Christians' Status
In
Christ Jesus

The Status for preparation and doing exploits

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

In writing this book I had found out that there are many who have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ and are living an ignorant life because they don't know exactly their status in the Lord. Some are living in fear and many are living a defeated life. But that was not what God expects from them as he had already facilitated them by giving His spirit - the Holy Spirit to help them to live a life of faith and not fear and a life of victory and not defeat, a life of hope and not despair.

Christians have lived achieving nothing or very little for the Lord instead of doing exploits as a result of their ignorance of not knowing who they are in the Lord.

This book should be an eye opener of sort to some of us who are living the miserable or pitiable life explained above. It is time Christians come out of the mediocre life and to live their full potential in the Lord of glory so as to benefit after this life on earth. After

all one has nothing to lose by choosing to live as God intended for his children (the Church).

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Chapter 1

Sonship

In opening up this chapter I begin by saying that once one has been converted to Christ Jesus, that is, saved, one has been actually adopted into sonship by God and becomes a child of God. Now by getting that status one has a responsibility to live as God expects in holiness and righteousness as God is both holy and righteous. Remember the saying ‘As father as son’. Now the many things that one become in Christ Jesus as we are going to see each one come with some responsibility of sort and therefore one need not be complacent with the salvation but to move into action and do something as one has not been called to lazy about.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
He came to his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:10-13

One who has believed in Christ Jesus who came to the world and who created it as well is given the power to become the son of God as is born of God through that faith.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father.
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:14-16

If truly we are born of God we need to throw fear away as God who is all mighty is our Father.

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.
Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
But after that faith is come we are no longer under a school master.
For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:23-26

We do find in the above scripture that we are justified only by faith in Christ Jesus and become God's children.

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under elements of the world:

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Galatians 4:3-6

For sure Christians have been adopted into sonship and are now God's sons just as Jesus Christ who is his only begotten Son who came from heaven.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 1:3-5

We need to thank God for saving us and to reciprocate his love to us by living a holy life. Look at the following scripture on the same.

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

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

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

1 John 3:1-3

Now as I said earlier, here comes a responsibility. God is holy and so is his Son and therefore we need to purify ourselves now before he appears so that when does appear, we will be like him in purity and in glory.

Cha**pter 2**

Heir

In this chapter we are going to see that by virtue of becoming the children of God we as well become heirs of his kingdom.

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:7

We become sons of God in Christ Jesus and also heirs of his kingdom as inheritors.

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:17

Here too in the above scripture there is a responsibility we have to suffer here on earth just as Christ also suffered in order for us to be joint-heirs with him being glorified just he

as also glorified by his Father (Philippians 2:5-11).

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to full assurance of hope unto the end:
That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,
Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiply I will multiply thee.
And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.
Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.

Hebrews 6:11-17

By faith our father of faith Abraham endured patiently until he received the promise of God. So, we too should be patient in enduring hardships in life and God for sure will make good his promise to us as we are his children and he never lies as he is the truth (John 14:6).

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness of which is by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Noah is listed among the heirs of righteousness because he had faith in God and obeyed him in building the ark. We too need be obedient if we claim to be heirs of God's kingdom.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:26-29

God promised to bless Abraham and his seed after him and because he became the father of faith, all those who believe in Christ Jesus become his seed through their faith and the promise is therefore extended to them by God. Remember when one comes to Christ by faith one is baptized into Christ through his Spirit and they become one (Christ being in them and they in him).

Chapter 3

Bride

In this chapter we are going to see that all believers in Christ Jesus by their faith they become the bride of Christ who is their head (Colossians 1:15-23). For that matter we need be thankful to be given such an opportunity.

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

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

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

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

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

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

Matthew 25:1-13

The above scripture is in a parable and it is actually talking about the taking away of the holy Church of Christ from the earth and into heaven. The Church is described as the ten virgins. The bridegroom that comes is the Son

of man (who is Jesus Christ who was born as a man) and the virgins being the bride. The lamps stand for the salvation they all received and the oil is the Holy Spirit that makes them to be Christians enabling them to live a holy and righteous life here on earth as they wait for the bridegroom. The time for waiting was going to be long and that is why they slumbered and slept. The exact time Christ comes for the holy Church is top secret (Matthew 24:36-42) and therefore it is the responsibility of the Church to be watching as they wait for him while at the same time preparing for his arrival by being ready all the time. The cry in the midnight is the last trumpet of God to his children (1 Corinthians 15:50-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The 5 wise virgins lived wisely because of the extra oil they carried with them not living carelessly because the oil (the Holy Spirit) which is the spirit of God is a spirit of wisdom and understanding, and the spirit of counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord

