

True disciples of Jesus Christ

A litmus test for true discipleship

Fredrick G. Omondi

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of
Jesus Christ**

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

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INTRODUCTION

We are living at a time where the world has entered the Church and the church has mingled with the world to such an extent that it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between the two. In this book I do present to you many of the character traits of a true disciple (believer) of Jesus Christ and you will be able to distinguish between a true believer, a hypocrite and a non-believer.

From the outset it should be made clear to all and sundry that these days we have both true disciples of Jesus Christ (practising Christians) and hypocrites (professing Christians) who are not true disciples as live short of the call to Christianity. Jesus Christ was quite categorical and said that only those that call him Lord, lord and obey him (true disciples) will enter the kingdom of God (Matthew 7:21) he went further in making the point clear that he will denounce those who truly followed him not in

obedience (Matthew 7:22-23) and that many are called but few are chosen (Matthew 22:1-14).

Those who are true disciples have a distinctive lifestyle portraying a really transformed life (Acts 4:1-13), are obedient to the word of God (James 1:25, Matthew 12:46-50) are committed to the cause of Christ (Matthew 10:37-39, Acts 20:17-24; 21:10-13), are serious with their salvation and work on it daily (Hebrews 2:1-4, 2 Peter 1:1-8, Philippians 2:12-16).

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Chapter 1

A new Birth

In beginning the chapter it is good to precisely say that one need a new birth to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ, that is, one need to be born again by God's Spirit to be in a position to be considered a disciple (follower / believer) of Christ Jesus. Let us look at the Scripture.

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and **said** unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again.

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:1-8

Nicodemus wanted to be a follower (disciple) of Jesus Christ and Jesus told him what it takes to be one – the need for a new birth being the minimum requirement. Jesus Christ went on to clarify it by saying one must believe in Him (John 3:16).

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

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.

Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:6-13

Believing in and receiving Jesus Christ is a requirement to be part of God's family and be a follower / a disciple of God's Son.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently; Being **born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.**

1 Peter 1:18-23

The word of God is an incorruptible seed that abideth forever and by it one is born again. Jesus Christ is the Word of God and is also the Spirit of God.

Chapter 2

Obedience

In the first chapter we found out that getting born again is a minimum requirement of being a disciple. In this chapter we are beginning now to see the character traits of a true disciple which is obedience.

This is just a beginning of a series of factors that can make one maintain his or her status as a true disciple or otherwise. We are going to see the perfect example of Jesus Christ who is the head and Master of all born again Christians, that is, the Church (Colossians 1:18-19, John 13:12-15, Matthew 10:22-30).

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But **made himself of no reputation**, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled

himself, **and became obedient unto death,
even the death of the cross.**

Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

Apostle Paul in writing to the church at Philippi acknowledged Christ's obedience to his father and was ready to die on the cross. His obedience was proved when he accepted to be crucified on the cross for you and I for our redemption from sin and death and God raised him up again on the third day (Matthew 26:30-54; 27:17-37, Romans 3:21-26; 5:6-10, Matthew 28:1-20, Acts 2:36-42; 4:10-12).

If Jesus Christ the Son of God and who is both Lord and Saviour of them that believe in him was that obedient to God the Father, How about the believers? They are no exception as the Scripture is full with names of God's servants who died for the cause of Christ. Obedience is a hallmark of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, **shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;** but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

Matthew 7:21

Only the obedient in Christ Jesus shall enter into the kingdom of heaven as they are the true disciples of his Son and do qualify for entry.

The disobedient have no place in heaven as are not committed to God and not serious with him.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As **obedient children**, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.

But as **he which hath called you is holy**, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation:

1 Peter 1:13-15

Apostle Peter in writing to the Church he reminded her to continue in obedience to God in order to be holy in all their conduct. Without obedience to God the opposite is true-no holiness at all. A child of God is expected to be obedient to his Father who is in heaven just as children born to parents are expected to obey their biological parents who bore them (Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20).

But **be ye doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:22-25

Apostle James in writing to the Church also reminded her to continue in obedience to God in order to be blessed in her deed. Now the opposite of blessing is a curse and I hope none of us want to live with a curse as it is not something pleasant at all.

Let us now take a reverse gear and see where it lands us.

And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

John 8:45-47

Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 10:24-27

The above two scriptures tell us that the true disciples of Jesus Christ who are his sheep both hear him and obey as well. Quite a challenge to some of us who call themselves

Christians yet neither hear their Master nor obey him.

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

And Saul said, They have brought them from the A-mal'-ek-ites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night.

And he said unto him, Say on.

And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

And the LORD SENT THEE ON A JORNEY, AND SAID, Go and utterly, destroy the sinners the A-mal'-ek-ites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Am'-a-lek, and have utterly destroyed the A-mal'-ek-ites.

But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gil'-gal.

And **Samuel said**, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 15:13-23

King Saul like many kings the world over disregard the true servants of God and which is their undoing and some go further and persecute and kill God's true servants (1 Kings 18:17-19; 22:1-38, 2 Chronicles 24:1-25; 25:14-22; 26:15:21, Jeremiah 37 & 38, Acts 12:1-23, Matthew 14:1-12).

What these and other leaders today don't know is that the true servants of God are a blessing in a country and can be the best counsellors and advisers to them. King Saul obviously disobeyed the Lord on the commandment he was given on the Amalekites and he was adamant and not acknowledging his disobedience and had the audacity to say to the prophet Samuel that he has obeyed the voice of the Lord and he

went further and blamed the people whom he was ruling instead yet they were under him and he had the power to see that the Lord's command is executed to the letter.

The prophet stressed for him the importance of obeying the Lord and went further and told him he was rebellious and stubborn and therefore has rejected the word of the Lord and the Lord too has rejected him from being king. We can learn there that any disciple who is having a very high chance of being rejected on the judgement day as true disciples are normally obedient to the Lord (Acts 4:1-20; 5:12-32; 8:26-40; 9:1-19; 10:1-48; 12:6-17; 16:1-10).

Chapter 3

Love

Love is another character trait to be found in a true disciple of Jesus Christ as we are going to see from the Scripture.

Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

Little children yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:31-35

Love is a commandment from the Lord Jesus Christ himself and by it all men come to know that truly one is a disciple of Jesus Christ.

But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

Then one of them, which was **a lawyer**, **asked him** a question, tempting him, and saying,

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, **thou shalt love** thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees asked Jesus which commandment in the law was great, he told them it was love and love both to God the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein and also to mankind.

We can see that love is paramount in a true believer. But one may ask why is it so? It is because God who gives the new birth is Himself love. Read on.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.**

In this was manifested love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

No man hath seen God at any time. **If we love one another, God dwelleth in us and his love is perfected in us.**

1 John 4:7-12

One cannot be a true disciple and lack love in oneself as God is love and anyone associated with him must have love for fellow men and women (for mankind). Love is a commandment from God who gives it to us who have believed in his dear Son. If one has no love for others then for sure he does not know God for God is not in him or her.

In this the children of God are made manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he

him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in need and in truth.

1 John 3:10-18

From the above scripture it is quite evident that love is also a very good indicator of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Let us see further what Jesus had said to his disciple Simon Peter.

So when they had dined, **Jesus saith to Simon Peter, son of Jonah, Lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, the son of Jonah, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:15-17

For Jesus Christ to have asked Simon Peter three times if he loved him, Jesus was putting a point across to Simon Peter who may have missed it all together. Love is of such weight to the Lord remember the scripture in the book of Matthew again (Matthew 22:34-40). Most likely Jesus was telling Simon that tending to his flock (lambs and sheep) (new/young converts and other converts) was of more weight or importance than being busy with fishing and that he needed to prioritize better in life by going for the eternal than the temporal.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but **the greatest** of these is **charity**.

1 Corinthians 13:13

If you begin from verse 1 you will come to appreciate charity which has been mentioned many times and even in verse 1 of the following chapter.

BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

Ephesians 5:1-2

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

Simon Peter must have grasped what his Master said on love.

Chapter 4

Separation

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will live a separated life away from sin as well as evil associations. It has to be so because of God's consecration at his or her call. He or she will be careful on who or which group to associate with or avoid. He or she does go with the wind world trends which could be detrimental to his or her spirituality.

Now let us have some readings from the Scripture.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what accord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in

them, and walk in them; and I will be their god, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore **come out among them, and be ye separate, saith the lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

A true disciple must separate himself or herself in order to be accepted by God.

