



DISCIPLING THE NATIONS

Lessons by Apostle Linda Gobodo



LESSON 1

THE JESUS MODEL OF MINISTRY

The Great Commission:

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying: All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen (Matthew 28:18-20).

Our Lord Jesus Christ came teaching and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people and making disciples (This is the Jesus model of ministry). When Jesus heard that John has been put in prison, He began His earthly ministry. From that time He began to preach saying, *"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Matthew 4:17)

He commissioned His disciples to go into the towns and villages to do what they had seen Him do while He was still with them. Every time He sent them out, He first called them and gave them power and authority for the work of ministry because, at that time, the Holy Spirit had not yet come. *"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:1, 2, see also Matthew 10:1-15; Luke 10:1-12)*

After sending His twelve disciples, Jesus sent out seventy other disciples. The seventy returned with joy stating that even demons were subject to them in Jesus' Name (Luke 10:17-20). Jesus's response to this excitement of victory over demonic powers was to tell them that Satan is a defeated foe. He saw him thrown out of heaven. The fact that He had given them power and authority over all the powers of the enemy should not necessarily be their source of joy but that their names are written in heaven. The sons and daughters of the Kingdom of God should get used to signs and wonders, this should be their daily bread. Therefore they should not go after miracles, instead signs should follow them.

The joy of every believer should be the gift of salvation and the blessing of seeing and entering into the Kingdom of God here on earth. This commission or assignment that the Lord Jesus Christ gave to the disciples and the church (the Body of Christ) after them. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father waiting for the church to go out to preach the Kingdom of God and to make disciples of all the nations.

The disciples, who later became Apostles in the time of the early church preached the same message Jesus Christ preached: the message of the Kingdom of God. When the Lord commissioned the disciples, He gave them a promise that His presence will be with those who will continue the mission of advancing and re-establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Promise:

*"Lo I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **(Matthew 28:20)**. In his account of the Great Commission, Mark says, "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs." Amen. **(Mark 16:20)***

The Lord will work with His disciples (His followers) as they go out to do the work He has divinely commissioned them to do, even in this age. All the promises of God in Him are "Yes" and "Amen", to the glory of God through us **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**. The Lord is looking for those who will respond to the call to be His disciples and the commission to go to the nations to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Today hear the voice of the Lord saying: *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" **(Isaiah 6:8)***

IT IS TIME TO GO CHURCH!

QUESTIONS

LESSON 1

(THE JESUS MODEL OF MINISTRY)

1. What is Jesus's model of Ministry?
2. What is the Great Commission?
3. Who did Jesus send?
4. What was the message Jesus preached?
5. What did the Apostles preach?
6. What is the promise of the Lord to those who will go to disciple nations?

LESSON 2

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

What is a Disciple?

According to Strong's Dictionary #3101: **A disciple is a learner who follows both the teaching and the teacher.**

Who is the Teacher?

Jesus Christ is the teacher.

As mentioned in the previous lesson, Jesus Christ came teaching and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and making disciples. His followers were those who followed Him and followed His teachings, observing to do all that Jesus taught. They were those who chose to live according to Kingdom values and principles. He commissioned His disciples to teach and preach the same message that He was teaching and to make Him followers/disciples. And as such, He commissioned the church to do the same: to teach and to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and to make Him followers in all the nations. In order to equip the saints for the work of ministry and to edify the Body of Christ, He gave gifts to the church, the five ministry gifts (***Ephesians 4:11-16***). Jesus also gave the church a Helper, the Holy Spirit to enable and to empower believers for the work of ministry (***John 14; 15; 16; Acts 2***).

Why Did Jesus Send His Followers To Disciple Nations?

When Jesus came to earth He was given dominion, glory and the Kingdom so that all people, nations and languages should serve Him.

The court of heaven sat and the Kingdom was taken from Satan and was given to the Saints of the Most High so that all dominions should serve and obey Him (Christ). The Kingdom that was given to Christ is an everlasting Kingdom that

cannot be destroyed. Whoever receives the Kingdom of God will possess it forever. Jesus knowing this, came to teach those who will receive His teaching about the Kingdom so that they may know and understand the value of receiving, possessing, and entering the Kingdom of God (***Daniel 7; John 3:3-5***).

Jesus wants all peoples, all nations, all tribes, and all languages to receive the Kingdom of God. He wants His Kingdom to be established in every nation and in every domain, mountain or sphere of society (***Revelation 11:15***). The Lord is looking for those who will go to all the nations of the world to teach and to preach the gospel of the Kingdom and make Him disciples, hence the Great Commission.

When the Kingdom of God is taught and preached among the nations, everyone who hears and receives the message will lay down everything: they will lay down their personal ambitions and agendas for the sake of Christ and the Kingdom. They will lay down their lives and follow Christ (***Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 16:16***). Being a member of a church does not necessarily mean you are a disciple of Christ. The saints of the Most High/believers have to receive, to possess and to enter the Kingdom of God (See note above). Because of this, Jesus said do not worry about the things you need, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The Father who is all knowing already knows all you need, when you get the revelation of the value of the Kingdom and His righteousness, all these things you need shall be added to you. God is not denying you these things, He wants you to get your priorities right: He wants to give you the Kingdom (***Matthew 6:24-34; Luke 13-34***). Jesus knows that what mankind need is the Kingdom, which is why He came.

What Is The Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom is rulership, power, dominion and authority. In this case the Kingdom of God is the rulership of God on earth.

Every Kingdom has a king or ruler, for an example, the United Kingdom has a Queen, the Kingdom of Lesotho, Swaziland or the Zulu Kingdom, all have Kings. The people in those Kingdoms are subjects (they are under the rulership of their Kings, therefore they are subject to the King) of the Kind and they serve their Kings and do what pleases them. A King is also called Lord. Lord is master, owner, and controller, one who have absolute dominion over his subjects, and one who has supreme authority over property, territory or people.

Jesus Christ is the King of the Kingdom of God. He came as King on earth and He departed as King. No one had power to take away His rulership or Kingdom (**Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:11; John 18:33-37**). When Peter was preaching on the day of Pentecost told the people that God made Jesus both Lord and Christ, meaning God made Jesus both King, Ruler and Saviour (**Acts 2:36**).

Christ means the anointed One, The Messiah, The Redeemer, and The Saviour. When a person become born again/saved it means the person has made a decision to receive Jesus as his/her personal Saviour, and Lord (their King, Master and Ruler).

How does a person get born again?

A person gets born again when he/she hears the word of God and the word convicts him of sin. He realizes or acknowledges that he is a sinner and has sinned against God. The conviction then brings about godly sorrow that leads to repentance. After the person realizes that he is a sinner, by the grace of God he understands that he needs a Saviour. He confesses his sins to God and receives forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Jesus (**1 John 1:7**). He confesses with His mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God that He died on the cross for his sins, and by faith receives Him as His personal Saviour and Lord (**Romans 10; Ephesians 2**).

When a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, their eyes that have been blind all along are suddenly opened, they see the Kingdom of God, they see their King, they receive His rulership over their lives and they enter the Kingdom of God (**John 3**). When a person gets born again, Jesus Christ comes to dwell in the believer by His Spirit and together with the Father, they make the person their home or dwelling place in the Spirit (**John 1; 14**).

What Is Repentance?

Repentance is turning from your wicked way, from sin and coming to God. It is changing your life, changing the way you were living, your actions and to start living your life according to the ways of God and according to His word (2 Corinthians 7:1-10; John 16:8)

There are questions everyone who receives this teaching should ask themselves at this stage. Questions for those who are saved/born again:

- Did you get convicted and repented of all your sins when you received Christ?
- Now that you understand the meaning of Lord or the Lordship of Christ, can you rightly say Jesus is Lord in your life? Did you receive His Lordship? Is He truly Lord in your life?
- When you got saved did you enter the Kingdom of God? Are you under the Rulership of Christ?
- Are you a disciple/follower of Christ or just a member of your church?

Questions for those who are not yet born again even though they go to church and those who do not go to church:

- Do you want to be saved?
- Do you want to receive the Kingdom of God?
- Are you willing to acknowledge you're wrong, to admit your guilt and to confess your sins?

That comes to the end of the lesson,

As you study and ponder on the questions, may you answer honestly and get revelation from them.

LESSON 2

(WHAT IS A DISCIPLE)

1. What is a disciple?
2. Who is the teacher?
3. Why should Nations be disciplined?
4. What does being born again means?
5. What is repentance?
6. Are you born again?
7. Have you ever witnessed to someone since you were born again?

LESSON 3

WHY DID JESUS COME?

Prayers:

If you were never convicted of sin when you received Christ, if you responded to an altar call and just followed a minister who led you to prayer, you can still confess your sins, repent and receive forgiveness of sin and cleansing.

If you know Jesus is not Lord in your life and you are not under His rulership but you are under self-rule (you are the one in charge of your life), pray and receive the Lordship of Christ. Receive, possess and enter the Kingdom of God. If you are not born again start by repenting and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour and you will be saved.

Why Did Jesus Come?

- He came to die on the cross in order to redeem mankind from sin and death. He came to seek and to save the lost souls. He also came to save the world from sin and from the oppression of Satan. **(Matthew 1:21; 18:11; Luke 9:56; John 3:17).**

Jesus is the way, the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. **(John 14:14)** He says in John 10:10: *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"*.

- When mankind sinned in the Garden of Eden, they lost fellowship with God and they lost dominion. Jesus Christ therefor came to reconcile man back to God, in order for the fellowship with the Father to be restored. Through the ministry of reconciliation, Jesus reconciles man with man as well. He made them His ambassadors that they may implore man on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God **(2 Corinthians 5:12-21).**
- When God created man He blessed them and He gave them the Kingdom. **(Genesis 1:26-28).** Man lost the Kingdom because of sin. Jesus

knowing that man needs the Kingdom in order to do the will of God on earth, came to restore the Kingdom back to mankind. Jesus knew that man cannot receive the Kingdom without being born again, In His earthly ministry, He focused on the Gospel of the Kingdom. He taught and preached the same message throughout His earthly ministry: the message of the Kingdom of God. Even during the 40 days after Jesus resurrected, the bible says He appeared only to His disciples and He was speaking to them about things pertaining to the Kingdom. The Apostles preached the same message. The Lord was working with them and many miracles were done through their hands according to the promise.

