

**The
Christian Walk
Vol. 2**

By Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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ISBN: 978-9966-8234-7-2

Design and layout © Beautex Image Designs

First Published 2018 By:

Inspirational Publications

P.O Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi

Kenya. East Africa

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INTRODUCTION

This is a sequel to the first volume where I dwelt on the true meaning of Christianity and how it relates to God's grace and faith contrary to the law and works of the law, the two Government which are contrary to each other, the Israelites' experience in relation to Christianity, reasons why prayers are not answered, ways of earning a living in Christianity and the various vital aspects of the Christian Walk.

In this second volume I have gone a notch higher and present deeper insight on Christianity and have covered the following: sin, sickness, curses and evil spirits and the need for total deliverance, how names affect lives, the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit as well as the Ministry of the Holy Spirit, the authority in Christ Jesus, false doctrines and the customs and traditions of men, Encouragements for Christians on their Walk and the rapture of the Church and the two resurrections.

I do believe the foregoing will be good reading and helpful tips in the Walk of faith.

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CHAPTER 1

A Christian and sin, sickness, curses and evil spirits

Sin and sickness are sisters in that the scriptures so much do associate the two; both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament (Psalm 103:1-3). When someone is sick and does not get any cure for one's healing, eventually he dies. Sin brings sickness and sickness brings death. The three have no barrier on mankind, whether you are from which race or tribe, sex or age, educated or illiterate, rich or poor, fat or thin, short or tall, a leader or not a leader you can just be affected by any of the three at any time and anywhere. Sin is disobedience to the law of God and sickness and death being the consequence. Major cause of death to mankind is through sickness save for such calamities or incidences of accidents of any kind, wars and fights, wild animals and serpents. The father of the two is Satan (John 8:44). He was found with sin of pride and rebellion and was cast down from heaven to the earth (Ezekiel 28:11-19, Isaiah 14:12-16, Revelation 12:7-12) When on earth he seduced man with cunning words and

man also fell for the trap and also sinned before God. (Genesis 3:1-6) Satan had shared his problem with man and was affected and man was now in the same boat with Satan as all had sinned. The way Satan was sent away from heaven because of sin is the same way man was sent away from the Garden of Eden, as in the fallen state he would have gone further to take the fruit from the tree of life and would have lived forever in that state, which would have been a worse thing (Revelation 12:7-8, Genesis 3:22-24). The result of sin is always death (James 1:13 – 15, Romans 6:23a).

It is true also that one can get sick not because of sin per say but because of other factors like failure to observe the laws of health or worrying too much in life or overworking one's body by say being a workaholic. The body also needs some rest now and then just like a machine or a motor vehicle. Otherwise there can be a breakdown or an engine knock like in the case of say a motor vehicle.

The body also needs plenty of water and physical exercise in addition to the food we take. The food should be good food not junk food. Remember the computer slogan (GIGO) meaning Garbage In Garbage Out. Injecting good

food results in good health other things being equal, and not in sickness. It has been said also that too much of something is dangerous, be it food, work, drinks, name it and therefore here comes in the act of discipline/self-control, without which we are inviting trouble (Proverbs 5:23, 16:32, Galatians 5:23, I Corinthians 9:27, 2 Timothy 1:7. 1 Peter 1:13, 4:7).

Another exception is the case of Job. He was a righteous man but Satan asked for permission from God to tempt him and God granted him (Job 1:1-2:10) In the Scriptures we don't find many a saints getting sick Look at the life of the saints: Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, Azariah, David, Samuel, and so on and so forth.

The secret to divine health is to come to a hatred of sin. The key to living a life without sickness is diligence in hearkening to the voice of God, that is, continual obedience to the word of the Lord. Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour lived on this earth and was never sick. Reason, he lived a perfect life (sinless)

It should be noted that it is in God's will that Christians live healthy lives because Jesus Christ took away our

sicknesses (gotten from Satan) by His suffering for us. (Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17, 1 Peter 2:24, 3 John 1:2)

The following scriptures in the Old Testament and in the New Testament touch on sickness and good health: Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 28:15, 21-22, 27-28, 35, 58-60, Joshua 14:6-11, Psalms 41:1-4, 91, 103:1-5, 105:37, Matthew 9:1-8, 32-33, 12:22, Mark 1:23, 9:25-27, Luke 13:10-13, Acts 10:38, James 5:14-16, and 1 Corinthians 11:26-30. Falling into sin is the progressive descent of one's moral integrity. (James 1:14-15, Titus 2:7)

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 1:14-15

In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity.

Titus 2:7

Sin can be said to be any breaking of the law of God and which is unrighteousness (1 John 5:17) and can be categorized in three groups as follows:

a) Sin of commission

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1 John 3:4

This happens to be the most common one with most people. They do what is not expected of them by God by doing the wrong thing (Genesis 3:6-11).

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid

themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded that thou shouldest not eat?

Genesis 3:6-11

b) Sin of Omission

This is the other side of the coin so to speak and involves a person failing to do what one was expected to do by God (Luke 10:25-37, James 4:17).

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

He said unto him, what is written in the law? How readest thou?

And he answering said, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL

THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL THY MIND; AND THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF.

And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Sa-mar'-i-tan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take

care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Luke 10:25-37

From the above we can see a very good example of sin of omission by the priest and the Levite.

No wonder, when Jesus Christ knew that it was time to leave the disciples, he reminded them to love one another (He himself had loved them unto death) as the scriptures say. Christ himself had compassion on people because his Father is love and he was (came) from his Father. (John 13:34; 1 John 4:7-11; John 10:30). Read also first epistle of apostle Paul that he sent to the church at Corinth, on the issue of love (charity) 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 14: 1). It has been said that “action speaks louder than words.”

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin

c) Sin of presumption

This is another category of sin and is a premeditated sin or a deliberate sin and can be likened to blasphemy. In the old testament is referred to as sinning high-handedly or in other words sinning ‘with a high hand’ which is actually is willful sinning and is inexcusable in that it has no atonement (Leviticus 24:10-16, Numbers 15:30-31, Matthew 12:31-32, Hebrews 10:26-27).

And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp; and the Israelitish woman’s son blasphemed the name of the LORD, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother’s name was She-lo’-mith, the daughter of Dib’-ri, of the tribe of Dan:

And they put him in ward, that the mind of the LORD might be showed them.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.

And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall be surely put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well as the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

Leviticus 24:10-16

But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously, whether he be born in the Land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandments, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:30-31

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Matthew 12:30-31

For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

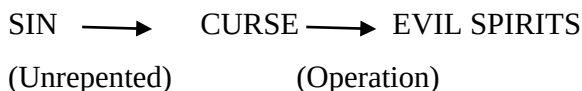
Hebrews 10:26-27

Whereas God hates sin so much because it breaks relationship between a person and Him and also leads a person to death, on the other hand, Satan loves sin as it has a binding effect on a person's life and allows (gives legal ground) for him to operate in a person's life the more (a loophole for him) and also leads a person to death and

finally judgement and eternal abode in hell (Satan's future abode). Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Curse

A curse is an evil thing that attracts evil and causes hindrance or blockage in people's lives bringing frustrations and is the opposite of a blessing. (Joshua 7, Malachi 3:8-9). Curses can be likened to locks or cells and locks up people's lives. When one has a curse in one's life, the curse creates room for the operation of evil spirits. I may say, just like an unformatted say flash disk before it can be used it is formatted first to create working rooms or spaces where data can be stored. The same when one has sinned, one has opened one's life to external evil forces and if fail to repent leads to a sort of formatted life for serious operation by evil spirits and more so under a curse. Always remember the following illustration:



Curses have their causes as the following scripture says.

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so **the curse causeless shall not come.**

Proverbs 26:2

It simply means that a curse is only justified in the presence of sin (a cause) in one's life.

Evil spirit

Evil spirits can be likened to loads. Example is of a mad person who usually you would find carrying all sorts of loads (showing externally the internal state of the soul). Bewary of unexplainable body fatigue or heaviness on one's shoulders. The source of curses is Satan who is cursed for ever (Genesis 3:14) and the source of blessing is God who is blessed for ever (Romans 1:25).

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Genesis 3:14

Now you can get the revelation that Satan was not, is not and will not be your friend on this planet earth as he is worse than all the wild beasts you know out there in the bush. A warning to expectant mothers who are fond of eating hardened soil or rocks. The dust (soil) was meant by God to be serpents' food the rest of their lives. Now if you eat them I may ask you this question 'When did you become a serpent!?' The act is satanic and you need to resist the yearning to eat such or else the life of the unborn in the womb will be endangered.

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator, who is blessed for ever. A'-men.

Romans 1:25

The whole text somehow begins from verse 18 onward, but I have extracted verse 25 to point out the fact that God is blessed for ever and is the true source of blessing. Apostle James supports this in his epistle (James 1:17).

A Christian should check one's life if one is living under a curse or under a blessing. If one finds is living under a curse one need to examine oneself and ask why? And can even go in prayer and fasting and repenting of any unrepented sin and repenting of known and unknown sins of parents and grandparents. It is only reasonable to do this because one has now become a member in the family of God. One is a son or a daughter and God is blessed for ever. God is blessed and all that come to Him by faith in Christ are blessed. Many things have happened in the lives of Christians without them finding out why and have been taken for granted and sadly to say; are assumed as normal.

Warning and Advice

A guarantee of a curse is disobedience to God and a guarantee of a blessing is obedience to God.

We found out earlier that it is sin which lead later to a curse. We are going to look at some of the curses. A curse is an arrow of destruction and follows a person until death (Genesis 3:17-19). A blessing is an arrow of blessing and follows a person throughout life (Isaiah 54:17). Lastly, a

place or a thing can be cursed (Joshua 6: 24-26). Blessing – A good and pleasant thing. Curse - A bad and wicked thing. Both of the above can be seen in a person's life by the person's doings (what one normally does in life) and happenings (what normally happens to one in life).

a) Adamic curses

These are curses that resulted from the sin of the first man Adam in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3)

b) Curse of struggling

This is the first of the Adamic curses, read the book of Genesis chapter 25 through to chapter 32.

c) Verbal curses

These are curses that come about as a result of somebody speaking a word against you and the person has some authority over you-natural or delegated as well as having a shepherd role over you (Genesis 19, Joshua 6 and 1 Kings 16).

d) Witchcraft curse

This is the worst curse of them all as it is open provocation to God. It can come as a result of visiting a witchdoctor for any assumed “help” (1 Samuel 15, Acts 8)

e) Personal curses

These are the most common curses in people. These curses come as a result of an individual himself or herself committing sin, that is, self or personal sin. (Genesis 9, Deuteronomy 27:15-26; 28:15-68)

f) Financial curses

These are curses to do with money matters, wealth, riches, in relation to an individual’s life how one has handled God in this area. For example, failure to faithfully and regularly pay tithes and other offerings in one’s local church can lead to these curses (Malachi 3).

g) Polygamy curse

This is a curse that comes about as a result of a wrong marriage (marriage of the flesh) and as the name implies, it is a curse as a result of marrying a second wife, a third

wife, a fourth wife and so on, as it violates God's will on marriage (Genesis 2:18-24; Genesis 24, 1 Corinthians 7:1-3).

h) Curse of mockery

This is the curse that comes as a result of mocking God by touching that which is holy unto the Lord. (Numbers 12 and 16, 1 Chronicles 16, 1 Kings 13)

i) Generational curses

These are curses that are inherited from ancestors, family, parents (sins which were committed by them and were not repented). The individuals when they die the curses in them are passed on to their off springs and the curses mature in them as Generational curses (Exodus 20:1-5, Lamentations 5:7).

There are so many sins in the world and so many evil spirits as well, that lead people to commit those sins. Similarly, there are specific evil spirits that operate in each specific curse and serve under a lead or head evil spirit (a kingly spirit) who sees to it that a curse remains in a person and evil spirits operate continually in that person, sort of

commands that a person continue to live in misery and frustration by the operation of these lesser powerful evil spirits. Evil spirits come in different levels and can be categorized as follows:

- Kingly spirits
- Spirits of persuasion
- Guardian spirits
- Animal spirits
- Spirit of religion
- The spirit of the anti-Christ (666)
- Ancestral spirits

From all the above one can see the seriousness of sin, curses and evil spirits. A Christian should therefore take the issue of sin very seriously and not casually and come to a real hatred of sin as God hates sin. Stay away from sin as it is never a joking matter.

The Lord God has promised to reward with blessings those who will obey him and to those who will not obey him with curses. So it is up to each one of us to choose what one wants from the Lord; depending on how one will continue to live (Deuteronomy 28:1-14; 27: 1-26; 28:15-68).

The topic on curses and the accompanying counseling prior to deliverance of an individual is quite wide covering what it all entails, if one wants to go into the finer details, But all the same I am going to give a general summary here.

Areas where curses are hidden

The wicked keep hiding (Joshua 7). Curses are deep hidden and that is the will of the Devil who doesn't want a curse to be seen and wants people to be bound in their lives, families, marriages, businesses, religion, villages, nations etc.

In God a curse is a wicked thing and God exposes this so that the people may see it and turn away from it so that people, the family of God do not stay under it.

Therefore it is the will of God to give people revelation to understand curses - open their eyes so that they don't die there, because it would destroy many people. A curse attracts people, hold people so that they cannot break out - they are ensnared there.

Sin

The root of every curse is sin (Genesis 2:17). Death is a curse which came about as a result of sin. (Adam). Sin gives birth to a curse. Sin is an attraction and curse is a trap.

When a curse is present in a person etc. certain things happen (manifestations) e.g. people die certain deaths - road accidents, drunkenness, stealing, divorce etc.

Evil spirits

Evil spirits are related to a curse. Curses attract evil spirits to justify Satan to operate.

Individual

It is very possible for an individual to be under a curse, any curse.

Cain (Genesis 4:1-16)

We should be our brothers' keepers.

Family (Genesis 49)

It is very possible for a family to have a curse. Study your family. The family of Reuben was cursed.

Village

It is possible for a village to have a curse and especially where there is a witchdoctor who people consult.

Let me share my experience under this sub heading.

In our village we had two witch doctors whom some of the villagers would go to consult. One of the witchdoctors had two sons of whom the younger one I was told, was born partially deaf and one needed to repeat what one is saying and even loudly, for the boy to hear what one was saying and then he would respond. This young son of the witchdoctor later died at a youthful age.

Let me now highlight now what was happening. They were a lot of women who were busy brewing different kinds of alcoholic drinks and sad to say, not only men drunk but even women and the youth. It was a very pitiable situation and moreover those who were drunk would pass through the various home paths going back to their homes during the night and even during the day and some shout and utter very dirty abusive words.

There seemed to be a lot of sexual immorality among the drunkards or the youth from disco music at night. Occurrence of many deaths were a bit common and I was told one son of a relative when went to a pond many years back, slipped and fell into the pond and drowned. Later, a 3rd Year University under graduate went to a water dam and threw himself there and drowned. The case of polygamy as well as divorce were some how common in the village. On the side of Education, there seemed to be rampant school drop outs for various reasons from pregnancy, to lack of school fees among other reasons like indiscipline. There were few who ever finished secondary school Education and hardly those that went to the University. By God's grace, I happen to be among those that finished well secondary Education and when much later got formal employment, in my profession went for further training and got a Diploma certificate. One thing also that stood up very clearly was lack of development. At some time a market was started and later was even officially opened but it later dwindled and went under. Many that opened a business, ended up closing down.

Meanwhile because I inherited only a half acre piece of land, I had tried to look for land to buy as I was already married and I realized that piece of land was too small. I later managed to get some one who was ready to sell to me an acre of land and we agreed and I bought the land, which was about two kilometers from our village. As the land seemed not to be that fertile, I kept looking for other land to buy and asked a brother in the Lord who happened to have bought land in South Nyanza and settled there, if he can enquire for me. By that time I had come to a real hatred of the happenings in our village and vowed to leave the place at any cost. The brother got some one who had land to sell and I was prompted by the Holy Spirit that that was the way to go and the scripture about the case of Abram came to my mind then, as is recorded in the book of Genesis (Genesis 12:1-3) and I went and I bought land in South Nyanza and left my village in Central Nyanza and came and settled in South Nyanza. From the foregoing, you can see clearly that our village was under a curse because of the witchdoctors living in it and that people consulted and as a result the things happening there were against God- things of darkness, things of the Devil. No wonder God detests

witchcraft and kept on telling the children of Israel not to involve in the craft and that witchdoctors need be killed as they lead people from God and the ways of God. (Leviticus 20:27; 19:31, Deuteronomy 18:9-14).

City

It is possible for a city to be under a curse. The foundation and name of a city can relate to a curse or a blessing or also things in it would relate to a curse or a blessing. Nairobi that name is a Masai name meaning “place of sweet waters” and see how the city has attracted many UN bodies, International meetings etc.

Joshua 2:, 6:26, 1 Kings 16:34 city of Jericho - entrance of the city lay a house occupied by a prostitute Rahab. Joshua cursed the city. The Devil defiles towns and cities etc. by witchdoctors and prostitutes. India dedicated to idols.

Joshua 7

Defeat - there are (manifestations of curses). When Israel went to battle, there was resistance, defeat, obstruction, or blockage. Study these when in a situation. It is important to discover or discern a curse, but the greatest thing is to

remove or break that curse, so that the Lord can move on your behalf. The Lord moves when a curse has been broken, when Joshua broke the curse the Lord moved. Curses restrict, obstruct, and block the Lord to operate in people.

There are manifestation of curses because there are manifestations of blessings. There is something like manifestation of evil spirits-demons. Just as water boils when temperature is raised, demons also arise according to level of anointing and manifest themselves.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit manifests himself in holiness, righteousness, wisdom etc (Isaiah 11:1-2, Galatians 5:22-23).

Curses and evil spirit manifestations

1. Genesis 2:17- Commonness of abiding in sin.
2. Numbers 16 - rebellion to authority.
3. Revelation 12:7 - broken relationships.
4. Esther 3:5 - abiding in condemnation.
5. Genesis 34:5 - fornication.

6. Hebrews 13:4 – adultery.
7. Matthew 5:6 - ungodly thirsts - smoking and drinking wine.
8. Exodus 15:26 - afflictions and sicknesses.
9. Genesis 2:17, Isaiah 53 – Deaths.
10. Joshua 7:26 - ungodly names - cursed names.
11. Matthew 11:5 - poverty.
12. Genesis 16:5 – polygamy.
13. Matthew 19:1-12 – divorces.
14. Mark 11:12-14 – Barrenness.
15. Exodus 20:1-5 – Idolatry.
16. 2 Samuel 16:5 – cursing.
17. Luke 19 - Social evils, thieves, prostitutes etc.
18. John 14:6 - Scattering of people – witchcraft.
19. Revelation 2:20 - Deception, heresy, false doctrine.
20. Exodus 15:26 - confusion, lack of sound mind - madness.
21. Revelation 22:8 - Sorcery (keeping of things of witchcraft).
22. Leviticus 10 - false power (magic).
23. Matthew 16:2 - Traditions, rituals and ceremonies.

Looking at a Mark

A mark or a sign identifies something - a curse or a blessing.

- i) The mark of Cain
- ii) The mark of Abraham
- iii) The mark of Jacob
- iv) The mark of Christ
 - (Virgin birth)
 - Holy spirit baptism
 - Death and resurrection
 - Isaiah 7:14 – a sign
- v) The mark of the Beast (666)

Areas curses hide

- a) Health - poor health.
- b) Education - difficulties in learning.
- c) Work - The kind one does, dirty work etc.
- d) Business - The kind one operates, illegal etc.

