE Is as your thumb that can touch all fingers and hold them together

PROPHET Your pointing finger that can point to the past and future

EVANGELIST As your longest finger that reaches out to the lost.

PASTOR As the ring finger (He is married to the flock)

TEACHER As your little finger (Brings balance through teaching)

Whatever Ministry God gave you was to help others find theirs and equip them to be more effective for God.

ACCORDING TO EPH. 4:12 GOD GAVE MINISTRIES TO "EQUIP" HIS PEOPLE FOR THEIR WORK.

The Living Bible says: "why is it that He gives us the special abilities to do certain things best? It is so that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity."

- **WHAT SHOULD MY MINISTRY DO FOR ME?**

Verses 13-15 answers this question

My ministry should help me grow spiritually

- **WHAT SHOULD MINISTRIES DO FOR THE CHURCH?**

Verse 16 says that ministries will give "growth" "unity" and "love" in the church

Let's read it: *"...the whole body (the church) is joined together by what every joint (member) supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share (fulfilling their ministry) causes **growth** of the body (the church) for the **edifying** (unity) of itself in **love**."*

Other translations on this Scripture:

The Living Bible: *"under His direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way, helps the other parts so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love".*

The Amplified Bible: *"for because of Him the whole body (the church in all its various parts closely) joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with each part (with power adapted to its need) is working properly (in all its functions) grow to full maturity, building itself up in love".*

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

Intercessors

Nothing in the church that we do can be successful if it is not backed by prayer. And all Christians should pray.

But we really need Intercessors that can “stand in the gap” (according to Ezekiel 22:30) and know how to do Spiritual Warfare.

Standing in the gap is a metaphor for committed intercession. To be an intercessor is not for everyone in the church, but it’s a calling that someone will receive from God.

Soul winners

Thank God for the full-time evangelist. But anyone that declares the Gospel of Christ through witnessing and preaching is busy fulfilling the ministry of an evangelist. *You see, it is a ministry and not a title!*

We have members in our church that have a passion for souls. Train them and use them.

Healing Ministry

We live in a sick and needy world. We need men and women that have compassion in their hearts to be bold and pray for the sick.

The first time I asked our church to fill in a Ministry Questionnaire, 24 members said that they wanted to be used in the healing ministry. Strange enough not one of my elders indicated that this was their ministry. It may have been but they did not commit themselves to be trained in this ministry.

Because I always “*move with the movers*” I got these 24 people together and equipped them in their calling. This included how they should pray for people in hospital and not try “funny stuff”

Not to pray (or speak in tongues) too loud. They should always remember that it’s God that heals and they only have to do the praying.

One housewife stood out in this ministry. Her name was Rika and God used her in a great way.

There were even times that doctors in hospital did not call me to come and pray for critical cases, but called Rika to come and pray. Once a doctor asked her to come to the ICU and pray for a man who was dying. Her reverend and I stood outside the room and was not allowed to pray for this man. But the doctors called for Rika to come and pray. She asked my permission if she could do that and then went in to pray for him. God healed that man and gave him back to his family. Praise unto God!

The wonderful thing about these trained workers was that they knew how to do this ministry and had a wonderful anointing on their lives. Great miracles took place when they prayed for the sick. Why should only the pastor pray for sick people?

Shepherds

The pastor's work to tend to the flock as a shepherd is very important, but this is not only the work of the pastor, but also that of the elders, cell leaders and even other members of the church. I believe that an elder and cell leader should be able to teach God's word and to pray for the needs of the people.

If God has called you as a shepherd to tend to His flock you should prepare yourself to be used by God! The need in God's flock is very big. God needs shepherds. We can't just plant seed; we should also take care of the "plants" (new souls) and water them. (1 Cor. 3:6)

Teachers

The church desperately needs this ministry.

According to **Matthew 28: 19** we make disciples, and baptize them, but we should also teach them.

Cell leaders, Elders and Sunday school teachers, should be able to teach the Word.

We should teach our people to observe what Christ told us to do.

If God has called you into this ministry, you should really start to **equip yourself** as a teacher of God's word.

Joyce Meyer once said to Reinhardt Bonnke (the well known world evangelist) "You catch them and I will clean them"

It is wonderful to see new souls being saved, but we should teach them how to get rid of all things that hinder their spiritual growth.

Worship Team

We also need an anointed Worship team in our church that will be used by God to lead His people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. A worship team is not there to show their talent, but to help the members to worship God. They will lead by example.

There is also something as "The Ministry of Helps"

Any "Administration" is a God called ministry in His church.

Anyone in the church who has administrative work to do is a gift of God to His church.

Such as: Secretary; treasurer; sound and computer; book room; greeting the people; ushers; cleaning the church; maintenance work; transportation etc.

YOUTH and CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The youth shall be as strong as their Leader.

It's not just about a Programme but about someone that will hear from God's Spirit to guide young people to give their best in serving God.

WOMEN and MEN

As for the youth it will be for the ministry among the women and men. It takes one man and one woman to make the difference in a church.

The Living Bible sums up some ministries in Romans 12:6-8

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to **prophecy**, then prophecy whenever you can -- as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of **servicing others**, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, do a good job of teaching. If you are a **preacher** see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. **If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it.** If God has given you **administrative ability** and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. **Those who offer comfort** to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer."

MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Every member in the church should receive a *Ministry questionnaire*, so that they can have the choice to decide where in the church they want to be involved. Then train them and use them.

AN EXAMPLE OF A MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

(Change it as you need it)

A Questionnaire to help you identify yourself with a MINISTRY

Your Name _____

Your address _____

Tel: _____

"I would like to be involved in the following Ministry. Where I need training to be more effective for the Lord, I commit myself for that."

Mark with an "X"

- I want to be an INTERCESSOR _____
- I want to be CELL LEADER _____
- I want to work with the YOUTH _____
- I want to help the POOR and NEEDY _____
- I want to do PRISON WORK _____
- I want to work with CHILDREN _____
- I want to be an USHER _____
- I want to help with the SOUND and MEDIA _____
- I want to PRAY for the SICK _____
- I want to be in the WORSHIP TEAM _____
- I want to do MAINTENANCE work _____
- I want to be used by God in the GIFTS of the SPIRIT _____
- I want to be a SOULWINNER _____

Note: Any other Ministry you want to do, you can write down here:

Discover your GIFTS

There are many gifts, but only 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Cor.12:1-11

There are so much ignorance these days about God's gifts. That's why Paul wrote these words in **1 Cor. 12:1** "now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant"

If there ever was a time that the Church needed God's Holy Spirit, it is today. We must desire for the Spirit to come on us just as He came as a dove on Jesus when He was baptised in the Jordan River.

It is striking to notice that the Holy Spirit is compared to a dove. We read in Luke 3 v. 22: "and the Holy Spirit descended on Him (Jesus) in bodily form like a dove."

Why is the Holy Spirit compared to a dove?

1. **A dove is very sensitive.** Therefore we can grieve the Holy Spirit -- Ephesians 4 v. 30. The Amplified Bible translated this verse as follows "and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, do not offend, or vex (tease) or sadden Him" Ephesians 4 v. 25 to 31 tells us what grieves the Spirit.
2. **A dove has a fixed direction.** Think of carrier pigeons and how they find their way back home. The Holy Spirit will always give you direction! Believe that for those in your family who have lost their spiritual direction.
3. **A dove has no gall bladder!** There is thus no bitterness in God! The Greek word for bitterness is "pikros" **and means to cut or to stab.**
If someone tends to cut and stab others with their mouth there is definitely bitterness in their heart.

4. **A dove has perfect balance in its wings.** And did you know that the dove has equal numbers of flight feathers in each wing.

The Holy Spirit therefore brings a perfect balance between gifts and fruits in the Church.

Think also of the High Priest's clothing that he wore. We read of it in Exodus 28:31 to 35

At the bottom of the cloak there were bells and pomegranates alternating with one another.

The bells that made a noise represent the gifts and the pomegranates represent fruits. If you seek the **gifts**, you must surely seek the **fruit**.

The noise that the bells made while the priest moved continuously was an indication that he was alive.

Congregations where the gifts are not "audible" may be suffering from spiritual death.

Decide to choose life by stirring up the gifts that are in you.

1 Timothy 4 v. 14 and 2 Timothy 1 v. 6

You "stir up" your gift by doing the following:

- Pray about your gift
- Increase your knowledge about your gift.
- Make yourself available for God to use you in your gift

WRITE the gifts (1 Cor. 12) opposite to the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) and then you will see that there is a perfect balance between GIFTS AND FRUIT

THE GIFTS

The word of wisdom
A word of knowledge
Faith
Healing
Working of miracles
Prophecy
Discernment of spirits
Tongues.
Interpretation of tongues

THE FRUIT

Love (Speak in love)
Joy (God's knowledge brings joy)
Peace (Faith will bring peace)
Patience (Pray with patience)
Kindness (Work gentle)
Goodness (edify/exhort/comfort)
Faithfulness
Gentleness. (Don't shout it out)
Self-control (1 Cor. 14:32)

WHY DID GOD GIVE GIFTS TO HIS CHURCH?

