

SEVENTH-DAY CHURCH OF GOD INC. NIGERIA

**Adult
Sabbath School
Manual 2023
(TEACHER)**

**Theme:
Manifesting the Glory of God's Presence
(Luke 9: 29)**

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Adult Sabbath School Manual 2023

Theme: Manifesting the Glory of God's Presence (Luke 9: 29)

General Introduction: Manifesting the glory of God's presence is a collection of lessons that reveal a lifestyle that God intended for mankind. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesian Church, described God as the source from whom all divine splendour, beauty, holiness and perfection proceed before manifesting in us. When Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony, there was a transformation such that his face shone with the glory of God (Exo. 34:29) because he communed much of the time in the presence of God and talked with Him "face to face" (Exo. 33:11). The Prophets Elijah and Elisha manifested this same glory. Even in death, the glory that possessed Elisha was so real that when a dead man was thrown upon his tomb, the dead was restored to life. These were a show of the coming of the glory of Jesus Christ. Thus, when Jesus Christ walked upon the earth, the lame walked, the blind received their sight, the dead were raised and the oppressed were delivered and the dead were raised back to life (Acts 10:38). The glory of Jesus Christ was being visibly revealed through His love and demonstration of power. The same God's glory was seen in the Apostles and members of the early church as they waited and sort the power of this glory which came by the impartation of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts chapter two.

Consequently, if we in our life time desire and wish to walk in the same of realm of glory, we must arise out of our discouraged disposition, lukewarmness, listlessness, and crave for an impartation like the people of the early church. We must seek God with all of our hearts, allow Him to clothe us and direct us in His glory. We can only manifest what we have. This is because we can only manifest what we have received because the glory of God is reflection of our encounter and virtue deposit resulting from the encounter with God. Fortunately, it is the ultimate desire of God that we be seen to function in dominion, stretching His glory to blind minds and through it draw people to the will of God the Father. Therefore, like our Patriarchs, we must be patient, consistent in seeking Him in obedience and faithfulness, and trusting that God will reveal Himself through glorious encounters that will be a blessing to the body of Christ. As we prayerfully study the lessons in this manual, may God's glory manifest in our lives in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Comments, contributions and criticisms are welcome. Kindly direct to sdceditorial@gmail.com.

LESSON 1 **07 January, 2023**

THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY (PART-1)

Scripture Reading:

Mark 5:25-34

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 60:1

Introduction

God's glory is a combination of the great power of God, splendor, wonders and holiness that accompany God's presence, as well as its effects on man. Glory is one of the major attributes of God; it is manifested in His presence. Since man was created in the image of God, glory was originally part of his nature. Man was created to reveal the glory and wisdom of God. Created as a vessel that had the capacity to contact, contain and reveal God, man was the zenith of God's creation. Genesis 2:25 reveals such a glorious life so wonderful, that the scripture said of Adam and Eve that they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. However, when man embraced sin, the inherent glory of God departed from him. Sin did not only tamper with man's glory, but it wreaked the havoc of producing shame.

From the time of creation to date, sin or disobedience to God has been the greatest mistake man has ever made. God frowns at all sins no matter how we choose to categorize them. It is even worse when sinfulness becomes a lifestyle. There is nothing glorious in living a sinful lifestyle. God's view of sin and His judgment against sinful living is clearly revealed in Hosea 4:7, *"As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame"*. Hence, separation from God which is spiritual death opens the doors of spiritual bondages. Spiritual bondages are conditions of being dominated by sin-fleshly lusts, or demonic powers. Bondages refer to any situation contrary to God's plan and purpose for mankind, which is to reveal His glory.

Glory is a shame terminator. Wherever the glory of God is present, shame will ultimately be eliminated. Revealing the glory of God requires that we must first be clothed with the glory of God. Christ Jesus is the glory of God, the Father, and when we accepted Him as our Lord and Saviour through faith in His finished works on the cross, we were clothed with the glory of God (Jhn. 1:14). Being clothed with the glory of God, we are to reign with Him on earth over the power of sin, sickness, poverty, bondage, failure, and anything that represents shame. It is our responsibility as children of glory to reveal the glory of God through our daily living and acts of obedience to the Father of Glory.

Lesson Questions

1. What is God's plan and purpose for mankind as regards the revelation of His glory on earth? (Rev. 5:10; Num. 14:21; Isa. 43:7; Gen. 1:26) Hint: To reveal His glory through the dominion mandate; to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory, to cloth man with His glory.
2. Study John 17:20-24, and discuss the position of a believer in revealing the glory of God? Hint: Oneness with Christ in glory; having the same authority to reveal the glory of God as Christ has.
3. What are some of the dangers of not walking in the glory of God? (Hos. 4:7; Rom. 3:23; 6:23a; Jer. 2:11; 1 Sam. 4:10-11, 22) Hint: Shame, Bondages, Dominion of darkness, Destruction and Death.
4. What are some of the benefits of walking in the glory of God? (Exo. 13:21-22; 2 Sam. 6:10-11; Acts 19:11-12) Hint: Divine protection, provision, blessings, and miraculous living.
5. Examine 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 2 Chronicles 7:1-2 and identify how believers reveal the glory of God? Hint: Daily fellowship with the word of God and the Spirit of God; Conformity to the image of Christ Jesus; sacrificial living.

LESSON 2 **14 January, 2023**

THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY (PART-2)

Scripture Reading:

John 11:39-45

Memory Verse:

John 11:40

Introduction

According to John 11:40, Jesus said to Martha “Did I not tell you that if you believe you would see the glory of God?” Jesus is still saying the same thing to every one of us today. The miracles of Jesus Christ actually manifested the glory of God as well as His glory as the Only Begotten Son of God (Jn. 11:4). The gospel of St John (Jn.1:14; 2:11; 11:4) recorded some spectacular, special and supernatural miracles of Jesus Christ. Accordingly, whatsoever may be the problem or challenge in your life today, God desires to be glorified in it. He is willing to solve that problem, heal that sickness for you to see His glory. And like Jesus told Martha, all we need to see the glory of God is to believe in the Lord. And when we are beholding Jesus’ sinless, spotless, righteous and heavenly life as believers, we are changed into His glory as we desire to walk like Him (2 Cor. 3:18).

The raising of Lazarus from the dead manifested forth God’s glory, and made many to believe in Jesus Christ (Jn. 11:45). They saw God’s glory and it brought them to repentance and salvation. Today, if we will thoughtfully behold the glory of God, if we will think through as we see the works and miracles of Christ, it will lead us to a definite decision for Christ, it will lead to our salvation, transformation, sanctification, re-dedication of our lives unto the Lord; it will lead us to full, complete, unwavering and entire obedience to Christ as the Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8).

Lesson Questions

1. How can we experience the manifestation of the glory of God in our lives? (Jn. 11:40; 17:4-5; Isa. 58:7-8; Acts 6:8; 7: 55) Hint:

- By believing in Jesus Christ. By doing the will of God. By being kind towards others. By being filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. What is expected of believers after experiencing the glory of God? (Isa. 60:1; Acts 1:8) Hint: To arise and shine for God. To witness for Christ.
 3. What are some of the things that can shut us out of the glory of God? (Rom. 3:23; Matt. 13:58; 17:20) Hint: Sin, Unbelieve
 4. How much does God cherish His glory? (Isa. 42:8) Hint: So much that He does not want it to be given to another.
 5. What is God's desire concerning His glory? (Hab. 2:14; Ps. 72:19; 104:31; 1Chron. 16:24) Hint: For the whole earth to be filled with His glory. For His glory to endure forever. For His glory to be told among the nations.
 6. How did the Israelites see the glory of God? (Exo. 24:17; 40:34; Isa. 59:19) Hint: Like a devouring fire. Like a cloud. Like a rushing stream.
 7. What effects can the glory of God have on believers? (1 Cor. 3:18; Jn. 11:45) Hint: It transforms believers to be like Christ. It increases their faith.

LESSON 3 **21 January, 2023**

THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY (PART-3)

Scripture Reading:

John 17:13-26

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 3:18

Introduction

God is glorious! Glory is descriptive of every dimension of God's being. He radiates His glory in Majesty and in comparison, every other pales off. Indeed, the glory of God is mainly celestial and rightly so beyond the realms of human comparison.

Over time, man has tried to engage himself in communing with the Almighty God. A dedicated insistent communion that often always reflects the original God's intention for man. This can be illustrated in the account of Moses (Exo. 34:29-35; Lk. 9:28). The will of God the Father is that we represent Him in His true nature, glory personified. The primary reason why man do not walk and live in this intention of a glorified life of God is because of his failing which is as a result of his ignorance of his natural rights as a dive creature. His weakness is in his inability to resist every act that beseech this earthly interaction which our archenemy introduces from time to time.

Holiness or rightful living in the will of the Almighty is the essential trait that will enhance our glorious living. The character of Moses when he found himself yielded to the will of God Almighty produced heavenly testimonies. A careful study of Exodus 34: 29-35 will spotlight how we should have lived as believers. At that point Moses was in the realm of the heavenly. This was possible because of his consistent communion with the Almighty that the children of Israel could clearly see the manifestation of the glory of God on his face. This same glory was what made the difference in Goshen such that while the other Egyptians suffers terribly the Jews were secured.

It is therefore pertinent that we live in consistent communion with the Almighty through His word in order to reflect our full potential as children of the Almighty. In Matthew 4:4 Jesus Christ enjoins that we live and walk by the word. Also realise that Jesus is this same word by which we ought to live according John 1:1 and an encounter with the word reveals the glory that is in us through Christ. This lesson should spur us to engage more in the scripture in order to be filled of the true attributes of the glory of God.

Lesson Questions

1. List some of the present dimensions of glory for believers in Christ? (Jn. 17:22; Rom. 8:30). Hint: Transformation by Christ, and Ability to do as He did.
2. What is the source and medium of our glory as believers in Christ? (2 Cor. 3:18; 4:5-7; 10:17; Gal. 6:14; Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Tim. 2:15). Hint: Source: Christ. Medium: Studying the Word; Suffering of the Cross; Fellowship.
3. Why do many miss the glory of God? (2 Cor. 4:1-4; Matt. 6:2; Phil. 3:19; 1 Pet. 1:24). Hint: Spiritual blindness; Worldly pleasures; Self-glory.
4. Read 2 Thess. 2:14 and 1 John 3:2 and discuss the future glory of believers in Christ. Hint: Opportunity to behold Him as He is; Experiencing the fullness of His being.
5. Considering the role of Moses in the plague encounter with Pharaoh how would you demonstrate the glory of God personified for kingdom expansion? Discuss

LESSON 4 **28 January, 2023**

MAKING ROOM FOR HIS GLORY

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 24:3-10

Memory Verse:

Exodus 33:18

Introduction

Many are asking for the Glory of God (manifested presence of God) in our services and lives. We are asking for better marriages, families, ministries and more of God. But have we properly prepared for what God is about to do on the earth realm? (Hab. 2:14). Are we ready for the glory that is coming forth? We may ask, why doesn't God do something to help us? The answer is simple; we don't make room for the King of glory. Psalm 24:9 says "Lift up your heads oh ye gates; lift them up you everlasting doors; and the king of glory shall come in." Miracles happen in the presence of God; you can't see or experience the glory of God if God is not in the house. He will not be in the house if He isn't invited! Revelation 3:20 says "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and fellowship with him and he with me"

While we can desire more of God's presence, knowing He desires the same, we have to make room for Him. Just like James 4:8a says "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." It is important that we "make room" for God in our lives by creating space in our day to fellowship with Him and study His Word. We make room for more of God's presence when we honour Him in our actions and attitudes by submitting our will to His. We create more space for God when we choose to accept the love He offers above our feelings of inadequacy that seek to crowd that love out.

The Psalmist says, "In your presence is fullness of joy (Ps. 16:11b). When we are in His presence, we can experience joy that safety and security in Him brings. His presence helps us experience His peace, regardless of circumstances surrounding our lives. God's

presence can bring us to a place of calm, comfort, confidence and rest. We just have to make room, diligently seeking Him, trusting in His love, and knowing that His presence makes a difference.

Lesson Questions

1. According to the Bible, what is the meaning of “the glory of God”? (Exo. 40:34; Ps. 19:1; 106:20; Acts 7:55; Rev. 15:8; 21:11&23) Hint: God's visible presence; His greatness, His honour, His beauty, His power, and His light.
2. What does it mean to make room for God’s glory? (Jam. 4:7-8; Col. 3:17; 1Cor. 10:31; Matt. 5:16) Hint: To submit to God; To resist the devil; To draw near to God; To be cleansed and purified; To do all things in the name of Jesus Christ and to the glory of God; To shine your God-given light.
3. While on earth, how did Jesus Christ manifested God’s glory? (Jn. 2:3-11; 9:1-7; 11:40-45; Lk. 7:14-15; 13:11-13; Matt. 8: 27-33; 9:20-22) Hint: He turned water into wine. He healed congenital and acquired diseases. He ostracised unclean spirit. He raised Lazarus and others from death.
4. Were there Bible figures that made room for God’s glory? (Dan. 1:8; 3:16-18; 6:10; Acts 5:29; 6:4) Hint: Yes – Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the Apostles.
5. How can we make room for God’s glory? (Eccl. 12:13b; Gal. 5:16,22-23; Jn. 11:40) Hint: Fear God and keep His commandment; Walk in the Spirit; Bear the fruits of the Spirit; Believe in Jesus Christ.
6. What are some of the benefits of making room for God’s glory? (Mk. 16:17-18; Matt. 21:22) Hint: Power to cast out devils and speak with new tongues. Divine protection and healing power. Answered prayer.
7. Share your personal experience of any situation you made room for God’s glory and the outcome. Discuss

LESSON 5 **04 February, 2023**

DEATH TO SELF: THE PATHWAY TO GLORY

Scripture Reading:

John 12:20-32

Memory Verse:

John 12:24

Introduction

In the New Testament the term self is rendered in different forms. These forms include the old man, the carnal self, lust, the sinful nature, the body of sin, the flesh, etc. All these forms are summed up as the Adamic nature, which is the nature of rebellion against the will of God. When Adam and Eve believed in the deception of the serpent and disobeyed God, they birthed rebellion, sin, and the fallen nature, abandoning eternal life with the Father and paving the way for eternal death with Satan. Satan was the first rebellious and disobedient one. This means that self is the nature, seed, off-spring, or child of Satan. The old man or the carnal self was birthed from the lie and deceit of Satan.

The sin of Adam and Eve brought a curse that changed the original nature of God's intention for man. The man and the woman had been created in the image and likeness of the Creator. They had the nature and the intrinsic characteristics of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, not only in their external manifestation but also in their inner being. They were one with the Godhead. The communion that existed between them and God was complete because both dwelled in holiness and shared one spiritual nature. However, when they accepted the lie through Satan's temptation, sin changed that nature. The sinful nature, rebellion, and hatred towards God found in Satan became a part of man's nature. Mankind became corrupt physically, emotionally, and spiritually, thereby altering the manifestation of God's glory in man.

Christ Jesus, through His sacrificial death on the cross overcame the power of death and Satan. So, by His death and resurrection we could be redeemed from sin and its consequences, get back the eternal life we had lost. This eternal life is reconciliation with the Father and the restoration of our spiritual nature. He demonstrated that death to self is the pathway to manifesting the glory of God. And as Disciples of Christ, it is required that we be dead to self in order to walk in the pathway of glorifying God.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the ways the carnal nature is expressed in our lives? (Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 3:5-9; Lk. 18:9-14; Phil. 2:14) Hint: Works of the flesh, pride, murmurings and disputing, etc.
2. How potent is the sacrificial death of Christ in empowering us to overcome the carnal nature? (Rom. 8:1-2,11; Heb. 2:16-18; 1Jn. 2:27-29; 5:4) Hint: The blood of Jesus Christ destroyed the penalty and power of sin and empowers us with the Holy Spirit to walk in the newness of life.
3. Examine Luke 9:23 and John 12:24-25, and discuss the importance of death to self as a pathway to walking in the glory of God. Hint: Death to self is a mark of true discipleship, and enables the unhindered flow of the glory of God.
4. What are some of the dangers of living under the influence of the carnal nature? (Rom. 8:7-8; Prov. 14:12; Eph. 5:3-5; Job 5:2; Heb. 12:15) Hint: Spiritual and physical death and destruction. Eternal death, pollution amongst brethren.
5. What are some of the benefits of overcoming the influence of the carnal nature? (Rom. 8:6b&14; Gal. 5:16; 1Jn. 1:7; Jn 14:21; Matt. 13:23; 2Pet. 1:10-11) Hint: Peace, fellowship with God and man, fruitfulness, and eternal life.
6. Share your experience on how you overcame the influence of the carnal nature and how it can encourage other believers?

LESSON 6 **11 February, 2023**

THE GLORY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Scripture Reading:

2 Peter 1:1-10

Memory Verse:

Daniel 11:32

Introduction

In Colossians 1:9, the Apostle Paul in His prayer for the Colossian Church, specifically prayed for the brethren to be filled with the full knowledge of God's will. This was the knowledge of God that Paul had, and lived by; which made him extraordinary and distinguished him among the Apostles. It's the knowledge that makes, reveals the glory of God in us and puts us over the affairs of life. In Christ, we're ordained of God to live as champions and reign as kings. On the contrary, many believers are not experiencing a life of dominion because of the lack of the knowledge of God. The scripture in Romans 12:2 reveals the good, the acceptable, and the perfect will of God that engenders transformation.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are an example of men that experienced the glory of the knowledge of God. The glory that was revealed in the furnace of fire was as a result of their intimate knowledge of God. Their faith was anchored on their knowledge of the integrity and power of God as a covenant keeping God. Another example in the reign of Darius was Daniel. His knowledge of the prayer answering God revealed the glory of his deliverance from the den of lions. Our knowledge of God guaranties our access to His blessings and the dominion of His kingdom over the powers of darkness.

