

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



BELIEVERS' CLASS

manual

Revised Edition

The knowledge of who you were as an
unbeliever and May 2011

BELIEVERS'

CLASS

Manual

Revised Edition

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The Redeemed Christian Church of God

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PREFACE

The Programme That Is A Must For You

The believers class programme is one programme every growth thirsty Christian should endeavour to attend. It seeks to create in every believer a foundation which is solid enough to withstand any type of structure that would thereafter come upon it; a foundation firm enough to hold in place the whole structure against both gentle and boisterous winds of 'life which blow naturally upon every building.

Matthew 7:25 says, *"And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."* The absence of the type of foundation described in this passage is the reason for failure in the life of many Christians. The forgiveness of sin that brings salvation is not the end of the redemption work. What must follow forgiveness of sins closely is deliverance from sin and this latter part you can only receive through knowledge.

The knowledge of who you were as an unbeliever and who you are now after your

salvation. Lack of this knowledge explains why many believers today are sinning believers and they seem not to have an answer to this question of sin captivity. The Bible says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - (John 8:32). We, therefore, welcome you to a programme that will be of immense value to you both now and in the future. It is only champions that seek to forfeit the pleasures of now in order to gain the future while a failure will forfeit the future for the pleasures of now.

So, congratulations fellow champions for allowing time and for sacrificing some pleasures to come and study at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is certainly going to be a worthwhile experience for you. Do not stop at coming all alone. Ensure you talk to someone about the believer's class. You will be helping a soul to get established in the Lord by so doing.

Remain Blessed.

Pastor E. A. Adeboye

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STUDY 1

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH

INTRODUCTION

One can become a member of a family by birth, adoption or marriage. The new birth is the way you are born, adopted and married into the family of God. John 1:12-13, Gal. 4:5, Eph. 5:30-32.

1. Some Unscriptural Meanings Of The New Birth

- (a) Being religious or churchy - Acts 10:1-9, John 3:1-3.
- (b) Keeping the law - Rom. 3:20, Galatians 2:16-21, Joshua 2:1.
- (c) Being self-righteous - Isaiah 64:6, Phil. 3:8-9.
- (d) Educated and cultured - 1 Cor. 1:18-25, Matthew 15:2-3.8-9.
- (e) Water baptism - Acts 8:36-39.

These things are good and important but they will not substitute for the new birth (Matt. 23:23).

2. Understanding The Fall of Man Through Adam

(Genesis 2:15 20; 3:1-8)

Adam was the federal head of the human race. Just as the head of a country can cause his country to fail or succeed through his leadership, Adam changed the course of the human race by falling into sin - Romans 5:12. Satan made Adam to believe the following

about God:

- (a) That God was a liar - Gen. 2:17 and Gen. 3:4.
- (b) That God was deceitful and does not have the love of His creatures at heart - Gen. 3:5. That He does not want them to live beyond their current state for which they have the potential.
- (c) That God was unfair by not giving them that which was their ultimate good - Gen. 3:5.
- (d) Denied the very essence of God's character truth and righteousness.
- (e) Blasphemed God. Spoke irreverently about God and painted God in bad light.

3. UNDERSTANDING CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALL

- a. Loss of communion and fellowship with God - Isaiah 59:2, Eph. 2:11-12.
- b. Death-spiritual (Rom. 6:23A); physical (Heb. 9:27); eternal (Rev. 20:15).
- c. Received the nature of sin and debt to sin - Gen. 1:27 and Gen. 5:3.
- d. Transferred our fatherhood to the devil (Jn. 8:44).
- e. Slavery to Satan (Col. 1:13, II Tim. 2:26).
- f. Loss of God-given authority to the devil - John 14:30, Lk. 4:5-6; Eph 6:10-18.
- g. Loss of dominion over all the works of God's hand - Gen. 1:28.
- h. Loss of freedom from diseases, sorrow, hardship and sufferings - Gen. 3:16-19.

4. UNDENIABLE MERCY AND PARDON FOR SIN

a. Some attributes of God - Righteousness (Psalm 119:137; Jer.3:6), Just (Deut. 32:4, Isa. 45:21; Love (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8); Truth (I Sam. 7:28); Eternal life (Ex. 15:18 Rev. 1:8).

b. God's mercy explained. To meet God's holy character of justice (for sin) and love (for the sinful man), the last Adam was sent to break down the barrier between God and man - Rom. 5:17-19, I Cor. 15:21-22; 45:47.

c. **What then is the New Birth?** It is a spiritual experience that transforms you from the kingdom of darkness into God's kingdom. It is the receiving of God's life and God's righteousness. It is both a spiritual and moral change. Christ lives in you by the Holy Spirit. It is not an intellectual birth but a rebirth of man's soul. It is also not a physical birth. Our spirit not our flesh is born again. It is so vital an experience that no one can enter into God's kingdom without it - John 3:1-7, John 1:12-13, I Pet. 1:23, Col. 1:12-13, Eph. 2:8-10.

5. HOW CAN ONE BE BORN AGAIN?

a. Acknowledge that you are a sinner - Rom. 3:23, Luke 18:13, Psalm 51:5.

b. Sincerely repent of your sins - Acts 3:19, Luke 13:3.

c. Confess your sins to God - John 1:19
d. Forsake or turn away from your old sinful way - Isaiah 55:7, Prov. 28:13.

e. Believe Him and the sacrifice of substitution John 3:16, I Cor. 5:21.

f. Receive Him into your heart by faith and

thereafter thank God for saving you - John 1:11-12, Eph. 2:8.

CONCLUSION:

Just as you can associate a dog with bones, so you can associate every man born of a woman with sins. It is, however, certain that any life committed to Jesus cannot be wasted. What are you doing with JESUS CHRIST?

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

STUDY 2

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH(2)

1. Why the New Birth is so important

i. The natural man is spiritually dead and cannot, therefore, obey or understand or please God - Rom. 8:6-8, Jer. 17:9 Eph. 2:3. The new birth gives eternal life - John 3:16.

ii. The natural man is corrupt in his affections and perverse in his will - Gal. 5:19-21, Mark 7:21-23. The new birth affects our tastes, habits, desires, vocabulary, etc.

iii. The natural man is on a natural sloppy course to destruction - Prov. 14:12, 12:15. The new birth guarantees that our names

are written in God's book of life - John 3:3-5; Rev. 20:15.

11. What Jesus Did For The Natural Man

- i. Saved us from sin - Matt. 1:21, Jn. 1:29, Matt. 26:28, I John 3:5.
- ii. Delivered us from the works and power of the devil in our lives. Col1:13, I John 3:8.
- iii. Paid the penalty for sin and removed the curse of God upon man - Gal. 3:13, II Cor. 5:21.
- iv. Reconciled man (the offender) to God (the offended) by acting as a mediator between God and man - II Cor.5:17-21, I Tim. 2:5.
- iv. Registered our names in God's book of life - Luke 10:20, Rev. 20:15.
- vi. Will present us unto God, holy and blameless - Col.1:22,28, Jude 24.

11.1. Hindrances To Salvation

Satan has blinded the hearts of many people such that despite several obstacles, God allows to be created on their path to hell, they are adamant and have hardened their hearts to the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In other cases, the only vestige of genuine association with the Saviour, Jesus Christ, was the day they responded to the altar call - II Cor. 4:4.

The following could hinder a man from receiving the salvation made available by God through Jesus Christ - II Cor.5:11, Pet. 4:18, II Tim. 2:19. Can you identify the one(s) the devil can easily use against you?

i. Fear of Prosecution - I Tim. 3:12, John

- 17:14, I Peter 2:19-23.
- ii. Comfort and riches - I Tim 6:9-10, 17, Prov. 10:22, Luke 16:13.
- iii. Much intellectual/human achievement - I Tim. 6:20,21, I Cor. 2:5, Phil 3:3-10.
- iv. False security - Isaiah 31:1, Psalm 97:7.
- v. Self righteousness - Isaiah 64:6, Romans 10:3.
- vi. Worldliness - James 4:4, II Timothy 4:10, I John 2:16.
- vii. Lust for position or power - Eccl. 2:9-11, Psalm 62:11.
- viii. Covetousness - Luke 12:15, Prov.15:16.
- ix. Desire to please men - I Sam. 31:4 & II Samuel 1:5-16.
- x. Religious activities- Matthew 5:20.
- xi. Some definite life's ambition- Eccl. 9:12.
- xii. Besetting sins- Hebrews 12:1.
- xiii. Ignorance - I Timothy 1:13.

Evidences Of The New Birth

Discuss noticeable evidences of the new birth in your life since you openly confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

- i. A changed life - II Cor. 5:17, Col. 3:1-3.
- ii. A righteous and holy life - I John 2:29, 1 Peter 1:14-16.
- iii. Godly love and love for the Scriptures I John 4:7, Acts 7:11.
- iv. Godly fear and obedient to God - Ecc.12:13.
- v. An overcoming life - I John 5:4.
- vi. Witness of the Spirit - Romans 8:16.
- vii. Communion and fellowship with God - I John 1:3.

viii. Power to live the Christian life - John 1:12.

V. How can we live this New Life successfully?

- i. Giving ourselves to the study of the word I Pet. 2:2, Psalm 119: 103, II Tim. 2:15.
- ii Prayer and constant fellowship with the brethren - Heb. 10:25, I Thess. 5:17.
- iii Total submission to Christ - James 4:7, I John 14:15, 5:14.
- iv Witnessing Christ to others - Mark 16:15, Matt. 5:14-5.

CONCLUSION:

In the light of what we have learnt today, a born again Christian **MUST** be different from those who are not. This difference should be evident in the words, thoughts and actions (what you wear, hear, see or touch) of the believer. Also a born again Christian must let go of old patterns of sins and do away with every form of destructive relationship. Have you had this experience?

MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 4:12

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

STUDY 3

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

Introduction

This is the first fundamental doctrine of Christ in the scripture. Nobody can lay claim to being born again without the step of genuine repentance.

1. What does repentance mean? Heb. 6:1-2; Acts 3:19 Thess. 1:5-10. It is a firm conscious and personal decision to change from sin (obedience to the devil) to righteousness in obedience towards God. Living holy is not an emotion.

Repentance must involve the following steps

- a Acknowledging the fact that you were born a sinner and you have been sinning till date Romans 3:23.
 - b Confessing your sins I John 1:9.
 - c Asking God for forgiveness and mercy - Isaiah 55:7.
 - d Asking for divine ability to forsake your sins Prov. 28:13.
- 2. How important is the subject to us as believers?**
- i. Luke 3:7-9, Gal. 5:22-23 - Genuine repentance is followed by desirable fruit of the spirit like love, peace, patience, faith etc.
 - ii. Matt. 4:17, Luke 13:1-5, Luke 15:7, 10

Luke 24:46-47 - Jesus our Lord and Master commanded us to repent and be saved.

iii. Acts 2:37-38, Acts 17: 30-31, 20:20-21 - The disciples preached it.

iv. Matt. 3:1-2 - John the Baptist also preached it. Nobody can say he is born again without genuine repentance.