The answer is: To serve others.

1 PET.4:10 "AS EVERY MAN HATH RECEIVED THE GIFT, EVEN SO MINISTER THE SAME ONE TO ANOTHER"

The Living Bible translates this verse as follows:

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other"

LET'S DISCUSS THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. A Word of Wisdom

This is not natural wisdom because there are even unbelievers who do not have the Holy Spirit but are gifted with natural wisdom. The gift of a **Word of Wisdom** is something that can only be given by the Holy Spirit to a person. Whilst natural wisdom has facts to its disposal the gift of the word of wisdom relies on a direct revelation from God.

How often has the gift of a Word of Wisdom helped a child of God when he had no answer to a difficult question!

Is there some way in which we can test godly wisdom? Definitely, namely with James 3:17 "but the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Always test a word that anybody gives you "in the name of the Lord" with this scripture.

Examples where this gift has worked are found in:

1 Kings 3:16-28 and **Acts 27:21-25.**

2. A Word of Knowledge

It is a gift of a **Word of Knowledge** and as in the first gift it only works when it is spoken.

In other words if it has been received but the one who received it does not make it known, this gift has not functioned as it should.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING! Therefore He can reveal to His children what is hidden.

NOTE: Often a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom work together.

For example by the Word of Knowledge John could know the situation and the condition of the seven churches of Asia and by the Word of Wisdom he could give them counsel. (See Revelation 2 and 3)

The purpose for a Word of Knowledge:

- **It warns the child of God against his enemies.**
2 Kings 6 v. 8 to 12
- **It helps a child of God to know precisely what God wants from him.**
In Acts 9 v. 11 and 12 God reveals to his child Ananias something that he didn't know, namely the place where Paul was and even what he was doing.
- **A word of knowledge helps in prevailing prayer.**
Often a word of knowledge has saved God's children from certain defeat because others have prayed for them after God revealed things to them through this gift.

I want to mention my personal experience of this on a Thursday morning years ago.

I was praying and at about 11 o'clock a vision appeared where I saw two men (one was a friend of mine by the name of Chris) in a boat in the sea in great danger! For half an hour I prayed desperately for them until God's peace came over me. That afternoon Chris told me personally how they were in danger (at about 11 o'clock) and how their engine wouldn't work.

Waves were already breaking over them when suddenly an invisible hand pushed their boat into the river mouth and they reached the bank safely!

What would have happened if I had been disobedient to this revelation from God? I thank God for this miracle.

A word of knowledge reveals things in people's lives.

Through this gift Nathan the prophet helped David to confess his sins before God.

I saw the value of this gift when the Lord showed me the sins of a worship leader while he was leading the worship. When I spoke to him personally, he was initially annoyed but later in brokenness confessed his sin and was fully restored in his spiritual life. Thank God for the Word of Knowledge.

This gift is also in the church to keep it pure!

Look what happened to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

In Acts 21:10,11 a Word of Knowledge was also used by God to show His children what awaits them.

3. The Gift of Faith

We all have faith. (Romans 12 v. 3) It is impossible to please God without faith. (Hebrews 11 v. 6)

But normal faith is different from a Gift of Faith!

Examples of the gift of faith are:

- Elijah prayed and it did not rain for three and a half years!
- Paul was bitten by an adder on the island of Malta. By the gift of faith he shook the snake off into the fire. (Acts 28:5 Mark 16:18)
- Jesus cursed the fig tree and then walked away. The following day His disciples saw that it had withered. (Mark 11:12-24)

4. Gifts of Healing: 1 Corinthians 12 v. 9

Paul encouraged Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14,15: "do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them so that everyone may see your progress."

The purpose of this gift:

- Firstly to glorify God (Acts 3 v. 1 to 9)
- To destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10 v. 38; Luke 13)
- To confirm the Gospel (Mark 16 v. 20; Acts 8 v. 5 to 7)
- To draw people to the Gospel

Through the ages God has used the gift of healing to convict people and to save them. May this gift be revived in the church so that Jesus could be exalted.

This is why Jesus came to this world (Isaiah 53:5)

Signs and wonders will make the church overflow again!

5. Working of Miracles

- Natural laws are changed when this Gift works (2 Kings 6:1-7)
- Demons are driven out by this Gift (Acts 16:16-18)
- By this Gift Jesus changed water into wine. He multiplied the fish and bread for the crowd. God wants to do even greater miracles through us
- By this Gift Ananias and Sapphira died because they lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5 v. 1 to 10)
- The dead are raised by the working of miracles
Tabitha(Dorcas) Acts 9:30-42; Eutychus Acts 20:7-12

Mel Tari writes in his book "Like a Mighty Wind" of the revival in Indonesia that they walked around a dead person singing and praying. This man was dead for three days. After singing their eighth chorus, the man stood up alive and well! This took place by the working of miracles! Through this miracle 21,000 people came to repentance in that town.

- Read Acts 13 v. 6 to 12. By the gift of miracles Paul commanded that Elymas become blind because he opposed the work of God.

6. Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14 v. 29 to 32 explains how the gift of prophecy should work in the local church. Many people have asked: "What is this gift?"

Some say that it is preaching. No, it is not normal preaching, although a preacher can sometimes prophesy while he is busy preaching! Others confuse this gift with the gift of a word of knowledge.

An example in the Bible: Acts 11 v. 28: "and one of them (prophets. See v. 27) by the name of Agabus stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

Paul shows us the following:

We must have the desire to prophesy. 1 Cor. 14: 31, 39. Unbelievers will be convicted by this. 1 Cor. 14: 24 and 25 Through prophecy the congregation is strengthened encouraged and comforted. **1 Corinthians 14 v. 3**
A prophetic word is there to build up and not to pull down.

1 Corinthians 14 v. 29. Prophecy can be judged.

Thus prophecy may never take the place of God's word. Because even prophecy will one day pass away, but God's Word will never pass away. (1 Cor. 13 v. 8; 1 Peter 1 v. 25.)
We must always be sure that it is God that speaks, so that we do not get to the point where Israel was in Ezek.13:1-9.

Question: *Do you want to see your congregation experience revival? Then you must prophecy as Ezekiel did over the dry bones! (Ezekiel 37)*

7. Discernment of spirits

Note: It is not discerning people but spirits.

It is not reading people's minds. It is not about people, but about spirits. And we do not need a supernatural gift to see people's faults.

We realise that we deal with spirits in the air.

Ephesians 6 v. 12 "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

- Fear can be a spirit! (2 Timothy 1 v. 7)
- Lies are a spirit! (1 Kings 22:19 to 23; 2 Thess. 2: 9-12)
- Uncleanliness is a spirit! (Luke 4 v. 33 to 35; Acts 5 v. 16; Mark 5 v. 2; Luke 9 v. 42).
- Sickness can also be a spirit! (Luke 13 v. 11 to 16)
Most sicknesses are not a "spirit"
- Deafness and dumbness can be a spirit. (Luke 11:14; Mark 9:25)
- Rebellion is a spirit. (1 Samuel 15 v. 23)

This gift discerns the spirits, and by the gift of miracles the evil spirits are cast out. We find an example in Acts 16 v. 16 to 18. Here both gifts worked.

8. Different kinds of tongues

There is a difference between speaking in tongues as a sign that I'm baptised with the Holy Spirit and the gift of different kinds of tongues.

But why tongues. What value do strange tongues have?

1 Corinthians 14 v. 2: "for anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit"

Therefore it is so wonderful to pray in a strange tongue.
Even the devil does not understand what you pray
1 Corinthians 14 v. 4: "he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself"

1 Corinthians 14 v. 14 "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful"

As your mind has the ability to express itself in understandable words the spirit has the ability to express himself in unknown tongues, when you pray in tongues.

When we say that our minds are unfruitful we mean that we are aware of ourselves but that the tongue (the unknown words we are saying) is not produced by our mind.

9. Interpretation of tongues

This is not the natural ability to understand unknown languages and to explain them, but in a supernatural way the Holy Spirit gives the interpretation of a strange tongue that is spoken. This interpretation can be revealed IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SOMEONE IN THE CONGREGATION FOR EXAMPLE:

- a. **By a vision:** While someone is speaking in tongues the person himself or someone else can receive a revelation by means of a vision of the interpretation of the tongue.
- b. **By the revelation of the thoughts** expressed in the strange tongue, and then conveying them in understandable words.
- c. **Sometimes someone, moved by the Spirit, can have an urge to speak to the congregation**
This will happen after someone spoke in tongues and then this will be the translation of that tongues.
Therefore he doesn't see a vision and thoughts are not revealed to him, but inspired by God's Spirit he shall give the message God gave.

NOTE: The interpretation doesn't have to be exactly as long as the tongue. It is not a word-by-word translation! It is an interpretation!

Can interpretation be in the form of a prayer to God?

We can answer by saying that it is possible, but if God wants to speak to the congregation it will not be in the form of a prayer -- because prayer is always directed towards God

AND NOW:

These 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to the church of Jesus Christ to glorify His Name. Would it not be wonderful if these gifts were present in every congregation?