which they received from the Lord Jesus Christ and is in them (Isaiah 11:1-2). The fact that the 5 wise virgins said they could not share their oil with the 5 foolish virgins who lived carelessly is that in preparing to meet the bridegroom it is individually and not as a group just as in the natural a girl that has been engaged by a boy to marry her she prepares herself alone to be ready at her best on the day of her wedding and does not prepare with others. The 5 foolish virgins assumed that oil (the Holy Spirit) could be sold to them and hence went out to buy (as lacked knowledge and understanding of the truth).

The 5 wise virgins were taken in into the clouds and into heaven (Revelation 19:6-9) as the bridegroom only identifies himself with His spirit (the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Christ) which the bride had. No wonder he knew not the 5 foolish virgins and could not take them into heaven with him.

WOULD to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealously: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted ye might have well bear with him,

For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

2 Corinthians 11:1-6

Apostle Paul in writing his second epistle to the Church at Corinth he wanted to warn them of the false apostles who were in their midst to avoid them lest they be corrupted with their message.

That they stick to the original gospel of Christ delivered to them which brought their being converted to Christ and thereby becoming his bride.

He yearned for their purity to be fit to be married to Christ (the bridegroom) who is pure.

It follows therefore that the purity of the Church of Christ (the bride) is paramount for entry into the marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven.

Chapter 4

Citizenship

In this chapter we are going to see that there is another citizenship in heaven and those that qualify for it.

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers.

O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

Psalm 39:12-13

That was the cry of David the king of Israel to God as he yearned to be with him in heaven when he leaves the earth.

He knew that at the moment he was a stranger to God (far away from him) and that he is just passing by here on earth (a sojourner) before he finally goes to God his Creator to be with him as a citizen in God's kingdom.

Christians after this life on earth there is another life in heaven where they are

supposed to live eternally with God their Creator and Father.

Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

But whom am I and what is my people that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort for all come of thee and of their own have we given thee.

For we are strangers before thee and sojourners as were all our fathers; our days on the earth are as shadow, and there is none abiding.

1 Chronicles 29:10-15

King David knew that the life on earth is short lived and that there is eternity awaiting men in heaven where God dwells. He blessed the Lord for his greatness and goodness. He did so before the people whom he ruled and at the time he knew he was about to leave the earth.

So, the issue of God's people having citizenship in heaven is not something new. God in his wisdom created man to live eternally first here on earth and later in heaven with him.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,

according to the working whereby he is able to even to subdue all things unto himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Apostle Paul being led by the Holy Spirit wrote an epistle to the church at Philippi of the citizenship in heaven meant for the Church of Christ and that we shall be given a body like Christ's in order to be able to live with him eternally in heaven (John 14:1-3).

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Ephesians 2:19

Apostle Paul went ahead and wrote an epistle to the church at Ephesus of the same truth that they were only strangers and foreigners on earth and not in heaven, why? because there they are citizens and will live eternally with the Lord there.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Apostle Peter too in addressing the Church of Christ (the body of Christ) reminded her where her citizenship is and how they ought to live so as to give glory to God.

That the soul is supposed to live eternally with God when he comes to take his Church into heaven and therefore there is work to be done in caring for the soul in preserving it for the Creator (God) who owns it (Ezekiel 18:1-4). Christians need to live in God's truth being righteous in what they do and now that in itself is a responsibility to Christians given by God.

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

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

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

Hebrews 11:8-10

Faith is equated to obedience as Abraham had faith in God and obeyed his voice and acted on it. Abraham lived in those provisional houses because he knew he had a permanent residence in Heaven where God dwells where he would live eternally in.

The ones he lived in were made by man and he looked for one made by God, that is, heaven where is the holy city of Jerusalem (Revelation 21).

Chapter 5

Light

In this chapter we are going to see that the Church of Christ is the light on the earth and for that matter has a responsibility of which we are going to see quite shortly.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.
In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:1-4

Jesus Christ is the word of God (Rev 19:12-13) and he was with God from the beginning of creation (John 17:1-5) and he is God as they are one (John 10:30). God is triune God (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:16-20) and Jesus Christ is the one that created all things (Hebrews 1:1-2, Colossians 1:15-17).

