

PREFACE

We give God the glory for this manual which is an anniversary edition. House Fellowship, no doubt, as a ministry in the RCCG, has grown in leaps and bounds, to the glory of God. Right from time immemorial, homes have been the divine focus for spiritual blessings ranging from various divine instructions in righteousness to different forms of discipline.

We thank God for the various innovations in the administration of our House Fellowship centres. This, no doubt, will bring with it a glorious new dawn, to the glory and honour of the Almighty God.

In line with the aforementioned, therefore, this manual has been packaged with enough spiritual menus to suit this new dispensation.

You will be blessed, certainly.

Pastor E. A. Adeboye

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KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD

TEXT: Jonah 1: 1-17.

INTRODUCTION: Everyone in life wants to know if he or she is taking the right decision or moving in the right direction. God also desires that we should know His will for our lives in order to achieve His purpose and avoid crisis.

HOW CAN I HEAR FROM GOD?.

The scripture is full of examples of those who sought to know God's will and how they heard God. These examples include:

- Divine appearance to men e.g. Abraham. Gen.18: 1.
- Through dream and visions e.g. Jacob. Gen.28: 10-15; Job 33: 15-16.
- Angels of God e.g. angel of God appeared to help Joshua. Jos.5: 13-15; fed Elijah twice. 1Kgs.19: 4-7.
- A still small voice. 1Kgs.19: 11-13.
- God's inspiration. 2Tim.3: 16-17
- The Holy Spirit. Rom.8: 14; Job 32: 8.

What should I do to hear from God? You need to pray and when necessary, fast also. Matt.7: 7-11; Dan.10: 1-5.

Praise God intensely. 2Kgs.3: 15-16. Give sacrificially. 2Chro.1: 6-7 and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION: You can know the will of God for your life. But are you willing to pay the price.

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1. Allow members to contribute to the topic discussed.
2. Give room for questions and answers.

IDENTIFYING THE VOICE OF GOD

TEXT: Jonah 1: 1-3.

INTRODUCTION: Today, we will learn how to differentiate between God's voice and that of the devil; and we will tell us some reasons why people find it difficult to obey the voice of God even when they are sure it was God speaking to them.

HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE GOD'S VOICE FROM THAT OF THE DEVIL?

It is essential to know whether you are hearing God or a particular message is from the devil with the intention of misleading you or distracting your attention. Whenever God sends us a message or speaks to us, such a message will (i) agree with the Holy Scriptures. Jonah 2: 1-2; Matt.4: 1-11; 2Tim.3: 16-17; Ps.119: 11; Rom.15: 4; 1Jn.5: 3.

(ii) You will have peace within (iii) God could use other means of revelation to confirm or warn you. Rom.8: 14.

WHY DO PEOPLE DISOBEY THE VOICE OF GOD?

Even when people are really sure that God is the one speaking to them, they could still resist His will and refuse to carry out His injunctions. Some of the reasons why people disobey God may include:

- (i) The love of earthly rewards. Num.22: 9-13, 15-20, 31-35; 2Pet.2: 15.
- (ii) Fear. 1Sam.15: 1-3, 9, 13-15, 22.
- (iii) Non-agreement with their expectation. Jonah 1: 1-3; 4: 1-2; Acts.10: 9-16. You may add to this list.

CONCLUSION: Obedience is better than sacrifice.

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UNDERSTANDING THE TIME

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8.

INTRODUCTION: Our God is a God of orderliness. There is time for everything and He has made everything beautiful in His time.

UNDERSTANDING THE TIME

Time is a resource we must give account of. From birth to death is a series of time events which must be accounted for before the Almighty God. Every circle of life: Childhood, adolescence and maturity will be accounted for. In each of the life-cycle are various responsibilities which God places on us. Since there was a time of birth, for everyone there must be a time of death also. We must, therefore, understand times and use them appropriately before it expires. We must work at the time of work or rest at the time of rest. Eccl.3: 1-8; 1Chro.12: 32. We must work with the time since time does not wait for anybody. We must set goals to be accomplished within specified time limit and be focused. Heb.2: 2; Jn.9: 4

CONCLUSION: Since God created time, it is best to use our times for Him.

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IT IS NOT YET TIME TO REST

TEXT: John 9: 4; 1Kings 13: 7-24.

INTRODUCTION: It is not yet time to rest but time to work. Rest is always pleasant after labour, but dangerous within it.

IT IS NOT YET TIME TO REST

Day time is time to work while night time is time of rest. Jn.9: 4. Believers are in their day-time when they must do the work of God. They must work now. 1Sam.19: 60; Eccl.12: 1. The work of God is King's business which demands haste. 1Sam.21: 8. Praying for our marriages, homes, families, spouses, parents, children are works that must be done daily. Preaching, binding, loosing and fighting the battle of faith against the enemies are other works of faith. No time must be wasted resting when the battle is still hot. 1Pet.5: 8; Matt.13: 25; Acts.3: 10. We must rely upon the Lord our maker in all situations to execute all our assignments. God is ever constant, faithful and beautiful for all situations. Ps.48: 1-2.

CONCLUSION: We must work and rest at the right time and serve God now when it is the day time.

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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

TEXT: Matthew 5: 13-16.

INTRODUCTION: It is a common characteristic for light to shine in the dark. Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world also called believers in Him the light of the world. We are expected to resemble Him. Jn.1: 5.

WHY MUST YOU SHINE NOW?

1. Light shines more in the midst of darkness. Matt.4: 16; Lk.7: 11-16.
2. The presence of light brings joy to the environment. The early disciples took the gospel (Christ) to nations around them. Acts.8: 5-8.
3. The glory of God has risen upon you. Isa.60: 1-2; Matt.26: 69-70; Acts.3: 13-26; Acts.5: 15.
4. Light keeps darkness far away. The more you shine the better for you and your environment. 1Pet.5: 8-9; Jam.4: 7; Lk.8: 16; Phil.2: 15.

CONCLUSION: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in Heaven”.

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HOW DO YOU SHINE?

TEXT: Matthew 5: 13-16.

INTRODUCTION: There is no other better time for you to shine than now. Light shines more in the midst of darkness, the presence of light brings joy to the environment, the glory of God has risen upon you, and light keeps darkness far away. But then, the question is how do you shine?

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO SHINE?

- (i) Keep connected to your source of supply. Every light that shines has a source. If it is cut off from the source, it cannot shine. Jn.15: 4-5; 1Sam.16: 14; 1Sam.17: 11.
- (ii) Constantly doing good works. Matt.5: 16; Acts.9: 36-40; Eph.2: 10; Col.1: 10; 1Tim.5: 10.
- (iii) Keep renewing your lamp. Daily looking at yourself in the mirror of the word of God helps you to wake up. Matt.25: 1-11; Rom.12: 1-2; Ps.51: 11; Eph.4: 22-24; Titus 3: 5.
- (iv) Keep preaching the gospel. Matt.24: 14. Continuous evangelism will help you live a holy life. 2Cor.4: 6; 1Cor.11: 1.
- (v) Avoid fellowship with darkness. Keep away from unclean things at all times. 2Cor.6: 14-18; 1Cor.15: 33; Isa.52: 11.

CONCLUSION: Now that you know what will make you to shine, go ahead and ask for the grace to do them.