DID YOU KNOW: GOD WANTS TO USE YOU!

2 Timothy 1 v. 6 *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you..."*

HOW CAN A CHURCH GROW?

1 Cor. 3:6-7

It is only God that can bring growth in the Church!

The word "increase" means: "To become greater in number; level or amount" This is how God wants us to grow!!

No Church can grow spiritually and not in numbers.

Read for yourself how the first Church grew in the book of Acts!

Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:31; 11:21,24; 19:11-20

Growth is the only evidence of a healthy life.

No **furniture** can grow, even if you oil it – it just looks nice

There is a lot of **"furniture" in the church!**

The first thing that's needed for growth is:

"God's Word must be planted" – This is to Evangelise!

Mark 16:20 (The Living Bible) *"And the disciples went everywhere preaching, and the Lord was with them and confirmed (meaning God was satisfied that they were telling the truth!) what they said by the miracles that followed their messages"*

The second thing needed for growth is:

We must take care of the seed we planted!

We can't just load people on the "Gospel wagon" to just let them fall off at the back!

The complaint against the shepherd in the Old testament is also against the church of today!

Ezekiel 34:4 *"The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them"*

THREE things that hinder growth in the Church (1 Cor. 3:3)

- (1) **Envy** (even spiritual jealousy)
- (2) **Strife** (1 Tim. 2:24)
- (3) **Division** (Jesus prayed for oneness – John 17)

What did the first Church in Jerusalem do to grow?

- (1) Acts 2:42 They kept to the Doctrine
They had fellowship (The lonely Christians?)
They could pray (Acts 4:31)
- (2) Acts 4:43 The Holy Spirit Gifts operated
 - Acts 3 (The lame man healed) Acts 4:4
 - Acts 5:12-15; Acts 8:5-8; Acts 9:32-35;
 - Acts 19:11,12,20
- (3) Acts 2:44 They provided for each other
- (4) Acts 2:47 They knew how to give God praise
I believe they lived a life of praise
- (5) Acts 2:47 They had favour with the people
How will we ever have favour with people if we are aggressive towards them?

What else can you do to promote growth in the Church?

- (1) Establish God's order in your home
- (2) Work on your relationship with God
- (3) Establish God's Vision for your life (**Hab. 2:2**)

Your Vision must be:

Realistic

Time bound

And you must be able to measure it

HOW CAN A PASTOR CREATE PEACE IN HIS CHURCH?

Exodus 18:13-23 Our text is: Verse 23

Moses had the largest "Congregation" on earth! Two million, plus!
If this advice helped him it will surely help you!

OUR STORY:

Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses. Verses 1, 8-12

Jethro accepts the God of Israel!

The problem Moses had. Verses 13-18

This is the main problem of leaders today!

The 3 point plan for successful leadership. Verses 19-23

- (1) **Verse 19** *"Listen now to my voice, I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people..."*
Be an Intercessor! This is your main calling!
An Intercessor protects the people from judgment
An Intercessor does not seek his/her own interest
- (2) **Verse 20** *"You should teach them and show them the way"*
OUR PEOPLE NEEDS TEACHING!!!!
Remember what Jesus said when giving the Commission in
Matt. 28:19,20 *"...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*
- (3) **Verse 21** *"Moreover you shall select able men..."*
Men that fear God; Men of truth; Men who are not greedy

Delegate authority – don't do everything yourself!

"If you give a command, you make a follower. If you give authority you make a leader!" **And please!! Allow for some mistakes!**

Why all this? We find the answer in Verse 23!

You must never think you will have growth in your Church if you don't have peace!

Moses created "peace" because he listened to an older leader!

When I lock my back door and front door at night, before I go to bed, it is important for me to have peace in my home!

If I have peace in my home, there is no problem too big to handle.

4 FOUNDATIONS IN MARRAIGE **Ephesians 5:22-33**

SUBMISSION(your will does not apply)

The first foundation (principle) is for the wife to be submissive to her husband. (v. 22-24)

This means she must be able to obey her husband

The moment she obey, it is his responsibility to protect her.

LOVE

The second thing to take note of is that the husband should love his wife, just as Christ loved the Church and was willing to die for the Church (v. 25-29)

In marriage it works like this: The more love the husband gives to his wife, the more he receives because women always respond to love.

LEAVE & CLEAVE

Then there is the "leave and cleave" in marriage.

We must leave our family (meaning that my family must be second to my partner) and then we must cleave to each other.

Yes, we must stick like glue!

RESPECT

The fourth principle to a happy married life is respect.

This is very important. It says here that the wife

Must respect her husband but this is a principle for both of them.

If you lose your respect in your marriage for each other, your marriage is doomed.

Respect each others:

Feelings; bodies; privacy and the way of doing things.

"ANOINTED WITH FRESH OIL"
Psalm 92:1-5 & 10-15

Two Hebrew words is used in this text:

"Balal" en "Shemen" – "To overflow with Gods oil"

This must be David writing these words! In Psalm 89:20 we read these words: *"I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him"*

Thank God for the "freshness" of His Holy Spirit!
We need a fresh anointing by His Spirit.
When last did you experience that?

CONFESS WITH ME:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me..."

"He that is in me, is greater than he that is in the world."

"I am bigger on the inside than on the outside."

WHY DO WE TALK ABOUT "THE ANOINTING"?

- IT IS WHEN GODS SPIRIT COMES ON YOUR SPIRIT!
- "ANOINTING" IS A BIBLE WORD!

WE READ OF THE ANOINTING IN THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

Luke 4:18 *(Jesus said t(hese words) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted..."*

Acts 10:38 *"...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."*

1 John 2:20,27 *"...you have an anointing from the Holy one, and you know all things (meaning we understand what is right)...the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you..."*

GOD ANOINTS PEOPLE WITH HIS SPIRIT, WHEN THEY ARE ANOINTED WITH OIL IN HIS NAME!

One of the most outstanding examples in the Bible was when the Prophet Samuel anointed David to be King in Judah.

1 Sam. 16:13 *"Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward."*

DAVID CONQUERED GOLIATH BECAUSE HE WAS ANOINTED!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE ANOINTED BY HIS SPIRIT?
OUR ANSWER IS FOUND IN OUR SCRIPTURE! Psalm 92:10-15

- (1) WE WILL HAVE AUTHORITY
 - (2) GODS ANOINTING WILL EFFECT OUR EYES and EARS
 - (3) THE ANOINTING WILL HELP US GROW IN THE LORD
 - (4) EVEN IN OLD AGE WE WILL BE ABLE TO BEAR FRUIT
- God is going to raise up our "Senior" people to do mighty things for Him!**

Anna, the Prophetess, was 84 years of age and overflowing with the Holy Spirit, when she saw Jesus as a baby in the Temple (Luke 2)

DO YOU HAVE A THIRST FOR THE ANOINTING??

WE ARE ARK BEARERS **1 Sam. 6:1-14**

WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS:

We are set aside for God. Why have God's glory inside of us.
Wherever we go we make God's presence known

GOD SPOKE FROM THE ARK *Ex. 25:22* "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give in commandment to the children of Israel."

1. **WHEN YOU LOSE GOD'S ARK, YOU LOSE HIS GLORY!**
 - This is what happened to Israel in **1 Sam.4:19-22**
 - "Ichabod" means "the glory has departed"
 - "chabod" means "glory" (New Tes: "doxa")

2. **WHERE GOD'S ARK (HIS GLORY) IS CARRIED IN, THERE THE ENEMY WILL BE CONQUERED!**
1 Sam.5:1-4

3. **MINISTRIES DIE WHEN YOU LOSE GOD'S GLORY!**
1 Sam. 4:17,18 (The priest Eli)

4. **EVEN THE COWS HAS A MESSAGE FOR US**
 - See their dedication (verse 7)
 - Not even family must hinder you to serve God
Matt. 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."
 - These cows kept direction! (verse: 12)
 - You must never consider it to give up!
 - These cows carried God's Ark until they were sacrificed.
Read: verse 14 What are you willing to sacrifice?
 - Don't show me your "Charisma" but your "Character"

BE A CHEERFUL GIVER

Read: 2 Cor. 9:6-11

THIS MESSAGE IS TO HELP YOU TO BE A GIVER

2 Cor.9:7 *"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"*

Amplified: *"A cheerful, joyous giver – whose heart is in his giving."*

Greek word for "cheerful" is "hilaros
"hilarious" "willing"

Luke 6:38 *"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

- **A GIVER IS A SOWER!**
- **SOWING AND REAPING IS A WAY OF LIFE!**
- **IF YOU HAVE A NEED, SOW A "SEED"!**

THE FOLLOWING IS "SEED" YOU SOW

Thoughts are seed (*You are what you allowed in your mind*)

Love is seed

Kindness is seed

Mercy is seed

Money is seed

Verses 6,7: Show me your seed then I will measure your faith.

Verse 8 **"GOD IS WHAT ?" He is ABLE!!!!**

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."*

WHEN YOU LET GO OF WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND, GOD WILL LET GO WHAT IS IN HIS HAND.