Walking in God's perfect will is built on the foundation of having a strong fellowship with the Holy Spirit. As we fellowship with Him through prayer, study of the Word and meditation, we come into the knowledge of His perfect will, intent and purposes for our life. Through that intimacy, we become more like Him; united with Him in thought and character. This intimacy grants us the wisdom of what to do in

every situation; channelling our efforts and resources constantly in the right direction to achieve the right results. We experience consistent victory when we function with the full knowledge of God and His perfect will for our lives.

Lesson Questions

1. How important is an intimate knowledge of God for a glorious living? (Jn. 15:5; Dan. 3:16-18; 6:10; 11:32) Hint: God is our only hope. It brings fruitfulness, faith, and victory.
2. Study Acts 9:1-6, 20-22, and discuss the place of an encounter with God for the manifestation of His glory in us? Hint: Encounter reveals God to Us and Us in Him.
3. Mention some persons in the Bible and how their knowledge of God transformed their lives? (Gen. 17:1-4; 24:1; 26:1-5, 12-14; 32:24-30; Exo. 3:1-10; Lk. 5:1-10) Hint: Abraham-blessings, Isaac-promotion, Jacob-change of identity, Moses – empowerment to fulfil destiny, and Peter-revelation of destiny.
4. What are some of the ways of having an intimate knowledge of God? (Jn. 14:21, 23; Isa. 57:15; Ps. 145:18; Eph. 5:18-20; Mk. 16:20) Hint: Obedience, humility, meekness, prayers, daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and soul-winning.
5. What are some of the dangers of not having an intimate knowledge of God? (Isa. 5:13; Rom. 1:28; 1Sam. 15:23; Hos. 4:6; Acts 19:13-16) Hint: Captivity, lack, reprobate mind, rejection, listless, lack of dominion, and destruction.
6. Share your life encounter with God and how this has transformed your life?

LESSON 7 **18 February, 2023**

THE POWER OF HIS GLORY

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:1-7

Memory Verse: 2 Kings 6:6

Introduction

The presence of God eminently surrounds and permeates all of human life. However, from time to time, using human vessel who are consecrated and devoted to the will of heaven, the Almighty makes His presence, glory and power to be visible from time to time. This was what manifested in the account of our scripture reading. Elisha, though one of the prophets of his time stood out to reinforce among the community of prophets the unique possibilities which God can demonstrate in the lives of men within the community.

First, he demonstrated an unusual healing of the land through salt in a cruise. Truly he is telling us that when God chooses, He can use anything to glorify Himself. Furthermore, this outstanding miracles of the healing of the land and the wood raising a sunk steel under water leaves us with the benefits of a dedicated, consecrated life. The community of prophets were aware that Elijah will be with them no more but Elisha sought and demanded for the virtue and privilege of direct and uninterrupted communication of the Almighty via impartation by Elijah. He transverse through difficult territories consistent seeking dedication and a righteous expectation.

When Jesus urge that we should seek and we will find there were already precedence for us through the accounts of the older prophets. In His life time through raising disciples on earth there are ample evidences of the demonstration of the power of God's presence and His glory beginning from the start of His ministry to His ascension. If Elisha did demonstrate unusual manifestation of the power of God with seemingly ordinary things, then our lives as believers should command greater results of the manifestation of the power of the Holy

Spirit. Jesus said to the disciples, tarry ye in Jerusalem until I imbue you with power (Lk. 24:49). At the event of the day of Pentecost which marks the beginning of the church after the ascension of Jesus Christ, power have been made available to the church. This lesson raises certain salient question – who will dare to be the Elisha of our generation? May the Holy Spirit guide our understanding, direct us in our genuine desire to serve and to demonstrate the power of His glory in our time.

Lesson Questions

1. In what ways were the presence of God manifested through some of His servants before the coming of Christ? (2Kings 6:4-7; 5:10&14; Exo. 4:10-12) Hint: The float axe (Elisha); Healing of Naaman leprosy (Elisha); Healing of stuttering tongue (on Moses).
2. Are there evidences of the manifestations of God's power in the era of the early church? (Acts 2:42-47; 5:12-16; 8:4-7; 12:5-11) Hint: Favour and multiplication of church; Manifestation of signs and wonders; Deliverance and protection.
3. What are some of the attributes that can attract the power of the Holy Spirit? (Josh. 1:8; 8:1-3; Eccl. 12:13; Prov. 6:4-9; Heb. 12:14) Hint: Meditation on God's word; Courage and obedience to divine instructions; Reverence to God; Genuine zeal; Holiness and peaceful disposition.
4. If the scriptures made available to us in the old and new testaments provided evidences of the demonstrations of the power of God, what do you consider are our limitations from manifesting same and similar evidences, and how do we overcome them? Discuss

LESSON 8 **25 February, 2023**

THE ANOINTING AND THE GLORY

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Memory Verse:

Luke 4:18

Introduction

The anointing is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and the power of God Almighty (Acts10:38). The anointing of God on human empowers a man to do impossible things such as breaking of the yoke of oppressions, healing the oppressed, and doing good works. The anointing of God enables our work for God and the establishment of His kingdom on earth. The manifestation of the anointing reveals a deep sense of the awareness of the presence and glory of God thereby causing conviction among the ungodly and driving a desire for intimacy with God.

An encounter with God's glory helps in maintaining or increasing the anointing of God upon our lives. Prophet Isaiah's encounter with the glory of God led to his personal transformation and enablement for effective ministry. Under the Old Testament, the altar of sacrifice which is symbolic of death to self and the altar of incense which is symbolic of our prayer lives are two vital tools required to work in the glory of God's presence.

God's ultimate desire is not just to seek Him for the anointing but to develop intimacy with Him. His blessings, favour, protection, etc. are by-products of our pursuit of His presence. The strength of our walk with God should be the foundation of our desire to work for God. The anointing of God upon a life is for the needs of others and for the expression of God's love for mankind and not for exaltation. Therefore, the administration of the anointing requires humility and total submission to God.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the symbolic meanings of the anointing? (Acts 10:38; 1Sam. 16:13; Ps. 133:1-2; Lev. 8:10-12; Eph. 1:13)
Hint: Divine enablement; Divine beauty; Sanctification; God's seal.
2. What are some of the purposes of the anointing? (Acts 10:38; Esther 2:9,13-18; 1Sam 16:11-13; 2Sam 2:4; Jam. 5:14-15) Hint: Honour, Promotion, Ordination, Favour, Ease of service, Deliverance from oppression.
3. What are some of the effects of the glory of His presence on individuals and the church? (Isa. 6:1-7; 2Chron. 7:1-3; 2Cor. 3:13-18) Hint: Personal transformation; True worship and reverence; Access to God's presence.
4. What are the major hindrances to entering into the place of His Glory? (Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 8:7-8) Hint: Works of the flesh
5. Discuss how the anointing made a difference in your life and how it affected the lives of others.

LESSON 9 04 March, 2023

THE GLORY OF HIS WORD

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5

Memory Verse: John 1:14

Introduction

The Holy Bible is full of examples that reveals the glory in the word of God. For instance, light came into existence through the glory of His spoken word. The entire universe is a product of the manifestation of the glory of His word. The Almighty God is the creator of the heavens and earth, the beginning and the ending of all things. While it is impossible to fully understand the might and majesty of God, His word brings the understanding and reveals the glory of His creative power, wisdom, and majesty. The creative power of the Sovereign God is as potent as ever, and He still rules and sustains the universe by the glory of His words. Psalm 119:89 reveals that the word of God is forever settled in heaven and faith in the eternal nature of the God's word releases the glory within for our victory.

In the Old Testament, the word of God mainly describes the essence and attributes of God. It revealed what God said mainly through human vessels. In the New Testament, the word of God is described as a person—Jesus Christ our Lord, who was with the Father from the beginning of creation. The word of God made flesh full of glory and truth. The revelation of the glory of the word of God is the revelation of Christ Jesus. The glory of the word revealed through creation is based essentially on the fact that He is the creator of all things. All that the word can do is because He is. The word is forever because He is eternal. The word is unfailing because He is faithful. The word is powerful because He is the Almighty.

The glory of the word is revealed through several manifestations. The word brings joy and comfort to a depressed soul. It brings life and quickens the dead. The word of God has tremendous power to heal all

sicknesses and diseases. It brings guidance and light to the darkness of life. When we receive of the word of God and allow the word to be the authority over our lives as believers, we walk in the glory of the word. All that the word is and can do is possible in and through us when we live our lives in total submission to Him.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the attributes of the word of God? (Heb. 4:12; 11:3; Ps. 119:130; 107:20; Jn. 6:63) Hint: The word is life, powerful, creative, enlightens, heals, delivers.
2. How did Jesus Christ reveal the glory of the word in His earthly ministry? (Matt. 8:13-16; Mk. 4:36-41; Jn. 2:1-11; 5:19) Hint: Through His authority over devils, sickness, the elements of this earth and His obedience to His Father.
3. Examine Jesus' statement in Matthew 4:4, and discuss the original intent of God for mankind? Hint: For man to live by the words of God.
4. What are some of the benefits of living under the authority of God's word? (Ps. 1:1-3; 119:11; Prov. 4:20-22; Jn. 14:21&23) Hint: Prosperity, Purity, Healing, and Oneness with God.
5. How do we reveal the glory of the word of God in us? (Jn. 15:7-8; Gal. 5:22-23; Mk. 16:15-20) Hint: By abiding in Christ; Through the Fruits and Power of the Holy Spirit.
6. Share your experience of the transformative power of the word of God and how it can help others.

LESSON 10 **11 March, 2023**

THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD ON EARTH

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 36:25-30

Memory Verse:

John 14:16

Introduction

Throughout human history, God has progressively revealed Himself to mankind, manifesting His love, His divine characteristics, and His person not excluding His tripartite essence. His tripartite nature (the Godhead) is not hidden as it is manifestly revealed through the visible creation (Rom. 1:20) and does not imply polytheism. He revealed Himself as the one true God who exists in three Personality: God the Father, whom no man has seen (Jn. 1:18); God the Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh that lived among us on earth (Jn. 1:14); and God the Holy Spirit, who continually guides, comforts, and empowers believers (Jn. 14:16). The Father and the Son's transformative presence on earth is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is active on earth, leading the church with the purpose of fulfilling the transformative agenda of manifesting the kingdom of God on earth.

The Holy Spirit coexists with the Father and the Son; He shares their very essence and attributes, including omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient quality. The Three are unique with significant personalities and functions. During Jesus' redemption work on earth, He spoke more of the Father than of Himself. In the same manner, the Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself; He testifies of Jesus and of His finished work on the cross. The Holy Spirit indeed attest to Jesus just as the son give testimony of the father who is in heaven. When the Holy Spirit comes upon someone's life, it is Jesus that is revealed leading to the transformation of salvation.

In various passages, the Bible shows us that the Holy Spirit was an active participant in all of God's works. He is the manifest presence of God on earth. The Holy Spirit continues to be an active participant even in the regeneration of believers impacting in their spirit, soul and body to become the pure bride of Christ. He empowers them to spread the gospel of the kingdom in the same way that Jesus Christ ministered on earth. The survival of the church today depends on our understanding of the nature and the fundamental role of the Holy Spirit in the events of the end times.

Lesson Questions

1. Who is the Holy Spirit and what are some of His attributes? (Acts 5:3-4; Gen. 1:2-3; Rom. 8:9; Ps. 139:7-8; 1Cor. 2:10-11)
Hint: The Holy Spirit is God. He is also called the Spirit of God and of Christ. He is omnipotent, omnipresence and omniscient.
2. What are some of the importance of Holy Spirit in fulfilling heaven agenda on earth? (Lk. 1:34-35; 3:21-22; Jn. 14:16-17, 26. Acts. 2:1-4, 16-18) Hint: The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the kingdom of heaven on earth.
3. What are some of the transformative works of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer? (Titus 3:5, Rom. 8:2, 26-27; Eph. 1:13-14) Hint: The Holy Spirit regenerates us. Delivers, empowers, intercedes, protects, upholds us, and grants us access to the blessings of God.
4. How important is our fellowship with the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the redemption agenda on earth? (1Cor. 2:9-11; Rom. 8:13-14; Gal. 5:16-18; Acts 4:31, 33) Hint: The Holy Spirit is the custodian of the knowledge and wisdom of God. He is our strength in overcoming the power of the flesh and manifesting the glory of God.
5. Examine Acts 1:8, and discuss the need of divine encounter with the Holy Spirit as a true witness of Christ Jesus. Hint: The Holy Spirit is the true witness and the custodian of the wisdom and power of God.
6. Share the experience of your personal encounter with the Holy Spirit and how it transformed your life?

LESSON 11 **18 March, 2023**

REDISCOVERING HIS MANIFEST PRESENCE

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:1-5

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Introduction

There is more in God than what we already know and have and there are also people in the Holy Scriptures who had deeper experience in God. For example, Moses in burning bush, John at the isle of Patmos, and Paul on his way to Damascus. These men got a glimpse out of this world into the Heavenly and were shown things way beyond the ordinary. They encountered God and were never the same.

One reason people do not experience lasting transformation is because of lack of genuine encounter with the power and glory of the Almighty God. What is needed in the Church and in our lives is daily encounter with God. Our daily encounter with God reveals His manifest presence and causes His favour and love to flow towards us. This is why He told us to seek His face, and seeking His face should be our highest priority.

The Manifest presence of God guarantees Power, transformation, victory, favour and blessings. The lack of God's manifest presence leads to emptiness, lack and even death in our lives and Churches. Therefore, rediscovering His manifest presence in our lives and Churches require that we must repent of our wicked ways, seek His face in humility and pray fervently.

Lesson Questions

1. Identify Bible characters who encountered the manifest presence of God in their times. (Gen. 28:10-22; Exo. 3:1-6; Rev. 1:9-19; Acts 9:1-5) What was the outcome of their encounter? (Exo. 3:11-15; Acts 9:15-20; Gen. 32:24-30) Hint:

- Bible characters - Moses, Jacob, Paul, John the beloved, etc.
Outcome - Became God's messenger; Became blessed.
2. What were the major priorities of those who encountered God? (Phil. 3:7-14; Heb. 11: 8-10, 24-27; Exo. 33:12-18) Hint: To know God; To please God; To know God's glory; To enter God's kingdom.
 3. What are some of the characteristics of the manifest presence of God? (Acts 2:1-4; 12:5-11; Matt. 8:14-16; Ps. 16:11) Hint: The move of the Holy Spirit; Guaranteed freedom; Healing power; Make available fullness of joy, divine direction and blessings.
 4. What are the benefits of seeking His manifest presence more than anything else? (Mal. 4:2; Ps. 27:4-5; 2Chron. 7:14-15; Amos 5:4; Jer. 29:12-14; Isa 55:3-4) Hint: Favour; Victory; Long life; Prosperity; Deliverance; Preservation: Restoration and Eternal life.
 5. What would happen to our communities and cities if the pursuit of the manifest presence becomes the priority of the church? Discuss

LESSON 12 **25 March, 2023**

THE PURPOSE OF HIS PRESENCE

Scripture Reading:

Mark 5:1-20

Memory Verse:

Luke 4:18

Introduction

The presence of God in a believer's life is what makes the difference between him and the unbelievers. Without God's presence the believer becomes as pale and lifeless as everyone else. There is something about God's presence that makes everything else crumble in comparison. No matter what we do, if we don't carry His presence we will simply be "just another somebody" to the lost around us.

Evangelism is of different forms. One form is revealed when individual(s) or the church goes out to preach to people giving out tracks or other programs of the church. Another form of evangelism is through prayers and manifestation of the anointing. In this form of evangelism, we might pray for people to be healed on the streets, market places, etc instead of just witnessing or giving out tracks. Also, evangelism can be revealed through the presence of God in our lives. This is where people will take note that these men have been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). Here the Glory of God creates a divine atmosphere of His manifest presence, so much so that it affects those around. The experience of Apostle Peter where Shadow healed the sick would fall into this category. Only that, it wasn't just Peter's shadow that healed, it was the presence of God upon Peter that created a healing shadow for the sick. (Acts 5:14-15)

From the scripture reading, we saw how a demonized man of Gadara was suddenly freed the moment Jesus' foot touched the shore of Gadara. The Bible revealed that when the man saw Jesus from afar, he ran to worship Him. Till that moment the man had no control over his own actions, the demons told him where to go and what to do. But all

that changed the moment Jesus stepped in. This is what we need today in our society. We need to see the power of His manifest presence in our communities. When that happens, we wouldn't be shouting at demons to run or be screaming scriptures to cast out devils or pull-down demonic strongholds. All that won't be necessary, when He is in the House. The purpose of His presence is to set the captives free, heal the sick and bring victory to His children (Lk. 4:18).

Lesson Questions

1. What is the purpose of His presence? (Lk. 4:18-19; Acts 10:38)
Hint: Healing and deliverance from all captivities of the devil; Preaching the gospel; Salvation of the lost.
2. From the scripture reading, what were the conditions of the demon possessed man before and after his encounter with Jesus Christ? (Mk. 5:1-20) Hint: Before he was possessed and controlled by demons. After he regained freedom and became a witness of the gospel.
3. What lesson can we draw from the reaction of the demons when they saw Jesus from afar? (Mk. 5:6-13; Phil. 2:9-10; Eph. 1:20-22; Col. 1:16-19) Hint: The headship, supremacy and authority of His name over all things including demons.
4. Using the lessons from the testimonies of these encounters in Mark 5: 14-16, 19-20 and Luke 5: 12-15, 17-19, 24b-26, state why testimony is an important medium for church growth.
Hint: It reveals the goodness and greatness of the power of God. It brings about the conviction to participate.
5. Considering Acts 19:12-20 and 5:12-16, discuss what effects miracles, signs and wonders can have on the church of today?
6. As a born-again child of God, share testimonies of the effects of God's presence in your life.

