

**Being Freed from
Idolatry
And All Other Sins**

The true freedom from sin

Fredrick G. Omondi

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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

I felt induced by the Holy Spirit in my sleep of the need to teach on the relation between man's soul and things on the issue of love to them other than to God or fellow human beings. I found out that there is a potential danger lurking around and if one is not careful enough it can lead into idolatry of sort and which is sin, (Exodus 20:1-6, 1John 5:18-21) before God and which can mess up one's life.

Here on earth we need to live a focused life that is goal oriented and which is more beneficial to us in the long run and not a careless and empty life without an objective.

This book is about having a changed value system in life which prioritizes things so that one is heavily rewarded in the end of one's life.

One need to master things and not to be mastered and made a slave of things. One need be above things. The book points to the dangers and the necessary solution required to achieve a meaningful life.

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Chapter 1

The love of money

In this chapter and all the subsequent chapters, we are going to see a series of issues that do affect the heart of man either negatively or positively depending on how one views them and values them. Touching on the title of this book and on the issue of love we are going to dwell on the negative side which poses danger to one's life.

Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.

And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.

And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from

under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

Deuteronomy 7:21-26

The LORD God was exhorting the children of Israel to be obedient to Him and not to desire the silver or gold of their enemies as they were bowing to idols and serving them and therefore what they had as their possessions were also cursed just as them. Because by desiring / loving other things more than God was idolatry before God. Please note that the silver or gold was a snare to them. It can also be a snare to you and if we are not careful

with them in life. Let us go to other scriptures as well.

AND it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples; Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas.

And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon me.

For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

Then one of the twelve called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver them unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

And from that time, he sought opportunity to betray him.

Matthew 26:1-16

Now look at the snare of silver (money). Judas Iscariot loved silver so much to the extent he was ready to betray his Master in order to get it. In the previous scripture God advised the children of Israel not to desire silver or gold. Now in the above scripture a disciple who knew not how to relate with money ended very badly (Matthew 27:1-5). It was too late for him as the damage had been done by his sinful act. For your information a time usually comes when it is late to repent (Genesis 7:1-22, Hebrews 12:16-17)- as repentance is a present tense (Acts 17:30-31, Matthew 3:1-6; 4:12-17, Luke 13:1-5). Repentance is not something to dilly-dally about or to procrastinate.

BUT a certain man named An-a-ni'-as, with Sapph-i'-ra his wife, sold a possession,

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, An-a-ni'-as, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And An-a-ni'-as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

And it was a about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

The Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in and found her dead, and carried her forth, buried her by her husband.

Acts 5:1-10

Ananias and his wife Sapphira loved money so much such that they found it difficult to part with all the price of the land and tragedy fell on them. It is the love of money that ensnared them to death. Be careful on money. Don't love money much but just moderately so as not to be ensnared therein.

If you read chapter 4 of the same book of acts of the Apostles you will notice the norm which Ananias and Sapphira defied (verse 32 to 37). The modern Christians will be surprised on the judgement day as to them everything is modern including Christianity!

What a folly, God never changes (Hebrews 13:8) and his word endures forever (1 Peter 1:24-25).

But godliness with contentment is great gain.
For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

1 Timothy 6:6-11

When one loves and covets money one has literally erred before God and is in danger as

can go to great lengths to have it by stealing (John 12:1-6), misusing it in many ways, etc, etc. For your information money has power and can master one who is not careful. One need to master money so that it serves one and not the other way round.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Well, it happened to Ananias and Sapphira in that they despised God not serving him and served mammon (money) it is pitiable. Let us have our priority right to love and serve God (Matthew 6:25-33).

Money is not bad, only love it in moderation as money is not everything in life but God is. Money can be a very bad master so we need a better Master who comes from a loving God.

Chapter 2

The love of riches

The love of riches is a snare and one need to be careful as we are going to see from the Scripture. Riches in itself is not bad but attaching one's heart in it is bad.

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth: for thy servant will henceforth offer burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of

Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which is brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephrasim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take

two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.

And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

2 Kings 5:15-24

Gehazi was so wicked in his love of riches and even lied to Naaman the Syrian to get it from him!

AND the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on the side of Jordan by Jericho.

And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because the children of Israel.

And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are

round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak'

And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD

shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab
abode with Balaam.

And God came unto Balaam, and said, What
men are these with thee?

And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of
Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me,
saying,

Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt,
which covereth the face of the earth: come
now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be
able to overcome them, and drive them out.