Verse 10 IN WHO'S HAND DOES GOD MULTIPLY THE SEED?

GIVE A NAME TO YOUR SEED! (I named mine "DEBT FREE")

WHEN YOU INCREASE THE SIZE OF YOUR SEED, YOU INCREASE THE SIZE OF YOUR HARVEST

WHEN GOD START TALKING TO YOU ABOUT SEED THAT YOU SHOULD SOW, HE HAS A HARVEST FOR YOU ON HIS MIND !

I challenge you: DECIDE TODAY TO BE A "GIVER"!!

WHAT CREATED "CHURCH GROWTH" IN EPHESUS?

Acts 19:1-12 and 18-20

TODAY I AM GIVING YOU FOUR KEYS IN YOUR HAND THAT WILL MAKE YOUR CHURCH GROW!

1. KEY No. 1: BE FILLED WITH GOD'S SPIRIT. (v. 2,6)

Thank God for His Holy Spirit! **2 Tim.1:7** **Acts 1:8**

No Church will grow without the Holy Spirit!

How do we know that Ephesus were "filled" with the Holy Spirit.?

(Read Acts 19:6)

2. KEY No. 2: BE EQUIPED IN GOD'S WORD. (v. 8-10)

The 3 month's Special Meetings did not help Ephesus!

How do you think Asia heard God's Word?

Try to understand what happened in **verse 10**

Sunday's preaching is not enough Word for our people!

I believe that all Churches should equip their people in God's Word according to Eph. 4:12

Growing Churches today have a Bible School!

3. KEY No. 3: SIGNS AND MIRACLES! (v. 11,12)

This is what brought Growth to the first Church in Acts!

Acts 5:12,14 **Acts 9:32 - 35**

The world don't just want to listen to ethical preaching but they want to see God in action, healing and delivering the needy through the power of His Spirit!!

What happened in verse 12 ?

4. KEY No. 4: RE-DISCOVER REPENTANCE! (v. 18-20)

Always remember that **1 John 1:7 and 9** was written for God's people!

Prov. 28:13 "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

DAVID ANOINTED AS KING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

This is the story where Prophet Samuel was sent by God to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem, to anoint David as King.

1. THE FIRST LESSON WE LEARN FROM THIS SCRIPTURE IS:

"STOP BEING SAD OF THE BAD THINGS OF THE PAST – AND DO WHAT GOD CALLED YOU TO DO!"

WHATEVER DISAPPOINTMENT YOU HAD, DON'T STOP WHAT GOD CALLED YOU TO DO YOU WILL HAVE TO FORGET THE NEGATIVE PAST IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

2. GET YOUR STRATEGY FROM GOD (Verse 2)

"A strategy is a plan when you want to achieve something"
God did not send Samuel with a lie. God wanted a Sacrifice!
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO GET A STRATEGY FROM GOD

3. YOU WILL HAVE TO WALK BY FAITH (Verse 3)

- GOD DOES NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
- GOD DID NOT TELL ISRAEL WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE WILDERNESS – BUT JUST TO FOLLOW THE CLOUD
- That's why God doesn't tell you everything.
IF YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU DON'T NEED FAITH
- Abraham did not know where he was going when God called him.
(Heb. 11:8)"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go...And he went out, not knowing where he was going."
Abraham moved from Irak to Canaan when he was 75 years old.

4. WHO ARE THE ONE'S GOD CALLS?

THOSE WITH PURE HEARTS! (verses 6,7)

IT WAS NOT ELIAB; ABINANAB or SHAMAH but DAVID!!

Matt. 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Psalms 24:3,4 "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? (Have contact with God) He who has clean hands and a pure heart."

5. THE IMPORTANCE OF ANOINTING (Verse 13)

WHEN GOD ANOINTS, EVERYBODY WILL KNOW!

God is a God of light and He does not work in darkness.

John 1:4,5 *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not **comprehend** it. (Meaning: "Cannot gain control over it")*

John 3:19-21 *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

DO NOT "FIGHT" THE DARKNESS – PUT ON THE LIGHT!!!

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT FROM "THAT DAY ON FORWARD" THE SPIRIT OF GOD STAYED ON DAVID (This is amazing)

Please understand John 7:38 and know that God's Spirit is in you!!!!

"For he who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (GOD'S SPIRIT IS IN US!!!)

THANK GOD FOR THE ANOINTING OF OIL

- God always confirms the anointing of oil, when it's done in His Name! When Samuel anointed David, God confirmed it with the anointing of His Spirit
- We can anoint the sick **James 5:14,15**
- We can anoint those for Ministry. In the Old Testament everything that was used to worship God, was anointed. (The tabernacle and everything in it was anointed – Exodus 40) Priests were anointed. (Exodus 29) (Psalm 133)

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-11

Amplified: *"For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you..."*

WHY DID GOD TAKE ISRAEL TO BABYLON FOR 70 YEARS?

Because they did not keep the SABBATH YEAR (Lev. 25:1-5)

Read with me 2 Chron. 36:20,21

JEREMIAH HAD A THREE – FOLD MESSAGE FOR ISRAEL:

(1) Don't stop living whatever happens to you! Verses 4-7

Jeremiah even bought a piece of land. (Jer. 32:25-28)

(2) Have understanding about God's TIMING! Verses 8-10

What do you know about "chronos" and "kairos" time??

"Opportune time" YOU USE IT OR LOOSE IT!!

"Life is like taking a picture. If you miss it, you've missed it!"

(3) Know that God has a plan for your life!

VERS 11

- God's Perfect plan for Israel was not Babylon!
- God was not caught unaware because Israel went in exile!
- The Hebrew word here is "Machachevet"

Meaning: "Revised Plan"

We have a Plan "A" and a Plan "B"

GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS "PLAN A"

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR US?

THAT ALL SHOULD BE SAVED! 1 Tim. 2:3 "God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

SO KEEP ON PRAYING FOR YOUR LOVED ONES!!

THAT WE SHOULD BE HEALTHY! 3 John 1:2 "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things, and in health just as your soul prospers."

GOD HAS THE LAST SAY IN YOUR LIFE!!

Thank God for Exodus 15:26

THAT YOU ARE BLESSED! Confess Ephesians 1!!

That your MARRIAGE should be blessed!

Always remember: "A happy wife is a happy life"

That you should PROSPER FINANCIALLY!!

Read 2 Cor. 9:8!!

"GOD MADE ME FORGET"
Gen. 41:46-52

Our story is how God helped Joseph to forget his negative past and how he became fruitful!

If you cannot forget your negative past, you will never overcome!

Even Paul wrote these words in Phil. 3:13 *"One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."*

Paul had to forget how he persecuted the Church!

**Joseph came from a big family of 12 sons and one girl
(He was the second youngest son)**

His father gave him favour with a coat of many colours.

Joseph had two BIG DREAMS!

(The sheaves) (The stars/sun and moon))

His brothers hated him because of these dreams and sold him as slave!

WHAT DID JOSEPH HAD TO FORGET?

That he told his God-given dreams to early and to people he did not have favour with! (ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS!)

That his brothers did not accept his dreams!

That his brothers threw him in a pit and sold him as a slave!

That he was put in jail innocent!

Learn from David to wait for the RIGHT TIME!

He waited until Samuel called him to anoint him as King!

Learn from Nehemiah. Neh. 2:12 *"I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem."*

WHAT HELPED JOSEPH TO FORGET and TO BE FRUITFUL?

The birth of his two sons! (verses 51 and 52)

Through a "spiritual birth" by God's Spirit in your heart God will help you to forget and be fruitful!

Can I underline this: " You will only be FRUITFUL if you can FORGET, and you will only forget if you can FORGIVE!!!

THANK GOD FOR "SPIRITUAL BIRTHS"

Through a spiritual birth we become God's child! **John 3:3**

A birth has power to draw people (A baby does that)

LISTEN: Your Spiritual birth should draw people to the Lord!

A birth has no "PAST" but only a "FUTURE" **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."

The Greek word used is "kainos" and means "unused and fresh"

New creation, listen! Your "ugly" past does not exist!

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT JOSEPH FORGAVE & FORGOT?

Read **Genesis 45:1-5** and **Genesis 50:20**

GOD WILL HELP YOU FORGET, BUT THEN YOU MUST BE WILLING TO FORGIVE.

- You don't forgive because the other person deserves it!
- You don't just forgive those that ask you!
- You forgive because God forgave you!
- What happens if you do not forgive? **Matt. 18:21-35**

You can stop your "spiritual pain" today by FORGIVING!

GOD'S TIMING **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

Today God is looking for people as we find in **1 Chron.12:32**
"the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do"

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S TIMING IS ONE OF THE KEYS WE NEED
WHEN MAKING DECISIONS.

Two words for time: "Chronos" (day time) "Kairos" (opportune time)

When Jesus wept over Jerusalem He said in **Luke 19:44** *"you did not know the time (kairos – opportune time) of your visitation."*

In 1271, Nicolo Polo (the father of Marco Polo) visited the Kublai Khan (ruler of) China, India and the East. He was interested in Christianity and asked him to send 100 Missionaries. He and all his leaders would be baptized. But 30 years later three missionaries were sent – too little and too late. **Look at China today!!**

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Moses had his "**kairos**" time when he was 80 years old!