- e) Marriage - cannot marry or be married or divorcing after marriage.
- f) Religion - people's beliefs, faith eg. Islam, Jehovah's witnesses.
- g) Death - The way people die; accidents, suicide etc.

In a curse there is a “barrier”

Look for and see:- Defeat

Resistance

Obstruction

Blockage

Curses are deep hidden (Joshua 7)

Joshua had to take 7 steps to arrest a curse

1. He called the 12 tribes of Israel
2. He called the family of Judah
3. He called the members of the family of Juda-Zera
4. He called the members of the family of Zera- Zabdi
5. He called the members of the family of Zabdi- Achan
6. He removed stolen (cursed) items from Achan's tent
7. He destroyed the curse (every thing of Achan).

1. A Curse can be hidden in one's health

A sickness or disease express a curse (Exodus 15:26).
God's will (3 John 1:2 - prosperity, health, spirit (soul)).

A curse can be hidden in one's health – sickness - what type - cursed? Exodus 15:26 “I will not put”. The Lord can put by punishment to the wicked a sickness. He put disease in Egypt when they mocked the Lord (Watch out when praying for people, if are being punished).

Where a sickness is situated in the body will indicate whether it is a curse or not - embarrassing sickness.

Prophetic senses in the body

i) The eyes	}	Speaketh of God head of the body
ii) The ear		
iii) The tongue		
(Exodus 3:7-10)		

Sicknesses that touch these senses indicate a curse eg.
Dumbness, blindness, madness, deafness. Blood and heart -
blood is holy to the Lord - essence of life also for

institution of covenants and heart is dwelling place of the Holy Spirit - lack of blood, AIDS, cancer, T.B, Asthma, Leprosy, sicknesses touching hands, feet, intestine, uterus.

In discerning a curse in the life of an individual you need;

- a) Discernment - 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
- b) Knowledge

To discern is to get revelation of what has happened, either wrong or right - judgment.

Knowledge comes by learning. Naturally you go to Nursery School, Primary School, Secondary school and University. In deliverance learn experience to know curses.

Expansion: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1. Gift of the word of wisdom

For fair judgement and to lead us e.g. Solomon (1 Kings 3:16-28), Jesus Christ (John 8:1-9).

2. Gift of the word of knowledge

To have information others don't have in a situation, word from the Lord e.g. in a Christian meeting for a brother, sister etc.

3. Gift of faith

To have extraordinary faith in doing things. Given to leaders- apostles prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. Involves with high risk, sacrifice (Hebrews 11), Moses, Joshua, Jesus, John the Baptist.

4. Gifts of Healing (Multiplicity)

There are so many ways of God healing the sick: anoint oil, lay hands, command etc, etc and healing comes.

5. Gift of working of miracles

Here you need to watch out for false fire e.g. prayer to multiply your money (magic). Jesus Christ walking on water and feeding thousands of people.

6. Gift of prophecy

The utterance of words of things in the future under God's anointing e.g. Caiaphas (John 11:49-52)

7. Gift of discerning of spirits

Getting revelation of what has happened to be right or wrong - it is to do with judgement. (Acts 5) - Get one's story - narration and knowing if its true or not.

8. Gift of speaking in tongues

One speaking in more than one different tongue.

9. Gift of interpretation of tongues

One able to interpret in known tongue what another has said in a different tongue (unknown by those present).

Gifts overlap each other and you can find others operating in a group. If you have one in a group, it is easier to ask and get the others in the group.

Group I

1, 2 & 7

Group II

3, 4 & 5

Group III

6,8 & 9

General information

It is necessary for the following to have the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- Leaders - 5 ministries.
- Workers - Elders, deacons and deaconesses.
- Christians - other children of God.

Ask the Lord for the gifts and also to show you a local church where you can operate the gifts freely unlimited - not frustrated e.g. “We don’t allow this or that happening inside this church” etc, etc.

The Lord’s 40 strokes (Isaiah 53)

“And by his stripes ye are healed” 40 strokes or lashes for Christ; every stripe represent a disease and sickness.

If you go to a doctor and tells you, you suffer from this or that disease and you cannot be healed, go to your pastor for prayer as the disease is not above the name of Jesus.

Spirit - soul

Blood - washing

Stripes - healing

Cleansing your 5 senses

Stop serving the Lord when you are dirty, sick etc. It should be cleansing, healing and then serving.

Sense of sight - the eye - see

Sense of hearing - the ear - hear

Sense of taste - the tongue - taste

Sense of feeling - the skin - feel

Sense of smelling - the nose - smell

To feel is to be touched, to smell is to discern.

2. A curse can be hidden in one's Education

A curse can be expressed in Education. God does not fight Education, it is good, it is a path - light. Education however should not be used to fight God - to become an entry point to an evil spirit - pride. Education becomes an achievement and one become proud. Anything you acquire should not make you proud - humble yourself in all things. Everything you have need to draw you to the Lord. Let it not lead you to pride, idolatry, or hostility to God.

CHECK

Obstruction or hindrance or resistance e.g. Pregnancy at school, expulsion from school, lack of employment after school or University etc.

3. A curse can be hidden in the work a person does

God is a working God and God is not lazy- (Genesis 1). He is an active God. Lack of work and laziness manifests a curse, so is carelessness. There are people with cursed jobs eg. Witchdoctors, prostitutes, robbers, thieves, coffin making as a business, grave- diggers as a profession, gunsmiths, racketeers, bar business, mortuary attendants - anything to do with destruction of lives.

- i) God and work
- ii) Carelessness - lack of good fruit
- iii) Laziness - in one's work
- iv) Cursed jobs
- v) Movement (-) (+) e.g. changing jobs, sacked (-) promoted (+)
- vi) Planting and harvesting

4. A curse can be hidden in one's business

Investing your time and money. God does not hate business. Don't do business which is contrary by law of the country (prohibited) e.g. rackets. The business should submit its wealth (profit) to the Lord in form of first fruit and in tithes. Don't evade tax.

5. A curse can be hidden in one's marriage

In the prophetic the Lord sets you to someone or someone is set to you. In certain families:-

- a) People do not marry or get married or if get married or marry the marriage don't last (no power to keep marriage). Jesus managed his disciples (John 17).
- b) They have no children. Divorce, separation, polygamy, unequal yoking.

6. A curse can be hidden in one's religion

Religion is beliefs people have, which may be passed from generation to generation and become traditions. A belief or faith, may become a curse especially when it is not biblical – e.g. in a cult.

In testing the beliefs of people one is supposed to know the doctrines of God. The doctrines of God are in the Bible and Jesus Christ is the central doctrine.

Acts - church doctrine - continue in teaching of Christ and apostles.

Cults - doctrines of man e.g. in dressing, infallibility of the pope, baptism of sprinkling water (not water immersion), Mary mother of Jesus, offering animals to cleanse sin (etc.). But New Testament Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that taketh away our sins (John 1:29).

False doctrine - extended, expanded.

Central church doctrine - Repentance

-Baptism x 2 (Water, Holy Spirit)

-In a local church

7. A curse can be hidden in people's death

Death can manifest a curse or a blessing. The way people die leaves a message behind - blessed or cursed. Death to honor or to dishonor.

The following indicates honor (Genesis 15:15)

- Full of years and

- Peaceful

A honorable death does not go with other people e.g. during funeral procession etc. But the wicked do not die alone (1 Samuel 31). Any death that does not show full of years and peaceful is a cursed death.

1. Pre-mature deaths:- miscarriage, abortion, death at early age e.g. after birth.
2. Deaths that are judgmental:- by fire of any sort (bomb fire, house fire, car fire), Earthquake, drowning or plane crash.
3. Death by suicide:- take overdose of a drug, throw oneself off a high rise building, shoot oneself.
4. Death by animals:- bitten by dog, snake, lion, kicked by a donkey.
5. Death by assassination or war or murder.
6. Death by catastrophe:- tree falling, lightning.
7. Joint death:- a family in a road accident, a family by thieves at night.

Example of a peaceful death is who goes to sleep and never wakes up.

Deliverance

Now one may ask oneself “How can one come out of curses?” Well, one can come out of curses by getting deliverance- which is a process one has to go through. (Luke 1:67-75; 4:18-19, Galatians 3:13).

And his father Zech-a-ri'-ah was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
And hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;
The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,
That he would grant unto us, that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Luke 1:67-75

It is only after deliverance can one serve the Lord in holiness and righteousness. Sin, curses and evil spirits defile us and through deliverance one is purged of all these and one is free indeed.

The spirit of the lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken- hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the lord.

Luke 4:18-19

Jesus Christ who is the savior is the same one that heals, delivers and sets one free. He was anointed by God the Father to do all that to those who were oppressed by the devil.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.

Galatians 3:13

The above is a covenant of God just as we read earlier in Luke 1:67-75. So we see that we need to ask for our healing, our salvation, our deliverance and get each one of these by our faith and it is not automatic as such and we have to initiate and God accomplishes. That is why the scripture talks of people being healed who asked for healing, people being saved who repented and believed and confessed by their mouth and not people who did nothing - just quiet. (Matthew 8:1-3; 5-13; 9:27-30; 14:34-36; 15:21-28, Acts 2:36-41, Romans 3:21-26; 10:9-10, John 1:11-12; 3:16, 36, 1 John 5:13, John 8:31-36).

WHEN he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him,

And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean.

And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Matthew 8: 1-3

And when Jesus was entered into ca-per'-na-um, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant should be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and another, come, and he cometh; and to my servant,

Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out in to outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

And Jesus said to the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matthew 8:5-13

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Then touched he their eyes, saying, according to your faith be it unto you.

And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, see that no man know it.

Matthew 9:27-30

And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gen-nes'-a-ret.

And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out in to all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;

And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Matthew 14:34-36

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Si'-don.

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Then came she and worshiped him, saying, Lord, help me.

But he answered and said, it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table.

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.

And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 15:21-28

The above reminds me of a widow in Luke 18 verses 1 to 8 and the case of Jacob in Genesis 32 verses 24 to 32.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are a far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the some day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:36-41

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christi unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:21- 26

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9-10

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

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

John 1:11-12

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him

John 3:36

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, ye shall be made free?

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:31-36

From the scripture above you can see that Jesus Christ was speaking to the Jews who had believed in him yet he was telling them they were servants to sin and that if they abode in his word then they would be his disciples indeed. They had believed just as you and me and were saved yet they were still bound meaning they needed deliverance of the Lord to be free and free indeed. Many have argued that once one is saved, there is no need of going for deliverance as one has already been delivered at the time of conversion. The big question is, why was Jesus talking to those disciples like that? They were still bound and continued committing and living in sin. Furthermore, if one does not need deliverance after salvation then why do we still hear and read of reports of Christians and their leaders being caught up in compromising situations be they Bishops, pastors, preachers, church elders, why and why? Except

that they needed deliverance from their past evil deeds and of their parents and grandparents which brought curses in their lives and need spiritual cleansing of the spirit, soul and body (the whole being) true to speak, deliverance. Apostle Paul in his first epistle to the Thessalonian church talk of this whole being (man), in 1 Thessalonians 4 verses 22 and 23 (especially).

Many Christians have served the Lord with no fruit or very little because one reason being that they themselves are still bound (slaves to sin).

In deliverance the candidate must be willing to repent of all known past sins and ask God for forgiveness as Satan got legal ground at the time they were committed and still stubbornly holds to that ground. One important thing: any candidate for deliverance must be already saved if not all will be zero work as evil spirits will come back almost immediately after being cast out because the candidate has no personal relationship with the Lord and has no authority over them and is standing on sinking ground not on a rock. Deliverance is part of the benefits one can get when now saved. In a deliverance session normally there the person conducting deliverance (counselor) and the deliverance

candidate. The counselor (a servant of God) who is anointed must have been delivered.

The servant (counselor) need to sit with the candidate that needs deliverance and interrogate him or her and the candidate to confide in to the counselor, the sins that one committed in life. The counselor then need lead the candidate to faithfully repent of each sin one by one and ask the Lord to forgive him or her and cleanse him or her and the servant (counselor) to break the curse associated with those sins and the candidate to renounce and denounce the evil spirits that made him or her to commit the sins and the servant to cast the evil spirits out. After deliverance the candidate must be told to come out completely out of sin and to live a holy life or else one will have opened one's life again to bondage by the evil spirits. The candidate must now fight back any evil spirit trying a comeback in his or her life and to stand firm in the Lord. Some curses may not be broken in one's life if after salvation had not yet been water baptized (by complete immersion) in the name of the Lord to fulfill all righteousness and be fully united with Christ. Such curses are such as the Adamic curses. (Galatians 3:27-28, Romans 6:3-5). Other curse is the

generational curse which need to be broken (dealt with) only if the other curses had been already dealt with in one's life. The generational curse deliverance is the most vigorous of them all and will require prior prayer and fasting to be effective.

In deliverance the candidate must admit he or she is in a fix and need help from God, to repent all sins and ask the Lord to forgive him or her and believe he or she has actually been forgiven by thanking the Lord for forgiveness and also believing God for his or her deliverance- faith is mandatory just as in salvation and in healing. I can say that salvation is simple, easy and short time wise compared to deliverance which is a bit complicated and not as easy and can take longer time comparably and depending on the condition of the candidate (how far has been bound) it can take sometimes hours, days, weeks and even a month or more for a complete deliverance. It is usually quite tiresome. I remember at one time when I was in another church and not in the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness, we were in a house fellowship over the week-end on a Saturday and a sister who her husband was still unsaved was demon possessed though she was saved. It took all of

us in the fellowship probably two hours with the pastor as well trying to cast out the evil spirit in her in vain.

We were worshipping, praising with songs, praying and commanding the evil spirit to come out and some of us were now sweating, we only got relief when another pastor from another neighbor church was passing by and came in and joined us and after seeing the whole circus told every body to be silent and he took over and dealt with the situation and the evil spirit left the sister and she confessed to have been keeping some articles given at their home the things of which this pastor of the neighbor church directed to be brought forth and he burned them outside the house - mission accomplished. Deliverance needs much knowledge of the word of God and anointing and bravery because it is serious spiritual warfare and you don't laugh with the enemy as soldiers have no time laughing in the battlefield when they are fighting. It seems and is; that no amateurs surely can succeed in doing deliverance.

Don't just try, this is not for trial and error as it can prove equally dangerous to your life. I am not trying to scare anyone but I have seen some servants of God who have involved themselves in this kind of work and got

repercussions from the enemy on their life or the life of a member of his or her family. Yet again, never try to do it when you are not living right before the Lord. It has been reported some got ashamed in the act when an evil spirit gave a challenge and exposed the evils they had done.

I said earlier in this chapter that a blessing or a curse is an arrow that follow an individual throughout life. When one is blessed or cursed one it seems has a mark in life and other people can see (Genesis 4:8 – 15, Galatians 6:7).

When one has Christ and also is walking right with the Lord it can be seen (Genesis 21:22; 39:1-5).

I take this opportunity also to share my own experience as well. In life, I have heard many people address me in greeting the saved and the unsaved alike; even those I happen to meet for the first time and before any introduction call me names such as “Pastor”, “Preacher”, “Elder”, “Boss”, “Teacher”, “Man of God” and so forth. Also on the same note, my spouse has seen and has confessed to me that she has noticed that whatever I sow in our farm normally turns out to bring the best harvest!

Coming to sickness and disease; when Jesus Christ was crucified on the wooden cross and received forty strokes on

his body, through whipping, it was a prophetic act in that by the strokes, all who will come to him by faith can be healed of any sickness or disease including the dreaded Ebola, HIV Aids, Bird flue, Viral Hemorrhage fever, Hepatitis, body stroke, all types of cancer, name it. (Isaiah 53:3-5, Matthew 8:16-17, 1 Peter 2:22-24).

Just as Moses the servant of God raised a brass serpent in the wilderness for the Israelites physical healing, this time round, Jesus Christ was raised in God's divine will at the appointed time for a dual purpose. Firstly spiritual healing followed by physical healing (the latter being but God's reaffirmation that He is the God that heals) (John 3:14-16, Numbers 21:4-9, Exodus 15:26).

The children of Israel were chosen by God as a special people to him. These were but a shadow of the Church of Christ in the New Testament. The children of Israel were in a physical bondage in the land of Egypt and saw their bondage and cried to God for their deliverance and the Lord God went ahead to deliver them by appointing Moses to lead them in the process. The Lord God sent Jesus Christ to the earth to save mankind from spiritual bondage. To

save them both from sin and the power of Satan by deliverance (Exodus 1: 1-14; 2: 23 -3:10) Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 2: 14-15).

The Church is likened to the Israelites and they were always looking back to Egypt while in the wilderness. Hence Christians backslide because of these kingly spirits that want to pull them back to their past life.

The mystery of the deliverance of the Lord.

The mystery is both natural and spiritual.

Natural

For Israel - Moses was given.

For the Church - Jesus Christ was given.

You cannot understand the spiritual if you do not understand the natural (John3:1-6) - the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. If you are to understand deliverance of the Lord, you must understand the deliverance of Israel, who were under a king, then kings (Pharaohs) as slaves in Egypt. God sent the Israelites a man for their deliverance - Moses. Moses was to deal with the king (Pharaoh). The Israelites never dealt directly with Pharaoh, they allowed Moses to deal with the Pharaoh.

Moses was the one given the grace, wisdom, patience and anointing to deal with Pharaoh (Exodus 1:8). Moses was sent by God to Pharaoh because God had a covenant with them (After 430 years). The Israelites were ruled by Pharaoh through his people. When the Lord delivered them from Pharaoh and Egypt, they had two things they must not do:

1. They should never go back to Egypt.
2. (Revelation) - once delivered by the Lord shall stay
 - they can never deliver themselves. They became subject to the law of deliverance of the Lord.
 - a) To cross the Red sea they had to depend on the Lord.
 - b) To cross the desert (wilderness) they had to depend on the Lord.
 - i) For water - to depend on the Lord
 - ii) For food - to depend on the Lord
 - iii) For protection - to depend on the Lord-

During the day the Lord covered them with a pillar of cloud, - During the night he covered them with a cloud of fire for their warmth and to scare their enemies.

- c) When they were to deal with their enemies (Canaanites) they had as a must to depend on the Lord by calling on Him for help.

Purpose of calling the name of the Lord.

Because it causes the delivered to know and understand the law of the Lord for the delivered.

1. The law of God for the delivered

The delivered cannot deliver themselves and have to do these two things:

- Call upon the name of the Lord and rest (for He that delivered them fights for them)
- Rest and call upon the name of the Lord.
- If you try to deliver yourself, you lose grip of the Lord distance yourself from the Lord.

2. Spiritual deliverance N.T

Deals with deliverance of the Church of Christ. When I was a sinner (in sin) my pharaoh was Satan and he took advantage of my Adamic nature. My status was that of a slave. The New Testament condition for deliverance

again God sent as a man Jesus Christ- our Moses. Jesus have no sin, no curses, no evil spirits. The conflict of Jesus with the Devil and Adamic nature (fallen state of man)

The old Moses did not have to deal with the spirit because he was not a spirit. The New statement Moses deals with the spirit and the natural. He knows sin has moved man into a curse and allowed spirit to operate in that man.

Key in God to get the natural is to get the spiritual.

Covenant

Moses dealt with the Israelites who had covenant with God. The N.T Moses brings us into a covenant with Himself (God). God is a God of covenant.

The Mystery pertaining to the kingly spirits.

The people of Israel ruled by kings (pharaohs,) enslaved by pharaohs and his people. God sent them Moses to deliver them. God in His wisdom (dramatized)-enacted our salvation by their salvation. The deliverance of Israel is a fore shadow of our deliverance. Because the people of

Israel were ruled by a king and kings, In the N.T. we must understand the mystery of Christ. Christ is King of kings and Lord of Lords. (1 Timothy 6:14-15, Revelation 17:13-14).