LESSON 13 **01 April, 2023**

THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 6:1-12

Memory Verse:

Acts 16:26

Introduction

Often times, the presence of God Almighty show up visibly to either direct, embolden, chastise, bless or condemn. The result of His manifestation usually tell how we stand in the will of the Almighty. At other times, God uses the manifestation of His presence to validate His sent messengers before men (Acts 16:25-26). It is even a confirmation for the called to know that they are not alone in their assigned duty.

The manifestations in this lesson are for correction and blessing. The first instance in our scripture reading (2Sam.I 6:6) where Uzzah attempted to steady the Oxen that shook and died in the process. He stepped out of bound of duty. It is important that we stay within the confines of allotted scope of calling in life so that our seeming act of goodwill do not bring us destruction. We truly cannot help God by our human understanding, position and capacity. Uzzah died immediately and fear enveloped jubilating David and his dancing entourage thus the ark ended up in the house of Obededom.

Suddenly the obscure status of Obededom changed for good because of the same ark that killed Uzzah. Indeed, Jehovah kills and give life (Deut. 32:39). Human feelings and understanding are way too different of what God would do and when He chooses to act. Obededom had the Ark dumped in his house possibly because of his social status. Truly the ways of God far exceed the thoughts and ways of men (Isa. 55:8-9).

Obededom got blessed beyond human timeframe and expectation and became an object of envious discussion and joy for some who are related to him. The inference of these two manifestations is that the presence of God carries power. This lesson should guide us to always

stay in the will of God Almighty for maximum benefit. We must try to understand our gifting while maintaining a positive healthy expectation from God.

Lesson Questions

1. What was the initial role Uzzah performed while bringing back the ark to the city of David? (2Sam. 6:1-4) Hint: He and two others were assigned to pull the cart.
2. In what other ways does self-assumed role and reassignment truncate ministry goal? (1Sam. 13:1-14; Num. 16:1-10, 26-32; Lev. 10:1'2) Hint: Loss of ultimate goal, falling away from the will of the Almighty, Death.
3. Read 2 Samuel 6:6-12 and spotlight how the presence of Jehovah may alter human social storyline. Hint: Unprecedented blessings.
4. In what other dimensions can the presence of God manifest in human setting? (Gen. 39:1-6, 19-23; Dan. 3:19-26) Hint: Divine favour, Protection and Promotion.
5. Against the background of the above Bible expositions, mention and discuss some of your personal experiences in your dealings with the power of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 14 08 April, 2023

GOD'S PRESENCE AND PROTECTION

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 41:1-14

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 41:10

Introduction

References to God as protector, shield, fortress, deliverer, everlasting arms, shelter, refuge and strength run all through the Bible and even in our time. God promises to deliver us from all forms of troubles. He superintends everything that comes our way. As written in 1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure (bear under) it". Though God may not take the temptation away but it is certain that He will provide a way of escape. The way of escape may be to escape the temptation. It may be the resources required to bear the temptation. Even though Satan wanted to do things to Job, God put limitations on what He could do. God wisely and lovingly knits the various things we encounter in life for good eternal benefits. As captured in Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose".

No matter what, God promises to be there with us. Consequently, we can be sure that our heavenly Father never leaves us. David courageously faced his valleys of "deep darkness" by his assurance that "Thou art with me." He enthusiastically anticipated dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. Scripture repeatedly attributed the successes in David's life and career to the fact that "the Lord was with him." (Ps. 139:7-10). In Exodus 33:14-16, Moses counted on God's manifest presence to distinguish them (Israelites) from other nations. Before his death, Moses encouraged the people to focus on the Lord's presence with them. It is God's desire that believers enjoy His presence

and protection. However, we (believers) have a duty to live a Christlike life for God's presence and protection to be a reality in our lives.

Lesson Questions

1. What does the Bible say about God's presence? (Deut. 31:6; Ps. 139:7; 23:4; 97:5; 16:11; 2Tim. 4:17; 2Cor. 3:17) Hint: It is always with every true believer. It is everywhere. It drives away fear and cause problems to disappear. It provides strength, deliverance (victory), freedom, joy.
2. What does the Bible say about God's protection? (Matt. 26:53; 2Thes. 3:3; Ps. 138:7) Hint: God's protection never fails. It is against Satan. It is visible in the midst of troubles.
3. Give some examples of how God's presence provided protection in the scripture. (Dan. 6:16-22; Gen. 6:5-18; Matt. 8:23-26; Josh. 2:10; 6:17) Hint: Daniel, Noah, Jesus' disciples, Israelites, Rahab.
4. What are some of the things needed to attract God's presence and protection? (Prov. 4:5-6; Ps. 5:11; 34:19; Jn. 10:27-28) Hint: Love for God (The ultimate wisdom); Taking refuge in God; Being righteous; Being a disciple.
5. List some of the benefits of God's presence and protection. (Ps. 91: 1-16) Hint: Salvation from all forms of destruction; Take away fear; Divine guard; Answered prayer; Honour; Long life.
6. Share some of your life experiences of how God's presence provided protection for you. Discuss

LESSON 15 **15 April, 2023**

BEING LED BY GRACE

Scripture Reading:

Romans 5:1-21

Memory Verse:

Romans 5:2

Introduction

The Spirit of Grace and Supplication (The Holy Spirit) wants us (believers) to move from the darkness of the world we live in, and into the realm of Glory where He lives. In other words, He wants us to return to the Glory we had in Adam before the fall. As the Spirit of Grace, The Holy Spirit brings conviction then shows favour to the convicted ones' heart so they can respond. As the Spirit of supplication, He causes words to rise up in the sinners' heart in order to become right with a Holy God. As rightly captured in Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn".

God removed man from the garden where the manifest presence of God was dwelling and because of Adam's sin placed him outside the manifest Glory, and barred the way with flaming swords. In order to direct man outside of this environment, God provided the grace to meet Jesus and the anointing to function in Him. When we come to Jesus, we move (through the blood) back into the Garden (Glory). We do this by faith and in response to the Spirit of Grace and supplication. The reason many never enter this place of Glory is that they continually try to earn their passage back into the Garden by personal effort. As it is written in Romans 3:24-25 "For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing His life for us". God wants us to move beyond hope and into substance. We all hope for the manifest power of God as He truly wants us to walk demonstrating that power.

Lesson Questions

1. What does the Bible say about grace? (Eph. 2:8; 2Cor. 12:9)
Hint: Gift of God. Sufficient for believers
2. Mention some Bible characters that found grace in the sight of God. (Gen. 6:8; Exo. 33:17; Acts 4:33) Hint: Noah, Moses, The Apostles.
3. Mention some Bible characters that by God's grace upon their lives translated to favour in the sight of great men. (Gen. 39:4; Ruth 2:10; Esther 2:17) Hint: Joseph, Ruth, Esther.
4. What are some of the qualities that attract God's grace? (Ps. 84:11; 1Pet. 5:5; Eph. 6:24) Hint: Holiness; Uprightness; Humility; Love for God
5. What are some of the outcomes of God's grace? (Jer. 31:2; Tit. 2:11; 3:7; Acts 20:32; Rom. 5:21; 4:16; 1Cor. 15:10; Eph. 1:6; 3:7) Hint: Physical and Spiritual rest; Salvation; Divine establishment and inheritance; Justification; Eternal life; Assurance of God's promises; Success; Acceptance into God's family; Working of God's power.
6. Who is the source and embodiment of God's grace? And how may believers channel it? (Lk. 2:40; Jn. 1:14&16; 1Tim. 1:14; 2Tim. 1:9; 2:1; 2Cor. 4:15; 6:1; 9:8) Hint: Source and embodiment: Jesus Christ. Channel: Good works to the glory of God.

LESSON 16 **22 April, 2023**

THE DANGER OF GOD'S ABSENCE

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 4:1-22

Memory Verse:

1 Samuel 4:22

Introduction

The visible presence of God in the modern-day church is wearing off. The present-day church can best be likened to a bakery that can barely produce bread. As a church, we are more preoccupied with the crumbs of His presence when we should have enjoyed the benefit of His full impartation. Often times, church worship may just be likened to a social gathering heavily embedded with religious activities without the spirit to testify of the benefit of worship. We have become like the religious leader of Jesus' time who though were expecting the Messiah but have their own prescription of what the Messiah should be. Thus, when He came and entered Jerusalem they did not recognise and covet the true meaning of His Messiahship.

The exodus of Elimelech, his wife and two sons reflect the desire, and the craving of church members who drift from time to time to satisfy their spiritual needs because the church failed to satisfy their spiritual needs. Truly people are curious and hungry for answer to life questions which the church ought to provide but religiosity and the inclination of the ceremonial have made the church to lose the strength and value it to provide. Like the Old Testament fellowship, the presence of God acting on the physical elements such as the shewbread that are displayed provided an enhanced worship (Num. 4:7).

It is the desire of the Almighty that the church move from strength to strength. Unfortunately, most churches just celebrate and indulge in a small spark of the manifestation of God. This may just be the outburst of founding members of the church and then it becomes a song of this is how it use to be. In 2 Corinthians 3: 18, the Apostle Pauls gives us a window that the church ought to always be in an upward movement

constantly demonstrating the power of God's presence. It is the will of the Almighty to make His presence real at all times for us. This lesson seeks to return us to reality and our heavenly Father whose promises never fail clearly declares in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that He is ready and willing to bless His church. Let us rise in the zeal and unction of Ezekiel 1:47. Let us return to the Lord to allow His glory envelope the church and from the church impart on the communities and by it expand the kingdom frontiers.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the consequences of the dwindling presence of God in the present-day Church? (1 Sam 4:1-4, 10-22; Ruth 1:1; Jn. 15:1-3) Hint: Defeat, Lack of church growth, Lack of unity and respect for the church of God.
2. What effect does the presence of God had on the Israelites and the early church? (1sam 7:1,7-15; Acts 2:40-41) Hint: Victory over enemies, exponential increase, restoration of lost blessings, unity of faith.
3. What factors do you think are responsible for the prevailing religiosity without the demonstration of God's power in the present-day church? (Lev. 24:1-4; 1sam. 3:1-3, 11-14,18; Exo. 33:5; Rom. 10:1-3) Hint: Spiritual dullness or blindness, spiritual irresponsibility, lack of due reverence for God's presence, stubbornness, human tradition.
4. Study Ruth 1:1-2 and identify the reason why Naomi and her family left Bethlehem for Moab? How does that relate to the altitude of people towards the church today? Hint: Lack of spiritual satisfaction.
5. In view of the above, what do you consider can cause revival and greater manifestation of the presence of God? Discuss

LESSON 17 **29 April, 2023**

THE MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION

Scripture Reading:

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Memory Verse:

Acts 12:5

Introduction

The Bible is full of instances of the benefit of intercession, where men and woman stood for the deliverance and general wellbeing of others and even nations. Intercession can be described as the act of prayer or making statements on behalf of another person or group of persons. The ministry of intercession is as old as human history and comes in different forms. In Numbers 11:1-3, we see Moses interceding for Israel when the judgement of God came upon them. The anger of God was kindled against the children of Israel for their error of complaining. Moses stood in the gap for the people and God's anger was quenched.

In our Bible reading today, we are commanded expressly to engage in intercession as the first priority of our worship to God for all men, especially for our leaders. The acts of intercession for our leaders, society, and others will always result to a quiet and peaceful living in all godliness and honesty. Believers are enjoined to always pray for leaders rather than indulge in negative criticism only. We should engage in fervent intercession which has the ability to resolve leadership faults and thus create peaceful and godly living. Intercession transforms our society by breaking and displacing the yokes and presence of demonic forces in our territories, thereby allowing the light of God to shine in the hearts of people.

When we engage in the acts of intercession, we yield ourselves as vessels in the hand of our great intercessor- Jesus Christ, who is presently at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. It is unfortunate that believers rather engage in gossips and character assassination about fellow brethren undergoing a siege of sin or trial of

faith, instead of interceding for them to be delivered from failing and to continue in the faith. The church interceded for Peter and he was rescued. The church will always triumph if we give ourselves to intercession and earnest prayers. As followers of Christ, we must emulate Him and commit to a lifestyle of interceding for all men and nations.

Lesson Question

1. What is Biblical intercession? (Ezek. 22:30; 13:4-5; Ps. 106:23)
Hint: To stand in the gap or pray for others or nations.
2. Mention some men and women in the Bible who interceded for others and nations, and what lessons can be learnt from their experiences. (Gen. 18:22-33; Num. 11:1-3; Esth. 4:8-17; Dan. 9:1-4, 17-20) Hint: Abraham, Moses, Esther, Modecai, Daniel. Their prayers of intercession changed the cause of events.
3. Study Hebrews 7:24-28, and discuss Jesus Christ as our High Priest and Intercessor? Hint: His eternal sacrifice and priesthood is the assurance of His intercession for us.
4. What are some of the benefits of engaging in the ministry of intercession? (1Tim. 2:1-4; Acts 12:1-10; Gen. 18:27-29; Num. 11:1-3; Dan. 9:20-24) Hint: societal transformation, salvation of souls, deliverance of loved ones, people and nations, and revelation of divine secrets.
5. Examine Matthew 16:15-19, and discuss the authority of the church and the ministry of intercession? Hint: The authority of the Church empowers intercessory ministry; The church is emboldened for intercession.

LESSON 18 **06 May, 2023**

DEMONSTRATING THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Memory Verse: Acts 4:33

Introduction

The Christian life requires consistent, informed prayer life. This is because prayer is an essential element which can and will reveal to us the will of God concerning individual, the church and community at any given time. If prayer reveal the will of God, gives direction and in the process making known the power of God then it becomes a key element which believer ought to seek and dwell by.

Consequently, it is important that when we pray or commune with God, it is important that we put on attitude that bring us to the clear view of what God wants us or His church to do over any given issue. We should avoid a situation where our prayer life would appear empty or bedevilled by ideal talk or self-fulfilling righteousness. The act of prayer is a spiritual engagement which ideally should cause a change of the divine in the lives of individual, family, the church or even the community. Thus, answered prayer usually reproduce evidence of God's intervention.

It is important to state that a consistent praying habit surely do see a demonstration of the power of God in all facets of our lives. However, it is important to state that when prayer is offered over people's situations, we will need to stay consistent with the principle of Godliness demonstrated in the righteous of Jesus Christ to us as believers. Prayer is not a one-off donation where we will recline or revert to worldliness and still expect the same spiritual result. Lastly for this lesson, the act of prayer was raised as a tool to demonstrate power and the glory of God which assisted in the stability and growth of the early church. Therefore, it is the desire of this lesson to compel us to

the ministry of prayer so that there can be a difference between the church and other social gathering. May our prayer life individually and as a church begin to yield the result that was harvested by the early church so that the kingdom expansion may be realized in our time.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the manifestations of a true prayer? (Lk. 9:29; Acts 6:15; Eph. 4:13-14) Hint: Transformation; Reveals the presence of God; Increase spiritual status.
2. What are some of the attitudes believers should put on in the act of prayer? (Matt. 6:5-7; Lk. 9:28-31,40-41) Hint: Honesty, Fervency, Strong personal devotion, Demonstration of faith.
3. What are some of the evidences that shows the manifestations of the glory of God in the life of the early Christians? (Acts 5:3-5; 3:6-9; 10:1-4,44-45; 9:32-35) Hint: Divine revelation; Exercise of divine power; Divine healing; Answered prayer; Salvation.
4. Considering the evidences we have examine in the scripture in this lesson, discuss how your prayer life can glorify God and expand the kingdom of God using the SDCG as a platform.

LESSON 19 **13 May, 2023**

EXPOSING DEMONIC OPERATIONS

Scripture Reading:

Luke 13:10-17

Memory Verse:

John 10:10

Introduction

In Ephesians 6:12, the Bible reveals that we are engaged in spiritual warfare against principalities, power, the rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. The realities of demonic operations in the earth are clearly seen on the day-to-day activities in the society we live in. Social and moral disorder in the society are indicators of the influences of unholy forces revealing their nature in the affairs of mankind. The conflict between light and darkness has greatly influenced the destinies of generations, mankind been the centre of attraction. Demonic operations thrive on their ability to veil mankind from their intents to steal, kill, destroy, and to rule over the affairs of the world. Knowing how demons operate and our position of authority in Christ Jesus enables the exercise of the dominion mandate.

Demonic operations are of different categories in human beings and on the earth. The very goal of these operations is to exert dominion over mankind. There is a demonic operation called deception. Deception is demons' strategy of turning away mankind from the truth of God's word. Another operation is called oppression, which is manifested when demons put spiritually inspired weights on people. Depression is another operation that demons use to manipulate man's perspective of things. They continually manipulate people's mind until they see no value in themselves and to see situations bigger and worse than they actually are. Suppression is a form of demonic operation that allow them keep people under their torment from rising and to keep them backward in life. They suppress people from making progress in life through various forms of torments.

The worst of all demonic operations is possession. Demonic possession occurs when the enemy has taken over the life and affairs of people and is now dwelling inside the victim. Possession allows demons to fully express their characters and dominion through the vessels of men. The mad man of Gadara was possessed with thousands of demons and was seriously tormented. The goal of demons when they possess people is to use them to carry out the agenda of the devil on earth and then to ultimately destroy them. These demonic operations come in different forms of torments and manifestations. Demonic torments and manifestations like sinful lifestyle, sickness, diseases, poverty, confusion, fear, war, etc., are various forms by which these operations can be carried out.