Holy Spirit Empowerment

Before beginning His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ went to John to be baptized. John tried to prevent Him because He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, it had been already revealed to him by the Father. He was not willing to baptize the Lord out of humbleness and the understanding that Jesus was greater than him, he even said of the Lord, “He is mightier than him, he cannot even get into His shoes”. He understood his mandate, that he was the voice and a baptizer with water unto repentance. Jesus was greater than him because He is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit and fire. **(Matthew 3:11)**. The true identity of the Lord was only revealed by the Father who had sent Him. John says of the Lord: *“I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God”.* **(John 1:32-34)**

When Jesus asked His disciples who people say He, the Son of Man is, and who they, His disciples say He is, the disciples did not know who He was even though they were walking with Him daily. This was purely because the Father had not revealed Him to them, except to Peter. When Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”. Jesus told Him there and then that flesh and blood has not revealed this truth to Him but His Father in heaven. **(Matthew 16:13-17)**

When John was refusing to baptize Jesus, He told him to do it so that they may fulfil all righteousness. Jesus had to submit to John to be baptized by him though He was God. He humbled Himself and made Himself low to be baptized by a man.

He did this to teach His followers humility. He validated and confirmed John's ministry as well. And He showed that John's ministry of confession of sin and baptism with water is necessary and that it is commissioned by the Father. John's ministry and calling was to prepare for the coming of the Lord. When Jesus came, John's ministry was finished. He had to step aside to allow the one the Father has sent to save the world to start His ministry. Jesus went to John because He needed the Holy Spirit to anoint and to empower Him for His ministry on earth. Though Jesus was fully man, He was also fully God, He fully understood that He needed to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to fulfil the work He came to do.

The church needs the power of the Holy Spirit in order to follow the Jesus model of ministry. If Jesus Christ being God needed to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for the ministry of the Kingdom, how much more the church?

QUESTIONS

LESSON 3

(WHY DID JESUS COME?)

1. Were you convicted of sin when you got born again?
2. Why did Jesus come on earth?
3. What was the baptism of John?
4. With what does Jesus Christ baptize?
5. Who empowers for ministry?
6. Are you baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues?

LESSON 4

WHAT IS GLORY?

What is the Glory?

After Solomon finished the work of building the temple, the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the temple. When the worshipers began to worship there, the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud of God's glory, such that the priests could no longer continue ministering for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God **(2 Chronicles 5:2-14)**. Solomon prayed and dedicated the temple to God and when he had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and thus the glory of God filled the temple. The priests could not enter the house of the Lord because of the glory which filled the house. Everybody who saw the fire and the glory of God bowed down and worshiped the Lord, saying *"For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."* **(2Chronicles 7:1-4)**

"Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." **(Isaiah 60:1)** According to these scriptures the glory comes down from heaven and fills a house. In the scripture above, Isaiah is saying the glory have risen upon you. When we read further he says the glory will arise upon you and will be seen upon you. In this scripture Isaiah was speaking to Zion, to the nation of Israel. The glory of God can arise over a nation such that other nations see it and are attracted by it and come. Not only that, even Kings of the nation's when they see the glory of God shining over a nation will also come. The sons and daughters who left will return home because of the glory. When they come they come bearing gifts, they do not come empty handed. They will come with the abundance of the sea: this speaks of oil and treasures. They will come with the wealth of nations **(Isaiah 60:2-12)**. We learn from Isaiah 32:15-18 that when the spirit of the Lord is poured out from heaven, righteousness and justice come upon the place. When peace comes the glory comes and the people dwell in peaceful resting places. The glory brings peace and security.

When Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee the bible says this was the first miracle that He did and He manifested His glory. When the

disciples saw the miracle. They saw the glory of the Lord and they believed in Him **(John 2:11)**.

What is this glory, that when it comes and people see it they bow down and worship, they bring gifts and most importantly they believe in the Lord and they leave everything and they follow Him? Before the Lord Jesus raised Lazarus for the dead, He said to Mary “*Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory?*” When He raised Lazarus people saw the glory of God and they believed in Christ such that the Pharisees agreed that together they are amounting to nothing because the world is following Him **(John 11:40-46; 12:18, 19)**.

The Lord in His prayer in John 17 said the glory that He was given, He has given to His disciples that they may be one as He and the Father are one. This glory brings unity as well **(John 17:20-22)**. Before that, in John 16 when the Lord was explaining the work of the Holy Spirit, He said “He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All things my Father has are mine. Therefore I said He will take of Mine and declare it to you” **(John 16:14, 15)**. In Daniel 7:13, 14 we are told that He was given dominion, glory and the Kingdom. It is therefore important to know what was given to Christ so that we may know what the Holy Spirit will declare and give to us for the work of ministry. We will not receive or even expect what we do not know or understand.

According to the Strong's dictionary, glory means weightiness, that which is substantial or heavy, glory, honour, splendid, power, wealth, authority, magnificence, fame, dignity, riches and excellency. Chabad in Hebrew means to be heavy, glorious, notable, or to be renowned (Strong # 3519). In the case of Solomon's temple the glory or splendour was visible. The prophets of old prophesied about a time when the glory of the Lord and the knowledge of the Lord as the waters covers the sea **(Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14)**.

When the glory of God comes people shall know the Lord. The knowledge of the Lord and of His glory shall fill the earth as the waters covers the sea. That time is now, it has come. The Lord wants to be known He wants to manifest His glory and His power through His people, the Church and His Body.

When God created mankind in Genesis 1:26-28, He created them in the image and likeness of the Godhead. He blessed them and gave them dominion over everything He has created. Mankind was given power, authority to rule and to govern, to

administer and to manage all of creation. Man lost their dominion because of sin. Immediately man sinned, He put in place a plan of redemption and restoration of all they lost. He sent Christ to redeem them and to restore the blessing, the dominion and the Kingdom they lost.

Today receive the dominion and the Kingdom you lost. Do not just be satisfied that you are born again, see what you lost and take it back. Enter the Kingdom, come under the rulership of Christ. Desire this redemption and restoration for your loved ones and for your nation. Pray for your nation to be a sheep nation, a nation under God. A nation whose God is the Lord, pray believing and you shall have it. **(Mark 11:22-24; Psalm 33:10-12:144:11-15; Job 22:21-30)** When you return to the Lord you will have peace, when you pray to Him, He will hear you. You will also declare a thing and it will be established for you and light will shine on your ways. Do not stop at receiving all that you lost, declare that it is so and it will be established for you. This is the time of restoration and the Lord has already done it.

QUESTIONS

LESSON 4

(WHAT IS GLORY)

1. Why did Jesus give His glory to the church?
2. How did mankind lose dominion?
3. What did the disciples see when Jesus turned water into wine?
4. What did the people see when Lazarus was raised from the dead?
5. What is the glory of God?
6. What happens when the glory comes upon a place or upon people?

LESSON 5

THE KINGDOM

We read in Daniel 7:13, 14 that Jesus Christ was given dominion, glory and a kingdom. His kingdom is one which shall not pass away. In the previous lesson, we dealt with dominion and glory and now, I would like for us to look at the kingdom.

Daniel 7: 18,21,22,25 – 27 (Please write them out). Verse 18 states the following; “The saints of the Most High shall receive the Kingdom and possess the kingdom forever and ever.” The saints shall receive the everlasting Kingdom that cannot be destroyed. In lesson 2 it was highlighted that the Kingdom of God is the rulership of Christ on the earth. It is the power, dominion and authority of Christ.

When the Lord called me into ministry, He told me that He is calling me to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world. To call His saints to possess the Kingdom. He gave me Daniel 7:18 to confirm the message He was calling me to preach.

First of all, I struggled to understand what this Kingdom I was called to preach was, and this was purely because it was not yet revealed to me. My next question was, “how do you receive, possess and keep the Kingdom? Is it something tangible? What exactly is it?”

I searched the scriptures and I prayed asking the Lord to reveal the Kingdom to me. I kept asking Him the question, ‘How am I going to preach a message that I myself do not understand? I had just been ordained as a pastor when the Lord gave me the instruction to go and preach to His people.

I enquired from the Lord that while I was an ordained pastor, I did not know what this Kingdom was. The Lord responded by saying, “I did not know this Kingdom simply because the message of the Kingdom was not being preached.”

As I was searching the scriptures, I found that the Lord Jesus Christ, as He went about teaching and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, He was using the terms the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven interchangeably. The Holy Spirit

revealed to me that it is the same thing. The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven is the same thing.

I understood as well that, unless the message of the Kingdom of God is preached and taught, the saints of the Most High will not receive nor possess the Kingdom. Hence the Lord told me to go out and preach this message to the whole world.

The Third World Leaders Summit

Soon after receiving the instruction from the Lord to go and preach, I was invited by the late Dr Myles Munroe to the Third World Leaders Summit in the Bahamas.

One of the days during the summit, Dr Myles had a meeting with all the South African delegates.

After discussing whatever the delegates wanted to discuss with him, he told us that the church had missed it. He shared with us that the church was supposed to preach the message that Jesus had preached, which is the message of the Kingdom. He then began to minister to us about the Kingdom. He went further to say that when he got the revelation of the Kingdom he wondered what he had been preaching all this while. He said he considered that whatever he was preaching before was irrelevant as long as it was not the message of the Kingdom. As he was teaching, I was all ears because I was battling with understanding the very message.

It was in 1998 when the Lord gave me this instruction. I was on my way to Israel invited by Dr Myles to the Feast of Pentecost. He used to organized groups to go up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast.

The very first encounter with the teaching of the message of the Kingdom was that same year in November at the Leaders' Summit by Dr Myles in that private meeting with just South Africans. As you know, Dr Myles wrote many books on the Kingdom and was teaching and preaching the message everywhere he went.

I felt so blessed that the Lord organised that meeting and it helped me to get a bit of understanding but not the whole revelation. I felt as if the meeting was arranged for me. We thank the Lord for the contribution of Dr Myles Munroe to the revelation

of the message of the Kingdom. His teachings will continue to disciple the Nations through his books. May his soul forever rest in peace. Amen

It was years later when I understood why the message was released to South Africans (to be continued).

LESSON 6

THE DIVINE PROPHETIC DESTINY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Divine Prophetic Destiny of South Africa

South Africa is a Nation of revival, restitution, reformation and restoration. Revival is going to breakout from South Africa and will spread to every Province in this nation. This fire will then move to the SADC *region and to the rest of Africa and finally to the Nations of the World (see Kim Clement's prophecy in 2008)*. In 2011 we received a prophecy from Ps Amaka Abe from Nigeria stating that South Africans will preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole World, Africa will be saved and will evangelize the world.