And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go
with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for
they are blessed.

Numbers 22:1-12

Now if you go on and read further you will
find that Balaam because he loved riches so
much he continued to engage with the
servants sent by Balak and even continued in
disobedience to enquire from God if he
should go with them although God had in the
first instance categorically told him not to go.

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: more over 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.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy life time receivedst thy good things,

and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore father, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Luke 16:19-31

Just as I said in the first chapter, repentance is a present tense (now and not later). We do find that the rich man loved his riches so

much such that he was unwilling to share it with the poor, and that, was his undoing. He missed heaven and ended in hell. One need to be careful with the riches one has and use it well by helping the needy as well. Let us see this scripture.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-handed, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

The bottom line on riches is for one to make good use of it thereby laying a good foundation for one's future. One must be ready to share part of one's riches with the disadvantaged - the widows, the orphans, the

poor as well as the physically disabled and that is called being rich in good works and which that rich ruler lacked as he was stingy with his riches and poor Lazarus desired not the rich man's food but the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table and moreover dogs licked Lazarus sores because the rich man could not bother to take him to Hospital to be attended to and be dressed on the sores, quite sad. Let us look at another scripture.

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

When any one 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 no root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution

ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offered.

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.

Matthew 13:18-22

So there too we do find that riches can be deceitful and can choke the word of God in one's life (that word which is life- John 6:53-63) and therefore because of that one becomes unfruitful. We can deduce that riches can bring spiritual numbness in person and that too is a dangerous thing as one cannot be transformed and that is pretty bad!

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and

shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

James 5:1-6

One's riches is corrupted by doing injustice and defrauding other people. One becomes stingy even to the labourers who have worked for one and who need to be paid their wages which is due.

Chapter 3

The love of wealth

Wealth is good but we need to be careful when God makes us wealthy (Deuteronomy 8:18).

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.

When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible: but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:16-26

So it is that bad to be wealthy and to refuse to part with some of your wealth by distributing to other fellow men and women. One's heart

need not be engrossed in one's wealth by loving it so much.

Let us look at a similar scripture that has an advice.

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

The wealth one has is more profitable in heaven than on earth. Therefore, one need to invest (lay it up) in heaven while still here on earth by sharing it with others. That is where one's love for others and God comes in handy-loving God and others more than loving things. Your heart can only be in heaven while you are still on earth if you have invested your treasures (wealth) in heaven, or

else you refuse to part with them and your heart remains here on earth with them and hence miss an entry into heaven. Now that is not rocket, science, it is simple, quite simple indeed. It is a dangerous thing to refuse to part with what God has blessed us with simply because we cherish them so much.

We need to know that we have an appointment with our Creator at some point in the future and need to prepare to meet him while we have the time. All of us at some point will transition to another life either in heaven or in hell- hence the need to prepare now as we are just sojourners on this earth. The life on earth is temporal but the other life is eternal and so we seriously need to seriously consider and prepare pretty well for it.

Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Proverbs 15:16

The fear of the Lord is paramount in life or else one will have a lot of trouble.

The fear of the Lord is to shun evil and it is the beginning of wisdom. In all things we need to fear the Lord and be better and safe in life. You can read my other book touching on all the resources we have on earth endued by God and what to do with them by reading the book 'A Christian and Kingdom Investments'- quite invaluable.

Let us now see also how one who coveted for wealth brought much trouble to himself and his household.

BUT the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Car'-mi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Beth-el, and spake unto them, saying, Go up

and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.

And they returned to Joshua and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai, and make not the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.

And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Am'-o-rites, to destroy us? would to God we

had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!

O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!

For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.

So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken:

And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarhites: and he

brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken:

And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Car'-mi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

And Joshua said unto Achan,

My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

And Achan answered Joshua, and said, indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred Shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? The LORD shall trouble thee this day.

And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger.

Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

Joshua 7

Achan troubled a whole Nation just by his coveteousness! It is a dangerous thing to have a coveteous man or woman in your midst.

At that time Berodach-bala-dan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

And Hezekiah hearkened unto them and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? And from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon.

And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the

things that are in mine house have they seen:
there is no thing among my treasures that I
have not shewed them.

And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word
of the LORD.

Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine
house, and that which thy fathers have laid up
in store unto this day, shall be carried into
Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the
LORD.

And of thy sons that shall issue from thee,
which thou shalt beget, shall they take away;
and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the
king of Babylon.

Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the
word of the LORD which thou hast spoken.
And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth
be in my days?

2 Kings 20:12-19

King Hezekiah seemed to have been over
excited by the present and letters from the
king of Babylon and acted not wisely to show
all his treasures to the messengers that were

sent and that could be the reason why God sent him the prophet Isaiah to tell him what would befall him. What king Hezekiah did was somehow uncalled for.

It could be he valued his treasures so much and pride came into his heart and he showed off and you can see the outcome was a bad one although he told the prophet it was good. The prophet's probing questions should have made him know that what he did was not in order before God. Let us also look at another example.

AND Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Par'-an.

And there was a man in Ma'-on, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there aught missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

Ask thy young men, and they will show thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I

pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand
unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

And when David's young men came, they
spake to Nabal according to all those words in
the name of David, and ceased.

And Nabal answered David's servants, and
said, Who is David? and who is the son of
Jesse? there be many servants nowadays that
break away every man from his master.

Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and
my flesh that I have killed for my shearers,
and give it unto men, whom I know not
whence they be?

1 Samuel 25:1-11

The wealthy man called Nabal was full of
pride going by the words he uttered and was
self-centred- you can see in his statement he
had the word 'my' four times. He forgot that
God is the one that gave him the wealth
unfortunately he lacked wisdom on how to
share it with others even strangers if need be.
If it were not for the intervention of his wise
wife Abigail, the whole household would

have perished. Nevertheless God smote him after ten days and he died (verses 12-38). I do think something apart from alcohol can also intoxicate some people- be it riches, wealth, education, name it so that they carry themselves so badly in the society. David was an anointed king already and Soul was just warning up for him in the kings seat, and Nabal dare say he does not know David the son of Jesse? Unbelievable. So we can deduce that the greatness one can get from things is nothing before God if one does not fear him who made one to be so, and that is God. Man without God can do nothing meaningful in life and can have nothing save only that God gives one (1 Corinthians 4:1-7).

Chapter 4

Loving the world

We now come to another snare which is in loving the world. Let us begin by reading what Jesus Christ had to tell those who were his followers.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it and whosoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.

For what is man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

The soul is more valuable than the world because the world will pass away but the soul will live eternally either in heaven or in hell. So better for us to take diligence on our souls (Proverbs 4:23, Ecclesiastes 12:6-7).

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:15-17

Doing the will of God is the most important thing so that one abides for ever in heaven with God after the life on earth.

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

As I said earlier, we are in a journey, a journey to eternity and that fact is inevitable. Jesus Christ will soon come at an appointed time to take into heaven for eternity those who are his and who have been watching and getting ready for him. Getting totally engrossed in the things of the world or getting

contented and satisfied with only the life here on earth is a folly as one will be in for a surprise. Moderation in this life is key. The missing link is faith which need be there in those two cases.

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

Luke 21:34

As I said earlier living in moderation is necessary in this life.

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2 Timothy 4:9-10

Demas loved the world and forsook apostle Paul in ministry work and departed to elsewhere: loving the world can easily make

one miss the good things of God prepared for
one.

Chapter 5

Loving food

Food is good for our bodies that need it for growth as well as strength but at the same time and in the same vein it need not be excessive but just enough.

Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy GOD, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, and land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills.

And land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey:

A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgements, and his statutes which I command thee this day:

Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might

humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

Too much food can make one forget the Lord his Creator as the above scripture says.

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 uttermost 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 of 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 garlicks: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Numbers 11:1-6

The lust for food is bad enough as it can cause murmuring which in itself is sin and one which made most of the children of Israel to die in the wilderness and reach Canaan the land they were promised by God through their fathers. You can read on the same issue in the book of Psalms (Psalms 78:16-31).

Still there is good reason why loving food so much cannot be good.

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for their disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.

Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:16-18

Fasting just like praying is a normal thing to do in the Christian faith as the children of God as the Messiah also did it as is recorded in the Scripture.

AND Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days, he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Luke 4:1-2

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.

And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water.

And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Exodus 34:27-28

Moses the servant of God was called by God into mount Sinai to go there so that God can give him the ten commandments which would be a covenant between God and him as well as the Israelites and there he fasted for forty full days.

