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## **Module 5**

### **Stage 13 – You know it all – Tell it to hungry seekers**

#### **Preamble**

These studies are presented in a progressive study order and are suitable for bible study in the church, bible school, believing group and home-centred outreach. The modules may also be grouped and used for topical studies and seminars. We are trusting God to inspire His people everywhere to use these modular studies for themselves and to help others to use them in seeking and finding Jesus Christ as Lord of their own lives.

### **Spiritual life will grow by application**

### **Stage 13 – You know it all – Tell it to hungry seekers**

#### **1. Have revival yourself Hosea 6:2**

##### **Where is your revival to be found?**

At the feet of God through worship.

God in you, through the Holy Spirit, is the secret of revival. If God is in you then you are dead to the selfish impulses of your former natural self and are under His control now in this dramatic change.

Jesus calls all people to Himself. You need to come first, then others will follow, as the Scripture says. Following God's way of denying the self, is the change that is needed. Mean what you say and be who you are as revealed to you by the Holy Spirit!

If you call yourself a revivalist then you need to be sincere in your efforts at bringing about revival, even if it is your own prayer life that needs changing. The centring core of all revivals is Jesus Himself. If your revival is only around yourself, then you need to change your centring, but if around Jesus, then He will change you.

##### **Heeding the call to revival.**

The definition of revival is simply, Christ in you and you in Christ, through loving, faithful, and trusting obedience.

##### **Opening up the revival vision.**

The revival vision must come from above, and once you receive it, work with it consistently and prayerfully.

Are you going to start one, ever? When will your revival start? What are you waiting for? Do you need more than Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Is God able to trust you with them?

Individuality counts in the true like-mindedness of the example.

Which example are you following? When will you hear His words?

##### **Open up pre-revival workings to avoid future troubles towards revival.**

Read the Word, seeking revival motivations. Pray in revival tongues, seeking God to promote revival for you. Hold fast to what you have obtained and ask God to seal it in so that it does not leak out.

- The beginning is important

Starting now is never too late. Do you want God to start a revival through you? If your answer is “Yes” then ask Him for revival. If your answer is “NO” then do not ask for revival.

- When does it start?

It can only start when you are ready for it.

- How does it start?

When you ask God to do it for you and others, by using you and others.

Jesus is your revival. You need no one else in your revival but Jesus and those He puts in it with you. The others will take it or leave it for themselves.

### **Carrying on with your revival**

Start something and see it through to the finish, otherwise, you will see something and stop everything.

Never the same revival as others. Your revival is part of your individuality, but comes down from the Father with His individuality – let go of yours when it interferes with His.

The Jesus revival is a personal matter, which starts with one person reaching out to the many. The way this is done is through personal ministries; for each revivalist is a central part of their out-reaching and their group in-reaching. The powerful effect of a God-centred ministry is evident in many revivals of our time

Every revival form around a central person to bless the many by Jesus for His end-time harvest. The personal anointing accomplishes it and is therefore protected by God. Should a revivalist die, God will arrange another to take his place, but with progression and difference of ministry anointing, which God uses in follow-up improvements. However, this must be God's choice and not man's choice, to keep the souls who are already in the fold. Jesus said:

*John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”*

Blessed is a married man and woman who can leave their ministry to a Godly family member. This is not always possible, for an outsider who is in the Christian revival family, maybe more suitable and also more willing than family members.

*Genesis 22:8 “My son, God will provide ...”*

On the other hand, Jesus may return to fetch His Bride.

Amen

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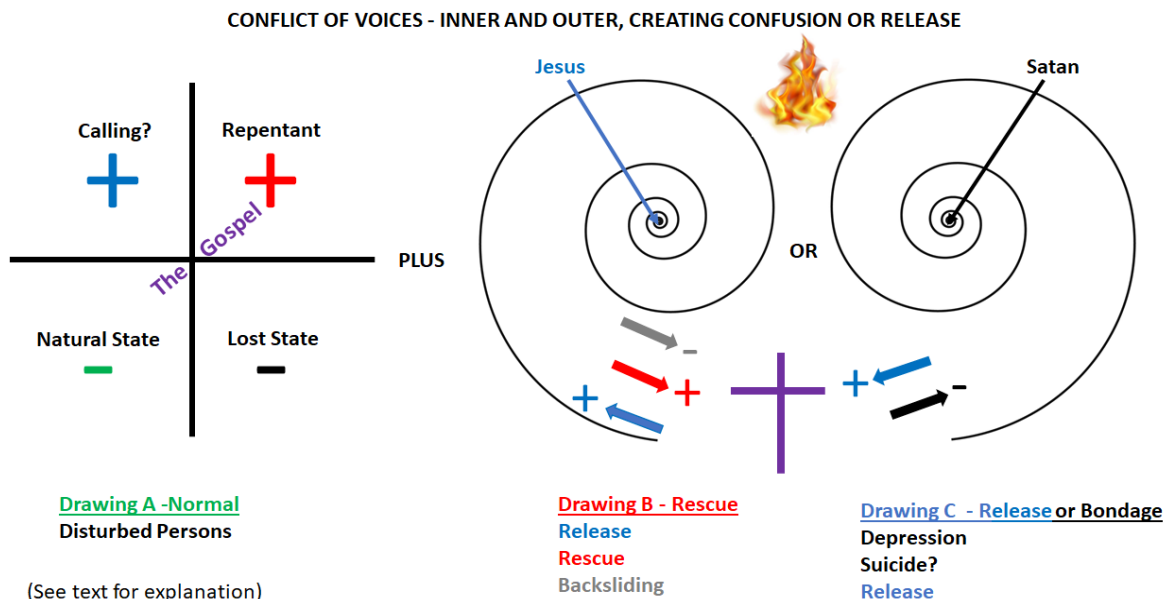
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## 2. Changes to personality and character Matthew 8:16

### Bi-polar trauma (physical imbalance with mental and emotional disturbance).

The way people think is often what they have experienced in life. Their thought patterns are governed by the way they have been brought up and the hidden traumas that they may have experienced. They want to keep their thoughts secret because they are deeply hurt inside and cannot accept their hurts the normal way people do, by facing up to it.

By body imbalances, the thinking capacities are disturbed and disorientated from behaviour normally considered normal in other mentally and emotionally balanced people.



The diagrams are expressive of what is happening in the life of a depressed person.

We are all sinners that need to be saved by God's grace, Sinners, however, have a choice to either be saved by Jesus and be blessed by His righteousness or to become lost in the world and its sinfulness.

Repentance is required by God, with acceptance of Jesus as Saviour. Many try to live between these two extremes and are doomed for failure. While trying to cope alone, a person can become confused, between God's voice, satan's and their voice, leading to:

- emotional disturbance in a conflict of strong emotions;
- indecisiveness, missing opportunities that would have benefitted them and have suffered a loss;
- death of a greatly loved one;
- disturbing and distressing happenings over which they have little or no control;
- bondage through cruel and dominant people;
- bodily diseases or enduring unbearable pain;
- being caught between a good and bad conscience or a deed that is regretted but cannot be changed;
- love thwarted or destroyed;
- parental domination that is harmful to the son or daughter;
- entered into corruption and/or fraud.

The two positives '+' are good with the left one being natural and the right one being spiritual. Both of these positions can be classed as usual.

The negatives ‘-’ with the left one being natural and the right one being spiritual. The dash between these variables is shown by the middle line across, dividing the upper positives from the lower negatives.

The central line divides the natural state from the unnatural state. The gospel is the central theme that exerts influence in all four quadrants. Paul says that we are a saviour of life unto life for some and the saviour of death unto death for others.

Jesus is the fulcrum of the gospel to the entire world. Self-punishment is a very prominent action to some suicidal people, while non-acceptance of what cannot be changed, is another.

The one spiral diagram shows a positive clockwise direction, while the anti-clockwise direction is negative. The positive one is a God matter while the negative one is devilish.

The direction shows from outwards to the centre, in both drawings. The arrows show the actions that result in either of the spirals. A person can enter in and come out, depending on the results obtained, either positive or negative, to the grip of depression or the release from depression.

The counsellor, pastor or therapist needs to understand these workings and ask God for His help.

Deliverance from sin and depression is what it is all about and God through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, can bring this to pass miraculously and wonderfully. Wait on God for permission to minister this to others.

### **Conflict of the inner and outer voices**

Many voices influence our lives, some for good and others for bad; God pulling one way and the devil the other with the depressed person in between. The voice of Jesus (read *John 10*) is the only one to follow, as there we will not even hear the voice of strangers and worst of all, the greatest stranger, the devil.

Diagram C can be entered by mistake through a fault or even on purpose (as in satanic workshop), but if we meet Jesus in either spiral (and not just the devil, as in the spiral on the left) we can come out of the depression spiral and enter the right one to meet Jesus in the centre and be fully rescued. God be praised. Amen.

These are disturbed people who need special outside medical help and/or therapy apart from themselves, both in the physical and mental realms.

What these people have to do is to accept the other person or persons as being honest, even though they have had too many dishonest people around them in their past. Previously, they kept themselves away from themselves by hiding their true feelings under a cloak of dismissal. This is a type of bipolar disorder but in fine or large extremities and boundaries.

In general, women are more prone to this than men. This is because women have a mixture of deep feelings and deep thought processes, through their emotions, mingled with hurt in varying degrees.