God is with him or her all the time and God is holy so touching anything unclean or associating with (the unrighteous- so no unequal yoking together. As the temple of God, he or she must bear that in mind in his or her endeavours in life. If you read the books in the Old Testament you find God on several occasions telling the Israelites to separate themselves from the people of other nations as they were chosen by God to be a special people for him to serve and worship him alone as he is a jealous God and cannot

tolerate idols. So born again Christians who are true to their calling must follow suit as they are not an exception.

Be not deceived: **evil communications corrupt good manners.**

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

A true disciple of Jesus Christ is for righteousness and must awake to that fact lest he or she falls into sin by associating with evil people.

THEN came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen hands, they found fault.

For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables.

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

He answered and said unto them, Well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written,

This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing

of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

For Moses said, Honor thy father and thy mother; and, Who so curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightiest be profited by me; he shall be free.

And ye suffer him no more to do aught for his father or his mother;

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Mark 7:1-13

It is a dangerous thing to reject God's word and to rather follow customs and traditions of men and their erroneous doctrines. It is because you have made the word of God which is infallible and abides forever to be

of none effect- It shows contempt to God and that man is superior to God his Creator! It is unimaginable. Unfortunately, that is exactly what many have done. In my book 'The Christian Walk' I put a whole chapter in addressing that issue of false doctrines and the customs and traditions of men. Customs and traditions must be questioned. I did so and found out that they have no foundation and are absurd and some are but demonic and are dangerous. Remember what the Scripture say in the book of Hosea (Hosea 4:6) - Many people's lives are destroyed for lack of knowledge of God's word and hence fall prey to customs, traditions, false doctrines and so on following blindly not bothering to question them. Only God's word cannot be questioned because of its infalliability as God is the Truth.

While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother? And who are my brethren?**

And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said,

Behold my mother and my brethren!

For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**

Matthew 12:46-50

Jesus Christ was stressing on obedience to God's will so we need not be held captive with family ties unless it is useful for our eternity. So, anything not positively contributing to our entry into heaven should be avoided regardless of family ties things like traditions and such like.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me.

But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:57-62

In the above scripture we still see the issue of family ties which if one is not careful enough will make one miss entry into the

rapture of Christ's holy Church. Because it will be so sudden that there will be no time at all to do anything about it. So there is need to thoroughly scrutinize our endeavours and prioritize them rightly not as those men mentioned above especially the second man and the third man. But as for the first man he must have been excited seeing a multitude of people who were following after Jesus (most of whom were not serious in what they were doing). It is because they were not aware of the cost implications- Christianity is not just having fun in life, not like bread and butter, as it is tough with many ups and downs, so it is not walking in the park. That is the reason why Jesus gave the first man a glimpse of it for him to think twice.

For your information if you are a true disciple of Jesus or want to be one, be ready to lose friends and many other things that the world run for (Philippians 3:7-14).

Chapter 5

Flexibility

When I talk on flexibility I mean subjected to change and now as concerns a true believer, he or she will be ready to change whenever it is necessary and this change in Christian terminology, I call it repentance'. Much on this subject you can find in my other book 'A Christian and A repentant Life'. Now if one does not repent of one's shortcomings (sins) one is not flexible but rigid which is very dangerous. King Saul for instance despite prophet Samuel pin pointing his short comings, he remained rigid not acknowledging and repenting (1 Samuel 15:1-20) and it cost him his reign (1 Samuel 15:22-23). But King David who was later to take over after Saul he was wise and acknowledged his sins repenting of the same and even went into prayer and fasting (2 Samuel 12:1-23). So King David refused to be rigid as his predecessor. So all true disciple of Jesus Christ are flexible

(repentant) as they are wise and know the consequences of impenitence (Psalm 51, 2 Corinthians 7:8-10, Luke 13:1-5).

Now it is time to navigate through the scriptures.

Wash you, make you clean; **put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;**

Learn to do well; seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

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

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 1:16-20

The Lord God was calling for repentance from the Israelites whom he chose as his people and he sent the prophet Isaiah to speak to them to amend their ways. The Lord God who is full of mercy was ready to forgive them if they were willing to repent. Now as we have read the consequence is judgment if there is no repentance (verse 20). Now if you thought impenitence was a simple matter you can find out that Cain too was given an opportunity for repentance and he did not grab it and he ended with a curse in his life (Genesis 4:1-12). A curse is not something good and worse still it follows one having it the rest of one's life if not dealt with beginning with repentance of the sin that brought it in the first place- it involves spiritual warfare through deliverance - and even prayer and fasting is necessary on some curses. By the way God is calling for repentance from all of us (Acts 17:30-31).

But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

Ezekiel 18:21-23

Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Joel 2:12-13

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

Proverbs 28:13

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a
damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also
wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before them all, saying, I
know not what thou sayest.

And when he was gone out into the porch,
another maid saw him, and said unto them
that were there, This fellow was also with
Jesus of Nazareth.

And again he denied with an oath, I do not
know the man.

And after a while came unto him they that
stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also
art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth
thee.

Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:69-75

Simon Peter remembered his folly (verses 31-35) and repented by weeping bitterly and the Lord restored him in the faith as he had promised him elsewhere in the Scripture. A true disciple of Jesus Christ shall be flexible and live a repentant life just as Simon Peter did.

Sins need to be repented in order to be prosperous in what we do. To refuse to repent is a disaster in waiting, it is like a time bomb that must explode at a particular point.

You can take time and read the following scriptures as well: Luke 13:1-5; 15:11-32, Matthew 21:28-32.

Chapter 6

No looking back

True disciples of Jesus Christ don't look back as they are focused in life. To look back in Christianity is dangerous as it can easily lead one to backsliding (Apostasy) which is an enemy of Christianity. Let us go first to the Old Testament and see what has for us.

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, **Escape for**

thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so my Lord:

Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

And he said unto him, See I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou become thither: Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

And he overthrew those cities and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:15-26

Lot is described as a righteous man (2 Peter 2:5-9) and therefore he did not look back and was saved together with her two daughters. But Lot's wife looked back and lost her life. The truly righteous are focused and don't look back for they have their hope not in the past but in the future which is brighter.

AND when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and

consumed them that were in the utter most parts of the camp.

And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire among them, and consumed them that were in the utter most parts of the camp.

And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire the LORD burnt among them.

And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the **children of Israel also wept** again, **and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?**

We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic:

But now our soul is dried away; there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Numbers 11:1-6

Sweet memories of the past are dangerous in the walk of salvation, the walk to the kingdom of heaven. As for the children of Israel they were to go to the promised land. But for Christians they have been promised to live eternally in heaven with the Lord God. Just as the children of Israel missed it because of looking back and complaining by comparing with their lives in the wilderness, so the disciples who are not true to their calling equally they too will miss the rapture and entry into heaven as they focused on the past and even the present troubles' world and not the future awaiting and beckoning to them. Many are preoccupied with the present than with the future as lack the right focus which is the future and which is eternal and end up not prepared for a better future in heaven and then will find that they missed it, regrettably to say. Now we go to the New Testament what it has to say.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but **this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**
I press toward the walk for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

Apostle Paul was a true disciple of Jesus Christ while on earth before he slept as he was totally focused unlike many of us today. He knew very well that the salvation he received was a high calling, calling him to go and live in heaven above (the third heaven) with the Lord Jesus Christ who saved his soul. So that really motivated him to live for Christ and forget things of the past prior to his call.

WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us lay aside every weight, and

the sin which doth so easily beset us, **and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Christians are in a race that is heading right into heaven and so without focus as Lot's wife, they will miss entry into their right destination. There is a slogan which I believe was brought by Christians which says 'Forwards ever, backwards never. Most likely it could be referring to the experience Lot's wife found herself in.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy

works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then **because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.**

Revelation 3:14-22

Christ in the above scripture he is rebuking the church at Laodicea which represent an apostate church in this last days prior to the rapture that she needs to be either cold or hot and not both (Lukewarm) as she is in danger of being vomited out (rejected) looking back can make one to have mixed reactions in life and not have a right focus in life and lose out with God.

God hates backsliding and that is why he keeps on calling for repentance which restores one's status in him.