Two experiences of rulership

The visible and the invisible

- a) The common and visible - when Jesus rules, 1,000 years during the Millenium.
- b) The Invisible - It is now plus 1,000 years. He rules me now and delivers me from kingly spirits because He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

For deliverance from kingly spirits the following is a must: Christ is a must.

- i) Repentance - A must
- ii) Salvation - A must
- iii) Water baptism - A must

It was impossible for Moses to deliver others. One must have repented, saved and water baptized (These three are not negotiable - A must in Christ)

A kingly spirit

Is a ruling spirit. Because it is a ruling spirit it means it has spirits that serve it. Just like the natural, a ruler has servants serving him, accompanying spirits serve the kingly spirit.

An accompanying spirit

Is a servant spirit and is the one that works for the master making sure you obey the master. It is actually the one that fixes you- sinner. Therefore, before leading one to Christ, preach to; refuse, command, bind spirits controlling the sinner's life before you preach to them.

The Spirit of Christ.

Kingly spirit - Ruling spirit and rules over all spirits and men. Spirits are in levels. There are little levels (juniors) enticing etc that serve and there are ruling spirits (kingly)

The spirit of Christ is the highest spirit, it cannot be cast out because Christ is God and his spirit is eternal. The spirit of Christ is the essence and means of drawing power - anointing of God. In situations don't panic, relax and then command the situation, don't say "I didn't pray, fast, got no

revelation from the Lord about the situation; compare Peter and John encounter (Acts 3:1-10).

Reasons why we need deliverance

- God has promised deliverance (Luke 1:73-75, Obadiah 17)
- The church is also called the mountain of God and Israel of God
- Issue of acts 6:1-3
- Controversy of Romans 7
- Deliverance is a cleansing ministry (one cleansed through it) Leviticus 19:31, Deuteronomy 23:12-14
- To be blessed Isaiah 45:1-3
- In order to be healed. Demon can torment and bring sickness Luke 13:11-16, Mark 1:32-34; 9:17-29, Matthew 9:32-33, Revelation 6;’8.
- So as to be anointed.

Doorway that enter into peoples’ lives.

- Curses - a curse is God paying back in the life of a person and his descendants as a result of sin

(Jeremiah 16:18, Lamentations 5:7) curses provide a leak in our lives. Sin separates man from God.

1. Gifts exchanged with former friends etc or items from witches or left to them (which serve as a wire link in your life throughout - need to be cut off in deliverance.
2. Strange customs and traditions involving initiation ceremonies, cleansing etc (laying of the cross, cutting hair because bereaved, remembering the dead and involving drinking or feasting on the same etc.)
3. Marriage breakdowns - open door to both parties- spirit of loneliness, rejection, hopelessness.
4. Unforgiveness - open door spirit of bitterness, sickness and disease, suicide and death.
5. Abortion - a blood sacrifice (covenant) to Satan- spirit of murder, death- result in failed marriage from not having children etc (Genesis 4:8-11)
6. Names - find the meaning of your name. A name determines the identity of a person. In the name are your nature. A name confesses and proclaims what a person is. If the name is good it builds the life of

that person, if the name is bad (wrong) it ruins the person's life (1 Samuel 25:25).

7. Laying of hands - (Leviticus 16:20-22), Deuteronomy 34:9) - doorway, watch who prays and lays his/her hand on you- how is their testimony in life?
8. Polygamy - spirit of struggling, strife, bitterness, rejection, witchcraft, poverty, joblessness.
9. Bearing children out of wedlock and children born of second mother etc. - spirit of rejection and lust (Deuteronomy 23:1-2, Malachi 2:15-16).
10. Witchcraft (Leviticus 19:31) - spirit of witchcraft, bitterness, anger, etc, if pregnant woman visits a witch - unborn child infiltrated with spirit of witchcraft.
11. Adultery - spirit of lust to unborn child if pregnant, if man spirit of lust to child when wife gets pregnant.

Categories of curses

1. Verbal curses (Proverbs 6:2-5)

- a) People can curse themselves (Matthew 27:24-25).
- b) Some body can curse another person (Joshua 6:26-1 Kings 16:34).
- 2. One can be cursed by one having authority (Genesis 9:24-26, Acts 5:1-10; 13:6-11).
- 3. Satanic curses
A person can be cursed by Satan (1 Samuel 17:40-43, Numbers 22:4-8).
- 4. Generational curses
A curse can come to a person as a result of the sins that were not repented by his or her deceased parent as inherits them (Exodus 20:3-5).
- 5. Behavioral curses
Your own personal sins can bring a curse to your life (Malachi 3:8-9 - stealing, Proverbs 19:5, 9 - lying etc. Galatians 5:19-21).

Symptoms of a curse

- Frustration
- Failure
- Frequent family problems
- Mental problems

- Emotional problems
- Sicknesses and diseases
- Poverty
- Barrenness
- Miscarriages
- Divorce
- Calamities

Examples of demonic sickness

Arthritis, Cancer, Stroke, Diabetes, hypertension, migraine, Dumbness, Deafness, Madness, Epilepsy, Boils, Elephantiasis, Growth and Tumor.

Signs and symptoms of demonic influence in one's life.

Chronic diseases

Allergies, cancer, migraine, madness, body stiffness (for some minutes after which later get relieved), teeth-gnashing, having invisible person close to you (possible dedication to a guardian spirit by a witchdoctor) feeling of things moving in the body especially stomach or head (cold or heat) or in your cloth, hair (a demon in you) may be got some ash or herb from a witchdoctor for use on bathing etc,

frightening dreams and night mares, fierce animals or armed men follow you etc., feeling of: weariness or heaviness on body, masturbation, severe monthly period, severe abdominal and back pains, feeling of hot spot on your head, frequent accusations for things you have not done (rejection), nagging thoughts of suicide, hearing voices inside you by invisible people, nauseating smell though you are hygienic etc coming from your body, abnormal desire for attention (hysteria), glaring (shiny eyes) lack of interest in reading the Bible and praying leading to lack of going for fellowship meetings, strong protest on deliverance, getting choked when praying etc, prolonged singleness (unmarried state)

Hindrances from deliverance

1. Failure to deeply repent of sin - deep sorrow for your sins and your parents’.
2. Failure to deal with curses and covenants by renouncing and denouncing them etc.
3. Pride and embarrassment on past life on repentance.
4. Failure to renounce and denounce witchcraft etc.
5. Refusing to forgive others of their trespasses.

6. Refusing to destroy demonic objects.
7. Failure to let the Holy Spirit to do His work in your life by not opening your spirit.
8. Unbelief and doubt.
9. Passivity - Just waiting for the laying of hands and being prayed for and yourself not participating in any way.

Deliverance summed up is the process of correcting one's past life (repentance), healing one's present life (restoration) and shaping one's future life (continuity and survival).

CHAPTER 2

A Christian and Names

A Christian should take great care on names or in naming, as names have meanings in them and therefore a Christian should study the Scripture to find some of the meanings of certain names and their importance and impact. Many have taken names for granted and have not bothered to know the meaning of their name or names of people or places. Many too even pride in getting (owning) good baptismal names or otherwise, because they sound pleasant to the ear though not knowing what the name stands for. For your information just in case you didn't know, names of people or names of places do affect the people holding them or the places so named either positively or negatively. No wonder you find some people holding the same name have some common behaviour or habit and some places have some things happening in common. For the above reason, it is important for a Christian to have a good meaningful name, same with naming places, think of a reasonable name not any name that comes to mind. For instance, there can be a road with 'a sharp bend' at one point and people carelessly

can decide to baptize it ‘a bad corner’ instead of the reality which would be just to call it for what it is ‘a sharp bend’ or ‘a sharp corner’. Surprisingly there will be many accidents taking place at that place just because of the name it was wrongly given. There is some spiritual sense in names and the devil knows and can take advantage to do his things. The corner was badly named. Names just as colours and numbers have some spiritual connotations. That does not mean that we become superstitious of any name, colour or number but need learn and know their meaning if there is any and so forth or life experience on the same. Let us look at the names of our Lord, Jesus Christ as an example. Jesus means “saviour” (Matthew 1:21) and Christ means “the anointed one” (John 4:25). Jesus being the English name of Hebrew name Yeshua and Christ the English name of the Greek name Christos and the Hebrew name Mashiah or English name Messiah. We can see that all that pertains to these names have and are still being fulfilled to the letter to date.

A name is a representative of the holder and so we should be careful when it comes to names. If one realizes is holding a bad name, one is free to change it if one so

wishes and replace with another name through the law courts by swearing an oath and getting a court affidavit or through private licenced advocates, and then revert to using one's new name. The name one holds or a place holds may be associated with a certain spirit or spirits. So one should not be ignorant and accept a name simply because the name sounds nice etc. when one speaks it or hears it.

Right away we will go to the Scripture and find some of the names and what they mean. We will find that God changed some people's names depending on what God intended them to be and even some individuals changed their names and so forth.

- 1) God changed the name of Abram to Abraham meaning 'Father of multitudes or many nations' (Genesis 17:1-6).
- 2) God changed the name of Sarai to Sarah meaning 'Mother of many nations' (Genesis 17:15-16).
- 3) God changed the name of Jacob to Israel meaning "to contend" or "to prevail" (Genesis 32:22-16). The name Jacob meant supplanter or replacer as

he was going to replace the birth right of his elder brother Esau (Genesis 27:30, 36).

- 4) Hagar meaning 'flight' No wonder she had to flee from her mistress Sarai (Sarah) at some point (Genesis 16:1-8).
- 5) Ishmael meaning 'a wild man' (*Genesis* 16:11-12). This name shows the behaviour of his descendants that is obvious all over the world - wild and violent.
- 6) Dinah meaning 'judgement' the brothers of Dinah judged those who brought shame on their sister. (Genesis 34). It has been said rightly that history repeats itself (Ecclesiastes 3:15). Once upon a time during the reign of Dictator Idi Amin Dadah of Uganda then, a plane was hijacked by hijackers and most of the passengers were Israelites. The hijackers directed the plane and it landed at Entebbe air port. It took time for the Government of Israel trying to persuade the hijackers to release the plane and the hostages in vain, at the same time when it seemed the release was not forthcoming the Israelites were planning, organizing and strategizing how to rescue the hostages and in the

opportune time, they bravely raided the hijackers successfully and took the hostages out of Uganda and back to Israel. Thanks be to the God of Israel who was on their side and judged the hijackers.

7. Isaac meaning “laughter”- (Genesis 18:1-15).
8. Bethel meaning “house of God” (Genesis 35:1).
9. Judah meaning “praise” (Genesis 49:8).
10. Bethlehem meaning “house of bread”. Our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem and he said He was the bread of life. So Christians are actually getting spiritual - heavenly bread that came from Bethlehem in Israel. What a wonder! (Matthew 2:1, John 6:31-36, 51).
11. Benoni meaning “son of my sorrow” by wisdom Jacob changed the name of his son to Benjamin meaning “son of my right hand” (Genesis 35:16-18).
12. Balak meaning “destroyer” (Numbers 22:1-7) as Balak wanted to destroy the Israelites.

13. Hannah meaning “grace” she found grace in the presence of the Lord when she was praying in front of the priest Eli (1 Samuel 1:1-19).
14. Nabal meaning “fool”. His wise wife Abigail saved their household. (1 Samuel 25:1-25)
15. Mahlon meaning “sickness” (Ruth 1:1-5) *as he* just passed like that as the name implied because a sickness can easily lead to death.
16. Chilion meaning “vanishing” (Ruth 1:1-5) as his implied.
17. Hadassah (Jewish) meaning “myrtle” later given name Esther (Persian) meaning “stara” or “star”. She became a star from an orphan to a queen, surely the Lord cares for the orphans. (Esther 2:1-17, Psalm 68:5, Deuteronomy 10:17-18).
18. Elijah meaning “Jehovah is God” (1 Kings 18:17-39) *as* God really proved to the prophets of Baal that he is Jehovah God.
19. Jabez meaning “born in sorrow”. Jabez realized the name was not a good one and he called on God of Israel to intervene and bless him. (1 Chronicles 4:1-10).

20. Eutychus meaning ``lucky `` (Acts 20:7-12) as God who was with Apostle Paul revived him.

21. Barak meaning “lightning” (Judges 4 and 5) (Hebrews 11:32)

I do recall here an incident to do with the name. The twin towers in New York in America holding the world Trade Centre was struck in the year 2011 by an Al Qaeda group (a few individuals) using passenger aeroplanes to hit the building and many perished in the destruction of the building and the fire inferno. Then from hence forth the Government of U.S.A intensified tracking of the leader of the group known as Osama Bin Laden and a time came when the President of America Barack Obama ordered a special team American troops to invade the identified residence of Osama Bin Laden and with precision and like “lightning” they thundered the residence and killed Osama Bin Laden.

Let me give you some few examples of life experience touching on name of a person and name of a place.

1. The man called David Rudisha who is an athlete in this country went out of the country to represent Kenya in a

World Athletic Games and won the first prize and came back home with a gold medal. When later there was another race, he went again to defend his title and yet again won a gold medal and returned back with a gold medal. Now let me turn to his name – the word ‘Rudisha’ is a Swahili word ‘meaning to return back something’, surely he returned back the medal to his country Kenya.

2. David the son of Jesse as recorded in the Bible went to a battle field where the army of Israel was facing the army of the Philistines which was headed by a Philistine giant by the name Goliath - an experienced soldier and well armed and although David was just a young boy and not even well armed, he killed the giant and brought back victory back home in Israel carrying the head of the Philistine together with his armor. (1 Samuel 17: 23-54). Now Mr. Rudisha coincidentally had the name of this hero of Israel.
3. The honorable man who held the name Makaburi in this country and his life was cut short, for he was killed. It seems as if the spirit of death was hovering over his life and guarding it so as to take it at the earliest

opportunity to have it where it belongs as the name. The name ‘Makaburi’ is a Swahili word which in English means “graves”. But graves are places where the dead are kept and demons also frequent. It is most unfortunate it happened to one of the fellow citizen of this country.

As parents, it is high time that when God blesses us with a child or with children, let us take time and ask ourselves if the name we have in mind for our child is a good name or not by keenly getting to know what it means in the first place. Names for sure have in one way or another a direct link in the spiritual realm and have serious implications which can be positive or negative depending on the meaning of the name. The youths need to begin asking to know the meaning of the names they hold and request to be changed if they are bad. Don’t just give your child a name because of the situation one was born, or name after your friend or relative regardless of their bad character and so on, it is bad, very bad for a parent to go that route.

4. Now there is a tourist site by the name Hell’s Gate in this country and sad to say, some church elders decided

to take their youths there and it was a grave mistake on the part of the management of that church as many youths perished there. It is unconceivable for church elders (who should be spiritual) to guard their children to do such a thing to make such a wrong decision as there are so many tourist sites in this country but they settled for Hell's Gate!? But the Bible speaks of hell as a very, very, very bad place (Revelation, 20:10; 14-15). Most unfortunate for the parents and the whole country at large for that ugly, incident and more so the Management of the site to have adopted that horrible name in the first place. I don't know what is happening to some of our churches today. During Moses' time, not just anybody was picked to be in a leadership position. (Deuteronomy 1:9-15). They had to be wise men and understanding. Even the early church those who were to serve as deacons were to be those of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. (Acts 6:1-6). If that can be applied now in the churches, most probably such incident may have been avoided. Even to Non-Christians, the name Hell's Gate alone is scary! May the Lord help us. This Walk is a walk in wisdom

(Ephesians 5:15-17). Let me say that such an incident are not confined to this country alone but in the world over and can happen anywhere. Names therefore can and do affect people and places and there is no doubt about that.

CHAPTER 3

The gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit

A. The gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is that through their operation, the Church should become a functional body of Christ here on earth. The gifts of the Spirit are a powerful means of convincing unbelievers of the genuineness of the gospel message.

- i. Manifestation of the body of Christ (1Corinthians 12:12-14, 27).
- ii. World evangelism by confirmation to the gospel preached (Mark 16: 15-18).
- iii. Church edification (1Corinthians 14:3, 12, 26).
- iv. Deliverance via miracles – food supply, healings, word of wisdom etc
- v. Church perfection (Ephesians 4: 11-14).

The gifts of the Holy Spirit also known as grace gifts are given to Christians not to be used as one pleases but for service. Every Spirit filled Christian must have at least one

of the gifts being manifested in the life of the Christian. A Christian is given a gift by the Holy Spirit as a steward and has to use it properly as will be accountable in the end. (1Corinthians 12:7, Matthew 25: 14 – 30 Romans 14:15) God is the one who chooses what gift is to give to who using His sole discretion (1 Corinthians 12: 4). God gives the gift of the Spirit according to His grace (Romans 12: 4-7). The gift of the Holy Spirit may also be imparted by the laying of hands as the case with Paul (Romans 1:11, 1Timothy 4: 14, 2 Timothy 1:6) in such a case the Spirit of God may lead an anointed Minister of God to lay hands upon a person receiving a gift ministry. It is important that there must be a direct guidance of the Spirit of God in the matter of laying on of hands (1 Timothy 5:22). Moses laid hands on Joshua to have wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9).

One can also covet and request God to bestow one with a gift (1 Corinthians 12:31a, Matthew 7:7-11, 2 Kings 2:1-16). A very important thing that need to help us in the operation of the gifts bestowed upon us is love. (1 Corinthians 14:1). One with such gifts need to dedicate one's life to God by living a holy life. Usually one becomes a special target of Satan through various

temptations in trying to make one ineffective. One needs to have a steady prayer life. The Scripture shows that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may be abused (Luke 9:51:56, Numbers20:7-12, 1 Corinthians 14:23-33).

There are 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

1. The Word of wisdom
2. The Word of knowledge
3. The gift of faith
4. The gifts of healing
5. The working of miracles
6. The gift of prophecy
7. The discerning of spirits
8. Speaking in divers tongues.
9. Interpretation of tongues

These gifts can be categorized as follows, grouping them in a way they normally work together and overlap in their operation.

Revelation gifts:

1. Word of wisdom

2. Word of knowledge
3. Discerning of spirits

Power Gifts:

1. Faith
2. Gifts of healing
3. Working of miracles

Inspiration gifts:

1. Prophecy
2. Divers tongues
3. Interpretation of tongues

The gifts are given not to keep (be dormant) but to use otherwise they help no-one. They are given to one to accomplish something for God; hence they should be stirred up as Paul reminded Timothy (1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:4-6). For the gift to operate properly through one's life, one must have faith and be bold as well (Romans 12:3, 6).

The scriptures reveal that the gifts are under the control of a Christian they are bestowed on (1 Corinthians 14:32). And also reveal that the gifts may be faked or counterfeited, therefore, one needs to be studying the word of God and be

prayerful to be able to differentiate the one of God or the one of Satan as warned by the scriptures (1John 4:1-3, Exodus 7:8-12, Revelation 16:13-14, Matthew 24:23-24) Satan does not have true creative power but can only imitate creating a miracle which in the true sense is not real as seen in the case of Moses and the magicians of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. Satan is very deceptive but his power is limited although now and then he tries to imitate the gifts of God. If one has any of the gifts and does not live a separated life, one may get into trouble as seen with:

- David (2 Samuel 11:1-12:19)
- Samson (Judges 16:1-21)
- Balaam (Numbers 22:1-34, Joshua 13:22, from a Prophet to a soothsayer)
- Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50, 27:3-5)

1. The word of wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)

The word of wisdom is a divine wisdom natural or supernatural given supernaturally by God. Apart from, that, we also have human wisdom and Satan's wisdom.