3. What are the dead works from which we have to repent?

Heb. 6:1, Rom. 6:21, I Cor. 6:9-11, Gal. 5:19-21, I Thess. 1:9, Phil. 3:1-3, II Tim. 3:8-9, Ezek. 14:6, Eph. 4:25-31 - Sin, the works the flesh, idolatry, empty religion and all unrighteousness are the dead works to be repented of.

4. Elements of genuine repentance

a. **Conviction:** Before any sinner can repent, he must be convicted that he has an urgent need to make his way right with God - Psalm 38:4; 51:3; Acts 2:37.

b. **Godly sorrow:** This comes as a consequence of conviction by the Holy Spirit. This produces repentance - II Cor. 7:10.

c. **Renunciation:** True repentance involves grief and hatred for sin, forsaking and turning from it to God - Isa. 55:7; Joel 2:13.

5. Difference between genuine repentance and remorse.

Psalm 51:1-9; Romans 6:23; Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 27:3-4, Acts 1:25.

GENUINE REPENTANCE

- Leads to salvation
- Comes from the spirit
- Heart-felt confession and desire
- To forsake sin
- Physical manifestation of holy life, thoughts and work

REMORSE

- Leads to death
- Comes from emotion
- Shallow and transient
- Concern about sin
- Turbulent life of sorrow and failure

Genuine repentance is a two fold act:

1. Turning away from sin
2. Turning unto God

Turning from sin without turning unto God is reformation without regeneration.

Why repentance is necessary

- a. A person who fails to repent will perish - Luke 13:5.
- b. An unrepented sin is an unforgiven sin.
- c. An unforgiven sin will destroy - Psalm 38:3b.

2. What are the results of genuine repentance?

I John 1:7-9, Rom. 5:1, 8:1; II Cor. 5:17, Isaiah 30:15; Acts 3:19; Ps. 51:10; Psalm 5.1:12-14, Gal. 5:22-23, Luke 15:7,10 - Cleansing with the blood of Jesus by faith, assurance of forgiveness, ability to have fruitful fellowship with God in prayer, peace with God and man. Justification as if sins never occurred, joy of salvation, escape from the consequences of sin are some of the fruits of genuine repentance.

CONCLUSION:

Remember, God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7). Sin will always pay its full price if not repented of

(Rom. 6:23a), and that God is ready to forgive and plenteous in mercy (Psalm 86:5) if there is a genuine repentance. Therefore, repent now so that you can have wonderful times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 28:13

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

STUDY 4

DISCOVERING YOUR NEW SELF: KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

Introduction

Before Saul had his first encounter with God on the way to Damascus, he was an avowed enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, after the experience on the way to Damascus, he became a different person. He was commissioned and he started preaching the same gospel he had persecuted - Acts 9:1-22. Saul (later Paul) was a servant or slave of the law, culture and traditions but was turned to a servant of God in righteousness.

A. KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

1. You were a servant of sin, a child of the devil but now have been delivered from sin and its passions - Rom 6:16-18, Rom.

7:5-6, John 8:34, 44, John 3:8.

- 2 You who were being taken captive, afflicted and dehumanised at will by the devil is now delivered totally from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ - II Tim. 2:26, Luke 13:11-16, Col. 1:12-13.

- 3 You were once no people, alien to the common wealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise but has now been made children, in fact, joint heir with the Lord Jesus and thereby made entitled to all divine blessings - Rom 9:25-26, Eph. 2:11-16 Rom 8:17, Eph. 1:3, II Pet. 1:3-4 Eph. 2:19, I Pet 2:9-10.

- 4 Satan had rule and authority over you since you lost your first position due to sin. However, the new YOU is now restored from that former position and you now bear rule, power, dominion and authority over Satan and his cohorts - II Tim. 2:25-26, II Pet. 2:9, Lk. 4:6, Col. 1:20-22, Lk. 10:19, James 4:7, Lk. 10:1, 17.

- 5 You were blind to the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ but now you can see - II Cor. 4:4.

B. HOW DOES GOD SEE YOU NOW?

1. A new person entirely whose sins have both been washed away and forgotten - II Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15, Heb. 8:12, Rev. 1:5 I Jn. 1:7, Isa. 44:22. The sins mentioned here include every manner of sins committed in the past.
2. As being holy and peculiar to Him. He has consequently kept you as the apple of His eye - I Pet. 2:9, Titus 2:14 Ex. 19:5-6, Deut.

32:10, Zech. 2:8, Isa. 54:15-17.

A new creature that is separated unto God - II Cor. 5:17, Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 1:13-14, Eph. 5:17-18.

The righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ - Rom. 3:22, Phil. 3:9, Isaiah 54:17, Gal. 2:20.

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctify means to make holy, make pure and to be separated unto God. Sanctification is a second work of grace. It attacks and moves the root of sin - Lev. 20:7-8; Jn. 17:17-18, Heb. 12:14, II Cor. 6:14-18. Sanctification is the body and all that we have - Lev. 27:14-15, Rom. 12:1-2.

The deliverance from the power of setting sins can be achieved through sanctification - Heb. 12:1.

HOW TO BE SANCTIFIED

- By the word - John 17:17, Heb. 4:12.
- By the blood of Jesus - Heb. 1:19-20, 9:13-14, Ijn. 1:7,9.
- By the Holy Spirit - I Pet 1:2, II Thess 2:13.
- By God - I Thess 5:23.

CONCLUSION

Your position is exactly like that of Saul mentioned in the introduction. You (put your name) were weak before, but now made strong. You were an under-dog to Satan but now his master. You are now to resist him and secure from his hands those he is still holding captive.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 2:9

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

STUDY 5

DISCOVERING YOURSELF THE EXPECTATION

INTRODUCTION

Now that you have, by the grace of God, become a child of God, you must now learn to live and operate successfully in your new home. This is necessary because the kind of life you were living before is a sharp contrast to your new life.

1. THE IMMEDIATE THINGS GOD EXPECTS FROM YOU

- Put off the old man and put on the new man - Matt. 9:16-17; Eph. 4:22-24. What are the things to put off? (Discuss) Eph. 4:25-32, Col. 3:5-10.
- Break all diplomatic relations with the devil and his kingdom - II Cor. 6:14-18, Eph. 5:11-12. What kind of relationships are we to break? (Discuss) Gal. 4:4-9; Ps. 1:1, Deut. 7:3-6, I Cor. 15:33; Jos. 23:12-13.
- Purify yourself, your thoughts and all you

have on a daily basis, in order to retain God there - I Cor. 3:16-17; Rom. 12:1-2, Phil. 4:8; Ex. 32:2,9. How can these be achieved? (Discuss) I Pet. 2:11; Jam. 4:7; Jn. 17:17; Prov. 23:26. *"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee"* - Psalm 119:11.

d. Have regular fellowship and unbroken personal relationship with Him (Discuss) Jn. 1:1-3; Jam. 4:8a. *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee..."* Isa. 26:3. Jesus Christ gave us a good example in Luke 6:12b.

e. Fellowship with other brethren at all times - Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 133:1-3.

Why is this type of fellowship very important?

Ecc. 4:9-10, Matt. 18:18-20; Deut. 32:30

f. Do all things in FAITH in order to please God. Gal. 3:11; Rom. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; Mk. 11:23-24. (Discuss) what is faith, Heb. 11:1. How can we receive the victorious kind of faith - Rom. 10:17. Examples of victorious faith - Rom. 4:19-22; Heb. 11:17-19; Dan. 3:17, 1Sam. 17:37.

THE IMMEDIATE THINGS TO EXPECT FROM THE WORLD

a. The world will hate you. Discuss why? John 15:18-19 Jn. 17:14; Matt. 5:44-48.

b. The world will persecute you - Jn. 15:20-21; John 16:33; II Tim. 3:12. Distinguish between persecution and accusation - I Pet. 4:12-16.

c. The world will want to lure you into doing

things of old Jam. 4:7, Prov. 1:10-15; Jam. 1:12-16; Tit. 2:11-12.

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 5:11

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

STUDY 6

LEARNING ABOUT THE BIBLE, THE TRINITY AND THE DEVIL

A. THE BIBLE

What is the Bible?

(i) The Bible is the spoken word of God - Josh. 1:8. Its authorship is by the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of inspired men of old - II Tim. 3:16-17, II Pet. 1:20-21; Isa. 55:11.

(ii) The Bible comprises a total of sixty-six books with thirty nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. (Memorise these books in the order in which they occur.)

(iii) The Bible is the CONSTITUTION of every believer. It answers question of life and nothing should be added or subtracted from it as it is dangerous to do so - Deut. 4:2, Rev. 22:18-19 Deut. 12:32.

(iv) The New Testament is the fulfillment and the perfection of the old - Matt. 5:17-19;

Rom. 3:31, Jam. 2:10.

What you expect to know from the Bible

- Mind of God - John 1:1, Jer. 29:11.
- State of man - Rom 3:23.
- Way of salvation - Acts 4:12, Rom. 3:24.
- Doom of sinners - Rom 6:23; Rev. 20:15; Jn. 3:36.
- Happiness of believers - Luke 10:20. John 14:1-4.
- Light to direct you - Psalm 119:105.
- Comfort to cheer you - II Cor. 1:4.
- Christ is shown as its grand subject - John 5:39.
- It is designed for your good - Ps. 197:11.

Doctrines of the Bible are:

- Holy - Psalm 19:7.
- Binding - Pro. 4:20-23.
- True - Rev. 15:3-4; Ps. 19:8.
- Immutable - Heb. 6:17-18.

What you should do with the Bible

- Read it to be wise - Psalm 119:98-100.
- Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully.
- Believed it to be saved - Acts 16:31.
- Practice it to be holy - Psalm 119:9.
- Meditate on it to be successful - Josh 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3.
- Study it to be approved of God - II Tim. 2:15.

TRINITY

Trinity means the union of three divine persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in one unified God-head.