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WHY MUST YOU CONTINUE TO SHINE?

TEXT: Matthew 5: 13-16.

INTRODUCTION: If light refuses to shine, it ceases to carry out the original purpose for which it is meant. If light cannot shine again, it becomes irrelevant and useless.

BENEFITS OF SHINING

- i. Your life affects others regularly and positively as you keep shining. Col.4: 5-6; Isa.60: 3; Phil.2: 15.
- ii. You become a terror to the kingdom of darkness. e.g. Elijah, Elisha, Paul etc. Eph.5: 8-14.
- iii. Boldness becomes a life style. Light is not afraid of darkness. Fear is associated with darkness. Prov.28: 1; Acts.4: 13; Acts.19: 8; 2Tim.1: 7

DANGER OF NOT SHINING

- i. Backsliding. Matt.26: 58, 69-74; 2Tim.4: 10
- ii. Spiritual and physical death. Saul's light became darkness because of disobedience. 1Sam.28: 3, 6-7, Samson experienced spiritual death and later physical death. Judges 16: 20-30.

CONCLUSION: Do not allow your light to go out as it may never be regained.

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SPIRITUAL FAMINE

TEXT: 1Samuel 28: 3-7

INTRODUCTION: There are three major types of famine – economic famine; spiritual famine; a combination of both. A victim of economic famine usually lacks food and drink or other means of physical survival. But one suffering from spiritual famine may not be easily identified until he or she takes a wrong step and ends up at a wrong destination.

SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL FAMINE

- The Word meant for your spiritual sustenance becomes very scarce. You could hear God's voice before but He no longer speaks to you today. Amos 8: 11
- You cannot access divine direction
- Your soul is starved while your spirit man becomes lean.
- Separated from the true Helper – the Almighty God, and becomes easy prey to the enemy.
- The spiritual sensitivity is very low.
- No spiritual energy to run the Christian race and no desire to handle kingdom assignments.
- An example of spiritual famine was King Saul. 1Sam.28: 6

CONCLUSION: If these signs describe your situation, do not go to Satan for guidance or direction as doing this will worsen the already bad situation. Go back to God in humility, repentance and restitution. Avoid what led you into this experience.

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CAUSES OF SPIRITUAL FAMINE

TEXT: Proverbs 26: 2.

INTRODUCTION: Famine does not just come; they are the product of some infringement, neglect of necessary duty, or some act of disobedience. Likely causes of spiritual drought includes: Oppression; Idolatry; Little or no time for the Word of God; Partial obedience; Carnality; Lack of fellowship; Over familiarity with God and His Word and inability to provoke God for the required word. We shall begin a series on what causes spiritual famine with a study on Oppression of the poor. May God teach and bless us in Jesus' name.

OPPRESSION THE POOR

God has a great concern for the poor and will fight their course. Therefore, anyone who oppresses them may have God to contend with; Lev.19: 9-10; Deut.15: 11; Ps.12: 5; Ps.34: 6; Prov.14: 31. Oppression of the poor will result in unanswered prayers. Zech.7: 10-14; block channels of communication between a believer and God. Amos 8: 4-6, 11-12 and could erode the grace needed to operate some spiritual gifts.

CONCLUSION: Check your life and see those you have been oppressing, particularly fellow believers, repent and retribute.

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NEGLECT OF THE WORD OF GOD

TEXT: Joshua 1: 8; Psalm 1: 1-3

INTRODUCTION: The word of God will prevent you from going unto spiritual famine – lack of divine direction.

Hearing, reading, studying, memorizing and meditating will assist you to grasp the word of God.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God is food for the soul. Deut.8: 3; Job.23: 12; Jer.15: 16; 1Pet.2: 2; divinely inspired and profitable for instruction. 2Tim.3: 16; the word must dwell richly in your hearts. Ps.119: 11; Col.3; 16; gives light in darkness, Ps.119: 105, 130 and mighty in its influence. Jer.5: 14; Ezek.37: 7; Heb.4: 12

THE NEGLECT OF THE WORD OF GOD

That is spending little or no time with your Bible and substituting participation in digging deep (Bible study) Sunday school and House fellowship programme with other things will open door to spiritual famine. Jos.1: 8; Ps.1: 1-3.

CONCLUSION: The fellow who has a close contact with the Bible will not be far from receiving from God in the time of need. Do you make time to study your Bible regularly?

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PULL DOWN EVERY IDOL TODAY

TEXT: Amos 8: 14; Exodus 20: 1-6.

INTRODUCTION: Idolatry is forbidden by God. Isa.42: 8; 1Jn.5: 21. An idol in your heart is something other than God which takes the first place in your priorities. Even legitimate things such as work, business ventures or academic pursuit could take the centre stage of our lives if we are not watchful and prayerful.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF IDOLATRY

1. Idolatry moves God to jealousy. Exod.20: 1-6; 1Kgs.11: 1-11.
2. It makes God to withdraw so that you could be given a chance to see the futility of serving other gods you have chosen.
3. It could also lead to irreparable loss. Amos 8: 14.
4. It is one of the major causes of spiritual dryness.
5. God is forced to withdraw His grace, and this may lead to failure and disappointment.

CONCLUSION: It is wisdom to reserve your heart only for the King of kings. Therefore pull down every idol today.

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PARTIAL OBEDIENCE

TEXT: 1 Samuel 15: 1-23.

INTRODUCTION: Partial obedience means incomplete obedience to the instructions of God. It also means toying with divine instructions. 1Sam.13: 1-14; 1Sam.15: 1-23. It is synonymous with disobedience.

Disobedience is in the same class with rebellion, witchcraft, stubbornness and idolatry. 1 Sam.15: 22-23. It is a sin which God does not tolerate.

THOSE WHO DISOBEY GOD

Those who disobey God have problems of submitting to divine authority, and impatience – they see God as too slow or late for them. 1Sam.13: 1-14. They tend to think that they know more than God and they lack obedient heart. Another thing about them is that they see no difference between the word of God and that of men e.g. King Saul. 1Sam.13: 1-14; 1Sam.15: 1-23.

THE PENALTY

The penalty for partial obedience (disobedience) includes:

- It leads to rejection and loss of crown e.g. King Saul.
- It attracts curses. Deut.11: 28; Dan.9: 16.
- Disobedience is fighting God. Such battle can never be won. Numb.20: 10-12.
- It leads to death. 1Sam.15: 3; 8-9.
- It opens door to spiritual famine.

CONCLUSION: If your obedience to God's instructions has been partial or incomplete, confess, repent and retribute so that you can escape God's judgment.

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WEEK THIRTEEN

COMMUNITY IMPACT / WELFARE / GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

1. The leader and members assemble at the centre.
2. The leader again briefs members on the activities of the day (they must have been informed in the previous meetings) and prays with them.
3. The leader and members take themselves in groups to carry out some work in the community – clearing blocked drainages, sweep the street, clear bushes around and houses etc. The centre could take with them toiletries, food items, and gifts items to be presented to neighbours.
4. After this outing, the leader and members regroup at the centre to thank God for the efforts and ask God to bless the efforts.
5. The leader blesses the members.

CARNALITY

TEXT: Romans 8: 5-8.

INTRODUCTION: Carnality causes spiritual drought. How to know a carnal Christian is our focus today? May God deliver us from all forms of carnality.