Lesson Questions

1. What are the functions of the word of God in exposing and overcoming demonic operations in our life and society? (Ps. 119:105; 107:20; Prov. 6:23; Matt. 8:16) Hint: The word of God reveals the activities of light and darkness; the power of the word delivers from the power of darkness.
2. How does obedience to the commands of God empower believers to live above the influences of demonic operations? (2Cor. 10:6; 1Jn. 5:18; 3:22; Jn. 15:7; 14:21) Hint: Obedience to God keeps His presence in us and with us; His Jealousy over Us; His Authority with us.
3. What is the place of the anointing in dealing with demonic operations in our lives and over territories? (Lk. 4:14, 18; Isa. 10:27; Acts 10:38; Lk. 10:17-19) Hint: The anointing is the unlimited power that reveal the authority of Light over darkness.
4. Examine Acts 16:16-18 and discuss the importance of proper discernment in dealing with demonic operations? Hint: Discernment through the help of the Holy Spirit enables us to see beyond the veils and deceptions of demons and their operations.
5. Share your experience with any of these demonic operations and how you overcame.

LESSON 20 **20 May, 2023**

THE POWER OF REVIVAL

Scripture Reading:

Ruth 1:1-7

Memory Verse:

Habakkuk 3:2

Introduction

When revival is absent in the church people would have no choice than to look elsewhere for the presence and power of God. The danger is that the world's alternatives can never satisfy their hunger. Naomi learnt a bitter experience in moving from Bethlehem to Moab (the world). However, the news of God's visitation to Bethlehem (the Church) moved Naomi with her two daughter in-laws to return to Judah (Ruth 1: 7-10). When God visits His church with His presence and power, the news will naturally leapfrog from one place to another and the unsaved will willingly return to the church (Isa. 2:2-3). When that happens, the church wouldn't have to worry about advertising on TVs or promoting her programs in the usual ways of the world

Revival as we have it now, is simply the recycling of saved people through the church. But true revival is actually one which will bring the unsaved back to God and subsequently have our communities transformed. Undoubtedly, God's miracle working power in our lives has the power to transform our communities but we are so contented with the little as opposed to having full access to God's manifest presence. God in this end time has prepared a great table of His manifest presence and He is calling on the Church to a higher spiritual responsibility (Rev 4:1) because millions of people in the world are perishing. They are sick and fed up with man-made programs, and are starving for God's presence.

Certain things will happen when the manifest presence of God is restored to the church. The first is that the backsliders will return back

to the Church. Secondly, the unsaved will experience salvation and transformation. When the church is working in its fullness of authority, the dominion of God is established over the kingdoms of the world. The first step to a revival is to recognize that the church is in a state of decline. One trick the enemy is using against the church today is the pursuit of worldly prosperity. God wants the church to seek Him and His will rather than worldly prosperity.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the things that characterized the early church?(Acts 2:41-47; 3:2-9; 5:12-16; 11:19-21; 19:11-12) Hint: Special miracles; Massive soul winning; Church growth; Mighty signs and wonders, etc.
2. What were the states of the Laodicean Church and the religious leaders of Jesus' time that are prevalent in today's Church? (Rev 3:14-18; Matt. 23:13-16) Hint: Lukewarmness; Content and full; Traditions and doctrines of men.
3. What should be the condition or state of the church that is ready to bring down the power of revival? (Matt. 5:6; 11:29; Ps. 42:1-3; Isa. 44:3-4) Hint: Deep hunger and taste for the outpouring of His Spirit upon the church; Deep longing for His manifest presence; Bearing the burden of Christ.
4. What lessons can we learn from the following Bible passages that should reflect in the character of a church at the threshold of revival? (Matt. 15:21-28; Col. 4:2; Lk. 18:1-8) Hint: Persistence in prayer and God's work.
5. When God revives the present-day church, what are some of the things that will take place? (1Cor. 12:4-11; Micah 4:1-2; Num. 14:21) Hint: Manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; Divine authority; Greater and genuine passion for God.
6. In light of the above, what suggestions can you make that will help in reviving our church? Discuss

LESSON 21 **27 May, 2023**

THE POWER OF PRAISE

Scripture Reading: 2 Chron. 20:15-23

Memory Verse: Joshua 6:20

Introduction

Praise is making much of what God has done. Praise prepares our hearts and attitudes for approaching the very Presence of God. Praise is an act of faith. It is the pathway to worship. It is conventional to praise God with our mouths open (Ps. 66:8). Praise is an action of your will (while worship is an action of your heart). The dictionary talks about praise as commending, applauding, express approval or recognition or admiration for, to extol in words or in song, to magnify or glorify. In its most basic form, Praise is making much of God. Praise is not dependent upon our feelings but upon the greatness of God. Accordingly, the trees, mountains, rivers, sun, moon, and stars all praise the Lord (Ps. 148:3-12).

Praise begins with a mind set upon God but those thoughts must be put into some action to qualify as praise. True praise is the opposite of emotionalism (when we only want to praise when we feel like it). We should praise God because we are commanded to (Ps. 150:1). Thus, it is inappropriate for us to barge into God's holy presence without praise on our lips. He is the King of Kings, the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is willing to meet us anytime, anyplace, but if the angels cannot approach His throne without praises, how can we? God has commanded us to praise, not just because of what it does for Him but because of the changes it brings in us. Praise places us in proper relationship with God and is a necessary step for us in the process of self-abasement (humbling ourselves before Him).

When we stop fighting our battles in our own strength, and we begin to praise God, we allow God to release His power into our world on our behalf. Praise is literally an instrument of warfare (2 Chron. 20:15-19).

By praising God, the Levites were asserting their belief that God was going to do what He said He would. Paul and Silas praised God in prison and God shook the foundations of the prison. When you are in the shackles of something in life, feeling down, feeling low, do not allow your emotions to control you. Don't allow your feelings to impede your worship. Begin to praise God. Praise God because of His great promises. Praise God because of what he said He would do for you. Praise God because He is big enough. Praise God because He can heal, set free, raise up, fix up, set up, and restore. God is above all and has marvellous promises that if our eyes are upon, we cannot stop praising Him.

Lesson Questions

1. Why do we need to praise God? (Ps. 100:1-4; 18:3; 150:6; Isa. 43:21; 1Pet. 2:9; Deut. 10:21) Hint: God commanded it; God is worthy to be praised; We are created to praise God; God has done great and awesome things for us to be declared.
2. What does God do with the praises of His people? (Ps. 22:3; Isa. 42:8) Hint: Inhabits the praise of His people. Receives the praises and does not share with any other.
3. Is it possible to give God too much praise? (Ps. 106:2; 145:3; 1Chron. 16:25) Hint: No. His greatness is unsearchable. No one can declare all His praise.
4. List some examples of Bible characters who praised God? (Exo. 15:1&20-21; Ezra 3:10; 2Chron. 29:30; 20:18-22; Josh. 6:16) Hint: Moses, Miriam, David, Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, Joshua, the Israelites.
5. What are some of the benefits of praising God? (Ps. 89:15-17; Josh. 6:20; 2Chron. 20:22; Acts 16:25-26) Hint: Blessings, Favour, Upliftment, Victory (Defeat the enemy), Deliverance.
6. Share some of your experiences of victory from praising God.
Discuss

LESSON 22 **03 June, 2023**

PRAYER: A VERITABLE TOOL OF WORSHIP

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 6:5-13

Memory Verse:

Colossians 4:2

Introduction

Prayer is simply communicating with God. This can be through spoken words, written words, tongues, meditations, or songs.

God desires us to talk with Him, and prayer is one way of doing so. Prayer is not for us to selfishly ask God for things, but to honour and glorify God by spending time with Him. Prayer is a command of God and is to be practiced both in public and in private. Such a command brings those that have the spirit of prayer into great intimacy with God. Prayer will ensure great things from God, both for the person that prayed and for those who are prayed for.

Many people think of prayer as being a one-way communication. Yet prayer can and should be both ways, with us also listening to what God has to say. God can speak to us through the Bible, other people, circumstances, and especially through the Holy Spirit. God can place specific words and thoughts in our minds and at times speaks to us in an audible voice. Prayer is talking with, listening to and enjoying the presence of God. Through prayer we actually experience a relationship with God. The quality of our prayer life determines the quality of our relationship with God. Prayer can take many forms such as worship, confession, thanksgiving, praising, asking for things, waiting silently and listening.

We pray because we love God. We spend time with God in prayer and communion because we love Him. We pray because we depend on God as our source. Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength, and all other resources that we need in life both physically and spiritually. We need to pray because God commands us to pray

(Col. 4:2). Jesus prayed constantly and was always in perfect communion with the Father. He always knew what the Father wanted, what the Father was saying, and what the Father was doing. The manifest presence of God which can release miracles, signs, and wonders and which can transform our communities with the power of God cannot be a reality without praying and spending time with the Lord.

Lesson Questions

1. What does the Bible say about prayer? (1Thes. 5:17-18; Eph. 6:18; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Jam. 5:16; Phil. 4:6) Hint: It should be done continually and for all God's people. It is a powerful and effective tool that can change situations. It should be used in every situation.
2. What are some of the warnings in the Bible about praying? (Matt. 6:5-7; Jam. 1:6-7) Hint: Avoid showoff, vain repetition and doubt.
3. What are some of the benefits of prayer? (Phil. 4:6-7; Eph. 3:14-16; Jam. 1:5; 2 Cor. 10:3-5) Hint: Peace to replace anxiety; Spiritual strength from God through His Spirit; Wisdom for the bumpy journey of life; Power to pull down strongholds of Satan that hinder the work of God.
4. What are some of the principles of effective prayer? (Matt. 21:22; Lk. 22:42; Jam. 4:3; Lk. 18:9-14; Ps. 66:18; Matt. 7:7-8) Hint: Prayer is to be offered in faith; Prayer must be in harmony with God's Will; Prayer must be offered in the Spirit of humility; Prayer is to be offered from a clear conscience; Prayer must be steadfast and persistent.
5. What are some of the Biblical evidences that God hears and answers prayer? (1 Sam. 1:9-20; 7:5-12; 1 Kings 18:36-46; 2 Kings 20:1-7; Dan. 2:16-23; Acts 12:1-11) Hint: Hannah's prayer for a son; Samuel's prayer for Israel deliverance; Elijah's prayer for God's cause; Hezekiah's prayer for healing; Daniel's prayer for God's revelation; Church prayer for Peter's freedom.
6. In view of the above, mention some of the times God has answered your prayer. Discuss

LESSON 23 10 June, 2023

SEEKING GOD'S DIRECTION

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 42:1-16

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 33:3

Introduction

The act of seeking God's direction is practically an act of giving Him the opportunity to reveal Himself to us. God's directives are His commands, instructions, opinions and spiritually necessary for the accomplishment of His work. A good number of the scriptures reveal to us that God is willing to direct us through His knowledge, might and powers when we call on Him (Deut. 4:29).

The scripture reveals the encounters of God's servants with His presence, some were inspired by seeking and following His commands. Some were also inspired through His Voice. For instance, in the book of Jeremiah, the voice of the Lord came to him saying "Thus says the Lord who made you, the Lord who formed you to establish you (the Lord is His name): "call me and I will answer you, and show you great and might things which you do not know" (Jer. 33:2-3).

Our call and ordination to serve God requires that we seek out His will in our decisions (Jer. 10:23). In 1 Samuel 30:6-8, David exemplified the principle of total dependency on God for his daily victory. He exalted the directions of God against his personal experience and interest. In order to live in daily victory, we must seek direction from God in all our affairs to show our submission to Him.

Lesson Questions

1. According to the scripture, how do we seek God's direction? (Deut. 4:29; 1Sam. 1:12-17; Ezra 8:21-23; Col. 4:2) Hint: With all our heart and soul; Pouring our hearts to Him; With fasting; Continuous prayer and thanksgiving.

2. What would happen if we fail to seek God's directions? (1sam. 13:13-14; Isa. 5:13; Zeph. 1:3-6) Hint: Rejection; Captivity; Destruction
3. What are some of the benefits of seeking God's directions? (Isa. 38:4-6; 2Chron. 26:1-5; Ps. 63:1-2) Hint: Divine protection, long life and prosperity; God's power and glory.
4. Examine Esther 5:1-8, and discuss the power of seeking God in prayer and fasting. Hint: Bring favour; changes all evil council and degrees.
5. Share your experience of how seeking God's direction delivered you in troubling times.

LESSON 24 **17 June, 2023**

FASTING: A PATHWAY TO WALKING IN POWER

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 58:6-14

Memory Verse:

Luke 4:14

Introduction:

Throughout the Scriptures there is a strong emphasis on fasting. Jesus Himself emphasize the need to fast (Matt. 17:21). There are many examples of the power of fasting in the lives of believers in the early church up to the present. But many believers do not understand how fasting help us to relate to God and what it can accomplish in their lives, thereby largely disregarding the practice of fasting. This is a contributing reason why there is a lack of power in the lives of most believers and the church as a whole thus witnessing sparing miracles, signs, healings, deliverances, and other manifestations of the supernatural that transforms lives.

Why has fasting essentially been abandoned by God's people? There are lots of reasons. One of which is our overscheduled lives; we pack so much into each day that we often neglect important priorities. Another factor is simply a lack of understanding and motivation. A most significant reason is the pervasiveness of the hyper-grace teaching within the church. This perspective teaches that since Christ has redeemed us from the power of Satan, his sinful nature, and satanic influences, we may therefore overlook the need to fast which ordinarily contribute to our spiritual growth and safeguarding in compliance with Jesus' injunction. As true believers we have a responsibility of offering spiritual sacrifices even through the medium of prayer and fasting in order to making the purposes of God in our lives more visible through the demonstration of the power that comes by fasting.

Fasting is one of the keys to entering and walking in the presence and power of God. It is a vital part of the process of maintaining an ongoing

relationship with our heavenly Father because it enables us to deepen our communion with Him, resulting in greater intimacy and power. Fasting is essentially denying ourselves of the necessary pleasures of life especially food, water and conjugal delight in order to strengthen our relationship with God the Father and to change the events of life that are contrary to our peace. During a fast, we purposefully designate periods of time when we set ourselves apart for the sole purpose of seeking God's presence, His view and power. This results in the transformation of lives, changing of the physical environment through the activation of spiritual power of God thus walking in glory from its outcome.

Lesson Questions

1. What is Biblical Fasting? (Esth. 4:16; Dan. 10:2-3; Matt. 4:1-2; Exo. 34:28; 1Cor. 7:5) Hint: Biblical fasting is total or partial abstinence from food and personal pleasure for purpose of seeking God's presence and power for specific period of time.
2. Are there Biblical examples of fasting that led to personal encounter and societal transformation, and what lessons can we learn from them? (2Chron. 20:1-4, 20-30; Joel 2:15-18, 23-29; Dan. 9:2-3, 20-22) Hint: Jehoshaphat, Israelites, Daniel. Fasting can lead to deliverance, restoration and prosperity, divine intervention, access to divine secrets.
3. Examine Jesus' statement in Mark 2:18-20 and Luke 24:49, and discuss the commandment and need of fasting in the lives of believers? Hint: Commandment: By Jesus Christ. Need: Divine empowerment, Access to divine secrets.
4. What are some of the attitudes needed for a successful and effective fasting? (Matt. 6:16-18; Isa. 58:6-7; Jam. 4:8-10) Hint: Sincerity of purpose, humility, love and care for others, holiness.
5. Study Isaiah 58:6-12, and discuss some of the benefits of living a lifestyle of fasting? Hint: Healing, prosperity, protection, divine direction, answered prayer, ability to walk in righteousness.
6. Discuss how the lifestyle of fasting as a church can be established individually and corporately?

LESSON 25 **24 June, 2023**

CHRIST'S SACRIFICE: THE KEY TO ETERNAL LIFE

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 9:1-15

Memory Verse:

John 3:16

Introduction

Sin is a problem that has been endemic in the human race for its entire history. It has infected every single human being, and its consequences are far greater than the Covid-19 virus. The problem of sin is universally and eternally deadly – all die from it physically and spiritually, especially if the death cure is not accepted. And there is only one death cure – the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross to pay for our sins.

Jesus Christ is the only solution, the only cure for sin that gives eternal life that we have. Hebrews 9 explains that the Old Covenant, and all the regulations for worship, all the religious activities that were practiced, were symbols of how sin would eventually be cured, disinfected, and how we could be immunized against it. And the whole reason the Old Covenant was given was to prepare us for the New Covenant cure for sin which would be the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. It was God putting into physical form invisible spiritual realities that would explain the problem of sin before a Holy God and would foreshadow and prefigure how the problem would be cured.

The Old Covenant's sacrifices never perfected anyone, it never resulted in the forgiveness of sins or taking away sins, but it only prepared us for Christ's sacrifice. The ultimate sacrifice that has ever and will ever eliminate sin and its consequences. Jesus Christ offered His own blood as the sign of the life He gave for the eternal life we can now live. Therefore, don't abandon Jesus or you'll abandon the only cure for sin you'll ever have.

Lesson Questions

1. What does the Bible say about sacrifice? (Eph. 5:2; Jn. 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1Jn. 4:10; Rev. 1:5) Hint: Love is behind every true sacrifice.
2. What does the Bible say about eternal life? (Rom. 6:23b; 1Jn. 5:11-13; 2:17; Jn. 3:36) Hint: A free gift from God, obtained in Christ. It is attracted by doing the will of God. Obtained by believing in Jesus Christ.
3. Why didn't the Old Testament sacrificial system take away sins? (Heb. 10:1-4; 9:8-10) Hint: Because it's a shadow and not the real thing.
4. Why is Christianity the only way to be right with God? (1Tim. 2:5-6; Jn. 14:6; Eph. 2:18) Hint: Because Christ is the only mediator between God and man. Because Christ is the only way to God.
5. Why did Christ have to sacrifice His life for mankind? (Jn. 1:29; 1Cor. 15:3; Mk. 10:45; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:14; 2:14) Hint: To take away the sins of mankind; To pay the price for man's sins; To redeem and sanctify mankind; To provide mankind with the opportunity to serve God; To destroy man's enemy (the devil).
6. What influence is Christ sacrifice expected to have on believers? (Rom. 12:1; Gal. 2:20; 1Jn. 3:16; 1Pet. 2:24) Hint: Live as living sacrifices to God; Live the life of Christ; To be dead to sin and alive to righteousness.