When I saw this prophecy I realized for the first time that the Lord was not speaking nor sending me as an individual, He was in fact speaking to me as a South African. The Lord was not sending me alone to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, He was sending all South Africans. I was so humbled by this understanding that the Lord entrusted me with the destiny of the Nation all these years. I then understood why the Lord had given us the message of restoration of Africa through the Vuka Africa Foundation. I had a burden to encourage Nations to know their destinies. I realised that it is not good for the destiny of a Nation to be known by a few but that all citizens of a Nation should know their destiny and align with it in everything they do and pray it through.

It should be the responsibility of all citizens to pray for their Nation to fulfil Her divine prophetic destiny. They should tell it to their children and their children's children in that way passing it on from generation to generation. I understood as well that the Lord used Dr Myles earlier on to announce the destiny of South Africa indirectly and that is why He taught this message to only the South African delegates on that day.

The House of Prayer for All Nations

When the Lord called me to establish Houses of Prayer all over the World, He said, “You have been trained to go to Nations all these years. Now prepare and train your fellow South Africans to go to Nations because I have called you to be missionaries to evangelize the World. To preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and to make disciples of Nations.” We all know that this call is to the whole Church but it is the destiny of South Africa as well. When I understood this, I started encouraging South Africans to get passports and to be ready to go to Nations as it is their divine prophetic destiny to do so. Not only was I doing that, at the same time I was also taking teams from South Africa to missions.

It may sound strange that I say I encouraged fellow South Africans to get passports, but how else would they be able to travel the Nations to preach and to teach? One of the strategies of the Apartheid Regime was to isolate South Africans from the rest of the Continent and that caused the majority of South Africans not to know their Continent and not to expect to travel, hence they don't have passports. This was the plan of the enemy to steal their destiny because he knew that if they would be free to go, they would evangelize the world as it is their calling and destiny to do so.

The purpose of this Discipling the Nations program is to disciple the Nations at the same time to encourage South Africans to embrace their calling and to get up and go to the Nations.

It is the time for Africa to evangelize the World and South Africa will not be left out in this mission. When Africa understands their call to evangelize the world and partner with the Lord and send missionaries to the 3rd world Nations, the Lord will bless Africa as He blessed these Nations when they evangelized Africa before. These Nations need the gospel now more than ever, it is Africa's turn to go to these Nations to evangelize them. South Africa is part of this mandate of Africa. The Lord knowing what they went through as the only Nation in Africa that had Apartheid, has chosen to use them as a springboard for the release of the fire of revival that will spread to the whole Continent and to the Nations of the World.

It is therefore necessary for the Gospel of the Kingdom to be preached and taught so that the Saints of the Most High may receive the Kingdom and possess the Kingdom for ever and ever. We read in Daniel 7:14 that the dominion, the glory and

the Kingdom was given to the Lord so that all peoples, Nations, and languages should serve Him.

In verse 26, 27 the word of the Lord says after the court in heaven sat and took the Kingdom from Satan and gave it to the Saints of the Most High, when the Kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the Kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the Saints. This Kingdom that will be given to the Saints belongs to the Lord. It is an everlasting Kingdom that shall not be destroyed and all dominions shall serve and obey Christ. (To be continued)

LESSON 7

THE KINGDOM

Jesus was born a King of the Kingdom of heaven, He walked on the earth as a king, and He is now seated on the right hand of the Father still a King.

When Jesus was born, His birth was announced to the wise men from the East. The wise men, who were shepherds, saw a star while they were herding their sheep. When they saw this particular star they knew that a King is born. They followed the star because they wanted to pay homage to the new born King of the Jews. The star went as far as Bethlehem where they suddenly couldn't see the star anymore. They went about inquiring for the place where the King of the Jews was born. They had come all the way from the East bearing gifts, to come and worship the King.

Isaiah the Prophet puts it very nicely when He prophesied about the birth of Christ saying, *"For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given. And the government the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His Kingdom....."* (**Isaiah 9:6, 7**).

The Kingdom is about governance, hence Isaiah sees a King carrying the government on His shoulders. His government and peace is everlasting, it has no end. The King of the Kingdom of God rules with good governance, peace and love. The Lord through the lips of His servants, the prophets, declared that on the throne of David there will not lack a King because Jesus Christ was to come through that throne, and establish His Kingdom on earth.

To establish His Kingdom, Jesus preached the message of the Kingdom everywhere He went. He went about the towns and villages inviting everyone to repent and to come out of the Kingdom of Satan to enter the Kingdom of God. He was inviting the Nations to enter the Kingdom that has no end, a kingdom that cannot be destroyed.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the last time before going to the cross, riding on a donkey's colt, God opened the eyes of the people and they saw their King that was spoken about by the Prophet saying, *"Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold your King is*

coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt" (**Zechariah 9:9**). They threw their blankets and put palm branches for their King to ride triumphantly to His divine destiny. They were crying out saying "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!" (**John 12:13**). They suddenly recognized that Jesus was their King and they were praising and worshiping Him.

Again, when Jesus appeared before Pilate, when he asked if He was the King of the Jews, before answering this question, Jesus Christ asked if Pilate's question was based on revelation by the Holy Spirit or he had heard about Him from people. Then He answered saying: "My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews, but now My Kingdom is not from here." (**John 18:36**).

In essence Jesus was saying His Kingdom is not of this world, it is the Kingdom which comes from heaven. He then told Pontius Pilate when he asked Him again if He is the King, He answered in the positive saying that He is a King. He confirmed that He was born a King and that He came to fulfil His purpose as the King of the Kingdom of God on earth (**John 18:37**). Whenever you pray and say, Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords you must understand that you are saying He is the King of the Kingdom of God, He is the King and ruler of the universe, He is above all gods of the earth. (**Revelation 19:16; Daniel 2:47**). You must know your God, even King Nebuchadnezzar understood that Daniel's God was above him and above his gods.

It is not good to serve a God you do not know, pursue the knowledge of your God (**Hosea 6:3**). Jesus was purpose driven, He came on the earth to fulfil a special assignment and to re-establish His kingdom on earth so that Nations may receive and serve Him. Before commissioning His disciples and the Church to go out to disciple Nations, He declared that this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all the Nations as a witness to them before the end comes. Jesus does not want any Nation to come and say they did not hear about the Kingdom because He is a judge of Justice. He cannot bring judgement to Nations who never heard about the Kingdom (**Matthew 24:14**).

Our God is a God of righteousness and justice, He loves judgement and all His judgements are right. He cannot judge unfairly and that is why He has commissioned the Church to go into the whole world to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and to disciple the Nations (**Jeremiah 9:23, 24; Revelations 19:2**).

Jesus was instructing that the Kingdom must be preached here on earth now and not wait for the full consummation of the Kingdom in the age to come, when Jesus will rule together with the Saints during the millennium. John declared and proclaimed that the Kingdoms of the world have become the Kingdoms of the Lord and of His Christ, and that He will reign forever and ever in Revelations 11:15. When the Kingdom of God is preached Nations and Kingdoms come into the Kingdom of God to serve the Lord; everyone who hears and understands the message of the Kingdom will lay down their lives, their personal agendas and selfish ambitions and enter the Kingdom, they leave everything to follow the Lord.

QUESTIONS

LESSON 5, 6 & 7

(THE KINGDOM, THE DIVINE PROPHETIC DESTINY OF SOUTH AFRICA)

1. What is the Kingdom of God
2. How do you receive the Kingdom
3. Who can receive the Kingdom
4. Has the Kingdom come or is it still to come
5. Who is the King of the Kingdom
6. What happens when the Kingdom is taught and preached
7. What is the relationship between the Kingdom and healing
8. Why did the multitude follow Jesus
9. How did the good news spread
10. What is dominion
11. What is the purpose of the power

LESSON 8

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP (PART 1)

There is a price to pay to be a disciple of Christ. The question at hand is this: **Are you prepared to pay the price?**

We ended the last lesson with Luke 16:16: *"The law and the Prophets were until John. Since that time the Kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it."*

In this scripture, Jesus was addressing the Pharisees who were of the opinion that the observance of the law was the way to righteousness. Unfortunately they misinterpreted the law, they did not see that the law and the Prophets were talking about Christ and that He came to fulfil the law (see Matthew 5:17, 18).

John came announcing that the entrance to the Kingdom is repentance and belief in the Messiah. Now when the Kingdom of God is preached, everyone who desires it can press into it. **The term pressing into it calls for surrender of one's life, agendas and selfish ambitions in order to gain the Kingdom of God. When you press, you use strength, power, determination and unwavering commitment to enter God's Kingdom.**

In Matthew 11:12 Jesus refers to those who will take the Kingdom as "the violent". He does not mean those who are physically violent, but is specifically referring to those who will abandon everything in order to gain the Kingdom. *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."* The disciples and the followers of Christ must learn from John and from their teacher, therefore they must be prepared to suffer tribulations in order to enter the Kingdom.

The Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached with much passion and vigour so that people may understand the need for Christ to reign on the earth and desire it. Gaining the Kingdom is the ultimate gain, hence those who hear the message of the Kingdom press into it. Jesus warns against gaining the whole world and losing your life. Unless you are prepared to lose your life for the sake of Christ, you are not worthy of Him.

Families will be divided because of the Kingdom. Jesus is calling those who are prepared to leave their loved ones, and those who are prepared to lose their lives and take up their cross and follow after Him (**Matthew 10:16-42**). The first disciples left everything and followed Christ. They left their families, their wives and their businesses in order to gain the Kingdom of God. They demonstrated the life of a true disciple.

*"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it....." **Matthew 16:24-27**.*

Jesus teaches self-denial here, He says if you want to experience Kingdom life now and eternal life in the time to come, you must be prepared to lose your life. When you lose your life for the sake of Christ and the Kingdom you will find it. Taking up your cross daily to follow Christ means you put the Kingdom first and you lay down your life and your selfish ambitions. It means you die to self-daily, this is the cost of discipleship.

Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler

In Matthew 19:16-30, Jesus was counselling the young ruler about how he may enter the Kingdom in the presence of His disciples. The young ruler was very rich, unfortunately he was not prepared to lose his riches, and therefore he was not prepared to pay the price of discipleship. When the Lord saw this He was moved with compassion, He felt sorry for him and used his response to the call into the Kingdom as a warning to His disciples. He told them that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus was not preaching against riches, He was warning against being attached to riches to such a degree that one would rather lose the Kingdom and eternal life in order to hold on to temporal riches that are passing away.

When Peter heard this he was concerned because they had left all to follow Christ. Jesus assured His disciples saying everyone who have left everything for His sake and for the sake of the Kingdom will receive a hundredfold of all they have left in this life time and they will inherit eternal life in the age to come. (To be continued.....)