MARKS OF CARNALITY.

A carnal Christian has the following characteristics:

- i. He or she is mostly concerned with things that will gratify the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life.
- ii. He or she is not truly interested in the things of the spirit.
- iii. He is never far from sin.
- iv. Enjoys anything that will feed his ego.
- v. Enjoys doing good for others to see and praise him.
- vi. Loves the world and its worldly system. 1Jn.2: 15-17.
- vii. Sees nothing wrong with exposing her body to create lust in the hearts of men and compel them to do her bidding.
- viii. Does not see anything wrong in cheating in the examination hall as long as success is achieved.
- ix. He is one who has refused to grow. 1Cor.3: 1-4.
- x. He is satisfied with being just a member of the church; he refuses to take steps to become a worker. He is a perpetual babe.
- xi. He cannot accept the doctrine of restitution and cannot forgive those who wronged him.
- xii. Engages in envy, strife and divisions.

CONCLUSION: A carnal man or woman is in opposition to God and therefore he or she is inviting death. If you have been carnal, your spirit cannot hear from God, hence, spiritual famine will set in. therefore break away from every act of carnality today.

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HOW TO GET GOD'S ATTENTION

TEXT: 2Kings 3: 14-16.

INTRODUCTION: Laziness and ignorance of what to do are the reasons why many people could not get God's attention to release to them what they need. The one who fails to pay the price to hear the word that can change his or her life may face a spiritual famine. If God is not willing to speak, but you are desperate enough, you can do certain things to get His attention.

WHAT TO DO TO GET GOD'S ATTENTION

- i. Worship Him in truth and spirit. Jn.4: 23-24; 2Kgs.3: 14-16; Acts.16: 25-26; Ps.22: 3.
- ii. Please Him by winning souls to Him. Jn.15: 16
- iii. Give sacrificially. Gen.22: 1-18; 1Kgs.17: 8-16; 2Kgs.4: 8-17; 2Chro.1: 6-12.
- iv. Please Him in faith. Heb.11: 6; Hab.2: 4; Rom.1: 17; Gal.3: 11; Heb.10: 38. Believe the word and do it. Jam.1: 22-25.
- v. Please Him in holiness. (Obedience). Isa.3: 10; Ps.37: 25; Ps.34: 17,19.

CONCLUSION: Think of what you can do to get God's attention and do it. You can get God's attention if you pay the price.

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A CALL TO RESTORATION

TEXT: Revelation 2: 1-7.

INTRODUCTION: Our God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and takes account of all our deeds. Rev.2: 2-3, 6; Heb.11: 6. He expects total dedication from us. Rev.2: 4. God has always given men another chance to make amends and come back to Him. Rev. 2: 5. But then, how do I know I have backslided and therefore need restoration?

SIGNS THAT YOU NEED RESTORATION

- (1.) When you don't spend time with the Word of God again. Jos.1: 8; Jer.15: 16.
- (2.) When you become prayerless. 1Thess.5: 17; Lk.18: 1
- (3.) When you stop abstaining from every appearances of evil. 1 Thess.5: 22; Gal.5: 19-21; Gal.5: 15-16
- (4.) When making Heaven at all cost is no longer an issue to you. Heb.12: 14

CONCLUSION: If you have backslided, today, you have another chance. He is ready and He is willing to accept you back. Will you be restored today?

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SHOWERS OF BLESSING

TEXT: Deuteronomy 28: 1-14.

INTRODUCTION: Showers of blessing is the release of God's blessings upon the life of man. It is the abundance of prosperity, miracles, and wonders which the Almighty God pours upon His people. But there are always some keys to turn on the showers of blessing before they begin to fall. Those keys and how to use them are what we shall examine today.

THE SOURCE OF SHOWERS OF BLESSING

True and enduring prosperity comes from the Almighty God. He is the One that gives power to make wealth. Deut.28: 1-4; Deut.8: 18; Prov.8: 18; Isa.8: 18; Ps. 24: 1; Phil.4: 19; 3Jn.2. However, some people seek their prosperity from other sources which does not last and is full of sorrow. Prov.10: 22; Ps.37: 1,2,7.

THE BENEFICIARIES OF SHOWERS OF BLESSING

Our God is generous with His blessings. But not all those who desire to be blessed do receive showers of blessings. There are certain qualifications for those who must be blessed.

1. Be a child of God. Mk.7: 27-28; Jn.1: 12; 2Cor.5: 21; Gal.3: 13-14.
2. Hearken diligently to and obey the voice of God. Deut.28: 1.
3. Praise God intensely. 1Pet.2: 9.
4. Be holy. Duet.26: 19; Matt.7: 6; Isa.3: 10.
5. Study and meditate on the word of God. Ps.1: 1-4.
6. Be prayerful. Matt.7: 7.
7. Obedience and service. Job 36: 11; Ps.35: 27.

CONCLUSION: If you are willing and obedient, you will experience showers of blessings.

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THE PRINCIPLE OF INCREASE

TEXT: Exodus 1: 7.

INTRODUCTION: Today, we shall examine principles that govern increase, which is the next step to greatness. God desires that you be great.

PRINCIPLES OF INCREASE

The following principles will help us to be fruitful and increase:

- (i) Be separate from the Heathens, evil doers and evil associations. 2Cor.6: 14-18; Ps.119: 115; Eph.5: 11; 2Thess.3: 6. God demands this to prevent contamination so that He might be able to accomplish His purpose.
- (ii) Envelope yourself in the atmosphere of the Holy Spirit. Gal.5: 25; Jam.4: 8; Isa.41: 14; Jude 20.
- (iii) Improve yourself daily. Phil.3: 13-14.
- (iv) Never neglect an opportunity. Jos.2: 1-14, 21; Gal.6: 9.
- (v) Commit yourself to a worthy goal. Phil.1: 20; Jos.14: 9-13.
- (vi) Run with your vision. Prov.29: 18; Hab.2: 2-3.
- (vii) Encourage and employ others to buy into your vision. Mk.3: 13-14.
- (viii) Accept responsibility for your life and do not blame others for your failure. Gen.3: 11-12.
- (ix) Select your friends. Jam.4: 4.

CONCLUSION: With these principles, not only will you increase, but your increase will lead to multiplication.

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LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

TEXT: 1Corinthians 3: 5-11; John 15: 1-7, 16.

INTRODUCTION: God has called us into a partnership with Himself. We are His fellow workers. It is a great responsibility and also a great privilege to be in this position.

WHAT IS THE COMMON BUSINESS?

God has called us to the business of establishing and building His kingdom. Mk.1: 14-15. How shall the common business be done?

- (a) We must be witnesses for Him. Acts.1: 8; 2: 14; 5: 19-20; 1Jn.1: 1-3; 1Pet.2: 9. And make disciples of the converts. Matt.28: 19-20.
- (b) We must be committed to the preaching of the gospel. Mk.16: 15-16, 19-20; Jn.15: 16.
- (c) We must be engaged in spiritual warfare. Eph.6: 10-13; 2Tim.2: 3-5; Gal.2: 20; 1Sam.15: 1-3; 1Jn.4: 4.
- (d) We must finance the work of the kingdom with all our might. 2Cor.9: 1-10; Lk.8: 2-3; Mal.3: 8-12.
- (e) We must do everything to hasten the coming of Christ. 2Pet.3: 10; Matt.24: 14.