(a) God gave Bezaleel wisdom and understanding so that he can use to build the tabernacle and the things there in (Exodus 31:1-11). God gave Joshua wisdom for leadership before the death of Moses, to lead the Israelites. (Deuteronomy 34:9). God also gave Solomon wisdom to help him in decision - making when ruling, as he was a youth (1 Kings 3:4-9, 16-28). James the brother of Jesus advised one lacking in wisdom to request from God (James 1:5). Jesus Christ while on earth showed much wisdom in answering questions and so forth (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 7:18-22, John 4:7-24, Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40).

There are many reasons why the word of wisdom is necessary. Christians are on a daily basis encountered with teething problems and only a word of wisdom can bring a difference. Christians are involved in business and wisdom is needed to conduct the business properly. In serving the Lord one needs wisdom (Romans 12:11, Luke 16:8). The word of wisdom is needed in running the affairs of the Church of Christ by the leaders (1 Corinthians 12:28 Acts 6:1-3) A word of wisdom is needed in the winning of souls to Christ (Proverbs 11:30). When King David was

faced with war, he always sought the counsel of God (2 Samuel 5:17-25). The word of wisdom is needed by Christians to counsel governments as the case of Daniel with King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:1-30).

- The case of Philip (Acts 8:26-38)
- The case of Ananias (Acts 9:10-18)
- The case of the church at Antioch (Acts 13:1-3)
- The case of Paul at Troas (Acts 16:6-10)

(b) Human wisdom

Human wisdom pertains primarily to the present life and cannot help in preparation to life after death. Worldly wisdom is inferior to God's wisdom (Luke 14:28-32 Ecclesiastes 1:16-18)

(c) Satan's wisdom

This is evil methods or strategy Satan uses to tempt people. (James 3:14-16, Genesis 3:1-6, Matthew 4:1-10).

2. The word of knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)

The word of knowledge is that knowledge one gets supernaturally and may come at a crucial time. It can come at a time when there is say hypocrisy or evil intentions and the word of knowledge can help in exposing these. One does not get the word of knowledge by education or by studying the Scriptures, although the latter is necessary for every Christian's growth (2 Timothy 2:15, John 5:39, Acts 17: 10-12).

An example of the gift of the word of knowledge can be seen when Gehazi followed Naaman and lied to him in order to get something from him, Elisha knew though was not with Gehazi then (2 Kings 5:20-27). By the gift of the word of knowledge a prophet by the name Agabus warned apostle Paul what would befall him if he went to Jerusalem (Acts 21:10-15). The prophet Elisha through the gift of the word of knowledge warned the king of Israel about the plans by the King of Syria. (2 Kings 6:8-12) Jesus Christ by the gift of the word of knowledge knew what were in men's hearts or minds (John 2:24-25, 1; 40-47). Jesus knew that the disciples He had sent to go before Him in a ship had met with problems (Matthew 14:22-25). Jesus spoke of the events that would lead to His death, well

in advance (Matthew 16:15-21) When approaching Jerusalem, Jesus knew about an ass and a colt tied with her ahead and sent His disciples (Matthew 21:1-7) Jesus sent His disciples to go and prepare the Passover with instructions that proved true (Mark 14:12-16). Jesus knew about Judas Iscariot's betraying Him (John 13:21-28).

3. The gift of faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)

Faith is as powerful as the working of miracles although their operation is different in that miracles happen immediately, but faith has the potential and its operation may take a while before its operation becomes evident. (Mark 11:12-14, 20-24) That is an example of the gift of faith, the faith of God, a supernatural faith. According to the gospel of John, this kind of faith is available to those who are true believers of Jesus Christ (John 14:12) All who believe in Christ Jesus are given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3) The faith one receives can be destroyed by accepting wrong teachings and so forth (1 Timothy 1:19, 2 Timothy 2:18).

There are two major types of faith natural faith and supernaturally faith; Natural faith when properly nurtured it can grow and become stronger and stronger and can move to the supernatural realm. We get faith by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). The other faith which is supernatural and is directly imparted from God, it is beyond the human faith and goes into the creative realm. This type of faith can lift a believer into a life of continuous victory. Faith can break the grip of sickness and bring one into a realm of divine health (Hebrews 11:32-34). The gift of faith can bring protection to a believer (Daniel 3:4-6, 12, 16, 24-27, 6:10-11, 13, 16, 19-22, Psalm 91:1-13, Acts 4:18-21).

The gift of faith can supply a believer's need as in the case of Abraham (Genesis 22:1-3, 7-13). The gift of faith operates in the lives of those who have an utmost faith in the promises of God. The conditions of our supplies by God are in Malachi 3:8-10, Mark 10:29-30.

The gift of faith can bring divine health to a believer as in the case of Caleb (Joshua 14:10-11). The gift of faith can result in a believer getting the services of supernatural transport (Hebrews 11:5, 2 Kings 2:9-10, Acts 8:39, 1

Kings 18:12 Mark 1: 12). The gift of faith can be used by a believer to bring divine discipline (Matthew 18:18, 1 Timothy 1:19-20), 1 Corinthians 5:1-5). But the method should be applied in love and with the intention to have the believer who is unruly to have an opportunity to repent and be restored back in the faith. This method also needs to be applied as a last resort, when all other methods have failed.

4. The gifts of healing (1 Corinthians 12:9)

The gifts of healing just as other gifts are supernatural in nature and is not the same as healing from medical profession. This gift is a multiple gift as the Bible implies. These gifts of healing result in healing of divine power. We are going to look at some of the ways how the gifts of healing work.

i. Prayer

One can pray for one's healing as recorded in James 5:13a. But one must have faith when praying. Another case is of King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20:1-5.

ii. **Laying on of hands.**

Jesus Christ gave a promise to believers to lay their hands on the sick and they shall recover (Mark 16:17-18). Care need to be taken in the laying of hands to be prayed for as by allowing just every body and any body to lay his or her hand on you for prayers you are disobeying God (James 5:14-15). Please note that you are to be prayed by those you know (the elders of the church) and not just any one even strangers who you hardly know anything of their lives and their walk with the Lord. Satanists who infiltrate some weak churches are very ready to pray for the unwary.

iii. **The command of faith.**

The apostles commanded the sick to be healed rather than praying for them basing their action on (Matthew 8:16, 17).

iv. **The spoken word**

Healing may take place through the spoken word (Psalm 107:20, Matthew 8:1-13).

v. **Anointed cloth**

Healing may come through an anointed cloth. A cloth that has come into contact of an anointed minister of God who has faith in healing (Acts 19:11-12, Mark 6:56).

vi. **An act of faith**

A person can receive healing because one has obeyed in performing an act of faith. Example the case of Naaman and the ten lepers (2 Kings 5:14, Luke 17:11-14).

vii. **Anointing of the elders**

This is a common method used by the elders of the Church. The oil denotes and signifies the presence of the Spirit and the sick person need exercise faith and claim healing (James 5:14-15). Because this gift is known as the gifts of healing, it means that different kind of gift is for a different kind of sickness and so on. We find in the scriptures that the gifts of healing require the cooperation and faith of the sick person who need be told to put his

faith in action examples in Matthew 9:6-7, 27-29, 12:13. Those with the gifts of healing need to seek God in prayer and fasting to avoid an incidence as recorded in Matthew 17:15-16, 21. Even though one may possess the gifts of healing, not all healings will be instantaneous, in which case the person prayed for need to be encouraged to believe even though instantaneous miracle does not take place. There are some people who oppose the divine healing ministry and demand those who minister to the sick should visit the hospitals e.t.c. and heal everyone who is sick. That is completely unscriptural, read Luke 4:27, Mark 6:4-6. These scriptures point to the fact that the gifts of healing are not designed for healing indiscriminately but there are important conditions to be met first. Also read Matthew 15:22-28.

5. The working of miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10)

The gift of working of miracles involves many and varied kinds of supernatural activities such as the raising of the dead, invoking of special judgements against wicked

persons or nations, the granting of miraculous deliverance of God's people, the performing of special miracles of supply and so forth. It is important to know that this gift is not given for the purpose of astounding, amusing or entertaining and that miracles are compatible with God's dignity and majesty. Let us see some examples of Jesus' reaction on the issue (Matthew 4:1-7, 14:15-21, 23-25, 16:1-4).

Although miracles are entirely supernatural in its source, God can employ natural means in connection with a miracle. Examples are:- Genesis 7:11-12, Exodus 14:21, 1Kings 17:8-15, John 6:5-11. Some miracles are continuous as is the case in Deuteronomy 29: 5. Yet, there is a case of a donkey speaking! (Numbers 22:27-28). Let us now look at some multiple examples of different kinds of the working of miracles.

i. **The raising of the dead.**

The act of raising the dead is related to but distinct from the operation of the gift of healing. In raising the dead, more

than healing is required - a miracle, because the spirit of the dead must return to body. Cases of the dead returning to life are rare. It is the prerogative of God to decide whether a dead person be given back life or not.

- 1 Kings 17:17-24
- 2 Kings 4:32-36
- Luke 7:11-15
- Luke 8:41-42, 52-55
- John 11:20-23, 41-44
- Acts 9:36-41
- Acts 20:7-12

ii. Judgement

The working of miracles of judgement is told about the ten plagues that befall Egypt.

- Exodus 7: 20-25
- Exodus 8:1-5
- Exodus 8:16-19
- Exodus 8:20-24
- Exodus 9:1-7
- Exodus 9:8-12

- Exodus 9:22-35
- Exodus 10:12-20
- Exodus 10:21-23
- Exodus 11 and 12

Other judgements

Numbers 16:1-4, 31-33

2 Kings 1:9-10

1 Kings 13:3

2 Chronicles 26:16-19

Acts 13: 9-11

Miracles can either convince and bring a man to repentance or they can harden and make him like Pharaoh, irrevocably impenitent (Matthew 11:20-24). The man whom the working of miracles is bestowed upon is under serious responsibility to walk close in obedience to God and must keep in close covenant relationship with God. Spiritual carelessness can have serious consequences.

iii. Miracles of supply

God by supernatural means provides for His people. God's names include "Jehovah - jire" – the Lord will provide (Genesis 22:14). In the book of Exodus (Exodus 16:3-4) Jesus taught His disciples to pray for their daily supply (Matthew 6:11) Jesus also gave a parable of a rich fool (Luke 12:16-21). Although God does not require His people to live from hand to mouth, he at the same time does not want them to depend on laid up wealth that may make them trust in their riches rather than in Him. God tested the Israelites on manna collection (Exodus 16: 26-29).

- Exodus 17:1,5-6
- I Kings 17:2-6
- 2 Kings 4:1-6
- John 2:3-4,7-8
- Matthew 17:24-25,27

It should be noted that in the performance of any miracle, the attention of the people be directed towards God and not towards man, as the Lord must always receive all the glory. It should also be noted that a miracle of supply is given only where it is definitely needed.

iv. Miracles affecting nature.

One of the miracles involving nature was the opening of the Red Sea to permit the children of Israel to march through and escape the pursuing hosts of pharaoh (Exodus 14:15-16). Another miracle affecting nature is when Joshua commanded the sun to stand still (Joshua 10:12-13). Another miracle affecting nature involved the Lord and the storm at sea (Matthew 8:23-27).

6. The gift of prophecy (1Corinthians 12:10, 1 Corinthians 14:3)

In the Old Testament the prophetic ministry was essentially foretelling. In the New Testament it is both foretelling (1 Corinthians 12:10) and forth telling (1 Corinthians 14:3). The gift of prophecy is not manifested in the ordinary teaching or preaching of the word. A minister may, nonetheless as the anointing increases, move from ordinary preaching into the realm of prophecy. The preaching of a pastoral sermon requires careful preparation whereas one does prepare to deliver a message in prophecy, except to wait on the Lord for the anointing required for its

manifestation. The gift of prophecy is supernatural. Whereas the speaking in other tongues enables one to speak to God supernaturally. Likewise the gift of prophecy enables God to speak to man supernaturally through the organs of man. The office of a prophet in the Old Testament days was involved more on predictions of the future, the giving of guidance and divine leading. One of the chief reasons for a change of emphasis on the manifestation of the gift of prophecy today is because of a change of the priesthood. In the Old Testament days one inquired of the Lord through a priest. In this period (currently) all believers are part of the priesthood and can approach the Lord directly (1 Peter 2:9). Prophecy does the following among others:

i. Edifies

Edification of the Church is often necessary and prophecy does this in building the Church (1Corinthians 14:4). Through the gift of prophecy one hears as if God Himself is talking to him.

ii. Exhorts

The Church usually finds itself in a low state of spirituality unknowingly and only a word of admonition by the spirit of prophecy may awake it from such a state (Revelation 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 14:3).

iii. Comforts

Many a times Christians go through hard times and need comforting and encouragement and the gift of prophecy can give words to help Christians who go through such difficult experiences (John 6:33, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 1 Corinthians 14:3).

iv. Convicts

As we have seen above, prophecy blesses believers but it convicts sinners causing them to become deeply conscious of the presence of God. If the prophecy is coupled with the preaching of the word of God this can bring about the conversion of a sinner by accepting Christ Jesus as one's Lord and saviour (1 Corinthians 14:24-25, Romans 1:17, 10:17). Prophecies can be conditional (attached with some conditions for its fulfilment) and there are other prophecies

that are unconditional (Not attached to any condition for their fulfilment).

1. Conditional Prophecy.

The prophecy by Isaiah to King Hezekiah is an example of a conditional prophecy (Isaiah 38:1-5). Here we see that Hezekiah's faith in God and his prayer brought the difference in his life and his life was spared. The prophecy of Jonah to the people of Nineveh is another example (Jonah 3:1-10). From the scriptures we see that the overwhelming response by the people of Nineveh saved the day, verses 5-10. God is a loving God and normally provides a period of warning and respite in which men if they choose, may change a situation that is a head of them. But if men squander the time and refuse to change then there is no remedy, God has no alternative but to bring His judgement (Ezekiel 33:14-16, 2 Chronicles 36:15-16).

God may give a promise which is conditional and the fulfilment may depend upon the obedience of the individual. Therefore, it should not be assumed that a promise will be fulfilled without any real prayer or effort on the part of the individual, no wonder some have seen

their hopes not coming by and may have concluded that the promise (prophecy) was false.

2. Unconditional Prophecy

A good example of an unconditional prophecy is the prophecy concerning the future ministry and death of the Messiah (Isaiah 53). Prophecy has a limit in that it will go only as far as what the Scriptures say. True prophecy is centred around Christ. All utterances which claim to be prophecy but which do not focus or relate in some way to the truth and person of the Lord Jesus Christ, must be taken as counterfeit. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Revelation 19:10). Hence the warning by Apostle John in the book of Revelation (Revelation 22:18-19).

It is true that the gifts of the Spirit are given according to the sovereign will of God, but their exercise according to the Scriptures depends upon the individual so bestowed. The individual is responsible for manifesting the gifts (stirring them up) (1Corinthians 13:32, 1 Corinthians 12:11, Hebrews 2:4, Jeremiah 1:5, 20:9, 1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6).

Although we are not to despise prophesying but to give them heed, we must weigh them in the light of the Scripture (I Thessalonians 5:19-21, Isaiah 8:20, 1 John 4:1-3, Matthew 24:24, Deuteronomy 18:22).

7. Discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10)

The discerning of spirits is a supernatural enablement, permitting identification of the nature and character of spirits seen or unseen which includes: -

- Angel spirits
- Demon or satanic spirits
- Human spirits
- The Spirit of God

Discerning of spirits is not ability to see faults in others, it is not mind-reading, it is not spiritism and it has nothing to do with psychiatry. The purpose of discerning of spirits is for God's people to be able to discern good spirits and evil spirits. The gift of discerning of spirits enables one (at such times as God permits) to see into the spiritual realms and perceive spirit beings (2 kings 6:15-17).

The gift of discerning of spirits enables one to instantly detect the presence of an evil or seducing spirit (Acts 16:16-19). The gift of discerning of spirits enables one to discern evil and hypocrisy among God's people. There are times when men of God need to know what evil men are planning .There are times when deception is practised among God's people and which, if left unchecked, might bring great harm (Joshua 7:1, 4-5,10-13,2 kings 5:20,25-27,Acts 5:1-10).

The Scripture reveal to us that there are two worlds – one which is natural and another which is spiritual. Our physical senses are able to see the natural creation but cannot see the spiritual world. It is only through supernatural means can we be able to see the spiritual world. When a person is given the gift of discerning of spirits one becomes a citizen of two worlds – in that one can see both in the natural and the spiritual worlds.

There are many spiritual forces on the loose in the spirit world and we need to be alert and Apostle John has given us a method of identifying an evil spirit in his epistle to the Church (1 John 4:1-3).

But the most ideal method is by the gift of discernment of spirits. The gift of discerning of spirits lacked in the case of Eve at the Garden of Eden as she did not recognize the true identity of the person she was dealing with (Satan) (Genesis 3:1-6). Job, his spouse and servants lacked this gift and did not perceive who was behind the disasters that befell Job (Job 1:6-19, 2:1-10). Satan attempts many times and succeeds in leading even God's people into delusions and causing them to do things that are completely outside the will of God (King David - 1 Chronicles 21:1). (Apostle Peter – (Matthew 16:21, 23). The people of Samaria (Acts 8:9-11). Apostle Paul discerned the spirit of divination in the damsel and could not be fooled by her words (Acts 16:16-18). Notice that the evil spirit in her was masquerading as the Spirit of God in her wordings to Paul and Silas.

Examples of discerning of the human spirit are as follows:

- Jesus case (John 2:24-24, mark 2:8).
- Jeremiah's case (Jeremiah 28:1-3, 15-17).

- Nehemiah's case (Nehemiah 6:10-12).
- Elisha's case (2 kings 5:26).
- Peter's case (Acts 5:3-6, 8:20-23).

8. Speaking in divers tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)

We find that the speaking in divers tongues is not the same as speaking in new tongues as we can see from the scriptures. Speaking in divers tongues is a supernatural gift of God which he gives to certain individuals as He sees fit, unlike speaking in new tongues which is available to all believers and is recognized by the early Church as the initial physical evidence of the infilling of the Spirit (Mark 16: 17, Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:6).

The speaking in divers tongues is a gift whereby the individual is enabled to speak diversities of tongues, that is, speak different tongues or languages (1 Corinthians 12:28). Speaking in new tongues is ability to speak in only one tongue or language by an individual believer. It means speaking in another (new) tongue or language that is not yours but which can be clearly understood by one who knows the language. The reason why some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit don't seem to be functioning in some

churches is because the natural ways (methods) have been left to supersede the supernatural because of affinity with the world (worldliness creeping into the Church) which leads to lukewarm ness.

Satan has his counterfeits of a number of God's works. It is true that there are false prophets and the like who speak under the unction of a power other than the Spirit of God. During Moses' time, Pharaoh's magicians matched many of God's miracles (Exodus 7 and 8). One very easy way of knowing whether an individual is speaking in a new tongue by the Spirit of God is whether the individual is a true believer or not because the scriptures talk of believers to be speaking in new tongues (Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-4). From the above we can also deduce that any unbeliever manifesting any gift can only mean the manifestation are not from God – as not one with Christ (the body of Christ).

9. Interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)

Interpretation of the tongues simply means to interpret what has been spoken in a new or unknown tongue. An interpretation of a message in the unknown tongue as a rule is not a translation. It is more than a translation as it

may give the general gist of what has been said in the unknown tongue, even as the professional language interpreter sometimes does. If the speaking in tongues have been overly long, then the interpretation may sum-up what has been spoken. Interpretations differ widely in character and quality. Some are excellent, some fair, others mediocre. This comes about as a result of a very wide range of yielding to the Spirit between different persons. Since gift of interpretation which is really a special form of prophecy, is more apt to be manifest in a public service than prophecy, the apostle Paul has given some instructions.