When Moses became 40 he killed a man, but this was another "kairos time" God used to prepare him for his purpose.

A negative thing, in your life, can be a "kairos" time.

It may be sickness

It may be a financial crises

It may be something connected to a relationship

The lame man at Bethesda (John 5) finally had his "**kairos**" time

David had his "**kairos**" time when he defeated Goliath!

When you realise that it is your "**kairos**" time be ready to make use of it! Life is like taking a picture – don't miss taking it!!

A STORY OF "heaps of tithes"

Do you believe in "Prosperity"?

2 Cor. 9:8 *"God is able to make 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." (The Living Bible)*

I want to tell you a very interesting story of "heaps of tithes" – We read about it in 2 Chron. 31 and 32

This story is how God used Hezekiah in Restoring Israel:

- (1) First he opened the doors of the Temple. (2 Chron. 29:3)
Ahaz closed it! (2 Chron. 28:24)
- (2) He Sanctified Gods people of idol worship. (It took 8 days)
(2 Chron. 29:17)
- (3) He restored the Sacrifices. (2 Chron. 29:27)
- (4) He restored Worship. (2 Chron. 29:30)
- (5) He restored the Passover. (2 Chron. 30:1-3)
- (6) He restored the Ministries of the Priests/Levites. (2 Chron. 31:4)

To do what? "Burnt Offerings" and "Peace Offerings"

The miracle of "Heaps of Tithes"!!! (2 Chron. 31:4-10)

- ❖ What should happen when we experience God's blessings?
- ❖ We should become "accountable" (18 were appointed)

But beware!....2 Chron. 32:1 (The enemy want to rob you)

Listen to this....2 Chron. 32:2-7 (1 John 4:4)

- Sanherib then came with his negative words (2 Chron. 32:9-19)
- Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed!
(Read: 2 Chron. 32:20,21) An Angel killed 185,000 of the enemy!!
- Sanherib's sons killed him in his temple (2 Chron. 32:21)

Thank God this story ends with peace...2 Chron. 32:22

"PERSISTENCE"

Luke 18:1-8

Collins Dictionary

"If you have persistence you continue to do something even though it is difficult..... or other people are against it."

Why was this widow called "the persistent widow"?

Remember: Jesus was teaching on PRAYER

Telling them that we should: *"always ought to pray and not lose heart."* (Meaning not to give up until you receive!)

Elijah Only prayed once for the fire – But seven times for rain!

The Prophet Elisha asked Joash the king to take some arrows and to strike the ground ! (2 Kings 13:14-19)

Jesus once said in Matt. 11:12 *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." (DO YOU WANT IT ?)*

My Translation: *"The kingdom of God is breaking through every resistance and those who uses their strength will receive it."*

Examples to confirm what Jesus said in Matt. 11:12

MATT. 8:1-3 THE MAN WITH LEPROSY

MATT. 8:28-34 THE DEMON POSSESSED MEN

MATT. 9 THE LAME MAN and his 4 FRIENDS

MATT. 9:20-22 THE WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

She pushed her way through the crowd!

She told Jesus the whole truth!

She said when she will be healed!

BE PERSISTENT!

To be set free in your spirit of any bondage!

To be healed! ONLY BELIEVE THE WORD!

To save your marriage!

POSSESS THE LAND
Deuteronomy 1:2,6,8 and 21

We find the word "Possess" 52 times in Deuteronomy and 10 times in Joshua

Joshua 1:3,11 *"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you as I said to Moses...go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess."*

WHY TEACHING ON "POSSESS THE LAND"?

Christians should possess what God planned for their lives.

DON'T BE SATISFIED WITH LESS!!

God wants us to be more than conquerors. **GEN. 1:28**

THE MESSAGE IS: "TAKE YOUR CITY FOR GOD!"

REMEMBER: YOU CANNOT POSSESS EVERYTHING!

ONLY WHAT GOD TELLS YOU TO POSSESS!

Israel could not take the land of Seir, because it belonged to ESAU!

(Deut. 2:5,6)

The same thing happened in Moab. God had given it to LOT!

(Deut. 2:9)

They took the land of the Amorites and their king Sihon

(Deut. 2:24) Read the story in verses 26-37!

They also defeated king Og (The giant) and took 60 cities

(Deut. 3:1-4)

His iron bed was 4 meter (12 feet) X 2 meter (6 feet)!!!

"Young" and "Old" should work together!

Starting with "WORSHIP" Worship joins or breaks a Church!!

And with the "CALEB ATTITUDE" (Joshua 14:10-12)

WHEN YOU "POSSESS" LEARN TO GIVE !

Israel had to give away some of their 60 Cities, they possessed! (Deut. 3:12-17)

What has this to do with us ?

2 Cor. 9:8 "God is able to make 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."

Learn from the first Church (Acts 4:32)

IT IS GOD THAT GIVES YOU POWER TO GET WEALTH!

Deut. 8:18 "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth." (Yes, it comes from God!)

God showed me EIGHT DOMAINS we should conquer!

Collins Dictionary says: "A domain is a particular field of thought, activity or interest."

THESE EIGHT DOMAINS ARE:

Our Family This is where everything starts in life.
Build your family on the Word!

The Business World

I challenge you in business to make a difference!
God wants the World's wealth to come to us!

Arts and Culture

Singers, Magicians, Writers, Artists and Actors!

Social and Spiritual

Not just giving food & clothes, but adding Values!

Media and Entertainment

TV, Radio and Newspapers!!

Politics

God used Joseph as Prime Minister!

What about you?

Sports

A hundred meter Athlete trains 4 years to be the best!

Education

Yes, we need to get the Bible back in the classroom, but not just to start the day! But to teach our children INTEGRITY!

What are we going to do to "Possess the Land"?

SOWING and REAPING

Galatians 6:7-9

- **“SOWING and REAPING” IS OUR LIFE!**
- WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT “SOWING and REAPING”?

ANYTHING YOU CAN GIVE IS SEED!

Thoughts are Seeds *Your thoughts rule your life. Your thoughts until this day made you what you are. **Proverbs 23:7** “As a man thinks, so is he”*

Words are Seed *You have the power of life and death in your tongue. (Prov. 18:21) EVERY TIME YOU “SPEAK” YOU “SOW”*

Love is Seed *The more love you sow the more you will receive love from others.*

Time is Seed *Use your time correctly and 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) give in abundance, then God will give us enough for ourselves and more than enough to give to others.*

LISTEN TO THIS:

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.

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*

**YOUNG PEOPLE! 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."*

WHATEVER YOU SOW YOU WILL REAP:

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

You reap the same sort (kind) that you sowed!

Jacob deceived his father Isaac; his uncle deceived him with Leah
and Rachel.

You reap more than you sowed.

Sometimes you reap sooner than at other times.

Just be patient: **Gal 6:9** – *"And let us not be weary while doing
good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."*

Watch where you are sowing!

I would definitely not "sow" on cement!

Do not sow on places where you know seed won't grow!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A "GOOD AGED" PERSON?

Then you must plant the right seed **now**. Do not allow bitterness in
your life. Make many friends with people – otherwise you will
become lonely as an aged person!

**DO YOU WANT THINGS TO GO WELL WITH YOUR
CHILDREN?** Be good to other young people.

HOW AND WHAT DO YOU SOW IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

How do you speak to each other?

Men listen! If you want God to answer your prayers you must read

1 Peter 3:7

2 COR. 9:6-11

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

LISTEN! IF YOU SOW MONEY YOU WILL REAP MONEY!

2 Cor. 9:8, 11 – (The 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 ...”*

PAUL WAS COLLECTING FOR THE POOR CHRISTIANS IN JUDEA: 2 Cor 8.

IF YOU STUDY 2 Cor. 8 and 9 YOU WILL FIND:

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

THE LIVING BIBLE SAYS:

2 Cor. 8: 2,3 – *“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...They gave not only what they could afford but far more ...”*

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

Look what happened in Mark 12:41,42 – *“Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury, and saw how the people put money into the treasury; and many who were rich put in much. And then one poor widow and threw in two mites, which make a penny. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them: Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had, her whole livelihood.”*

Do not become like the Dead Sea.

The same water from the Jordan River that flows into the Sea of Galilee, flows into the Dead Sea. The one are full of fish, the other one is **dead!** **Because it only receives water and don't give any water!**

HOW MUST WE GIVE? 2 Cor. 9:7 – “so *Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver*”

The word "cheerful" in Greek is: "hilaross"

Meaning: "Hilarious" "Willing" "Good-natured" "Joyfully"

I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO NAME YOUR SEED

When you give tell God why you are giving!

"STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD"

2 Timothy 1:6,7

The Amplified Bible translates our text as follows:

"Stir up – fan the flame.... the gracious Gift of God (the inner fire) that is in you."