CONCLUSION: The business He has called us into is clear. Therefore let us get down to work.

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YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME

TEXT: Matthew 28: 18-20; Acts.1: 8.

INTRODUCTION: Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ was emphatic about the call to soul winning. He taught it, lived it and motivated His disciples to do the same. What was paramount in the ministry of our Lord must be uppermost on our list of priorities.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WITNESS?

To witness is to present evidence or give a testimony about another person. A witness is someone who has a personal knowledge of a situation and who is willing to share such information when needed. Acts.1: 8; Prov.14: 5; Jn.15: 16; Jn.20: 21; 1Jn.1: 1-3.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO WITNESS?

- (i) That is the only job Jesus came for. Lk.19: 10; Jn.10: 10; Acts.5: 42.
- (ii) There is no other solution for the lost souls except the gospel. 1Tim.1: 15; Acts.4: 12; Rom.1: 16.
- (iii) God has left the work for the saved souls. Jn.20: 21; Acts.5: 20; Jn.14: 12.
- (iv) God has issued His decree concerning the sinner and the watchman. Ezek.3: 18-19; 18: 4; 33: 1-9.

CONCLUSION: Be a faithful witness.

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THE LAW OF HARVEST

TEXT: Galatians 6: 7.

INTRODUCTION: Life time is a sowing time. Each of us by thought, word and deed is constantly planting for future reaping.

WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT HE WILL REAP

Some seeds are sown in secret but the harvest cannot be concealed, it will be open for all to see. Gal.6: 7; Judges 1: 7; Jam.2: 13; Rom.2: 1; Lk.8: 17. Sometimes the fruitage may not be completely viewed in this world; a time is coming when every hidden and secret thing shall be revealed in the judgment. Eccl.12:14.

There is always a time of waiting between the sowing and the reaping, but the harvest never fails.

The harvest will always be greater than that which is sown. Hosea 8: 7b; Matt.13: 8.

CONCLUSION: Do not be deceived whatever a man sows, that he will reap. Endeavour to sow quality and healthy seed, sow bountifully and sow correctly, surely you will have a bumper harvest.

* Please Note:

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

SELF EXAMINATION

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 13: 1-5.

INTRODUCTION: As children of God, we need to do spiritual check-up regularly to know if we are still in the race.

AREAS TO CHECK INCLUDES:

1. Prayer Life. It is very important to examine yourself if you are growing in your prayer life. If you are dropping in your prayer life, it is better to call upon God quickly. Mk.1: 35; Acts.6: 4; Lk.6: 12; Ps.5: 3; 1Thess.5: 17.
2. Bible Study. The problem with some believers in Christ now is that the time for Bible study has been lost and they have become world-full and word-empty. Ps.1: 1-2; Ps.119: 148; Acts.6: 4; Isa.34: 16.
3. Fasting Life. Several people now feast instead of fasting. The early church sought God in fasting. Examine if you still fast to please God. Acts.13: 1-3; Acts.14: 23.
4. Sanctification. Sanctification is separation unto God. 2Tim.2: 21. God commanded it. 1Thess.4: 3. An unsanctified Christian cannot be used by God. Are you sanctified? Are you growing in your sanctification? Heb.12: 14.
5. Faith. Are you growing in faith? 2Cor.5: 7; Heb.11: 6.

CONCLUSION: In the above listed areas, anyone who is not increasing or growing will tend towards backsliding.

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THE NARROW AND BROAD WAY

TEXT: Matthew 7: 13-14.

INTRODUCTION: Jesus Christ taught His disciples about the broad and narrow ways. Today, we shall look at the features of the two ways. So that you can examine yourself and see which way you belong.

FEATURES OF THE NARROW WAY

1. The way leads to life. Jesus Christ is the way that leads to life. Jn.14: 6. There is no other way that leads to life. 1Jn.1: 2; 1Jn.5: 12; Prov.12: 28
2. The gate is narrow. The gate is not as wide as to contain two people at the same time. Lk.13: 24; 1Cor.9: 27; Heb.12: 1; Matt.19: 16-24.
3. Only few will find the way. In the days of Noah, only eight people made it into the Ark. Gen.7: 13.

FEATURES OF THE BROAD WAY

1. The gate is wide and the way is broad. The way of this world is broad. 1Jn.2: 15-17. The way to hell is broad. Prov.12: 15.
2. It leads to destruction. It is the way of sin.
3. Many go through it. It is the way of disobedience and as a result it can entertain many people.

CONCLUSION: You have a choice to make today, but I counsel you to choose the narrow way, which is the way of life.

* Please Note:

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KEEP YOUR HEART

TEXT: Proverbs 4: 23.

INTRODUCTION: The heart is the most sensitive part of the human body. Therefore, there is a need to keep watch over our heart.

WHY SHOULD WE KEEP OUR HEART?

- (a) It is the centre of life. Every activity of a man has its root in the heart. Prov.4: 23; Prov.27: 19. Hardly is anything a man wants to do that will not first be determined in his heart. Dan.1: 8.
- (b) Determines character. The way a man behaves is conditioned by the state of his heart. You are a product of your thought. Num.13: 31; Prov.23: 7.
- (c) The source of evil. Every evil action is first and foremost conceived in the heart. Matt.15: 18-19; 2Pet.2: 14; Eccl.9: 3.
- (d) Control speech. Your utterance is determined by what you think in your heart. What are the things that fill your own heart? Matt.12: 34-36.

CONCLUSION: The heart is very important to God, Satan and man. The one to whom your heart is yielded determines the use of the heart. Do not yield yours to Satan. Jn.13: 2, 27.

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THE CHOSEN

TEXT: John 15: 16.

INTRODUCTION: Every child of God has been chosen by God for a purpose. But unfortunately, today, many are not fulfilling the purpose for which God saved and chose them.

WHY GOD DID CHOOSE US?

God chose us for the following reasons:

- (i) He chose us because He loved us. Matt.22: 14. God loved us even before we knew Him. Jn.3: 16; 1Jn.4: 10-19 from our mothers' womb He has chosen us and ordained us to be an instrument of honour to Him. Jer.1: 5; Isa.49: 1-3; 1Pet.2: 9; 2Tim.2: 20-22.
- (ii) He chose us that we might bear fruits. He expects us to bear fruit of repentance. Matt.3: 8-9, holiness. Rom.7: 4; 6: 22, fruit of the Holy Spirit. Gal.5: 22-23; Eph.5: 9-10 and souls for Christ. Mk.16: 15-16.

CONCLUSION: Fulfill the purpose for which God saved and chose you.

* Please Note:

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WEEK TWENTY SIX

EVANGELISM

1. The leader and the members gather at the centre.
2. The leader again briefs members on the activities of the day and prays with them.
(Members should have been informed of the activities of the day in previous meeting).
3. The leader and members take themselves in twos to evangelize the immediate community.
 - Do not preach your church but Jesus Christ.
 - Invite them to the fellowship programme.
 - You can go with gifts and tracts.
4. The leader and members regroup at the centre after the exercise to thank God for the efforts and ask God to bless the efforts.

The leader blesses the members.

FRUIT BEARING

TEXT: Matthew 3: 8-10.

INTRODUCTION: One of the reasons why God chose us is to bear fruits. Why must we bear fruits and conditions for effective fruit bearing is our focus today?