LESSON 9

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP (PART 2)

Jesus teaches that anyone who loves his or her life, or who loves his loved ones or riches more than Him is not worthy to be His disciple. In order to gain or to enter the Kingdom ones priorities have got to change.

The Kingdom is about self-denial. In the Kingdom you deny yourself, you lay down your life and your personal interests by choice. The message of the Kingdom must be taught and preached with clarity so that those who hear it may be able to make the appropriate choices required in order to gain the Kingdom.

The Lord is not calling those of the Kingdom to lay down their lives in vain, He Himself laid down His life for us. In this relationship we are being perfected to be like Christ. He led by example, unlike the Pharisees who put heavy burdens on people, Jesus calls us to bring our burdens to Him so that He may give us rest for our souls. He does not expect us to do what He Himself cannot do, He tells us to learn from Him (**Matthew 11:25-30**).

The Kingdom message is about sacrifice and suffering, it is not a message to tickle us and to make us happy.

Jesus made it very clear, if you want to save your soul you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. If you compromise now to please men, if you are ashamed of Christ, He also will be ashamed of you when He comes in His glory with His holy Angels when the trumpet sounds. If you do miracles in the name of the Lord yet you are not prepared to suffer tribulations and you are in disobedience you will not enter the Kingdom of God. On the day of the Lord many will come saying Lord, Lord we did this and that in your name and Jesus will say I never knew you, depart from Me you who practice lawlessness (**Matthew 7:21-29; Luke 6:46-49**).

In Mark's account of Jesus counselling the rich young ruler, Jesus promises that everyone who left everything for His sake and the Kingdom will receive a hundredfold of all they left with persecution and eternal life in the age to come (**Mark 10:23-31**). Persecution is part of the package. Saints there is no escaping it, as disciples of

Christ we must be willing to endure His suffering. Apostle Paul wanted to know Christ by the power of His resurrection and the hope of His suffering. He did not want to know the power only. Though He knew that the Kingdom is in power, he also knew that the power comes with much suffering. In tribulations, in needs, in stripes, in imprisonment, in labours and all manner of suffering Paul held on to Christ and the Kingdom **(2 Corinthians 6:1-10)**.

One of the scriptures that challenge me, was when Apostle Paul was bitten and left for dead outside the city. He rose from the dust and continued on his journey preaching and advancing the Kingdom strengthening the converts saying: *"We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom"* **(Acts 14:19-22)**.

As disciples of Christ we must ask ourselves whether we are prepared to suffer for the sake of Christ and the Gospel of the Kingdom. As you make your decision you must always remember that no suffering will ever be compared to the suffering of Christ for the salvation of your soul.

Jesus went about teaching and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in their Synagogue, at the same time He was discipling the 12 disciples. In the course of discipling them, He kept teaching them about the cost of discipleship. In **Luke 9:57-62**, He taught them about loyalty to the work of advancing the Gospel, that it takes precedence to any other locality. When one disciple was asking for leave to go and bury His father, Jesus said let the dead bury their own dead. Jesus was not being insensitive but He was showing that in order to do this work you have to put your priorities right.

The Kingdom comes first to any other thing even burying your loved ones. He was demonstrating the urgency of the work of preaching the gospel to the lost before the end comes. We don't know when the end will come therefore we don't have the luxury of being busy with many things while people are perishing. Jesus continued to teach that once you enter the Kingdom and you commit to this work, there is no turning back. He told the disciple who wanted to go back and bid His family goodbye: *"No one having put his hand to the plough, and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God"*.

Immediately after this teaching He sent out the seventy disciples to go to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the Cities and to heal the sick **(Luke 10:1-24)**. When they came back rejoicing because they saw the power of God working through them,

Jesus warns them not to be excited by the manifestation of the power but that their names are written in heaven. Afterwards Jesus prayed and thanked the Father for hiding the mysteries of the Kingdom to the wise and the prudent but has chosen to reveal only to those He wills to reveal the Father to. The Lord was revealing the privileges of paying the price of discipleship.

Disciples are called to Unity

The Lord gave the disciples a new commandment. He loved them and He commanded them to love one another. When disciples love one another the world will know that they are disciples of Christ, therefore all who receive the call to become Christ's disciples today must obey this new commandment:

"A new commandment I give to you that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34, 35).

QUESTIONS

LESSON 8 & 9

(THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP)

1. What is the cost of disciple
2. What is the price
3. What does it means to carry your cross
4. Who may enter the Kingdom
5. How do you lose your life
6. How will the world know the disciples of Christ

LESSON 10

KNOW THE LORD (PART 1)

The Lord wants to be known!

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth in six days, on the seventh day, He rested from all His work which He had done **(Genesis 1:1-2:4)**. God spoke into being, everything that He had created. He said, *"Let there be light"* and light became and when He saw the light, He saw that it was good. Throughout the process of creation God was speaking and what He spoke was established for Him. Everything God created exists to this day and they are obeying their ordinances. When God makes a covenant with man, He uses His covenant day and night to confirm the permanence of His covenant **(Genesis 1:3-5; Jeremiah 31:31-40; 33:19-26)**.

On the sixth day, God said "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping things that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28).

God created mankind and gave them dominion, rulership, power and authority to manage all creation and to administer it. The Lord God delegated His dominion and rulership to mankind because He gave them responsibility that He did not give to any of His creation. He made man in His image and in His likeness, He gave man all His abilities, His creative nature, His power and His glory, and His attributes. He breathed the breath of life into man and made him a living being, He gave him everything He needed to perform the work for which he was created to do. He made men a little lower than Angels, He called them gods, the children of the Most High **(Psalm 8:3-6; 82:6)**. He wanted to enjoy His creation through them, but sadly, man missed it when they allowed themselves to be deceived by the devil. They lost all that was given to them, they lost the relationship and fellowship with

God. They lost the dominion and rulership. Man never understood what was given to them, they took it for granted. Had they understood what was given to them, they would not have let it go so easily through deception. As a result of the lack of knowledge and understanding, man did not know what they lost. That they did not only lose fellowship with the Lord they also lost dominion, rulership, power and authority: they lost the Kingdom God gave them.

The Lord gave mankind all He gave them because He wanted to reveal Himself to the world and to manifest His power and His glory through them. The Lord through creation wanted to make Himself known, so that those who reject Him will have no excuse. *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened"* (**Romans 1:20-21**). He wanted to manifest His glory and His power, because He knew that when people see His glory they will believe in Him and follow Him (**John 2:11; 12:19; Matthew 4:25**).

When man sinned, God through His mercies and kindness, immediately devised a plan to save and restore man to His original plan (**Genesis 3:14, 15**). He so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son to redeem them and to reconcile them to Himself and to give them His righteousness. God did not want anybody to perish but to have life, life in abundance and eternal life in the age to come (**John 3:16; 10: 10; 2Corinthians 5:12-21**).

The Lord is Forever Revealing Himself

The Lord has promised to reveal Himself forever. He is not hiding Himself. He wants His people to know who He is. He is looking for people who will obey Him, who will do what He says. He knows that it is not easy to serve whom you do not know. When you know the Lord, you will believe His word, you will serve Him with all your heart, in spirit and in truth. Those who know their God shall be strong and perform exploits, through their exploits He will be made known to the dying and perishing world (**Daniel 11:32**).

Recently He told those in the House of Prayer that He wants us to know Him and to praise Him by His names. He wants us to know that He is I AM that I AM: all that we desire. When we need healing He is Jehovah Rapha, when we need provision He is

Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah El Shaddai, and the All Sufficient God. When we are facing an insurmountable situation or impossibility, He is Elohim, God Eternal, El Elyon, God who is above the situation, the Most High, the Lord of hosts, Jehovah Saboath.

"Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And it's waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name) (Jeremiah 31:35;32:14,15;33:6-14). In the midst of judgement and destruction the Lord gave Jeremiah a word of restoration, saying, "I will gather them out of all the countries where I have driven them, in My anger, in My fury and in great wrath....., Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them." (Jeremiah 32:37-44).

I leave you with this: Do you know the God that you profess to serve? Do you know Him by name? (To be continued.....)

LESSON 11

KNOW THE LORD (PART 2)

The Lord wants to be known, He Is Forever Revealing Himself to His People.

In **Hosea 1:2**, the Lord instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute and used that to reveal His love for His people. When the Lord began to speak to Hosea, He said: *"Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry, By departing from the Lord."* The Lord, through the marriage of Hosea to a harlot was sending a message to the Nation of Israel. The message was clear; *"Though you have departed from Me and prostituted yourselves to the gods of the Nations, I still love you"*.

He also gave Hosea the names for each of their children, and the meaning for each of these names, as each name was a message to the Nation of Israel (**Hosea 1:3-9**). In the same chapter, from verses 10-2:1, the Lord promises to restore Israel, He promises to gather them, to multiply them and to give them mercy. Speaking through the names of Hosea's children, He said that where it was once said that they are not God's people, it will now be said, that they are the sons of the living God. In this promise of restoration, God would show them mercy despite them not having previously obtained mercy because of their evil deeds.

In chapter 2 of Hosea the word of the Lord says the Lord will lead the children of Israel to the wilderness, there He will speak comfort to them, and He will give them hope instead of tears. When they see what the Lord does to them, they will sing to Him like they did when He took them out of the bondage of Egypt. In that day they shall call the Lord "Husband" and no longer "Master". They will no longer serve the Baals and other gods, they will serve the Lord. The Lord will make a covenant with them, He will betroth them. When the Lord betroths them, He will make vows to them like wedding vows: *"I will betroth you to Me forever, Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, in loving kindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord."*

The Lord promises fair treatment, right relationship, love, kindness, compassion, tender loving care, security, faithfulness and that He will forever be revealing Himself. The reason why the Lord promises to reveal Himself continually to His people is because He wants to be known. He knows that when people know their God they will serve Him in spirit and in truth and that they will not serve other gods. Once they have a revelation of who God is, they will return to the Lord and serve Him only. When they return to the Lord, He will hear them when they call, He will answer their prayers and He will restore them (**Hosea 2:21-23**)

Later in the marriage, Gomer (Hosea's wife) went back to her old ways, she left her husband and her children and went back to prostitution. This is exactly what the children of God did back then and still do today. The Lord saves them from their calamity and then thereafter, they still go back to their old ways. In spite of their unfaithfulness the Lord still loves them and plans to bring them back. His hands are forever stretched out and ready to receive His people back, if they return to Him and repent. When Gomer went back to prostitution the Lord told Hosea to get her back. Hosea had to buy her back from the brothel where she was selling her body.