AND Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

The Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down wider a juniper tree: and he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

1 Kings 19:1-8

In the Christian Walk there are times when one must go into fasting just as was the case of Moses earlier (Exodus 34:27-28) and now the prophet Elijah. To refuse not to fast would be detrimental in one's walk with the Lord. So, if one loved food much, how would he or she willingly accept to go into fasting leaving the delicious food and not taking it at all? Therefore, loving food much is not good in the spiritual sense (1 Corinthians 6:12).

Chapter 6

The pride in achievements

The achievements that one gets in life can become a source of pride if one is not careful and also highly values them. One can see for oneself with those who are highly educated how some of them carry themselves in the society.

I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house,
and flourishing in my palace:

I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the
thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my
head troubled me.

Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the
wise men of Babylon before me, that they
might make known unto me the interpretation
of the dream.

Then came in the magicians, the astrologers,
the Chaldeans and the sooth sayers: and I told
the dream before them; but they did not make
known unto me the interpretation thereof.

But at the last Daniel came in before me,
whose name was Belteshazzar, according to
the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit
of the holy gods: and before him I told the
dream, saying,

O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians,
because I know that the spirit of the holy gods
is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me
the visions of my dream that I have seen, and
the interpretation thereof.

Thus were the vision of mine head in my bed;
I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the
earth, and the height thereof was great.

The tree grew, and was strong, and the height
thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight
thereof to the end of all the earth:

The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit
thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the
beasts of the field had shadow under it, and
the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs
thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed,
and, behold a watcher and a holy one came
down from heaven;

He cried aloud, and said thus Hew down the
tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his
leaves and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get
away from under it, and the fowls from his
branches:

Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in
the earth, even with a band of iron and brass,
in the tender grass of the field; and let it be
wet with the dew of heaven and let his portion
be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a
beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven
times pass over him.

This matter is by the decree of the watchers,
and the demand by the word of the holy ones:
to the intent that the living may know that the
most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and
giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth
up over it the basest of men.

This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen.
Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the
interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the
wise men of my kingdom are not able to make
known unto me the interpretation: but thou art
able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.
Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar
was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts
troubled him. The king spake and said,
Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the
interpretation thereof trouble thee.
Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the
dream be to them that hate thee, and the
interpretation thereof to thine enemies.
The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and
was strong, whose height reached unto the
heaven and the sight thereof to all the earth;
Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof
much, and in it was meat for all; under which
the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose
branches the fowls of the heaven had their
habitation:

It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

And whereas the king saw a watcher and a holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

This is the interpretation O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the

kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

Whereof, O king let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by sharing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men; and did eat grass as oxen and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Daniel 4:4-33

The achievements king Nebuchadnezzar had made him proud and God had to cut him to size. He thought that it was all by his efforts that enabled him to do all that he did in Babylon. But he is not alone as many of behave the same way getting high-minded unnecessarily. One need to be careful and to sober up at every achievement and to acknowledge God who deserve all the glory

as without him one is nothing and cannot go far in achieving anything.

Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there.

And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his father's in the city of Judah.

THEN all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did.

And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.

And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.

And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunim.

And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.

Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the

mountains and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry.

Moreover Uzziah had a host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains.

The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred.

And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.

And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spear, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for

he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

2 Chronicles 25:27-26:1-16

King Uzziah began well and God helped him in many occasions until he had achieved so much and was strong. He forgot that God enabled him to get those achievements and his heart was lifted up to his destruction.

Chapter 7

The need to control one's love

Love is powerful and if it is left unchecked it can go hay wire in one's life hence the need to control it. Let us see an example of love that was left unchecked and the subsequent result.

BUT king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites and Hittites.

Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with

the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Mil'-com the abomination of the Ammonites.

And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Then did Solomon build a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon,
Forasmuch as this is done of thee and thou
hast not kept my covenant and my statutes,
which I have commanded thee, I will surely
rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it
to thy servant.

Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it
for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it
out of the hand of thy son.

Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom:
but will give one tribe to thy son for David
my servant sake, and for Jerusalem's sake
which I have chosen.

And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto
Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the
King's seed in Edom.

For it came to pass, when David was in
Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was
gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten
every male in Edom;

(For six months did Joab remain there with all
Israel, until he had cut off every male in
Edom:)

That Hadad fled, he had certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt: Hadad being yet a little child.

And they arose out of Midian and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came into Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.

And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen.

And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tanpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's house-old among the sons of Pharaoh.

And when Ha'-dad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Jo'-ab the captain of the host was dead, Ha'-dad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.

Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king.

And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo,

and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father.