WHY MUST WE BEAR FRUITS?

- (i) Fruit bearing is a must for every Christian. Jn.15: 16
- (ii) Unfruitfulness is a sign of worldliness. 1Jn.2: 15.
- (iii) Unfruitfulness is a misuse of talents, an avenue for the Lord's disappointment, divine judgment and final rejection. Lk.13: 6-7; Lk.19: 20-26; Matt.3: 10; Heb.6: 7-8.

CONDITIONS FOR FRUIT BEARING.

- (i) Perpetual contact with Jesus Christ. Ps.1: 1-3; Jn.15: 5-7; Phil.4: 13.
- (ii) Being dead to the old life. Jn.12: 24; Gal.2: 20.
- (iii) Constant spiritual polishing. Jn.15: 2.
- (iv) Have understanding of Jesus Christ. Matt.13: 23.

CONCLUSION: You are chosen purposely to bear fruits. Therefore justify your choice. And remember one of the greatest secrets of answered prayers is constant and regular fruit-bearing.

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DISCIPLESHIP

TEXT: Matthew 4: 19-22.

INTRODUCTION: Discipleship begins when you get born again. As a follower of Jesus Christ you take Him as your Teacher and Model and strive to be like Him. Matt.11: 29; Rom.8: 29.

THE CHARACTER TRAITS OF A DISCIPLE

- (i) Hearing the Master and following Him. Jn.10: 27.
- (ii) Willing to forsake anything in order to follow the Master. Matt.4: 19, 22.
- (iii) Always available. Acts.9: 10.
- (iv) Obedient. Acts.9: 10.
- (v) Holy conversation and living. 1Pet.1: 15-16.
- (vi) Humility. 1Pet.5: 6.

CAPABILITY OF A DISCIPLE

- (i) He is able to personally hear from God. Acts.9: 10.
- (ii) Win souls for Christ.
- (iii) Preach with results. Acts.2: 40-41.
- (iv) Perform miracles. Acts.8: 5-8.
- (v) Disciple and train new and young converts. Rom.12: 1-4.
- (vi) Grow and become fruitful.
- (vii) Pray and be transformed in character, conduct and live like his Master. e.g. Paul. Rom.7: 15-25.

CONCLUSION: Are you a disciple?

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PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP

TEXT: Matthew 19: 21-22.

INTRODUCTION: No true discipleship is without a price and aspiration. This is our focus today.

GOALS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Your aspiration as a disciple of Jesus Christ is

- (i) To translate precepts and principles received into practice and lifestyle.
- (ii) To conform to the ideal of the Master.
- (iii) To aspire not only to be like the Master but also to do greater works. Jn.14: 12.

PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP

To be His disciple, there is a price to pay.

- (i) Self denial. Matt.16: 24; Matt.19: 21-22.
- (ii) Abandonment of one's will for Christ's
- (iii) Inconvenience. Acts.10: 10, 19-21.
- (iv) A life of consecration to God. Exo.29: 9.
- (v) Cross bearing. Matt.10: 38; Lk.14: 27
- (vi) Separation from the world practice. 1Jn.2: 16.

CONCLUSION: No price is too much to pay to be His disciple.

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A FAMILY IN ACTIVE WITNESS FOR THE LORD

TEXT: Matthew 10: 32-33.

INTRODUCTION: God instituted marriage for the sole purpose of partnership, purity, procreation and fellowship. The Christian family is meant to actively witness the fulfillment of these purposes. The husband (father), wife (mother) and children must play their roles well as active witnesses of the Lord and together as the bedrock of the church of God.

IN ACTIVE WITNESS BY WORDS AND WORKS

As members of Christian homes, the father, mother and children are required to be active witnesses for Christ by words. Acts.2: 38-40, Jn.4: 28-29; 2Kgs.5: 2-4.

Also, the entire family members are required to witness for Christ through their works/exemplary lifestyles.

Husband (Fathers) are required to witness Jesus Christ by being sober-minded, grave, temperate, sound in faith and love, patient and care for the home. Titus 2: 2; Eph.5: 25-33. Wives (Mothers) should witness Jesus Christ by being holy, not false accusers, sober-minded, love their husbands and children, submissive and obedient to their husbands, discreet, keeper of home, home builder. Titus 2: 4-5; 1Pet.3: 4-5; Eph.5: 22-24. Children should witness by being sincere, sober-minded to parents, be of good work, be of good speech, be of pure heart, devoid of evil. Titus 2: 6-8; Eph.6: 1-3.

CONCLUSION: Believers in Christ – father, mother and children must witness Christ.

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HOW TO RELEASE THE POWER OF PRAYERS

TEXT: Psalm 110: 1-5.

INTRODUCTION: Prayer is as powerful as the God that answers prayer. Therefore, prayers have the following powers:

POWER OF PRAYERS:

- (i) Power to resist and defeat Satan. 1Pet.5: 8-9; Jm.4: 7.
- (ii) Prayer brings the presence of Christ into manifestation, overrules Satan and his demons and rules the universe. Ps.110: 1-3.
- (iii) It has power to overrule the laws of nature. Jos.10: 12; Matt.14: 27-29.
- (iv) It obtains angelic assistance. Ps.103: 20; Heb.1: 14; Acts.12: 1-11; Isa.37: 36. Among other things, angels protect from dangers. 2Kgs.6: 17; renew physical strength. Lk.22: 43; bring messages to God's children. Matt.28: 2-7.

RELEASING THE POWER OF PRAYERS

To release the power of prayers, we must (i) know that prayers are for establishing the Lordship of Jesus Christ on earth and for bringing His will to come to pass. Ps.110: 1, 4; Matt.6: 10.

- (i) Be translated into the kingdom of Christ by being born again and getting committed to establishing it on earth. Jn.3: 3; Col.1: 13; Matt.24: 14; Acts.1: 6-8.
- (ii) Practically get involved in praying both at a personal and corporate level. Ps.55: 17; Dan.6: 10; Acts.3: 1; Acts.12: 5.

CONCLUSION: It is hightime we stopped all lip services to prayers and got down to the all-important work of praying so that we can reign as God destined us.

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YOUR BIRTHRIGHT

TEXT: Romans 8: 28-39.

INTRODUCTION: A spiritual rebirth takes place at redemption and then one is said to be born again. This means we now have a new life in Christ. (i.e. a divine nature). This automatically gives us some basic right as children of God.

1. Right to divine health and healing. 3Jn.2; Isa.53: 4-5. This refers not only to physical health alone but also mental, spiritual, emotional and financial.
2. Right to dominion. Col.2: 15; Gen.1: 26-27. The dominion lost by man as a result of sin was restored at redemption. Lk.10: 18-19.
3. Right to holiness. Obadiah 1: 17; Matt.5: 48; 1Pet.1: 15-16; Rom.6: 14; Heb.12: 14; 1Thess.5: 23.
4. Right to the Throne. Rom.8: 12-17. As sons of God, we are heirs to the Throne and so have some privileges such as standing uncondemned before God. Rom.8: 1; having His righteousness and access to the throne of grace. 2Cor.5: 21; needs being met. Phil.4: 19; ability to do all things. Phil.4: 13; access to His rest. Heb.4: 1.

CONCLUSION: God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. 2Pet.1: 3-4.