The same Jesus he is the light of men (Matthew 4:12-17).

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

Jesus spoke to the people, the scribes and the Pharisees who accused a woman of being an adulteress, that he himself was the light of the world as all men had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

AND as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the might cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

John 9:1-5

From that scripture looks like sin brings blindness to people and that is why the disciples asked that question (but sin on the other hand brings not physical but spiritual blindness). As Christians we need to work for the Lord while it is still day as the night is around the corner and no one can hardly work for him. Jesus he is the light of the world and when his Spirit will leave the world will be left in total darkness (2 Thessalonians 2:1-7).

The above texts were but a preamble to the fact that Christians are light by their virtue of associating with Christ who is the light of the world.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:5

Christ in Christians make them to be light for the world to make them see.

THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life; for whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

As a man filled with the Holy Spirit king David uttered those words that the Lord is both light and salvation in his life. The Holy Spirit brings salvation in the life of one who believes in God with all his heart.

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge

yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:46-48

The Jews rejected the good news which was in Jesus Christ and which was preached to them by Paul and Barnabas although salvation first came from the Jews (John 4:20-22) and they had the first opportunity to benefit from it (Matthew 10:5-6). So, Paul and Barnabas turned to preach to the Gentiles whom quite a number believed and were saved. God had set Paul and Barnabas to be a light to the people around them.

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

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

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

Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus Christ himself referred to his disciples as the light of the world and likened them to a city that is set on a hill and which is there for all to see. Christians are expected to show light to the world and the light is their good deeds.

Jesus himself is light and is a righteous king and therefore because he has shone on Christians, they too have to shine for the Lord by bringing out the righteousness (good deeds) of Jesus to the world as Jesus did when he was in the world as a man (took a body just like of a man) (Acts 10:36-38; Hebrews 2:9-18).

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not say the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

That scripture underscores the need as Christians to walk in light and which is our responsibility.

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord. Walk as children of light:

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Providing what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10

Before conversion all are but darkness, but in Christ who is light one becomes a child of light as is born of God who is light (1 John 1:5). You can also read the following on God the Father and God the Son and light (Revelation 21:22-23; 22:4-5).

Chapter 6

Authority

In this chapter we are going to see that in Christ Jesus there is authority for the children of God (Christians).

Now that authority so vested is for service to the Lord and for spiritual warfare.

AND when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: the first Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alpheus, and Lebbeus, whose surname was Thaddeus;

Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying

Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devil: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:1-8

Yes, I said that authority is two-fold for service and for spiritual warfare. On spiritual warfare you can read my other book entitled 'A Christian and Spiritual warfare'.

When Jesus came to the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shalt be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:13-19

According to the revelation of Peter on who Jesus was and his faith in him the Church of Christ has been given authority through the word of God as Jesus is the Word of God.

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:17-19

The authority to the believers in Christ Jesus is in the name of Jesus and in his word in the Holy Scriptures.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:14-18

As I said earlier, authority is found in the name of the Lord and not in any other name.

Now let me say something at this juncture that the authority is for use by believers only and righteous living or else it will not be effective and can turn out to be a dangerous exercise and in futility. Now that is a word of advice and a caution on who to use the authority in Christ Jesus and under what circumstances it operates.

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Acts 19:11-16

Now that is quite an ugly scene and may the Lord help us we Christians, to see that our relationship with the Lord is good and we are

living a separated life being holy and righteous. That is the truth of the matter. That authority is not for any Tom, Dick and Harry to use it.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymeneus and Philetus;
Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.
Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:15-19

So, there is need for Christians to purge sin out of their lives so as to be approved of God. One need to study and know the word of God

and how to apply it appropriately in each occasion as is necessary.
Let us now see some scriptures that show the exercise of that authority by Christians.

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.
And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;
Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.
And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.
And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.
Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping, and praising God.

Acts 3:1-9

The authority in Christ Jesus was used by Peter and John when they went into the temple to pray.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed everyone.

Acts 5:16

The apostles used their authority in Christ Jesus and healed the sick and the vexed with evil spirits.

And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who also in called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Acts 13:6-11

Apostle Paul used the word of God (the truth) on the sorcerer and the man was stopped on his tracks in seeking to turn away the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus from the faith and it worked for the apostle and the deputy of the country received the Lord. The word of the Lord is the sword of the Spirit and is quite powerful (Ephesians 6:17, Hebrew 4:12).