Chapter 7

Cost consciousness

A true disciple of Jesus Christ is one who has made a firm decision to remain in him regardless of circumstances in life, that is, one that has committed one's life to Christ without reservations a classical example is the case of Job and apostle Paul as we will read later on their lives, as well as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël and Azariah. In the Christian walk there is counting of the cost. Salvation was brought with a high cost (a very heavy price indeed) by the blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God (1 Peter 1:18-19) but receiving salvation is free of charge (John 3:16) but to remain steadfast in it has a cost so one must be conscious of that when making a decision for Christ, for if one does not consider that one can be not only disappointed and regret and come out altogether and that is very bad. Jesus talked about this issue in the Scripture. Let us go through some of them.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and **he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.**

Matthew 10:38-39

Becoming a true believer in Christ Jesus is like a puzzle as we read the above statement of Jesus Christ. But in actual fact it is not as in his many other parables. In the scripture he is merely talking about counting the cost of discipleship which involves even self denial.

To lose one's life for Christ's sake is to be ready to offer your life-ready to die for his cause, that is, for the gospel.

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is,

God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 19:16-24

Many go to Christ with a lot of reservations - holding to this and that and at the same time still expect to be his followers! But the truth of the matter is that one need be ready to forsake all for Christ. Being a true disciple involves parting with things as well which is a cost. Now look at the following scripture.

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into 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 Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee 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

That scripture we find that the four in following Jesus they parted with something and that is a cost.

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth

the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 14:25-35

Now the above scripture looks like a hard nut to crack. But Jesus Christ was forced to turn back and tell the multitude the plain truth of being his follower (a true disciple) as they were going by the crowd and most of them knew not the cost implications in discipleship or else, they would not have followed him in the first place. he stressed to them that they must prioritize him in their lives as number one and others to be number two onwards and that is why he listed to them family members.

In telling them about one intending to build a tower he simply was referring to the church as a building and which need to have first a foundation and materials for completing it. As you know a believer in Christ Jesus is a temple of God. The foundation is Jesus Christ and building materials of finishing it is the doctrines of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 1 Corinthians 3:9; 1 Corinthians 3:11, Acts 2:41-43,

Ephesians 2:19-23). If one does not be conscious of the cost implications of discipleship and sit down and count it, one will be mocked and people will say to each other 'This man claimed he was saved now look at his or her life'- meaning the building is wanting.

Christianity involves spiritual warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan and that is why talked of a king going to war against another king (Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Corinthians 10:1-6, Hebrews 12:3-4, 1 Peter 5:8-11, Philippians 1:29-30, Galatians 5:16-18). In touching on ten thousand soldiers against twenty thousand I believe he meant a believer (a disciple) as a soldier against Satan and his cohorts (devils / demons) and so it is a fierce battle and that is why putting the whole armour of God is stressed (Ephesians 6:11) and so don't start going for battle becoming a disciple when not ready to face battles in life from the other camp of Satan as you

face imminent defeat. In touching on forsaking all to qualify as a true disciple I believe is not valuing anything to be more than one's salvation (Philippians 3:7-8).

Touching on salt Jesus said that a true disciple is the salt of the world (Matthew 5:13) and to lose saltiness is to backslide (fall back to your old sinful life) hence you are a liability in God's kingdom as cannot lead others to God's kingdom and you are a disgrace as people tread on you saying 'So and so's salvation is useless-nothing'. In a nutshell becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ one must be really serious as it is a serious undertaking and there is no going back-retreating or quitting.

And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was great company of publicans and of others that sat down with him.

But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:27-32

In that scripture we see that the publican left all in order to follow Jesus but many want to follow the Lord at no cost whatsoever and that is absurd. It is true that salvation is free as Jesus had already paid the full price for all of us when he was crucified on the cross to atone for our sins. But to receive salvation and to remain in it comes with a cost.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Luke 9:57-58

Jesus was like asking the man ‘Are you sure that you really want to follow me?’ Now as I said earlier mentioning some names of those who had counted the cost of discipleship, read the lives of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Daniel 3), Daniel (Daniel 6), Job (Job 1 & 2), apostle Paul (Acts 21:10-14) - You can see what they experienced in life – they were ready to be counted with Christ as they lived a selfless life by valuing Christ more than anything else.

Chapter 8

Heavenly focus

A true disciple of Jesus Christ has a heavenly focus going by the way he or she lives right here on earth and in this chapter, we are going to see how he or she ought to live from the Scripture.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, he hideth, and for joy therefore goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

A true disciple values his or her salvation and will put his or her all in it to maintain the status quo.

THEREFORE we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Hebrews 2:1-4

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will not live a careless life as he or she knows there are consequences and therefore will be diligent in handling the word of God as cannot afford to lose such a great gift from God which is salvation.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is there will be your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will take Jesus advice seriously knowing the world is a risky place and so be busy investing in the kingdom of heaven his time, riches and wealth so as to get eternal dividends and for that matter his heart will focus in heaven where he or she has invested in and how true it is even in this life (If say you have some money or anything valuable with you say in your pocket or bag, you will always be remembering that you have something with you and now and then you would put your hand there to see if you still have it intact).

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luke 16:19-31

It is not bad to be rich per se but what is important is how you use your riches. One need to invest wisely in heaven by for instance donating to mission work and

helping the needy. One need not neglect that class of people and also one need to know that the riches are temporal and there is eternity awaiting one ahead after this life on earth. This rich man definitely forgot that. Many who are rich will miss entry into heaven because they valued the riches more than their eternity and missed the point. Read also the book of Matthew (Matthew 19:16-30). The rich man's name was not even mentioned as his name was inconsequential and missed in the book of life in heaven. Also a true disciple will not use what he or she has carelessly or extravagantly but will put them to good use and if has nothing as Lazarus it will not matter as there is more than enough good things awaiting him or her in heaven and that will encourage him or her in this life. For a detailed reading on heavenly focus you can read my book 'A Christian and Kingdom investments' and also 'A Christian and long life, riches and wealth'.

By faith **Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he **looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

Hebrews 11:8-10

A true disciple as Abraham knows that there is a permanent residence for him or her in a big city in heaven unlike the village he or she is living here on earth and therefore live as a stranger as there is a home up there in heaven (Philippians 3:20-21, John 14:1-3). One will live knowing that he or she will be accountable to God at a set date and time (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Romans 14:7-12) and one need to live in

anticipation for the coming of the Lord to take him or her into eternity in heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58) and one need to live with his or her mind on the things in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4).

And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

And they all with one consent began to give excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Luke 14:15-24

From the above scripture we do see those who were called but had a horizontal focus (worldly) and not a vertical (heavenly) and

are going to miss entry into heaven. A true believer will have a singular focus in heaven which is his or her priority in life. It is no wonder then that the Scripture warn us on worldliness (Colossians 3:1-4, James 4:4-6, 1 John 2:15-17). Having property on earth or marrying or getting married is not bad but one's focus should be on the eternity ahead.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:57-62

Life here on the earth when following Jesus is not easy and can be pretty tough as well hence the need to be heavenly focused if one is truly his follower. Rather one need to focus on heaven where life is at its best and eternal as well (John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:1—22:14).

Chapter 9

Prayerfulness

Being prayerful is another characteristic of a true disciple of Jesus Christ as prayer is likened to breathing spiritually as it keeps one's salvation active. For more on prayers you can read my book 'A Christian and Prayer life'. Prayer makes one strong spiritually and a true disciple cannot afford to be weak as he or she knows that there are battles to be fought and one in life and as Jesus said temptations are always there, as Satan is with us on planet earth to tempt and lead people into sinning against God. Jesus who is both Lord and Saviour lived a life of prayer and so are those disciples who are true with their calling. Those disciples just follow their Lord's footsteps by praying and praying. Also, in prayer there is also prayer and fasting as well. On fasting proper you can read my book 'A Christian and fasting life'.

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this world, and so that day come upon you unawares.

For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, **Pray that ye enter not into temptation.**

And he was withdrawn from them a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed.

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Luke 22:39-43

In that scripture Jesus told his disciples to pray just he too often prayed at the Mount of Olives.

AND it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1

A true disciple must learn how to pray by asking his Master Jesus Christ and more so will be taught by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27).

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint;** Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, no regard man;

Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18: 1-8

Jesus in that scripture still was insisting on the need of prayer and also added a necessary ingredient which is faith of course (verse 8) read also an epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 11:6). Prayer by a true disciple of

Jesus Christ is not limited to just only praying for food before taking it but much, much more beyond that - you can look at the word always quoted by Jesus in verse above. Now look at this epistle of Apostle Paul to the church in Thessalonica.

Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

That scripture talks of always praying, that is, being prayerful.