WHAT YOU NEED TO OVERCOME IS WITHIN YOU

John 7:38 *"Out of your heart will flow rivers of living water."*

1 John 4:4 *"Greater is He that is you than he that is in the world."
I AM BIGGER ON THE INSIDE!*

Everything you need is already in your life – merely awaiting your recognition of it! **Mike Murdock**

THANK GOD FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Our Text in 1 Tim. 1:7

John 15:26 *"But when the HELPER comes (the Comforter; the Counsellor; the Advocate; the Intercessor; the Strenghtener, the Standby."*

Ephesians 1:14 (Amplified) *"The Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance – the first fruit, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage – in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring (complete) possession of it, to the praise of His glory."*

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MORE THAN AN EXPERIENCE!

- IT IS NOT A SPIRIT OF FEAR!
- THERE IS NORMAL FEAR!
- IT IS "Dunamis" POWER! ("Indwelling Power")
- GOD'S SPIRIT IS LOVE! (Romans 5:5) (Show me your love then I will know how full you are with God's Spirit!)
- IT'S A SPIRIT OF A SOUND MIND!

STIR UP.....PROPHECY!

1 Cor. 14:1 "Desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you prophesy."

Prophecy is: To Edify; Exhort and to Comfort! (1 Cor. 14:3)

STIR UP.....YOUR TESTIMONY! Revelation 12:11

STIR UP.....GOD'S CALLING IN YOUR LIFE!

If your "Stir up" what God has called you to do, this will bring real fulfilment in your life!

STIR UP.....THE GIFT OF HEALING! *Lay your hands on the sick when you pray for them!*

HOW WILL YOU STIR UP GOD'S GIFT IN YOU?

- *Study everything you know about your Gift*
- *Pray about your Gift and ask God to use you*
- *Let an Anointed person lay hands on you*
- *Then, go out and use your Gift!*

The story of the FOUR KINGS
Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
From 2 Chronicles 26 to 32 we read about these FOUR
KINGS of Judah.

Let's read: 2 Chron. 26:3-5 and 16

UZZIAH was 16 when he became king of Judah.(Reigned 52 years)
Verses 4,5 He sought God and as long as he did that, God made him prosper! If you want to prosper, do the same! **Matt. 6:33**

Now Read Verses 15, 16

- HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND BURNED INCENCE ON THE ALTER!!
- THIS WAS NOT HIS CALLING!!
The High Priest and 80 other Priest tried to stop him. He became angry and was struck with leprosy!!
Leprosy is a sickness that kills you slowly but surely!
Leprosy separates you from others!
- THE CHURCH IS FULL OF PEOPLE DOING THINGS GOD DID NOT CALL THEM TO DO!
- ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU ARE IN YOUR CORRECT CALLING?

There is not time to talk to you about Jotham and Ahaz who became king after Uzziah (Read: 2 Chron. 27 & 28)

Because of BITTERNESS for what happened to UZZIAH, the following took place:

JOTHAM DID NOT GO TO CHURCH!

AHAZ BROKE THE THINGS IN THE CHURCH AND CLOSED THE DOORS!

How do people shut the House of God for others?
By criticizing the Worship and the Preaching!

Thank God for King Hezekiah!!
2 Chron. 29:3-5 and 2 Chron. 31:4-8

- He Opened the doors of the Temple / He Sanctified God's People
- He restored the Sacrifices and Passover / He restored Ministries and Worship
- He restored the Tithes
- I want to underline two things HEZEKIAH did!!

Wonderful! He restored WORSHIP and GIVING!!

Thank God for the miracle of "Heaps of Tithes"!! (2 Chron. 31:4-10)

Do you believe in "Prosperity"?

2 Cor. 9:8 *"God is able to make 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."*
(The Living Bible)

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPARED TO A DOVE

Luke 3:21,22

Luke 3:22 *"And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'" (John 1:32,33)*

The Holy Spirit is compared to:

WIND / WATER / OIL and as a DOVE !!

NOAH SENT OUT A DOVE THREE TIMES FROM THE ARK TO FIND OUT IF THE WATER WERE STILL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

GEN. 8:1-12

GOD ALSO SENT HIS SPIRIT THREE TIMES TO THIS EARTH

In Gen.1:1,2 (When the world was "without form and dark")

On Pentecost day "God's Dove" brought a "olive leaf" to the Church! *This speaks of new life and hope!*

Thank God for His Spirit! **Acts 1:8** **1 Tim. 1:7**

WHY IS THE SPIRIT COMPARED TO A DOVE ?

A dove is very sensitive **EPH.4:30 (Amplified)** *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, do not offend or vex or sadden Him."*

HOW DO WE GRIEVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD?

We grieve Him if we do not speak the truth **(v. 25)**

We grieve Him when we allow anger **(v. 26)**

We grieve Him when we speak corrupt things **(v. 28,29)**

A dove is innocent **MATT.10:16** *"Be innocent as a dove."*

A dove knows its way home! He will show you the way home!
Your children will come back!! **Jer. 31:16,17**

A dove is a clean bird (not a crow!) GEN. 8:9

"Don't show me your charisma, show me your character."

A dove has a perfect balance in its wings

(There are 9 GIFTS and 9 FRUIT of the Spirit)

A dove has no gall bladder!

Your gall bladder is the organ in your body which contains bile and is next to your liver

"Bile is the bad-smelling liquid that comes out of your mouth when you vomit !!" (Collins Dictionary)

There is no bitterness in God!

The Greek word "Pikros" means to "stab and cut) If anyone is always "stabbing and cutting" people with their mouth, you will know that they have bitterness in their heart!

The only way to be set free from bitterness is:

LUKE 6:37 *"Forgive and you will be forgiven."*

May God's Dove come upon His people!!

THE POWER OF OUR TONGUE

***There is great power in our TONGUE.
Positive as well as negative!***

Lets read: ***Prov.13:3; 15:1; 16:24; 16:28; 17:27***

Our Text: ***Prov.18:21*** "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

You must read what Jesus said about the tongue in Matt. 12:35-37
Also what James wrote about the tongue in James 3:2-9

- Your tongue can control your body
- Your tongue can give you direction
- Your tongue will determine your destiny

THERE IS DEATH IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE!

I have heard people say:

"How is your sickness?"

"This is a family sickness!"

They use the following Scripture: Ex.20:5 "For I am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me." (Do you hate God?)

"Each year this time I get the flu"

"The men in our family do not live a long life"

Do you want to enjoy a long life? 1 Pet.3:10 "For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil."

THERE IS ALSO "LIFE" IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE!

The dry bones in **Ezek. 37** came to life because of God's Word!

David overcame Goliath by what he said! (**1 Sam.17:45-47**)

Do you remember the story of the Greek woman in **Mark.7:27-29?**

"Jesus said: it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. And she answered: even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs. And Jesus said to her: For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

Faith is in your mouth!

Rom.10:8,10 *"The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. (That is the word of faith) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Thank God for Rom.4:17 *"We can call those things which do not exist as though they did."*

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."*

Use your tongue to move mountains!

Mark 11:23 *"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, be removed and 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."*

When you speak to your mountain (your problem) speak from the correct position! Study Ephesians 1 to find out what your position is in Christ!

I am Blessed / Forgiven / A Heir / Sealed by the Spirit / Everything is under my feet!

How do we speak to the following mountains?

FINANCES? ("Because I am a GIVER, I shall reap!")

SICKNESS? ("Through His stripes I am healed!")

TEMPTATION? What Jesus did in Matt.4

LISTEN TO THIS!

Share your "Passion" with as many people as possible.
The more you put words to your Passion, the more others will believe it – including yourself!

"THUS SAYS THE LORD TO HIS ANOINTED"

Isaiah 45:1-3

- Always remember that God can touch anybody He needs!
- God blessed Cyrus so that he could bless Israel!
- EVERY THING GOD DOES IS FOR HIS CHURCH!
- I PRAY THAT GOD WILL TOUCH THE UNSAVED IN THIS COMMUNITY IN A WAY WE HAVENT SEEN IT BEFORE!
- It is only Gods Spirit that can change a man in all his ways!
- LISTEN: YOU SEE DRY BONES, BUT GOD SEES AN ARMY!!

Why did Israel go into captivity?

The answer is in: **2 Chron 36:20,21**

Israel had to keep the Sabbath year: **Leviticus 25:3-5**

Who was king Cyrus and when did God anoint him?

He was a heathen King of Persia that conquered Babylon.

God anointed him at the end of Israel's Captivity of 70 years

2 Chron 36:20,21

Leviticus 25:3-5

Why did God anoint King Cyrus?

Read: Ezra 1:2 To rebuild the Temple!

God always anoint for a Purpose

Luke 4:18 As Jesus, God anoints you *"To Preach! To Heal!
And to proclaim Liberty!"*

What did this anointing do for King Cyrus?

Verse 1 The anointing told him God had his hand!

CAN YOU STILL FEEL GODS HAND HOLDING YOURS?

Verse 2 The anointing gave him open doors!

WHAT DOORS MUST GOD OPEN IN YOUR LIFE?

Verse 3 The anointing released finances!
There are more finances in the world than in the Church!
MAY GOD RELEASE FINANCES FOR HIS CHURCH!