And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment: and they two were alone in the field: And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

And he said to Jeroboam. Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel. Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel)

Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashteroth the goddess of the

Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Aamon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgements, and did David his father.

1 Kings 11:1-22

You can see from that scripture that because Solomon left his love for women unchecked he messed up his life breaking the commandment of God. He broke the record on women by having them too many- having with him seven hundred wives, princesses and three hundred concubines quite historic. His love was more on women than on God who had even given him to be the wisest man ever (1 Kings 3:5-14). The only love that we can leave unchecked and not to restrain is our love towards God our Creator and to our fellow men and women (Matthew 22:34-40). Our love towards anything else must be controlled. You can read a similar case on the

life of Samson the son of Manoah (Judges 14,
15 and 16).

Chapter 8

The Christ Factor

In the Old Testament of the Bible we do find that the Israelites were being led by God by His spirit from outside and they found it quite difficult to walk with him as they were more led by the flesh than by God's spirit (Numbers 9:16-23; 11:1-6) save for God's prophets in serving God and the judges and kings in decision making as God had filled them with His spirit (Numbers 11:10-30, Deuteronomy 31:14-15, Judges 3:7-11; 4:1-24; 6:1-35; 11:1-29; 13:1-24, 1Samuel 9& 10; 16:1-13). The Israelites lusted for physical food instead of the spiritual food which the Lord God recommended they did so because they lived in the flesh in their daily lives (Numbers 11:1-6, John 6:22-58) and by their lust they ended in forsaking their God (Deuteronomy 32:9-15). Too much eating of food daily deprives one time for fasting which is essential for spiritual wellbeing and sustainance.

It follows therefore that one need to be led by God from the inside so as to be in a position to please God and that is why Jesus Christ came and promised the Holy Spirit to those who believed in him to help them live a holy and a righteous life (John 14:15-17) as it is impossible to live a holy life without having the Holy Spirit in one's life.

The bondage of sin

All those who are not in Christ Jesus are under the bondage of sin as are led by evil spirits (the spirit of Satan) which leads them to commit all forms of sin which is unrighteousness.

AND you hath he quickened who were dead trespasses and sins;

Wherein time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:1-2

It follows therefore that one must go to Christ for salvation in order to be quickened in the spirit by God's Spirit and if not, one will continue to live being led by Satan's spirit – hence one remains bound (Proverbs 5:20-22, Acts 8:14-23, Romans 6:16-18).

Christ's mission on earth

God saw that the people he created were bound in sin by Satan after their encounter with him in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-13) and was determined to send his Son to bring freedom to mankind to be set free to live holy and righteous lives in pleasing him (Hebrews 2:9-15, 1 Peter 2:21-25, 1 John 3:4-10) as he had seen the fall earlier even before Satan came to the earth. Let us look at the scriptures.

BEHOLD my servant, whom I uphold: mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgement to the Gentiles.

He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor causer his voice to be heard in the street.

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax he not quench: he shall bring forth judgement unto truth,

He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgement in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein.

I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will help thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles. To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Apostle Paul says in that scripture says that the people in Ephesus before they

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

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Isaiah 42:1-9

The prophet Isaiah gave out a prophecy concerning God's servant, Jesus Christ and his mission on earth. He was to bring redemption to mankind so that they are free to worship and serve God their Creator. Mankind has continued to live in darkness from that fall in the garden of Eden until one receives Christ in life as he is the Light of the world (John 1:1-5; 8:12; 9:1-5)

THE spirit of the Lord God is upon me: because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath

sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

To appoint unto them the beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

Isaiah 61:1-4

All the above came to pass as was prophesied and a new dispensation was birthed out of grace from the law of old (Luke 4:14-21).

Jesus Christ the Son of the living God is the only one who has brought liberty to the human race.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Without the Spirit of the Lord in life there is only bondage so one must be in Christ the anointed of God to be free in life – free from the bondage of sin and Satan.

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 after 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.

1 Corinthians 1:21-24

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:14-17

From that scripture it is clear that as Moses lifted up the serpent so that the children of Israel who looked up on it were healed from snake bites, all of us too need to look up on the cross of Jesus Christ who died for us being crucified for our sins and believing in him and calling upon his name to be healed spiritually (saved) and delivered from sin and its bondage.

Jesus Christ brings power and wisdom to all those that believe in him. That power and wisdom is for living a holy and a righteous life right here on earth and to come out victorious (Luke 10:17-20; 11:9-14, Titus 3:3-7, Philippians 1:9-11, Revelation 19:1-9).