Be careful for nothing; **but in everything by prayer** and supplication and thanksgiving let your request be known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

The verse above underscores the need for prayer by a Christian.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

One can only cast his or her cares to God through prayer.

FOR every high priest taken from among men in the thing pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them who are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

And by reason hereof he ought, as for people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

So also **Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest;** but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.

As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared:

Thou he was a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:1-10

For further reading on Jesus Christ who is both Lord and Saviour on prayer issue read: Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, John 17:1-26. Jesus expects his disciples to be always praying and that is why he said 'When you..... (Matthew 6:5-13). Also, to note is that much of spiritual warfare by the

disciples of Jesus is through prayer as well as prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:14-21).

Chapter 10

Servanthood

Another aspect of a true disciple of Jesus Christ is in being a servant busy in the Lord's work and here too we find apostle Paul excelled in doing by travelling so much throughout Asia ministering the gospel to people.

Jesus Christ when he calls you it is for you fold your hands and doing nothing for his kingdom but expects you to mind his business by ministering to people in various ways. Let us go straight away to the scriptures.

Then the **eleven disciples** went away into 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 always, even unto the
end of the world. Amen.**

Matthew 28:16-20

The same command of the great commission you can read in chapter 10 (Matthew 10:1-14) and in the book of Mark (Mark 16:14-20) and in the book of Luke (Luke 10:1-12). Now let us have a look at other scriptures on servanthood proper.

Who then is **a faithful and wise servant**, whom his Lord, hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Matthew 24:45-47

A true disciple is both faithful and wise and that makes him or her win souls to Christ (Daniel 12:3).

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, and another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:14-23

The talents (gifts) that Jesus Christ give to his disciples are for doing business for him winning souls into his kingdom and so a true

disciple will do just that because of his faithfulness to the Lord. And for sure will be rewarded in heaven (Revelation 22:12).

The God we serve is a God of multiplicity (a God of increase) and therefore a true disciple of the Lord must be fruitful. Let us navigate the Scriptures.

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it:

Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of

this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 13:18-23

In the above scripture Jesus Christ was giving his Disciples a wonderful sermon on the need of being fruitful to him. And we too need to learn from it. We must pay much attention to the words of the Lord allowing it to sink in and take root in order to be fruitful and that is only possible to one who prepares one's heart to receive from God and that is what is referred as good ground. God's word is powerful and when it is released it impacts those that receive it. There is great need for us to abide in the word of God to be fruitful (John 15:1-8).

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.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:1-3

The one that is careful in his walk with the Lord loving His law and meditating on it and obeying and staying far from all evil, such a one will not only be blessed but will be fruitful as well.

For further reading apart from reading the whole book of Acts of the Apostles, you can read my other two books on the title ‘The Servanthood’, that is, both volumes.

Chapter 11

Holiness

For one to be a true disciple one must have the Holy Spirit which confirms his discipleship being born of both water and of the Spirit and which makes one holy without which one is none of Christ's (Romans 8:8-9). Also, to note is that God is holy and those who are his need have the Holy Spirit to be in fellowship with him (John 4:24).

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

1 Peter 1:15-17

One cannot have the fear of the Lord without the Holy Spirit. But thank God that every true believer is given a measure of the

same just as received a measure of faith (1 Corinthians 12:1-3, Romans 12:3).

FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and please God, so ye would abound more and more.

For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

That every one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but **God**, who **hath** also **given unto us his holy Spirit**.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

That scripture confirms that God gives true disciples his holy Spirit for them to be able to live holy lives enabled by the same Spirit who is a helper to them.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see God.

Hebrews 12:14

The Holy Spirit is mandatory for not only be a true disciple of Christ but also to enable one to see God who is Himself a Spirit.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

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

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

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**

John 1:10-13

Those who believe in Christ Jesus are born of God who is a Spirit and that power given is the Holy Spirit.

For further detailed reading on the Holy Spirit you can read in my other book 'The Holy Spirit and A Christian' as well as the second volume of the same.

Chapter 12

Righteousness

All those who have been born again receive the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ and are from henceforth expected by God to begin to live a righteous life and those who do so are the true disciples of Jesus Christ as are obedient to their Master who is the righteous King (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Now righteousness comes from those who have Christ in their lives and is manifested by the good deeds coming from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Let us look at the scripture.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

When one is born again he or she is a new creation in Christ Jesus and it is for living a righteous life, a life full of good works. Read on.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our **Saviour Jesus Christ;**

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:11-14

As I said earlier those who have been saved are created a new to be living in good works.

Ye are the light of the word. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

A true disciple as the light of the world will shine through the good works (righteousness) and which glorify God who is ever righteous. See also the following.

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father,

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

And now, little children abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1 John 2:24-29

That scripture is very clear that a true disciple is born of God and doeth righteousness as a testimony to one's status because of the one who is in one's life is righteous. Such a one will abide in righteousness because of the righteous one abiding in one.

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1 John 3:7

Christ Jesus is righteous and therefore whosoever is of him does righteousness.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

3 John 11

True believers in Christ are reminded to live righteously as that is what is expected of them being now Christians. It follows therefore that righteousness is a Christian virtue.

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither is he that loveth not his brother.

1 John 3:10

The distinction between a true believer of Jesus Christ and a sinner is evident in that scripture. A true believer is a child of God and is evident by righteous living.

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.

I know that ye are Abraham's seed, but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. **Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When

he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:31-44

From the above scripture it is quite clear that not all disciples are indeed disciples (true disciples) and that true disciples are only those that abide in God's word by being obedient and the only thing that portrays righteousness before God. Now something comes out which is quite shocking that one may think he or she is a true disciple but is not of Christ but of the devil! No wonder even apostle Paul in writing his second epistle to the church at Corinth he told them that some ministers of God but are but servants of Satan (2 Corinthians 11:10-15) and even Jesus Christ is going to denounce many who thought they were true disciples and servants but they were wrong (Matthew 7:21-23) and that calls for serious self-examination before it is too late on the day of reckoning.

Now in summary only the righteous are to inherit the kingdom of God (Revelation 19:1-9) and are going to judge the world and the angels (Matthew 19:23-29, 1 Corinthians 6:1-3) and are the living examples to the world (Matthew 5:13-16, 2 Corinthians 6:3-6, Leviticus 24:1-4) as the Scripture puts more emphasis on righteousness as Jesus Christ is the righteous king who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and is the one to rule in God's kingdom (Galatians 6:8-10, Acts 10:37-38, Mark 7:26-37, Hebrews 7:1-2, Revelation 19:11-21) s Heaven is the home of the righteous (John 14:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Philippians 3:20-21).

Chapter 13

Faithfulness and Truthfulness

Faithfulness and Truthfulness is yet another indicator that can show that one is a true disciple of Jesus Christ because he or she is following the footsteps of Christ who is ever faithful and truthful.

WHEREFORE, **holy brethren**, partakers of the heavenly calling **consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus**

Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

Hebrews 3:1-3

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him

was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:11-16

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:5-6

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; **These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness,** the beginning of the creation of God;

Revelation 3:14

The above scriptures talk of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God that he is both faithful and truthful as well and he being the Saviour of mankind, he is a perfect example to all who have been redeemed by Lord to emulate and follow, unless you are not his true follower.

Now there are yet more individuals recorded in the Scripture who followed the example

of Jesus and some of which I have the pleasure to mention them now.

And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

And, behold, I even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breadth of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die.

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy son's wives with thee.

And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Genesis 6:12-22

Noah as a just and perfect man in his generations proved to God that he was faithful by doing all that God commanded him to do. Quite a challenge to you and I.

AND it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:1-3

Abraham also proved to God his faithfulness to him in a big way.

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the E-thi-o'-pi-an woman whom he had married: for he had married an E-thi-o'-pi-an woman.

And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth).

And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

Numbers 12:1-10

Moses too was a very faithful servant of God and God Himself attested to that Fact.

As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.

Joshua 11:15

Joshua too was a faithful servant and therefore was a true follower of God just as his predecessor, Moses.

You can also read the case of Samuel (1 Samuel 12:1-5).

THE elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only but also all they that have known the truth;

**For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us,
and shall be with us for ever.**

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from
God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus
Christ the Son of the Father, in truth and
love.

**I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy
children walking in truth, as e have
received a commandment from the
Father.**

2 John 1-4

The word of God abides for ever and so if
you have received Jesus Christ who is the
truth you have no excuse but to be truthful
in life, if not, something is wrong with you.
Moreover, to be truthful is God's
commandment and he is the one who
brought redemption in the world by his Son
Jesus Christ.