LESSON 26 01 July, 2023

JESUS' MINISTRY

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 8:1-6

Memory Verse:

Acts 10:38

Introduction

Jesus' life and ministry on earth demonstrated His multifaceted existence as Prophet, Priest and King. Jesus delivered sermons that clearly benefited His listeners. Since then, countless others have also benefited from it. Jesus drew on ordinary experiences and things familiar to people to present deep spiritual contents with simplicity and clarity.

All of Jesus' ministry was spent for the good of people. Even when He drove the animal dealers and "money changers" from the Temple He was doing it for the good of all people, even for the good of those He drove out. They were just interested in money, but He wanted to give them something far better - eternal life and real happiness.

Jesus also ministered to "those troubled with unclean spirits," people who were afflicted by the wicked angels of Satan (Lk. 6:17-19). He represented all the different aspects of good to different people. Christ was a home missionary in the house of Lazarus; a foreign missionary when the Greeks came to Him; a city missionary when He taught in Samaria; a Sabbath school missionary when He opened up the Scriptures and set men to studying the Word of God; a children's missionary when He took them in His arms and blessed them; a missionary to the poor when He opened the eyes of the blind beggar; a missionary to the rich when He opened the spiritual eyes of Zacchaeus. Even on the cross, Christ was a missionary to the robber, and His last command was the missionary commission.

Lesson Questions

1. What were the main elements of Jesus' ministry? (Matt. 4:23-24) Hint: Teaching, Preaching, Healing and Deliverance.

2. To what ministry has Jesus called His disciples into? And for what purpose? (Eph. 4:11-15) Hint: Ministry – Five-fold ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Purpose – Perfecting of the Saints, work of the ministry, and edifying the Church, with the ultimate goal of making every believer to have the fullness of Christ.
3. What are some of the qualities required in ministry? (Mk. 1:16-20; Lk. 5:1-11; 2Tim. 2:15; 4:1-5; 1Tim. 4:12; Acts 20:24&28; Jam. 4:10; Matt. 28:18-20) Hint: Availability, immediate and total obedience, willingness to forsake everything else, willingness to learn, exemplary lifestyle, selflessness, diligence, ready and willing to teach, patience, sober-minded, endurance, humility, willingness to win soul, etc.
4. How were the Apostles chosen and what were their main focus? (Matt. 4: 18-22; Mk. 3:13-19; Rom. 1:1; Acts 6:4) Hint: Jesus called them. Prayer, teaching and preaching of the Word were their main focus.
5. What category of persons did Jesus called into apostleship? (Matt. 4: 18-22; 9:9; Acts 18:1-3; 26:24) Hint: People from all walks of life – fishermen, tax collector, tentmaker, learned men, etc.
6. What was Jesus' message about during His earthly ministry? (Matt. 4:17; Lk. 24:47) Hint: Repentance and The Kingdom of Heaven.
7. How does the message of John the Baptist and the Apostles compare with that of Jesus Christ? (Matt. 3:1-2; Acts 2:38; 20:21) Hint: They all preached the same message.
8. How does the message of our time compare with that of Jesus Christ? Discuss

LESSON 27 08 July, 2023

PATTERNED AFTER JESUS CHRIST

Scripture Reading:

Luke 9:11-17

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 11:1

Introduction

Jesus Christ is our model and He laid the ground work on how we ought to work. In our scripture reading, He demonstrated a pattern of multiplication in the face of scarcity. This means that the God who provides little has capacity to provide in abundance. It is our attitude, approach to the ultimate source of all things that will make the difference for every situation.

This scripture should inspire us for all times. Our scripture reading was not a one-off incidence. At other times Jesus multiplied provision in the face of scarcity. Elijah has sufficient provision in the face of famine. A raven that was not sufficient as a meal became an instrument of the carrier of a meal over a period of time. Even in that same famine period, the Zarephath woman household has sufficient food throughout the famine period by the word of Elijah.

In the Apostolic era, the Apostles and citizens of the early church had no lack of provision and they also had abundance of divine intervention for health and adverse conditions. This lesson calls us to re-evaluate our positions as believers in approaching life issues. The reality of life will always present us with short comings but Jesus had enjoined that so long as we believe Him, we have nothing to worry about (Jn. 14:1). Let us therefore brace-up our lives patterned after Jesus Christ and the early Apostles to make the good news effective until Jesus returns.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of Jesus' examples? (Matt. 3:13-15; 26:36-38; Mk. 2:17; Lk. 4:3-4;) Hint: Submission to the will of the Father; Compassion for the sick and sinners; Resolute to divine will.

2. Mention some of the people whose lifewere patterned after Jesus Christ? (Acts 3:1-8; 20:7-11; 2Tim. 1:5) Hint: Peter and John, Paul, Timothy.
3. What are some of the attributes needed to be patterned after Jesus Christ? (Jn. 6:29; 8:54; Acts 20:35; Matt. 17:21; 5:3-12) Hint: Believe; Honouring God; Compassion for the weak and needy; Depending on the power of God.
4. Considering the prevailing features of the end time, how would believers maximize the life pattern of Jesus Christ for kingdom benefit? Discuss
5. Share some of the marked experiences you have from when you encountered Jesus Christ. Discuss.

LESSON 28 **15 July, 2023**

THE MYSTERY OF THE NEWNESS OF A MAN IN CHRIST

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-12

Memory Verse:

John 3:8

Introduction

The word mystery suggests hiding or secret or wonder surrounding a thing, a person or group of individuals. The Christian life is full of wonders as it is supernatural in nature. The mysteries of the Christian life reveal the wonders that is manifested in the life of individuals when they surrendered under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The first mystery of the Christian life has to do with the newness of life when a person gives his or her life to saving grace of Jesus Christ through faith in His finished work on the cross. The mystery of the divine exchange that occurred when the Son of God became the Son of Man, so that the sons of Men can become the sons of God. Sons of men becoming partakers of the life of God which is the Eternal life received at salvation. The wonders of the new creature reality, and revelation of the redemptive power in Christ that changes a man from sinner to saint.

Another wonderful revelation of the Christian life is the gift of a brand-new existence in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God dwelling in man walking in him and performing His works through him. A Christian by the mystery of the indwelling Spirit finds new abilities which enable him or her to do unusually things prior to his or her change. A Christian is enabled to produce the fruits of love, joy, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:19-25). The supernatural enablement of the Holy Spirit upon the life of a believer to operate in signs, wonders and miracles through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The mystery of a call to divine fellowship and partnership.

The Christian life is shrouded by mystery which reveals the gift of a new garment of the glory and presence of God. The wonders of a Christian wearing the garment of glory and presence of God result in the manifestation of divine health, provisions and peace, and the privilege of Fatherhood and Friendship of God. Man is granted access to become partaker of the affairs and blessings of God's kingdom and show forth the image and the brightness of the glory of God. These mysteries of the Christian life place the demands of holiness and the fruit of soul-winning on believers. These demands on Christians reveal the wonder of the life of total separation from the world and its corruptions, and the glory of the power to redeem mankind from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God.

Lesson Questions

1. How important is the revelation and understanding of the will of God for our salvation? (Matt. 13:14-16; Ps. 82:5-7; 49:20; 2Cor. 4:3-4; Rom. 10:13-14). Hint: it shows the love of God, and imparts the faith for salvation.
2. Study Romans 5:11, 15-19, and discuss the mysteries of the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ? Hint: The Son of God became the Son of man, for sons of men to become the sons of God. Christ took our place in sin for us to take His place in righteousness.
3. What should be the believer's response towards the revelation of the redemptive works of Jesus Christ? (2Cor. 5:15; 6:17; Rom. 6:11, 13, 19; 12:1; 1 Pet. 4:1-2). Hint: Yielding themselves to Christ and for His Kingdom works.
4. Examine Matthew 13:11-12, and discuss the importance of access to the mysteries of the kingdom of God and walking in them? Hint: Access empowers us to walk in the will and authority of God.
5. How important is a healthy relationship with the Holy Spirit to the believer's access and walking in the mysteries of the kingdom of God? (1Cor. 2:9-10, 12; Jn. 16:13; 14:26; 1Jn. 2:27; Eph. 4:30). Hint: The Holy Spirit gives access to the Father, and our seal of victory over the challenges of life.

LESSON 29 **22 July, 2023**

MANIFESTING THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Scripture Reading:

2 Corin. 4:5-11

Memory Verse:

2 Corin. 4:10

Introduction

The word manifest means to make clearly known, evident, publicly visible and plain. We all manifest what we really believe by how we live and act. Believers are called to manifest Jesus Christ i.e., display, make clearly visible, exhibit the life of Christ to the world. When we believe the Gospel and the teaching of Christ, we manifest what we believe (2Cor. 3:2-3). When we turn from deeds of darkness and obey the Word of God, we manifest God and His truth. When we endure, we manifest hope. When we obey God, we manifest light. We can and should pray that we will faithfully manifest what God has called us to become (Col. 4:3-4). And God will give His spirit and empower us to manifest good (1Cor. 12:7).

When something is clear, it is made manifest. When something is clear, then a choice can be made. When the world can clearly see the reality of Jesus Christ, then they will be able to make a choice. Could it be that we, as the church are not clearly manifesting Jesus Christ and thus the world does not see clearly how to follow Jesus? Could it be that we are not impacting our generation because we ourselves manifest darkness and not light? The world is waiting for believers to reveal Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:19).

When Christ is manifested in a life, everything that is not of God will leave. When He is manifested in the life of a sinner, the power of sin is broken, and righteousness takes over. The manifestation of Christ in His saints is described in the Book of Isaiah 60:1. That is the only way what we carry inside of us can become obvious to the people around us (Acts 4:13).

Lesson Questions

1. What was the life of Jesus Christ while on earth? (Mk. 14:36; Acts 10:38; Matt. 4:23-24; 1Pet. 1:16; Eph. 5:1-2; Phil. 2:5-8) Hint: Complete surrender to the will of God. He went about doing good. Mighty wonders and deeds. Righteousness and holiness. Infinite, Incomprehensible and unconditional love. Humility and humble service.
2. What does it mean to manifest Jesus Christ? (2Cor. 3:2-3; 2:14-15) Hint: To personify the Word of God both in words and deeds.
3. Why is it vital for believers to manifest Christ in their lives? (1Jn. 3:8; Rom. 8:19; Matt. 7:21) Hint: So that the works of the devil will be destroyed. To be conspicuous as children of God. To inherit the kingdom of God.
4. What practical steps are needed by a believer to experience the manifestation of Christ? (Jn. 14:21; Lk. 24:49; Matt. 17:21; Josh. 1:8) Hint: Obedience to God's commands. Waiting on God in prayer and fasting. Meditating on the Word of God.
5. What are some of the attributes of those manifesting Christ? (Gal. 5:22-25; Phil. 3:8; 2Pet. 3:18) Hint: The fruits of the Spirit. Willingness to give up everything in order to gain Christ. Hunger for Spiritual growth.
6. What are some of the events that accompany the manifestation of the presence of Jesus Christ? (Isa. 6:5; Ps. 68:1-2; 1Thess. 4:7; Phil. 4:13; Ps. 16:11) Hint: A deep, smiting conviction of sin. Every representation of evil is destroyed. Overwhelmed with the Spirit of Holiness. Much strength and willingness to do the Will of God. An exuberant and exceedingly great joy.
7. In light of the above as well as the situation of things in the world today, are believers (individually and collectively) really manifesting the life of Christ? Discuss

LESSON 30 **29 July, 2023**

THE VICTORY IN JESUS CHRIST

Scripture Reading: 1 Corin. 15:51-58

Memory Verse: 1 Corin. 15:57

Introduction

First Corinthians 15 is the classic New Testament passage that affirms that through Jesus Christ we will have victory over Satan, sin, death and the grave. That is why it is so logical that this chapter would end with an anthem of praise and with a challenge to faithfulness in working for the Lord Jesus. Through Jesus Christ we are assured victory in the game of life in which everything is at stake. Daily we need to give our thanks to God for the joy and assurance of this coming victory. Realizing the full significance of this should bring joy to our hearts. Hearts that are filled with joy will find a way to share and communicate this joy with other people. Our expressions of thanksgiving and joy should make other people want to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Being a follower of Jesus Christ did not make us immune from suffering for His name's sake. Accordingly, Apostle Paul discovered that the grace of God is the strength to allow us to be victorious and it gives us the knowledge to be victorious. This is a victory that we can have no matter what we are faced with. It doesn't matter if we are facing hardships, trials, tribulations or any other kind of suffering, God will give us the strength to get through it. We can have this same assurance that Paul had, if we will just keep our hearts open and let Jesus have complete control of our thoughts, minds, and spirits. Through Christ we have the capability to move from tragedy into triumph.

Through Christ's death, burial and resurrection, He has overcome all the enemies that come against us to tempt us to sin, namely the flesh, the world and the devil. Apostle Paul spoke about what is true of us "in

Christ” and told us all God has provided for us to walk in daily, tactical victory over the power of sin and our spiritual enemies. Thus, everything we need to walk in victory over sin has been provided. Therefore, let us be committed today to living in the victory that was eternally won by Christ.

Lesson Questions

1. What does the Bible say about victory in Christ? (2Cor. 2:14; Deut. 20:4; Rom. 8:37; Phil. 4:13) Hint: It is given by God. It makes believers more than conquerors. It makes believers to be able to do all things.
2. How can a believer be part of the victory in Jesus Christ? (Col. 2:11-15; 1Jn. 5:4-5) Hint: By being born again. By faith in God. By believing in Jesus Christ.
3. How can believers walk in daily victory over the temptations of the flesh? (Rom. 6: 11; 2Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:16) Hint: By forsaking sin and embracing righteousness. By being in Christ. By allowing the Holy Spirit to guide them.
4. How can we face suffering or disappointment in a victorious manner? (1Cor. 10:13; Deut. 20:4; 2Cor. 12:9-10; Eph. 6:10) Hint: By knowing that God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability, and that He has promised to provide the way of escape. By knowing that God is with us to fight our enemies and give us victory. By knowing that the grace of God is sufficient for us and that the power of God is made perfect in our weakness. By being strong in the Lord.
5. Why does it seem that many professing Christians are not experiencing the victory in Christ? (Jam. 1:6-8; Heb. 3:12&19; Gal. 5:19-21) Hint: Because of doubt, unbelief and sin (manifestation of the fruits of the flesh).
6. Why should a true believer be confident of victory over every challenging situation? (1Jn. 4:4; Rom. 8:31-32; Prov. 21:31) Hint: Because he/she has the Almighty God. Victory belongs to God.

LESSON 31 05 August, 2023

GODLY CONDUCT

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3:12-17

Memory Verse:

Colossians 3:10

Introduction

The Bible says in 2Corinthians 5:20 that we are ambassadors, or representatives of Jesus Christ. In the light of this reality, it becomes imperative that the example we set and the impressions we give as Christians be righteous. Paul teaches that we are epistles known and read by all men. Most people have a tendency to believe they are really better than they appear to others. This is no doubt due to a desire to justify themselves. However, the Bible is very clear that we can determine what a person is really like by observing their actions.

There is a trend in the world today where the men become more feminine and the women more masculine until it is often difficult to determine a girl from a boy. This is what may be described as being fashionable or knowing what's up. They follow their desires and emotions wherever they may lead them without any concern as to what is right or wrong. Modesty seems to be a scarce item in today's society and nudity is generally accepted and we are reaping the results in immorality.

The Bible says we are the light of the world as such we should shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Are we, as the children of God, fulfilling our commission as Christ's ambassadors? Do our lives stand out as shining examples of what Christians should be? When people read our lives, do they see the Bible brought to life, or have we become so much like the world that it is hard to recognize us as Christians?

Lesson Questions

1. What kind of life does God expects us to live? (1Pet. 1:15-16; 1Thess. 4:7; 2:3-4) Hint: Holy life; Life focused on pleasing God.
2. Study 1 John 3:6-8 and state why it is important that our conduct correspond with our Christian profession? Hint: Because he that does righteousness is of God, and he that commits sin is of the devil.
3. Why is it so important that we be good examples for the world? (1Pet. 3:15-16; Matt. 5:16; Eph. 4:29) Hint: So that we don't create room for genuine accusations. So that God will be glorified. So that we will be channel of edification and grace.
4. Regarding our conduct, what does the Bible admonish us in 1Cor. 15:33 and 2Cor. 6:14-16? Hint: To be mindful of the company we keep.
5. Considering the Bible passages of 1Tim. 2:8-10 and Phil. 4:5, should modesty apply to women only? Hint: No, it applies to all gender. It is God's expectation of mankind.

LESSON 32 **12 August, 2023**

PRACTICAL LOVE (PART-1)

Scripture Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Memory Verse:

1 John 3:18

Introduction

Practical love means unselfish, loyal and benevolent intention and commitment toward others. Biblical love has God as its source as well as its object and motivator. Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22) and is not a product of the world (1Jn. 2:15-16). The ultimate example of love is Jesus Christ whom the Father gave to die for the world, and the benchmark for the expression of our love to others is as commanded in John 13:34 – “I give you a new commandment that you love one another just as I (Jesus Christ) have loved you, so also you should love one another”.

We are created in the image of God who is love, and because we are born of God, He has provided us with the ability to express His love to the world especially among the brethren. This nature provides us the opportunity to exercise the love of God and it is strengthened by our genuine relationship with Him and our desire to walk in His truth (1Jn. 3:14-19). Let us strive to live out Jesus in our present world beyond the walls of the Church. Jesus cared and had compassion for Peter’s mother-in-law while she was ill, Jesus cared for the multitude whom He preached to and fed them. This should serve as indicators that love should be demonstrated at the home front, among neighbours and wherever we find ourselves.

The true church represents a community of believers who in their individual capacities have genuine concern in the development and spiritual advancement of others not overlooking the care of personal needs. The drive to genuinely please one another for collective growth makes it possible that care and support for one another is visible even to onlookers who are not believers. Such level of dedication can

possibly serve as a point of attraction for unbelievers to join the common wealth of faith. Indeed, practical love is living out the life of Jesus Christ who gave himself that the world may be reconciled to God. So, ought we to live that our lives individually can bring men to the reality of the gospel.