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TEMPTATION

TEXT: James 1: 1-16.

INTRODUCTION: Temptation is one of the experiences a child of God will encounter. No one is above temptation but one can have victory over it. Being tempted is not sin but yielding to temptation is sin.

WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

Temptation is an enticement to do evil or anything contrary to the will of God. It is a strong persuasion to do something wrong. Devil is the source of all temptations. Matt.4: 1. Trial is different from temptation. Trial is meant to build up, while temptations pull us down.

METHODS OF TEMPTATION

Satan uses subtle and divers methods to tempt Christians.

- (i) Enticement. Prov.1: 10; Gen.39: 7.
- (ii) Evil counsel. Job 2: 9-10; Matt.16: 22-23.
- (iii) The love of the world (Worldliness). 1Jn.2: 14-16.
- (iv) Greed. 1Tim.6: 9-10.

CONCLUSION: The saying is true that once God has revealed your enemy to you; he should not be able to kill you again. Now that you know the tempter and his methods of operation, he should not be able to floor you again.

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HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 10: 12-14.

INTRODUCTION: Temptation is not sin but yielding to it is sin. How not to yield to temptations but overcome it is our focus today.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

- (i) By relying on the faithfulness of God. 1Cor.10: 13; Heb.2: 18.
- (ii) By using the word of God appropriately. Matt.4: 1-11; Ps.119: 11.
- (iii) By fervent personal prayer. Matt.26: 41; Eph.6: 18.
- (iv) By resisting. Jam.4: 7. Say No to the devil.
- (v) By fleeing or avoiding every appearance of evil. 2Tim.2: 22; 1Thess.5: 22; Prov.4: 14-15; Ps.1: 1.
- (vi) Discipline your thought, tongue and taste. Ps.34: 13.

CONCLUSION: The charge of Jesus Christ to Peter, James and John at the Garden of Gethsemane is still relevant today. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation..."

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MISSIONS

TEXT: Mark 13: 10.

INTRODUCTION: Missions has become a very common word in our churches today. Very often, people have different ideas about the word. Today, we want to discuss some fundamental truths about missions.

WHAT IS MISSION?

Mission could be defined as the efforts of the church to reconcile the whole world back unto God. Lk.24: 47; Acts.1: 8. Human race was scattered into different tribes, languages, people etc. Gen.11: 5-7, as a result of which God in His fatherly care, began the process of reconciliation of the whole world back to Him. Gen.12: 1-3; Jn.3: 17. God sent Jesus Christ to reconcile the whole world back to Him through His sacrifice. Jn.3: 16. The church is now responsible to carry on the search work to bring the scattered to God. Mk.13: 10; Isa.49: 6; 2Cor.5: 19.

CONCLUSION: We are God's messenger with the word of reconciliation sent to reconcile the world unto God.

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WHY SHOULD I BE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS?

TEXT: 2Corinthians 5: 17-20.

INTRODUCTION: Should I be involved in missions? Yes. But why? Answering this question will be our focus today.

REASONS WHY I SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS?

- (a) You should be involved because it is God's commandment. Jn.17: 18; Mk.16: 15-20.
- (b) You should be involved because the salvation of mankind is paramount in the mind of God.
- (c) Because God demonstrated His search for the lost people of Nineveh who were ignorant of His salvation programme, we too should be involved. Jonah 4: 10-11.
- (d) Because God is our father, we should be deeply involved in our father's enterprises – the salvation business. Lk.15: 3-7.
- (e) Because God delights in all souls, He wants them all saved.

CONCLUSION: Be involved in missions.

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GET INTO GOD'S MISSION PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

TEXT: Romans 15: 16-21.

INTRODUCTION: Unless you get into mission, you will not be part of mission. To get involved means getting ready to pay the price of the task. It means being unmoved and undaunted in the pursuit. It means seeing clearly the devil's bonds on the people and becoming angry at such bonds.

HOW TO GET INTO GOD'S MISSION PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE?

- (a) Develop burden and compassion for souls. Such burden should serve as drive to propel you into mission. Mk.6: 34; Rom.10: 1
- (b) Pray continuously for the sustenance, initiative, strength, and progress of the mission work. Isa.62: 1-2; Lk.18: 7-8.
- (c) The more you pray the more you have rewards and success. Jn.3: 27; 2Cor.10: 3.
- (d) Wait for God's directives. The moment the instructions come, do not delay, get into action. Visit, assist and support mission work.
- (e) After you have received the instruction and you have acted, pray again and continue to sustain the burden for more souls to be won for Christ.

CONCLUSION: Be involved in God's mission plans for souls.

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ETERNAL REWARDS

TEXT: 1Corinthians 9: 16-27.

INTRODUCTION: God has a reward for all that make it to the kingdom. We shall one day cross to the other side where we shall have exceeding and eternal weight of glory. 2Cor.4: 17.

THE REWARDS

Jesus Christ has prepared crowns for rulers in His coming kingdom. These crowns and their qualifications are:

- The crown of life. Jam.1: 12. To qualify for this, you must have endured temptation and remain faithful. Other qualifications include overcoming evil, loving the Lord and being faithful unto death. Rev.2: 10.
- The incorruptible crown. 1Cor.9: 24-25. This is for those who patiently run the race to Heaven and who are temperate in all things.
- The Crown of rejoicing. 1Thess.2: 19. You must be a soul winner to receive this crown.
- The crown of glory. 1Pet.5: 4. A crown for true pastors, missionaries and teachers.
- The crown of righteousness. 2Tim.4: 8. It is for those expecting the Lord. They are earnestly waiting for His coming.
- Other types of rewards include reign with Christ. Rom.18: 17-18; behold His face. Ps.17: 15; Rev.22: 4; inherit all things. Rev.21: 7; Shine as star. Dan.12: 3; be pillar in the temple of God. Rev.3: 12; have access to the tree of life. Rev.22: 1-5; Rev.22: 14.

CONCLUSION: Knowing that we have this wonderful rewards in serving God, what manner of people should we be? 1Jn.3: 2-3.

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WEEK THIRTY-NINE

COMMUNITY IMPACT / WELFARE / GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

1. The leader and members assemble at the centre.
2. The leader again briefs members on the activities of the day (they must have been informed in the previous meetings) and prays with them.
3. The leader and members take themselves in groups to carry out some work in the street, cleaning bushes and houses etc. The centre could take along with them toiletries, food items, and gifts items to be presented to neighbours.
4. After this outing, the leader and members regroup at the centre to thank God for the efforts and ask God to bless the efforts.

The leader blesses the members.

SET YOUR AFFECTION ON HEAVEN

TEXT: Colossians 3: 1-17.

INTRODUCTION: A child of God is a different being because he is dead yet alive. He is dead to the affairs of this world but alive to God. He is expected to set his mind on things which are above. Col.3: 1-3.

HOW CAN WE SET AFFECTION ON HEAVEN?

- (i) Abstain from fleshly lusts. 1Pet.2: 11.
- (ii) With the help of the Holy Spirit, mortify the deeds of the body. Col.3: 5: 8; Rom.8: 13.
- (iii) Putting on the new man. Col.3: 9-12.
- (iv) Forbearing and forgiving one another. Col.3: 13.
- (v) Live holy. Rom.12: 1-2; Heb.12: 14.
- (vi) Be obedient. 1Sam.15: 22; Jos.1: 7-8.
- (vii) By praises and worship. Jn.4: 23-24

CONCLUSION: Our heavenly father requires constant fellowship with us even while we are still in this world, which often starts with appreciation of all about Him. It is therefore necessary to set our affection in Heaven, if we must make it to the end.