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

3 John 3-5

Truthfulness and faithfulness are heralded in the above scriptures and a true disciple cannot fall short of them. For further reading on faithfulness you can read my other book 'The Faithful of God'.

Chapter 14

Readiness

A true disciple because he or she knows there is a goal to be achieved in life, he or she will be making efforts daily to achieve it by preparing so as to be found ready at the coming of his or her Lord to take him or her home, that is, heaven. Heaven obviously being the final destination after the life here on earth and so he or she takes it with a lot of seriousness. We will at this juncture take time to see what the Scripture says on that important destination.

But of that day and how knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

And knew not until the flood come, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two woman shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:36-44

The appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds in coming to snatch away the church is a top secret in heaven and is only with the Almighty God and Father and it is set to be an imminent event and calls for readiness which cannot therefore be

achieved without early and proper preparation and hence the daily preparation by true believer so as not to be left when it happens. It is an obvious act that for one to be ready for anything in life one must begin with preparing so as to be ready for it.

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 unto 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 to 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

From that scripture we do see that two things are required to enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God and these are, a lamp and oil. A lamp stands for salvation

and oil stands for the Holy Spirit so salvation without the Holy Spirit is not enough as he is the one that maintains one's salvation and also is the means that takes one into heaven to be with the Lord Jesus Christ. No wonder Jesus Christ said that if one does not have his spirit (the Holy Spirit) he or she is none of His (Romans 8:9). We need to know that the Holy Spirit is also symbolized by the wind and he is the one that took the prophet Elijah into heaven (2 Kings 2:1-11) and the same Holy Spirit transported Philip after him preaching to the Ethiopian eunuch and he found himself at Azotus (Acts 8:26-40) and so the same Spirit will be the agent transporting holy Christians (the bride of Christ) into heaven. The foolish virgins missed entry into heaven as they had no Holy Spirit.

For more reading on the person the Holy Spirit you can read my book 'The Holy Spirit and A Christian and it's second volume as well.

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men, that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:35-38

Lights can only burn when there is some oil in them, so oil is essential in keeping a light burning. Part of the preparation for entry into heaven is to have oil inside one, that is, the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ told his disciples that he was going to prepare a

place for them there to be with him (John 14:1-3). So when the wedding is ready with everything intact including the supper, it will be at a time for a takeoff to be present in the big occasion.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but **we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

A true believer in Christ Jesus because he has hope of being in heaven, part of his or her preparation will be in purifying his or her life daily to be found pure (holy) at God's appointed time. Christ himself is ever holy and the disciples have been given the

Holy Spirit as another gift to help them in the preparation for entry into heaven.

Chapter 15

Perseverance

Perseverance in hardships is not a sweet thing but it is a bitter experience and many of us or let me say all of us hate anything bitter in life.

But now that is a yardstick for measuring whether one is a true disciple of Jesus Christ or not for Jesus Christ Himself went through a very, very bitter experience while he was on the earth in a bodily form (Isaiah 53).

Now one cannot go through such an experience and come out of it undeterred in life except one has perseverance. So to say, a true disciple of Jesus Christ shows endurance in life.

In the Christian walk one is going to be faced with many obstacles and must persevere to remain in the faith in Christ Jesus. For that matter Jesus was very sincere with his disciples and he told them what they should expect in life as they continue to follow him. There are a lot of things on their

way such as opposition, persecution, oppression imprisonment, and the list continues and in fact Jesus after calling them, he went ahead and told them the truth in Christianity.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father and the child: and

the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man cometh.

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his Lord.

If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered; that shall not be revealed; and hid that shall not be known.

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops

And fear not then which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a far thing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Matthew 10:16-30

Jesus Christ not only told his disciples about what to expect as born-again Christians but how to go about it and that there is divine protection as he will be always with them (Matthew 28:16-20). For further reading on divine protection you can read my other book 'A Christian and Divine Protection'.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: because ye are not of the

world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 15:18-19

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

John 16:33

A true disciple need to be cheerful as what he or she passes through his or her master passed through them coming out victorious and that peace is only in his or her master inside him or her and not in the world he or she is living in. you can read also the following scriptures: Romans 8:18-25, 1 Peter 1:1-9, James 5:11, Acts 14:19-23, 2 Timothy 3:10-14, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Revelation 3:7-13). Be blessed abundantly in Jesus' name as you persevere through my comrade who is truly following Jesus.

Chapter 16

Steadfastness

Steadfastness is another quality that can be found in a true disciple of Jesus Christ. One who is not truly a disciple cannot stand for Christ (Luke 12:8-9). A true disciple will be steadfast in the faith in Christ Jesus and cannot be ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:14-16).

In Christianity there is no wavering in the faith as one cannot go far that way but is sooner or later going to fall away from the precious faith (2 Peter 1:1-10).

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

As he spake these words, many believed on him.

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.

John 8:28-32

It follows therefore from that scripture that steadfastness is required in the word of God by his followers to be counted as true disciples. Let us look at a similar scripture elsewhere.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

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.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John15:1-8

Now looking at the above scripture it is clear that one must abide in Christ to continue being a true disciple who we find bears fruit

as well and the bottom line is steadfastness in the Christ Jesus.

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

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Now if you look at that scripture and the texts in bold you will come face to face with what steadfastness is in the Christian perspective. Moreover, that is the quality of a true disciple of Jesus Christ as Apostle Paul led by the Holy Spirit prior to his death, elaborated to Timothy his son in the faith as his last words to him.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
And having a high priest over the house of God;

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19-25

The above scripture touches on steadfastness in the faith, which is crucial to any Christian who has hope of entering the Lord's rest.

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouable in his sight:

If ye **continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard,** and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven: whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Colossians 1:21-23

The above scripture too is touching on the need of being steadfast in the faith not being moved away from the hope of the gospel.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the Lord of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. A'-men.

1 Peter 5:8-11

Being steadfast in the faith is the attribute of a true disciple of Jesus Christ as Apostle Peter being led by the Holy Spirit told the Church of Christ.

JUDE, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, **it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly**

contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude 1-3

As I said earlier in other texts in this book that a true believer of Jesus Christ must take his or her salvation with the seriousness it deserves, the same is being said by Jude the brother of James a true servant of Jesus Christ. All true servants definitely will take the matter of faith seriously in their daily walk with the Lord. May the Lord continue to help those are his as truly he is faithful to his own.

Chapter 17

Patience

Patience is another character trait found in a true disciple of Christ Jesus. It is so because God Himself is not in a hurry for anything or for anybody and will do things at his own time and therefore a true believer in Christ will not be in a hurry but patient to let the Lord do something at his time as one cannot dictate him in doing anything as one wants. He himself being very patient with his creation.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but **is longsuffering toward us**, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9

Here is the Lord's advice to those who are not patient for things at God's time and in his way.

Be patient therefore, **brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.** Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

James 5:7-10

True Disciples of Christ will be patient as the above scripture instruct them.

THEREFORE being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;**

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

And hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:1-5

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 8:24-25

There is waiting on the Lord in the things of God for those who are truly godly. Some have said that hurry, hurry, has no blessing! When God finally does something to one, he does it perfectly. But Satan does things in a hurry his time is short (Revelation 12:12) and also that is his character that of a thief as he can be caught in the act (John 10:8-10).

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:35-39

If you are not patient with the Lord you are not true to him and will end up losing. Let me remind you of the case of Saul who though was a king but he lost it because of being disobedient to God by being impatient (1 Samuel 13:1-14) a Christian too if not careful enough might end up losing by being impatient. Also let me remind you of the children of Israel who were not patient in waiting for their leader Moses the servant of God and lost (Exodus 32:1-35).

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth his righteousness as the light, and thy judgement as the noonday.
Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psalm 37:5-7

I WAITED patiently for the LORD, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psalm 40:1

We need to borrow a leaf from the psalmist as he said above led by the spirit of God.

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, **be patient** toward all men.

1Thessalonians 5:14

This is faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first **Jesus Christ might shew forth all long – suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.**

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Chapter 18

Self - control

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will portray a life of self - control as he or she cannot leave his or her life to go haywire, moreover self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Read on.

Know ye not that they which run a race run all, but one receiveth the price? So run, that ye may obtain.

And **every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.** Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; bwe an incorruptible.