GOD WANTS TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE IN 2 Cor. 9:8

(Living Bible) *"God is able to make 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."*

GODS WORD TO HIS CHURCH IS:

- God wants to REBUILD HIS CHURCH!
- He is even going to anoint "HEATHENS" to help in this!
- Watch the doors open!
- God is going to release finances!

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT, WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT "ANOINTING"?

This is when God's Spirit comes on my spirit!

You must have a thirst for this! **John 7:37** *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."*

You must have a thirst as the Psalmist in:

Psalm 42:1, 2 *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God! My soul thirst for God, for the living God."*

IF YOU NEED GODS ANOINTING, COME ASK IT FROM GOD!

TO BE FULFILLED!
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Paul appointed Timothy as Pastor in the Church of Ephesus that exploded as a Mega Church. (Read: Ephesians 19)
Ephesus became a Church of about 10,000 members!

THE ADVICE PAUL GAVE TIMOTHY WERE:

"TOMOTHY, I KNOW THE THING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY IS TO DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST...DO IT AND FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY"

The Collins Dictionary says: "Fulfilment is a feeling of satisfaction that you get from doing or achieving something, especially something useful."

We as Leaders appoint people in Ministries and lay heavy burdens on them, because God did not call them to do it!

We find so many unhappy people today.

Yes, I know there are many things that can make you unhappy. But I have found out that the most people that are unhappy is people that are not doing the right thing in their lives.

For example: You are a Bank manager because your father was a Banker and told you that's what you should become. You went through all your studies to prepare you to be a good Banker. You worked hard in the bank and worked yourself up to the place where you were appointed as Bank Manager. But today you are not a happy person and you are not fulfilled, because you wanted to be a motor mechanic!

Another example: You are a School teacher, but you wanted to be a farmer. You do your best as teacher, but you would love to milk cows and work on a tractor, ploughing and planting.

This same thing happens in the Church. You do what the leaders asked you to do and because there is nobody else to do the job. You are so frustrated, but you must keep on smiling and try to give your best.

If God did not call you to do what you are doing and how do you think that you can be a happy person?

WHAT ABOUT THE OLDER PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH?

Are you one of them? And have you got fulfilment in your life?

I met old people in Old Age Homes that are so negative!

Psalm 92:14 says this about people in old age: *"They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing."*

Young people! Decide to be a wonderful grandpa & grandma!

HOW WILL YOU BE A "FULFILLED" PERSON?

Phil. 3:13 (Paul said) *"One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."*

YOU WILL ONLY BE A SUCCESSFUL PERSON WHEN YOU OVERCOME YOUR NEGATIVE PAST! That's why you have to learn to FORGIVE!!

YOU MUST KNOW IS THAT GOD MADE YOU TO OVERCOME!

Genesis 1:28 GOD MADE US TO HAVE DOMINION!

You are not a loser. AND ONLY LISTEN TO SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE!

Proverbs 23:7 says: *"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."*

WHAT YOU ARE TODAY, IS THE SUM TOTAL OF YOUR THOUGHTS!

REMEMBER WHAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST! Ephesians 1

"I am BLESSED" (v. 3)

"I am FORGIVEN" (v. 7)

"I am SEALED WITH THE HOLY GHOST" (v. 13)

"Everything is UNDER MY FEET" (verses 20-23)

HOLD ONTO YOUR SHIELD OF FAITH!

Your FAITH is a mighty weapon!

Ephesians 6:16 (It's like a shield) *"Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."*

A SHIELD PROTECTS YOU "BEFORE" THE WEAPON HARMS YOU!

If you lose your faith, you lose everything!

TOGETHER WE WILL TRUST GOD FOR A BREAKTHROUGH!

HOLD ONTO 2 Cor. 9:8 FOR A FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGH!

BELIEVE IN 1 Peter 2:24 FOR YOUR HEALING! *"By His stripes I am healed"* Remember: GOD ALWAYS HAS THE LAST SAY IN YOUR LIFE!

WE NEED A NEW CALLING FROM GOD
Isaiah 6:1-8

THANK GOD FOR HIS CALLING IN OUR LIVES!
GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU A NEW CALLING!
ISAIAH WAS A PROPHET FOR 56 YEARS!
IN OUR TEXT GOD CALLED ISAIAH FOR THE SECOND TIME

"WHAT HAPPENED WHEN GOD CALLED HIM?"

(1) A KING HAD TO DIE BEFORE ISAIAH WAS CALLED!

Verse 1: *"In the year that King Uzziah died"*

This is the king that became a leper because he wanted to do the work of a priest.

*WE READ ABOUT UZZIAH IN **2 CHRON.26:16-20***

WHAT "KING" MUST DIE IN YOUR LIFE BEFORE GOD CAN CALL YOU?

A "King" is that thing in your life that rules your life, so that you cannot be effective for God.

(2) ISAIAH HAD TO SEE GOD'S GLORY FIRST!

Oh ! For a fresh encounter with God!

(3) ISAIAH FOUND OUT HIS LIPS WERE UNCLEAN! (V. 5)

Even in your PREACHING you can bind yourself!

You see: LIFE AND DEATH IS IN OUR TONGUE!!!

(4) ISAIAH WAS TOUCHED BY GOD'S FIRE! (V.6,7)

(5) THEN ISAIAH WAS CALLED, AGAIN! (V.8)

I pray that God will give everyone a new calling!

WHEN GOD'S SPIRIT COMES ON OUR SPIRIT

Acts 1:1-8

Thank God for His Spirit!

The Promise of the Father (v.4,5) is for all God's Children!

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."*

The devil says you are not good enough! Don't believe him!

In Acts 2:4 we read: *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

OUR TEXT: ACTS 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me..."*

This word "Power" is in Greek "dunamis" power!

It means "indwelling power"

WHEN GOD'S SPIRIT COMES ON YOUR SPIRIT

Your Prayer Life becomes powerful!

Rom.8:26 *"We do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us...."*

God's love is poured out in our hearts!

Rom.5:5 *"...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

SHOW ME YOUR LOVE, AND I WILL KNOW HOW FULL YOU ARE WITH GOD'S SPIRIT!

Yokes will be broken!

Isa.10:27 *"And the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."*

His Spirit on your spirit will give you faith in your Mouth!

2 Cor.4:13 *"And since we have the same Spirit of Faith, according to what is written: "I believed and therefore spoke" we also believe and therefore speak."*

Start speaking the things into existence into your life and into the lives of your family! Proverbs 18:21

FORGET NOT GOD'S BENEFITS

Psalm 103:1,2 "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and forget not His benefits.**"

Thank God, there are wonderful benefits for us when we worship and serve God!

The first one: Forgiveness

Verse 3: "Who forgives all our iniquities"

What a wonderful benefit.

It is a wonderful thing to know that God has forgiven you, and your sins are washed away and that you can stand before God without any guilt.

The second one: Healing

Verse 3: "Who heals all your diseases"

Thank God that He is our healer.

In Exodus 15:26 the Lord said: "*For I am the Lord who heals you*"

The word "heals" comes from the Hebrew word "rapha" meaning: 'to cure, heal, repair, mend and restore health'

The third one: Redemption

Verse 4: "Who redeems your life from destruction"

To be forgiven is wonderful, but when you are redeemed it means you are changed altogether into a new person.

According to 2 Cor. 5:17 we are a new creation; the old things have passed away and all things have become new!

The fourth one: Authority

Verse 4: "Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies"

The moment God "crowns" you, He gives you authority.

Jesus said in Luke 10:19 "*Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*"

The fifth one: Satisfaction

Verse 5: *"Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's"*

One of the wonderful benefits of the Lord is that He helps you to be satisfied, because He supplies all your needs.

Needs and desires can put a lot of stress on us, but when you know you have a God that can supply all your need, you can just lay all your burdens on Him because He will care for you.

When you are "a satisfied" person you will experience the second part of verse 5 *"your youth will be renewed like the eagle's"* There will be purpose in your steps! In these trying times we really need this.

GOD'S ROAD

Acts 8:26 *"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along **the road** which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza' This is **desert**" (other translation says that this was **a lonely road**)*

This whole story from verse 26 to verse 40 is about Philip that met with an Ethiopian (North African) that came to worship God in Jerusalem. Now he was on his way back to his country where he worked for the queen of the Ethiopians and had charge of all her treasury. This made him the Minister of Finances of the Ethiopians! (verse 27)

1. God's road is a lonely road (verse 26)

Many times you will experience that when God gives you something to do that He will allow you to get on 'n lonely road. Philip just had a mighty revival in Samaria (verses 4-8) Now God took him away from that and brought him here in the desert on this lonely road. But there was a divine reason for this, because here he met with this Ethiopian, and God wanted to touch him with the gospel so that he could touch his nation.

2. God's road is not always understandable.

This Ethiopian was reading in Isaiah chapter 53 about how Jesus would suffer and die for us. He did not understand what he was reading, therefore for him God's road was not easy to understand. It is not always easy to understand God's word that He sends to us, but thank God He has ways (and servants) He uses to help us understand His word. Perhaps you are finding yourself on a road like this? If you don't understand something now do not reject all the things happening in your life now. Keep faith in your heart and allow His Spirit to guide you in all truth.