Biblical foundation of the Doctrine of the Trinity

1. There are three divine persons that bear record in Heaven (I Jn. 5:7) and the three are one. They are: The Father John 6:27 I Pet. 1:2; Jesus Christ, John 1:1; Titus 2:13 and the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:3-4.
 2. The Trinity is seen at work in the creation. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: "- Gen. 1:26.
 3. At the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, the Lord God said, "...Behold, the man is become as one of us...", so, He (unity of Trinity) drove out man - Gen. 3:22-24.
 4. When God confounded the language of man at the Tower of Babel. "...Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language,..." so, the Lord scattered them abroad - Gen. 11:7-8.
 5. At the baptism of the Lord Jesus - Matt. 3:13-17. Identify the Members of the Trinity in this event.
 6. At the baptism of believers - Matt. 28:19.
 7. At benediction - II Cor. 13:14.
- In conclusion, the Bible says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: ..." (I Tim. 3:16). The doctrine of Trinity is a great mystery and cannot be explained exhaustively. It should, therefore, not be argued for it is a revealed truth - Deut. 29:29.

C. THE DEVIL

The Christian life is that of continuous warfare against our arch enemy, Satan, the devil.

Through the fall of man, man became his possession and pawn. When we are born again, however, this relationship is broken. Nevertheless, Satan does not give up easily. He fights desperately to regain us. The Bible tells us to resist the devil and give him no place in our lives. We need to know about his devices so as to know how to curb him and frustrate his counsels concerning us.

Some facts about the devil

1. He was an arch-angel in Heaven, having his angelic name as Lucifer - Isaiah 14:12.
 2. He was the leader of the angelic choir of God; no wonder he is leading a lot of people into perdition through music - Ezek. 28:12-14.
 3. He rebelled in Heaven due to pride with a third part of the angels. They were fought and sent packing from Heaven - Isa. 14:12-14, Ezek. 28:15-17, Rev. 12:7-9, Luke 10:18.
 4. He was responsible for the first fall of man - Gen. 3:1-7.
 5. He has ever remained the tempter and the accuser of the brethren - Matthew 4:1, Revelations 12:10.
 6. He is the author of sin, sickness and death - John 10:10.
 7. He will be chained and kept in the bottomless pit for one thousand years during the millennial reign - Rev. 20:1-3-10.
- What are we to do to the devil when he tries to tempt us? Jam. 4:7

Characteristics of the devil

- God is the only self-existing one, not

created. God created all other spiritual beings, angels, cherubim, seraphim and also Satan (Ezek. 28:13-15). Hence, like us, Satan is a created being - Col. 1:16.

- Satan is a spirit and has a personality, possesses life, intelligent, with will power and feelings. However, being a spirit, he does not possess a human body (neither tail nor horn).
- He is a thief - Matt. 13:19, John 10:10a. He is subtle - Gen. 3:1, 11 Cor. 1:3.
- He is a murderer - John 8:44.
- He is a deceiver - Rev. 12:9.
- He is the accuser of brethren - Rev. 12:10.
- He is the tempter - Matt. 4:1.

Limitations of Satan

- Limited in power - Job 1:10-12, Luke 22:31-22.
- Limited in time - Rev. 12:12, Matt. 8:29.
- Limited in location - Job 1:6-7.
- He does not have the 'Omni' qualities of God.

How to deal with the devil

- Submit yourself to God - Jam. 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:8.
- Resist the devil
- Be sober
- Be vigilant.

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Tim. 3:16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

QUIET TIME

Quiet time is the time set aside regularly to go to a quiet place and meet with God. It is the time set aside to communicate with the Father through the Living Word with the assistance of the Holy Spirit and also to bring our requests to God in prayer. Through quiet time we cultivate a relationship with God.

In this study, we shall discuss how to have effective quiet time on a daily basis with God.

WHY DO WE NEED QUIET TIME?

1. We need God's power to cope with daily activities - 1 Kings 19:7, Jn. 15:5, Isa. 40:31, Prov.3:5-6.
2. We pattern our lives after our Lord Jesus Christ's life by following His steps - Matt 14:23, Mk. 1:25, 6:46, 1 Pet. 2:21.
3. To cultivate a personal habit of worshipping the Lord and thereby help our personal devotion - 1 Pet. 2:2; Josh. 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 95:6.
4. To create personal adjustment to the teachings of the Bible, living by the word, reacting positively to the Bible - Jn. 1:12-14, Matt. 6:6, Phil. 2:1, 1 Pet 2:2, Jam. 1:21-25.
5. Create right reaction to trials and temptations that befall us. Substance already imparted in us help to react to situations and circumstances - 1 Pet. 1:3-7, Heb. 12:10-11, Jam. 1:2-4.

WHAT YOU REQUIRE FOR QUIET TIME

1. The Holy Bible (it is advisable to have more than one version and a good reference of the Bible by the side)
2. Hymn book/chorus book and dictionary.
3. Notebook and biro.
4. List of prayer points.
5. Aid: Open Heavens, etc.

Time And Place Of Quiet Time

1. Frequency. At least once a day - Dan.6:10.
2. Place: A quiet place.
3. Duration: To be determined by the believer such that it does not encroach on another activity for the day and keeping in mind that God deserves our best, not our left over.
4. Period of the day: At an acceptable time, preferably early in the morning.

Benefits of using the morning

- Waking thoughts are focused on God.
- Strength is received to meet the challenges of the day - Eph. 6:10-12.
- Great men of God, including Jesus, used early morning - Mark 1:35, Psalm 5:3, Gen.19:27.
- God appreciates it - Prov.8:17

Some suggestion on how to observe Quiet Time

- a. Begin with a short prayer asking the Author, the Holy Spirit to explain the Bible to you. Ps.119:18.
- b. You may sing a few songs\chorus Eph.5:19.

- c. Proceed to read the Bible thoughtfully, repeatedly.
- d. Patiently, prayerfully, meditatively, purposefully and telescopically providing answers to the following questions where applicable.

D. PRAYER

List all areas in which the word of God has touched you and pray on each of them. Some of the different types of prayers that could be offered include: thanksgiving, adoration, supplication, intercession etc.

- E. Maintain a balance between the time spent in prayer and study of the Bible

METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY DURING QUIET TIME

- By Chapters
- By paragraphs
- By verses
- By Books
- By Topics
- Through biography
- Study outlines, e.g. Daily Bread
- Everyday with Jesus, Open Heavens, etc.

The methods suggested are not exhaustive. Use all the Bible study methods available at different times to avoid monotony.

BENEFITS OF QUIET TIME

1. Provides an opportunity for the soul to linger in the presence of God, laying the innermost being before Him
2. Entering a reverent and affectionate yet fruitful conference with Him. Creates an atmosphere where God Speaks to you and

you speak back to Him.

3. Working knowledge of the Bible. We get to know God, His nature, character and ways.

- Is there a condition met?
- Is there a verse to memorise?
- Is there an error to mark?
- Is there a challenge to face?

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US:

1. By His Word. Psalm 119:105, Heb. 1:1.
2. By Dreams Joel 2:28; Job. 33:14-16; Gen. 31:11, 37:5-7
3. By vision. Acts 10:3; Joel 2:28; Isaiah 6:1-4
4. The Still Small Voice. I Kings. 19:12
5. Inward witness. Prov. 20:17; I Cor. 2:11
6. Audible Voice. Acts 10:13; I Sam. 1:4
7. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit e.g. prophesy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge etc. I Cor. 14:3-4; II Peter 1:19-21; Deut. 18:20, 21.

OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE QUIET TIME

Discuss Possible obstacles to a fruitful quiet time-haste, disturbance, bad planning, laziness, over-eating, monotony due to using one method of study.

CONCLUSION

- A fruitful and consistent quiet time brings out a balanced spiritual development in at least three different areas:
- Healthy and fruitful Bible Knowledge: Ps. 119:9, 11, 105; Eph. 3:16; II Tim. 2:15; Psalm 19:8; Hosea 4:6.
- Fruitful Prayer Life: Proverbs 28:9, 15:8, 29.

- An enviable Christian character: Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:2; Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 3:15-16.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 2:2

"As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby."

STUDY 8

TEACHING ON BAPTISM:

THREE KINDS OF BAPTISM FOR TRUE BELIEVERS

This very important study will look into the three types of baptisms every believer must undergo. These are the baptism into Christ and His body, baptism in water otherwise known as water baptism and lastly the Holy Spirit baptism.

A. Baptism Into Christ and His Body

What does it mean to be baptised into Christ? Discuss. 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:5; 1 Cor. 10:17. To be baptised into Christ is to become connected with the life of Christ. This means becoming regenerated. The agent who does or carries out this form of baptism is the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor. 12:13.

B. Water Baptism

Identify the scriptural evidence and mode of water baptism - Matt. 3:13-17; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12, 38; Acts 16:33; Acts 18:8.

1. Why water baptism must be by immersion

1. The word baptism in Greek is "Baptizo" which means to submerge or immerse.

2. It expresses the reality of burial with Christ (Rom. 6:4).

3. Bible references indicate it being carried out by and in the river. (Matt. 3:6,13)

2. The importance or significance of water baptism

1. It is an outward symbol of an inward reality of genuine conversion.

2. It is a symbol of identification with the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:3,6).

3. It is an open declaration of separation from the world.

4. It is to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfilling all righteousness. (Matt. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:21; Jn. 13:5.)

3. In whose name should water baptism be carried out?

Matt. 28:19. We are to be baptised in the name of God: the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The minister of God is the agent of this type of baptism.

4. How appropriate or scriptural is infant baptism? Discuss Acts 8:12. The Scripture demands repentance towards God and faith towards Christ (Acts 20:21) as basic conditions for water baptism and no child can do this until he is matured enough to understand sin and what to do to be saved.

Water baptism is a command; it is not optional so long as a believer remains alive after conversion - Mk. 16:16.

C. Baptism with the Holy Spirit

1. The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit is different from His work of baptism. In regeneration, there is impartation of the Holy Spirit, while in Holy Spirit baptism there is impartation of divine power for effective Christian service - Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8:1-4.
2. What is the immediate outward sign of the Holy Spirit baptism? Acts 2:4, Acts 8: 17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6-7.

Why is Holy Spirit baptism important? Discuss

- a. It gives power for effective and result oriented Christian service - Acts 1:8; 2:41.
- b. It imparts boldness for service - Acts 2:14; Acts 4:31; Prov. 28:1.
- c. At regeneration, we have Holy Spirit as resident in the believer but at the Holy Spirit baptism, we have Him as the president.
- d. The foundation is laid for the operation of gifts of the spirit in the life of a believer - I Cor. 12:4-14.