It is harder to diagnose when manifesting within a confined limit. Cut off this character disease from those that have been identified to you. Once it has been cut off, you must fill the empty places with the proper thought processes, i.e., the thinking norms that normal people enjoy that characterise believers and Christians.

The difference between split personality and bipolar is the intensity of the trauma that shows inward or outward manifestations of behaviour.

Bi-polar personality traits show outward manifestations of behaviour that is seen to act

inwardly.

Split personality traits show inward manifestations of behaviour that is seen to act outwardly.

Multi-faceted personality traits show changing outward manifestations of inward aberrational behaviour.

Mental fatigue fits into a category of its own and is present in all types of mental diseases.

Mental fatigue can also come from a person having religious or troubles of a scriptural nature, where aberrated conscience is present in the patient.

Phobias are also part of mental inabilities and can be at the seat of every mental disturbance, for they are seemingly uncontrollable to the weakened state of the mentally ill patient.

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### **3. Physical imbalances, mental/emotional disturbances Matthew 4:24; 17:15-18; Luke 9:6**

#### **Jesus**

What the professional people cannot do, Jesus does for the mentally ill. So too, can another believing person pray for deliverance for this group of people. When the mentally disturbed comes to sound sense, long enough to realise that prayer is necessary and help themselves by joining in prayer with faith, they will be restored. This can happen in flashes of lucidity. It is God that creates the opening in these odd instances.

Mentally ill persons are locked into their own beliefs, hallucinations or even visions that they cannot understand. Interpreters who have the true mind of Christ can intervene and change everything through faith and prayers.

#### **Deliverance**

The state of being delivered from anything that is not usually counted as normal can occur. We are not talking here about those who are prejudicially against Christianity, for they tend to count the Christians as being mentally ill. We are talking here about God deliverance coming down from Heaven and setting the captive free, even as Jesus did in His earthly ministry, setting people free from demonic forces, powers, and mental illnesses, from those who are called lunatic in the Scriptures.

Irrespective of one's deliverance being personal or through intercessory prayers, it is still God who accomplishes it.

#### **Trusting and obedience through faith**

The working of God, through Jesus via the Holy Spirit, works through promises of God, who is faithful to perform what He has promised.

Trust and obey. There is no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey. Amen.

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#### **4. When will you go? (My testimony) Matthew 21:28**

The request of Jesus is often ignored by those who hear it. This was my instance for I heard the call several times, but always thought that I was not worthy; my heart was divided between serving sin or serving Jesus. Every time I tried to make a stand for Jesus, I faulted and just gave up, being drawn away by the love of women and money through having a business.

This carried on for years, wasted years I now call them, until in 1973 when Jesus came to visit me at midnight. From that time, I have endeavoured to follow Jesus in all the ways shown to me.

I want to recount one specific incident that was also a turning point in my decision to work for Jesus.

I was restless one evening and decided to go for a walk near a forest. I entered the forest, as if pulled by some irresistible force, although it was very dark and I could barely see in front of me. Suddenly I came to a large iron metal box, which I nearly stumbled against. I wondered what it was doing here in the middle of the forest. I felt along its length and saw a small light shining in front of it.

I walked to the front and found that the light was coming out of a window. There was a closed-door with some steps leading up to it. I knocked on the door and it was opened up by a black security guard. I greeted him and asked if I could enter. He nodded and stood aside for me to do so.

In the room was a small table against the rear of the metal container, with three chairs around it. I sat down and found out that they were Xhosa and Zulu. I asked for a piece of paper and a pen. I spoke aloud in tongues, writing down what I had said, with a space between each line. I gave it to them to read. The one said, "It is a mixture of Zulu and Xhosa." I asked them to interpret it together, for I could not speak or write in either language. They spoke it out and gave a word for word translation, either from the Xhosa or from the Zulu. As they interpreted it, I wrote on the empty line space underneath, as the words were being interpreted. When we were finished with it, I read it aloud, slowly in English.

This was the interpretation: "What more can I do for you? I gave you my Son. He shed His blood for you. I have also given you My Word to live by. You have received eternal life. Why is it that you are still resisting me and refuse to Go?" It ended, "When will you go?" I realised it was God speaking to me, and they also agreed that it was a message from God for them. They repented that night and so did I. I gave them a message from Jesus for work that they were to do for Jesus in the morning that involved their positions as security guards. I said good-bye and blessed them and as I left, they were praising God. I walked out of the forest and realised that God had done a miracle of unfailing love for the three of us. I decided then and there, praying to Jesus, "I give you my life. Use me as you will. Amen."

This took place many years ago and I have worked for Jesus ever since. I became a Prophetic Counselling Pastor in the Church, and have been a member of the church ever since. Men.

Jesus is asking: "When will you go?" Will you answer Him "Now" and go?

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## **5. The Lord of the harvest (Prayer that changes matters) Matthew 9:38**

A farmer works very hard at planting time. He has to place seeds in their right places, tend to them in various ways until they bear fruit and are ripe for harvest. In the same way, Jesus who is the Sower of the seeds, planted in good soil, has to tend the seedlings as they begin to sprout. This is continued, with water or the rains and the winds and the sunshine, until the seeds have grown into useful plants needing harvesting.

We are told:

*1 Corinthians 3:9 "... you are God's field, ..."*

The Jews are compared to the Vineyard of the Lord.

*Psalm 80:14-15 "... Look down from heaven and see, and visit this vine And the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, ..."*

*John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, lift your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"*

The harvest is made up of the believers, who need to be harvested.

*Matthew 13:28-30 "... The servants said to him, "Do you want us then to go and gather them up?" But He said, "No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them into bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into My barn'"*

Jesus said:

*Matthew 9:37-38 "... The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."*

The believers are those of all nations, which also includes the Jewish nation, who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you a believer in Jesus? Then you will need to continue until the harvest time comes and Jesus returns to reap the final harvest.

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## 6. The two generations (All or nothing?) Proverbs 13:7

The Bible speaks of two generations. We see that there are those of one generation who have nothing yet have everything, while the other generation has everything yet has nothing.

*Proverbs 13:7 “There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.”*

### How does this work?

The generous are blessed by God while the stingy is not. The stingy heap up riches only to lose them in the long run. The generous, on the other hand, give out and keep getting more and more. God loves a cheerful giver and it is a proven fact that no one can outgive God, who has a superabundance, to meet every situation.

To give an illustration. I wanted a 35mm camera but did not have the money to buy one. I asked God to help me with it.

I went to work and was sitting down to start working when the sales lady came and asked me if I wanted a very good 35 mm camera. She put the camera on the counter and I picked it up and saw that it was a very good make. I asked her why she wanted to give it away and she said that her husband bought her a better model for her birthday. She also asked if I would be interested in the red jersey, she had with her. She held it up and saw that it did not fit me, I thanked her and took the camera home, using it for many years until someone accidentally sat upon it and smashed it.

I went home with the camera and red jersey and told my father-in-law, who stayed with us, that I prayed for a good 35mm camera and it was given to me. He said that I am a lucky man and that he had to work and pay for the things he wanted. God suddenly reminded me of red Jersey and I went to fetch it. I gave it to my father-in-law and said that God has not forgotten him. He was shocked, but being a long slender man, he doubted the jersey would fit him. He pulled it over his head and sure enough it fitted him perfectly. He used it continuously for years afterwards.

Neither is the only incident, for I can tell of many others. God is a master in doing many things, as well as in answering our prayers. These extra things are added on and are not only what we have asked for, but which blesses others in passing by. Amen

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## 7. The Master tarries (Beating the servants?) Matthew 24:42-51

In the parable of *Matthew 24:42-51*, Jesus speaks about two classes of servants.

The one class is a faithful and wise servant, who gives food to those who are under their care. This is the blessed one who will be rewarded by his Master when returns; who will make him ruler over all His goods.

The other class of servant says:

*Matthew 24:48-51 "... My Master is delaying his coming and begins to beat his fellow servants, eating and drinking with the drunkards, the Master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

The church of modern times has pastors and their wives appointed over their members. The pastors have the say of what needs to be done or otherwise. The trend today, because of the terrible demands on them, causes them to exhort and extort their members under their care. They build beautiful churches and mansions, while the poor and needy are starving around them. Jesus counts them as those who are beating the servants.

On the other hand, some are few and far between, who are caring for the flock that they have under them. These are good shepherds and will receive their reward when Jesus comes back.

We read in the papers, from time to time, of a pastor that has raped one of his congregation. He is tried and sent to jail. It is not unknown that there are pastors who go so far as to murder one or some of their flock. This all takes place while the Master tarries.

Jesus has charged His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This is a constant work that takes a great deal of courage for there is plenty of enemies that oppose them in their efforts to present Jesus Christ. Even governments are against them, making laws that curb them are presenting the true gospel, with all its commandments.

The time is coming when Jesus will return to reward those who are faithful and true, while the others, who are Matthew 25:13 untrue, will receive their punishment that is spoken of in this scripture.

***"Watch therefore, for you know not the day or the hour in which the Son of Man is coming".***

What a shame on the gospel these things bring, for instead of exalting Jesus these pastors are exalting themselves. They will be destroyed from the presence of Jesus and His true servants; these will be rewarded forever. Amen.