Hosea brought Gomer back and told her that he would stay with her. He promised to love her and to be faithful to her (**Hosea 3:1-4**). Yet again, the Lord used Hosea to reveal His heart of love and forgiveness. He showed how when we return to the Lord He forgives and forgets our evil deeds and restores us.

The Lord is concerned about the lack of knowledge of who He is and the lack of understanding of the truth (the word of God is truth - **John 17:17**) and of His love for His people. He says: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children."* (**Hosea 4:6**)

A Call to Repentance

In Hosea 6, there is a call to repentance and a promise of revelation of God. The Lord was speaking to His people by the mouth of Hosea. He knew that they did not know Him and that they were blaming Him for their wrong doing and the consequences of it. This is human nature, people do wrong in the sight of God and when God punishes them, they blame God. People sin yet they do not want to suffer the consequences of their sin.

They know a loving, kind God who forgives but they do not know the God of righteousness and judgement (**Jeremiah 9:23, 24**). In Hosea 6:1-3 the word of the Lord promises healing, revival, restoration and the knowledge of God. Verse 6 says the Lord desires mercy not sacrifice and the knowledge of the Lord more than burnt sacrifice. The Lord wants His people to know Him and to have a relationship with Him based on their knowledge of Him.

When God's people repent and return to the Lord, He restores them immediately. Remember the word of the Lord in 1 John 1:9; *"If we confess our sins the Lord is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness."* The book of Hosea ends with the promise of restoration.

"O Israel, return to the Lord your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity; Take words with you, And return to the Lord, Say to Him, Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifice of our lips." **(Hosea 14:1, 2).**

The people who know their God, confess their sin, they humble themselves before their God, and they acknowledge their wrong. They speak words to their God, they ask to be forgiven and to be received back into the fold. They will not offer sacrifices of bulls, they offer the sacrifice of their lips instead. They will bring praises to the Lord which are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **(1 Peter 5, 9)**

The people who know their God will reject sin, they will reject idolatry: *"Ephraim shall say, What have I to do anymore with idols? I have heard and observed him. I am like a green cypress tree; Your fruit is found in Me. Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them."*

For the ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, But the transgressors stumble in them **(Hosea 14:8, 9)**. The people who know their God, they walk in the ways of the Lord, they do not stumble. It is good to know the Lord. (To be continued)

LESSON 12

KNOW THE LORD (PART 3)

When the time came for Moses to enter destiny, the Lord visited him and appeared as a burning bush. The Lord confirmed the call upon Moses that he was a deliverer. He sent Moses back to Egypt to deliver His people from bondage because the time of fulfilment of the promise God had made to Abraham had come **(Genesis 15)**.

Moses asked the Lord; *“when I get to Egypt who shall I say sent me?”* And God said to Moses *“I AM WHO I AM.”* He also said, *“Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you”*

(Exodus 3:14).

Moses went to Israel and spoke to the children of Israel as God had instructed him. He delivered the word of the Lord to Pharaoh as well. Pharaoh did not heed the word of the Lord because the Lord had hardened his heart. Instead, he increased the oppression on the children of Israel so much that they blamed Moses for their plight. They felt the coming of Moses with this message of deliverance from the Lord had made things worse for them. The task masters made them work harder than ever before by increasing the quota of bricks they had to make daily. The taskmasters made things difficult for the Israelites. The task masters were simply following Pharaoh’s orders, who felt the reason they wanted to leave Egypt to go and serve their God was because they were idle and thus needed more work allotted to them.

When the people complained to Moses, he went to Him who had sent him to inquire from Him what to do next. Moses felt a bit discouraged. He had been busy minding his own business in the back side of the desert taking care of Jethro’s (his father in law) sheep , he had a happy life and had no plans to be in Egypt nor to be used by the Lord who had sent him, nor to cause trouble for the children of Israel. All he had done was to answer to instruction and do that which he was sent to do, despite the fact that Pharaoh was refusing to release the children of Israel. Moses really needed answers because his reputation was now at stake, Pharaoh was accusing him of speaking and on the other hand things were getting worse for those that he had come to deliver.

Does this sound familiar?

Have you ever heard people say that they were happy doing their own thing and they were doing well until that day they became born again. Since that day things have become worse in their lives? Have you ever prayed for a sick person, then after praying instead of being healed he becomes worse? Many people have left the faith at this stage because of lack of knowledge and because they do not know how to inquire from the Lord. They don't know that all they need is wisdom, knowledge and understanding of what they are passing through.

James says if you lack wisdom ask the Lord to give you wisdom. Ask in faith without doubting and the Lord who gives to ALL, liberally, without reproach and it will be given to you. **(James 1:1-8)** Solomon says in Proverbs: *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding"* **(Proverbs 4:7)**. Wisdom is the knowledge of the truth, (the word is truth **John 17:17**) and how to apply it to a given situation or circumstances. When you are going through something you do not understand, inquire from the Lord who knows what you are going through, and be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. **(James 1:19, 20)**. When you do this the peace of God will flood your soul and mind, then you will hear the Lord clearly and you will be able to pray accordingly.

Israel's Deliverance Assured

When Moses inquired from the Lord, the Lord answered him and said: *"Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land. And God spoke to Moses and said to him: I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I was not known to them."* **(Exodus 6:1-3)**

I AM told Moses that He is the Lord meaning that He is El Elyon, the Lord Most High, God who is above Pharaoh, Egypt and the task masters. He said He will deliver His people and that is what He was going to do. What He said He was going to do because He is the Lord. He then also told Moses that He was not known by this name to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because according to their call and purpose they did not need to know Him by that name. They needed to know Him by His name El Shaddai, Almighty God, All sufficient God, God who is more than enough, the God who provides. They saw God provide everything they needed; a ram for sacrifice, in the time of famine in the case of Isaac or when you are robbed by your employer in the case of Jacob. **(Genesis 13:2; 26; 31)**. In the case of the deliverance of the children of Israel He wanted them to know that He was able to deliver them. (To be continued...)

LESSON 13

KNOW THE LORD (PART 4)

In Exodus 6, God kept reassuring Moses that He will deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt because He is the Lord and **He is able to do just what He says He will do**. The key to this is found in His name: "*The Lord Most High*", The Lord who is high above every god even the gods of the super power of the time, Egypt. Thrice, God declared His name to Moses as He sent him back to Pharaoh and to the children of Israel; "*Therefore say to the children of Israel, **I am the Lord**, I will bring you out from the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgement.*" (**Exodus 6:6**, read **7&8** as well)

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He told him that the groaning's of His people have come up to Him, He has heard their cries and He had come to deliver them. He began telling Moses how He was going to do it, that He was going to deliver them by His outstretched arm and through great judgements. What He did not tell Moses was that all this was going to take ten plagues and that He has hardened the heart of Pharaoh. The reason for hardening the heart of Pharaoh was that He is going to use the deliverance of His people to demonstrate His power and His glory to the whole world. When He kept on saying to Moses "**I am the Lord**", He was telling him not to be moved by what he heard or by what he saw, but rather be secured in the knowledge of who He is and what He is able to do. The reason the Lord wants us to know Him by His name is because He want us to also be confident in the knowledge of who He is and what He can do for us no matter what we are going through. When we know Jehovah Jireh we will be like Abraham, we will move in obedience no matter what the circumstances will be because we know that the God who gave you the gift is a provider.

Abraham told his son with confidence that, "*God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering*". Just like He had revealed Himself as such to Abraham, in this season, the Lord is also calling His people to seek to know Him by His names, any name that is relevant to their need in every given situation. When God's people sin and disobey Him, He sends His prophets to warn them and when they ignore the prophets, He allows them to be enslaved and to be plundered by foreigners until they cry and return to Him. He then returns to them and delivers them from their oppressors.

Without fail, after delivering His people, God judges the Nation which He used as an instrument of judgement for taking advantage of His people and for treating them treacherously and unrighteously. In the case of Egypt, He destroyed them with the plagues until Pharaoh Let them go then He caused them to drown in the Red Sea. (***Exodus 12:29-30; 14:21-31***)

The Lord Revealed Himself to Isaiah and to Jeremiah

When King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the heavens open and He saw the Lord seated on His throne. The Lord was surrounded by all the hosts of heaven. Isaiah heard them crying out saying, "*holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory*" (***Isaiah 6:1-3***). Isaiah was already a prophet when He saw the Lord, he saw himself through the eyes of the Lord and he saw that he is a sinner. The Lord cleansed him and sent Him to the Nations with a message (***Isaiah 6:4-10***). The Lord introduces Himself as a deliverer who is surrounded by the whole hosts of heaven. Isaiah's ministry was taken to another level from that encounter, since that time, he had great revelations of their time and the times to come. He prophesied about the captivity of the children of Israel in Babylon, about their deliverance through the hand of Cyrus, about the virgin birth, about John the Baptist, the crucifixion etc.

In the case of Jeremiah, the Lord revealed Himself to Jeremiah and revealed his destiny and his call as a prophet to the Nations (***Jeremiah 1:4-10***). Jeremiah had

a revelation of God as the Lord of hosts from that encounter. When the Lord gave Jeremiah the message for the children of Israel, He told him to tell them He is sent by the Lord of hosts (**Jeremiah 2:13-19**). He wanted them to know that though He is going to judge them because of their abominations and for defiling the land, He is able to deliver them from the captivity of Babylon.

The Lord revealed Himself by His name "*Lord of hosts*", "*Jehovah Saboath*", the God who created all things, a deliverer who is surrounded by the whole hosts of heaven (**Jeremiah 10:11-16**). When He revealed the new and everlasting covenant to Jeremiah, He revealed Himself as the Lord of hosts, "*Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for the light by night, who disturbs the sea, And it's waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name).*" (*Jeremiah 31:31-40*)

When the Lord asked Jeremiah to buy land, it was a sign that He is going to bring them back and will restore the land back to them (**Jeremiah 32**). He went further to say in the place that is desolate they will hear again voices of joy, voices of gladness, voices of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise saying, " Praise the Lord of hosts for He is good, His mercy endures forever" (**Jeremiah 33:6-11**). When the Lord delivers the children of Israel from the bondage of Babylon, they will have a revelation of God and will praise Him by His name, "*Lord of hosts*".

The Lord does not change, He wants His people even today to know and to praise Him by His names.