3. Who should receive this baptism and when?

Discuss Mk. 16:17; Acts 10:44; Lk. 11:9-13; Acts 5:32. Every obedient child of God as at and when required. The Agent of this Baptism is Jesus Christ - John 14:16-17.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 6:4

"Therefore we are buried with him by

baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

STUDY 9 PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Personal Evangelism is a person to person sharing of the Gospel message with the aim of leading the individual to Christ. There is no greater joy than seeing a soul coming to Christ. Moreover, the Bible says, he that winneth soul is wise - Prov. 11:30. One of the primary reasons we are still alive after we received Christ is to be fishers of men (Matt. 4:19).

1. What is evangelism and its pre-requisites?

Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:47; I Tim. 1:15, Rom. 1:16; I Jn. 4:8; Matt. 8:5-13; Lk. 9:53.

2. (a) Why must we win souls?

Ezek. 33:7-9; Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20; Jn. 15:16; 14:6; 20:21-23.

(b) Why is it urgent? John 4:35-38; Matt. 9:36-37.

3. How long does it take after new birth to witness? John 1:40-42; 4:25-30, 39.

4. How often and where should a Christian witness?

Acts 5:42; 2:46-47; 20:20; II Tim. 4:2.

What are the results of these? Acts 6:7;

19:10; II Cor. 5:15-20.

1. What things make for effective personal evangelism?

Psalms 126:5-6 Matt. 10:16; I Cor. 13:1-3; Lk. 9:53-55; Matt. 8:5-13; II Cor. 5:14; Prov. 16:1; I Tim. 2:1-4.

2. a. Discuss practical problems that are likely to be encountered in personal Evangelism.

b. What rewards await a faithful Christian witness? I Thess. 2:19; Dan. 12:3; II Tim. 4:7-8; John 15:1-2, 7, 8.

CONCLUSION

This study is not just a theory; something in anticipation of an examination. It is not the hearer only that will be justified but the doer of the word. Start personal evangelism after this study.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 9:16

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

ASSIGNMENT: (a) Role play in the class. (b) Proceed on evangelism together with your teacher.

NOTE: This study is deliberately made short to enable you put into practice what you have just learnt.

STUDY 10

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

As every society has its own set of governing rules and regulations, so it is in the kingdom of God. The Bible, the kingdom's constitution and manual, gives a code of conduct which a Christian is to wholly identify with. In this study, we shall examine and discuss Bible accepted ways of behaving concerning the following:

MALICE: Malice can be defined as having a desire to harm others, or ill will. To this effect, malice is an aberration to any child of God, therefore, put it away - Eph. 4:31-32, lay it aside - I Pt. 2:1 - put it off - Col. 3:8. Restore relationship immediately with anyone with whom you have been keeping malice.

STRIFE: This involves contending or struggling with people of opposing views. At times, hot and abusive words are exchanged. However, we should not allow issues to degenerate into this state or be influenced by the spirit of strife - II Tim. 2:24; Phil. 2:3. Strife leads to uncontrollable situations - Prov. 17:14; Prov. 26:17. It is a honour for a man to desist from strife - Prov. 20:3; Titus 3:9.

The example of Jesus Christ should be followed, who did nothing through strife of vain glory and at the end of His ministry here on earth, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above every other name - Phil.

2:5-11. If the spirit of strife is still operating in you, then you are still carnal - I Cor. 3:3; I Cor. 6:6. Therefore, rebuke it and cast it out of your life.

ENVY/JEALOUSY: It is defined as the grief or annoyance felt at the happiness or fortune of another. Some biblical examples include: Cain (Genesis 4:3-9); Saul (I Samuel 18:7-9); the Pharisees (Matt. 13:55-57); the High Priest (Acts 5:12-18). The sin of envy is no respecter of persons. It often arises from the fact that what we desire most is possessed by someone else (II Cor. 10:12). It could be position, money, physical or spiritual gifts, recognition, relationship etc. It creeps in when we turn our eyes on others. If allowed to grow, it can breed hatred and evil actions/words.

To be free from this vice, turn your eyes always on God for help. Hebrews 12:1, Psalm 121:1. John the Baptist handled jealousy rightly - Jn. 3:2:5-27

ANGER: Anger is a destructive spirit. The Bible regards a person who is easily angry as foolish - Eccl. 7:9. Words spoken and actions taken in anger, even with seemingly genuine reasons for anger, are often done without depth of thought and could derail God's plan for man. God's righteousness are not compatible. (Jas. 1:20 and Prov. 19:19). Do not accept anger or bad temper as your nature. (II Peter 1:4). A controllable spirit is a mark of wisdom. (Prov. 16:32; Prov. 19:11). Jesus had every reason to be angry but He did not (Matt. 11:19, Mk. 3:21, Jn. 7:20, Jn. 18:30, Matt. 26:67).

UNFORGIVENESS: (Matt. 18:23-35) The Bible regards a person with an unforgiving spirit as wicked (Matt. 18:32 and Isa. 3:11). Unforgiveness has many side effects: bitterness and revenge (II Sam. 13:20-28); hindrances to prayers (Mk. 11:2526); exposure to the devil, the tormentor (Matt. 18:34) who could bring affliction or opens one up to other sins. It could make you indifferent or happy at the sufferings of others (II Sam. 16:58). You must also forgive yourself after repentance as you cannot be more grieved than God over your sins. Take time now to identify those you have hurt that you have not forgiven or vice versa (Col. 3:13, Eph. 4:32). Do not allow another person's sinful nature to hinder you from making Heaven.

N.B: The weak never forgives because it is a characteristic of the strong. Unforgiveness is naturally followed by revenge.

GOSSIP: This is idle-talk or rumours about others - Num. 12:1. Only very few Christians own up to this little fox that destroys God's vineyard. The consequences include betrayal of confidence (Prov. 11:13), character assassination (Prov. 18:8), separation of friends (Prov. 16:28), revealing problems they should discuss with God alone to fellowmen (I Tim. 5:13). Ensure you spread only good news and not the weakness of others.

STEALING: This is taking possession of what does not belong to you. Examples of those who stole in the Bible are Rachael (Gen. 31:19, Judas, Jn. 12:4-6), Onesimus (Philemon). One

can steal from God (Mal. 3:8), parents (Prov. 28:24) employees wages (Lev. 19:13 Jas. 5:4), employer's time and property, others. A thief is under a curse (Zech. 5:1,4), bound to be destroyed (Prov. 21:17 shares a common name with the devil (Jn. 10:10a). If you are involved in stealing under whatever name, repent today (Eph. 4:28) as Onesimus did because no thief will make Heaven - I Cor. 6:10.

CRUELTY: This is a state of showing indifference to another's suffering or causing a person to suffer. Some believers still manifest the spirit of cruelty and wickedness at home or at work and this should not be. Cruelty bounces back (Prov. 11:17). Let not mercy depart from you Prov. 3:3; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:7; Lk. 6:36.

PRIDE: This occurs when you hold a high opinion of yourself or achievements. It is also the actions (in thoughts, words or deeds) you exhibit because of the relative advantage you have over others (Jer. 9:23-24). Some causes of pride:

Status (Family, position within and outside the family), knowledge, physical endowments (appearance talents) and spiritual gifts, etc.

Some biblical examples include: Satan (Isa. 14:12-16), Goliath (I Sam. 17:42-44, 49-50), Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4:30-33), Herod (Acts 12:21-23). Ahithophel (II Sam. 16:23 and II Sam. 17:23). Pride comes with undesirable consequences: Destruction (Prov. 16:18), an ingredient in

every quarrel (Pro. 13:10), self-dependence (Psalm 10:4), far from God (Psalm 138:6), abomination to God (Prov. 16:6-7, frustration in life (James 4:6), rejection of God's word - Jer. 43:2.

If you want to be free from pride, you must address your heart and identify with the mind of God (Phil. 2:5-8). You must recognise God as the ultimate giver (Jn. 3:27, 1 Cor. 4:7.) Cultivate a humble spirit (Mt. 3:11, Phil. 3:4-10; Acts 3:12). Prefer others in love (Phil. 2:3).

WORRY: This is a state when someone has no peace of mind concerning the past, present or future issues of life. It is the devil's tool for tormenting an individual and it is a proof that one's eyes are not focused on God and His power. Give example of those who worried in the Bible.

Worry comes with spiritual and emotional consequences: sin against God and hence His wrath (Gen. 19:32-36, 32:2-5), loss of faith in God's power (II Chr. 16:12), health is impaired, (Prov. 17:22), loss of God-given peace of mind (II Tim. 1:7, John 14:27), opens the door for demons to come in (Eccl. 10:8b).

PANACEA

Identify how you allowed the spirit of worry to gain access into you. Admit your worrying as disobedience to God's law (Phil. 5:5,22, Phil. 4:6-8). Ponder on God's almightiness and take stock of past blessings with a grateful heart. Ps. 103. Search for God's will concerning the problems and remind God of His unfailing promises. Ask God for serenity to accept what

cannot be changed (Rom. 8:28, II Cor. 12:9), courage to change what should be changed (I Sam. 4:5-11) and wisdom to distinguish one from another (Jam. 1:5). Worry is said to be like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but it does not get you anywhere.

CONCLUSION

Any believer that still harbours one or more of the above ugly dispositional flaws shall be unfruitful and shall never be a vessel meant for the Lord's use. Such unsaintly saints only succeed in keeping unbelievers away from the gospel than otherwise.

MEMORY VERSE: I Corinthians 14:40

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

STUDY 11

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE

Discipline is defined as the training of the mind and body to produce self control, orderliness, obedience and capacity for cooperation. In the army, a soldier is expected to be disciplined and to distinguish himself from civilians. In like manner a Christian as a soldier of Christ (II Tim. 2:3-4) is expected to be disciplined and to behave differently from unbelievers.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE

Practically discuss how a Christian should

discipline himself in the following aspects of life:

(a) **Use of Tongue:** (Jas. 3:2-10) This little member can be used positively to offer praises and prayers to God (Jas. 5:13), preach the word (Jas. 5:10), confession of sins and our faith (I Jn. 1:9 and II Kings 4:25-26), confession unto salvation (Rom. 10:10), turn situations around (Col. 4:6, Prov. 15:1). It could also be used negatively to curse men (Jas. 1:9b), complain (Jas. 5:9) and swear (Jas. 5:12). What does your tongue do? Boast, a wall of fire, an unruly evil full of deadly poison? When last did you use the words: "Please" or "Thank you"? Words take their root from an unregenerated heart (Jer. 17:9) and thereof, an unregenerated tongue. The Bible enjoins us to care for our heart (Prov. 4:23) because it determines our fate. (Matt. 12:37).

In the law court, we can affirm our words instead of swearing.

(b) **Moderation in all things:** (Eating, sleeping, dressing, spending, over speeding, etc.) - Phil. 4:5; Prov. 23:21; Phil. 3:19; Prov. 20:13; I Timothy 2:9; Deut 22:5.