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## **8. Who is my pastor (Is he and his wife our mentors?) Hebrews 3:17**

Pastors may have few or many members in their congregation. These congregants take a lot of their time, for they are like sheep that need to be carefully watched over. If the pastor and his wife are not careful, things may happen in their congregation, such as wife stealing, immoral behaviour and secret alliances. People who are attending together and spending lots of time in worship and prayer can become unmindful of those who are not praying and worshipping, but who are in their midst. The pastoral couple has many things to attend to and does not always have time to keep up a personal visiting program and they have to rely on another member to do the visiting and soul caring.

The pastors, who are not personally caring for the sheep are looking for ways to make money for their extensive building programs. This is such a tragedy that is taking place in our modern society.

Some churches do not spend money on building programs but hire halls from schools or use public buildings. These pastors have much more time to attend to their sheep.

Now the pertinent question is: does my pastor mentor the men and his wife the women? The church that has personal mentorship is more likely to continue faithfully than those who do not. Pastors who are too busy doing anything else are a danger to the whole congregation.

When Jesus was on earth, He spent all of His time in three ways - separating for prayer, teaching and healing the multitudes who surround him daily - and still found time to be alone with his disciples, mentoring them. This is why He is called the Good Shepherd. Ought not the pastors follow this example, which is the perfect example of a good shepherd to follow?

The modern pastors are more businessmen and managers than good shepherds. They appoint elders and deacons to do their work - serving the congregation's temporal needs and train others to serve the people in their spiritual needs. The larger the congregation the more problems there are. So, these pastors then open cell groups to take care of mentoring the flock.

Now, it's easy to criticise what they are doing, but one cannot help but see the departures from the New Testament model. The apostles went from house to house daily, breaking bread with their fellow sheep. Is it not time to come back to that wonderful model? Are the pastors willing to give up their pre-eminence as preachers and teachers, who conduct a one-man-band show?

I remember the times, in the early years of my discipleship, where every member was encouraged to share in the meetings, by testifying, teaching, witnessing and revealing their dreamers and visions to the whole church. I ask, how did this all change and why? There are many factors:

- The demands of life for us all to work and make a good living.
- The distances that some people have to travel to attend services.
- The building programs take up much of the time.
- The demands of bringing up children while both parents are working to bring in funds to keep them all going.
- The business of life itself; and the members not making time for waiting daily on the Lord.
- Sundays are usually set aside for the congregants to worship and to listen to pastoral sermons.
- The growth of large church congregations that are strangers to each other.

The chief reason being that the people are not given the chance to take an active part in the services, except perhaps, in only being allowed to sing a song? Even these are often entertainers, more than worshippers.

Dear God, please help us, for when Jesus comes back, will He find the faith that was once and for all time delivered to the early saints?

Communal living has been tried in modern times and these mostly fail. They do not count all things common, as the early believers did, due to their terrible persecutions, such as throwing them to the lions, killing them and destroying or confiscating their properties. Will it take these things to make the modern believers stand together once again and count all things common, sharing what comes in, equally? Instead, the churches have become social events that entertain the congregants.

Mentors of the congregations should be the pastors and their wives, not needing outside mentors that are to be sought elsewhere.

May God help us all to see where we are heading and help us to change our direction before it is too late. Amen.

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## 9. The third-day revival (Raised with Jesus.) Hosea 6:1-3

The third-day revival is spoken of in:

*Hosea 6:1-3 “Come, let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day, He will raise us, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth.”*

From our perspective in these times in which we live, this passage has special relevance. The latter rain is that which came at the time of the appearance of Jesus, for through His death and ascension, Jesus brought about Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the visiting peoples of all the nations at Jerusalem. This took the gospel of Jesus into the whole earth. This is then the latter rain since Israel has had the former rain before this time visiting their nation, under God. Now, in our days the former rain stands for the advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, for at His return to the earth, He will subdue all nations of the earth to God. Amen.

The main difference between the early outpouring at Pentecost and the later outpouring is that the first one was to open up the church for Jesus Christ through the conversion of the people. The second one is to gather the Bride of Christ together for the Bridal party that is coming, when Jesus returns from heaven to subdue all nations to God, at Jerusalem.

It is the foreshadowing of this great event that is taking place in our day and generations. We stand under its shadow and rest in the blessings of it over us all, who believe in Jesus. Amen.

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## **10. Contradicting Jesus (Go and receive your wages) Matthew 20:2-4**

This contradiction is shown in the above passage. Jesus agreed to pay them a denarius for the day's work. He however needed more labourers later in the day and said the same thing to them. When they came to receive their wages, they contradicted Jesus, saying we bore the heat of the day and these have only come now for a short time and You pay them the same as us. This is not fair, they said. Jesus replied and said: "Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you." Contradictions are found in many other instances in the New Testament where disagreement followed with what Jesus said. The contradictions of people against His words were the actual cause of His death.

The whole world is contradicting Jesus, except for His faithful and true followers. What Jesus has stated in the New Testament is set aside by the sages of the world and the political leaders of the nations. They have the say over lives and the souls of men and women and children.

The contradiction of Jesus is the salvation of the world and the contradiction against Him is destroying the world and its peoples.

If Jesus has said one thing, why does the world say something contradictory?

*Matthew 11:28 – 30 "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

The whole world is going to find out what contradicting Jesus means, for the Anti-Christ will arise and capture the whole world under his wickedness. The time of testing is upon us already, since the vaccine method has been introduced for getting the people to submit to the one-world system.

A contradiction is the essence of Godliness, for without that essence we will be as the whole world is. The essence of Godliness is the contradiction of righteousness opposing ungodliness. Ungodliness is the contradiction of sinners against the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus is the contradiction of God's Kingdom against the systems of the world's kingdoms.

*1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."*

The greatest contradiction comes about when people in unbelief say, that God has not spoken to them through His Son and that they would rather seek prophets than believe the words of Jesus. Scripture says:

*Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."*

Are you perhaps in contradiction to the plan and purposes of God or are you removing the contradictions of the world against Jesus and instead, repent of your sins to follow Him?

Your choice is pending if you have not made up your mind to allow God to meet with you wonderfully.

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## **11. Jesus Spirit travelling (Extending body, kingdom, church, family) 2 Corinthians 12:2-4**

The power of prayer is wonderful in its effect when faith is the motivation in giving God the glory through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The church, in general, only uses the word for its purposes in serving God, whereas, in this Christ model of believing Him, we do far more than we can expect and think. With the power of the life that is in Christ Jesus and with His faith helping us, we can please God in the way of spiritual life, that excels natural life.

The onus on this ministry is started and ending in Jesus, for without His help it will not endure.

Travelling throughout the world with Jesus has to be of His choosing and the extension of the gospel message, with particular emphasis on your ministry gospel message, with particular emphasis on your calling to work for Jesus with your particular mix of gifts, both natural and spiritual. Jesus will call you to come with Him to visit the Father in Heaven, first of all, to confirm that this is what you are to do. Without this confirmation, you will always be shaky in your faith and will doubt many things and fall eventually into unbelief.

The power of this form of ministry has to be revealed to you through your personal experience and faithful obedience in trust and love. Without loving trust, you will not be able to continue and will grow weary and tired and ineffective.

The support and helps give you as you enter this new realm of faith, is astounding. The voice of Jesus opens up what is going on so that you do not flounder or fail or falter.

The recording of your trips with Jesus is an important part of the whole ministry endeavour, for you do not want to forget what you have been through or have been taught, and will have a desire to extend it to your brethren of faith, who are also in Christ.

Raising disciples who have a similar faith and heart as yourself is part of the ministry and includes all the teachings and exhortations and revelations shown to you. It is not a matter of the blind leading the blind but of the seeing leading the seeing.

If God was happy to allow you to experience this way of life in Jesus, then surely, He is wanting to do the same for those of your precious faith.

The invitation of Jesus for you to visit the Father in heaven personally is the start of this type of spiritual journey, and though you feel inadequate and unworthy of this blessing, you are supported by the wonderful grace, mercy and goodness of God. The work of Jesus in dying for you is sufficient to bring this all about. The Covenant of God with you as a believer in Christ Jesus is the reason for your inclusions in this type of ministry, it is nothing of yourself but everything of them.

Appreciation and keeping to the rules of engagement keep the travelling ongoing and expands greatly in directions that you could never even dream of.

May God use you in this way, so that thousands, no millions, no many millions of souls can be helped and be born again.

Raising disciples for Jesus, similar to your discipleship is part of the whole package. If you are blessed, why not extend this blessing to others who are like-minded?

Take it as it is, and do it as it unfolds, and you will become bold in the Lord, who is your teacher; and as you are also guided by the Holy Spirit of Truth, you will prevail to the saving of your soul and in helping others to the saving of their souls. Amen.

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## **12. He that is wise saves souls. (Presenting the right message) Proverbs 11:30**

The world, in general, is foolish for they are wasting their lives pursuing pleasure, the aggrandisement of their image before others, and in obtaining possessions that only help us in this life but cannot do anything for the life that is beyond death.

Where is the wise person who not only prepares for the after-life but helps others to do so as well?

I know of people who spent their whole lives pursuing certain goals and when they have achieved them, could sit back and enjoy them; who then suddenly died and had to leave everything behind for others to enjoy.

The vanity of life that is given to pleasures, is only of some value while we live, but when we die, it does nothing for us in the after-life.

Winning souls is one of the noblest professions in the world. Jesus told His followers to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature and he that believes and is baptised will be saved. If there was a more noble purpose in life, I am sure that Jesus would have advocated for His followers to do that.