And there they preached the gospel.
And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:
The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceive that he had faith to be healed.
Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

Acts 14:7-10

The word of God Paul preached impacted the life of that cripple and by obeying Paul's command he was healed.

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcus: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did.

And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. when he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcus made, while she was with them.

But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Acts 9:36-41

Apostle Peter raised Dorcas from the dead by praying and of course using the name of the Lord which is authoritative.

It is our responsibility to use the authority bestowed on us Christians to do exploits for the Lord and many of us have not done so for one reason or another.

Chapter 7

Soldier

In this chapter we are going to see that a Christian is a soldier in the army of the Lord and is in a spiritual warfare with the forces of darkness 24/7 and therefore he or she need not sit back after conversion and assuming that now he or she is heading to heaven.

He or she need to be aware of the war facing him or her and be ready for it. The following is a classical example of that warfare as well as other scripture that follow it.

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

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

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:10-18

Now there is no other scripture that describes the spiritual warfare that faces Christians on a daily basis than the above. There is a list of weapons that form what is being called as the whole armour of God and which need be put

on daily and not once in a while. The warfare begins from day one of one's conversion until the end of one's life on earth. When one gets saved one has actually declared war to Satan in the spiritual realm and he and his cohorts begins to attack and tempt one forthwith. So, a Christian must stand up and fight back or sit and be defeated.

One need to know that this warfare began after creation in the garden of Eden and it has continued unabated to date (Genesis 3:14-15). It is the responsibility of every Christian to fight this battle.

NOW I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, where with I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every though to the obedience of Christ;

And having in readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

The above scripture also does touch on the spiritual warfare that is going on and that the weapons of Christians are powerful.

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

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called,

and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:11

A Christian need to flee such things like the love of money and instead put his or her efforts in the above virtues which are useful in the walk of faith. It is only by doing so and fighting the battle against evil forces that one can surely be still holding on eternal life that one was called into.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

And if a man also strive for masteries yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Consider what I say and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

It is a faithful saying; For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: If we deny him, he also will deny us:

2 Timothy 2:3-12

A Christian is a soldier of Christ Jesus as I said earlier. He or she need to fight by faith and please his Master and to avoid being entangled with other affairs in life. In all this endurance is required.

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

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous

judge, shall give me at that day: and not me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Apostle Paul in writing his second epistle to Timothy told him how he had kept the faith in Christ Jesus fighting to defend it and he was now just waiting to be rewarded by the Lord being given a crown, when the Lord shall appear. It follows therefore that without fighting one may not be in a position to keep one's faith.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Philippians 1:29-30

Getting salvation will involve one in suffering but the end of it is quite bright.

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

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

But the Lord of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:8-11

So, you are not alone and I too am not alone in the fight of faith and suffering but the same is with our brethren in the Lord. Let us be steadfast in our faith and the Lord will stablish us.

Let us not forget that in a battle you either kill your opponent or he kills you. Let us be sober and diligent in this struggle against our enemy Satan.

Chapter 8

Evangelist

In this chapter we are going to see that a Christian need to proclaim the gospel of Christ to the world and that is a responsibility. One need not necessarily have been called to the 5-fold ministry but he or she has that mandate of preaching to others.

Let us look at the scriptures that touch on that.

Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast out seven devils.

And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

After that he appeared in a not her form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:9 -18

In that scripture we do find Jesus commanding his disciples to go and preach the gospel to all the people in the world and so that becomes their mandate.

And he said unto them, these are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And ye are witnesses of these things.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Luke 24:44-53

In the above scripture it is recorded too how Jesus instructed his disciples to go and preach the gospel to all the nations.

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

When they therefore were come together, they asked him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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

Acts 1:4-8

In the above scripture too, we find Jesus telling his disciples that they should witness to people about him in all the places beginning in Jerusalem and to all other parts of the earth.

Now in the following scriptures we are going to see the disciples at work doing what they were instructed to do by their Lord and Master. Please do take your time and read them for yourself: Acts 2:1-42; 8:1-13, 26-40; 9:26-41; 10:24-48; 14:8-15; 16:11-15).

Chapter 9

Teacher

In this chapter we are going to see that a Christian is supposed to be teaching the word of God to people that being also his or her responsibility in life.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.
And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:16-20

That was a command of Jesus to his disciples instructing them to teach the word of God to all the nations of the world.

NOW the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of which believe and know the truth.
For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving.
For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of

faith and of good doctrine, where unto thou hast attained.