I therefore run, not as one that beateth the air:

But **I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:** lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

In the above scripture Apostle Paul in writing to the church at Corinth stressed the

need for self-control in the walk of faith and referred to it as a race (spiritual race of course) and which need due diligence and therefore one who is truly a disciple of Christ must master his or her life by the Holy Spirit.

He that hath **no rule over his own spirit** is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Proverbs 25:28

To have no rule over one's spirit is to lack self-control and is that bad and a true disciple should not be found in that situation.

NOW concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto her husband.

The wife hath no power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your **incontinency**.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Self-control is required even in marriage and more so when fasting and praying is ahead of you as Christians.

BUT of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them,

as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as thief.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, **be sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for helmet, the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-8

The Lord Jesus Christ will come at a time that no one expects and therefore soberness is expected at all times by a true disciple of Christ Jesus.

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy

grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice;
and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Wherefore I put to thee in remembrance that
thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee
by the putting on of my hands.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of **a sound
mind.**

2 Timothy 1:5-7

Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy his son
in the faith he reminds him of his
responsibility to be self-controlled in life
which comes from God's spirit in him and
which he ought to practise.

THIS know also, that in the last days
perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves,
covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers,
disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
Without natural affection, truce-breakers,
false accusers, **incontinent, fierce**, despisers
of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2 Timothy 3:1-3

In the above scripture Apostle Paul told was telling Timothy of the last times and that he need not be part of those who cannot contain themselves as are incontinent and even fierce!

BUT speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

That the aged men be sober, grave, **temperate**, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

Titus 2:1-2

Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober**, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:13

Christians have no alternative in life but to gird up the loins of their mind and be sober at all times in this life on earth while still waiting for their Lord and Master Jesus Christ to take them home.

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to
your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and **to**
temperance patience; and to patience
godliness;

2 Peter 1:1-6

Self-controlled life is a must for a true
disciple of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 19

Wisdom

True disciples of Jesus Christ their lives will show a reasonable level of wisdom as they have Christ in their lives and Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God as the following scripture states.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek wisdom:

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness.

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ** the power of God, and **the wisdom of God**.

1Corinthians 1:17-24

Apostle Paul was a true disciple of Jesus Christ and was led by the Holy Spirit to write an epistle to the church at Corinth and informing them that the Jesus they believed in and received was the wisdom of God. Why? Because they were walking as foolish and not wise people. God says that fearing him is equated to wisdom.

And unto man he said, Behold, **the fear of the Lord**, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28:28

It seems from the previous scripture that the church at Corinth had a life not consistent with wisdom and hence Apostle Paul's epistle to them on the issue. The church seemed to fall short of fearing the Lord. Let us look at a few scriptures and see the wisdom of Jesus Christ at a glance.

Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

But **Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?**

Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

They say unto him, Caesar's. **Then he saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's: and unto God the things that are God's.**

When they heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

And last of all the woman died also.

Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as angels of God in heaven.

But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.

But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

Then one of them, which was a lawyer,
asked him a question, tempting him, and
saying,

Master, which is the great commandment in
the law?

**Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the
Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with
all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

This is the first and great commandment.

**And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt
love thy neighbour as thyself.**

**On these two commandments hang all the
law and the prophets.**

**While the Pharisees were gathered
together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What
think ye of Christ? Whose son is he? They
say unto him, The son of David.**

**He saith unto them, How then doth David
in spirit call him Lord, saying,**

**The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on
my right hand, till I make thine enemies
thy footstool?**

If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22:15-46

AND it came to pass, on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders, And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority, doest thou these things? Or who is he that gave thee this authority?

And he answered and said unto them. I will also ask you one thing; and answer me:

The Baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?

And they reasoned with themselves, saying, if we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not?

But and if we say, Of men: all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet.

And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was.

And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Luke 20:1-8

JESUS went unto the Mount of Olives.

And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act;

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. **But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote**

on the ground, as though he heard them not.

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 8:1-11

The woman taken in adultery had really a close shave with the Lord's judgement but

as I said earlier supported by scripture, Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God, he being the second person in the Trinity of God and only came to the earth in a bodily form as a man because of the mission God the Father had sent him to redeem mankind and reconcile him back to him and so he was God too as God the Son and came from the true source of true wisdom. So those who are truly disciples of the Son of God must have the attribute of Christ who is the Word of God and the truth and we know God's word in the scripture is the truth. Let us now look at the following scripture.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

The above are words of Jesus Christ to his disciples. He was not being unjust or unreasonable in addressing them that way but was just telling them the truth of what

was expected of them as God's children, God being a wise God and his wisdom is infinite of course.

If you think that Jesus Christ was joking then you are in for a surprise.

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 unto 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 to 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

Because Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God, only those who are wise are going to enter the kingdom of God in heaven as they know what it takes to qualify entry into heaven and are busy working at it. Unlike the

foolish who are busy with nonentities as take life casually and to them it is business as usual and for sure will not be ready for rapture to be with the Lord into his marriage Supper and eternity in heaven. The foolish do foolish things and can be easily deceived and also cannot read the times they are in. The above scripture is now being fulfilled in our own eyes and ears as some people are busy buying anointing oil., anointed handkerchiefs, water from river Jordan, name it, but not knowing they are being deceived and truly they have missed the real thing, that is, what is wanted of them but instead are busy with useless things yet they need to work out their lives for eternity (Philippians 2:12) being obedient to their Creator (Titus 2:11-14) as it is beneficial to them to do so (Matthew 7:21-23; 12:46-50, Luke 11:27-28, Revelation 1:1-3; 22:7-14).

Chapter 20

Boldness and courage

Boldness and courage are requirements in true discipleship as without them one cannot stand for the Lord and defend the faith in Jesus; Jesus who Himself is the truth (John 14:1-6). Apostle Paul and other apostles stood for Christ and defended the truth in the scripture very well as they were true to their calling.

It is important to have these attributes if one is truly a disciple of Jesus Christ as the fearful (cowards) will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Also, one need to note that without courage one cannot witness to others of the good news in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ himself was bold and faced all kinds of people not being afraid of them as we are briefly going to read from the Scripture, but first let us look at what Apostle Paul told Timothy his son in the faith.

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God:

2 Timothy 1:5-8

In the above scripture we find Apostle Paul telling Timothy not to be timid but bold in proclaiming the gospel as God has given to Christ's disciples the spirit of power. So there is no need for him to be afraid of people.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.

Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! For ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.

Woe unto you! For ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

Therefore said also the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zechariah, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

Luke 11:44-52

The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, **Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox,**

Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

Nevertheless I must walk today, and tomorrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

Luke 13:31-33

Quite powerful words to those who crossed his line and even king Herod could not bother him at all. He literary did not mince his words but spoke them openly and boldly.

And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

And said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

John 2:13-16

Jesus Christ was bold and did what he did at that temple in cleaning it up. Unfortunately, today many, even church leaders don't have

the guts to clean up God's house and yet hope to finally enter heaven. What a day dream! One must stand to be counted now or never.

I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, we be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded

forth and come from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:37-44

Jesus Christ answered the Jews squarely not being careful in his words but saying it as it is. You can also read the book of Matthew (Matthew 23:1-33).

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his Lord.

If they have called the master of the house Be-el'-ze-bub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:24-32

The above scripture give emphasis on being bold in discipleship and also give assurance of divine protection and that only the bold who witness for Christ will receive recognition in heaven,

Let us now look at some examples of those who feared God in their lives having their faith in him and how they conducted their lives before people.

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troublest Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the, LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Then said Elijah unto the people, I even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and that God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, it is well spoken.

1 Kings 18:17-24

The prophet Elijah was bold enough to speak to king Ahab and even to instruct him to gather for him the people. He went further by challenging the people and put to task the false prophets. He truly was quite bold to dare all what he said to the king and false prophets. Unfortunately, today many who claim to be the disciples of Jesus Christ cannot afford to say the truth to those in authority who thwart justice and live in total wickedness! Instead many church leaders just want to please them in order to be politically correct and to save face. Such church leaders and the church they lead has fallen and is heading nowhere in the kingdom of God but elsewhere which is obvious to the wise.

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him: thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head; and he also armed him with a coat of mail.

And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go: for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

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 Philistine.

And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

And when the Philistine came and looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for

he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?

And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

And the Philistine said to David, come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field?

Then said David to the Philistine, 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.