Lesson Questions

1. According to Romans 12:9-10, how should believers love? Hint: Genuinely, sincerely, truthfully, Kindly and Humbly.
2. How important is the act of diligence in exercising practical love? (Rom. 12:11; Heb. 6:10-12; 1Cor. 14:12) Hint: It is commanded by God. Attracts God's rewards. Minister to the needs of others; Edification of the Church of God.
3. What should be the believers' attitude towards demonstrating practical love? (1Pet. 4:9; 1Cor.13:4-6) Hint: Without grumbling, envy, pride, being selfish, provocation, ulterior motive, and mockery. But in kindness, humility, purity, selflessness, and truth.
4. What features can enable believers demonstrate practical love effectively in the midst of trials? (Rom. 12:12; 1Pet. 4:12-13; Tit. 2:13) Hint: Joyfulness, Patience, Prayerfulness, optimistic, and hopefulness.
5. How does practical love help believers relate with unbelievers? (Rom. 12:20-21; Prov. 25:21-22; 1Thes. 5:15) Hint: Not rendering evil for evil. Having a forgiving heart. Ever willing to give.
6. Against the backdrop of this lesson, how have your life demonstrated practical love?

LESSON 33 **19 August, 2023**

PRACTICAL LOVE (PART-2)

Scripture Reading:

1 Corin. 13:1-8

Memory Verse:

1 Corin. 13:8

Introduction

God is love and He demonstrates this in His relationship with us all the time. We are redeemed and become His children by the reason of this same infallible love of God (Jn. 3: 16). What this imply is that since we are begotten by reason and the process of love demonstration, love and love lifestyle should also be our nature reflecting in everything we do.

Our scripture reading and indeed that entire chapter indicate several attributes which can manifest in the course of a Christian fellowship and submit that the proper use of any of those gifts should be premised in love otherwise, it will be failing in achieving the primary goal of endowment.

1 John 4:20 queries our actions individually when we live as contending for divine affection when we can not relate with one another in love. God gave us Jesus Christ as a practical demonstration of His love and Jesus Christ in love, healed, fed thousands, showed compassion in diverse ways and ultimately died on the cross for us. Consequently, in what practical ways does your love show as a believer? Like the Pharisees of Jesus's time, we evolve religious activities and portend that to be Christianity, St. Paul in Romans 10:1-3, intrinsically condemns us. May this lesson help us to realign our thoughts and actions such that we can be like Paul in word and deed who himself walk like Christ. When this happens, the Almighty will be glorified, the body of Christ edified, and more souls will be saved.

Lesson Questions

1. How does the Bible describe one who says he loves God but hates his own brother? (1Jn. 4:20; 3:17-18) Hint: Liar, murderer, loveless, wicked, sinner, unsaved.
2. How did Jesus Christ spotlight the religious lifestyle of the Scribes and Pharisees? (Matt. 23:23-28; Lk. 11:42) Hint: Hypocrisy, judgmental, without love, rigidity.
3. In what ways can we avoid the pitfalls of the Scribes and Pharisees? (Matt. 11:27-30; Jn. 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14) Hint: Depending on Jesus Christ; Being led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Considering 1 John. 3:9-11 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, spotlight some of the features of practical love. Hint: Charity, kindness, humility, selfless, does not promote sin.
5. In view of this lesson outline, in what ways can you demonstrate practical love to help the body of Christ?

LESSON 34 **26 August, 2023**

KINDNESS

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 4:32

Introduction

The word kindness can be described as gentleness, goodness, uprightness, generosity and graciousness. One of the aims of Christianity is to produce true courteousness or politeness in the life of its followers. It does not make one rough or rude as to violate the proper rules of social engagement. The attitude of a Christian should not be a hollow-hearted politeness, but rather should be based on kindness, while his courtesy is to be the result of love, good-will and a desire of the happiness of others. A heart full of kindness will prompt believers to the kind of conduct that will render their engagement with others agreeable and profitable.

Kindness is an unselfish concern for the welfare of others, and a desire to be helpful even at great personal sacrifice. Our commitment to Christ as Christians is reflected on how we express kindness to those around us. If we are not kind, it means we are not walking in love of Jesus Christ. The expression of His love means to give ourselves for others as a perfect example of what Christ did on the cross of Calvary as a proof of His love towards us.

True kindness spur us to do the inconvenient, unpleasant and those things that seems difficult. For it is in these things that our character is proved, whether is kind or not. Micah 6:8 declares that the Lord requires mankind to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly before Him.

Lesson Questions

1. How are we to exercise kindness in the body of Christ? (Eph. 4:32; 1Pet. 3:8-9; Col. 3:12-13) Hint: By forgiving one another. By being pitiful. By being a blessing to others.

2. What does the Bible instruct us concerning kindness? (Lk. 6:27-36) Hint: Showing kindness to all men in good and bad times.
3. Why is Jesus' way of life always appealing to the weary and heavily burdened? (Matt. 11:28-30; 15:32; Mk. 1:39-41) Hint: Because of His compassion towards them. Because He brings hope to the hopeless.
4. How do we show gentleness and meekness in the spirit? (Tit. 3:2; 2Tim. 2:24; Eph. 4:31) Hint: Not speaking evils of others. Not fighting with others. Having a heart free of bitterness and malice.
5. Read Hebrews 13:1-3 considering the high value placed on caring for the poor and being hospitable to strangers. How does it apply to us today? Hint: As members of the body of Christ, we should see the burdens of others as ours.
6. What kind of reward did the Bible promise those who have shown kindness to others? (Matt. 25:34-36; 5:7) Hint: Blessings of God and eternal life. Mercy of God.

LESSON 35 **02 September, 2023**

HUMILITY: A TRUE CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 2:1-8

Memory Verse:

1 Peter 5:6

Introduction

Humility can be described as the personal quality of being free from arrogance and pride and having an accurate estimate of one's worth. It is a glaring fault of human nature that we either esteem ourselves more highly than others or devalue ourselves to the point of worthlessness. We are endlessly comparing ourselves with others, and often are found guilty of falling slave to the fashion trends and fleeting whims of our society.

As a people looking for a city that the foundation and builder is God, we should not indulge in worldly living and in pursuit of earthly success. Walking in true humility requires that we put the kingdom of God as our priority and submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 God revealed our nature of calling in Christ Jesus. Through the display of His wisdom, He qualifies us to be partakers of His nature. The revelation of this understanding requires that we glory in His presence and not in our works (in order words walk in true humility).

What God desires from us is to show true humility rather than outward display of self in ways that accord us human applause. Part of our humble nature will recognize our human failings and the limitations of our abilities. A continuous obedience and yielding to the will of God enhances living a humble life. As believers, it is important that our lives reflect every attribute that Jesus lived while on earth. This can clearly be a message that will draw people to the kingdom of God especially when our humble nature seems to undermined and make nothing of our human accomplishments. May our lives be true avenues by which men may crave to be Christians.

Lesson Questions

1. What kind of attitude and dedication in our service to God are we instructed to imitate? (Phil. 2: 5-8) Hint: Attitude: Selflessness. Dedication: Total humility.
2. How does Matthew 11: 29 and Philippians 2:1-8 reflect true humility as Jesus enjoined? Hint: Contrite and broken spirit, Dead to self.
3. What is the Bible precept for living by kingdom standards? (Matt. 18:1-4; 23:12) Hint: Humility displayed in the life of little children.
4. What are some of the basic elements in walking in true humility? (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 2:20; 5:24) Hint: Mortifying the flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit; Living by the faith of Jesus Christ.
5. What are some of the benefits of walking in true humility? (Lk. 1:52; Jam. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6; Phil. 2:9-10) Hint: Divine promotion and honour.
6. How does crucifying the flesh help us to walk in true humility? (Col. 3:5; 1 Cor. 9:27; Lk. 14:33; Matt. 5:29) Hint: Depriving or forsaking or ignoring the flesh of its desire, Not being self-minded.

LESSON 36 **09 September, 2023**

FASHION

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:3-6

Memory Verse:

1 Peter 3:3

Introduction

Fashion is a popular trend, especially in the mode of dressing, and ornament or manner of behaviour. Fashion is an extension of our identity. It is one way we signal our values to the world. Discussing fashion with the Bible in mind typically means talking about modesty. The Bible explicitly addressed modesty, perhaps most famously in 1 Timothy 2:9, which instruct women to adorn themselves with modesty and self-control. Other scripture passages similarly encourage Christians to focus on inner beauty over outer adornment (1Pet. 3:3-4; Prov. 31:30). Although God wants us to focus on our character rather than on our outward appearance, we also need to remember that we are His representatives (ambassadors) to the world (2Cor. 5:20). When we represent a company, we typically dress modestly and decently. Similarly, God wants His ambassadors to reflect Him by dressing modestly and decently.

The book of Deuteronomy has a prohibition against dressing in clothing of the opposite sex (Deut. 22:5). The New Testament hammered on the need for proper dressing (1Tim. 2:9-10; 1Pet. 3:2-5). In his letters to the church at Corinth, Paul responded to a number of questions the Corinthian Christians had asked him. One of those questions involved proper headwear during worship services (1Cor. 11:4-7). The main question every Believer should ask is, “what am I trying to say or accomplish by what I choose to wear?”. Other related questions every Believer should ask are: Does my clothing illustrate my surrender to the Lord and my commitment to holiness? (Rom. 12:1); Have I focused on my heart, or only on my wardrobe? (1Sam. 16:7); Am I making clothing choices consistent with transformed thinking? (Rom. 12:2); Do I live with contentment regarding clothing purchase? (Matt. 6:28-30); Am I

practicing modesty in what I wear? (1Tim. 2:9); Do I dress with respect? (1Cor. 11:4-5); Are my clothing choices bringing glory to God? (1Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31).

It is import to know that we (Believers) do not own ourselves (1Cor. 6:19). Thus, our choices should reflect Christ's Lordship in our lives and our desire to honour Him. We must distinguish between the world's evaluation of beauty and the true loveliness of inward character. Cultivating godliness should be our priority.

Lesson Questions

1. How important is cloth to man? (Gen. 3:21; 1Tim. 6:8; Matt. 6:31-32) Hint: It is very important because: God make it for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness; It is seen as a basic need for humans.
2. What does the Bible say about dressing? (Deut. 22:5; 1Tim. 2:9; Zeph. 1:8) Hint: Women must not wear men's clothing and men must not wear women's clothing. Dressing should be done modestly. Ungodly strange dressing attracts punishment from God.
3. How should Believers keep their hair? (1Cor. 11:4-5,14-16) Hint: Men not to keep long hair as it pertains to women. Men must uncover their hair whereas women must cover theirs while praying.
4. What is the Bible's position about makeup? (2Kings 9:30; 1Cor. 6:15; Phil. 4:5; Gen. 1:31) Hint: It is usually linked to ungodly, wicked women like Jezebel. We are beautifully and wonderfully made.
5. What is the Bible's position about tattoos? (Lev. 19:28; Deut. 14:1; 1Cor. 6:19-20) Hint: We are warned not to put tattoos (cuttings) on our bodies.
6. Considering 1Cor. 3:16-17 and 6:19-20, why do you consider our physical appearance important as Believer? Hint: Because Believers are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in them, and they do not own themselves.

LESSON 37 **16 September, 2023**

RIGHTEOUSNESS: A VIRTUE THAT DELIVERS

Scripture Reading: Genesis 7:1-16

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 2:9

Introduction

Being in right standing with God is not only great but an ultimate attainment, especially when you are thus certified by the Almighty Himself. Our scripture reading is the account of the redemption of Noah in a perverted and depraved world that stood against God and His value system in every ramification. It is a window of what will happen in course of time and possibly in our lifetime. This was not the only time man was certified in his dealing with the Almighty. The accounts of Job and Enoch are some references and though exceptional as they are, it should be ideal relationship between man and God.

The magnificent demonstration of power by the likes of Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Zerubbabel and Joshua and of course the Apostles were only possible because they were all righteous in their walk with God. The Bible entry of Romans 3:23 about the sin status of a fallen man is a condemnation of man's compromised inclination to the world and its value system. A close survey of that chapter outline exposes us to the provision in Jesus Christ for man to return to the original righteous position God intended for us.

God did not spare the sinful majority during the time of Noah neither will He spare any sinfulness at the close of age. Between then and the advent of Jesus Christ as our saviour, God demonstrated how individual and group commitment to His ideal in righteousness can be a virtue that delivers as some of our examples above did indicate. The crucial question which this lesson seeks to elicit is how will your faith in Christ and uncompromised righteous position help better the lives of fellow

believers. Can your standing with God be a platform of intercession like faithful Abraham interceded for Lot? Can God find you worthy to give you territories a local assembly. Community or region for revival and spiritual sustenance?

Lesson Questions

1. According to the Bible, what is righteousness? (Gal. 3:6; Gen. 5:24; Job 1:1; Heb. 11:8) Hint: Believing in God; Walking with God; The fear of God; Obedience to God.
2. Read Genesis 6:5,11-13 and discuss how the passage contravenes the picture painted in Genesis 1:31. Hint: Perfect creation turned into corruption; Wickedness; Violence and evil imaginations.
3. Considering the entry of Esther 4: 1-11, spot the main issues which are at war with each other. Hint: Staying true to God's instructions against human orders. Steadfastness against human pressure. Relying on God against conspiracy.
4. Using the positions of Mordecai in Esther 4:1-14 and Daniel in Daniel 1:8; 6:1-5, mention and discuss how your faith may help kingdom advancement in a world ruled by mammon and human applause.
5. In your own view, what are the peculiar attributes that marked off Noah from the rest of mankind of his days?

LESSON 38 **23 September, 2023**

OBEDIENCE: A PATHWAY TO WALKING IN THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

Scripture Reading:

Deut. 28:1-13

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 1:19

Introduction

The children of Israel, according to the scripture are the apple of God's own eyes and His beloved by the strength of His covenant with Abraham. The Almighty honoured His promises to their fathers from one generation to another. His favour as a nation was upon them, yet they remained unstable in their relationship with Him. In response, He showed His displeasure over their stiff-necked attitude and sinful disposition by allowing them to be afflicted as often as they erred, and they had gloom for their glory. Throughout their wilderness journey, their unstable commitment to obeying the commandments of God denied them the overflowing blessings of the covenant in their erring moment.

As God's people today, He has made provisions for our good according to His divine power in Christ Jesus. Therefore, to walk in these benefits on daily basis, we must constantly be at the centre of His will and purposes. Abraham's walk of obedience towards God sealed his covenant blessings and opened the doors for generational impact. The Bible enjoins us to look unto Jesus Christ as our perfect example who obeyed God absolutely. And continual obedience to the Father which cumulated in His sacrificial death on the cross should be our anchor of hope.

To walk in the blessings of obedience, we must humbly return to God, and accept His offer of salvation through faith in Christ's death and resurrection. Our life in Christ Jesus should reflect commitment to advance the kingdom of God on earth and a life free from the dominion of the power of sin and sinful influences.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the provisions of the Abrahamic covenant available to believers in Christ Jesus? (Gen. 12:2-3; Exo. 15:26; 23:25-27; Deut. 28:1-2; Gal. 3:29) Hint: Blessings, healing, provision, protection, and promotion.
2. Examine Revelation 5:10 & 12, and discuss the believers' inheritance and position in Christ Jesus? Hint: Kings and Priest in Christ Jesus and Joint-heir with Him.
3. Study Genesis 12:1-3 and 24:1, and examine Abraham's obedience to God as an example of walking in the blessings of obedience? Hint: Abraham's obedience reveals his faith in God. God's faithfulness to His covenants.
4. What are some of the blessings of walking in obedience to the will of God? (Jn. 15:16; 14:21, 23; 2Chron. 17:3-5; 1Jn. 5:18; Rev. 21:7) Hint: Answered prayers, oneness with God, protection, provision, honour, and eternal life.
5. What are some of the dangers of walking in disobedience to the will of God? (Deut. 28:15; Josh. 7:1-5; Gen. 3:17; Rev. 21:8) Hint: Curses, defeat, sorrows, struggles, and eternal death.
6. Why is our obedience important for the manifestation of His blessings in our lives, considering His sovereign ability? Discuss

LESSON 39 **30 September, 2023**

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 25:14-30

Memory Verse:

1 Corin. 4:2

Introduction

Serving God and the interest of His Kingdom demands our best (Gen. 4:4). Serving God is a practical commitment to all forms of activities aimed at promoting and advancing the kingdom of God. This is essence of kingdom stewardship. It entails being fully involved in the things of God and the interest of His kingdom (Matt. 6:33). It is an engagement of our spirit, soul and body to ensuring that God's kingdom rules and dominates on Earth. It also means being excessively excited about the advancement of His Kingdom and investing in it. Our Spirit, soul and body fully excited and involved in kingdom promotion activities. We can look at stewardship to God from three different areas: (1) Spiritual stewardship, (2) physical stewardship and (3) Financial and material stewardship

Spiritual stewardship: This involves engaging in soul-winning, fasting and praying for the expansion of God's Kingdom. It also means serving the interests of the Kingdom by engaging in prayers that promotes kingdom activities. The scriptures revealed to us that Anna was a widow, who served God in prayers and fasting, day and night, for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in her days. Jesus also taught us to pray focusing on advancement of God's Kingdom' (Matt. 6:9-10; Lk. 2:37). Thus, we can serve God through prayers and fasting, by praying for salvation of souls, establishment of new converts in the faith, for church growth, effective outreaches and impactful services, among others. Furthermore, it also includes praying that God should send life-transforming Words during our services and programs and that the word of God should produce results and testimonies among His people (Ps. 2:8; Isa. 66:7-8; 2Cor. 3:18).