3. Thank God, His road is also a road of joy. (v. 39)

We read, that after the Ethiopian believed in Christ he was baptized by Philip. And when they came out of the water Philip was taken away by the Holy Spirit and the Ethiopian went his way rejoicing.

**God's road may sometimes be
lonely and not easy to understand,
but it always ends as a road of joy!**

TAKE HOLD OF GOD'S KINGDOM!

Matt. 11:1-12

- Thank God for the Kingdom!
- The Kingdom is compared to a pearl in a land.
A man heard of this precious pearl and went home to sell everything he had to buy this pearl (the kingdom)
- He bought the land because of the pearl. It was not about the land, it was all about the pearl (the kingdom)

According to verse 12, the "violent" will take the Kingdom by force.

Matt. 8 – The Leper.

A leper had to stay outside the city gates.

If he came near the people, they could stone him.

This man was so desperate that he ran through all the people to get close to Jesus. He fell down and asked Jesus to heal him. This is violence! Thank God he was healed!

Matt. 8 – The demon possessed men.

These two men came out of the graves with no clothes on. There was violence in their hearts to be healed.

Matt. 9 – The woman who had the flow of blood.

For twelve years she was sick and lost a lot of blood.

She used all her finances to pay the doctors but could not get her healing.

Now Jesus passed by and this was her opportunity to get healed. But remember she was a woman and unclean.

Anybody could stone her because she was not allowed in public with this problem.

Dead or alive, she decided to take all the strength she had to press through until she fell down before the feet of Jesus to touch the hem of His garment. She was healed before any man could take hold of her!

Try a bit harder today to press through all obstacles' and receive from the Lord what you need

WHAT LIFE IS

Matt. 6:25 *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"*

Luke 12:15 *"One's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

The first thing Jesus said was *"do not **worry** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on."* Because life is more than all these things!

Life is *"to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (what you eat, drink and wear) shall be added to you."* **Matt. 6:33**

Life is also to give

If your life is only to receive you missed out on great blessings.
Live a life of giving and experience God's joy.
Always remember what you cannot give will control your life.

Life is decisions

The good thing about decisions is when you've made the right one.
The bad thing about decisions is when you made the wrong one.
But the worst thing about decisions is when you made no decision at all.

Life is connections

Trust the Lord that you will make the right connections in life.
The right connections will do great things for you in your life. Never connect with losers!

Life is also worship

That's why you must seek God and His kingdom.

Your life will only be a success if you “connect” with God and this you do when you live a life of worshipping Him.
To worship God is more than just worshipping God in church on a Sunday, but you worship Him in your daily life by giving Him thanks and honour in everything He blesses you with.

**Life is more than any
material thing.
It is to seek and worship God,
to be a giver,
to connect to the right people,
and to make the
correct decisions.**

4 THINGS THAT WILL GIVE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Acts 1:1-8 (Read it until you understand it!)

Number one

If you can hear when the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart.

*In verse 2 we read: (This was when Jesus was taken up to heaven after His resurrection) "after **He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments** to the apostles whom He had chosen."*

Our problem is that we listen to our own heart and other voices. That is the reason why we don't grow spiritually. If we can only listen to God's voice through His Spirit, in our hearts, we will grow in our spirit man.

Number two

If we can understand the kingdom of God.

*In verse 3 we read: "to whom He also presented Himself alive... and speaking of things **pertaining to the kingdom of God.**"*

We must be "kingdom minded" not "church minded"

You see, God's kingdom is much more than the four walls of my local church. God's kingdom is where He rules.

God must rule in my office; in my workshop; in my classroom; in my business and in my home. And yes, in my own heart!

Number three

If we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

*In verses 4 and 5 Jesus told them: "to wait for the Promise of the Father, which He said, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, **but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit...**"*

Thank God the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for us all.

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 you the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Number four

We will grow spiritually if we are witnesses for Christ.

*In verse 8 we read: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; **and you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

There is spiritual power in our witness for Christ. We can even overcome the devil according to **Rev. 12:11** where we read these words: "*And they (the believers) overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb **and by the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.*"

**Be sensitive to hear God's Word
and allow His Spirit to help you
never to be shy to witness for Christ**

WHEN GOD ANOINTS YOU

"I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him." Psalm 89:20

1 Sam. 16:13 *"Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward..."*

God was disappointed in King Saul and said to Samuel, the prophet, to go to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse and anoint a new king. God even gave Samuel a strategic plan to tell the people that he came to sacrifice. But God did not tell Samuel everything. Samuel had to go in faith and God will show him the correct son to anoint.

During the time of the sacrifice the first seven sons of Jesse came before Samuel, but every time God said that it wasn't the right one. God even said: *"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

Eventually Samuel heard there was son number eight, David, but he was looking after the sheep. They called David and Samuel anointed him before everyone. The Bible says these words: *"in the midst of his brothers"*

When God anoints you He does it in such a way that others will take notice. God never works in secret but in such a way that all can know.

One thing I have seen through the years is that when someone is anointed with normal oil in the Name of the Lord, God always confirm this by anointing that person with His Holy Spirit.

The words written in verse 13 is powerful: *"and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward."*

May you experience a fresh anointing with His Holy Spirit!

TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

Luke 1:63,64 *"And he (Zacharias, the priest) asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying: 'His name is John' So they all marvelled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God."*

This story is about Zacharias, the priest. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were too old to have children. But God sent an angel to tell them that they will have a son. Zacharias did not believe this and he became mute until John was born.

After the angel spoke to Zacharias in the temple, the people waited for him outside. In **Luke 1:21** we read; *"But when he came out (of the temple) he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless."* And all the time while Elizabeth was pregnant with John, his father was mute.

When John was circumcised on the eighth day, the people asked if he will be called after his father, but Elizabeth said : *"No, he shall be called John. But they said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name'. So they made signs to his father – what he would have him called."* **(v.59-62)**

This is when Zacharias wrote that his name should be John and at that moment Zacharias could speak again!

You see, Jesus said that truth will set us free. **(John 8:32)**
If you and I can say or write the truth it will set us free from any bondage in our lives! Do today according to this principle what happened to Zacharias, and you will experience burdens that will be destroyed in your life.

WE NEED A STIRRING UP OF OUR SPIRIT!

Haggai 1:14 *So the Lord **stirred up** the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God."*

Israel was in captivity in Babylon. Now they are back in Jerusalem, and after 16 years they haven't begun to rebuild the temple. This is when God uses his prophet to speak to them.

Israel was so busy attending to their own houses that they forgot why they came back out of captivity. God sent them back to rebuild His temple.

God had to stir up their spirit, so that they could start rebuilding the temple.

You are disappointed, tired and so focussed on yourself and your own things that you lost your calling as Israel did.

God is also calling you to be one of the "builders" who will add value in God's kingdom by doing what God has called you to do. This will bring fulfilment in you life and joy to God.

May God touch you in your spirit through His Holy Spirit!

Take time to be alone with God. Even if you have to lock your door today and cry out to God more than you have done before.

I know God is not deaf, but let those things that are hidden deep in your soul flow out of you, while you talk to your God. Allow His Spirit to come on your spirit and revive you inside. Yes, you can cry with tears and also laugh the same time.

MEN, DON'T HINDER YOUR PRAYERS!

*"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." **1 Peter 3:7***

Men, you will hinder the answers to your own prayers, if you do not **honour your wife.**

God is very serious about this statement that a man should honour his wife, so much so, that He will not answer their prayers if they don't honour their wives.

I can still remember that day when one of my sons criticised my wife's food at our dinner table. I said nothing, and by doing that I supported him when he said that the meat was tough to cut and chew. Both of us did not know that this was an old sheep and that Helen tried her best to cook it. She burst into tears and ran to her room, very disappointed in what her son said.

During that day I could not pray because heaven was closed, until I remembered this scripture in 1 Peter 3:7.

I got all four of my sons together with my wife and just there I asked Helen to forgive me that I did not honour and protect her. Then I told my son that made that remark to ask his mother forgiveness. We all cried together and prayed that the Lord would bless their mother, and thank God for what she did for us all.

Heaven was open when I went to pray in my study after this experience!

So men, honour your wife at the dinner table; honour her body; honour her feelings as a women; honour her spiritual beliefs. Yes, honour her for being a women!

"BUT WHEN THE HELPER COMES"

In John 15: 26 we read: *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the father, He will testify of Me."*

Amplified Bible: *"But when the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes."*

John 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

According to all these Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is:

- **COUNSELOR.**
- **HELPER.** The Greek word for "Helper" is: "Parakletos" (Par – ak – lay – toss)
The one "beside" me, just as an advocate who appears in court on our behalf.
- **ADVOCATE.**
- **INTERCESSOR.** **Romans 8:26** *"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*
- **STRENGTHENER.**
- **STANDBY.**
- **OUR GUIDE.** **Romans 8:14** *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Thank God today for His Holy Spirit!*