(c) **Debt of:**

(i) **Money** - Rom 13:7-8; Deut. 28:13

(ii) **Promise or vow** - Ps. 105:7-10; Etc. 5:2-5; Num. 30:2

(iii) **Time** - Eccl. 3:1-8; 9:10

(iv) **Preaching the gospel** - I Cor 9:16-17; II Tim. 4:12 Romans 1:16

(d) **Punctuality, self-control orderliness at**

meetings: 1 Cor. 14:40

(e) **Diligence in work:** Prov. 22:29; 24:30-31; 11 Thess 3:10.

(f) **Respect for one another especially elders, ministers, and leaders in the church:** 1 Tim. 5:12,17; Heb.13:17; Lev. 19:32.

(g) **Respect for parents and the law of the land:** Eph. 6:1-3; Matt. 15:14; 1 Pet 2:13-17; Titus 3:1.

(h) **Rebellion especially against church leaders:** Num.12:1-10; Num. 16:1-5, 28-33; Heb. 13:17; Josh. 1: 16, 18; 11 Pet. 2:10-13.

(i) **Going to dancing halls, cinema halls, revellings, etc.** 11 Tim. 2:19-21, 1 Thess 5:22; 1 Pet. 4:3; Eph. 5:11-12. Attempt not to go where God cannot go with you.

Conclusion

By doing things "decently and in order" in the church, holiness will surely be reflected in the body of Christ. Our salvation takes us away from certain behaviours and connects us to Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 4:5

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

Home Work:

Read Isaiah 58:1-14 against next study.

Discuss the abuse of fasting in vs.3-5.

STUDY 12

THE BIBLICAL FASTING AND PRAYER

INTRODUCTION:

Biblical fasting is imperative for members of the body of Christ. it is essential among other things, to deal with the flesh, that fallen nature, which is still much around to prevent us from prospering in the things of the Spirit. Apostle Paul said, "*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:....*" (1 Cor. 9:27).

A. What is fasting?

Fasting means abstinence. Biblical fasting means abstaining from food and drinks (depending on the duration) for a period. Thus, fasting is an act of denying ourselves of things that give us pleasure with a view to suppressing the flesh and uplifting the spirit. Fasts could be divided as follows:

(i) **Absolute Fast:** Abstinence from food and water for a stipulated period of time by the one undergoing the fast. After three days, it is medically advisable to drink water.

(ii) **Normal Fast:** This is one in which we can take a meal after 24 hours. However, water may be taken in between depending on the duration of the fast.

B. Who should fast?

- (i) Individual believer - II Sam. 12:16, II Cor. 6:5; 11:27.
- (ii) Group of believers - Acts 13:1-3.
- (iii) A whole nation Jonah, 3:5-9; Esther 4:15-17

C. What fasting is set to achieve - Isa 58:6-9

- 1. To lose the bands of wickedness - vs.6.
- 2. To undo the heavy burdens - vs. 6.
- 3. To let the oppressed go free - vs.6
- 4. To break every yoke - vs. 6.
- 5. To give bread to the hungry - vs. 7.
- 6. To restore the poor - vs. 7.
- 7. To clothe the naked - vs.7.
- 8. Not to hide from relatives who need your help - vs. 7.

All this is summarised in Jam. 1:27. It should be pointed out here that whether or not you are fasting, you are expected to live a life of practical daily holiness - 1 Peter 1:15,16.

D. Other advantages of fasting

- 1. It puts down our flesh and increases our spiritual capacity, strength and awareness. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength ..." Isa. 40:31; Ps. 35:13.
- 2. It makes clearer the purpose of God in your situation as you become more receptive in the spirit.
- 3. You possess keener perception of divine things and clarity of thought.
- 4. Fasting helps to kindle and develop faith. Through fasting spiritual fire is

kindled and faith operates well.

- 5. It helps break the power of Satan and brings about deliverance and healing - Mk. 9:28-29.
- 6. It improves your prayer life tremendously. Lk. 11:9-11
- 7. It enhances continuous flow of anointing.

E. When do we fast?

- 1. When asking for divine secrets - Dan. 9:3,20-22; 10:2-3.
- 2. When in danger - Acts 27:21-25; Jonah 1:17;2:1.
- 3. When taking crucial decisions - Esther 4:15-16.
- 4. When sick and in need of deliverance - Mk. 9:29.
- 5. When preparing for a great task, revival, etc - Matt. 4:1-3.
- 6. When asking God for intervention - Neh. 1:3-4 II Chron.20:3-10.
- 7. When interceding for other people - Dan. 9:3.
- 8. We fast so that our spirit will readily be alive when God speaks - Acts 13:2-4.

F. How to operate biblical fasting

- 1. One who is fasting needs to be very close to God, seeking His face in prayers and supplication for the duration of the fast. As already mentioned, there must be abstinence from food and drinks.
- 2. Where the fast goes beyond three days, pure, warm and adequate water should be taken.

3. Where the person fasting needs to undertake some heavy tasks or undertake long distant journeys, other liquid drinks will be advisable.
4. The duration of a fast should be a covenant between you and God and the purpose must be very clear, else, the fast may be a waste of time, a hunger strike, or dieting.
5. During periods of fasting, those who are married must be like those who are not, that is, abstaining from, sexual relationship - 1 Cor. 7:5.
6. There must be concerted prayers, adequate meditation on the word and listening distinctly to the Holy Spirit for the duration of the fast.
7. When the days are fulfilled, withdrawing from the fast should be done with all caution and discipline. You need to exercise more self control than when you were fasting so that your health is not impaired.

G. What fasting does to your health

1. Medical science tells us that fasting is excellent for good health. The digestive system should be given periodic rest.
2. Overweight and obese people are advised to fast in order to reduce weight. The slogan is, "After you feast, you should fast."
3. It is very good for serious students to fast occasionally. It increases the flow of blood to the brain.

PRAYER

i Prayer can be defined as divine communication with God or fellowship with God. It is a dialogue and waiting to hear from God - 1 Sam 1:15, Isa, 26:16. Prayer is also pouring out of the heart before God - Ps. 62:8.

ii Discuss the Model Prayer - Matt. 6:9-13.

iii Why do we need prayers?

- For God's power to cope with daily activities - Pro. 3:5-6.
- In order to be like Jesus - Mk. 1:35.
- For God's power to live an overcoming life.

- To create right reactions to trials and tribulations - Jam. 1:24.

- To discover God's will in whatever situation we find ourselves.

iv. Requirements for effective prayer

- Faith - Heb. 11:6, Ps. 27:13; Mk. 11:23.
- Boldness - Heb. 4:16; Isa. 41:21; Isa. 43:26.
- Humility - Lk. 18:16-21; Isa. 57:15.
- Renewed mind - Jer. 3: 15; 1 Sam. 2:35.
- Wait on the Lord - Isa. 40:31; Prov. 20:22.
- v. Types of prayer - Matt. 6:9-13.
- Thanksgiving - Phil. 4:6
- Adoration
- Supplication
- Intercession
- Petition

CONCLUSION

Apostle Paul declared that he was "fasting often" II Cor. 11:27. Every believer should have

a regular period of fasting every week, and pray every day. Jesus, David, Paul and even the Pharisees fasted and prayed. Do nothing to indicate to people that you are fasting if you desire a reward from it - Matt. 6:16-18.

MEMORY VERSE: MARK 9:29

"And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

STUDY 13 DIVINE HEALING

Our God is the Almighty one and His knowledge of us can be likened to that of a manufacturer of an engine who must know all intricacies of the engine. As the Chief Architect of our nature and /or the manufacturer of all parts of our body, He knows what to do to any part that falls out of harmony at any point in time He wants to heal us. We only limit His power if we deny His healing power today. We need His healing touch today, more than as obtained during Christ's life ministry and the apostolic age.

A. THE ORIGINAL STATE OF MAN

The Bible in Psalm 139:14 says we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This implies the perfect state of man at creation after God finished creating man. He looked and considered the work He created and certified and pronounced that it was very good - Gen.

1:31. So, God created man perfect; no ailment, no disability, no disease and no sickness. In His own perfect image created He man (Gen. 1:27).

B. THE SOURCES OF ILLNESS

The maxim that there in "no curse without cause" is very relevant to our point of consideration here since there is as well no sickness without source. Some sources of illness are:

1. **Sin:** Man was tempted, sinned and fell in the Garden of Eden - Gen. 3:1-6. Since God could no longer dwell in man because of indwelling sin, the original state of perfection was lost. The presence of sin in man implies the presence of the devil. The presence of Satan means problem, woes, sickness, afflictions, etc. The devil is the author of them all and there is nothing good in him - John 10:10a; Lk 13:14-16.

2. Malnutrition

3. **Over eating:** Overworking the systems of the body will break them down - Prov. 23:21. Here, over-eating (gluttony) is likened to drunkenness.

4. **Curses and demonic attack:** Luke 13:16; Acts 13:9-11, Job 1:8-12; 2:7.

5. **Other sources:** Can be through overworks, sleeplessness, restlessness, anxiety and worries Prov. 17:22 Prov. 15:13.

C. HEALING IN JESUS' NAME

Our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again to

guarantee us perfect redemption. Part of the redemption package is our good health and power over sickness and disease - II Jn.2 Isa. 53:3-5, Matt. 8:17; I Peter 2:24; Luke 9:1-2. Through redemption, we have been brought back to our former position. However, because we lost that position to Satan, he is not going to let go easily unless we send him packing by violence! (Matt. 11:12).

Ways of receiving our healing

1. Prayer by the sick person - Jam. 5:13; 16b; Jn.14:13-14; Phil. 2:9-11. Nothing hinders the devil from trying you with a sickness and nothing stops you from rejecting his offer and dispatching it back to him with the speed of the spirit of the Lord and in the name of Jesus. When you are ill, check your life if there is any sin there. Confess and repent of it, if there is, and thereafter pray a prayer of healing for yourself and the result will amaze you if you do all things by faith - II Kings 20:3-5.

2. By united or communal prayer of two or more brethren - Matt. 18:19; Jam. 5:16a. This is why you need to belong to a House Fellowship nearest to you.

3. By laying hands on the sick person - Mark 16:18, Acts 17:18, Acts 28:8. This must be done with caution. Ensure you have consecrated your life and you are living holy before laying hands on the sick - II Cor. 8:5; Rom 12:1,6:13. Anointing the sick with oil and prayer of faith by elders - James 5:14-15. There should be no unscriptural ceremonies like ritual washing, burning candles, holy water,

putting on a cross etc. The Bible says the prayer of faith and nothing else - Mark 5:25-29.

D. HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEALING AND REMAIN HEALTHY

1. You must be born again - John 3:3,16, 36. Note that healing is the children's bread - Mark 7:24-27.
2. After salvation, you must live in obedience. Touch no sin anymore - Deut. 7:12; 15; Isa 1:8-20; John 5:14; Jam. 4:7.
3. Worship God continually in spirit and in truth - John 4:24.
4. Fast and pray often. Isaiah 58:6-8
5. When Satan tries you with illness, confess what the word of God says about your healing and claim the promises. Confess strength at all times and not weakness - I Cor. 3:16-17. Joel 13:10.

CONCLUSION

The realm at which divine healing is operated is the realm of dominion. God wants to take you there. To seek refuge at the medicine shops at every appearance of illness is not sinful but indicates you are still far from where God wants you to be. Develop a strong faith against sickness today based on the word of God and you will in no time find yourself walking in the realm of dominion.

MEMORY VERSE: I Peter 2:24

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to

sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

STUDY 14 RESTITUTION, MORAL ISSUES & MONEY MATTERS

This study will take us through three different topics as outlined above.

A. RESTITUTION

What is restitution and how do we retribute? - Lev. 6:1-7, Luke 19:8.

Restitution involves restoring to the owner all things taken by falsehood, confessing all lies told and bringing all those we have deceived into the true picture of things Prov. 6:30-31, Acts 24:16, Ezek. 33:14-16, II Sam. 12:1-6, Phil. 1, Lev. 6:2-5. It is being willing to let the Lord expose and then heal painful areas of our past. God commands that restitution be made. Restitution leaves behind an indelible testimony with the one with whom restitution is made. When an unbeliever is involved, it becomes a means of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. When a delicate restitution is to be made, involving unsaved ones, undoing wrongs done against organisations, or those that affect marriage relationship etc, prayer and counseling from men of God may be required.

B. MORAL ISSUES

God's standard does not change with time and His views have not changed on the following:

Adultery: What is adultery? Does it belong to the Old Testament period? - Ex. 20:14, I Cor. 6:9-10. It involves breaking solemn marriage vows and defiling the conjugal bed - I Cor. 6:15-16, Heb 13:4.

Fornication: What is fornication? Is virginity outdated? - I Cor. 6:13, 18a, Eph. 5:3, Rom 12:2. The fact that fornication is a common practice does not make it acceptable to God. Keep yourself pure.

Sexual Perversion: What does it mean? - Lev. 18:22-23, Rom. 1:26-27. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah.

Flirting: Defined as showing attention or affection without intentions. Love is too serious for play-acting. Paul warned Timothy I Tim. 5:2 Do not send out wrong signals - Rom. 14:16; Eph. 4:27. Be wise; ensure you keep a safe distance from a member of the opposite gender you are not convinced that you are meant for each other.

Danger of moral indecency

1. God regards it as a waste of resources - Proverbs 29:3.
2. As a vow breaker, one is under a curse - Isa. 54:5, Malachi 2:14.
3. Desecrates the blood-purchased property of Jesus and, hence, attracts destruction - I

Cor. 6:19-20.

4. It is a sin against one's body - I Cor. 6: 18.
5. Opens a doorway for Satan's attack. Eccl. 10:8b. The world may outwardly laugh at you, yet, inwardly admire Christians who have the courage to stand up to their moral chastity.

Holy Marriage: Courtship

What is the sound and Bible approved way of getting engaged as believers? - I Sam. 16:7 Gen. 24:1-4, I Thess. 4:1-7. Name the elements of undefiled courtship? Petting, romance and sex should be strictly avoided during courtship - Prov 9:17-18, Heb. 13:4. Ensure that you and your intended spouse have a common understanding of the key doctrines of the Bible - Heb. 6:1-2.

Marriage

No marriage must be contracted with unbelievers - II Cor. 6:14-17, Amos 3:3. Any marriage contracted outside God's plan will often give birth to troubles. If you are already married to an unbeliever, God can use you to bless your unbelieving partner - I Cor. 7:14.

Divorce/Separation

God initiated marriage - Gen. 2:24. God is against divorce - Matt. 19:6, Matt. 5:32, Mal. 2:13-16. Putting away and remarriage constitute adultery - Mark 10:11-12. Only death should separate a couple - Romans 7:2-3. Love renders divorce irrelevant in marriage - I Cor. 13:4-7.

C. MONEY MATTERS

Handling Money

The Bible does not condemn money but gives some safe guidelines on the attitude of the Christian towards money.

1. Do not love money - I Tim. 6:6-10. The remedy is contentment with what God Provides.
2. Do not be preoccupied with searching for money at the expense of God - Matt. 6:33.
3. Do not hoard it - Matt. 6:19, I Tim 6:17. Your financial strength has no bearing in Heaven or hell. A note of caution - I Tim. 5:8.
4. Do not worship money - Matt. 6:24, Prov. 11:28. Money should not be your God. No idolaters shall inherit the kingdom of God.
5. Do not live in debts as a way of life. The only Bible recommended debt is love - Romans 13:8.
6. Remember you have been bought with a price (I Cor. 6:20). Your money is the property of your Master. You are only a custodian - I Cor. 4:2-7, Deut. 8:18.
7. Do not put your trust in your money - I Timothy 6:17, Psalm 62:10b.
8. Do not be involved in extortion, bribery and corruption - Isa. 33:15.

Biblical principles of giving

The following principles of giving should be observed:

Why do you give?

Love for God - Jn.3:16. Following after God - John 3:16. Recognise the ultimate giver - Deut. 8: 16. An opportunity to sow and bless someone - Prov 14:21. Avoid the trap of stinginess - Prov. 11:25-26, II Cor. 9:6.

What do you give?

Skills, Time, Prayers, Substance - Ex. 35:4-35.

To whom do you give?

God's work - Exodus 35:29, spiritual leaders - Gal. 6:6 and the less privileged - Prov.19:17.

How do you give?

1. Freely and cheerfully - Prov. 11:24; II Cor. 9:7. It attracts God's favourable attention.
2. In proportion to and at times beyond your means - Acts 11:29, II Cor. 8:13, Mark 12:44.
3. Give without publicity - Matthew 6:14.

Note: Wealth made through unethical/corrupt means and given for God's cause cannot pacify God - Psalm 26:9-19, I Cor. 6:9-10. You cannot buy a good relationship with God.

Tithes in the Church

Tithes is one tenth of your total or gross income. It belongs to God - Mal. 3:8-12, Lev. 27:30. Paying of tithes is NOT a sacrifice but an act of returning to God what He has given you that belongs to Him. It is not optional

Why pay tithes?

- a. To follow biblical footsteps. It was given before the law - Gen. 28:22, commanded

- by God as a law - Lev. 27:30-32. Jesus advised against the neglect - Matt. 23:23.
- b. To honour God and support the church.
 - c. It does not belong to you but God. Spending it is robbing God - Mal. 3:8.

How to pay tithes?

Must be done cheerfully, not grudgingly. Must be done with a heart of gratitude. Must be seen as an opportunity to give back to God.

When to Pay: Tithe is to be paid promptly with a heart of gratitude and a sense of urgency - Lev. 22.29, 27:31.

Note: Pay your tithes to the church where the truth is preached.

Benefits of tithing:

Evidence of faith in God.
Joy of the abundance in the house of God.
Divine blessings beyond your comprehension.
God rebukes the devourer for your sake.

Offering:

What are offerings? - Deut. 12:6. They are gifts that you give to God in addition to your tithe. Endeavour not to come into God's presence empty handed - Deut. 16:16. Offering is often mentioned together with tithes. While tithes open the window of Heaven, offering determines how wide it should be opened - Lk. 6:38. Your offering should be given prayerfully and systematically. Not rummaging round your pocket/hand bag at the last moment.

Dangers of neglect of tithes and offerings

- One is directly under a curse from the highest authority (Mal. 3:9).
- Opens a door for the devourer to attack you (Ecc.8:10b, 1 Pet 5:7).
- It is stealing from God's storehouse and thieves are not Heaven-bound (1 Cor. 6:10).
- You become irrelevant to the plan of God as His plans will run without your money (Hag.2:8, Psalm 50:10).

CONCLUSION:

If your money represents your time, strength, talents and inheritance, then it is scriptural to allow God control your money. The way we handle money (no matter if we have a lot or a little) shows an indication of our true relationship with God who gave His only Son. Satan can use money or lack of it to separate us from God. A believer's attitude towards money should, therefore, be guided by integrity, generosity and stewardship and not by selfishness and materialism. What is your guiding attitude towards money?

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 1:19

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:"

a. To follow biblical footsteps. It was given before the law - Gen. 28:22, commanded

STUDY15 DELIVERANCE (1)

- OBADIAH 1:17

Deliverance is setting someone free John 8:32, expelling of demons, breaking of yokes - Isaiah 10:27; Ezek. 34:27, removing curses - Psalm 78:63 and loosening of bonds Luke 10:19. There are four different types of deliverance mentioned in the Bible:

1. Deliverance from sin - Col. 9:27.
2. Deliverance from the flesh - 1 Cor. 9:27.
3. Deliverance from troubles - Job 5:19.
4. Deliverance from demons - Matt. 8:16, 1 Jn. 3:8.

This study will focus on deliverance from demons; how they come in, how to obtain our deliverance and how to stay delivered.

God's plan is that our body should be the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20) but the devil's desire is to seek to invade the body of man. The triune man (Spirit, Soul and Body) must be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. HOW DEMONS GAIN ACCESS TO MAN

Demons cannot just decide to possess or oppress a man without cause - Prov. 26:2, Eccl. 10:8b. Covenants, curses and sins give demons legal authority over the life of a person, community, nation or race.

COVENANT: This is an agreement between two or more parties. It could be holy or demonic. Any violation will always attract some form of penalty. Types of covenants include: blood covenants - Gen. 17:10; 1 Cor. 11:25; Lev. 21:5, peace covenants - Jos. 5. 9:14.15, marriage covenants - Mal. 2:14, oaths Gen. 31:48, meal covenant - Ps. 106:20. Give examples of unholy covenants

CURSE: This is often the result of violating the articles of a covenant or the result of sins against God's laws - Gen. 3:14-19; Jos. 6:26; 1 Kings. 16:34; 1Sam. 21:1-2; Mal. 1:12-14; 2:1-2; 3:8-10; Gen. 31:32; Gen. 35:1619

Who can curse?

1. God -Deut. 28:15.
2. Self - Rebecca, Benaiah, the Israelites (Gen.27:13, 1 Kings. 2:30-31, Matt. 27:25).
3. Those in authority, leaders, parents, husbands; pastors etc. (Gen 49:3-7, 1 Sam. 20:30-31).
4. Aggrieved - 11 Kings. 2:23-24, Gen. 31:32 and 35: 16-18, satanic agents - Num 23:7.