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that new is, and of which is to come.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.

These things command and teach

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:1-13

Apostle Paul wrote the above epistle to Timothy the need for him to teach the word of God which is the truth to people as there are many who teach the doctrines of devils that lead people away from God's truth and that there exists seducing spirits that mislead people in life making them living a life in fallacy such people eventually end up in hell away from God eternally. People need to come to the true knowledge of God and be in a position to make a decision in life.

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife.
And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,
In meekness instructing those that appose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

2 Timothy 2:23-26

In the above scripture still apostle Paul is instructing Timothy to instruct people in the truth which may lead them to repent and come out of the snare of the devil who always lies to them.

Christians need to follow the footsteps of their Master who used to teach people as is recorded in the book of Matthew (Matthew 5,6,7) as well as elsewhere in the gospels.

Chapter 10

Priest

In this chapter we are going to see that a Christian by virtue of his or her new found life is supposed to be ministering as God's priest giving sacrifices to him.

The work of the priest as we are going to see involves both feeding the flock as well as guiding it accordingly.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: where unto also they were appointed.

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

Which in the time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:5-10

Apostle Peter wrote the above epistle to the Church of Christ informing her of her new status, that in Christ Jesus she has become a royal priesthood to serve the Lord. Here we do find that only the sacrifices of believers are acceptable to God.

THE elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the

sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:1-4

The epistle to the Church of Christ by apostle Peter continues as above. As I said in priesthood the responsibility given is for feeding of God's flock and guiding them.

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

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

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

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

John 21:15-17

In the above scripture we do see Jesus asking his disciple Simon Peter three times if he loves him, Why? Because Simon Peter had abandoned his responsibility of feeding the Lord's flock and had instead gone back to his earlier occupation of fishing and went along with other disciples who followed him when he told them he was going back to fishing - he unknowingly had misled them from what they needed to do for the Lord.

Now that is why Simon Peter in his epistle to the Church of Christ, he mentioned the issue of feeding the Lord's flock and overseeing it as well and telling her there is a crown of glory for doing so for the Lord.

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.
For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.
Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 20:26-28

Apostle Paul in the above scripture he was addressing the elders of the church at Ephesus how he taught all the people there the word of God and that he performed his responsibility well and he is pure from their blood. He further advised them to do likewise to the local churches where God has placed them.

JOHN to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. A'-men.

Revelation 1:4-6

In that scripture apostle John was telling the Church of Christ that Jesus Christ had made her be priest. All Christians are priests by virtue of the salvation of the Lord. Christ Himself being the chief Priest / Shepherd.

Chapter 11

Steward

In this chapter we are going to see that a Christian is God's steward with all that God has given to him or her and that he or she will have to give an account on them on the day of reckoning.

AND he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may be into their houses.

So he called everyone of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

And the lord commanded the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:1-12

The above was a lesson and a half to the disciples of Jesus on stewardship and which we too need to learn from. God entrusts us with many things, but the question is how do we handle them? We must always have in mind accountability and which we cannot run away from.

LET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Now that is a very important aspect in stewardship. One must be faithful to the one

who has entrusted him or her with a thing or things.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord,

thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

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

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

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

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown and gathering where thou hast not strewed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him,

Thou wicked and slothful servant thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed.

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him,and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into enter darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:14-30

That is yet another big lesson on stewardship and it involves fruitfulness to the Lord.

The man that travelled into a far country and his servants are none other than Jesus Christ and his Church. The talents given are but gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as ministry gifts and

which the Church need to use in serving the Lord and bringing in fruits. No need to sit on your gift or ministry entrusted to you by the Lord.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

For your information God has taken accountability a notch higher. It is not on things entrusted to us only but it includes even our very body and spirit as well, quite serious business brother or sister.

Take time and read on the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that can be equated to the talents God has bestowed on the Church and see how you can utilize them bringing souls into the kingdom of God (Ephesians 4:4-13, 1 Corinthians 12:1-

11). You can also take time to read on two rich men who were not careful with the riches God gave them and it did not augur well for them (Matthew 19:16-24, Luke 16:19-31).

For further reading on things bestowed on us by God and how to handle them to our advantage you can read my other book entitled ‘A Christian and Kingdom Investments’ and your life will change for the better.

Chapter 12

What awaits the overcomes

In this chapter we are going to see those Christians who overcome the world what awaits them after leaving this life on earth. Let me call the ABC of heaven.