LESSON 14

KNOW THE LORD (PART 5)

"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering being conformed to His death." (Philippians 3:10)

In the preceding verses, Apostle Paul expresses that his greatest desire was to know Christ. He counts his previous achievements as loss because he did not know Christ. He counts everything loss in order to gain Christ. He regards the knowledge of Christ as the most excellent achievement. Paul sought to know Christ by the power that rose Him from the dead and to also fellowship in His suffering. He wanted to know the God who left the splendour and the grandeur of heaven to suffer for the redemption of mankind. Knowing the Lord was Paul's pursuit in life and because of that, the Lord gave him more revelation than all the other apostles and by the grace and mercies of God he wrote 2/3 of the New Testament. It is good to know the God you serve. For those who know their God, shall be strong and do great exploits (**Daniel 11:32**).

Paul knew that when one gives his life to serve the Lord fully and to know Him, he will know His will and will obey Him. **Romans 12:1-2**: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

The bible states that God does not dwell in houses made with hands anymore, He dwells in a spiritual house made with living stones. (**Acts 17:24; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Peter 2:5**). That is why Apostle Paul is advising the brethren to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, sanctified, set apart and made holy by the Lord by the blood of Jesus through the gift of salvation. The Lord does not want the sacrifice of bulls and goats any more but is calling mankind to serve Him by giving their lives to Him. Paul calls this a reasonable service, meaning it is reasonable for the one

who redeemed your life from darkness and brought you to the light of the Gospel of truth to expect a service from you. The one who gave you life and not just life but life more abundantly and eternal life to expect you to serve Him in spirit and in truth.

Paul goes further to say in order for you to serve God fully, you need to separate yourself from the world system that is ruled by Satan. In order to do this, you need to renew your mind by studying and meditating on the word of God daily. When you meditate on the word of God daily. When you meditate on the word of God daily, you not only will be prosperous and have good success according to Joshua (**Joshua 1:8, 9**), you will also know the perfect will of God.

Jesus came to do The Will of The Father

When Jesus Christ passed through Samaria and His disciples left Him to get food. Upon his return, they found Him speaking to the Samaritan woman, and when she left they offered Him food. He told them that He has food that they do not know. He told them that His food is to do the will of the Father (**John 4:31-34**). He left the splendour and the grandeur of heaven to do the will of the Father (**John 6:38**). In essence, Jesus was telling His disciples that He is here to fulfil a mandate that the Father had given Him. He was telling them that He did not come on earth for Himself but that He came to do His Father's business and has to finish the work of the One who sent Him.

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He said *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"*. The word of God is spiritual food, it nourishes your soul, and it also gives life. There is Power in the spoken word, especially when it is spoken with understanding and by someone who has given their lives fully to the Lord. When many disciples left Jesus because He said they must eat His body and drink His blood, He told them that the words He speaks are spirit and they are life (**John 6:63**). He said this because the disciples were offended by what He was saying. It became apparent that those who left, were only following Jesus for the miracles but they did not know Him. They were serving the Lord for what they could get from Him and sadly, this is still the case with some in the Church today.

Jesus knew the Father and followed Him fully, He did not do anything except He sees the Father and did not say anything except He hears the Father say it (**John 5:19, 20, 30**).

When the time for Jesus to fulfil the purpose for which He came, which was to give His life for mankind by death on the cross of Calvary, He prayed. His prayer was simple, *“Father save me from this heavy burden, but not My will but your will be done (paraphrase)”*. Jesus knew He came for this but now that the time had come, He wished the Father would save Him for it but His commitment to do the will of the Father is what strengthened Him (**Matthew 26:39, 42**).

The Indwelling of God in Men

Jesus knows the Father because He is in the Father and the Father is in Him, Him and the Father are one. When we receive Christ as personal Lord and Saviour, He comes and dwells in you by His spirit. Jesus is in the Father therefore, Him and the Father come in you and you become the dwelling place of God in the spirit (**John 14:19-24; 17:20-26**). Now if the Father of all grace, the One who created the heavens and the earth, together with the Son dwells in you, nothing should be impossible for you.

How can God come and dwell in man with all His power, His character and all His attributes and man remain powerless and mediocre? There is something drastically wrong with today's Christianity, it lacks the manifestation of the power and the glory of God. The amazing thing about this is that they (the church) know that Jesus dwells in them therefore the power is in them. They are satisfied going to Church every Sunday or Sabbath and reading the bible year after year and not seeing the manifestation of the word in their life. Until God's children become tired of doing church without the demonstration of the power and of the spirit, there will be no change. The sad thing is that the world is perishing because they do not know God and they have no way of knowing Him except through the Church.

One of the reason Christians are struggling, is because they do not have the revelation of the power within them. As believers we lack wisdom, knowledge and understanding of who God is and what it means that He is in us and we are in Him.

We read it and we quote it but we do not understand it, hence the Lord is calling us to pursue His knowledge. When we speak the word without the revelation it does not have power. Singing and declaring that the Lord is Jehovah Jireh without revelation will not yield results. It is just words with no power because the words are not mixed with faith that God is able to provide, He is actual your provider not the salary you earn or man.

The reason why the Lord said we must know and praise Him by His names is because of the weight each of His name carry. When you praise Jehovah Jireh in your time of need and you know Him as your provider like in the days of Abraham, He will surely provide the ram for you. The Lord supplies everything you need by His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Everything you need to fulfil your destiny is in God, you do not need to look to man for provision but to God. You must lift up your eye unto the hills where your help comes from, your help comes from the Lord. He is your only source and the only reality.

As we pursue the knowledge of God we must also desire to grow in that knowledge. Apostle Paul prayed a prayer for the believers in Ephesus and I believe every believer must pray this prayer for themselves and meditate on it until one is endowed with spiritual wisdom and understanding of the power that is working within them, Christ in them the hope of glory **(Colossians 1:27)**. The prayer is found in **Ephesians 1:17-23**: *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and the revelation in the Knowledge of Him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened (meaning your spiritual eyes being open to see things in the spirit)..."*

The only way to deal with believers who serve the God they do not know is to encourage them to seek spiritual wisdom and revelation knowledge of who God is. May the revelation of the knowledge of God be the life time pursuit of every believer.

LESSON 15

KNOW THE LORD (PART 6)

I would like us to start this lesson with the prayer of Apostle Paul in ***Ephesians 1:15-23*** we ended with in lesson 14.

Paul prayed that the Lord may give the believers in Ephesus the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him so that through that knowledge, they may know the hope of His calling upon them. Only the Lord the plans He has for each and everyone of His children, in order to access the plan of God you must come to the Lord and you must pray to Him. Not only that you must seek Him with all your heart (***Jeremiah 29:11-14***).

If you do not know the Lord how are you going to come to Him and how are you going to pray to Him? When you come to the Lord, what are you going to say to Him? When you pray to a God you do not know, how are you going to hear Him when He speaks to you? How are you going to hear the answer?

I remember when I did not know the Lord and everything fell apart in my life, and I was looking for answers. A relative told me, the Lord has the answers I am looking for, I must go to Him and ask Him because He knows everything and if I seek Him earnestly with all my heart He will give me the answers. At the time I was a nominal Christian, a church goer with no personal relationship with the Lord. I did not know God speaks to people, I did not know how to communicate with God. Over and above that I did not know how I was going to hear Him even if He speaks to me.

I was desperate to know what to do, therefore I just spoke to God and said I hear you talk to people, I did not know that, I don't know you so I don't know how I am going to hear you. I need answers about my life, I would like to know what is happening in my life and what am I supposed to do. I believe you have all the answers I need, please speak to me and help me to hear and to understand when you speak.

Have you been here before or am I the only one? I continued to ask God these questions until one day He answered and told me what to do. The direction He gave me led to my conversion. By the grace of God I followed the instructions and through that process I got saved. I was in need and I was desperate but the church could not help me. I pursued a God I sadly discovered I did not know though I was going to church every Sunday. I agree with Paul when He says by grace you have been saved. **(Ephesians 2:6-9)**

When I got saved and I came across **Jeremiah 29:11-14**, I pursued the Lord for His purpose for my life. Through the testimony I have just shared I learn to seek the Lord and to ask God questions. I also learnt that when you ask God questions you wait for the answer. You do not give God time frames you wait until He answers. When I first asked God questions I received the answer after one month but when I asked for God's purpose for my life I received the answer after two years. Over the years I have learnt that there is no formula, sometimes the Lord answer immediately, sometimes after a day, sometimes after a few years, the answer does come, you must just wait for it with anticipation.

Ask God Questions

Since the Lord has been speaking to us about knowing Him. I am asking the question: What does He mean when He says He is in the Father and He is in us and we are in Him? **(John 14:20)** What does it mean that the same power that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead is working in them that believe? **(Ephesians 1:19, 20)**

The Lord's Answer

The Holy Spirit is leading and guiding into all truth *(the word of God is truth - John 17:17)*. Jesus said Me and My Father are one, if you have seen Me you have seen the Father **(John 14:7-11)**; That is what He means when He says "I am in My Father".

Again in the same chapter passage, Jesus says "*If you love me you will obey my commandments*" the proof that you love the Lord is obedience. **(John 14:21-24)** The Lord will know that you love Him when you obey His commandments. Christians pray and tell the Lord they love Him, they sing songs saying they love the Lord, after praying and singing they do not obey His commandments. No matter how much you say you love the Lord, in as much as you do not obey the commandments of the Lord, He knows that you do not love Him.

In the same passage of scripture Jesus goes further to say, if you love Him and you obey His commandments, the Father will love you and Him and the Father will come and make their home in you. God will come and tabernacle with you, He will come and dwell in you and with you by His Spirit. He will make you His dwelling place in the spirit. When God comes and dwell in you with His all, His power, His glory, His anointing, His character, He will come with all that He is and all He has. Therefore what you need in life is the Lord dwelling in you.

When you get born again, the Lord comes and dwells in you and with you. The Question that every believer should be asking is: If God Almighty, the creator of Heaven and earth dwells in me, why am I ordinary, why am I not doing extraordinary things. Why am I not demonstrating the power of God and manifesting His glory on earth. Daniel answers this question very well, when He says those who know their God will be strong and they will do exploits **(Daniel 11:32)**. The Lord desires to be known by His people than receiving offering, He has everything, the earth and fullness thereof is His, silver and gold belongs to Him. **(Hosea 6:6; Psalm 24:1, 2; Haggai 2)**: The Kingdom, the power and the glory is the Lord's, He does not need anything from His people except for them to know Him and to have an intimate relationship with them.

Fulfilment of Prophecy

The Prophets of old prophesied about a time when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord and the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters covers the sea. **(Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14)** What did they mean by this? They saw a time when the people of God will know their God in such a measure that it will be

like the waters that covers the sea. They will be filled with the glory of God and they will know the glory because the Lord will arise upon them and His glory will be seen through them.