We all have families, whom we love very much. We hate to see them suffer a disease that is consuming their bodies, attended with great pain suffering and agony of mind and heart. How much more will we feel for those who die and land up in hell-fire, prepared for the devil and his fallen angels? If we could be given a glimpse of the future destiny of our loved ones, we will surely pray as never before, that is, if they require these special prayers.

To learn how to save souls, by presenting Jesus to them, is a special requirement, for not everyone can lead a soul to Christ for their salvation.

This wisdom is from above and is not sensual or devilish. I know of people who are counsellors, who abuse their counselling abilities and lead stressed persons to a life of sinfulness. This is a sad truth. For just as there are false apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors, so are there are false counsellors. These will suffer the damnation of hell for their misguidance of seeking souls.

This wisdom is a special endowment from above that guides seeking souls to Jesus and His offer of Salvation, Deliverance and Eternal Liberty. Amen.

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### 13. The right faith is a gift of God Ephesians 2:8

All kinds of faith are possible to the human mind and heart. There are occult faiths, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and heathen faiths. The calls claim to be the one true faith that comes from God.

However, Jesus has a unique faith. He speaks for His Father God. His claim to this right is His perfect power to save all souls who come to Him.

Those who claim this right over Jesus, have one thing in common - they reject Jesus as the true Author and Finisher of our faith. This Authorship is linked to the whole Bible but is especially linked to the New Testament, which is all about what Jesus accomplished while on earth at Jerusalem. Then, when He was raised from the dead, after being beaten cruelly and crucified, God called Jesus to Heaven to sit on the Right hand of God. He is still there and rules over the whole earth, utilizing His gospel. Those who reject Him as their saviour are doomed to lead fruitless lives and what they accomplish on the heart is left to others to use. This is not a bad thing but it is not the best. Eternal Life and Immortality is the best thing for us to become partakers of.

Eternal life is for this life into the next, but immortality is for the new life we will enjoy when Jesus comes back to fetch us and change us.

Why do I say that those who do not accept Jesus as their Saviour are leading fruitless lives, even though they leave behind great and mighty works? The answer is simple; everything is going to be destroyed in the biggest and most devastating earthquake that has ever been and will be. Everything that is exalted or lifted will be made low and everything low will be lifted and made high. God is going to use the earthquake to even things out throughout the whole world.

Just imagine the bridges, buildings, cathedrals and memorials that have been built, even those for God, will come tumbling down.

*Revelation 16:18-19 "And there were noises and thunderings and lightning; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath."*

The scoffers will say how can we be sure that this is going to happen? Pointing back in history to the universal earth flood in Noah's time, the scoffers said that it would never happen. History proved that they were all lost in their unbelief and only seven souls were saved; those who were invited into the ark that Noah had built over more than a hundred years. God said that he and his family will survive and they did; while everyone else on the whole earth thought they would not drown, despite the heavy rains. God promised never to destroy all life again, especially with water **Genesis 9:11 - 17**. The rainbow is a reminder of this covenant that God made.

Now there is a time coming when the greatest earthquake will take place and that upheaval will be utterly devastating to the whole earth. Fire will destroy everything that is in its pathway. God has tried to bring reconciliation to the world through the sacrifice of Jesus, His Son, but only a remnant will respond, much the same as in the days of Noah. Scoffers will arise and say:

*2 Peter 3:4 "... Where is the promise of His coming? ... all things continue as they were..."*

Through the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary, the right faith has been born into every repentant heart and the new birth is the proof of this happening.

Are you repentant of your sins?

*Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Are you born again, not of the flesh from your mother, but by the Word of God, that endures forever?

*1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever."*

This is a question of being destroyed or of being saved, and although it is taking many years to come to pass, ever since this was prophesied by Jesus, it will surely happen.

The battle of Armageddon is another reason for us to get ourselves ready, for it will be a most devastating prelude to the great earthquake when Jesus will stand upon the Mount of Olives.

*Revelation 16:14-16 "For they are the spirits of demons, ... And they gathered them together into a place called ... Armageddon."*

What about the plagues and woes that will overtake the people of the world, as prophesied in the Book of Revelation? Woe, woe, woe.

What about the devil being cast out of the heavens and come to ravage the earth? His anger is destined to cause devastations to people, nations and families, by inspiring the Anti-Christ as the False Prophet, the Beast out of the sea and the Beast out of the earth.

Awake, awake, Behold the Bridegroom comes to fetch His bride.

Are you and I destined to be part of the wise virgins who go into the wedding feast? Or of the foolish virgins who are left behind.

Come into the right faith and be rescued by Jesus. Amen.

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## Stage 14

### Preamble

These studies are presented in a progressive study order and are suitable for bible study in the church, bible school, believing group and home-centred outreach. The modules may also be grouped and used for topical studies and seminars. We are trusting God to inspire His people everywhere to use these modular studies for themselves and to help others to use them in seeking and finding Jesus Christ as Lord of their own lives.

### 1. Knowing God's will is for us to do it John 13 and 14

The knowledge of God's will is paramount to performing it. If you know it, you need to walk in it and do it. Many people think that they can just call upon God, without a moment's thought for doing the will of God. They think that God must do their will, for His promises say that He will help us. Do these promises mean that He will help us without us doing something that is being required from us to do?

The promises of God are conditional, but they are given to the followers of Jesus who are willing to walk in obedience to His commands. The 'if' qualification applies in many a word that Jesus spoke, and some of these are found in *John 13 and 14*.

*John 13:8 "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."*

*Verse 14 "If then, Your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."*

*Verse 17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*

*Verse 32 "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately."*

*Verse 35 "By this, all will know that you are My disciples if you also love one another."*

*John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am you may be also."*

*Verse 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also, and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

*Verse 9 - 10 "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you, I do not speak on My authority; but the Father who does the works."*

*Verses 14-15 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me keep My commandments."*

*Verse 28 "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father, for My father is greater than I.'"*

The word 'if' makes these matters conditional, whether we believe what Jesus says, or endeavour to apply what He has advocated.

We all need to clear these 'if' words in our hearts so that we are centred in the Perfect Will

of God through our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

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## 2. Hearing the words of Jesus or ignoring them? John 12:48

The world was set in motion by Jesus Christ.

*Colossians 1:15-17 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. By Him, all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in him, all things consist.”*

Now this being the case, it follows that we are all responsible to Him for continuance in all the affairs of our lives, which is ignored by most people if they understand it at all. The New Testament is the source of this information and unless we read it or hear what it teaches, we remain ignorant of the facts and the truth.

The gospel of Jesus has been sent out into all the earth, to inform people of their obligation to accept Jesus and to serve Him. However, this will take time and is ongoing every day of the year, all over the earth.

Since this is so, only those who know of this truth are held accountable, if they reject it. If someone does not know of this, he/she is not held accountable. Paul says in:

*Romans 1:18-19 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”*

*Romans 2:11-13 “For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without the law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law, (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified.”*

*Romans 3:10 “As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is not who seeks after God, they have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable. None does good, no, not one.”*

On the other hand, we are advised,

*Romans 4:7-8 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”*

The way for us to receive this covering of our sins is affected by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, who died for all sinners to be saved and cleansed through the shedding of His blood on their behalf.

*Romans 8:31-32 “What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”*

The problem then lies in those who refuse to take God's offer of being justified by the death of Jesus and the shedding His blood.

*Mark 1:14-15 “... Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*

***Mark 16:15-16 “... Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptised will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned.”***

This is the truth then:

- accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour;
- believe the gospel;
- repent of your sins and sinful ways;
- be baptised to be saved and not be condemned.

***John 3:16, 18 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”***

What is the name that can save us? Jesus Christ as Lord! By believing in His name, it is the same as if you were in the Ark of God's protection from pending judgement.

***1 Peter 3:20-22 “... the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the Ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”***

How long have you put off being baptised in water? Jesus is coming back and you will be condemned with the rest of the world; if you do not do it, while those who have followed Jesus through the waters of baptism, will be saved.

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### **3. Keeping to the truth in the way of truth John 8:32**

Real truth cannot be changed. It will remain the truth under all circumstances and under all changes that take place around it.

This is not an easy matter to find in a changing world. So, where do we look to find the real truth that does not change?

The Scriptures are set, written by many authors, and compiled under religious compilers, to become known to the world as the Scriptures of Truth.

Now, what makes this volume of books, 66 in all, special?

They comprise historical facts, which are not generally known. They are a compilation of Scriptures on papyri, mostly written in the Hebrew language of those times. They comprise sayings of the sages, prophecies of their prophets and decrees, most of which are human and some others are Divine.

These books show how sin came into the world and how it continued through the centuries to our time. Sin came about when God gave a direct command to Adam, which included Eve, and which was transgressed through the suggestions of a subtle serpent. Eve ate the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam, who also ate. God came and their sin was exposed. They were given punishments that continue to this day.

Besides sin being called sin, identified by God, God was revealed in the process.

The scriptures are the record of how God tried to get people back to him, especially through the Israeli nation that He chose to reveal His Laws that He arranged and wrote down through Moses, His Servant.

What makes the Bible unique is the plans that God has revealed to restore the world to His full favour in His own Kingdom.

Since the Israelites failed in their attempt to please God, by continually disobeying His Laws, God finally banished both nations, Judah and Babylon, from His revealed presence and Israel scattered throughout the nations of the world. Judah, as a nation, was allowed to return to their land.