CAN CURSES BE CANCELLED? YES

Curse	By who	Cancelled	By who
Gen. 49:1-7	Jacob	Deut. 33:6-11	Moses
Josh. 6:17	Joshua	11 Kings. 2:19-22	Elisha

A man of authority can in the name of Jesus cancel the curse placed by another person. God can cancel all curses.

SIN: There are three major doorways of sin

that gives Satan the authority to cause havoc in the lives of people.

(a) INHERITANCE AND RELATIONAL

DISGUISES

Exodus 20:2-5; 11 Cor. 6:14. Just because a person cooperates with another in business or a person is born or married into a particular family may qualify Him/her for demonic influences - 1 Kings 21:21-36; 11 Chronicles 21:1-6; 18:20; 11Chro. 22:7-9; Chronicles 24:1-2.

(b) OCCULTIST INVOLVEMENT: Lev. 19:28-31;

Lev. 21:15; Deut.14:1-2.

Social: House warming, wedding, child-naming, funeral rituals, Chieftaincy Conferment.

Festivals: Involvements in traditional dances, masquerades and other cultural festivals.

Consultation: Seeking for guidance and spiritual solutions to life's problems, protection from enemies, barrenness, sicknesses, and promotion in business\work.

Religious disguise: Islam, Catholicism, Rosicrucian's, Jehovah Witness, Christian Science,

AMORC, ROF, Mormons, white garment churches (angel worship Col.2:18, special names - Deut.29:29, incense burning - 11Cor. 10:3-6, candle praying - Jam.5:13:16, sacrifices - Heb.10:1-4, 26, special use of Psalms - 11Timothy 3:16, visions and prophecies - 11 Tim.4:1-5, Deut.13:1-5 water bath as against water

baptism etc.

C. SEXUAL SINS - II Cor. 3:16-17

Fornication, adultery, prostitution, pornography, x-rated movies, sexual perversion, masturbation, lesbianism, homosexuality, incest, etc.

A. Three sins God will personally judge:

- a. Not taking good care of His temple Hagai 1:2.
- b. Non payment of tithes.
- c. Adultery and fornication 1 Cor.6:9-11, 1 Cor.3:16-17.

B. OTHERS: - Deut. 34:9, II Tim. 1:7, 11 Kings 2:12, Zech. 5:1-4 touching the dead, shock, grief, transference, stealing, etc.

MEMORY VERSE: Obadiah 1:17.

"But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

STUDY 16

DELIVERANCE (2)

:JOHN 8:32, 36

A. CAN A CHRISTIAN HAVE A DEMON?

Nature of man: spirit, soul and body - Thess 5:23, Heb. 4:12.

Man is a spirit, has a soul and lives in a body.

1. CAN DEMONS INHABIT THE SPIRIT OF A CHRISTIAN?

NO! At new birth, the spirit is recreated and becomes the abode of God - 11 Cor. 5:17, Jn. 14:23, John 8:12 and 1 Cor. 6:17, II Cor. 6:14.

To keep your spirit from attacks of the enemy, you have to:-

- * Feed on the word for strength - Luke 4:4.
- * Charge your spiritual battery - Jude 1:20.

11. CAN THE SOUL (MIND, WILL AND EMOTIONS) OF A CHRISTIAN BE DEMONIZED? YES

The new birth is a rebirth of the spirit and not the soul. Since the soul is not saved at new birth, it can be oppressed, obsessed or possessed by demons - Matt. 16:22-23, Acts 5:1-4, 1 Cor. 3:3. Note that demonic attack on the soul could be from within or outside the soul.

To keep the soul from attack, the Bible encourages the following:- Jas. 1:21-22, 1 Pet 1:22, Psalm 23, Isaiah 26:3 Phil. 4:6-8 Rom 12:1-2, Eph. 4:23, Josh. 1:8, Phil. 4:8. We need to get our mind renewed with the word of God so that our real man, the real man working with our mind, can govern our body.

111. CAN DEMONS INHABIT THE BODY OF CHRISTIANS? YES.

The new birth is not a rebirth of man's body. It is not a physical change but a spiritual change. Demon activity on the body often comes in the form of sicknesses and disease - Luke 11:14, Luke 13:11-13, Acts 19:12.

IV. What happens to evil spirits resident in the Christian before new birth?

They often stay until they are cast out - Mark 6:7,12-13, Acts 8:23. However, one who is born again and not previously demonized may not be demonised if he feeds on and obeys the word of God - James 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:8-9.

(B) WHO NEEDS DELIVERANCE?

Everybody under demonic influence needs deliverance. The activity of demons could manifest in several ways:

Family line tragedies, repeated or regular tragedies, sexual immorality, stagnancy in life; rejection; unwarranted miscarriages; abnormal dreams, abnormal development of one or more of the senses, emotional imbalance (resentment, envy, jealousy, hatred, depression, procrastination, poor memory etc) addiction (sleep, food, sex, music, etc.) speech perversion (lying, exaggeration, backbiting etc) physical disorders, psychic deformation, insanity, wizardry, ogbanje, occultism and religious perversion, knight. However, not all these manifestations always reveal demonic implication.

(C) METHODS OF DELIVERANCE

Acts 3:6, Eph. 1:20-21, Lk. 4:4-12, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 1 Cor. 14:18, Heb. 2:14, Mk. 9:29, Lk. 4:40-41, 1 Sam. 16:23, 1 Kings. 3: 15. Praising God using the word of God, anointing with oil, using the name of Jesus, prayer of agreement, binding and loosening the spirit, pleading the blood of Jesus, sometimes fasting, speaking in

tongues etc. Note that it is important to let the Holy Spirit guide you when ministering deliverance.

(D) HOW CAN ONE BE DELIVERED?

Be born again John 3:3, forgive others - Mark 11:25-26, repent - Luke 13:3. Do not hold on to occult symbols/objects renounce old covenants and forsake old ways.

(E) HOW YOU CAN STAY DELIVERED

Gal. 5:1, Mat.12:43-45, Jn.5:14, 11Tim.2:15, Jos.1:8, 1 Pet.1:13-15, Deut. 18:9-10, Rev. 12:11, 1Jn.4:18, Col.3:16, Acts 1:13, 15, Deut.18:9-10, Rev.12:11, 1Jn.4:18, Acts 1:8, 1Cor.14:15, Heb.10:25, Matt.28:10-20. Live a holy life, avoid all old habits and keep off from occultic practices. Confess your deliverance often, be bold, study the Bible, pray always, fellowship with Christians and preach Christ.

CONCLUSION

This study is not exhaustive on this subject. Whatever the affliction you are going through, today is the day of your deliverance in Jesus' Name.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 12:1-2

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

STUDY 17 SAVED TO SERVE

We have, so far discovered that the Christian is truly blessed because he or she ...

- a. Is a person reborn, provided the opportunity to live a new life 2 Cor.5:17.
- b. Belongs to the Lord, as God's special child John 1:12.
- c. Lives by faith, as he/she walks with God 1 Cor.10:17.
- d. Is consecrated to God, that is, set apart to live a holy life.
- e. Is guarded by the power of God. He/she is not alone in the struggle against the powers of Satan and the evil world in which we live.

With Blessings Come Responsibilities

There are obligations that come with our new opportunities. There are duties that come with our new calling.

The Christian has been "Saved To Serve" ...

- a. Called to serve God and the Lord Jesus Christ - Heb. 9:14; 12:28, Rom. 12:1.
- b. Called to serve his brethren and those in the world - Rom. 1:14,15.

It is a noble calling, one that we should accept with humility and gratitude.

Each person has a ministry (service)

Every believer has been called to the

"ministry of reconciliation 2 Cor.5:18. However, each person has a ministry (service) we are expected to fulfil - 1Tim.1:12 Col 4:17; 2Ti 4:5, Acts 12:25, 20:24.

Jesus Christ, our Master, has provided us with several gifts and potentials to help us accomplish the assignments committed to our hands Eph.4:7-13, 1 Cor.12:8-11, Romans 12:6-8.

The Greatness Of Servant-hood

Being a servant of God is a great honour. The title of "servant" was what many great men in the Old Testament were called:

- a. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - Deut 9:27 ("Thy servants").
- b. Moses - 1Kings 8:53 ("Thy servant").
- c. Joshua - Joshua 24:29 ("Servant of the Lord").
- d. Caleb - Num 14:24 ("My servant").
- e. Job - Job 1:8 ("My servant").
- f. Isaiah - Isaiah 20:3 ("My servant").
- g. The prophets - Jer 7:25 ("My servants").

New Testament writers referred to themselves as "servants" ...

- a. James - James 1:1.
- b. Paul Rom. 1:1; Philp. 1:1.
- c. Peter - 2Pet 1:1.
- d. Jude - Jude 1.
- e. John Rev. 1:1.

Jesus came to serve

1. He was foretold to come as the "Suffering Servant" Isa.52:13-53:12.

2. He did not come to be served, but to serve Mt. 20:28; Philp. 2:7.

3. Even as our Lord and Master, He exemplified the servitude He desires of His disciples John 13:12-17.

It is a great honour to serve

What an honour, if God were to look upon us as "His servants" as He did these great men, including His own Son, Jesus Christ John 12:26.

CONCLUSION

The concept of "servitude" or "servanthood" is a significant part of what it means to be a Christian Romans 6:17-18. If one chooses not to serve God...

a. Then he/she remains a slave to sin Rom. 16:16a.

b. The end of such slavery is eternal death Rom. 6:16b.

But when one chooses to serve God...

a. The servitude leads to righteousness - Romans 16:16c.

b. And the end of such service is eternal life - Romans 6:22.

MEMORY VERSE: John 12:26.

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

STUDY 18 THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Events in the world today are showing more than ever the imminence of the coming of our king and our Lord (Luke 21:8-11). He is coming again and we shall soon hear the sound of the trumpet. However, it is worthy of note that His second coming shall be in two phases. In this study we shall learn about these and the various events which shall occur under them.

a. The First Phase Of His Coming

(Rev. 18:4). Under this part, the Lord Jesus Christ will be coming for the saints, to remove them from the world and take them unto Himself so that they will not partake in the "Great Tribulation" which shall unfold itself immediately after the first phase of His second coming. There are many events which shall be witnessed within this first phase and they are:

1. The Lord Jesus shall appear in the sky to take home His own - 1 Thess. 4:16.

2. The saints who slept shall be resurrected and the living ones (saints) transformed and translated to meet the Lord in the sky in an event referred to as "The Rapture". This event also signals the beginning of the "First Resurrection" - 1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:44, 51-53.