A. Glorification

When Christ comes to take his holy Church to heaven something good will happen to her. The new Jerusalem in heaven is a holy and a glorious city and all the inhabitants there and that is why Christians will be given a glorious body which qualifies them to be in that glorious city.

When Jesus left the earth and ascended back into heaven he had told his disciples in advance that he was going to prepare a place for them there after which he would come back for them to take them there so that they may be with him where he is (John 14:1-3).

Christians (The Church of Christ and Bride of the Lamb of God) also should be preparing

and be ready to be taken by the Lord when he finally comes. Now that, is the responsibility of every Christian.
If that is not done by the Church then she misses being taken by the Lord into heaven. Let us now go to the scriptures.

Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,
Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.
There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children.
And the second took her to wife, and he died childless.
And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.
Last of all the woman died also.
Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? For seven had her to wife.

And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage.

But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of the resurrection.

Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

Luke 20:27-38

At the time that Jesus will come for his Church many saints will have slept already and he will raise them up from their sleep and the raising from the graves is called resurrection and it will be the first one meant for the Church of Christ which is holy. The

body of them will be glorified as of the angels of God in heaven, the same for believers who will be alive whose earthly body will be glorified as well at the same time so that all are caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord mid air and be ushered right into heaven.

Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Isaiah 26:19-20

The prophet Isaiah gave that prophecy on the rapture of the Church into heaven in the first resurrection prior to the beginning of the 7 years Tribulation period. Holy Christians will enter their mansions / rooms in heaven and be there for the 7 years after which they will

accompany the Lord's 1000 years rule on earth later followed by the last judgement for the sinners and eternity in heaven with the holy angels of heaven and the holy Church.
God has assigned angels to protect those who truly fear him and they are safe.

AND at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.
And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:1-2

The prophet Daniel also prophesied of the taking away of the Church into heaven (verse 2a). But for Daniel his prophecy included the resurrection of sinners which is referred to as the second resurrection (verse 2b). Now the

prophecy of Daniel is similar to the gospel according to saint John (apostle John) who also touches/mentions of two resurrections – the first and the second (John 5:25-29).

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!
Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalm 31:19-20

King David in the above scripture touched on the rapture of the Church of Christ. He said that God is going to hide her in the secret of his presence in a secret pavilion.
How wonderful, just like the way the Isaiah prophesied that the Church to be hid in safety away from God's wrath on the earth (Tribulation period).

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the day of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me: he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalm 27:4-5

What can I say but marvellous! Let me now come to the other scriptures that describe the spectacular event.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

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

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Apostle Paul describes to us how the rapture will take place. He said that this earthly body cannot inherit God's kingdom because it is corrupt and mortal and therefore, we will need a new body which is both not corrupt and not

mortal (in heaven it is corrupt free and life is eternal). Now that is why the Lord is going to change us giving us a new glorified body.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to even to subdue all things unto himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Our bodies must undergo a fashioning so as to be glorified to enable us to be ruptured into heaven.

B. Crowns and rewards

There is going to be crowns and rewards in heaven for those who will have overcome life in their Christian walk and it will depend with each individual's work as the following scripture says.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

There is a word of caution in verse 12 - one need to carefully look at one's work to find out if one is building using gold, silver or precious stones (qualitatively) or using wood, hay or stubble that cannot withstand the scrutiny as will be burned up.

And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

He that is unjust, let him be still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

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

Revelation 22:10-12

Now when the Lord comes for his Church, those he will take the first thing will likely be to go into a rewarding ceremony where each individual's work will be scrutinized and the individual rewarded or otherwise and the same to be with crowns as well.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden Man'na, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 2:17

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
And I will give him the morning star.
He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 2:26-29

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his

name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:5-6

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

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:11-13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will

come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:20-22

THE elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being Lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:1-4

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.
I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:
But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I

have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried, and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give a crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

Now apart from the rewards and crowns there is a 1000 years' period of the saints ruling with Jesus on earth at Jerusalem then this event concludes it as indicated below.

C. Eternity in heaven

After all is said and done the last in the series of events is for the holy Church (body of believers in Christ Jesus) to now live eternally in heaven with the Lord God. Now that you can read on your own in the book of Revelation (Revelation chapter 21 and 22) respectively.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for making an effort to read this book and hope that you will prepare well and be ready awaiting for the coming of the Lord to take us home and in the mean time do also exploits for the Lord.

Please feel free to give us your feedback using the address given below.

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