Jesus appeared, as a babe born in a manger, but with the full blessing of God on His life. He grew up fearing God and seeking to obey Him in all things, as His only begotten Son. This service to God, eventually brought the Jewish leaders against Him to have Him crucified. Death could not hold him, for God raised Him up and finally after a time, translated Him to heaven on a cloud.

His disciples were commanded to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to become saved and born again of the Spirit. This continues to our modern times. The truth of the Gospel of Jesus is the one truth that is presented to the whole world for us all to be saved, no matter which nation we belong to.

This truth is the truth that is the truth as unfolded in this volume.

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#### **4. Encouraging one another to good works Hebrews 10:24**

I had a dream. It took place on a large narrow plot. I was sitting there at peace with everyone who came in and sat down. I explained the concept of the practice of an experienced church to them, where every member takes part as they are prospered during the week to give. There were 50 members and we praised God for this. We were having a saturation experience, where the Holy Spirit was invited to minister to us all. I encouraged them to sing softly in the Spirit. No clapping of hands or loud shouting, just praises and worship. Amen.

This was a way to encourage one another so that everyone takes part in the meeting, with prayers prayed together or singly, with the reading of the Scriptures, taking place. The message was given by the presider of the meeting and turns were taken at each meeting.

This is a practical dream that can function in these difficult times. The use of church buildings is now of little value, whereas as home meetings in houses large enough to take twelve people, is more apt. Hire of a hall at the end of each month, with all coming together is only possible when the Corona Virus lock-down allows it.

Coming together is essential to the growth of this experience church and the experiences that each receive are shared with the others.

Important point: May God grant this to take place, with the children of age participating. Each house can present a house parent concept of a maximum of twelve believers. This will take us back to the early church method and the money can be distributed to those who are in need. Love is the extending power through the blessings that accrue in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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## 5. Working in the vineyard and wheat field Luke 10:2; John 4:35

The people of Israel, the Jews are likened to a vine and the vineyard likened to the true believers.

The wheat field is likened to the Gentile believer and the wheat likened to the true believers.

The workers are all those who are inspired to care for the crops until maturity.

Labourers are helping to keep the growing wheat free of thorns, thistles and weeds.

Jesus said:

*Luke 10:2 "... therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*

*John 4:35 "... for they are already white for harvest!"*

Jesus said:

*John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father the vinedresser."*

*1 Corinthians 9:7 "...Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? ..."*

The planters eat of the fruit of the vine and the fruit-bearing vine is Jesus, who belongs to His father, the Vinedresser.

Become a labourer and you will be fed by the Grapevine.

*John 4:36-38 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sow and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not laboured; others have laboured and you are entered into their labours."*

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## 6. Taking time to be holy in righteousness Psalm 85:10

Holiness is an attribute of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In opposition to these is the waywardness of mankind. There are so-called holy men of the Indian faith that deny themselves all worldly pleasures and thereby endeavour to attain a state of holiness. This is a religion of works and these Buddhist monks all try to demonstrate their holiness to the world by employing special feats of their faith. Some walk through the fire, others are teachers, while others demonstrate their faith through the performing of miracles. In every instance, their holiness can never match that of the Divine Heavenly Family of Father and Son.

Holiness defined is to be like Jesus, who exemplified holiness while on earth, always pleasing His Father and who Himself questioned of those around Him, “who of you can convict me of Sin?”

The holy life is required of every child of God, for it is stated:

*Hebrews 12:14 “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:”*

So, we see that Holiness is part of our walk towards being with God and seeing God. While it is true that we cannot see His face, for no one alive has seen His face, some are pure in heart who see God. His face may however be clothed in mist, in the rainbow, in shadow or light. This will fall away when the New Jerusalem come down from heaven, for:

*Revelation 22:4 “They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”*

We shall then see Him as He is. *1 John 3:2*

Now, how can we be holy? Is it at all possible? By walking with Jesus and Him helping you, it is possible. However, the right way is to be in Christ, through faith. We become part of Christ when we are baptised into Him.

*Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ.”*

Jesus becomes the wedding garments of the guests invited to the marriage and the Bride of Jesus and the verse below describes those saints who form the multitudinous Bride of Christ.

*Revelation 19:8 “... arrayed in fine linen, ... for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”*

The guests are those who believed in Christ Jesus, but never had themselves baptised, whereas those who believe in Him and are baptised make up the Bride.

Obedience to the Commands of Jesus gives us entry into the Paradise of God in heaven and allows us to eat of the fruit of the trees of Paradise.

When Jesus comes back to fetch His own of all ages, immortalising them, He will gather them together with Him and these will partake with Him in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The command below is directed at the Saints, who spend time with Jesus to learn of Him holiness and to partake of His holiness.

*1 Peter 1:16 “... Be holy for I am holy,”*

Holiness and righteousness are joined together. Righteousness is to do right and holiness is to be like Jesus. This takes prayer and time to come about, but only through faith and works of faith and not through our works of righteousness. James puts it perfectly:

*James 2:17-20 “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have worked.’ Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”*

*Jeremiah 23:6 “... They will be called: The Lord our righteousness.”*

We have given our righteousness to Jesus and He has given us His righteousness in its place. This is what makes everything different for the believer.”

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## 7. Walking under God's Covenant Nehemiah 1:5

When I was much younger, I made a covenant with God. God kept His side through thick and thin, but I battled to keep my side, as the way became steep and slippery. I went to God about it and was told: "Let go of your covenant, which is good, and take hold of My Covenant which is better." I did so and have prospered ever since. Amen.

God's Covenant is centred in, by and through Jesus Christ. It is a Blood Covenant that involves, not only the life of Jesus Christ but His death, His resurrection, His ascension, His intercession with the Father and above all, His love and faithfulness towards us as His followers.

Every time something crops up that causes trouble to us, Jesus invokes His Father's Covenant with us.

Jesus is the Middleman between God and man and intercedes for us, knowing all our weaknesses that He had to overcome to become our Saviour.

A covenant is made between two people or groups. It comes into effect when things are adversely affecting either of us. God can be angered and we can be at fault. The Covenant made between God and ourselves stands, as the means for forgiveness, reconciliation and deliverance.

Marriage between a man and a woman is also a covenant that is made in front of witnesses. It is intended to last life-long, or, at least until one of the partners dies.

*Matthew 19:6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

Paul says there is another sort of covenant, which is made between one man and another man. King David and Jonathan, the son of Saul, made such a covenant between themselves.

*1 Samuel 20:16 "So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, ..."*

Kings of nations made covenants with each other and seems to be a common Old Testament practise.

The Law of Moses, states that if you make a covenant with God, it stands and can bring punishment upon yourself.

*Leviticus 26:15-16 "... but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it."*

There are times that a person foolishly made a covenant with God and it turned to be detrimental to themselves and possibly others.

*Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed - Better not to vow than to vow and not pay."*

Covenant breaking can be linked with a curse.

*Ezekiel 17:19 "... As I live, surely My oath which he despised, and My covenant which he broke, I will recompense on his head."*

When God makes a covenant with a man, it can stand forever, even after the death of the person to whom it was made.

*Genesis 9:11 “Thus I establish My covenant with you: ... never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”*

Swearing or an oath can be linked to a covenant.

*Hebrews 6:13-14 “For when God made a promise to Abraham because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, ‘Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.’”*

A covenant is usually linked to a promise.

By man:

*1 Samuel 20:16-17 “So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David ... Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, ...”*

By God:

*Hebrews 8:6 “... He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”*

*Genesis 17:7 “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”*

By satan (the temptation of Jesus):

*Matthew 4:9 “And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall and worship me.’”*

Covenants should not be entered into lightly, and are seriously considered and carefully arranged. Jesus said,

*Matthew 5:37 “But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ For whatever is more than this is from the evil one.”*

Can we set our selves free from a covenant or promise or oath that we have made?

*Galatians 3:15 “... Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.”*

Man:

*1 Kings 11:11 “Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.’”*

Woman:

*1 Corinthians 7:10 “Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.”*

People:

*Jeremiah 33:25-26 “... If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ...”*

Keeping a Covenant that has been made by God has to be held in faithful trust.

*Deuteronomy 7:9 “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”*

Every believer in Jesus has been placed under a trust to obey God’s Covenant made in His name.

*Revelation 14:12 “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”*

We, therefore, conclude from these examples given that both covenant-making and covenant-breaking should be avoided at all costs. Only God can make a Covenant and keep it through every circumstance, although this Covenant may include discipline for disobedience and can be set aside by God if disobedience is continued.

*Psalms 89:34 “My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.”*

God swore to Jesus that He will give Him all the nations of the earth.

*Psalms 24:1 “The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”*

You and I are involved in this. You and I need to accept God’s way of doing things and keep walking faithfully in them. Amen.

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## **8. The gospel's specific purpose is to gather souls in for the kingdom Matthew 10:7**

The word gospel means good news. So, the good news of the Kingdom has been published by Jesus in Jerusalem, and its surrounds while he was on earth. He preached the good news that God's Kingdom had drawn near. The disciples wanted to know if it would continue, for they did not realise that Jesus had to die first and be taken up to heaven. Jesus told them that that day would still come when His ascension would take place.

Jesus had to reach the Jewish nation and bring the good news of the Kingdom to them. Many accepted His messages, teachings and miracles, but the Scribes and Pharisees as doctors of the Law of Moses, rejected Him, His message and His miracles. They ascribed them to the prince of the devils, Beelzebub.