Freedom is something good and sweet and all of us need it in life. The freedom I am talking about is real freedom and one cannot get from human organizations but from God the Creator of Heaven and Earth. That freedom is in the person of Jesus Christ. In everyday life here on earth many are in bondage and when I talk of bondage, I mean physical bondage and also spiritual bondage. On the subject matter of the book I am going to restrict myself on spiritual bondage which in essence is a worse bondage in life.

Now for one to be free from spiritual bondage one needs the power of God in one's life as God is a Spirit (John 4:24). Therefore, this chapter becomes critical as the turning point in life and without it this book is of no help to

you as you cannot get the freedom I am talking about.

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.

John 3:1-6

Here was a man and not only a man but a ruler as well and although he was physically free, yet he had spiritual bondage and wanted to get freedom in that area as well. Therefore, after his busy schedule as a ruler (I believe) he had time to have his problem solved and he went none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Why? for he knew Jesus Christ had the power of God and could deliver him from spiritual bondage.

Jesus Christ answered Nicodemus by first telling him the naked truth that for one to be set free spiritually, one must have a transformation in life. He went on to tell him that the transformation required qualifies one entry into the kingdom of God quite sweet.

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

Apostle Paul wrote an epistle to believers at Corinth that by believing in Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour in their lives that they received a transformation in their lives. So, the old nature of man must be removed and be replaced with a new nature which is godly for one to be free from sinful life.

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:1-8

I hope you can see sense in what I am talking about on spiritual freedom that frees one from all sin including idolatry. It is only in Christ Jesus that one is endowed with the power of God by the Holy Spirit to get freedom to please God by walking in it in life.

If one is not yet born again so as to be in Christ Jesus one is for sure still bound by sin and death and cannot please God as one has another person ruling him or her as the following scriptures says.

AND you hath he quickened, who were dead
in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to
the course of this world, according to the
prince of the power of the air, the spirit that
now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our
conversation in times past in the lusts of our
flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of
the mind; and were by nature the children of
wrath, even as others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great
love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins hath
quicken'd us together with Christ, (by grace
ye are saved;)

Ephesians 2:1-5

Apostle Paul in writing to believers in
Ephesus he reminded them of what had
transpired in their lives him included. That
they were spiritually dead before believing
because they were living in sin being
controlled by Satan (the prince of the power

of the air). But after believing in Christ Jesus their sins were forgiven and they were cleansed by the blood of Jesus that he shed at Calvary for them and God made them alive in their spirit by His spirit (the Holy Spirit) and now they could live a spiritual life walking after the Spirit.

It is evident that only in Christ Jesus can one walk spiritually being led by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, only Christ Jesus brings the difference in one's life when he is received as Lord and Saviour.

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

Salvation is by God's grace and it is available to all that will believe in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. It is only by being saved one is taught by the Holy Spirit to live a godly life with a sober mind denying all that is ungodly (is against God's word) and living a righteous life expecting to be taken into heaven at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ above in the clouds. For your information one cannot have the zeal to do good without the help of the Holy Spirit who helps those that have believed in Christ Jesus.

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

John 3:16

As I said earlier and as other scripture said, salvation is free for all who are willing (who

will believe in God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ). Salvation is not for a selected few but for all of us.

Let me add something here as well. When one has believed in Christ in one's heart one also need to repent of sins and to invite Jesus to come into one's life.

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 2:36-38

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:30-31

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:38-39

God is calling for repentance for the forgiveness of sins on all that have believed in Jesus Christ.

But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart,

Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above)

Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead).

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

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

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

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:6-13

Salvation is for all that truly believe in Jesus Christ. I have said truly as there are some who are not truthful but are hypocritical and Jesus knew it, such cannot get spiritual freedom but remain bound in life.

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 will set 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 in the servant of sin.

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

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

I know that ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

John 8:30-37

There you are. Those Jews were a bunch of hypocrites as they were still bound in their sins and because of that they sought to kill Jesus for what he had told them which is the truth.

Only those who truly believe in Christ Jesus are set free by him and continue not living in sin but live a righteous life and are truly (indeed) his disciples.