Physical stewardship: This involves our personal and active involvement and participation in various activities, services, groups or units in the church of God. It also involves using our skills, gifts, strength and talents to engage in doing one thing or another for the promotion of the Kingdom. When we serve God with our strength and talents, He ensures that our strength is renewed continually (Ps. 84:7; 92:12-14).

Financial and material stewardship: This involves putting in our finances and other material belongings in promoting Kingdom advancement. For instance, building of churches; purchasing of vehicles, chairs, musical equipment, generators, and other materials and meeting the needs of others as God gives you the opportunity (Lk. 5:1-5; 2Chron. 6:1-10)

Lesson Questions

1. What do we consider to be stewardship? (Exo. 23:25; 1Cor. 4:1-2; Jn. 13:12-16) Hint: To serve, responsibility to manage and handle people and things, and attend to people.
2. What are the qualities of a good steward? (1Cor 4:1-2; 1Cor 15:58; Rom. 12:11; Isa. 1:19): Hint Diligence, faithfulness, willingness, 'steadfastness, willingness, and obedience.
3. What are some of the things required in spiritual stewardship? (Matt. 6:9-10; Lk. 2:37).Hint: Soul winning, fasting and praying for souls, programmes and church services.
4. What are some of the areas identified for physical and financial stewardship in the church? (Lk. 5:1-5; 2Chron. 6:1-10; 1Chron. 29:1-8). Hint: Building of churches (the building, chairs, musical instruments, and other accessories), helping the needy, etc.
5. In the light of this lesson, what type of stewardship are you demonstrating in the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth? Discuss

LESSON 40 **07 October, 2023**

BLESSINGS OF ACCEPTABLE SERVICE

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 4:1-7

Memory Verse:

Exodus 23:25

Introduction

Working for God and the interest of His Kingdom is noble and beneficial. It brings good success and peculiar fulfilment in life. This is because its benefits are incomparable and far beyond what the World systems can offer (Exo. 23:25-26). It is unique the blessings of God make rich and add no sorrow (Prov. 10:22). Serving God genuinely can qualify us for His blessings and provide protection from all forms of curses from either the devil or his agents. For instance, Balaam, said: How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied? (Num. 23:8; Num. 23:20). Serving God and the interests of His Kingdom also grant us access to supernatural supplies. It is written, if they obey and serve me, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures (Job 36:11). More often than not everyone serving God wholeheartedly enjoys longevity and fruitfulness. Our true service to God can possibly secure for us posterity, longevity, health and vitality. The Bible revealed that at 120 years Moses was still serving God and the Bible recorded that his eyes were not dim nor does his natural strength decline. Similarly, Anna was an 84-year-old widow who served God in prayer and fasting, day and night (Deut. 34:7; Lk. 2:37).

It is important to see that our service must be selfless to make it acceptable in order to attract the blessings therein. To this end therefore, it is important we know the things that can make our services acceptable before Him. This could include but not limited to: (1) Holiness and Righteousness (Heb. 12:28); (2) Serving Him Joyfully - Whatever we do for God that is not done with a heart of joy cannot attract any reward from Him because God loves a cheerful giver (Joel 1:10-12); (3) Willingness and obedience - Our service to God must be done with a willing mind (1Cor. 9:17, 2Chron. 25:2); (4) Godly

reverence - All of our contributions, services and efforts towards the Kingdom must be with deep respect and reverence to God Almighty (Ps. 111:10); (5) Diligent and commitment - We must be productive in our service to God. We shouldn't just be present in church but rather ensure we belong to a unit in the church and through that platform serve God diligently (Prov. 22:29, Rom. 12:11); (6) Serving God and Him alone - Serving God will only be profitable when we don't add any other thing alongside our service to Him. Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shall thou serve (Lk. 4:8).

Every service pays whether good or bad. But the service that will return enduring blessings from God require that the above listed features, attributes be demonstrated unpretentiously. It is God's desire that the labourer be fully rewarded and has so made provision by His immutable words (Gen. 8:22). It is therefore open to us to live by the choice of making our services acceptable in order to be blessed or it might just be Saint Paul's clanging cymbal (1Cor. 13:1).

Lesson Questions

1. What effects can our service to God have on our spiritual, physical and financial wellbeing? (Exo. 23:25-26; Job 36:11).
Hint: Good health, blessings, prosperity, long life.
2. What are some of the benefits of serving God in prayer and fasting? (Isa. 58:6-11; Jn. 15:16; Ezra 8:21-23). Hint: Breaking of yokes; Supernatural breakthroughs; Answers to prayers; Divine directions.
3. In what ways can we serve God acceptably? (Heb. 12:28; Rom. 12:1-4; Gal. 6:9; Isa. 1:19; 1Cor. 15:58). Hint: In Holiness, righteousness and godliness, willingly and obediently, diligently and steadfastly, etc.
4. What are some of the benefits of kingdom service? (Exo. 23:25-26; Prov. 10:22. Job 36:11; Lk. 10:17). Hint: Blessings and favours; supernatural power and supplies; blessings without sorrows; joy; fruitfulness; divine health; etc.
5. Share your experience of how your commitment to kingdom service has been a blessing to you. Discuss

LESSON 41 **14 October, 2023**

WISDOM: A VITAL CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 3:16-28

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 4:7

Introduction

Wisdom can be defined as application of knowledge in a real-life situation. When wisdom is applied, often time people perceive good judgement and draw succor from a seemingly difficult circumstance. From our scripture reading on this lesson, it is obvious that the application wisdom in the puzzle of who owns what over the contention of these two women means that extraordinary knowledge was required to resolve the dilemma. This sort of knowledge can truly be said to be divine.

In life, people may ought for any vocation either as a doctor, a priest or even any other profession for that matter. It is only the application wisdom, that is divine directed application of knowledge that can make him stand out. Wisdom is required for survival as a believer.

John the Baptist was beheaded by king Herod but that may not have happened if he had applied wisdom in reprimanding Herod of his erroneous attitude (Mk. 6:17-28). For instance, Nathan approached David and confronted him with the evil of his deed applying wisdom (2Sam. 12:1-10). That in itself saved him the wrath of the king and also provided the platform for King David's remorse, forgiveness and restoration.

In life, amongst believers, interpersonal relationships in the family and workplaces, the need to exhibit wisdom as believers is very essential. May this lesson remind us about the need to cultivate and apply wisdom in how we relate with one another while correcting, building other people's faith and even demonstrating the giftings of God in our lives.

Lesson Questions

1. From whom do we draw divine wisdom? (Dan. 2:20-22; Jam. 1:5; Matt. 7:7; 1Kings 3:9-10) Hint: Divine wisdom is from God.
2. Are there other sources of wisdom that contradict divine wisdom?(1Tim. 4:1-2;Jam. 3:14-15) Hint: Demonic spirits and Wisdom of the world.
3. What are some of the benefits of applying wisdom in life endeavours? (Prov. 4:6; Prov. 3:6-7,13, 19) Hint: Preservation, Direction, Deliverance from evil, Joy, Happiness, Being established.
4. How would wisdom help you in your relationships with others and in adverse situations? (Prov. 15:1-4; 1Pet. 5:7-9; Ps. 46:1;34:6; Nah. 1:7) Hint: Relationship with others – Use of Godly utterance. Adverse situations – Depending on God, Relying on God.
5. Discuss Solomon's motivations in his request for wisdom? (1Kings 3:5-15; 2Chron. 1:10) Hint: Ability to discern between good and evil; Ability to judge aright; Doesn't want to rely on himself.
6. Share some of your experiences when you demonstrated divine wisdom in the midst of adverse situations. Discuss

LESSON 42 **21 October, 2023**

COMMITMENT: A TOOL FOR UNCOMMON LOYALTY THAT CAN BE REMEMBERED

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 15:13-21

Memory Verse: Joshua 6:22

Introduction

Our scripture reading spotlight a small but unique account of the demonstration of loyalty. A stranger recognized the oil upon King David that in spite of the raging storm in that critical moment of his life, Ittai the Gittite stayed on with King David. Same can be said of Rehab as in Joshua 2:9-14. A whole lot of us hear and know about the grace of the Almighty but have often resisted and be a stumbling block.

As believers, it is important to cultivate the virtue to remain committed to the mandate of God. Sometimes, it may be required of us to show this commitment against popular evil opinion but sadly we indulge in the fear of what will men say. We live among humans and from time to time our loyalty to a true course must be required. What does your Christian conversations, conviction speak about you in the moments when your loyalty is required.

People have had to renounce their faith in the face of adversity, denounce family and friends in order to have the favour and applause of men. St. Paul in Acts 21:13, Ittai in 2 Samuel 15:21 demonstrated loyalty and commitment that should guide and challenge our Christian walk. May our lives reflect true commitment, loyalty that will help others

Lesson Questions

1. What kind of commitment do we need in order to follow Jesus Christ? (Mk. 8:34-35&38; Gal. 2:20) Hint: Self-denial and total surrender.

2. How emphatic was Jesus' injunction towards being committed to Him? (Lk. 14:27; Matt. 10:38) Hint: Undivided loyalty and self-surrender.
3. Should our commitment to Christ change in certain situation? (Lk. 9:23; 1Cor. 15:31; 2Cor. 4:10) Hint: Daily and at all times.
4. Read Acts 9:11-16 and 21:13 and spotlight the reason for Paul's uncommon loyalty to Christ. Hint: Personal encounter, conviction and relationship with Christ Jesus.
5. Read Colossians 3:17 and Philippians 2:14-16 and consider the things that will help your undivided commitment to the gospel of Christ Jesus. Hint: Exalting Christ principally, not murmuring, and without contention.
6. Read Matt. 9:37-38, enumerate and consider how your commitment will help kingdom expansion. Hint: Understanding and satisfying the need of the Lord of the harvest, being available for kingdom expansion.

LESSON 43 **28 October, 2023**

COMMITMENT: A TOOL FOR ATTAINING DIVINE MANDATE

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Memory Verse:

1 Corin. 15:10

Introduction

God operates by the principle of promises and covenant keeping. His promise expresses His assurance to fulfilment of definite purpose, and it is on His promises that our expectations are built upon. The purposes of God for us are realized through man keeping his part of the covenant. Commitment on our part is the required ingredient to realizing or attaining that which God has purposed for us. Commitment is realized by obedience, perseverance and staying resolved to the commission of God has entrusted in us.

Commitment to a covenant with God produces unique and unusual manifestation. This is because the parts of God in a covenant are irrevocable, and it is usually on course (Gen. 22:12-13). Every act of its manifestation even before attainment of the ideal situation agreed upon reinforces our faith in God Almighty.

Paul enjoined the Philippians Church to demonstrate commitment replicating what Jesus did for the Church. The cross of what Jesus did is all enshrined in the principle of love. God loved first by releasing Jesus and Jesus demonstrated further love by giving up himself in death as love token to redeem mankind. We can only demonstrate our commitment to the mandate of attaining eternity by lovingly obeying God and all His laws. You cannot be committed to a course without love. A classic demonstration is Daniel's commitment to God against the odds of conspiracy and treachery.

If Daniel was committed to true worship and the lion of the tribe of Judah delivered him from the power of the lion that men instigated,

God can truly deliver you from any threat to your faith in Him. Stay committed to ensure effective kingdom partnership so that people may see the demonstration of the power of God through you and God Himself will be glorified.

Lesson Questions

1. How does the understanding of the faithfulness of God empower our commitment to His kingdom? (Heb. 11:6; 6:17-18; 1Thes. 5:24; Num. 23:19) Hint: The faithfulness of God reveals His unchanging Love towards us. It strengthens our conviction in God's ability and integrity.
2. What are some of the prices of commitment to God and His kingdom works? (Lk. 9:23; Jn. 12:24-25; Duet. 6:17; 2Tim. 2:3; 1Cor. 15:10) Hint: Death to self, Diligence, Hard work and Perseverance.
3. Study Daniel 3:16-18 & 28-29, and discuss the commitment of the three Hebrew boys and its lessons for our today's living? Hint: Their commitment reveals their conviction on the saving power of God over them. Our commitment to keeping the covenant guarantees the manifestation of God's saving power over us.
4. The Patriarch Abraham exemplified the power of commitment; what was the source of his conviction? (Rom. 4:17-22; Gal. 3:6) Hint: His ability to see the Life giving and creative power of God. His faith in the integrity of God.
5. What are some of the blessings of the power of commitment to God's kingdom? (Duet. 28:1-2; Dan. 6:20-22; Jn. 15:16; Mk. 16:20) Hint: Overflowing Blessings, Divine protection, prompt answer to prayers, and the presence and power of God.
6. Examine your commitment to God and kingdom works. In what other ways can you improve on your commitment and help others. Discuss

LESSON 44 **04 November, 2023**

BOND IN FELLOWSHIP THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:1-11

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:7

Introduction

The Apostle Paul was filled with joy when he recalled the primary thing that connect him with the brethren in Philippines, their practical show of the love for Jesus Christ. He enjoined them that it should not be ephemeral, something that would fly away with the wind. Part of Paul's consolation is that Jesus Christ has capacity to ensure that they finish well individually.

It is a spur for us today as believers to remain steadfast in our calling because our faith in Jesus Christ has the value to enrich other people. The human vessel whom God used in bringing us into the common wealth of believers and those who will come to the knowledge of our Christian walk should be such that will continually build our faith and keep encouraging others.

As believers, we ought to rise beyond tales, and understanding by which conventional human wisdom is judged (2Cor. 5:16). Beyond our words, let what is seen by onlookers be sufficient message that can draw unbelievers to God while edifying the body of Jesus Christ. May this lesson help us in re-evaluating our lives in ensuring that the fellowship we have is not hollow but truly edifying the body of Christ like it brought St. Paul beautiful fun memories and encouragement to continue.

Lesson Questions

1. What does Paul mean by fellowship through the gospel? (Col. 3:16; Acts 2:41-47; Heb. 10:23-25) Hint: Teaching, admonition, unity, worship, and good works.

2. What do you consider as some of the factors that can hinder fellowship? (1Cor. 1:11; 3:3) Hint: Envy, strife, contention and division.
3. What virtues would you consider that can enhance good fellowship? (Rom. 12:9-21; 1Cor. 1:10) Hint: Love, kindness, transparency, patience, prayerfulness, hospitality, humility, honesty, peace, and forgiveness.
4. What was Paul's primary concern for the early church and ours today? (Phil. 1:3-7; Eph. 1:4-6) Hint: Perfection of the church. Holiness and blamelessness.
5. Read Philippians 1:27-29 and discuss the scripture expectation of the fellowship of believers. Hint: Striving for the faith of the gospel, being bond in one spirit, overcoming the fear of the enemy, and enduring persecution.

LESSON 45 **11 November, 2023**

DEALING WITH THE SPIRIT OF ENVY

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 12:1-16

Memory Verse:

Genesis 13:8

Introduction

Envoy is an act generated in the heart reflecting an evil craving or supposition to be in the place of another without necessary prerequisite qualifications. Envy demonstrates a special height of our humanity which does not reflect the nature of Christ (Phil. 2:3). True Christian disposition is directed at esteeming good virtue in others and desire genuinely to be in like manner.

Our scripture reading depicts a sleight in the spiritual deposit in Moses. A vessel whom the Almighty had chosen at the time to achieve a particular purpose for His children. This is an indication that every of God's gift demonstrated within the body of Christ whether it is to teach, to prophesy, to heal, and many other such glorious manifestations is primarily intended first to glorify the Almighty, bring succour to the body of Christ and be an emblem for kingdom advancement. The act of envy did not end with biblical accounts. We have envy amongst family members, neighbourhoods and most sadly with the body of Christ.

The account which we read in Numbers 12 saw that progression to the promised land was paused at the time when envy and its consequences was been dealt with among the Israelites. We also saw the immediate consequence upon Miriam and Aaron which means that the act of envy delayed the work of God because it is distracting. In addition, every envious situation against the genuine concern and agenda of God usually will have a repercussion. This lesson should rather now direct us in ways and means we should support, encourage every manifestation in the work of the Holy Spirit that may come in the way of teaching, prophesy, leadership to achieve the ultimate goal that God

be glorified. Like Moses for every vessel or individual who has been or may be an object of envy, let the meekness, vision and intercessory position of Moses and much more in the plead of Jesus Christ (Father forgive them for they know not what they do) propel us to redeeming the lost among brethren who either unknowingly or willfully may have been taken over by the spirit of envy.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the elements that suggest envy? (1Cor. 3:3; Num. 12:1-2; Ezek. 35:11; Mk. 15:9-10; Acts 13:45) Hint: Carnality; Fault finding; Evil speaking; Hatred; Betrayal.
2. Drawing from Genesis 13:5-7, highlight some of the features that are responsible for envious contention? Hint: Unhealthy competition, lack of respect, etc.
3. Identify the character traits of Joseph that attracted envy from his brethren (Gen. 37:1-5; Acts 7:9) Hint: Transparency, Dreams and vision, Love for God and Obedience.
4. What are some of the consequences of envy? (Num. 12: 1-16) Hint: Sickness, Paused movement, Leprous social distancing.
5. How did Abraham and Moses deal with the envious attitudes toward them? (Gen. 13:8; Num. 12:11-13) Hint: Abraham advocated for peace. Moses forgave and interceded for Aeron and Miriam.
6. Review the true nature of the unregenerated man and what the gospel of salvation has brought to the body of Christ. (Tit. 3:1-7) Hint: The unregenerated man has the nature of envy but the gospel of salvation brought love to the body of Christ.