His followers loved Him and His fresh approach towards the sick, the suffering and the lost. They followed him around, attending His teachings whenever they could do so. It is recorded in the New Testament, that the crowds followed Him around, even into the deserts and seaside.

Little did these Jewish Doctors of the Law know that when they crucified Jesus, they were killing the Lord of Life, their promised Messiah that was to come.

Jesus said, *"I must work for the night cometh,"* knowing that He would have to be crucified. The gospel went out through Him and 70 of His disciples, who were sent out two by two to minister to the surrounding towns.

There is such a sad ending to His ministry of healing, preaching and teaching, yet it pleased God to bruise Him:

*Isaiah 53:10 "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief ..."*

God even went so far as to forsake Jesus when He was dying on the cross. God knew well enough that He would raise Jesus from death in the tomb and would eventually, after a certain time, take Him to heaven to be seated at God's right hand.

The gospel is a message for lost souls, people that know that they are sinners, and who want to be reconciled with God. The poor heard Jesus gladly but the rich and honoured despised Him.

Although Jesus did not preach the Message of His Church to the general public of the Jewish nation, namely that He would raise the Church as part of His body. This was later privately revealed to the Apostles who were sent out to preach after Jesus had told Peter that He would be the one to open the door for the believers to enter. He alone would be given the keys of the Church and Jesus would be the Rock on which His church will be established.

The power of the gospel has reached down to us these days and the door has been opened by Jesus to allow whoever will to come in and be saved. His sheep will hear His voice and follow Him, not only in Jerusalem, or Israel, but will include all who would receive His invitation, throughout the world.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation, but that salvation is only obtainable through Jesus Himself.

He calls all who will follow Him and they would then be made fishers of men.

Are you a fisher of men after having decided to follow Jesus? This is the most important question you will ever need to answer. Jesus is asking it now.

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## 9. Our silence will bring condemnation Luke 19:40

We are not to keep silent or to hide our light under a bushel. Jesus said light has to be on the lampstand or a bigger light of a city on a hill. This depends on our calling and obedience.

Keeping silent about your salvation and of your Saviour, Jesus is the method of some, but they do let their light shine. Others testify of their salvation and witness concerning Jesus, their Saviour.

There is a third class of believer, who neither testifies nor witnesses nor does not let their light shine. Jesus said to these class of believers

*Luke 9:26 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”*

We need to, as believers in Jesus Christ, let our lights shine for Him, His Kingdom, His Church, His people and His Return.

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## 10. Working at it consistently Romans 2:7

In the English language there is a saying, 'Keep on keeping on.' You are sure to win the victory if you keep on keeping on. This is used mostly by believers in Jesus.

The truth of this saying is bound by the workings allowed in our life. If you die or circumstances come along which are adverse, such as war, it is not easy to keep to this maxim.

Some people never killed anyone, yet in a war, they have become cold-blooded killers of their enemies.

These untoward happenings are not always under our control. but they are all still under God's control. By trusting in God, you will have peace that passes understanding, in all of your circumstances. You must however discover this truth for yourself by applying our faith in Jesus and in the workings that come from Him.

Daily application helps to keep things going on, even if there are changes that need to bring adjustments for good results.

The scriptures that apply:

*Galatians 6:9 "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."*

*Philippians 3:13 "... forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."*

*Luke 8:15 "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."*

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## 11. Going all the way with Jesus Matthew 24:13

The start of any journey is not as important as the end of the journey, yet without a beginning, there will be no end. When we have started to walk with Jesus we need to continue until the end of the journey with Him and in Him.

On the believer's pathway, many obstacles would hinder or stop progress. These need to be overcome with the power and strength of Jesus Himself. He can decide to send angels to help you and does do so.

*Isaiah 37:36 "Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses - all dead."*

The combination of Jesus through the Holy Spirit makes for a two-fold cord that is strong and reliable. Jesus in the Spirit and the Spirit in Jesus is the working that is being spoken of here. Then there is us in the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of Christ in us. This makes up the three-fold cord that cannot easily be broken.

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 "Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

*3 John 1:11 "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. ...."*

Jesus makes a marvellous promise if we stay with Him all the way.

*Matthew 28:20 "... I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

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## 12. Summing up the whole matter Ecclesiastes 12:13

Jesus came to die for sinful man. He suffered and paid a heavy price by allowing Himself to be crucified, by not calling upon the angels to deliver Him. His one concern was, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” Yet, though God forsook him while He was busy being crucified by wicked men, God raised Him on the third day to live forevermore. Not only that, but God caused Him to be ascended into heaven to sit on His throne and to rule the world.

Believers are repenting of their sins and are entering into Christ by obeying the command to be water baptised and to arise as new creatures, to be protected from the world and its sin, sinfulness and waywardness from the life of God.

Jesus has brought all true believers into oneness with Himself, God and one another.

*Ecclesiastes 3:11-14 “God has made everything beautiful in its time. ...”*

*Ecclesiastes 9:9-10 “Live joyfully with ....”*

*Ecclesiastes 11:9 “Rejoice ...”*

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the matter...”*

Seven obediences concern every Christian believer. These are:

- Accepting Jesus into life and heart, according to the gospel.
- Repenting of all past sins and fixing up matters with God.
- Being born again, through the Spirit, into the Kingdom of God.
- Being baptised in the waters of Baptism as required by the Gospel.
- Pursue God’s righteousness, godliness, holiness and goodness, by obeying the commandments of Jesus.
- Opening up the gospel message to other sinners that are seeking salvation.
- Labouring in the vineyard and wheatfield of the Lord, as is required of you while waiting for the return of Jesus to the earth to fetch His own.

The usual duties of prayers, reading the Scriptures, attending the family gatherings of believers with precious faith, doing good works, etc. are also part of the life of believers.

This is a very short summary and as the believer grows in grace, Jesus will open up, through biblical verses or using His voice speaking in your heart, revelations, interpretations, inspirations, and everything else that He requires of each believer. Amen.

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### **13. If you want the best for yourself - stay with God Matthew 5:8**

Everyone wants the best out of life. Those who cannot find it quite often turn to drink, drugs and sexual licentiousness.

There are no lessons that we, as human beings, can read on how to obtain the best out of life. Schools concentrate on reading, writing and arithmetic, with history, chemistry, book-keeping and geography as alternate subjects. What matters concerning life, are left for the individual to discover for themselves.

Everything goes more or less well but when sexual interest comes to the fore, many problems attend.

Heartbreak and troubles abound when people get married but do not know how to stay married. We are all aware of these matters and ask where can these things be taught to make life easier to live? We all want to know where the real truth can be found?

There is something else that works in the western world. Christian people go to church and let their children attend Sunday School or Children's Church. In these meetings, they learn out of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. A morality is revealed in the lessons that are being taught, which helps people to live their lives positively and constructively.

In other faiths, a similar process takes place with the emphasis on what they as a separate group of people believe.

Jesus made a very bold statement, when on earth, "I am the way, the truth and the life." On another occasion, He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." This has a reference to the fact that we die and would like to live again. He is also referring to the fact that our sins are killing us, slowly but surely, and we will all eventually die. Resurrection from the dead is the only answer to this dilemma and God has provided this, in His biblical teachings of the words of Jesus.

Those who have taken the Jesus-route, instead of other routes that are offered by various famous teachers, have an added advantage of having God as their heavenly Father. They have an infallible advantage due to the words of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. *John 10:11-18*

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## Stage 15 - Two-by-two

### Preamble

These studies are presented in a progressive study order and are suitable for bible study in the church, bible school, believing group and home-centred outreach. The modules may also be grouped and used for topical studies and seminars. We are trusting God to inspire His people everywhere to use these modular studies for themselves and to help others to use them in seeking and finding Jesus Christ as Lord of their own lives.

### 1. Introducer and witness Luke 10:1

When the gospel was preached in Jesus' time, Jesus always had witnesses to hear what he had to say to the people. He chose for Himself twelve men and said:

*Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses..."*

There is a record of Jesus talking to the woman of Samaria while sitting alone with her at the well. The disciples had gone away to buy food for themselves. When they returned, they were surprised to see Jesus talking alone with a woman. So, this was not his usual practice.

Jesus appointed His apostles to go out for ministering in pairs of two, one to speak and the other to pray in support. Jesus said:

*2 Corinthians 13:1 "... By the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established."*

The reason for this is that so many people were against these apostles of Jesus and even against Jesus Himself, that it was safer to have a witness to what they had said. They would have a collaboration of their preaching and teachings, in case they were reported to the Jewish Authorities. It was important to have a witness as to what was being preached.

There is yet another good reason for them to go out in pairs. The one that supports in prayers while the other is speaking, gives added power to their message in presenting Jesus as the Messiah. By agreeing in prayer, Jesus said:

*Matthew 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."*

In our modern society where adultery and fornication are very common occurrences, it is easy for a man to be framed by a woman, accusing him of raping her. It is easy for pastors or ministers of the gospel to be seduced if they were alone with them; for there are women who try to seduce ministers of the gospel. They desire to be married to men who are soft, pure and kind-hearted and so try to seduce them - just as Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, accusing him of trying to rape her.

The devil is never far from those who are being converted from their sins, in trying to stop them from doing so.

The street teams should also be two or more, even in these modern times.

It is different where there are small groups of people, but a witness is still necessary even then so that there is protection for those who do the speaking.