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand: and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistine this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And this all assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear:

for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

1 Samuel 17:31-47

The champion of the Philistines who was a giant did and said all he could to scare away young David but David was not moved and boldly went ahead to face him. David was quite bold just as we saw in the case of the prophet Elijah and the false prophets plus the king (king Ahab) and for sure both these servants of God prevailed and came out victorious. You can read my other book on victory by the faith in Christ Jesus entitled 'A Christian and a Victorious life'.

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;
And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Then said these men, we shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live forever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of

any God or man for thirty days, save of thee,
O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.
Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign
the writing, that it be not changed, according
to the law of the Medes and Persians, which
altereth not.

Wherefore king Darius signed the writing
and the decree.

**Now when Daniel knew that the writing
was signed, he went into his house; and
his windows being open in his chamber
toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his
knees three times a day, and prayed, and
gave thanks before his God, as he did
aforetime.**

Daniel 6:1-10

Daniel was not bothered by the writing and
decree which the king had signed and which
cannot be changed and the consequence for
none compliance and he ignored and went
ahead in kneeling and praying and thanking
his God as he used to do prior to the

conspiracy by the other presidents and princes.

Now that act of Daniel was quite a bold move indeed. You can also read the case of the three Hebrew boys Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who too defied the commandment of king Nebuchadnezzar who required all the Babylonians to bow and worship a golden image which he had set failure to which there were dire consequences of being cast into a burning fiery furnace (Daniel 3:1-18).

And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath.

Joseph of Arimathea an honourable counsellor, which was waited for the kingdom of God, come, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he

asked him whether he had been any while dead.

And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

Mark 15:42-45

Joseph a secret disciple in the above scripture came out boldly to request for the body of his Master so as to bury him at his own special tomb he had prepared for his body when he departs from the face of the earth.

Now I give you an opportunity requesting you to read more on the boldness of the apostles of the early church and which proves they were true disciples: Acts 4:1-20; 5:17-32; 13:4-12.

Let me add here that it is common knowledge that in any battle for one to come out victorious being bold against one's enemy is a must and so in Christianity it is not an exception as there are many battles to be won in the spiritual wars on a daily basis and that is why if one looks at the book of

Revelation one will find that only the victorious (the overcomers) do inherit the kingdom of God in heaven (Revelation 2:1--3:1-22, 21:1-8) as the battle is a fierce one and boldness is mandatory to succeed in it (1 Peter 5:8-10, 2 Timothy 3:10-12; 4:5-8, Philippians 1:27-30, Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 4:7-11). Let me also remind you that if Jesus Christ was timid and not bold he would not have gone to the cross for you and I for our redemption, but he was bold and brought us hope and eternal life in heaven. Remember the words of Jesus Christ that entry into heaven is not easy but requires total determination with boldness (Matthew 11:12).

IN the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, in so much that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all,

Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees,
which is hypocrisy.

For there is nothing covered, that shall not
be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be
known.

Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in
the darkness shall be heard in the light;
and that which ye have spoken in the ear
in closets shall be proclaimed upon the
rooftops.

**And I say unto you my friends, be not
afraid of them that kill the body, and
after that have no more that they can
do.**

**But I will forewarn you whom ye shall
fear: Fear him, which after he hath
killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I
say unto you, Fear him.**

Are not five sparrows sold for two
farthings, and not one of them is forgotten
before God?

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, he shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

Luke 12:1-9

Jesus Christ in the above scripture told his disciples twice not to be fearful but bold. Why? Because he as their Lord and Master was always bold and courageous in life here on earth and of course he faced all sorts of opposition from different classes of people and whom he spoke to boldly and courageously without being bothered by their class or position in the society. He faced them without any fear or contradiction (Luke 13:31-33, Matthew

23:13-33; 11:20-24; 12:38-42; 15:1-9,
John 2:13-16; 18:1-8).

NOW after the death of Moses the servant
of the LORD it came to pass, that the
LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun,
Moses' minister, saying,
Moses my servant is dead; now therefore
arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this
people, unto the land which I do give to
them, even to the children of Israel.
Every place that the sole of your foot shall
tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I
said unto Moses.
From the wilderness and this Lebanon
even unto the great river, the river
Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and
unto the great sea toward the going down
of the sun, shall be your coast.
There shall not any man be able to stand
before thee all the days of thy life: as

Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:1-7

In the above scripture we do find God instructing Joshua to be always strong and courageous in life. God expects nothing less from His Church (the body of believers in Christ Jesus).

THE wicked flee when no man pursueth:
but **the righteous are bold as a lion.**

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked are the ones expected to be fearful and not the righteous. The righteous have to be bold as their Master who happens to be the righteous King is bold and is being referred to in the Scripture as the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:1-5). One need not be fearful if he or she has done nothing wrong.

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.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff thy comfort me.

Psalm 23:1-4

The psalmist trusted and believed in his
God and had no fear in life.

And straightway Jesus constrained his
disciples to get into a ship, and to go
before him unto the other side, while he
sent the multitudes away.

And when he had sent the multitudes
away, he went up into a mountain apart to
pray: and when the evening was come, he
was there alone.

But the ship was now in the midst of the
sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was
contrary.

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus
went unto them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw him walking
on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is
a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them,
saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not
afraid.

Matthew 14:22-27

I hope you are not now beginning to think
I am contradicting myself going by what I
have been talking all about. No and no. At
the time the disciples had not yet received
the power from on high which they were
promised and therefore they could be
timid. Now look at the following
scriptures what happened when they had
received the Holy Spirit:

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we
all are witnesses.

Therefore being by the right hand of God
exalted, and having received of the Father
the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath
shed forth this, which ye now see and
hear.

For David is not ascended into the
heavens: but he hath saith himself, The
Lord, Sit thou on my right hand.
Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
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 every one of you in the name of
Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and
ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:32-38

Now you can see the boldness of the
disciple (apostle Peter) who at one time
had denied his Master three times in a
row! He did not fear any one but was bold
enough and told them the truth.

AND as they spake unto the people, the
priests, and the captain of the temple, and
the Sadducees, came upon them,
Bing grieved that they taught the people,
and preached through Jesus the
resurrection from the dead.

And they laid hands on them, and put
them in hold unto the next day: for it was
now eventide.

Howbeit many of them which heard the
word believed; and the number of men
was about five thousand.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that
their rulers, and elders, and scribes,
And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas,
and John, and Alexander, and as many as
were of the kindred of the high priest,
were gathered together at Jerusalem.
And when they had set them in the midst,
they asked, By what power, or by what
name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost,
said unto them, Ye rulers of the people,
and elders of Israel.

If we this day be examined of the good
deed done to the impotent man, by what
means he is made whole;

**Be it known unto you all, and to all the
people of Israel, that by the name of
Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye
crucified, whom God raised from the
dead, even by him doth this man stand
here before you whole.**

This is the stone which was set at nought
of you builders, which is become the head
of the corner.

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

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter
and John, and perceived that they were
unlearned and ignorant men, they

marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:1-13

Being with Jesus is more than being with the kings of this world. Truly you can see that true disciples of Jesus Christ are distinct from all other people combined.

But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors; but when we had opened, we found no man within.

Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in the

prison are standing in the temple, and
teaching the people.

The went the captain with the officers, and
brought them without violence: for they
feared the people, lest they should have
been stoned.

And when they had brought them, they set
them before the council: and the high
priest asked them,

Saying, **Did we straitly command you
that ye should not teach in this name?
and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem
with your doctrine, and intend to bring
this man's blood upon us.**

**Then Peter and the other apostles
answered and said, We ought to obey
God rather than men.**

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus,
who ye slew and hanged on a tree.
Him hath God exalted with his right hand
to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give

repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

And we are witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:22-32

These were bold and very courageous and could not fear mortal men.

Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One: of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

But he being full of the Holy Ghost,
looked up steadfastly into the heaven, and
saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing
on the right hand of God,
And said, Behold, I se the heavens opened,
and the Son of man standing on the right
hand of God.
Then they cried out with a loud voice, and
stopped their ears, and ran upon him with
one accord,
And cast him out of the city, and stoned
him: and the witnesses laid down their
clothes at a young man's feet whose name
was Saul.
And they stoned Stephen, calling upon
God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my
spirit.
And he kneeled down, and cried with a
loud voice, Lord, Lay not this sin to their
charge. And when he had said this, he fell
asleep.