1. Speaking in tongues is not permitted in the public assembly when there is no interpreter. Tongues with interpretation, nonetheless, is acceptable and is equivalent to prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:5).
2. If there is no interpreter present in the congregation then he who speaks in unknown tongue should pray that he may interpret (1 Corinthians 14:13) until then, he should keep silent.
3. The number of messages in unknown tongue should be limited as obviously there is limited

amount of time available in a service for other things like prayer, singing, preaching, altar call services etc. (1 Corinthians 14:27).

4. While several persons may speak in the unknown tongue, only one should interpret. Otherwise, we may have the spectacle of two persons attempting to interpret at the same time, which would be very confusing (1 Corinthians 14:31, 33).
5. Prophecies and interpretations are to be judged. This is inevitable since they represent a merging of the infallible and the fallible. If the prophecy or interpretation were all God, then no instructions would be needed (1 Corinthians 14:29). There have been prophecies given which advocated strange doctrines, or teachings that were unsound.

These, if left unanswered, might result in serious division in the Church. The public judging of prophecies under suspect should, if possible, be done by another prophet or at least by one who has the gift of prophecy of interpretations of tongues. Spiritual things need to be spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:13).

All the nine gifts of the Spirit without the fruits of the Holy Spirit come to nought (1 Corinthians 13:1, 14:1). The gifts have been grouped into similar or near similar functions. In many circumstances they don't operate alone but two or more gifts may operate at one particular time - they overlap each other in functioning. In closing on the gifts of the Holy Spirit it is quite clear that they are not given to us Christians just for fun but for the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) and therefore for that matter we need to be careful to use them being fruitful to the Lord as unfruitfulness is catastrophic as the following scriptures states:

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:5-6

And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon on all things, and

now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

And seeing fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

Mark 11:11-14, 20-21

From the above scriptures we can see the danger of being unfruitful as Christians in that we are going to lose, being a cursed lot and be burned in the lake of fire. Because as Christians we are the body of Christ here on earth and are supposed to do some work for him in the field in life as we are connected to him. Let us look at this other scripture which corroborates that fact.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with long suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears:

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

From the above scripture it is quite clear that as Christians we need to be always fruitful for the Lord in season and out of season; meaning at all times. If not then we become mere leaves before the Lord and good for nothing – useless.

(B) The fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

By saying the fruit of the Spirit, it simply means the outcome / the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life after receiving Him. In other words, the virtues that are produced out of the Holy Spirit. When one becomes a Christian by repenting of one's sins and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit, one has received power that enables one to bring forth the virtues of the Spirit and which can be brought forth in due season (Psalm 1:3). Just as we have 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit likewise, incidentally, we have 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit. Christians are supposed to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit and not the works of the flesh (as they are spiritual and not carnal). Apostle Paul gave this advice to the Church to walk only in the Spirit so as not to bring forth the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-18).

The following are the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Long-suffering
5. Gentleness

6. Goodness
7. Faith
8. Meekness
9. Temperance

The above virtues can be brought forth in a Christian by: the gospel (Colossians 1:4-6), abiding in Christ for pruning (John 15:1- 5), delighting in and meditating on the word of God and not standing in the counsel of the wicked or in the way of sinners nor sitting in the seat of scoffers (Psalm 1:1-2), walking as the children of light (Ephesians 5:7-9) and not making provision for lust but dying to self (John 12:24, Romans 8:12-13).

CHAPTER 4

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament we find that the Ark of the Covenant of God was being carried by the priests from the sons of the tribe of Levi among the sons of Kohath as the duty assigned to them. That scene of carrying the Ark of the covenant from one place to another was a shadow of the 5-fold ministry in the New Testament that would bring the glory of the Lord to the Church (Haggai 2:9).

Just as the sons of Kohath were given the service of the most holy things in the tabernacle (numbers 4:1-4) so the ministers in the 5-fold ministry have been given special gifting from the Lord for perfecting the Church (Ephesians 4:7-13).

Therefore the ministers of the 5-fold ministry are the ones who cause to bring the glory of God to the Church and serving universally in the local churches to mature her so that she is a glorious Church for the Bridegroom to have her as his perfect Bride (Revelation 19:6-8).

The Ark of testimony was being covered as it had the glory and presence of God and which was not supposed to be looked at lest one dies.

AND the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, saying, Take the sum of the sons of Ko'-hath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers, From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

This shall be the service of the sons of Ko'-hath in the tabernacle of the congregation, about the most holy things.

Numbers 4:1-4

The covering of the Ark of testimony was allocated to Aaron and his sons (Numbers 4:5-15).

There is a five-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit which is supernatural in character and is as follows:

- Apostolic
- Prophetic
- Evangelistic

- Pastoral
- Teaching

The above being offices and which are held by:

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

The head of the above is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who is: The Chief Apostle

The Chief Prophet

The Chief Evangelist

The Chief Shepherd Pastor

The Chief Teacher

And as he is the chief of all the above, he is the one that sends the Apostles, the Prophets, the Evangelists and the Pastors and Teachers to minister to the Church which is his body. Just as David the son of Jesse took up five smooth stones and a sling to accomplish something (to fight the enemy Goliath) (1 Samuel 17:40-45) it seems God too has equipped the Church of Christ with the five-fold ministry to accomplish something (to perfect the saints) by appointing

the above ministers to serve in those offices (Ephesians 4: 11-13).

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Phil-is'-tine.

And the Phil-is'-tine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bear the shield went before him.

And when the Phil'-is'-tine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Phil-is'-tine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Phil-is'-tine cursed David by his gods.

And the Phil-is'-tine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beast of the field.

Then said David to the Phil-is'-tine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

1 Samuel 17:40-45

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:11-13

Before moving into the details of the 5-fold ministry of the Spirit let me touch on the church as a body of believers in Christ Jesus, the category of gifts, why the gifts are given in summary and the features expected from a mature Church.

The church of Christ is in two categories.

a) Local church

A body of believers meeting in a local area within their reach under pastoral care (oversight) for spiritual nourishment and worship (Deuteronomy 12:4-7, Acts

20:28-30, Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 4:15, Romans 16:1, 3-4, 16).

b) Universal church

The body of believers from all Nations, tribes and tongues (Revelation 7:9-10) and which must experience unity of faith into one body (Ephesians 4:1-6) now the Church of Christ has been called by many names such as:

i) The flock of God

(Isaiah 40:11, Zechariah 9:16, Luke 12:32, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2).

ii) God's building

(1 Corinthians 3:9, Ephesians 2: 21, Matthew 16:18).

iii) The bride of Christ

(Ephesians 5:25-28, Revelation 19:6-8).

iv) The body of Christ

(Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12: 26-27, Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11-12, Colossians 2:16-19).

v) A pure virgin

(2 Corinthians 11:2).

vi) The vineyard of the Lord

(John 15:1-5).

vii) The Church of God

(2 Corinthians 1:1).

viii) A chosen people (The chosen Ones)

(1 Peter 2:9).

ix) A royal priesthood

(1 Peter 2:9).

x) A holy nation

(1 Peter 2:9).

xi) A peculiar people

(1 Peter 2:9).

xii) The heirs of God

(Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 3:27-29).

xiii) The family of God

(Galatians 4:5-6).

xiv) The children of light

(John 12:36, Ephesians 5:6-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5).

xv) The children of God

(John 1:11-12, Romans 8:14-15, Philippians 2:12-15).

xvi) The assembly of the upright

(Psalm 111:1).

In all the above names we find that the Church of Christ is God's building and we know that every building must have

a foundation. The foundation of a building determines the strength of the building. For great spiritual strength, God's building (a spiritual building - the Church) must also have a strong foundation (Isaiah 28:16, Matthew 16:13-18, Ephesians 2:19-22).

God has appointed apostolic and prophetic ministries to lay down the foundation of the Church, which is Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9-11). God uses the gifts and ministries he has given to men and women to construct His building, that is, The Church. Every gift and ministry has been assigned (given) enough grace and anointing to enable the person being used to fulfill God's purpose (1 Corinthians 3:5-8). Every ministry and gift should be rightfully applied to serve a rightful place in building the Church (2 Corinthians 10:12-18).

Categories of gifts given to the Church.

1. Five - fold ministry gifts – (Ephesians 4:11).
2. Manifestational gifts - (gifts of the Holy Spirit) – (1 Corinthians 12:7-10).

3. Motivational gifts (inherent gifts) – (Romans 12:6-8)
Upon these major gifts the strength of the Church lies
(rests)

Why these gifts are given to the church

1. To build the Church of Christ.
2. To bring the saints into unity of faith.
3. To bring the saints into true knowledge of God's Son.
4. To bring the saints to spiritual maturity.
5. To help the saints in reaching the fullness of Christ's stature and character.
6. To prepare God's people for the work of ministry.

Every member of the Church is supposed to become a ministering member who ministers:

1. To the Lord
2. To other believers
3. To the World

These ministries equip the members of the Church to fulfil their ministry callings by teaching them how to do the following:

- a) How to worship in spirit and truth.
- b) To teach them to watch, pray and intercede.
- c) To fight spiritual warfare.
- d) How to study the Bible.
- e) Teach them to grow in Christ's character.
- f) To exercise gift of the Holy Spirit.
- g) How to hear from the Lord.
- h) How to witness to the unbelievers.
- i) Teach them to have strong family and marital life.

Features of a mature Church

- 1. Should have healthy, strong spiritual life based on God's word, purity and fear of the Lord.
- 2. Should have strong prayer life.
- 3. Should have deep and true worship.
- 4. Should have deep truths and revelation and committed to it (1 Timothy 3:9).
- 5. Should have healthy and strong giving lifestyle.
- 6. There should be clear co-operation between leaders themselves and ordinary church members.
- 7. There should be clear understanding of overall church vision and committed to it, by both church

leaders and members (Habakkuk 2:2-3, Proverbs 29:18).

8. There must be true submission of all to God's authority in the church.
9. There must be effective administration, that is, strong, wise, prayerful and loving leaders who know how to organize, train, budget and accountable in the church. Also involving the structure and organization needed to oversee the affairs of the church. We have positional authority which belongs to Christ and functional authority which has been delegated to the leaders in the church.
10. There must be clear record keeping (on church members and their status (married or single) their attendance, whether as saved have been water baptized, dedicated children and Tithes and offerings and expenditures.
11. There should be a regular, submission of reports to whoever a leader is accountable the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

12. There should be operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

General information important in ministry work

Every person that believes in the Son of God is called to be a follower of Jesus Christ and to be a witness for Him.

Every believer has been called to serve God but at the same time God calls others and appoints them to a distinctive ministry to preach the gospel. (Romans 10:15; 1:1-5, Matthew 4:18-22).

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:15

PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scripture),

Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Romans 1:1-5

Please note that Paul says in verse 1 that he is a servant of Jesus Christ (verse 1) and that he has been called to be an apostle (verse 2) and separated unto the gospel of God.

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net in to the sea: for they were fishers.

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zeb'-e-dee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zeb'-e-dee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-22

You can also read the following scriptures on God's calling and appointment to ministry, in these cases, the prophetic ministry. (Exodus 3:1-10, Isaiah 6:1-11, Jeremiah 1:1-12).

If you are definitely sure you have been called and appointed to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, then you need to begin to prepare in prayer and fasting reading and studying the word of God and separating yourself too. (Matthew 4:1-11, 2 Timothy 2: 15, Psalm 1:1-2). You need to diligently study the word so that your heart and mind is full of the word of God and get to know that it is not optional but a must.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Timothy 2: 15

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

You need to learn to be obedient to the word all the time to be in the right course and to please the Lord (Joshua 1:8; John 9:31; 11:41-42).

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

John 9:31

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 11:41-42

You must be filled with the Holy Spirit to be able to effectively preach the gospel with boldness and also to enable you endure the many challenges you will have to face in the ministry (Acts 1:8).

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Sa-mar'i-a, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

You must remain focused to your calling in ministry and have comparison for souls and learn how to relate to them and their needs and preach relevantly to them. (John 4:34, Mark 8:1-3)

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 4:34

IN those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,

I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.

Mark 8:1-3

Apostle Paul had that to say.

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved.

Romans 10:1

You must develop an impeccable character otherwise you will not achieve the desired results for your service. Give the image to your community that you are God's servant and what you say can be relied on at all times. Your constant prayer life will help your ministry and your own

life shielding it from many evils surrounding you. Remember to put on the whole armor of God and asking the Lord to cover your life and of your family with the blood of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:10-11).

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Believe God to provide for you and don't use any crooked way to earn a living as God is faithful. (3 John 2, 1 Kings 17:1-9)

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 2

AND E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, who was of the inhabitants of Gil'-e-ad, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by
the brook Che'-rith, that is before Jordan.

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I
have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD:
for he went and dwelt by the brook Che'-rith, that is before
Jordan.

And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning,
and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drunk of the
brook.

And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up,
because there had been no rain in the land.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
Arise, get thee to Zar'-e-phath, which belongeth to Zi'-don,
and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow
woman there to sustain thee.

1 Kings 17:1-9

You can read further the following scriptures:

THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23:1-2

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

What to watch or be careful about

i) Morality

Don't compromise your morality as Samson did or else you will have messed up and even destroyed your ministry (Judges 16:1-22)

ii) Fund raising

Money is a medium of exchange and is a necessity in this modern world we live in and also important too, for promoting church work. Therefore whenever it is necessary to have fund raising in a church, it should not be done under a false pretence and spending the funds raised for a different thing altogether. Moreover, proper records must be kept of what has been realized and how it has been

spent, even those collections of Sunday services. Fund raising should not be a frequent thing in a church and must take the shortest time possible to allow much time for other spiritual matters for the well being of the members.

iii) Marriage

Having a wrong marriage is but a disaster for any minister of the gospel as a spouse to a minister can be a help to some extent to one's ministry and if mismatched it can only impact very negatively (Leviticus 21:7; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

iv) Conman ship

Don't lure people to part with their money or any other possession for instance by selling to them an article claiming it has some supernatural power or has some advantage in life eg handkerchief, olive oil as anointing oil or water as "holy water" and so forth (Leviticus 19:11).

v) Civil law

A minister of the gospel and as a Christian is not of the world but is in the world and must obey the laws of the land one is living in, as long as such laws are not against the laws of God (Romans 13:1-7).

vi) Gospel Message

A minister needs to present a balanced message to the listeners but still remain firm in condemning all forms of evil. After telling people of evil should go further and reveal to them the solution way out of it all. If that is not done, the message is incomplete and the desired result may not be realized. When a minister shares a message he or she should expect a response and people may be unable to respond if not given an opportunity of how to respond to the message so delivered (Acts 2:22-41, 2 Timothy 4:1-2).

vii) Rest

A minister of the gospel just like any other person, needs some rest at some point. But such a rest should be utilized properly in useful activities that can rejuvenate him or her and ready when he or she goes back to ministry work (Mark 6:30-32).

1. The Ministry of an Apostle (Ephesians 4:11)

The word “Apostle” has a wider meaning than is generally understood. The word comes from “Apostolos”, a Greek word which means “one set forth”, “a messenger”, an “ambassador” An apostle is one who is sent on a special mission. There are different categories of apostles Christ Himself being the Chief apostle (Hebrews 3:1-2) followed by the twelve disciples of Christ (Matthew 10:1-15, Acts 1:21-22) followed by Matthias (Acts 1:23-26) then James the brother of the Lord (Galatians 1:18-19) then Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:14-15) then Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:6-9) then Andronicus and Junia (Romans 16:7) then Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25). Although even today we have true apostles of God, Satan also has tried to introduce counterfeit (false) apostles in the Church, seeing the importance of this office. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Only God appoints apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Galatians 1:1, Romans 1:5-6). True apostles will show humility and willingness to serve the church and not just proclaiming their office and their work will also

produce good fruit (Acts 4:33, 5:12). A true apostle will not have a covetous spirit for filthy lucre (John 12:1-6).

Many have appointed themselves as apostles thinking that it is an elevation to a position of authority and to rule over God's people in the church and that is a wrong thought (Matthew 20:25-28). An apostle must be faithful; and must seek for the unity of the church and be of sound faith and pure doctrine wise (3 John 9, Timothy 1:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:16-18). Apostles also need supernaturally discipline (1 Corinthians 5:1-5, Acts 5:1-11).

The vision of an apostle is to see the world evangelized for Christ to fulfil the Great commission (Acts 2:38, Romans 1:1). This ministry is the one Christ uses to lay the foundation for new churches (Acts 15:1-29; 13:1-3) and to establish believers in foundational truths (1 Corinthians 3:10) and to establish doctrines (Acts 2:42).

The apostles appoint local church leaders and gives them advice afterwards on how to run the church (Titus 1:1-5, 1 Timothy 3:1-9). The seal of Apostleship is the fruit he or she brings forth (1 Corinthians 9:1-2).

2. The Ministry of a Prophet (Ephesians 4:11)

The word prophet comes from the Greek word “Prophetes” meaning one who speaks forth and proclaims divine message (1 Corinthians 14:29-30) and such predicts and warns future events (Acts 11:27-28) as well as providing direction in ministry, doctrine and worship (Acts 13:12) and confirms and impart spiritual gifts and blessings (Acts 15:32). The ministry of a prophet also is still with us today in the Church of Christ, as it was also in the early church (1 Corinthians 15:32, Luke 2:36-38, 14:29) A true prophet will have the spirit of Christ and a definite gift of prophecy both revelatory and exhortation also be humble and ready to take advice from the church from other ministry gifts (1 Corinthians 14:37-38). Let all prophecy in the church be judged in the light of the scriptures. A prophet has an ability on occasion to foresee events of the future (Acts 11:27-30). Nevertheless, the Apostle John sounded a warning to the Church against false prophets (1 John 4:1-3) Jesus Christ also spoke about them (Matthew 7:15-20) and God the Father has also spoken and gave a clear message on how to differentiate the true prophet from the false prophet (Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Jeremiah 28:9).

This is a ministry that brings a timely message from the heart and mind of God (Ephesians 3:4-5). It is also a ministry used by Christ in the function in ordaining and sending of leaders to the missionary and ministry fields (Acts 13:1-3, Romans 10:14-15). The Prophetic ministry requires the one called to be always under the control of the Holy Spirit or else one may end up using one's mind and not God's Spirit in the words one utters as it happened in the case of prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 7:1-13). Also of much concern is the need of having checks and balances in the church in prophesying to see if what is being uttered is scriptural (1 Corinthians 14:29-33). If that is not done it can mislead the congregation and destroy their faith in the Lord.

3. The Ministry of an Evangelist (Ephesians 4:11)

The word Evangelist comes from the Greek word "Evangelistes" meaning a messenger of good news. The ministry of an evangelist is still also with us today and can contribute a great deal to the growth of a church. It is a stirring ministry exhorting people to repent, believe and obey the gospel (2 Timothy 4:1-5) and to reach the

unreached areas (Acts 8:4, 11:19-21). The character of an evangelist must be impeccable as will be subjected to many temptations. If has a weak character, the devil can tempt and ruin the minister and the ministry in him or her. It is therefore imperative to use great caution on all dealings.