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## **2. Repentance (The message of Jesus) Mark 1:15**

The modern church produces many styles of preaching by its pastors. Their message content is Biblical but they are asking people to change. Jesus however, went about preaching and teaching in Israel:

*Matthew 4:17 "... Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."*

*Mark 1:15 "...the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

His gospel theme starts in the Kingdom of Heaven and then is extended to the earth as the Kingdom of God. In both instances, they are not classed as Kingdoms of the world. The way into the Kingdom is personal repentance from sins and sinfulness.

We all indeed need to change, if we wish to enter the Kingdom that Jesus presented to the people. It is said in the New Testament, that the gospel of repentance is to be preached to all nations and then the end will come.

*Luke 24:47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, ..."*

Why do we need to change through repentance? Jesus said something very pertinent to all of this that is being presented here. The key that opens up the door of entry:

*John 3:5 "... unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

People are born into a world of sin and sinfulness. They are taught to sin and it is easier for them to sin than to be righteous, for the trend of the world is to sin.

As a young child, I was innocent until I heard someone blaspheming God, through an open window. In my young mind, I thought, if this person can do it, then so can I and proceeded to say the same words that she had spoken. It was the mistake of my life for the devil heard it and immediately presented himself to me. My innocence was gone. Then I started to lie to people who insisted that I had blasphemed. I was caught in a trap of the devil and lied; denying saying that. It was a mistake that cost me dearly for many, many years as I grew up. This continued until Jesus came and rescued me and helped me to be born again. I now preach the message of Jesus and have departed from the devil, his lies and his spirit, completely.

I was ensnared in this way and you, my dear reader, have become ensnared differently, needing Jesus to come and rescue you from the devil's clutches and his spirit of rebellion against God and the written words of God. Thank God for such a deliverance.

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### **3. The expanding revival (Jesus at work) Matthew 9:35**

Jesus started His revival wherein He taught and preached righteousness, which means doing what is right. His revival swept through Israel, wherever He visited cities, towns and villages. After His resurrection and ascension into heaven, the revival continued, because He had asked His Father, just as He promised, to allow Him to send down the Holy Spirit upon the Jews who were attending the Passover Feasts, from all parts of the known world. Selected people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, in speaking tongues, and their lives were changed dramatically. This event is recorded in the first part of the Book of Acts.

Peter preached and five thousand men repented. Women and children repented at the same time. This was the first continuance of the revival through human agency, but others followed and Paul the Apostle, eventually came and Jesus caused Him to repent by a divine revelation.

Paul, extended the gospel throughout Asia, with other helpers and these were assisted to form the seven churches in Asia. They preached Jesus and called for repentance from sinful existence, wherever they went.

This is still the message that needs to be preached in all of our modern churches. It has never changed Jesus gave the commandment to His followers to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature so that he who believes and is baptised will be saved. They followed that practise of Peter, who called for repentance from dead works to serve the One True living God.

Dear reader, has this message reached you and is it entered into your heart so that you repented from your sinful ways and life-style of being egotistically and selfishly inclined? If not, Jesus is still waiting for you to do so.

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#### **4. The power of united prayer (in one accord) Acts 16:25-34**

The habit of prayer is usually a personal matter, enacted between ourselves and God. I have enjoyed a lifetime of personal prayers directed to God through Jesus, and consider it a great privilege. By the means of believing prayers, I have received countless miracles from God and Jesus, that have taken place in my life. I cannot think what it would be like not to pray. Thank God for this.

The prayer of faith can save the sick from death, can heal the broken-hearted, give health to the body, healing to the soul and strength to the spirit.

If this can be done through personal prayer, just imagine what can be done through united prayers. Prayer meetings are instituted in many churches and one evening is set aside for communal praying. If this is not done, then usually, before each service some unite in prayers asking God to bless the services.

Revival can ensue when people stand together and pray for it to happen. This is called prevailing prayer and the people stand together praying in one accord. This was the practice of the early church and no wonder that so many miraculous things were recorded in the New Testament. The word of God grew mightily in this way.

There is another method of praying. People who are gathered together, decide that each pray simultaneously individual prayers. It is strange but the resultant noise reminds one of a bee-hive of activity where all the bees are busy working together and in harmony.

Praying is just as necessary today as it was then. Personal and united prayers in faith and trust in God, are the backbone of every church expansion and revival throughout the world.

Maybe, it is time for you and me to start praying daily and for us to unite with others in praying for revival. Amen.

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## **5. So, send I you (Go into all the world) Matthew 10:16**

Jesus realised that His work would falter when He died and was taken up to heaven. He, therefore, chose disciples and from among them, apostles, to carry on the work that needed to be continued. Both men and single women joined the teams that were sent out. These were faithful to their faith, trust and obedience, in following Jesus under His direct inspirations given from heaven.

The powerful witnessing of the two-by-two messengers, together with the gospel teams who were sent out, caused the message of Jesus, His life and death, His resurrection and ascension into heaven, to be known far and wide. The prayers brought down miracles through their prayers and intercessions.

The greatest part of everything was when they went out, with one accord, to extend the true gospel of Jesus to every creature.

This has continued to this very day, although not every church has this model of practice.

The fact that Jesus sent believers out to witness for Him, with many of them being killed for their witness, has proved to be an unquenchable fire. Jesus told them, “All power in heaven and earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore...” This command is a top priority for true believers and these have taken the gospel to all parts of the world by various means and methods, all preaching the one truth of changes being wrought by Jesus Christ to the world.

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## 6. Work while it is the day (For the night comes) John 9:4

Jesus taught His believing followers to work. He told them to seize all opportunities every day to advance the gospel of the Kingdom, adding that the night comes in which no man can work. The night time is when wars are started and everyone is dragged into them to fight for their country. Night times are also when persecutions break out and force the believers into hiding.

Throughout the two thousand years that have elapsed since Jesus went up to heaven, the work has continued unabated, as Jesus converts sinners into believers, who venture forth under the banner of Jesus Christ to the glory of God, through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told His disciples:

*Matthew 7:6 "... nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."*

He also said:

*Philippians 3:2 "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!"*

He reminded them:

*Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves"*

He said and warned:

*Matthew 10:16-18 "Behold, I send you forth as sheep among the wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles."*

History has proven how accurate His words are being verified.

*Luke 23:31 "For if they do these things in the greenwood, what will be done in the dry?"*

The saddest part of all this is, that even the children are not exempt from the onslaught against the Christians.

The wolves, goats, snakes, foxes, dogs and pigs all arraign themselves against the believers and their gospel message of Jesus and of God's love.

*Psalms 44:22 "... We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

This is such a dismal picture. Is there not some other secret that is working while all this is going on, that gives a more positive picture of Christianity? Jesus said:

*Matthew 10:29-30 "... And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."*

We are exhorted to call upon God in the day of our trouble and He will deliver us out of it all. We will then glorify Him.

Great testimonies have come about when we trust God with all of our heart.

The fact that some have died in the past, those dying in the present and those who will die in the future, does not stop the spread of the gospel in all countries of the world. The more Christians are being persecuted, so much more believers are being added every day. This is from God, who exercises His control over everything that takes place on earth.

Deliverance, with victory over sin and sinfulness, is not the end of the message, but the beginning of Jesus taking control overall.

Martyrs are necessary for this life and they are called to be martyrs for Jesus. The rest of mankind fulfils the sufferings of Jesus in the world.

Yet, despite these two groups of people doing what needs to be done, the gospel is being extended worldwide, until Jesus returns to the earth to rescue believers from all of these present-day ills.

The promise of receiving the Jesus life of greater abundance keeps all of us, as believers in Him going with an expectation of its fulfilment.

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## **7. Look up! (Your redemption draws near) Luke 21:28**

Jesus came to earth as a baby born in a manger. This was accomplished by the Holy Spirit hovering over Mary's womb, according to the revelation utterance of the angel Gabriel. Jesus grew up with the favour of God and man and was obedient to His parents.

When He was thirty years of age, He was introduced to Israel as a prophet, healer, teacher and preacher. He performed great miracles more than any other person had ever done. He was killed, raised from the dead and ascended into heaven to sit at His Father's right hand.

The world sees everything that goes on, except those who are blind. There is so much to see and the eye cannot get enough of seeing, whether it be nature, people, movies or beauty. With all the things that go on around us, we are busy looking at the world with wondering eyes.

On the other hand, the invisible world is unseen and therefore not sought after, except by those who are attracted to it. This is made up of two main classes of people, those who play with and move within the occult world and those who move in the spiritual world.

The true value of knowing the difference that comes about when you are walking in the correct invisible world needs to be perceived to benefit from these differences.

I was first of all intrigued by magic, black magic and other forms of the occult, which did not benefit me at all, yet amused me. I read all sorts of books trying to find out what these spiritual powers could do for me. Then I was introduced into the Christian spiritual world, and though this is not visible and takes place in an invisible realm, it is just as tangible as the real, to a person who has a sensitive discerning spirit.

In this present visible world, at a later stage of my seeking, Jesus was revealed to me to be spiritually the centre and though unseen, He is the most powerful of all other powers or influences.

After serving Jesus according to the Word of God's written revelation as outlined in the Bible, I came to know Jesus personally, through my spiritual revelation gift. This made a huge difference in our relationship.

While the Scriptures gave me a description of the invisible world it did not introduce me to it, except in the experience of being saved by Jesus.