Why only Jesus is needed in life

For your information he is an overcomer and when he came to the scene on the earth, he overcame sin and Satan and therefore he is the only help for a lost mankind. Let us navigate through the scriptures.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many

sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

For both he that sanctified are all one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil:

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels: but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a

merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted,

Hebrews 2:10-18

Quite a lot is being revealed in that scripture. Because of man's fall in the garden of Eden, man's life was never the same as he was now bound in sin and God had to send his Son to the earth to take a physical body as man and to come and experience life on earth and as a man in form, to die a substitute death on behalf of man so as to reconcile man back to God and to destroy the power of the devil who had held mankind in bondage by overcoming him and all sins and therefore to bring man's deliverance. He came to literally rescue man from the quagmire of sin delivering him from sin and death (as the wages of sin is death—Romans 6:23 a) and so he came to remove man from the fear of death

and to be able to once again live in pleasing God his Creator. Read also the first epistle of Apostle John to the church (1 John 3:7-8, John 16:33: One can only overcome the world by having faith in the Son of God (1 John 5:4-5). Jesus Christ went further and took the keys of hell and death from Satan after defeating on the cross (Revelation 1:8-18).

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
That we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our fathers,
and to remember his holy covenant;

**The oath which he sware to our father
Abraham,
That he would grant unto us, that we being
delivered out of the hand of our enemies
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness, all the days
of our life.**

Luke 1:67-75

The Scripture says that Abraham is the father of all that believe in Christ Jesus (Romans 4) and through Christ, all that believe in him are saved and delivered from the power of sin and Satan and it is only at that point henceforth, that one can begin to live a holy and righteous life and be in a position to serve God as well. Deliverance only comes from the Lord Jesus Christ and not from anybody else.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book neither to look thereon.

And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and read the book, neither to look thereon.

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

And when he had taken the book, the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb,

having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:1-12

Jesus Christ was the only being who came to the world as the second Adam from God (1 Corinthians 15:45-47) and sinned not and

overcame Satan when he died on the cross for the sins of mankind (Colossians 2:13-15). Therefore he is worthy to open the book containing the wrath and judgements of God on those who refused to acknowledge God's love by his Son Jesus Christ (John 3:14-17) – those who had refused to repent of their sins and to believe on God's only begotten Son who had atoned for their sins which came about at a very heavy price (1 Peter:18-20).

The judgements of God on the unbelieving and the apostate is a foretaste of what is to come on the final judgement when they will be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20:11-15). The Church age also known as the period of grace is with us now prior to the Tribulation period so all must grab it by believing in Jesus Christ the Messiah and beginning to live a holy and a righteous life. For more reading on God's wrath upon people I commend to you my other book 'The judgements of God'.

Chapter 9

The Christian Life

In this last chapter I am going to touch on the life of those who have believed in the Lord and whose value system have changed as a result of Christ's transformative power in their lives.

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

And his sons went and feasted in their houses, everyone his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.

Thus did Job continually.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and eschewed evil?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were ploughing, and the asses feeding beside them:

And the Sa-be'-ans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen

from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep,
and the servants, and consumed them; and I
only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking there came also
another, and said, The Chal-de'-ans made out
three bands, and fell upon the camels, and
have carried them away, yea, and slain the
servants with the edge of the sword; and I
only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking there came also
another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters
were eating and drinking wine in their eldest
brother's house:

And, behold, there came a great wind from
the wilderness, and smote the four corners of
the house, and it fell upon the young men, and
they are dead; and I only am escaped along to
tell thee.

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and
shaved his head, and fell down upon the
ground, and worshiped.

And said, Naked came I out of my mother's
womb, and naked shall I return thither: the

LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away;
blessed be the name of the LORD.

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

AGAIN there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou?

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and from in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thy hand; but save his life.

So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

And he took him a pitsherd to scrape himself withal; and sat down among the ashes.

Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thy integrity? curse God, and die.

But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Now when Job's there friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came everyone from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an

appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent everyone his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

Job 1 & 2

Job lived a classical Christian life shunning all evil and persevering and having a changed value system by not loving or valuing things more than his God. He went through an unfathomable experience such that his three friends who came to mourn and comfort him were unable to speak a word to him as they saw that Job's grief was very great, and that was for seven days. When they saw him afar off, they could not even recognize him.

Many confess Christianity when things are not tough and when it gets tough, real tough, they have no testimony in them.

By loving things more than the Creator, those things become idols and one is said to be involved in idolatry and which is false, worship before God. That is why I said earlier that our love should be checked so that it is not more in anything more than in God, that is God need be first in our lives and all the rest just to follow. We must always have in mind that we are first accountable to God who created us and know that he is going to judge every one life and to punish or reward accordingly (Romans 14:7-12, 2 Corinthians 5:7-10, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Revelation 20:11-15; 22:10-15).