An evangelist must be a prayerful man or woman always seeking the face of God to prepare souls to be preached to and to be given the right message at the time to deliver. Evangelistic meetings should not be close together as there need to be time for rest and also seeking the Lord and getting new anointing and so forth (Acts 13:1-12, Matthew 14:22-25). Honesty is important and tricking people to get a crowd by advertising what they will not get out of a meeting is not good at all and is a betrayal. The fruit of the work of an evangelist need to be followed by the pastor who need make efforts by looking after and nurturing the babes in Christ so that they remain in the faith and not slip back into their old life and be lost. Such silly questions should not be asked the babes in Christ “Do you think you are saved” or “Do you feel better?” But rather be given an opportunity to briefly give a confession of faith. (John 3:16, 1 John 1:9; 5:9-11 Romans 5:1, 10:8-11). An evangelist

should not solely depend on the generosity of the churches he or she is preaching in as sometimes may get less than his or her expectation and affect his or her soul and most likely even the ministry work to some extent negatively. Rather depend more on God and whatever resources he or she has at hand. (Philippians 4: 19, Luke 22:35-38). More so, an evangelist should be joyful for having souls won to Christ, than anything else (Daniel 12:3, Philippians 4:1, Romans 10:1, 2 Corinthians 12:14-18). The message preached to sinners need be simple, direct and in the power of God's word.

4. The Ministry of a Pastor (Ephesians 4:11)

The word pastor comes from the Greek word "Poimen" meaning a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks. The duties of a pastor are many and varied and also include evangelism and need to have a lot of knowledge of the word of God to be able to feed the flock of Christ and rule and exercise authority over them and as a shepherd guard them from intruders. (Acts 20:28-29, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4, John 21:16; 10:3, 4, Hebrews 13:17, Matthew 24:45-46). He must be willing to lay down his life

for the sheep (John 10:10-13). A pastor's life need be exemplary and be shining daily. Be working for unity and harmony in the church and to build a strong Sunday school and a strong Youth group equipped with the word of God. Interest in missions also is a must in a pastor's plans, to reach the unchurched out there. Be of unimpeachable character and impartial and rebuking sin (Titus 2:1-10, 1 Timothy 5:20, James 2:1-9). Show sincere interest in the welfare of the flock and be close to them by visiting and so on carefully arranging to use time to his or her best advantage and not to depend on man for upkeep but God, and avoid borrowing from the flock (John 12:1-8, Luke 19:1-10; 5:27-32, Psalm 23:1-2). A pastor need to find the right help mate and also to be a pastor first, in his household and second in the church. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Timothy 3:1, 4-5, Joshua 24:15). The congregation should not be built on sensationalism but be Bible-based sermons applicable to everyday living. It follows therefore that a pastor be an extensive reader of the Holy Bible. A pastor need be on his or her knees frequently praying for the flock, his or her family members and seeking God's face for grace, wisdom and anointing and other divine

direction for the church he or she shepherds. The Sunday school is what will eventually turn out as the Youth Department which will turn out as the future church (composed of adults). A pastor need to have a close contact with the youths guiding and encouraging them and asking them any challenges they are facing as well as keeping them busy by giving them some assignments in the church and its compound and teaching them outreach work as well as encouraging them to be in home cell fellowships where they can be given an opportunity to minister and after some time assessing how they are fairing and later be graduated by giving them now an opportunity to minister (preach) in the church service on Sundays on occasion.

As a pastor and having a shepherd's heart personally cares for the sheep of God correcting and comforting God's people in a local church (John 10:11-18).

5. The Ministry of a Teacher (Ephesians 4:11)

The word teacher comes from the Greek word "Didaskalos" meaning a Master. The teaching ministry is another supernatural gift in the five-fold ministry and is the

last in the list but not necessarily the least. It is a stabilizing and strengthening ministry.

It is now quite evident that one of the reason of an increase in the number of backslidden Christians in the Church of Christ is due to lack of enough pure doctrines of Christ being taught in many churches to help them get grounded in their faith in Christ and be in their Christian walk, which is a spiritual walk. Many Christians who fortunately by God's grace have not backslidden, will continue to be spiritual babes for a progressively long time because of lacking those pure teachings of the word of God. A teacher need have the same qualifications as those of the other ministers for their service to the Lord to be effective.

The life of a teacher can impact either positively or negatively depending on his character which is either good or bad and therefore need to walk his teaching and teach his walking so as not to bring confusion in the pure word of God. Otherwise we need to be wary of false teachers as well who infiltrate churches and bring false doctrines which breeds factions that disrupt the unity and peace in the church (1 Timothy 4:1-5; 6:1-5, 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 3:8-9; 2 Peter 2:1-3). A teacher must motivate the

congregants to be studying the Scriptures. He needs to build on the foundations laid by the Apostle and prophets to establish the saints (1 Corinthians 1:3).

Caring for one's ministry: A must

It is of utmost importance that one takes care of the ministry one has been given by the Lord as some of these scriptures pinpoint to us.

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.

Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare;

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

2 Timothy 1:13-14

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my

God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:7-13

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:7, 12

Now as I end this chapter in a nutshell I do say the following:

1. The Apostles governs the sheep of God
2. The Prophets guides the sheep of God
3. The Evangelists gathers the sheep for God
4. The Pastors guards the sheep of God and finally
5. The Teachers grounds the sheep of God

A teacher has love for God's word and people. Seeks to teach the people of God divine truths in both practical and personal way. (You cannot separate the message from the

messenger). It is advisable for a teacher to repent before if he or she is going to teach what he or she don't practice. A teacher teaches people how to walk wisely in God's will.

CHAPTER 5

A Christian and authority in Christ Jesus

In the beginning when God created man, God gave him authority over the earth but because he disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden he lost that authority (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:8-25; 3:1-24). But when Christ Jesus died on the cross for the sins of man and rose again on the third day, man could henceforth claim back that authority if repents of sins committed and asking God for forgiveness and believing in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, calling on the name of the Lord for salvation (Romans 3:10-25, Acts 4:11-12, John 1:6-13, Acts 2:36-41; 17:22-31, 1 John 5:4-5).

God when he created man he expected him to obey him and the same is still true today, that any one that comes to the Father through Jesus Christ and is saved, must be obedient

to the Lord, to have that authority man lost to Satan in the garden of Eden, after being deceived. If one does not obey the Lord, one should not expect to use the authority one has in Christ Jesus to do anything as it will not work for him. Look at what Apostle Paul told Timothy in an epistle.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymeneus and Philetus;

Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

If a man therefore **purge himself** from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use,** and prepared unto every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15-21

When one is in Christ Jesus he can use the name of the Lord in serving him. But on condition that he has purged himself or else he will not be honored and used by the Lord as the Lord is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Those who were not holy or had no personal encounter with the Lord failed miserably such as Gehazi (2 Kings 4:18-31; 5:20-27), Egypt's magicians (Exodus 7:7-12; 8:16-19; 9:8-12) and the sons of Sceva (Acts 19:11-16). From these accounts one can see clearly that the name of the Lord cannot be used by any Tom, Dick and Harry to work for them as it is calling the name of the Lord in vain, as this scripture says:

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain:
for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his
name in vain.

Deuteronomy 5:11

It is the same when you are living in sin and call on the name of the Lord. That applies to all regardless of one's position in the society- whether one quotes scriptures or prays loudly, it is all in vain and serve only as a public relations exercise but of no benefit whatsoever. It is self-deception, let me say so.

The name of the Lord should not be taken for granted or used as a quick fix to solutions blindly. The prophets of Baal God could not listen to them as they were not His and only the true prophet of God Elijah God heard and answered his prayer at mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-40). God is holy as the Holy One of Israel. The following are but just a few scriptures that attests to that fact.

IN the year that king Uz-zi'-ah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple;

Above it stood the Ser'-a-phim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 6:1-3

AFTER this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

And out of the throne proceeded lightings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night saying, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, WHICH WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME.

Revelation 4:1-8

The following are some of the scriptures that says that it is in vain to call on the name of the Lord while in sin.

BEHOLD, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1-2

The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:29

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

John 9:31

Even being a worshipper of God is not enough but being a doer of God's will, as some worship God in hypocrisy! Here are a few scriptures where we derive our authority in Christ Jesus because we have become his followers.

Then the eleven disciples went away unto Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

You can also read on the same the following: - Mark 3: 13-19, Luke 6:12-16; 10:1-20.

From the foregoing it is clear that born-again Christians have much authority and power over the earth in Christ Jesus on condition that they live a holy and righteous life. Also to note is the fact that all must be done in faith to get the desired result (Matthew 21:18-22, Hebrews 11:6).

Many Christians have not taken seriously the use of the name of the Lord, hence, some have lived careless lives and still expect to use the name expecting to get results. But God is not a respecter of men and will not please anyone at the expense of His holiness. The Bible warns of using the name of the Lord in vain. Exodus 20:7. God is

holy 1 Peter 1:15-16. Several references point to the fact that for God to answer our prayers, we need to have a personal knowledge and relationship of Him and also to be living a holy life. The name of the Lord is not to be used anyhowly or by any Tom, Dick and Harry. It should be used by the elect of God and who are living in holiness. We can see from the Scriptures what happened to the 7 sons of Sceva, who thought the name of the Lord was some magic to play around with (Acts 19:13-16). Only Christians need to use the name to praise Him, worship Him and pray in his name. For those who make vows or take an oath, they must take great care and be seriously committed when using the name of the Lord as He is a consuming fire (Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5 Hebrews 12:29). We can see very clearly in the first book of the kings (1 Kings 18) that the prophets of Baal prayed in vain but only the prophet of God, Elijah that God answered. David too had to repent before his prayers could be answered by God (Psalms 66:18-20, 1 Chronicles 21:17-27). Prophet Isaiah tells us that our sins restrict God from answering us (Isaiah 59:1-2). Apostle John in his book (John 9:31) tells us that God never hears the prayer of sinners. Apostle Paul advised

Timothy to live a holy life to be used by God (2 Timothy 2:19-21). God's name should not be taken for granted or used as a quick fix to problems. One need to know one's stand before God and to re-examine oneself. We can see that no demon could disobey Jesus' command as He lived a sinless life. He is holy as prophet Isaiah saw in a vision (Isaiah 6:1-3). Apostle John too saw the Lord's holiness (Revelation 4:8).

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night saying, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, WHICH WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME.

Revelation 4:8

Another thing we must know is that the name of the Lord must be used in faith or else it will not yield any result. Acts 3:16, 1 Samuel 17:32-51. It does not matter our position or whether we shout out or not when in prayer. We must have faith in our heart when we pray to get results. (Hebrews 11:6) We must pray in God's will (1

John 5:13-15) and we should not pray (ask) a miss (James 4:3) The authority in the name of Jesus is for doing his will not our will (Matthew 10:5-8, 28:16-20, Luke 10:17-20) Also look at John 6:38. We can see that in Gehazi's case that the rod of Elisha did not perform because Gehazi was corrupt. (2 Kings 4:8-31) also read Proverbs 18:10.

The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 18:10

CHAPTER 6

A Christian and false doctrines, customs and traditions of men

Christians need to be always careful and alert to the various teachings and practices that come their way as some are erroneous and can lead one a stray from the true faith in Christ Jesus. Scriptures are full of warnings on such issues. (Matthew 16:1-12, Mark 7:1-13, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, 2 Peter 2:1-3, Jude 1-4. Matthew 23:1-36). Some have taught others that once you are saved you will remain saved against what the Scripture say (1 Chronicles 28:9, 2 Chronicles 15:1-2). An example of such a fallacy is that actually there is the book of life in heaven where the names of the saints are recorded at the time of conversion, but the name of a saint can likewise still be removed from the record (Exodus 32:30-33, Psalm 69:28, Revelation 3:5). So let us be careful in the salvation God gave us. That could be the reason Apostle Paul told the Church at Philippi not to take their salvation for granted but to take great care (Philippians 2:12). We also have the case of one of the disciple by the name Judas Iscariot who later

betrayed the Lord. Instead of repenting of his sin of betrayal, he went and committed suicide instead. The question then is, did he remain saved? The answer is no. Even his place was taken by another by the name Matthias. (Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50, 27:3-5 Acts 1:15-26). Unlike Apostle Peter who when he realised he had committed sin by denying Christ three times, he repented and was forgiven and restored (Mark 14:27-31, Luke 22:31-34, Mark 14:66-72).

There is another tradition that has come up with the believers and the unbelievers alike, that when their own is dead, they take the body to a church building for a service. Surely that is not scriptural. No record is given of our Lord Jesus Christ or any other saint who has slept; whose body was ever taken to a church building to hold for him or her some service. The Scripture tell us that a dead body should be taken for burial and not into the church for a service as a dead body causes defilement (Leviticus 10:1-5, Acts 10:1-10). The above scriptures don't tell us that those who slept or died were to be taken to church for some service, rather those who slept even in a church were to be taken out of the church for a burial and not even a service is mentioned

(Acts 5:1-10). It can therefore mean that Satan has deceived people by distorting the Scripture, remember he cunningly dealt with Eve in the Garden of Eden, one step after another to go astray from the truth (what God had said) (Genesis 3:1-6). Dead bodies should never be taken into a place of worship (Ezekiel 9:7). No wonder the Church has been defiled and the power and glory of God is hardly seen because people have disobeyed the commandment of God. Apostle Paul had this to tell the Galatian church (Galatian 1:6-9).

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than ye have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-9

Apostle Paul had this for the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 5:6).

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:6

From the above scriptures people should stop glorying in their loved ones being accorded a church service when they die. Many unbelievers go to church just to be counted among the saints to appear holy and also to get the kind of service accorded by the church at their death, What a folly! An unbeliever should go there to get light (the word of God and to repent and submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as the only saviour) to start a new life, and not for useless things as recorded above. By the way, a church service will never change the status of one after one's death be it a believer or none believer. People's mentality must change for God to change them. Those who lead the so called church graveside service go as far as saying such sacrilegious words "May the Lord God keep the soul in

eternal peace”, that is all like trash. One’s soul cannot go into eternal peace without Jesus the Prince of Peace. In any case, one should not “act God” or “order God” on where to place the dead as it is in God’s prerogative to decide where to place one, when one dies, depending on God’s judgement on one’s life record. (Mark 10:35-40, Revelation 20:11-15). Then on a similar subject there is the practice of “unveiling” of the cross of the dead. I dare say that let anybody give the reason or benefit if any for doing that and a scripture to support it.

Then on the same note; there is a tendency by people to pray by the graveside after a burial or beside a coffin before a burial. It could be out of ignorance and also in trying to show respect for the dead. I doubt if there is any scripture supporting this as even already the spirit of the dead is absent and only the body is present there. Moreover the Scripture shed some light on this matter that demons are the ones who are normally found at gravesites where the dead are laid. People who do such are unknowingly exposing themselves to demons. No wonder some come from a burial and end up sick or with some complications. (Mark 5:1-5). In law it is said that “Ignorance has no

defence” and God says that His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) you can ponder on that.

There is a tradition gaining popularity where you find a family having a get together party or feast in remembrance of their loved one who passed away. Usually this is done yearly, from the date of death. This is nothing short of idol worship and should not be part of a Christian’s involvement by being present or by sending one’s donation in money or in kind for such a function. As you are aware, behind every idol there is a demon. People do this out of respect or fear for the dead. Let us see what the Bible says (1 Corinthians 10:14-23, 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 Timothy 1:3-4, Hebrews 2:14-15, Matthew 10:28). Jesus also said that we cannot serve two masters. A Christian should not serve Christ and at the same time serve the ancestors (actually serve the demons) (Matthew 6:24). A Christian is a descendant of Abraham by faith and therefore should do as Abraham did and not as the ancestors did (physical) but as Abraham (spiritual). (John 8:31-47, Romans 4:1-12, Galatians 3:6-7, 29). There is need to totally come out of carnality and to live spiritually (Galatians 5:16-18).

Then there are among us the so called “men and women of prayer” who claim to be praying for people with problems. They tell their client to bring some metres of cloth of a certain colour or to bring along with them candles of different colours to be prayed for. Yet others claim after praying for you, they claim to have removed some items from your body say from your stomach and showing you some items, others claim to be praying at the same time busy digging the floor or the wall of your house and then show you some items claiming were planted by your enemy. The list goes on and on. Unfortunately many people flock to search places; the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate alike. I was once a victim of such when I still was a spiritual babe. The truth is that all these are but the servants of Satan (the Devil). These are false prophets and false prophetesses. These deceive people and rob them of their money by charging them certain fees, for the so called services “prayers” (2 Corinthians 11:12-15). Nowhere in the Scripture do we see such gimmicks. Those are lies of the devil. We have other servants of Satan in that category who are diviners and witchdoctors just to

name a few, only the way they operate may differ here and there (Acts 16:16-18, 8:9-11).

Yet there are in some congregations where the elders claim that those who pay all the church contributions that are announced are to be considered “acceptable” or “clean” in the sight of God. What a fallacy (Psalm 51:16-17, Isaiah 64:6)

There is in the Church the laying of hands for prayer and so on. This practice although scriptural it requires some caution: One should not lay hands on others to pray for them without first getting the prompting of the Holy Spirit. To lay hands on people indiscriminately may turn out to be counter productive. (Mark 16:18, 1 Timothy 4:14, 5:22. 2 Timothy 1:6, Acts 6:6, 8:17, 19:6). Also never allow just everybody to lay their hands on you as Satanists do the same and one end up with demons in one’s life(Acts 8:18-24). Get to know people’s testimony and their walk with the Lord before you allow such.

Still there are some who teach that when you are saved, you become problem free. In which world? The truth is you will still encounter problems, but now you are saved, you know how to go about it and who you can run to, If at all

you find you can't handle. So it is not always "bread and butter" as such. In fact through the problems and temptations one becomes even stronger as one overcomes them. Read and study the scriptures for yourselves regularly and get to know and distinguish between the truth and falsehood (2 Timothy 2:15-18, Joshua 1:7-8, John 8:31-33).

All people in all countries of the world do have their own customs and traditions. These customs and traditions if one looks at them critically and objectively and even ask the elderly in that community, one comes to the realisation that some are just absurd, others don't have a tail or a head (no foundation or basis) and still others are but demonic in nature, most of them don't have any scriptural basis and therefore as a Christian; one need to be very careful. Scriptures should be our best yardstick to try and check the validity of such practices. Most of the customs and traditions make man-sense and not God-sense, at all. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Deuteronomy 29:29).

Another which is one of those false doctrine is some teachings on water baptism where one is taught the word of God then baptised and accepted as a believer and hence

one does not pursue salvation. This has become evident as there are cases where when one is asked “Are you saved?” or “Are you born again? The answer one gets is “I am baptized”. But for sure salvation and baptism by water are not one and the same thing. When one has heard the word of God and has believed and has repented and have invited Jesus Christ into one’s heart, one is saved thus and water baptism follows conversion and just confirms salvation publicly that one’s life has changed (a transformation has taken place). Yet others still on water baptism do baptize people of any age from a new born baby to an adult by water sprinkling on the heads or putting a sign of the cross on their foreheads using water. I don’t understand where this kind of circus comes from. The scriptures clearly say that children are to be blessed by dedicating them to the Lord and not baptizing them with water. Those who practice the above method use a prayer book and say such words when praying for the candidate “So and so who has been baptized today have received the Holy Spirit”. Hey, are these ‘ministers serious?’. It is not true that “their” candidate has received the Holy Spirit, let us be sincere surely in our congregations. The misleading of people in

the church by hoodwinking them with sweet words does not help. No wonder we have many in the church who closed their ears to a plea for salvation, why? They believed the words of the above careless “ministers” who lack the knowledge of God’s word. We need to come out of jokes in the matters of the things of God for the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:34). The Holy Spirit is holy and is not there for those who are not qualified and ready for Him. He is not a product in a shop or supermarket or local market for sale for whosoever has money to buy.