Acts 7:51-60

Stephen was a true believer in Christ Jesus and that is shown plainly by his boldness and courage before those who opposed him.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:38-39

Now where are you going by the above scripture? It follows therefore that all true followers (disciples) of Jesus Christ must follow his example by being bold and courageous in life situations. No wonder Jesus told them to do so before men in order for him to do the same by acknowledging them before the angels of God. Now without boldness and courage even in this evil generation in this end

time period one cannot face men and confess Christ and tell them the truth. Therefore, boldness and courage in Christianity is not optional as Christ Jesus the Son of the living God showed a lot of boldness. In life one is either hot or cold for God but I advise you to be hot for God by being bold in life (Revelation 3:14-16). Let us look at this scripture at this juncture.

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them,

and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all their tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and

idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death.

Revelation 21:1-8

It is quite clear from the above scripture that only those who are believing in the Son of God and are bold and courageous are able to overcome life situations and be given entry into the kingdom of God the holy city in new Jerusalem proving that that they were truly following their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in obedience to Him.

Chapter 21

Compassion and Love

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will have a life full of compassion and love on the welfare of others and not only to fellow believers but to the unbelievers as well.

If that is not so, then he or she is just an ordinary person who is not related to Christ Jesus (Matthew 5:43-48). When we look at the Scripture, we do find that God the Father and God the Son are full of compassion and love and therefore a true disciple of Jesus Christ is not an exception. The Scripture do command all those who are related to God to have compassion and love. Let us now straight away navigate through the Scripture.

O my people, what have I done unto thee?
and wherein have I wearied thee? testify
against me.

For **I brought thee out of the land of
Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the
house of servants**; and I sent before thee
Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what Balak
king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam
the son of Beor answered him from
Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the
righteousness of the LORD.

Wherewith shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before the high God? shall
I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves of a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands
of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of
oil? shall I give my firstborn for my
transgression, the fruit of my body for the
sin of my soul?

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:3-8

In the above scripture Gods showed the Israelites his compassion and love and delivered them from their bondage in Egypt and he wondered how they behaved after that wonderful deliverance. The Israelites were a chosen people by God from all the nations of the world just as Christians are and need to emulate their God in their behaviour. God cares for them and they too need care for the welfare of others.

AND Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat:

And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

He said, Bring them hither to me.

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

And they all did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

Matthew 14:14-21

Jesus Christ in the above scripture showed compassion and love to the multitude in bringing healing and providing food as well.

AFTER this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

And a certain man was there which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was Sabbath.

John 5:1-9

Jesus Christ had compassion on that man who was impotent for thirty eight years and commanded his healing without insulting him with such words as ‘You weakling, why can’t you be faster when coming for healing as others? as some of us would have told him.

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said to the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

**A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I have
loved you, that ye also love one another.
By this shall all men know that ye are
my disciples, if ye have love one to
another.**

John 13:33-35

Jesus Christ in addressing his disciples prior to his crucifixion told them that where he was going, they could not go at the time as he was soon be in heaven after his resurrection and be glorified. He went further and commanded love to them and which if they lived in; the world would know for sure that they were truly His disciples. You can read further these scriptures that underscores the need for

love which is highly esteemed by God:
Matthew 22:34-40, Romans 13:8-10, 1
Corinthians 13:1, 1 John 4:7-11,
Revelation 2:1-5.

Chapter 22

Humility

Now if there is another trait that need be with a true disciple of Jesus Christ, it is humility. In the Scripture we are going to see the humility in Jesus Christ and which he later commands to his disciples as well also to see a few examples of his true disciples who showed that humility in their lives.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for **I am meek and lowly in heart:** and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus Christ was uttering those words to all those who were willing and ready to follow him by surrendering their lives to

him; that they would have rest in their souls and that he was meek and humble and which was evident his life.

NOW before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

After that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet,

**and to wipe them with the towel
wherewith he was girded.**

John 13:1-5

In the above scripture Jesus Christ was by his act of humility he was teaching his disciples a lesson which they needed to take heed of when he shall have left them. He was both their Lord and Master and stooped too low to wash their feet with water and wipe with a towel he girded himself with.

**Let this mind be in you, which was also
with Christ Jesus:**

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

But **made himself of no reputation, and
took upon him the form of servant, and
was made in the likeness of men:**

**And being found in fashion as a man he
humbled himself, and became obedient
unto death, even the death on the cross.**

Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus Christ showed so much humility while he was on the earth in a physical body and all his disciples are expected to do likewise by emulating him. You can read further what Isaiah the prophet prophesied on Christ's humility (Isaiah 53:7-8).

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; **I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**

Isaiah 57: 15

By humility and the fear of the LORD
are riches, and honour and life.

Proverbs 22:4

**AT the same time came the disciples
unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest
in the kingdom of heaven?**

And Jesus called a little child unto him,
and set him in the midst of them,

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye
be converted, and become as little
children, ye shall not enter into the
kingdom of heaven.

**Whosoever therefore shall humble
himself as this little child, the same is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

And whoso shall receive one such little
child in my name receiveth me.

Matthew 18: 1-5

Now those words of Jesus are humbling
indeed! Let us see an example or two of
some of those who truly followed Jesus's
example.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan
unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and thou comest thou to me?

Matthew 3:13-14

Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

And they came unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given from heaven.

Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth gretly

because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:25-30

In the former scriptures John the Baptist acknowledged Jesus' supremacy over him as he was just a fore runner (messenger) to prepare people for the Messiah. Now in the latter scripture still John the Baptist humbles himself after hearing of what was happening to Jesus (who was getting a bride) when men went to him believing and getting baptized. John the Baptist was overjoyed by the turn of events as he was the friend to the bridegroom (Jesus) and that he must decrease but Christ to increase – what a humility! He knew that he had accomplished his mission as a fore runner of the Messiah.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;
Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe in him to life everlasting.

1 Timothy 1:12-16

Apostle Paul humbled himself saying that Jesus Christ is the one who made him to

be his minister because he had mercy on
him who was a chief sinner.

Chapter 23

Fruitfulness

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will be seen by his or her fruitfulness to the Lord as we are going to see in these scriptures.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

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.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in
you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall
be done unto you.

**Herein is my Father glorified, that ye
bear much fruit; so shall ye be my
disciples.**

John 15:1-8

The above scripture is self - explanatory,
If one abide in Christ who is the true vine
then one bears much fruit (is fruitful) and
therefore is truly his disciple, if not then
one is not a disciple. Christ bore much
fruit when he was in the world in a
physical body and still continues to do so
in his normal spiritual body and the same

should apply to those who are in him. Now when the scripture talks of fruit, it is not just any fruit but good fruit only as was demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:37-39). Otherwise all other good things one does outside (without Christ) is nothing just as Jesus told his disciples (John 15:5) and he told them that their goodness (righteousness) must exceed that of the scribes and the Pharisees for them to enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20). It follows therefore that only righteousness done in Christ Jesus is valid before God and that is why the holy saints are enter into heaven as their righteousness counts before the holy God (Revelation 19:1-8). Now because God the Son is a Spirit let us look at the scripture that follows hereunder:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, gentleness,
goodness, faith,
Meekness, temperance: against such there
is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

A true disciple of Christ needs to show
much of the fruit of the Holy Spirit as
explained in the above scripture. Which is
all good before God the Father who too is
a Spirit (John 4:24).

Not **every one that** saith unto me, Lord,
Lord, shall **enter into the kingdom of
heaven;** but he that **doeth the will of my
Father which is in heaven.**

Matthew 7:21

Now that scripture too underscores the
need to do God's will which is
righteousness.

Notes to the reader

I take this very opportunity to congratulate you for taking your time to read this book and do believe and hope it has been of help to you. If you are already born again you can now take stock of your life with a view of adjusting accordingly as you find it necessary to be in line with true discipleship for eternal gain. But in case you are not saved think about it on a serious note and made a right decision. If you have any comments feel free to write to us using the address below.

Inspirational Publications

P.O Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi

Kenya. East Africa

E-mail: inspirepublicly@gmail.com

Cell: +254722505468 / +254736140970

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- The Faithfulness of God

True Disciples of Jesus Christ

A litmus test for true discipleship (Acts 11:19-26).

We are living at a time where the world has entered the Church and the Church has mingled with the world to such an extent that it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between the two. This book comes handy in giving you a clear view of who is a true disciple of Jesus Christ who is destined for heaven by giving you the character traits of a true disciple distinct from all the rest – the hypocrites.

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a born again Christian aged 66 years and is married and are blessed with four children. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and



holds a Diploma in Biblical Studies both from Emmaus Bible School and Voice of Prophecy. He is a life member of the Scripture Union of Kenya and fellowships in the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness.



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