Job was later rewarded by the Lord God for his endurance under very difficult conditions and did not denounce his faith in God (Job 42).

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Apostle Paul in responding to the question on false ministers and telling the church at

Corinth what he had gone through as a true minister of God. For sure he had gone through a lot of hardships and still remained steadfast in his faith because he loved the Lord more than anything else and therefore, he did not quit from ministry work.

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophecy.

And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

And when we had these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Acts 21:8-14

Apostle Paul loved the Lord Jesus so much and was not ready to be bound only but to die for the name of the Lord.

He really stood for the Lord at whatever cost. Such love chases away such things as idolatry.

Now there are other believers who lived a godly life in the fear of God and just as apostle Paul, loved not their lives and were ready to lose it in order to get it back in the resurrection of the righteous (Matthew 16:24-28; 3:1-9). Such believers include Hananiah, Mishaël, Azariah and Daniel (Daniel 3 and 6

respectively). I have witnessed many believers who testify that they love the Lord. but a time of real testing comes and they will stop testifying-remember Simon Peter who was a disciple of Jesus and after Jesus' arrest he denied him not once or twice but thrice in a short time. Let us be sincere and realistic. Christianity involves a total resolve, non conformity to the world and renewal of the mind among others.

The danger in idolatry

There are many dangers in being involved in idolatry and here is the worst of it all going by the following incident in the Scripture and others that seem to support the fact.

AND after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed

twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand'

Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Revelation 7:1-8

If you look at the above scripture you are going to notice that the tribe of Dan is missing and the tribe of Manasseh seems to have replaced it and that you can confirm by looking at the 12 sons of Jacob recorded in the book of Genesis (Genesis 49). Now if you read the books of Judges (Judges 17 and 18) you will find the tribe of Dan involved in the sin of idolatry. If you look further in the book of Genesis (Genesis 48:8-19), it seems that God had favour with Joseph and allowed the tribe of his son Manasseh to be counted among the children of Israel that will come out of the Tribulation period and enter into heaven, and therefore the tribe of Joseph received a double slot in those that were

sealed for entry into heaven coming out of the Tribulation period and that need be a good lesson to all of us. The following are some of God's commandments that warn on idolatry: Leviticus 19:4; 26:1, Deuteronomy 23-24; 5:1-10; 27:15, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 1 John 5:21 and Revelation 22:15. Remember God said that one cannot serve two masters – money and God (Matthew 6:24) and Jesus Christ also said the same that only God is to be worshipped and served (Matthew 4:8-10). It follows therefore that by being involved in idolatry one thereby places God after number one in life and denies God worship which is due to Him. If you read the book of Revelation (Revelation 4, 11, 15 and Isaiah as well (Isaiah 6) you will find that God is the one being worshipped by his creatures the same is in the book of Psalms that encourages the worship of God the Creator.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this book and hope it has been of help to you. you will have noticed that without Jesus Christ one cannot escape from idolatry. If you had not yet surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, you have this opportunity to do so and be right with God and have a new life that is controlled by God's spirit – the Holy Spirit to enable you to be freed from Idolatry. Say this prayer with a sincere heart to receive your salvation.

‘Lord Jesus Christ, I have read your word and have come to know that you are the only redeemer for man's woes. I am a sinner and do repent and ask for forgiveness of my sins. Save my life today and now and enable me live a life that pleases you. I politely ask all this in your holy name, Amen.

Ensure you are baptized by water immersion and ask your pastor to pray for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Be in a Bible teaching

church where Christian living by God's word is being practised.

For any views or comments do communicate to us using the contacts below.

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- The Kingdom of God
- Being freed from idolatry and All other sins
- The Glory in Perseverance
- Christians' Status in Christ Jesus
- OBEDIENCE – The Key to All God's blessings
- The Faithfulness of God

Being freed from Idolatry

John 8:31-36

Freedom is sweet and all of us need it, but the true freedom which we need to embrace is not from this world but from God. The freedom can be found in Jesus Christ the Son of the living God and which can enable one to live in pleasing God who created him or her so as to receive good rewards after this life on earth.

This book is to equip you to master things in life by showing you the dangers lying around and how to be an overcomer giving you the solution required to overcome them all.

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a Christian aged 68 years old and married and are blessed with 4 children and grandchildren. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds a Diploma in Biblical



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