When the world see the glory of God through the people of God by covenant they will believe in Him and they will come into the Kingdom. Nations will come to the light of the Gospel of Christ, and they will be disciplined. Nations, Kingdoms and the greatest of the Kingdoms will serve and obey Christ. **(Isaiah 60:1-3; John 2:11)** These prophecies will be fulfilled, we must hold on to them until the time of fulfilment. **(Isaiah 8:16)**

The New and Everlasting Covenant

God is a God who makes covenants with His people and keeps them, He is a covenant keeping God. Jesus Christ came to establish the new covenant with mankind and He shared His blood to establish the covenant. He taught the disciples to take a covenant meal as often as they can to remember Him and to remember what He accomplished for mankind on the cross. **(Matthew 26:26-30; 1Corinthians 11:23-26)**

The Covenant

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying: Know the Lord, for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." **(Jeremiah 31:33-34)**

The relationship we have with the Lord is a covenant relationship, the Lord is keeping His side of the deal, He is expecting His people to keep their part. Covenants come with promises, let look at some of the promises: *"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants- everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant- Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar: For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."*

The Lord calls those who are covenanted to Him by sacrifice to gather to Him and to hold fast His covenant. (**Psalm 50:5**) In **Psalm 25:9, 10** He reveals His ways to those who are humble and keep His covenant. The ways of the Lord are mercy and truth, the Lord He will teach them to know and understand mercy and truth. In **Isaiah 2:1-3** The Prophet Isaiah prophesied saying in the latter days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established high above every mountain, exalted above the hills. He goes on to say nations will flow to the mountain of the Lord, when they come to the mountain of the Lord He will teach them His ways and they will walk in His paths. The Lord made known His ways to Moses and His acts to the children of Israel. In the Kingdom we are taught the ways of the Lord not His acts and His blessings. (**Psalm 103:6, 7**)

The promises of God, they are yes, they are amen. If the Lord has purposed a thing He will do it if He has said it He will bring it to pass. (**2Corinthians 1:20; Isaiah 46:8-11**). Let us hold on to the covenant of the Lord and press into knowing Him, seek to know the Lord, seek the Kingdom of God first as well.

QUESTIONS

LESSON 10 - 15

(KNOW THE LORD)

1. When God created mankind what did He give him
2. What was the purpose of endowing man with all the gifts and the virtues
3. How does God reveal Himself to mankind
4. Do you know the God you are serving
5. Does God want to be known
6. Has the Lord revealed Himself to you by any of His names, if yes which name or
names

LESSON 16

GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD (PART 1)

It is not enough to know the Lord, you must grow in that knowledge. Apostle Paul was always pressing in the knowledge of the Lord. He was not satisfied, he wanted to more of Him. When he encountered Christ, he discovered that everything he accomplished before then was nothing. He says in **Philippians 3:7, 8**:

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ."

As you grow in the knowledge of Christ you will find that there is no better gain than the gain of knowing Christ. Paul had accomplished a lot, he was highly educated, he held good position and had good standing among his peers and the leadership of the time. He was given permission and letters of recommendation to persecute and to destroy those who believed in Christ. He sent many to prison and even witnessed the stoning of Stephen for his faith. When he looked at his accomplishments, he saw them as loss and he even calls them rubbish, all he wanted was to be found in Christ. He no longer recognized the righteousness he gained from the law, he wanted only the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Knowing the Lord was Paul's passion, he did not only want to know His power and His supernatural acts but he wanted to know the fellowship of His suffering. He was driven by the fact that no matter what he suffers for the sake of Christ and the Kingdom, it cannot be compared to what Christ suffered for him. **(Phil 3:10)** Most believers know the God of grace and sometimes grace has been taken to other levels and in some cases even as a license to sin. They say Jesus finished everything on the cross, He forgave the past, present and future sins, everything is under the blood.

Others only want to know and to serve the God of blessings, they come to the Lord for what they will get from Him. Jeremiah warns against relying on your wisdom, power, connections and riches because all these are passing away. Everything physical or material is temporary, it is not sustainable without Christ at the centre of it all. Rather glory in the fact that you know and understand the Lord, that He is a God who exercise lovingkindness, judgement and righteousness and that He delights in these. **(Jeremiah 9:23, 24)**

Know that while God is a God of lovingkindness, grace and mercy, He is also a God of judgement. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness. In your pursuit to know the Lord or as you grow in the knowledge of God, you will know what He loves and what He hates. You will know that He seeks an intimate relationship with you, you will desire to please Him at all times and in everything you do. When you understand that Christ gave His life for you simply out of deep love for you, you will love Him the more.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **(John 3:16)** He Himself says there is no better love than to give your life for your friends. Christ demonstrated His love for mankind by giving His life for them. No one receives salvation because of the good things he has done or by works, it is simply by the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.

There are many good people who does great works and yet not saved, this understanding should make those who are saved to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and might and to love and pray for the lost. You did not choose Christ or to be saved or to be God's people, He chose you that you may bear fruit that remains. He took you out of darkness into His marvellous light, so that you may offer Him praise, for all the good He has done for you. **(John 15:16, 17; 1Peter 2:9, 10)**

When you understand what it took for Christ to bring you salvation, you should desire to praise Him continually. The Lord told the children of Israel that He did not choose them to be a Nation to Him because there were many or better than other Nations, He chose them because He loved them and because He would keep the covenant He made with their forefathers. **(Deuteronomy 7:7.8)**

Walk in Love

When we pursue growing in the knowledge of God we will grow in understanding His love for us. God is love, love is not an attribute of God, it is who He is, love is the essence of who God is. We will know God through love, everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. You will find it easy to love God's people when you know God because you will know and understand how much He loves them. One of the signs that shows that you do not know God is the struggle to love and to forgive others. If you are unable to love it simply means you do not know God because God is love. **(1John 4:7-11)**

If God so loved us we ought to find it easy to love one another. Jesus gave us two commandments that is to love the Lord our God and to love one another. Jesus said there is no law that is against these two commandments, in fact they fulfil the law. When His disciples love one another even the world will know that they are the disciples of Christ. They will see Christ in and through them, they will experience the love of God. **(Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34, 35)**

Jesus is not calling His disciples to love one another without giving them love, He calls them to manifest what they have. Love is in them therefore they bring out what they have and give to others. The word of God tells us that love is spread in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. **(Romans 5:5)**

Make a decision today to pursue the growing in the knowledge of God so that you may love others. You cannot have hatred and unforgiveness in your heart when you know the Lord.

LESSON 17

GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD (PART 2)

God's Mercy

The Lord expresses His love for His people through His mercy. He knew that for mankind to survive everyday they are going to need His mercies, therefore He made them available everyday. Mercy is the working out of God's compassion, it is God's unfailing love, kindness and His tender mercies, it is the outward expression of pity. His mercies endures forever, His compassions does not fail, they are new every morning great is His faithfulness. **(Lamentations 3:22, 23)**

Every morning God has new mercies for everyone for the day, His mercies are available for everyone, all you have to do is to ask. It is God's mercies that keeps you through out the day, when you pray during your devotion thank the Lord for yesterday's mercies and ask for new mercies for the day. It is because of God's mercies that we are not consumed by the destructions the enemy plans for us or even by the Lord Himself because of our disobedience. Even when we deserve punishment because of our sins and abominations, His compassion and love for us restrain the Lord from consuming us. Remember God is a consuming fire and a God of judgement. **(Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29; Jeremiah 9:23, 24)**

Sometimes the same people He loves so much provoke Him to such a degree that He has no option but to judge them and drive them out from before Him. As He judges them He already has a plan to restore them because of His unfailing love for them. God doesn't just judge, He gives them time to repent and to turn from their wayward ways. He sends His Prophets to warn them until their cup of iniquity becomes full, only then does He pour out His anger upon them. This is what happened to the seven nations that occupied the land on Canaan. **(Genesis 15:13-16)** The same was the case with the children of Israel, when they sinned the

Lord allowed them to be taken captive to Babylon for 70yrs to give the land rest. As they were taken captive and the city burnt down, the God of mercy and grace already had a plan to restore them back to their land. **(2Chronicles 36:15-23; Jeremiah 32, 33)**

Desire to Know the God of Mercy. When David sinned against God by numbering the people, God was angry with him because he measured the strength of Israel's army by the number of the men he had. This angered God and He judged David for this sin. He gave David an opportunity to choose his punishment. David chose to fall into the hands of the Lord because he knew that His mercies are great **(2Samuel 24:10-25)**. David knew His God that is why He was given the honour of being called a man after God's heart who will do all His will, in spite all his mistakes. **(Acts 13:22)** God is always looking for people who will do all His will, people who will obey Him.

Again when King Jehoshaphat was attacked by three nations, he cried to God and the Lord told him, the battle is not his but the Lord's, he must stand still and see the salvation of the Lord who is with him. Jehoshaphat received the word of the Lord and did not plan a defence strategy instead he organized a praise team to praise the Lord of hosts for He is good and His mercies endures forever. It was not the song that saved them from their enemies and gave them victory, it was their knowledge of the God of mercy. They praised the beauty of holiness from a place of knowing the God of loving kindness and tender mercies.

I always wondered how a simple song brought their salvation until I understood by the Holy Spirit that it was not the words of the song but their knowledge of God that saved them. King Jehoshaphat sought the Lord when He faced the attack from the 3 Nations, Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir. He and the whole Nation of Israel, both Judah and Jerusalem fasted and sought the face of the Lord for a solution. The Lord answered their prayers, they received the answer by faith, they did not try to make sense of it. All they knew was that they prayed and the Lord have answered.

They began to praise the God of their salvation saying: "Praise the Lord for He is good, His mercy endures forever". **(2Chronicles 20:21)** As they were praising the

Lord, He sent ambushes against their enemies and killed them, those who were left killed each other until none were left. The people who love their God took the spoils and it took them 3 days to collect everything because there was so much. The people who faced death from their enemies ended up with much wealth because their God was with them, they saw the salvation of their God according to the word of the Lord who said: *"You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them for the Lord is with you"*.

All you need is to know that the Lord is with you, this truth has to be revealed to you, when you know, you will fear no evil because you know that you know that the Lord God Almighty is with you. When you have God you have everything, all you need in life is God. As we pursue the knowledge of our God, let us praise Him and give Him thanks for He is good and His mercy endures forever. Let us praise Him for who He is and thank Him for giving us His mercy everyday (**Lamentations 3:22, 23; Psalm 106:1; 136**).