Yet again some people have quoted Matthew 22:15-21 in supporting the evil practice of giving out of bribes. People have not stopped to twist or distort the word of God because Satan is alive and well on the earth. Bribe distorts the truth and it is sin. Taking a bribe or giving a bribe is sinning (Deuteronomy 10:17, 16:18-19, Ecclesiastes 7: 7, 1 Samuel 12:1-3). Yet some people on the other hand have misquoted 1 Timothy 5:23 and John 2:10 and use them in sanctioning the use of wine taking. Apostle Paul advised Timothy (an abstainer of wine) not to take only water (which could have been contaminated) but to take also a little wine - which had some medicinal value, for the sake

of his stomach problems (water borne diseases etc.). That should not warrant alcoholism which is sin. Alcoholism is for intoxication of the body in the guise of enjoyment.

In the case of the wedding at Cana in Galilee (John 2:1-10) the Jewish culture was that wine was being taken as a drink with meals and Jesus with His disciples were invited to the wedding. The water Jesus miraculously turned into wine was unfermented wine (wine without yeast.) and the wine was not normal fermented wine that usually makes people drunk when taken. Hence he did not sanction alcohol taking and in so doing. He presented the best alternative drink at that wedding. Moreover there is no record saying that Jesus or His disciples drank the wine that was being served to the guests. The Scriptures clearly is against alcohol taking. (Proverbs 20:1, 23:20, 29-35, Hosea 4:11-12, Leviticus 10:1-11, Isaiah 5:10-14, 28:7, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Genesis 9:20-27, 19:30-38).

Another false doctrine is denying the supernatural by those who claim to be religious. A very good example was in the case of the Pharisees and the Jewish elders when Jesus Christ had healed a blind man, how sadly they denied the obvious and continued to argue out an act of God. (John

9:1-35) - Jesus warned people of such behaviour, of the danger of sinning against the Holy Spirit that is, blasphemy (Matthew 12:22-32).

Another thing is in the election of church officials. God is Theocratic but you find that in the Church today people are using democracy to do elections. Prayer is a very important item on election of ministers in the Church. The Church is an Institution of God and is supposed to be spiritual. It is not earthly (political) but heavenly (spiritual) in governance. Ideally the Holy Spirit should lead in the election or appointment (Exodus 3:1-10, 18:13-26, Deuteronomy 17:14-20, Joshua 1:1-9, Acts 1:15-26, 6:1-6, 13:1-3).

There are some faith groups that the “Pastor” selects spouses for young girls and boys telling that the Lord has told them that so and so is your spouse to be, that it is God’s choice for them and they are bound to obey the voice to “god” and be married by brother so and so or get married to sister so and so. This is nothing short of Satan’s device on the oldest Institution of God of marriage. Satan here wants to bring confusion by bringing a mismatch a But our God is not a God of confusion but a God of order. For

every male or every female being born on earth, God has already prepared her or his the match. At the Garden of Eden God did not just create another person from anywhere, anyhow, other than from the person Adam, by making him to sleep and taking one of his rib and creating a help mate like him and from him, after closing the place where the rib came from (Genesis 2:18, 21-24). Even Adam marvelled at Eve whom God had created for him; she was wonderful and fit for him.

In God, people are to be married or to marry the other of the opposite sex, even with other creatures, and not same sex marriages as we see people doing in this generation.

The idea of polygamy, sodomy and bestiality came from the evil one (the Devil), including gay marriages. They are not of God but of Satan (Romans 1:21-32). People have justified the taking of wine because Bible recorded it, same with polygamy. But nowhere in the Bible has God acknowledged that those practices or acts are okay. On polygamy for instance, the Scripture show clearly that those marriages were never stable but instead of God's love, peace, unity we only see the works of Satan in them hatred, division, quarrels, strife, envy, jealousy, witchcraft,

etc. etc. On the taking of wine or alcohol we see the results were disastrous and is the same even today. The Bible has warned severally on drunkenness - the outcome of taking wine or alcohol. God's elect are supposed to be divinely drunk with the infilling with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

There are some who claim to have "holy water." This so called water they administer to people by sprinkling on them or by giving them orally as done by medical personnel in polio vaccination. I have not come across in the Scripture of people who were given holy water. On sprinkling, I know that in the Old Testament period there was a lot of sprinkling going on done by the priesthood. When a man had sinned, he took an animal to a priest for sin offering. The priest would slaughter the animal, then take some of the blood and to sprinkle on the man so that his sins are covered by that act of sprinkling, and God forgives the sin so committed. Read the book of Leviticus. This was a temporary measure before Christ came to give a permanent and perfect sacrifice for mankind, acceptable by God, on the Cross at Calvary.

The doctrines of Christ are anchored on the word of God whereas the traditions and the customs of men are based on false assumptions and rationalizations and are not in tandem with the word of God. Apostles Paul and Peter warned on false prophets and teachers and false doctrines in the following scriptures:- 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 4:1-5; 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 1:10-12, 2 Peter 2:1-3).

There has been a common error in most churches in how they do handle new comers in their local assembly. The congregation the pastor included seem to be more interested in quantity (the numbers) than in quality (spirituality) of their flock, why? Because whenever some one comes in the church and request to be allowed to be a member (to join and be part of the congregation) usually surprisingly there is one chorus “You are welcome” or “We have welcomed you”. Not knowing at all the personality they have accepted in their midst to be part of them. (Maybe this way, churches have opened their doors to infiltration by Devil-worshippers). If surely doctors and clinicians (professionals in the medical field) take their time with their customer (patients) to get to know their condition (present and past life) before diagnosis and later

drug prescription with or without laboratory reports of their patients, how about you Christians who are in the highest profession (Christianity)? It beats logic! The Pastors of churches should inform their congregations that whenever a new comer comes to their service and there is a request on membership, they should not chorus “You are welcome” or “We welcome you”, but leave the matter with the pastor to handle. The pastor can say at the request “Well, we have heard your request, could you please see me immediately after the service”. Immediately after the service, the pastor should get one or two church elders and sit and talk with the visitor and politely involve in some interrogation (spiritual screening) and get to know whether the candidate is saved or not. If saved to give their testimony and say where they have been attending church (if has been a member of any church) and if has, the reason why has decided to leave that church to join them and to give contact of the former church pastor. If not saved and did not accept Christ in the service, to take time to preach to the candidate again, if is now willing to surrender life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If this is not done, the person may turn out to be a rogue Christian who may have run away

from the former church to escape discipline and so forth. Much liability can be avoided this way in a church. The candidate as said above may give reasons that are not genuine for leaving the other church and that is why pastor's contact is required to get to hear the person's history before admittance. Otherwise the church can as well receive not an asset but a liability unknowingly adding more problems in that church (Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:26-29 1 Corinthians 5:9-13).

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 7:15

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:26-29

I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

Yet not altogether with fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one, no, not to eat.

For what have I to do to judge them also that are without?

Do not ye judge them that are within?

But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as thou living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances.

(Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.

Colossians 2: 20-23

The above scriptures can be summed up as a summary on the false doctrines and the custom and traditions of men in the Church.

There is an act which has become a common routine/practice in many churches in home fellowships among the Christians and which to a great extent has become a burden to the widows and the poor homesteads.

There are usually some hospitality at the end of the fellowship which are offered and which may not be so necessary, bearing in mind the short period of the fellowship (normally just part of the afternoon). The reason given for this is that one need to entertain visitors in order to get a blessing. Some have gone as far as quoting the scriptures to support the action (Genesis 18:1-10; 19:1-3,

Hebrews 13:1-2). Now get me right on this, Hospitality is not bad per se but as apostle Paul advised the Corinthian church, let not your action be a stumbling block to them that are weak; although he was talking on meat offered to idols, it can apply here (1 Corinthians 8: 1-9) why? The less able in the Christian walk have had maybe to borrow from others to be able to provide that hospitality or some times not to be ready to have a fellowship in one's homestead. I have also noted that some Christians seem to be competing to out do the others in providing this hospitality. The widows and the poor in that kind of situation can feel that they are the odd ones, if they can't do the same, hence because of shame, avoid to allow Christians to fellowship at their homes. The act of hospitality in home fellowships has brought some carnality in some Christians such that they are less spiritual, going by what they speak after a fellowship how well or shoddy they were treated immediately after the fellowship. Look at what the Lord said on people's speech (Mark 7:14-23).

To me I think the enemy has succeeded in having many Christians misunderstand the scripture and literally taking it too far (Acts 2:42, 46-47). The early church was busy in:

continuing in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers. They partook of the Lord's Supper and not feasting the way Christians are doing in their home fellowships. For that matter, they were more spiritual than the Christians we have now as they fed their soul with spiritual food - were more concerned with their spirit than their body (stomach).

The Church was powerful and glorious (Acts 2:43). You can see that one must be spiritual to produce a spiritual fruit, if not one will produce just work of the flesh.

Now taking you back to where I had started on hospitality, those who are in the home fellowship are not visitors but brethren in the Lord who may not have come afar off place and also invited neighbours. Hospitality although is encouraged, just see the consequences I have mentioned and make your own conclusion if it is worth it on Christian home fellowships.

The enemy can make some to think it is a place of feasting, just as he has succeeded to make some people to think a funeral is a place or occasion for feasting.

The subject touching on the customs and traditions of men is quite wide and the issues involved are numerous and

vary from one tribe to another and what I have given out in this chapter in this book are but just some sampled examples. When one is saved by Jesus Christ he or she becomes a new creature from a new birth and has been removed spiritually from one's ancestral lineage to God's lineage and one begin to live a spiritual life led by the Spirit of God and not by one's flesh and one becomes now a descendant of Abraham by one's faith. (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 3:4-6, Galatians 3:6-7, Romans 8:1-4, 14; 11:13-24). There are many who argue for men's customs and traditions and wrongly quote some scriptures to support their arguments examples are as follows:

The circumcision of baby Jesus (Luke 2:21)

Here we find that it was a commandment from God and not a Jewish tradition as recorded in the book of Leviticus (Leviticus 12:1-3).

A National census (Luke 2:1-7)

Here we find that it was a government directive and that by the parents of Jesus going back to their birth place, that is,

Joseph his father, for that exercise, it was not a Jewish Tradition.

Wife inheritance (Deuteronomy 25:5-6, Luke 20:28)

Here we find that it was a commandment from God and it involved a widow being inherited within the family of her late husband. The Old Testament was a shadow of the New Testament. This also was not a Jewish tradition/custom. In the New Testament it shall applies to the family of God (The Church) (1 Corinthians 7:39) A widow must be married again, but only to a Christian, if she was one. This also applies to widowers. They need to marry again Christian ladies if they were Christians themselves before bereavement of their loved ones.

There is some bad practice that is going on in some cultures which has not been supported by Scripture the circumcision of female girls in society. The scripture do support only the circumcision of male boys (Genesis 17:1-14). But even with the circumcision of male boys there is a caution as the practice alone is not satisfactory enough before God if one boasts of it and is not obeying God (Jeremiah 9; Romans 2:25-29). Circumcision of the flesh alone is not enough and

one need the circumcision of the heart as well (Colossians 2:8-13). It follows therefore that one must be saved and to live a holy and righteous life to be right with God.

Now let me share a bit on my life as well. After my salvation I kept on reading the Holy scriptures and studying them and kept on receiving teaching and preaching from the word of God and continued to be enlightened the more by the help of the Holy Spirit to a point that the conviction was so strong that I decided from henceforth come what may, I will not be following the so called customs and traditions of men but will be striving to follow the word of the Lord which is the will of the Lord.

A few examples on my resolution not to follow the Luo customs and traditions (as I am a Luo by tribe) are as follows hereunder:

1. Refused to go have my six lower teeth removed.
2. Both my paternal grandfather and grand mother had passed away and their graves my step father wanted to have a ceremony with all the family members to be present, on what is called “The laying of the

cross” I determined when that will come, I will never go there to be a participant.

3. My maternal grandmother died and the ‘church’ that did the burial called the family to a yearly ceremony in remembrance of her and where there would be some feasting. I never attended that and also never contributed to that cause.
4. In my library I had also a collection of a book touching on the Luo customs and traditions. That book at one time I was prompted by the Holy Spirit and took it and burned it down into ashes.
5. When it reached a time to come out of my parents’ homestead as I was now ‘married and have children, I did not follow the Luo ways of doing that (establishing my home). Rather, I asked my pastor to come and pray on the piece of land I had purchased for that purpose so that I begin with God and which he did coming with other servants of the Lord. I then employed workmen to clear part of the land at a site I chose to build a house. I did not choose to follow the customs and traditions in place then.

6. In our Luo customs and traditions we have such things like a younger brother, a son in a family should not marry before the elder son in the family has married. I myself I went against this and married before my elder brother and nothing, virtually nothing bad had happened to me as a result of that. Instead I am still alive, kicking and very healthy physically and spiritually. Also in Luo custom and tradition I heard that an elder son cannot sleep in a younger son's house and also if the younger son is married but the elder son has not married, they need not eat together at a table. Well, my brother slept some days in my house and we ate food together on several occasions at table and nothing ever happened to me which is bad because of going against such Luo tradition. What I know is that usually the older men and women instill fear in people that it is against their custom or tradition to do this or to do that, and that if you do any of them, this or that will happen to you (usually some bad omen). All this is not true and they are simply behaving like Satan, who is fond of instilling fear in

people and use fear as one of his tools. If there is nonsense in the world, one of it is in customs and traditions of men. If you want sense in this world I do advise you to go to the holy scriptures (the Holy Bible), as there you will find a lot of sense as it is the inspired word of God and it is the truth through and through and not a single lie or fable can be found there. (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Let me remind you that many went astray and erred because they had fear as the holy scriptures has recorded, an example is apostle Peter who saw the wind blowing while walking in water and he feared and immediately began to sink in water, same to king Saul who feared that he would be attacked by his enemies before he had sacrificed to the Lord a burnt offering. Apostle Peter luckily cried to the Lord and he was saved. But as for king Saul, God rejected him and he ended losing his kingship. So my advice is stop practicing those customs and traditions of your ancestors or else you will sink with them and be totally rejected by God ending not only a loser, but a big loser indeed! Read the accounts on

Apostle Peter and king Saul in the following scriptures: Matthew 14:22-33, 1 Samuel 13:5-14. If you are a Christian you should not fear anything as God is great and bigger than your customs and traditions as he is Jehovah- Elyon. The Lord most High (Genesis 14:18), Jehovah Tsidkenu, The Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6), Jehovah Mekaddishken, The Lord our sanctifier (Exodus 31:13), Jehovah-Shalom, The Lord our peace (Judges 6:24). So the question to you is, ‘Why should you be fearful that if you don’t practice your ancestors’ customs and traditions you will suffer? ‘ Just be courageous and stand tall and tell them off, but just stick to what the Lord God told Joshua son of Nun and you will be alright and okay as we don’t prosper or succeed in life by following those nonsense, but by being obedient to the word of The Lord Most High. Read the book of Joshua (Joshua 1:7-9). Apostle Paul Advised Timothy not to follow those nonsense on customs, traditions and so forth which have no biblical foundation. (1 Timothy 1:1-4; 4:1-8, 2 Timothy 2:14-19; 3:13-14).

Let me tell you, in customs and traditions people have lost not only their time, energy but their money and wealth in pursuing this useless propaganda of their ancestors. Don't fall prey to the snares of people. Don't be at crossroads as the Israelites who the prophet Elijah challenged at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-22).

Get to know that there are so many people who are in your tribe, race, clan, whatever ready to give you wrong advice or lie to you. Just a few around you are genuine and are ready to tell you the truth both in the society and in the church (where there are many false ministers planted by the Devil) to deceive and mislead many. Now let this not surprise you. There is only one true church of Christ in the whole world currently and the Lord Jesus Christ talked about it. (Isaiah 56:1-8, Matthew 16:16-18, John 10:16; 17:1-21, Ephesians 4:1-13).

Customs and traditions are inherited just as curses and blessings but you can decide to change the course of events by what you decide to do with them once you get to know them, which of course is very important before they chart your destiny, which could turn out to be wrong. So don't

take your life for granted accepting anything and everything to happen but you need to take time and do a stock take of your life early enough to see where it is headed, asking and probing and praying about it, why? Don't allow your life as a Christian to be defiled by those customs and traditions in your tribe (Romans 6:16-18). Although you are there with your kinsmen physically, you are spiritually a citizen in heaven (Philippians 3:20)

There is something that is becoming common and which is not right and can be rightly termed as sin, going by the scriptures. This thing is the practice of kneeling down before a fellow human being. The practice is done say, as giving respect to the other who in most cases happens to be a leader and so on. I have come to understand that even in some culture in some countries in this continent a woman or a girl has to kneel down in respect to a man say, when greeting him or serving him. All these are wrong and an abomination to the Lord God. Our respect to fellow beings should be limited to things like bowing down a bit our heads to whoever is our senior and no more. The only exception we have is where a true servant of God is to pray for one, and the servant requests the person to kneel down

before a prayer is offered. That, should not be taken to mean kneeling for the servant or even if told to raise hands up, it is not for the servant but for God the Almighty who deserves reverence. Those requests by the servant is for the one to be prayed for to show his or her total surrender to the Creator and to His grace, mercy and power, as well as the candidate's faith by obedience. Those who kneel before others save for the above reason, are involving in idolatry and mocking the Lord. Let me now take you to the scriptures one by one on the same.

Only God deserves such reverence and get to know that he is a jealous God and a consuming fire as well (Exodus 20:1-5, Hebrews 12:29). You can see for yourself cases where the Lord allowed the practice as it was done to Him. (Exodus 3:1-9, Joshua 5:13-6:1-5, Revelation 1:9-20). Now look at the case where a king was instantly killed by the angel of the Lord because he allowed the citizen to utter words that were not right and which pointed to the sin of idolatry - king Herod did not correct them there and then but was contented and most likely felt pride in his heart. And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

And immediately an angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Acts 12:21-23

God says clearly that he cannot share his glory with any one or to graven images (Isaiah 42:8).

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Isaiah 42:8

Let me now turn you to scriptures where idolatry was openly discouraged. Cornelius waited for them, and had near friends.

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

Although Peter was an apostle of God, he showed humility and immediately went ahead to correct the anomalous behaviour of Cornelius.

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundering, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy

brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:6-10

Even an angel of God discouraged Apostle John from kneeling before him.

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the saying of the prophecy of this book.

And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.

Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am the fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Revelation 22:6-9

Only God is to be worshipped and not any other being or thing. Jesus Christ told Satan the same thing.

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, THOU SHALT WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD, AND HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE.

Matthew 4:8-10

Caution: Don't even allow a lie from the devil by someone telling you, "just kneel down a bit, it is not worshipping me and not serving me at all". Have wisdom my reader, once you have knelt down to such, you literally have both worshipped and served that person in the spiritual realm, why? That act is specifically meant for worship and not one needs it from us all that is, God our Creator.

I have heard many people especially at funerals trying to comfort the bereaved with misleading words such as this:

“All of us too will die at some time in our life and death is only a ladder to take us to heaven. Those are but deceptive words originating from the Devil who has always been a liar (John 8:38-44).

Satan is using such people to tell a lie and to desuade people to comfortable in the status quo and not to accept God’s free salvation in Christ Jesus which leads to eternal life in heaven (John 3:16, 1 John 5:6-12). Death was and has never been our mediator with God but only Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5) who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

CHAPTER 7

Encouragements unto the end

There is a saying that says that “all is well, that ends well” we do have some how a similar saying in the Holy Scriptures in the book of Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Ecclesiastes 7:8

We as Christians need to be patient as we continue with this journey (our spiritual walk) and need not pride in anything save for Christ Jesus who has done and still continue to do a lot for us. Our end is going to be but wonderful and marvelous if we continue faithfully in our walk.

Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgement and righteousness, in the earth: For in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

But he that glorieth, let him glory in the LORD

2 Corinthians 10:17

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

Romans 8:18

But as it written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which god hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

It is true that anything that has a beginning has an ending, likewise, the Christian walk has a beginning at one's conversion and an ending by entry into heaven to be with the Lord forever, If one continues holding unto one's faith

and does not faint or lose hope. Let us look at the case of Job while still on earth. Satan got permission to tempt Job and Job underwent very bitter experiences, but in the end, Job came out better and not bitter. (Job 1-2 and Job 42:12-17) A Christian likewise must pass through many hurdles in this life before eventually coming to a better end after holding on the walk (Matthew 10:22). Take heart you Christian for our Lord Jesus Christ has gone to prepare for us a place in heaven (John 14:1-3). Never quit salvation of the Lord which he gave you free of charge after paying for so heavily at the Cross. The motto of a Christian is “forwards ever, backwards never”. The world is a Christian’s Egypt. The world out there outside Christ is so bad and therefore let not the enemy cheat you that it is good. Don’t fall into the trap of being lured by any sweet memory of your past life when you had no Christ in you. Don’t envy those in the world and don’t look back but be in readiness for the coming of the Messiah. Be encouraged and persuaded by the following scriptures accordingly: Genesis 19:26, Exodus 14:5-14, Numbers 11:4-6, 20:1-5, Psalms 37 and 74, Luke 9:61-62, 12:35-40, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Romans 13:11-14, 2 Peter 3:8-9). Patience and

endurance in the Christian walk will definitely pay off in the long run. Be further encouraged by the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Romans 8:1-4, 1 John 4:4, 5:4-5, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Isaiah 35:8-10, Philippians 3:20-21, Luke 19:27-29, 21:17-19, 26-33, James 1:12, 1 Peter 1:6, 5:3-4, Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Revelation 2:7, 10, 11, 17, 27-28, 3:5, 12, 14:13, 21:1-27 and 22:1-21.

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming to take a holy and mature church and therefore, all Christians must strive towards attaining that maturity (Ephesians 4:10-16) Christians need to be heavenly - minded (Colossians 3:1-4) and to have a daily faith check (2 Corinthians 13:5). Fear no one but God only but giving due respect to people where it is due. (Luke 12:4-5 Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:17-18). Openly rebuke sin and stop any form of compromise. Stay away from sin and be quick to obey and repent all sin. Have frequent prayer and fasting, read and study the Bible daily, attend fellowships and be in night vigil and continue with serving the Lord in all one's spheres of life.

Don't backslide but press on. Remember: John 21:1-17,
Hebrews 6:7-15; 10:36-39

CHAPTER 8

The rapture of the Church and the two resurrections

Going by the Scriptures in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 we find that almost all the prophecies have come to fulfilment except witnessing of the of the Word of God to the whole world and therefore the rapture of the Church of Christ is but just at the corner. It can happen anytime on any day. The Israelites in the wilderness were a shadow/ a resemblance of the New Testament Church of Christ. The Scriptures show that they were delivered from Egypt for the Promised land Canaan at midnight (Exodus 12:29-36). Likewise the Church of Christ is most likely to be delivered (raptured) from the earth to the Promised Land (heaven) at midnight. Looking at several scriptures in the New Testament points at the rapture taking place at night when most things are quiet and many are deep asleep. The scriptures talk of “coming as a thief” by the Lord. It is common knowledge thieves steal at night to avoid being seen and also avoid being resisted and night time gives them more advantage. These are my thoughts based on Scriptures, but remember no one knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36) Christians are now walking with God just

as Enoch, to avoid much drama at day time the Lord is likely to snatch away Christians at night, people will realize much later the next day when they don't see Christians (Genesis 5:24, Luke 12:35-40, 17:34, Matthew 24:43, 25:1-7, Romans 13:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2).

As Christians we need to know from the onset that the earth serves as a preparation room or dressing room for entry into heaven to be with the Lord. In heaven people (the holy Christians will enter properly dressed just as it is common knowledge in a holy matrimony where all - the bride and the bridegroom are all well dressed in the right attire for the occasion.

On our preparation let us remind ourselves by the following scriptures: Philippians 2:5-11, Titus 2:11-14, Matthew 25:1-13, 1 John 3:1-3 and Hebrews 12:14. On our dressing let us remind ourselves by the following scriptures: Matthew 22:1-13, Romans 13:12-13, Colossians 3:12-14, Ephesians 4:23-24 and Revelation 19:6-8.

Reading from the Holy Scriptures we find that there are going to be two major resurrections that are to take place here on earth, each at a different time. The first resurrection will be purely reserved for the elect of God, in

what is known as the rapture (“rapere” in Latin) of the Church of Jesus Christ also known as the “blessed hope” in Titus 2:13. The second resurrection will be for those who were left on earth in the first resurrection. The time span between the first resurrection and the second resurrection is one thousand and seven years. Those who will be in the first resurrection are blessed and will not taste the second death. (Revelation 20:4-6) The scriptures that talk of this first resurrection cum rapture are as follows: John 5:25-29a, 1 Corinthians 15:45-55, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, Philippians 3:20-21, Isaiah 26:19, Luke 20:34-36, Daniel 12:1-2b 13, 1Thessalonians 4:13-18. In John 11:25 Jesus said that He is the resurrection and the life. He went further to prove it by raising the body of Lazarus from the dead in John 11:41-44. Jesus Christ, had also raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead in Matthew 9:18-25 and also raised a widow’s son from the dead in Luke 7:11-15. Jesus Christ also rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-7, John 20:1-17 1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And thou after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Job 19:25-27

The above words of Job to his friends, Job believed in the resurrection of the saints from the grave. The above goes well with what the Lord said on the restoration of Israel in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 41:14) and also on what apostle Paul said to the church at Corinth on the resurrection of the saints at the Lord's coming. (1 Corinthians 15:53-55).

The second resurrection is a sad and a gloomy resurrection in that instead of going into eternal life in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ, they are to go for eternal judgement and be away from the Lord in Gehenna (in Greek language) - the lake of fire, also known as the second death. (Revelation 20:14-15). Before he left Jesus had already told His disciples of the rapture so that they prepare when he leaves them. (Matthew 25:1-13, Luke 12: 35-40).

Looking at the Scriptures both the old and the New Testament one can come to the conclusion that only the

minority are going to make it into heaven. I know many may argue this statement but it is the most likely thing to happen to people's surprise. The population of the world now stands at 7 billion but a minority and not majority of this huge population will make it and be with the Lord. Although the number will be quite big, but it will not be a majority of the population of the world. (Revelation 7:1-17) God has this to say to the people of the world: (Galatians 6:7-8, Matthew 7:21-23, Jeremiah 7:1-11, Deuteronomy 30: 15-20, 18:15-22). Scriptures that talk of the second resurrection are as follows:- John 5:25-29b, Daniel 12:1-2c Revelation 20:11-15 and the scriptures that are a pointer that only the minority to make it to heaven are as follows:- Genesis 7:1-16, 19:1-25, Numbers 14:26-35, Matthew 7:13-14, 25:1-13, Revelation 2:8-11 and 3:7-13.

The characteristics of the Church to be raptured are as follows:-

- Live a repentant life (Matthew 3:1-6; 4:12-17, Luke 13:1-5, Acts 2:36-41; 17:30-31, Revelation 2:1-5; 3:14-19).

- Live an obedient life (1 Samuel 15:22, Matthew 7:21-23; 12:46-50, Luke 11:27-28, Philippians 2:5-11).
- Live a holy life (Matthew 5:8, Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 3:10-14, 1 John 3:1-3).
- Have a renewed mind (Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:23-24).
- Live a separated life (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Ephesians 5:6-11, James 4:1-4, 1 John 2:15-17).
- Live in self denial (Matthew 6:16-18, Luke 9:23-26, Romans 13:12-14, Colossians 3:1-10, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, 1 Peter 2:19-21; 4:1-2).
- Live righteously (Matthew 5:6, 13-16, 20, Ephesians 2:4-10, Titus 2:11-14, Revelation 19:1-9).
- Is loving (Matthew 5:43-48, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Hebrews 13:1, 2 Peter 1:1-11, Revelation 2:1-5).
- Live spiritually (Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 8:1-17, Galatians 5:16-18).
- Live wisely (Matthew 10:16-20; 25:1-10, Ephesians 5:15-21).

- Is God fearing (Isaiah 11:1-3, Proverbs 1:7, Revelation 11:15-18).
- Is fruitful (Matthew 25:14-30; 28:16-20, John 15:1-8, Acts 2:36-47; 4:1-4; 5:12-14).
- Is bold and fearless (Matthew 10:26-28, Proverbs 28:1, Acts 4:1-20; 5:1-42).
- Is persevering (Matthew 10:22; 24:13, Galatians 5:22, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, James 1:12, Revelation 2:10).
- Is humble (Exodus 12:1-8, 1saiah 11:1-3, Matthew 5:5).
- Is peaceful (Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18, Hebrews 12:14).
- Is merciful (Matthew 5:7, Psalm 118:1-4, John 8:1-11).
- Is victorious (John 16:33, Romans 8:35-39, 1John 4:1-4; 5:1-5, Revelation 2:11, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).
- Is watchful and ready (Matthew 24:36-44, Luke 17:20-36, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11).

The following is a possible sequence of events from the rapture of the Church:-

1(a) The rapture of the Church

(1Thessalonians 4:13-18)

(b) The marriage feast of the Lamb

(Revelation 19:5-9)

(c) Christ's judgement seat

(2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Peter 4:17, Romans 14:10, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Revelation 22:12)
The Lord Jesus Christ after the event there then celebrate with the raptured saint for 7 years there in heaven.

2. The Tribulation period

Begins on earth for 7 years with two phases each of 3 1/2 years, the second half of which will be the worst. During the 7 years the anti-Christ will be in charge ruling the whole world (the earth) (Matthew 24:15:22, Revelation 13). The Tribulation period begins immediately after the rapture of the Church. Apostle

Paul touched on the coming rapture of the Church and also the coming of the anti - Christ after the rapture has taken place (2 Thessalonians 2:1-7). That snatching away of the Church in the rapture will in secret in the air.

3. The second coming of Christ

(Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24:29-30, Daniel 7:13-14, 27).

This is immediately after the 7 years tribulation period. The second coming of the Lord to the earth will be public and all will see him come down with the saints of God. At that time Jesus Christ will do away with the Anti-Christ and have Satan bound for 1000 years in the bottomless pit. Christ and the saints will rule on earth for 1000 years (Revelation 19:11-20:6, Isaiah 11:6-9, 65:25).

4. The battle of Armageddon

Immediately after the millennium (1000 years Christ's rule on earth in Jerusalem) Satan will be loosed out of his prison (the bottomless pit) and will gather the whole world and try to fight Christ and the saints but they will be utterly destroyed. (Ezekiel 38, Revelation 20:7-10).

5. The Great white throne judgement.

At this judgment all the sinners will be judged. Anybody who was not in the first resurrection, hence those to be judged here are those in the second resurrection immediately after the Millennium rule. These, must taste and be a partaker of the dreaded second death. (Revelation 20:11-15).

God is the source of life he being the Creator and therefore to be united to God is to have life (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-4, 3:36, 5:26). To be separated from God is to be separated from life and is death (John 15:5-6).

Sin separates people from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) as God is holy (Leviticus 19:1-2, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Isaiah 6:1-3, Revelation 4:1-8) and hence sin is a repellant to God and not an attractant. Sin is a catalyst for death (James 1:13-15) and is an enemy of God and was brought about by Satan to mankind in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6) after him being cast out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). Sin separates and terminates (brings to an end) people's lives but God had intended man to live forever as he (God) lives eternally (Daniel 7:9, Psalm

90:1-2, 1 Timothy 6:15-16) therefore he will bring death to an end (Revelation 20:7-10, 1 Corinthians 15:24-26, Revelation 20:14) and that is why after judgement (Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:11-15) all people both righteous and unrighteous will live eternally as death has been extinguished.

The righteous (the saints) in heaven and the unrighteous (the sinners) in hell (John 5:26-28, Revelation 21:1-4, 8, 27, Revelation 22:10-15). The unrighteous (the sinners) will not be consumed in the lake of fire which is referred to as the second death as death has been dealt with. The second death is a slow and inconclusive death which is essentially unending/ eternal judgement/ suffering. God the Creator is a miraculous God and can do what man cannot do (Genesis 18:14, Luke 1:37). Remember that God made the bush to burn but was not consumed during Moses' time (Exodus 3:1-2) and he does not change (Hebrews 13:8).

7. The eternity

The eternity for all of us in that the Lord God, His faithfulness angels (2/3) of the angels (God created)

together with the raptured saints will live eternally in heaven (God's just kingdom) (Revelation 21-22:5). But the beast, the false prophet and demons (A third of the angels of God) that rebelled with Satan in heaven against God) together with all the sinners will be tormented eternally in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10-15).

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said to the wise,

Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord, open for us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:1-13

The above scripture talk of two groups of virgins which represent two types of churches. The group of the five wise virgins represent the rapture church and have an added level of anointing of the Holy Spirit which is necessary for spiritual transformation that gives one the identity of Christ and brings spiritual maturity that is necessary for the rapture of the church. On the other hand the group of five foolish virgins do represent the infant church which have only a very small anointing (basic level anointing) of the

Holy Spirit and which cannot withstand storms and is dangerous as it leads to compromise in the Christian walk and brings spiritual complacency. In verses 11 to 12 we see the Lord telling this group that he doesn't know them because no spiritual transformation has taken place in their lives and hence have no identity of Christ in them.

The scriptures are clear that God is a spirit and not "something" as he is a divine being (person) and those of his need to be full of the Spirit. Jesus Christ is the one that baptizes his followers with the Holy Spirit and therefore those who are busy buying olive oil in churches and supermarkets purporting it to have supernatural power are fooling themselves. That oil is a counterfeit. We need to come to Jesus for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise the Holy Spirit cannot be bought. (John 4:22-24, Matthew 3:11-12, Acts 8:14-24, Matthew 25:7-8).

The Church of Christ has been deceived to accept a counterfeit anointing (olive oil) (Revelation 6: 1-2). Come out of those churches stressing on olive oil and going ahead selling the same. Such have turned into business enterprises as olive oil is not a magic wand and a Christian need the Holy Spirit direct from God as he is the true source of him.

The Holy Spirit is central in a Christian's life without which one cannot enter the rapture of the Church of Christ. (The Holy Spirit) is the agency God will use to rapture His holy Church. Without him, one will not make it to heaven to be with the Lord. He is a Christian's guide to heaven, the way we normally have tour guides to assist tourists in a foreign land. Heaven is foreign land to Christians in their mortal bodies and only by translation at the rapture for holy Christians does it become a reality.

It should be noted that already there has been minor raptures on a small scale in the first phase involving a few individuals (which was a symbol of things to come). We are now waiting for the second phase which is a major rapture in a large scale involving multitudes of people.

The first phase is recorded in Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:1-12 and Acts 1:6-11. The next (second phase) is recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

And E'-noch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Genesis 5:24

AND it came to pass, when the LORD would take up E-li'-jah in to heaven by a whirlwind, that E-li'-jah went with E-li'-sha from Gil'-gal.

And E-li'-jah said to E-li'-sha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-'el. And E-li'-sha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

And the sons of the prophets were at Beth-el came forth to E-li'-sha, and said unto him, knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

And E-li'-jah said unto him, E-li'-sha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to E-li'-sha, and said unto him, knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

And E-li'-jah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said,

As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood by Jordan. And E-li'-jah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that E-li'-jah said unto E-li'-sha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And E-li'-sha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

And it came to pass, as they still went on and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them asunder, and E-li'-jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

And E-li'-sha saw it, and he cried,

My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.....

.....

2 Kings 2:1-12

Apart from the above minor raptures I have mentioned followed by a major rapture of the Church of Christ, there seems to be other minor raptures as well which are after that major one as we are going to see from the scriptures. Let me call them post-rapture raptures or Tribulation raptures. These seem to be two, the first being composed of two of God's servants and the second being composed of one hundred and forty four thousand people coming from the twelve tribes of Israel and who God had instructed his angels to seal as is recorded in the book of Revelation (Revelation 7:1-8) and are going to see them presented in heaven (raptured) read the same event in Revelation 14:1-5.

The two witnesses

AND there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

And I will give power unto my witnesses, and they shall prophecy a thousand two hundred and three score days, clothed in sack cloth.

These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any, man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to be blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

And they that dwell on the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

And after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Revelation 11:1-12

The above two witnesses were eventually raptured into heaven.

The 144,000 who were sealed

AND after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to

the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand, of the tribe of Naph'-tali were sealed twelve thousand, of the tribe of Man-nas'-eh were sealed twelve thousand;

Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand, of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand of the tribe of Is'-sachar were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Zeb'-ulun were sealed twelve thousand, of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand, of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Revelation 7:1-8

AND I looked and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zi'-on, and with him a hundred and forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

These are they which were not defiled with woman; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 14:1-5

The above is the second lot that has been redeemed from the earth. Please note that those quoted earlier in the book of Revelation (Revelation 7:9-17) is a major rapture group who were translated into heaven prior to tribulation period. The above scripture give out big revelations as well as the former (Genesis 5:24).

- One must walk with God in life to be raptured to enter heaven
- One need to be watchful and alert all the time looking forward to and anticipating the rapture.
- One must be fully determined to go into the rapture and unpersuaded by whatever comes one's pathway.
- One need more than the minimal amount or level of anointing of the Holy Spirit to be raptured. (Remember the five wise virgins in Matthew 25:1-10).
- If one wanders far away from the Lord (Totally lost in worldly things) one will definitely miss the rapture (this go back to Matthew 25:8-13).

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the father hath put in his own power.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Sa-mar'-i-a, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?

This same Jesus, which is taken up from you in to heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:6-11

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall and be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised in corruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

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.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

There it is again in verse 58 one need to be steadfast and unmovable in this Christian walk.

Yet not idle but busy in the work of the Lord (and not only on our work) because God the Father has promised us goodies (rewards) in heaven. Why then should you and I lazy about here on earth!? Let us be busy lest we enter and

be empty-handed while others are to be with dazzling rewards!

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together there with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

All but words of comfort, words of comfort. Glory and honor and majesty be to God the Father for ever and ever. Amen.

But let us all keep watch as nobody knows the day or the hour that this event will take place. Furthermore the scriptures talk of the door being closed for some. Let it not be you. (Genesis 7:15-16, Isaiah 26:20, Matthew 25:10; 24:36-42)

Holy Christians will be perfected after being raptured into heaven (1 Corinthians 15:50-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Revelation 19:5-8, Hebrews 11:39-40).

My appeal to you

Let all Christians continue in their walk prepared for the coming of the Lord who is just about to come and the non-Christians my appeal to them is they repent now and accept Jesus Christ in their lives and quickly prepare.

If you have read this book but you are not saved, don't accept this very opportunity slip by, you can't afford to miss going to heaven. Repent of your sins now and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and ask him to save you. Say the following prayer from the bottom of your heart: 'Lord Jesus, I have read this book and believed your word, I now come before you and do repent of all my sins, please forgive me of all my sins and cleanse me by your precious blood. Lord Jesus, I welcome you now into my heart, fill me with your Holy Spirit, I humbly request all this, in Jesus' name. Amen'.

If you have faithfully repeated this prayer, you are now born-again (saved). Go to a church that preaches, teaches and practices the word of God and join them and ask the Pastor for your baptism in much water and to be Spirit filled.

Live a holy and righteous life daily in anticipation for the rapture of Christ's holy Church any time from now henceforth.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this second volume of ‘The Christian Walk’ and believe it has been of good use to you. In case you have any comments to make please do so using the address given below.

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