Then suddenly, after a very long time, I began to dream dreams and see visions, which, when interpreted correctly, opened up the unseen heavens to me.

It happened in this way. My twin brother died, and I was devastated. I fell from my usual steadfastness in serving Jesus in ministry to once again serving myself. I could not see the reason for all of this and began to flounder in my faith. While this was taking place, Jesus appeared to me and said it is my time to walk around heaven and enjoy heaven with Him. I thought it was my time to die just like my brother. Jesus came to fetch me and introduced me to His Father in heaven. God permitted me to walk around heaven, but always with a heavenly guide. I was dismissed and returned home. I could not understand that, although I had been in heaven, I had now arrived alive in my own home.

Then I read four Scriptures, which I had read many times before, but which I now saw from a different viewpoint:

*Ephesians 2:6 "... and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."*

*Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, ..."*

*John 14:3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

*1 John 4:17 “... because as He is, so are we in this world.”*

These all took one new meaning for I was now looking through spiritual eyes at the unseen realities and not with my earthly eyes. I was travelling back and forth to heaven, walking around with Jesus enjoying the many blessings of these hidden realities.

Many times, I have wondered while looking up to heaven, if I was the only one that was being allowed to see and experience these things? I have since come to know that anyone prepared to follow Jesus, can and will be taken to heaven with Jesus to experience Heaven and its joys while returning to earth to be a witness of the things that have taken place.

I have seen Jesus portrayed in the clouds. I have seen some of the great crowd of witnesses portrayed in the clouds, looking down upon us.

I have walked in Paradise in heaven on occasions and angels have appeared to me many times in my home on earth.

One thing is certain that you cannot hold onto the invisible worldly things of magic, witch doctors and the occult. They are hindering you from realising the true and real invisible world in which God lives.

Quoting Jesus:

*“Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you,”*

Amen.

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## 8. The two brothers (I will not go but you will go) Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus spoke in parables.

*John 9:39 "... that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."*

Jesus did this so that the Jews who said they see, will be blinded, while those who were not able to see, their eyes were opened. This came about so that Jesus could take people away from the Law of Moses and transfer them to His law of Christ.

Sadly, only certain of the Jews could understand Jesus and His parabolic teachings and illustrations.

One of these parables concerned two sons. The father came to them and told them to go and work in his vineyard. The one son said he'll go, but did not; the other said he won't go, but then he relented and went to work as his father desired of him. This parallels the call of Jesus to His followers.

Jesus had said on another occasion:

*Matthew 10:39 "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."*

He also said:

*John 12:24 "... unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."*

Here Jesus is revealing the mystery of living and dying; which is enclosed in these two parables. The one class of believers are not willing to die for Jesus, while serving Him, and the other class is willing to live for Jesus while serving Him. Those who seek selfishly to spare their lives while following Jesus will have to die to prove their loyalty to Him. The other class of believer holds nothing back and is willing to die to the self, daily in following Jesus and therefore does not need to die to prove their loyalties.

The one brother, spoken of in the Jesus parable, was selfishly seeking his own will while the other brother was unselfishly seeking to do his father's will. This is how we can either live or die for Jesus.

A man I once knew, said to me that he loves his wife so much that he is willing to die for her. I asked him why does he not love his wife enough to live for her? He realised what this meant. I hope you also understand these two principles. Work and live, or loaf and die?

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## **9. The Bridegroom tarries (Why are we sleeping?) Matthew 25:1-13**

The world loves marriage. They visit weddings as witnesses of a marriage between a man and a woman, chosen by God, to be wed together for life.

The Bridegroom and wedding guests are expectant for the bride to appear in all her finery. They are all glad when she arrives, proving her fidelity to the man who has chosen her.

Jesus is speaking of as being the Bridegroom and the universal church, as being the Bride. However, many begin the wait but get discouraged as time goes by and then turns away at the last moment, just before the Bride is to appear.

Jesus spoke of the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins. They all had their lamps ready waiting for the Bridegroom to appear, their lamps burning, but then as the Bridegroom tarried, they all fell asleep. Then at midnight, the shout comes: "Behold, the Bridegroom is here." The five foolish virgin's lamps had gone out for they did not provide enough oil in them. The wise had only enough oil for themselves and rose to meet the Bridegroom, and the door was shut. The other five had to go and buy from those who sell the oil and came back, too late to enter for the door was shut. No amount of banging on the door or shouting for it to be opened could get the door to open. These were left alone to die for their Bridegroom, so that when He comes for them, they will be able to go with Him, having been raised from the dead. Amen.

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## **10. Keeping a pure conscience (Avoiding all defilements) 1 Peter 3:16-22**

The conscience is God's way of keeping us on the pathway of righteousness. Our conscience is there to warn us when we are going astray. If we keep our conscience clear, we will keep the right way before the Lord.

When our conscience has become defiled, it no longer speaks to us clearly and we can stifle our conscience or it can go to sleep. Defilements that we allow into our lives, causes us to have a mixed-up conscience. We have taken control of our conscience and it obeys us toward the wrong rather than the right.

Holding the truth in a clear conscience is what God desires of every human being.

Our conscience is based on what we are being taught as being real truth.

Once we get rid of the mixed-up truth a lie replaces it, and the lie then becomes the truth.

A believer, who receives Jesus, has a new standard for their conscience, which proves that God is helping the conscience of that person.

The secret of the gospel of Jesus is to restore and have an upright spirit, a pure heart and a clean conscience. Seek these three things in Christ and you will do well.

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## **11. Letting go to let God... (Your power in eternal life) Psalm 37:5**

One of the great truths that Jesus taught His disciples is that we need to let go and let God have His way. Holding onto our way will distort anything that we receive from God, to become distorted.

God is hiding. He does not easily come forward to reveal Himself. The reason for this is that He is estranged from His creation, due to the devil's distortions introduced into the plans and purposes of God. God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden Eden, where He had visited in them in the cool of each evening. After their expulsion, He hid Himself from them and their children.

Mankind began to call upon the Lord and God responded, which He still does this day. He does say something wonderful:

*Jeremiah 29:13 "And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."*

The devil is ever trying to prevent people from seeking God and hinders their searching.

If we let go of our will, Jesus said:

*Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

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## 12. Filled with all goodness (God's Life) Romans 15:14

When Jesus was on earth, they came to him saying 'Good Master.' Jesus corrected them, saying:

*Mark 10:18 "... No one is good but One, that is, God."*

Mankind is astray from their God, for they always choose what is wrong, ignoring God's commandments. It is in the heart of man to go astray as the Scripture says:

*Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; ..."*

It takes Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to bring us back to the Father.

*John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."*

Following Jesus is not only to walk behind Him but to imitate His examples of goodness, which He has learned from God. The Scripture says:

*Hebrews 5:8 "... He (Jesus) learned obedience by the things which He suffered."*

By being obedient to the Father and Jesus, we will learn about goodness through our suffering.

One of the fruits of the seven-fold Spirit is goodness. Our goodness is not the same as that given us by the Spirit of God and Christ. We can be good in ourselves if we are a good tree, and yet miss the mark of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Jesus made mention of good and bad trees. The good tree brings forth good fruit and the bad tree brings forth the bad. We will know these by the fruits that they bear, for a thorn tree cannot bring forth anything good but bears thorns.

During the war, good men became bad men, due to their preservation of themselves. 'Kill or be killed' became their motto. Even if this killing was in self-defence, it could take an ugly turn, as the killers become murderers killing innocents. Many of the soldiers raped the enemies' women, as a means to humble the women and satisfy their lusts and sense of revenge.

Jesus advocated the practice of being passive in the face of evil. He said:

*Matthew 5:39 "... But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."*

This is a very hard commandment to obey. Jesus also said:

*Matthew 5:40-41 "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two."*

No one can do these things if they do not have the goodness of God in themselves. Jesus told us to pray for our enemies and those who spitefully use us. We can be filled with goodness but are instructed to be filled with all goodness.

Something for us all to consider, don't you think?

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### 13. Waiting for the master (Returning with rewards) Psalm 27:14

People, generally, do not like to wait for something. They want it now. However, it is not always possible to have what we want, now, but are forced to wait for it. If we invest money to gain interest, a period has to elapse first; so, we need to be patient.

Patience is a very hard thing to do. I remember the time that I wanted to get married to the girl I had fallen in love with. For various reasons, but mainly due to financial constraints we had to wait three years to become married. Impatience is easier to have than patience. Then the happy day arrived; our patience was rewarded and we were allowed to get married. We both forgot about the patient waiting and the hardships that we endured to keep us together because our waiting had now turned into a joyous time.

Patience is everything that has a reward at the end of it. Jesus said that we need to be patient so we can receive our reward in due time.

*Romans 2:7 "... by patient continuance in doing good ..."*

The parable of the Goodman of the house going into a far country, leaving behind his servants to continue with the work that each had to do, applies. Likewise, Jesus has gone away into a far country, namely heaven, and will return to reward His servants who remain faithful and do not start to beat and harm the other men and maidservants.

We are told:

*Revelation 22:12 "And behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

Our words:

*Matthew 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned."*

Our deeds:

*Romans 2:16 "in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, ..."*

Our thoughts:

*Romans 2:15 "... their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves, their thoughts accusing or else excusing them"*

We need to keep true to our calling in serving our Master so that when He returns, He will reward us accordingly. Amen.

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