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GOD IS MIGHTY TO HEAL

TEXT: Genesis 17: 1.

INTRODUCTION: The God that we serve is the Almighty and He is mighty to heal. He breathed into ordinary clay and it became a living soul. Gen.2: 7. He touched ordinary clay and it became eyes. Jn.9: 1-7. He touched a leper and the leprosy disappeared. Matt.8: 1-3. He is so mighty that just a word from Him is enough to heal. Matt.8: 5-13. There is nothing too difficult for Him to do. Jer.32: 27; Job.42: 2.

THE SOURCE OF SICKNESS AND DISEASE

- (i) Satan. Lk.13: 16; Jn.10: 10
- (ii) Carelessness – exposing yourself to harsh weather condition, not eating well, lack of rest etc.
- (iii) Ignorance of the causes
- (iv) Foolishness. If after acquiring the relevant knowledge on the causes of sickness. You fail to apply that knowledge

WHAT YOU NEED TO RECEIVE YOUR HEALING:

Does God want to heal? Yes. Matt.8: 1-3; Acts.10: 38. The Almighty, God is not only willing to heal but He is also willing to heal everybody. Matt.8: 16-17. You need the followings to receive your healing. (i) Surrender your life to Jesus Christ and make Him the Lord of your life. (ii) Have faith. Habak.2: 4; Rom.1: 17; Heb.10: 38; Mk.11: 23-24, (iii) Prayer. You can pray or you can be prayed for. Jam.5: 13-16 (iv) Note that after He has healed you, you must be ready to live a holy life. Jn.5: 14.

CONCLUSION: Have you been told yours is impossible? God is ready to heal you now. He is the Almighty. There is nothing difficult for Him to do.

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WE NEED REVIVAL

TEXT: Psalm 85: 1-6.

INTRODUCTION: What is revival, reasons for revival, steps to revival. These will be our focus today.

WHAT IS REVIVAL?

Revival is a re-awakening of religious fervor. It is a new beginning of obedience to God. The first step in the case of a converted sinner, is a deep-rooted repentance, a broken down of heart with deep humility for sin hitherto committed and a forsaking of the same. Prov. 28: 13. It is also to arise and rebuke, reprove and instruct in righteousness. 2Tim.3: 16.

REASONS FOR REVIVAL

Reasons for revival can be endless. A revival is needed when:

- (i) There is lack of brotherly love and Christian confidence among those who profess to be Christians.
- (ii) There is worldliness in the church.
- (iii) There are church members falling into scandalous sins, gross indifference to the cry of the lost.
- (iv) The spiritual giants are fast becoming giant sleepers.
- (v) Sinners are rejoicing in their unrighteousness and no believer seems to be bothered.
- (vi) Homes are disintegrating, marriages are daily hitting the rocks and holy vows broken unfulfilled and rottenness pervades the whole society.

CONCLUSION: There must be a desire for revival which leads to genuine repentance born of a deep contrition in the heart. This must be accompanied with the fire of prayer. Isa.57: 15; Hosea 10: 12. God wants to revive you and also use you to revive your family, home, church and entire nation.

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REKINDLING THE PENTECOSTAL FIRE

TEXT: Acts.2: 1-11; Matthew 3: 11.

INTRODUCTION: The Pentecostal fire, otherwise known as Holy Ghost Baptism is a deposit of a measure of God's power on God's children. To be able to rekindle the fire, we must know what caused the fire to go out. This is our focus today.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRE. JOHN 15: 5

We need the Holy Ghost fire for: (i) power to witness, to move mountain. Acts.1: 8 (ii) to be able to keep the commandment of God. Jn. 14: 20-21, (iii) power to overcome the vices of the devil and for sign and wonders. Heb.2: 4 (iv) Liberty. Isa.61: 1-3.

REKINDLING THE FIRE

To rekindle means to start afresh or to increase the burning rate. This means that once upon a time, the fire was burning and for one reason or the other, it died out. If we must rekindle the fire then we must look for the cause of the fire going out. Here we are talking about restoring the power of God in His children. Some known causes include:

- Carelessness. Matt.26: 41; 1Kgs.13: 11-18.
- Comfort. 2Sam.11: 1-25.
- Overconfidence. 1Cor.10: 12; Mk.14: 29-31.
- Outright sin. Isa.59: 1-2; 1Jn.3: 8.
- Oil Leakage. Matt.25: 8-12; Lk.6: 10-12.

CONCLUSION: It is obvious that the most dangerous thing that can happen to a man is to once have the fire burning in him and not to have it any more.

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REMEDIES FOR SIN

TEXT: Romans 6: 6-10.

INTRODUCTION: We need to understand what sin is so as to remove it from our ways, as the way to true greatness is a way free from sin. Apart from being anti-success, sin enslaves people and demands that they obey its lusts. It carries death as its wages. Rom.6: 6, 12, 20, 23.

DEFINITIONS OF SIN

The Bible describes sin in so many ways. Some of which include:

- i. Falling short of the glory of God. Rom.3: 23.
- ii. It is lawlessness.
- iii. All unrighteousness is sin. 1Jn.5: 17.
- iv. Knowing what is good and doing not. Jam.4: 17.
- v. Approving sins of others. Rom.1: 29-32.

REMEDIES FOR SIN

Jesus Christ has finished the work of salvation and redemption for our sins on the cross of Calvary. His blood made atonement for our sin. This is a great remedy for sin. Rom.5: 9-11. However, we have our part to play.

- Place our faith in Jesus finished work of redemption and accept Him as personal Lord and Saviour. Acts.16: 31.
- Confess and repent from every sin. 1Jn.1: 7-9; Prov.28: 13; 2Chro.7: 14.
- Cry out for grace to overcome temptation and sin. 1Cor.10: 13; 2Cor.9: 8.
- Not only should we be dead to sin, we must also war against it. Rom.7: 17-19, 23; Ps.34; 14; Job 11: 14-15.

CONCLUSION: “He that covereth his sin shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”. Prov.28: 13.

* Please Note:

1. Allow members to contribute to the topic discussed.
2. Give room for questions and answers.

RAPTURE

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18.

INTRODUCTION: The second coming of Christ shall be in two stages. The first stage “being like a thief in the night” to receive unto Himself His church. This is popularly called the rapture.

WHAT IS RAPTURE?

This is the sudden descent of the Lord from Heaven to receive to Himself His church. It is the sudden “Catch up” of the saints from the four wings of the earth to meet the Lord in the air. It is the translation or translocation of believers. 1Thess.4: 16-17; 1Cor.15: 51-58. It is described as a “thief in the night” and “in the twinkling of an eye. Examples are Enoch. Gen.5: 22-24; Heb.11: 5 and Elijah. 2Kgs.2: 11

WHEN IS THE RAPTURE?

The exact timing is not known. Matt.24: 42, 44; Matt.25: 13; 1Thess.5: 6. It shall, however precede the great tribulation. 1 Thess.1: 10; 1Thess.5: 9; 2Thess.2: 12.