3. There shall be seven years of great

tribulation on earth when the anti-Christ shall be the head of government of the world. It is a seven year period of great deceit, bloody war, violent crime, lawlessness and terror. There shall not be such times before it or after it - Matt. 24:21, II Thess. 2:5-8, Rev. 11:23, 13:5-7. Note that when you add forty-two months to one thousand, two hundred and sixty days, you will get seven years.

4. In the sky, however, the raptured saints who will remain there with Christ for seven years shall be treated to such events such as the Judgment Seat of Christ, being the period of accountability - Rom. 4:10, II Cor. 5:10, I Cor. 3:1-15. Also, we shall have the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which will be the marriage between Christ (the Bride groom) and His Bride which is the Church, the rapture saints - Rev. 19:7-9. The second death shall have no power over raptured saints - I Cor. 15:54; Rev. 20:6; 2:11.
5. The Church, the undefiled brethren, the saintly saints shall not partake in the Great Tribulation. Luke 21:34-36.

NOTE:

The day is coming, so near when there shall be bold headlines on pages of the newspapers concerning millions of people who are missing, who suddenly disappeared. There will be confusion and for those who have had foreknowledge but missed the event, it will be sad news. Where do you want to be on this day, in the air with the Lord or among the perplexed ones here on earth?

B. THE SECOND PHASE

At the round up of events in the air after the seven year period as already mentioned, Christ and His bride shall return to the earth. In other words, at the concluding part of His second coming, He shall be coming with the saints. Hallelujah! The following events shall unfold at this coming:

1. The battle of Armageddon. This is the war that will be fought at the descent of Christ and saints to the earth. The anti-Christ will institute this battle using his confederated army which he would have gathered from all nations - Rev. 16:13-16; Zech. 14:1-5, Rev. 19:11-19.
2. The anti-Christ armies will be defeated and destroyed with the sword that comes out from the mouth of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ - Rev. 19:20-21.
3. The Millennial Reign of Christ. Rev. 20:4-6. The victory at Armageddon heralds in the one thousand years reign of Christ and His saints here on earth.

The following shall be the features of this period:

- (i) The government of the millennium will be a theocratic form of system of government, that is, God ruling.
- (ii) It is going to be a period of golden age, that is, a time of lasting peace on earth, without war, crime free, divine health for all, no infant death and many other wonderful events shall be the order of the day - Isa. 2:4, 11:6-9; 60:1; Jer. .

30:17 Isaiah 33:24, 65:20.

(iii) Jerusalem in Israel shall be the capital of the government - Joel 3:16-17.

(iv) Christ will be manifested to take possession of David's Kingdom according to the covenant made with David - II Sam. 7:8-16.

(v) It is the time of restoration of Israel back to their land and conversion unto their righteous and rightful king - Jer. 31:10; Amos 9:14-15.

(vi) Satan shall be held bound in the bottomless pit in the entire period - Rev. 20:1-3.

(vii) The saints shall reign with Christ in His earthly kingdom - Revelations 20:6.

CONCLUSION

Brethren, commit yourself to Christ and His coming in all holiness so as to partake in this first resurrection which shall see death being swallowed up in victory.

MEMORY VERSE: 1Corinthians 15:54

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

STUDY 19 MILLENNIAL REIGN AND COMING JUDGEMENT

This is the concluding part of our studies and it will take us through a set of topics almost similar to the one we had in the previous study.

A. THE MILLENNIUM

The millennium is a wonderful one thousand years reign of Christ and the saints on earth. It will come immediately after the victory at Armageddon, that is, after seven years period of the Great Tribulation - Rev. 20:1-6, 2:26-27, Isaiah 65:8-23. The following shall be the features of this period:

1. The form of government shall be theocratic (i.e. God ruling through Jesus Christ, the apostles and all the saints from Adam to the Millennium - Isaiah 2:2-4, Daniel 2:44-45 Daniel 7:13-14, 18-27, Rev. 1:6, 2:26-27, 5-9-10, Psalm 149:4-9.
2. The devil will be bound and thrown into the bottomless pit for these 1000 years - Rev. 20:1-3. But after the 1000 years, he will be released to deceive the nations of the world - Revelations 20:7-10.
3. It is going to be a period of lasting peace on earth, warlessness, crimelessness, divine health for all, no infant death and many other wonderful events shall be the order of the day - Isaiah 2:4, 11:69, 60:18, 33: 24, 65: 20, Jer. 30: 17, Mic. 4:2-4, Zech. 8:22-23.

4. Jerusalem will be the seat of the government and the new world capital - Jer. 17:25, Joel 3:17, 20, Micah 7, Isaiah 2:2-4.

Coming Judgment

Seven of the various judgments mentioned in the Bible are:

- (i) Judgment of sins on the cross of Christ - John 12:31.
- (ii) Believers self-judgment - I Cor. 11:31.
- (iii) Judgment of angels after the 1000 years - Jude 6.
- (iv) Judgment of individual gentile nations at the return of Christ to the earth - Matt. 25:32.
- (v) Judgment of Israel at the return of Christ - Ezek. 20:37.
- (vi) Judgment of the wicked - Rev. 20:11-15.
- (vii) Judgment of believer's works.

We shall focus more on the last works:

A. The judgment of the wicked

This is otherwise known as the Great White Throne Judgment. Shortly before this, that is, at the end of the millennium, all the wicked ones, dead from Adam to the end of the millennium, will be resurrected to face this judgment - Revelations 20:11-15, Acts 17:31, Rom. 3:6, John 5:28-29.

Note that whoever appears before this judgment is doomed forever. However, the believer who would have been resurrected

shall stand as spectators on that day.

B. The judgement of the work of believers

The judgment of the work of believers is also known as the judgment seat of Christ.

The purpose of this judgment is to examine the believers work and determine his reward - II Cor. 5:10, I Cor. 3:6-13 Rev. 22:12.

It will take place between the rapture and second advent i.e. the 7-year period - Luke 14:14.

-The venue is Heaven - I Cor. 9:24-27, Romans 14:10, II Cor. 5:10.

-What will be the basis of the judgment and who will be the judge? Matt. 16:27, Rev. 2:23, 22:12-16, Rom 2:6, II Tim. 4:14, John 5:1-2, II Tim. 4:8, II Cor. 5:10.

-What are the rewards? Jas. 1:12, Rev. 2:10, II Tim 4:8, I Pet. 5:4, I Thess. 2:19-20, Daniel 12:3, I Cor. 9:25.

What should be your attitude towards this subject?

Luke 19:13; Matt. 5:16; I Tim. 6:18; II Pet. 3:17; I Cor. 3:11-15; I Cor. 4:20; Gal. 1:10; Col. 1:25.

MEMORY VERSE: II COR. 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

FINAL WORDS (TITUS 2:11-14)

As we journey towards eternity, it becomes more imperative for each one of us to make a conscious effort to eliminate every weight and sin that easily beset us. There are many Christians who started well yesterday but have either allowed these weights to prevent them making meaningful progress or are in a different race entirely. Thank God for those who are still in the race.

It is for this reason that we plead for a honest self appraisal of our Christian lives as we come to the end of our studies by giving two quality attention to the following questions:

1. Are there sins you do not want to be preached about?
 2. Are there sins you are always ready to excuse because you consider them small or because you have "better" names for them?
 3. Are there sins you prefer to commit when no one is around?
 4. Are there sins which always seem to stand on your way when you really feel like talking with God?
- Are there sins you continually try to make yourself believe are weaknesses, arising from the peculiarity of your tribe, family, profession, environment, etc.? Remember, the devil may provide pleasures and benefits of sins but he will always hide the price tag, which is, hell fire.

Confess all known sins today and rededicate your life to the soon coming King, JESUS CHRIST. May God not allow any sin to stand on your way to Heaven. AMEN

HOME TASKS

AIM: BRINGING THE TEACHINGS DOWN TO OUR DAILY LIVES AS WE GROW

1. What are the things people usually assume could make them qualify to become Christians, but which cannot? Acts 10.
2. Narrate briefly your personal experience of the New Birth.
3. Definitely, you would have heard about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ before the day you finally surrendered to Him. Enumerate the factors that did not allow you to give your life the first time you were preached to?
4. Now that you are born again, what have you been enjoying as a Christian which were never experienced before?
5. Whenever temptation invariably leads to sin, what should your attitude be at that instance as a child of God?
6. What is your relationship with God now that you are new and how does God see you?
7. How do you relate with your old pals and yet to be saved relations?

8. What are the major differences between you and your unsaved friends now that you are saved? 1 Peter 2:9.
9. Write down the order in which the books of the Bible appear and their abbreviations.
10. How biblical is the reading of the Psalms as the only book of the Bible?
11. Your teacher will suggest to you what chapter of the Bible to read. Read till something strikes you and then meditate on it. Write down the thoughts that comes to you. Cover two or three different points that strikes you.
12. Write a very short prayer on anyone of these types of prayers following the guideline we have in The Lord's prayer:- thanksgiving, intercession, supplication/petitions.
13. Does baptism wash away our sins in the water? Yes or No, Discuss
14. To speak in tongues is a demonstration that you have arrived as a Christian. Yes or No?
15. Write down at least 5 points on speaking in tongues as recorded in 1 Cor. 14.
16. Write all the modes we can use for Personal Evangelism?
17. The Bible says we are the Epistles of the Most High God - 11 Cor. 3:2. How can this scripture affect our personal evangelism overtly and covertly?
18. Discuss briefly what the phrase

- "unsaintly saints" mean. Make use of the points from your study on Christian conduct.
19. The Bible enjoins us to be at peace with all men. How do we handle the cases of people who are always getting on our nerves? Quote scriptures to support your answer.
20. "All good and perfect gifts are from God Almighty." How can we relate this to the injunction on the moderation in all things in. Phil. 4:5a?
21. Name 3 people that fasted in the Bible. Why do you think they did so?
22. What spiritual advantages do you enjoy from fasting? Fasting should be a habit which Christians must cultivate. Start today.
23. The Bible says that divine healing is the children's meat - Matthew 15:28. Is it scriptural to seek medical attention at the onset of every sickness? Exodus 15:26, Ps.127:1, Ps. 103:3 Jer. 17 (Aids for ref).
24. Enumerate the sources of illness as discussed in your Believers' class booklet. From which one of them does your illness normally come? Align your confession with what the Bible says about you - Joshua 1:8, 1 Peter 2:24.
25. Restitution may be difficult but it is important to clear your mind of obstacles to Heaven. In the presence of the Holy Spirit ask God to give you the grace to begin restitution today.