LESSON 46 **18 November, 2023**

GOD'S DESIRE

Scripture Reading:

Hosea 6:1-11

Memory Verse:

Hosea 6:6

Introduction

In Hosea 6:6 God spelled it out very clearly to the Israelites, saying “I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. Though God commanded the giving of ten percent of income as well as the first fruit of all products (Prov. 3:9), but desired that His people first seek steadfast love and knowledge of Him. The two things that despite their continued pageantry of ritual sacrifice, the Israelites had failed to do. They had failed to make their religion personal. Failed to understand that all the things that God had laid out for them were not there to punish them, or to make life hard for them, but were there so that they would be able to understand God’s love for them by seeing how seriously God took their worship. It is the same reason that we take Communion so seriously. Because it is communicating God’s love to us. It is retelling the story of Jesus’ death for our sins every time we participate in communion. So, God lays it out - Love of God and not sacrifice, knowledge of God not offerings, according to the ceremonial laws. It really is a simple formula and yet as we will see the Israelites failed.

How easy it is for us to criticize the Israelites and say, God did not want anything complicated, He wanted you to love Him first and you failed. It is easy for us to say that, but if we pause to critically look at ourselves, we will discover that too often we fail to do the simple thing at the centre of our faith (to steadfastly love God, and pursue the knowledge of God). We just go through our own religious activities and think that it is enough. Going through religious activities without actually doing the simple things at the centre of our faith is worthless, in the same way that doing a job that pays well, and not having savings is worthless. If we really believe in God, we have to make sure we do

the first thing – Love God, and pursue the knowledge of God – while pursuing to becoming vessels for signs and wonders.

Lesson Questions

1. How does God want His children to relate with Him? (1Chron. 16:11; Jer. 24:7; Matt. 11:28-30; 1Pet. 5:7; Eph. 5:1) Hint: To seek Him continually; Know Him; Return to Him with whole heart; Rely on Him; Take His yoke and learn from Him; Cast all worries on Him; Imitate Him.
2. What are some of the responsibilities that God gave parents concerning their children? (Eph. 6:4; Lk. 18:15-16; Tit. 2:4,6-7; Deut. 6:6-7) Hint: Bring up children in the discipline and instruction of God; Leading children to God; Train them to love; Teach them to be self-controlled; Be a good example to them; Teaching them the word of God.
3. What are some of the responsibilities that God gave children concerning their parents? (Eph. 6:1-2; Prov. 4:1; 6:20) Hint: Obey their parents in the Lord; Honour their parents; Be attentive to parent's instructions; Keep parent's commandment and teaching.
4. What are the desires of God for His children? (Micah 6:8; Col. 3:5; 1Tim. 2:3-4; Gal. 5:16) Hint: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly. To mortify all desires of the flesh. Come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. Walk in the spirit.
5. What are some of the benefits of abiding by God's desires for His children? (Eph. 6:3; Jn. 17:24; 1Jn. 2:17) Hint: Success and long life; Enjoy the presence and glory of God; Eternal life.
6. What are some of the things human beings give attention to that are not really God's priority for His children? (Hosea 6:6; Ps. 40:6; 1Tim. 6:9-11) Hint: Ungodly Sacrifice, Offering and Prosperity.

LESSON 47 **25 November, 2023**

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 6:10-20

Memory Verse:

1 Thess. 5:24

Introduction

The Almighty God is the only personality whose faithfulness is sure and eternal. In the call of Abraham, He used no other person, entity but Himself in swearing about His faithfulness. Throughout all generations, God's dealing with mankind has shown His faithfulness as a covenant maker and keeping God. His promises to Abraham even in the face of seeming impossibilities were fully fulfilled. In the promise of the birth of Isaac, His word to Abraham was fulfilled in its season. God is faithful to His creation including the fulfilment of times and seasons.

God provided for the salvation of mankind in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve rebelled against Him and lost God's glory upon them. Though the fulfilment of man's redemption tarried, it was actualized by the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at the appointed time. When God began to deal with the children of Israel as a choice nation, He had the redemption of mankind at heart in His covenant with Abraham. The faithfulness of God will always make good of all the promises He has for mankind.

One of the ultimate promises of God which His faithfulness will bring to pass is the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. His promise of coming is sure, imminent and eternal. It is rather unfortunate that many people scoff, believe and misrepresent that Christ is not coming physically again to the detriment of their souls. God's faithful promise in this ultimate expectation is to reward all men according to their works at the fulfilment of Jesus' second coming. As children of God, we should live daily with the strength of God's faithfulness to deliver, provide, uphold us in righteousness, protect and reward us in eternity.

Lesson Questions

1. What is the assurance of the word of God as the anchor of our hope? (Ps. 19:7; 89:34; 119:89; Isa. 55:10-11; 2Sam. 22:31; 2Tim. 3:16-17) Hint: The word of God is sure, unfaillable, perfect, dependable and profitable.
2. Mention some examples of men and women who experienced the faithfulness of God? (Gen. 15:13-14; Exo. 12:36, 51; 14:15-16, 21-22; 1Sam. 2:20-21; Dan. 6:19-23) Hint: Abraham, The Israelites, Moses, Hannah, Daniel.
3. Study Hebrews 6:16-18, and discuss God's faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham? Hint: God's faithfulness was confirmed with a promise and an oath.
4. How sure is Christ Jesus second coming considering the faithfulness of God? (2Pet. 3:8-14; 2Thess. 2:1-4; Rev. 22:6-7; Jn. 14:1-3; Isa. 55:6-11) Hint: Christ second coming is anchored on the eternal power of God's word.
5. What are some of the benefits of trusting on the faithfulness of God? (2Sam. 22:3; 1Chron. 5:20; Ps. 7:1; 28:7; Jer. 17:7) Hint: Protection, Salvation, Provision, Deliverance, Joy and Blessings.
6. Share some of your experiences of the faithfulness of God in adverse circumstances?

LESSON 48 **02 December, 2023**

FAITH AMBASSADORS

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 11:1-40

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 5:7

Introduction

Faith ambassadors are people who made a difference through the demonstration of their faith. Faith ambassadors have been joined to the Lord through a living union. Therefore, faith ambassadors go where the Lord goes, say what the Lord says, and do what the Lord does. Faith ambassadors move in unity and harmony with the Lord.

God's way is the way of faith not by carnal strength. To accomplish anything, we must look to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2). Jesus is the only one who can begin the good work, and He alone can bring it to completion. Apostle Paul boldly declared, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Christ alone was the source of his strength. Which explains why Paul had such an effective life in spite of all his difficulties. In 2 Corinthians 2:1-5, the Bible says "that our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God". More so, in Zechariah 4:6, the Bible declares that "It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord". Are you a living demonstration of the power of God? (1Cor. 2:4) Are you, by faith, allowing Christ to work through you? Remember, faith without works is dead (Jam. 2:17).

Where there is genuine faith in the Lord, there will be the corresponding works of the Lord. Consider your past and confirm if there is evidence of God working through your life. If you are allowing the Lord to work through your life, the difference should be evident. When the Lord is at work, He always makes a difference, a lasting difference for the better. Christ gets the job done and He always does it right. As Jesus said, "If you believe, you will see the glory of God" (Jn. 11:40). The glory of God is, among other things, the manifest presence

and power of God in your life. So, if you believe, then simply trust and obey Him, and you too will see God at work in your very own life.

Lesson Questions

1. What is faith according to the scripture? (Heb. 11:1; Mk. 11:24; Jam. 1:6) Hint: The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Not wavering on the promises of God.
2. What are some of the features of faith ambassadors? (Heb. 11:4,7-8,10,17,19-26) Hint: Sacrificial lifestyle; Total obedience to God; Kingdom focus; Total trust in God; Optimistic; Fear God; Love God more than any thing else.
3. List some examples of faith ambassadors in the scripture. (Heb. 11:4-32) Hint: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel.
4. What are some of the benefits of being a faith ambassador? (Heb. 11:33-35; Mk. 10:52; Matt. 21:22; Job 22:27-30) Hint: Victory; Obtain God's promises; Deliverance; Obtain strength to do exploit; Recover lost things; Participate in resurrection; Healing; Answered prayer.
5. In view of the above, do you see yourself as a faith ambassador? Support your answer with some personal experiences. Discuss

LESSON 49 **09 December, 2023**

ATTRIBUTES OF KINGDOM CITIZENS

Scripture Reading:

Titus 2:1-15

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 3:2

Introduction

The word 'Citizen' has often been used and explained over and over in most of the missions' pamphlets. For emphasis it should be understood literally as individuals under a law, existing in a defined territory, having and sharing certain rights and obligations which prove them the bona-fide entities of such territory. In the same vein, we should understand that we belong to a place, and such a place that has its standard and principle by which we ought to operate through our physical and spiritual efforts towards the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ a reality. It should by extension to manifest the glory of God.

In trying to show forth this God's glory, we need to imbibe the attributes which He has handed over to us as captured in the scripture reading. In 2Corinthians 9:8 and also in 2Corinthians 5:20, we were made to understand that Christ has risen, His words are manifest, the proclamation He made concerning the Father remains for us to demonstrate to the living which will reflect our kingdom citizenship.

The manifestation of the glory of God should be beyond spoken words. There should be evidence or fall out of power from what we speak as believers that should identify us as representing the character of God's kingdom. Our presence in every situation should showcase the glory of God. When people see us like in the time of Jesus while on earth (Mk. 6:56), it should bring comfort, salvation, deliverance and healing as a mark of our attribute as citizens of God's kingdom.

Lesson Questions

1. What does it mean to be a citizen of God's kingdom? (Jn. 15:16; 1Jn. 2:27; Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:12; Lk. 5:16) Hint: To be fruitful; Full of

the anointing of the Holy Ghost; Zealous of good work; Thankfulness; Prayerfulness.

2. What are some of the evidences that we are citizens of God's kingdom? (Lk. 4:18; Mk. 6:7-8&12; Jn. 8:31-32; 13:35) Hint: Anointing; Power over unclean spirits; Obedience to God's word; Love for one another.
3. Are there factors that tend to limit/hinder us as regards the good news? (Mk. 7:13; 10:21&23-24; Lk. 14:26; Matt. 16:23) Hint: Tradition of men; Love and trust for worldly riches; Exalting family opinion over God's directions; Lack of spiritual knowledge.
4. What standard is required to keeping and maintaining the service of the kingdom mandate? (Rom. 15:13-14; Phil. 3:7-8; Eph. 4:13-14; 1Jn. 5:18; Heb. 13:5) Hint: Dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit; Discarding worldly pleasure; Unity of faith; Living above sin; Contentment.
5. Now that we have the knowledge of our calling, and have been anointed and commissioned for kingdom service, what should be our priority? Discuss.

LESSON 50 **16 December, 2023**

DEALING WITH BARRIERS TO FULFILLMENT: THE DAVID EXPERIENCE

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 23:1-14

Memory Verse: Deut. 28:2

Introduction

From the context of the Bible reading, we discover a barrier that stood against David's journey towards the fulfilment of his kingship of Israel and how he dealt with it. Barriers can be described as structures or objects purposely created to impede movement, interfere and ultimately obstruct and terminate progress or attainment. Barriers can also be described as mountains which exist in physical and spiritual dimensions. Some of the objects used in the Bible to represent barriers include gates, walls, slavery, sieges, bondage, destructions and imprisonments. Anyone experiencing any of such barriers has his or her life characterized by hardship, stagnation, fruitless efforts, sickness, failure, and sometimes death. Some of these conditions had seemed insurmountable. Therefore, those who experience one or more of these factors found life difficult at the time.

David in his journey to ascending the throne as king of Israel encountered a lot of barriers. His barriers were both internal and external. His brothers doubted his ability when he presented himself to deal with the challenge of Goliath. Envy was another barrier king Saul raised against him in his victory over Goliath and continually sort his life. While dealing with the internal barriers of his household and kingdom, he also experienced external barriers of wars from the Philistines and betrayers from the kingdoms he fought for. In spite of all the barriers that stood on his path in ascending to the throne of Israel, he had unending victory because of his consistent walk with God.

The Almighty is a mountain moving God and He has also empowered His children to move mountains and break barriers. God's ability to move mountains and break barriers in our lives is not in doubt, but the quality of our walk with Him determines the extent of His manifesting power in dealing with the barriers of our fulfilment in life. The presence and power of God empowers us to deal with any hindrance in life. Maintaining God's presence and power requires that we walk in holiness, humility, diligence, and consistent fellowship with Him.

Lesson Questions

1. What are some of the biblical examples of barriers to fulfilment in life? (Jam. 1:6-8; Isa. 5:13; Prov. 6:10-11; 1Pet. 5:8) Hint: Doubt, Ignorance, Slothfulness, and Satan.
2. How does an unforgiving spirit act as a barrier to our fulfilment in life? (Mk. 11:25-26; Matt. 18:32-35) Hint: It destroys our relationship with God, and opens the door for demonic oppression.
3. Are there examples of people who experienced fulfilment in their walk with God and what lessons can we derive from them for our fulfilment today? (Gen. 17:1-4; 24:1; Dan. 6:3-4, 20-23, 28; 2Tim. 4:6-8) Hint: Abraham, Daniel, Paul. Walking with God grants Divine provision, protection, promotion and eternal glory.
4. Study Isaiah 40:28-31, and discuss the importance of waiting upon God for our fulfilment in life? Hint: It opens the door of divine revelations and the impartation of divine abilities.
5. Share the experience of some of the barriers you encountered in life and how you overcame by Biblical principles.

LESSON 51 **23 December, 2023**

CREATING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE FOR A SUCCESSFUL ENDING

Scripture Reading:

Ruth 4:1-17

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 15:22

Introduction

The bible holds several accounts of how people bounced back to winning ways in life. The story of Ruth and Naomi is an extraordinary tale woven in the reality of interpersonal relationship. You can liken theirs to the account of the virgins which the bible classified as the wise and foolish sets. The set that lost out, though virgins, yet they lacked the extra virtue to survive the unspoken sudden twists of life. Same thing with Orpah who though loved her mother-in-law but lacked resilience, and divine intuition. Ruth had those two virtues in addition to a teachable heart which saw her back on winning track in the holistic agenda of the Almighty.

True, life offers us opportunities to demonstrate the spectacular gifts of Jehovah but we also have mishaps some time in course of the way. This often present us with a sense of rejection, abandonment and seemingly distracted from the plan of God in our lives. These misfortunes come in different shades - sometimes like the act of God, human inflicted, or even our callous indulgences.

When we get on the crossroads of life, coveting some of the essential virtues help us get back, and still manifest the true purposes of God for us. May the winning traits of Ruth and the unflinching intent of the covenant provision in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ lift us back on track.

Lesson Questions

1. Describe Proverbs 15:22 components on the value of good counsel to achieving life purposes. Hint: Strengthened conviction, gives direction, and brings establishment.
2. Read Ruth 1:16 and 2:11-18 and describe the value of the conviction at the outcome of the choice she had made to follow Naomi. Hint: Divine intuition, Overcoming discouragement, and Favour.
3. Considering David's experience in 1 Samuel 30:1-8, what are we expected to do in order to turn a bad situation to a successful one. Hint: Enquiry from God, spiritual sensitivity to divine direction, believing in the power of God to fulfil His words.
4. Considering the value of divine injunction, what attitudes should we put up in the face of seemingly life disappointments? (Jn. 15:5; Phil. 4:13; 2Cor. 12:9) Hint: Abiding in Christ and depending on the strength and grace of Christ Jesus.
5. Recount some of your life seeming disappointments and state how it has helped you in the divine plan of God. Discuss

LESSON 52 **30 December, 2023**

EMPOWERED LIFE

Scripture Reading:

Acts 1:4-8

Memory Verse:

Luke 4:18

Introduction

In life there are times that each of us desires to do the right thing, make the right decision, but we feel powerless to do so. Our determination only takes us so far, our focus only keeps us centred for so long, and then we fail, which causes us to wonder why we continue to do what we do not want to do and do not do that which we want to do. In Romans 8:9-13, Paul addressed a church that has many of the same concerns. Paul focused on the fact that when we belong to Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin and have One within us (The Holy Spirit) to aid in overcoming the sinful desires (Empowered) of life that too often derail us from where we would like or need to be.

In Acts 1:4-8, Jesus Christ ordered His disciples not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for what the Father had promised - the Holy Spirit. Jesus further told them that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to them, and then they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. God had spoken through the prophets about this promise of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-30; Ezek. 36:27). We are in nothing less than the age God had planned to poured out His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person or personal dimension of one eternal God, equal to the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is most notably associated with the manifest presence and power of God. He provides an indwelling and empowerment to do exploit. We need the Holy Spirit to live and fulfil divine mandates. Becoming a Christian is not about bad and good but about death and life. The Spirit makes us alive. The Scripture teaches that we are all sinners and deserve death. Thus, the Call of God not only infuses life with mission, but also with power.

Lesson Questions

1. What is an empowered life? (Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:18) Hint: Holy Spirit filled life.
2. Who is the Holy Spirit and what are some of His functions? (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; 1Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Rom. 8:16&26; Eph. 4:30) Hint: Holy Spirit - The Helper (Comforter) from God the Father; Spirit of truth; God's Spirit that dwells in believers. Functions – Teach and remind believers of all things about God; Guide believers to all truth; Reveal the future; Bear witness of God's children; Help believers in their weakness and intercede for them; Seal believers with the identity of God.
3. List some fruits and gifts of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23; 1Cor. 12:7-11) Hint: Fruits of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance. Gifts of the Spirit – Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, Faith, Gifts of healing, Working of miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of spirits, Divers kinds of tongues, Interpretation of tongues.
4. How do we obtain empowered life and join the flow of the Spirit's power? (Acts 1:4-5; 13:2; 4:31; Eph. 1:13; 4:30a; Lk. 11:13) Hint: Waiting on the Lord; Fasting and praying; Hearing and believing the word of God; Receiving Holy Spirit baptism; Worshipping. We join the flow of the Spirit's power by not grieving the Holy Spirit.
5. What are some of the benefits of living an empowered life? (Rom. 8:9&11; Gal. 5:22-23; 1Cor. 12:7-11) Hint: Become God's child; Receive life; Bear the fruits of the spirit; Possess the gifts of the spirit.
6. Share your experience of when you received the Holy Spirit and give instances when you demonstrated an empowered life. Discuss