CONCLUSION: The rapture is certain, but the exact time is unknown. Therefore, be prepared.

* Please Note:

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

EVENTS AT THE RAPTURE

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18.

INTRODUCTION: What will happen at the rapture and how it will happen is our focus today.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE RAPTURE?

- i. The trumpet of God shall sound. 1Cor.15: 52; 1Thess.4: 16.
- ii. The dead in Christ shall rise first. Jn.5: 25; 1Thess.4: 16; 1Cor.15: 23.
- iii. The saints which are alive shall be caught up to meet with the Lord in the air. 1Thess.4: 17; 1Cor.15: 51.
- iv. The dead in Christ shall be transformed and shall put on immortal bodies and live forever. 1Cor.15: 52-54; Phil.3: 20-21; Col.3: 20-21; Col.3: 4; 1Jn.3: 2.
- v. There shall be extraordinary chaos on earth after rapture. 2Thess.5: 2-3; Matt.24: 40-41.

HOW WILL IT HAPPEN.

- i. It shall happen suddenly. 1Cor.15: 32; 1Thess.5: 3; Matt.24: 36-41.
- ii. The power of God shall make the bodies of saints immortal. Phil.3: 21.
- iii. The sudden vacancies produced by such disappearance shall lead to chaos.

CONCLUSION: The greatest calamity that could befall anyone who claims to be a Christian is to be on earth a second after the rapture.

* Please Note:

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

WHY RAPTURE?

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15: 50-53.

INTRODUCTION: Last week's lesson revealed the meaning of the word, rapture. We also discovered events surrounding the rapture. The lesson today will focus on why the rapture.

WHY WILL THE RAPTURE TAKE PLACE?

- i. To resurrect the just of all ages from among the dead. 1Thess.4: 13-17; Ps.50: 1-6.
- ii. To take the saints out of the world before tribulation. Lk.21: 34-36; 2Thess. 2: 7-8; 1Thess.1: 10.
- iii. That Jesus Christ might present to Himself a church without spots or wrinkles. Eph.5: 27; Jn.14: 1-3.
- iv. To transform or change the bodies of all faithful saints from mortality to immortality. Phil.3: 20-21; 1Cor.15: 21-23, 42-44, 51-58.
- v. To assemble the saints at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Rev.19: 1-10.
- vi. To allow the revelation of the anti-christ. 2Thess.2: 1-8.
- vii. To present saints to God the father. 1Thess.3: 13; Jude24.
- viii. To make the saints whole in body, soul and spirit. 1Jn.3: 2-3; Rom.8: 22-23.

CONCLUSION: Be watchful as only those who are absolutely ready will be raptured.

* Please Note:

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR RAPTURE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15: 50-53.

INTRODUCTION: Last week, we focussed on why the rapture will take place. Today, our focus is on the qualification for the rapture.

WHO WILL BE RAPTURED?

- i. Those who are in Christ at His coming. Jn.1: 12; 2Cor.5: 17.
- ii. Those who earnestly desire His appearance. Titus 2: 13; Phil.3: 20.
- iii. Those who love the Lord supremely. Phil.3: 7-10; Jn.21: 15-17; Jn.14: 15; Mk.16: 15-18; Lk.19: 12-13.
- iv. Those whose citizenship is in Heaven. Phil.3: 20-21; Eph.2: 19.
- v. Those who will live holy even as He is holy. 1Pet.1: 16; Heb.12: 14; 1Jn.3: 1-3.

CONCLUSION: Let us be sober in watchfulness, always fellowshipping together and keeping the unity of the faith in the bond of peace. 1Thess.5: 6; Heb.10: 25; Eph.4: 3.

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

TEXT: Revelation 19: 1-14.

INTRODUCTION: Marriage in the context symbolizes the union between Christ and the church. Eph.5: 22-32. It is however, important to note that the second coming of Christ is the next event after the marriage supper of the Lamb.

WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE IS THE MARRIAGE?

The marriage supper of the Lamb means union between Christ the Bridegroom and the bride, the spotless church. Eph.5: 27a; Rev.19: 1-4; Matt.22: 1-4; Matt.25: 1-13. It will take place before the second coming of Christ to the earth. Rev.19: 1-21. It will take place in the New Jerusalem. Rev.21: 2; Rev.19: 1-21.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MARRIAGE

To assemble the saints for the last supper with Christ. To present the just of all ages to God, the father and fulfill their main eternal purpose. To wipe away tears from the faces of the saints. To take away the saints from the earth before the activities of the anti-christ begins. And to take away the saints before the tribulation.

CONCLUSION: The marriage supper of the Lamb is the greatest marriage Ceremony. Be prepared to be part of it.

* Please Note:

1. Allow members to contribute to the topic discussed.
2. Give room for questions and answers.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

TEXT: Revelation 19: 1-14.

INTRODUCTION: In the last lesson, we discussed what, when and where of the marriage supper of the Lamb and also its importance. But today, our focus will be on the qualifications for the marriage.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE MARRIAGE

Those who will qualify for the marriage supper of the Lamb must be those who belong to Christ. 2Cor.5: 17. Those earnestly desiring His second coming and watching. Matt.25: 1-13. Included are those whose patience and visions are not darkened. Also, those who do not get distracted and lose focus completely before the Bridegroom comes, those whose holiness is not polluted and their garment not stained and those whose garment is righteousness and always right on time. Matt.21: 10-14; Rev.21: 8-27; Heb.12: 14.

Also included are those that obey His commandments and whose citizenship is in Heaven. Rev.22: 14-15; Eph.2: 16; Matt.7: 21-23.

CONCLUSION: Now that we have discovered the qualifications and other vital information about the marriage supper of the Lamb, we should prayerfully enlist for the ceremony.

* Please Note:

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

THE JUDGEMENT

TEXT: Revelation 20: 4-15.

INTRODUCTION: Judgment is imminent whether we believe it or not, we are going to give account of all that we do here on earth, whether it be good or bad, righteous or wicked. We will all appear before the One whom God has appointed to judge all, Jesus Christ.

THE CRUCIAL JUDGMENTS

These are the two major final judgments for both believers and unbelievers:

- (i) The judgment Seat of Christ. This is the judgment of believers where each person's work will be tested with fire. 1Cor.3: 13. Also to be tested are: our words, our thoughts, our secrets, our motives. This judgment will take place after the rapture. Matt.16: 27; Matt.12: 36-37; Matt.15: 19-20; Rom.2: 16; 2Cor.5: 14.
- (ii) The Great White Throne Judgment. This is the judgment of the wicked. The sinners and all that reject Jesus Christ and the fallen angels. They will be according to their works. It is going to be an impartial and open judgment. Rev.20: 5; Rev.20: 11-15; Matt.7: 21-23.

CONCLUSION: Where will you appear? It is a crucial decision. Is it the Judgment seat of Christ or the Great White Throne Judgment? The choice is yours.

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2. Give room for questions and answers.

WEEK FIFTY-TWO

WELCOME TO INTERACTIVE SESSION/LOVE FEAST

1. The leader and members discuss about challenges confronting the centre and members and attempt to solve them.
2. They also discuss how to move the House fellowship centre forward. The growth of the centre should be seriously discussed.
3. The centre should organize love feast for the members.

The leader blesses the members.