I spend quite some time on the subject of knowing the Lord by the leading of the Spirit because I understood that we have been serving a God we do not know, hence we have not seen fulfilment of God's promises, His glory and power. I pray that as we go through these notes the Lord who is forever wanting to be known by His people will reveal Himself to them. The Lord is ministering to me even as I pen these lessons, I am receiving a hunger to know the Lord more and more. I know that I am tired of serving a God I do not know, when what may be known of God is manifest in everything He has made. He created the heaven and the earth and all that is in it, everything He created still exist to this day.

This God who is all powerful, who is all knowing, who is sovereign is my God, He loves me and want an intimate relationship with me. He dwells in me by His spirit, everything that He is and everything He has is in the inside of me. I will not rest till I access everything the Lord has freely given to me. The bible says: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* (**1Corinthians 2:9-16**)

These things are revealed by the Spirit of God who is in us. The Lord has given us His Spirit so that we might know the things that has been freely given to us by God. We will know these things by the Spirit, as we embrace the Holy Spirit and commune with Him, He will reveal these things.

God Protects Man From Missing Destiny

Like David we must know God's anger as well. God's anger is not like man, His anger is a demonstration of His love. He gets angry and chastise those He love, He does not want His people to miss destiny. When He manifest His anger it is to bring us back on track because He can see we are about to miss destiny completely. David was a King put by God to shepherd His people, whenever he missed it the Lord corrected him, this He did because of His love for him. When Moses was making excuses not to be sent to Egypt, God became angry at him because He saw that he does not understand that this is destiny for him **(Exodus 4:14)**.

The reason why God decided to dwell in human beings was to empower and to enable them by His Spirit to fulfil destiny. He says in **John 15:5** "...Without Me you can do nothing". God takes mere man who is obedient to His will and enable him to accomplish might deeds. He told Zerubbabel that he will accomplish his assignment of building the temple not by his might or his power but by the Spirit, then he will know that the Lord has sent him to do this work. **(Zechariah 4:6-9)**

Pursue Holiness

Pursue the knowledge of God, while you are at it pursue holiness as well. God is holy and He calls His people to be holy because He is holy. *"Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy."* **(Leviticus 19:2)** The Lord is calling His people even today to be holy, meaning He is calling them to be set apart for His purposes.

When the Lord called me to establish houses of prayer, He said I am looking for people who will obey Me, who will do what I say then I will come and dwell in them, I will be their God they will be My people. This call is a call to holiness, it is a call to be set apart for God's use only. Every one God brings to His Mountain

must know that, the Lord has brought to His Mountain because He seeks total obedience from them and total dependence on Him.

Then He will dwell in them and will manifest His power, His glory and His character through them. **(2Corinthians 6:16b-18)** Paul puts so nicely when He says: *"Therefore having these promises beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* **(2 Corinthians 7:1)** The fear of God is key to this treasure, therefore let us perfect holiness, perfect being set apart. Let us not be satisfied where we are with our relationship with God but forever pressing to grow more and more in the knowledge of Him. When God dwells in us and is walking among us, all those around will see Him and will desire to know Him as well.

The Lord does not only want to be known by those who love Him and have come to Him, He desires to be known by the world through them. The Prophets prophesied that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters covers the sea **(Isaiah 11:9)**. How will this happen? It will happen when the Saints of the Most High know their God and they manifest their God in every domain and Nation where the Lord has deployed them. The Prophet Habakkuk went further to say the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters covers the sea. **(Habakkuk 2:14)**

The Lord will arise upon His people and His glory shall be seen upon them, the glory of God will manifest upon all His people and they shall fill the earth. In that time all the people of the Lord on earth will know their God, they will know His glory. There will be a clear distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serves God and those who do not **(Malachi 3:18)**. The Lord always make a difference between His people and the people of the world. **(Exodus 11:7)**.

All the Nations of the world knew the people of God in the days of old, they were distinct they were separate, they belonged to a different Kingdom and lived according to the values and the principles of God's Kingdom. We are in the time when the people of God must know who they are in God and live out their faith in God. The time is now for God's Holy Nation, His Kings and Priests, His Holy Nation to arise and be seen.

These prophecies shall be fulfilled to the glory of God because every prophecy must be fulfilled. This is all the reason why the Lord is calling His people to pursue His knowledge. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit and with His glory to such a degree that Nations may be able to see His glory upon you. When Nations see the glory of God they will come to your light and Kings will come to the brightness of your rising. Then we will see the fulfilment of Isaiah 60.

LESSON 18

GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD (PART 3)

The New and Everlasting Covenant

We touched on the new covenant in lesson 15, since that time the Lord has been expanding my understanding of the importance and the power of covenants. I am understanding that the Lord does not relate to His people outside His covenant. When God made man, He made a covenant with them. **(Genesis 1:26-28)** He blessed them, He released them on the earth to be fruitful, to be productive in everything they do. He gave them dominion, power and authority over all His creation. Man sinned and were separated from God and lost the dominion that was given to them.

After the flood, God appeared to Noah and renewed the original covenant that was given to man. **(Genesis 9:1-3)** The first ever blood covenant God made with Abraham **(Genesis 15)**. The covenant God made with Abraham was to make Him exceedingly fruitful, to make nations of him. This covenant was made with Abraham and his descendants for an everlasting covenant that Almighty God will be their God and they will be His people. He would give them the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession. God chose to make His covenant with Abraham because He knew He would keep it and would pass it on to His descendants and to all their generations. The Lord who makes covenants does not break them, has kept the covenant He made with Abraham until today.

Since that time the Lord gave the children of Israel the land of Canaan as their possession, He has kept His covenant. When they sin against Him, He would, drive them out of the land but would bring them back. The land of promise is the present day Israel and it still exist. There is contention over the land and borders

but the covenant stands yet the covenant is now obsolete because it is an old covenant. As long as the children of Israel keep the covenant it will continue to work for them. The covenant has been passed on from generation to generation.

The Lord Created Himself a Nation

Our Lord Jesus Christ Clarified the mandate even more when He said: *“You did not choose Me, I chose you that you may bear fruit and that your fruit may remain.”* **(John 15)**. What He meant was that, He has brought us to the Kingdom to be fruitful. He want to see fruit and that fruit must remain. Jesus warned the church about false prophets saying: *“You shall know them by their fruit.”* In order to know whether the person ministering or preaching is a false prophet or not check the fruit. **(Matthew 7:15, 16)**. Check if the fruit will remain and whether the work glorifies Christ or man. He went further to say, *“not everyone who says Lord, Lord shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven”*

QUESTIONS

LESSON 16 - 18

(GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD)

1. Is it sufficient to know the Lord
2. What are the three things God delights in
3. How many commandments did Jesus Christ give and why
4. What are the commandments
5. What is God's mercy
6. What does holiness mean

LESSON 19

RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

What is Restoration?

The Time of Restoration in the Kingdom Age

The Lord gave me a mandate to go to the nations to declare the message of Hope, Healing and Restoration. He gave me understanding of the meaning of restoration in the context of the Kingdom but put a caution saying the restoration He is talking about is spiritual it is not physical. The moment you hear the word of restoration the first things that come to mind are physical things, like cars, houses, husbands, wives, children for those who have been barren for years. It took me a while to understand spiritual restoration. The word came at a time after I had lost physical things. Though I had lost spiritual things, the spiritual things were overshadowed by the physical loss.

In the first instance restoration is the recovery of that which you lost. Before you can expect restoration you must know what you lost. When you have lost physical things when you receive the promise of restoration you think of the physical things you lost. The loss of physical things in most cases is as a result of the loss of spiritual things. Most times when you have loose spiritual things you do not even recognize the loss because it is not physical but it is spiritual. The Lord is restoring the Church in this season the things that we lost when we first believed. (we will deal with what we lost as the church in the next lesson)

The Revelation of Restoration

The dictionary meaning of restoration is putting the thing back to its original state. For an example if a chair breaks you take it to a carpenter to fix it and he puts it back to its original state. It looks exactly as it was before it broke but it is not the same. It can never be as strong as it was before it broke. It is the same with a car or anything that is broken. You can always tell if a car has had an accident.

On the other hand restoration in the Kingdom of God means double what you lost, twice what you had before, better than your beginning. A good example of restoration in the bible is Job. In chapter 1 of Job the bible tells us what he had, in terms of livestock and children (see **Job 1:4**). After the Lord handed him over to the devil to be tested, Job lost his physical riches, all his children, his relationship were broken some destroyed, he even lost his health. He lost respect in the community and even among his very servants. He suffered much pain and anguish, he even thought God had forsaken him but in spite of all the suffering he held on to his faith in God.

He knew his redeemer lives and will appear and deliver him. When God appeared to him and revealed His sovereignty, Job realized that though he served the Lord all his life, he did not know the Lord. All along he was serving a God he did not know, he did not have a revelation of who God really is. The moment Job received the revelation of God, he was convicted in his heart and he repented. He had compassion for his friends who also did not know the Lord and interceded for them. The Lord restored Job and gave him twice as much as he had before, his relationships were also restored. The Lord gave him children and his daughters were the most beautiful in the land. (**Job 42; Zechariah 9:12**)

If we take the Kingdom meaning of restoration then we can say if your marriage is broken, when the Lord restores it, it will be better than your beginning, better than when you first met and the wonderful years before the relationship broke down. Can couples imagine how their marriage would be when God restores it? I am certainly sure they cannot imagine but hope and pray that the Lord will give them hope for a better marriage and they will be encouraged to believe that God is able to restore their broken relationship that led to the breakdown of their marriage.

Therefore if we received this word of the restoration that the Lord is restoring the Church in these last days. It is safe to say that the Church in the last days will be twice as much as the early Church. It will be better than its beginning.

Hallelujah!!!!

This hope would stir up every believer to pray and intercede for the restoration of the Church. Right now some believer who have a burden for the Church are

praying for the Church to at least reach the standard that was set by the early Church. Yet there is much more available for the Church. In the time and the season of restoration the Lord would not take the Church back, He would move the Her to dimensions She has not seen.

The Lord is Building Himself a Spiritual House

As already said in this season of restoration, the Church in the latter days will be more glorious than the former.

Even in the Old Testament the second temple was more glorious than the first one. The ones who saw Solomon's temple felt the Zerubbabel was less glorious than the first temple. But the Lord encouraged Zerubbabel saying: *"Yet now be strong Zerubbabel, says the Lord; and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong all you people and work; for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts. According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, sea and dry land; and I will shake All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, says the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, says the Lord of hosts."*

In the new covenant believers are the temple of God, because the Lord does not dwell in temples made by hand any more, He dwells in spiritual temples. **(Acts 17:24)**. We are the temple of the Almighty, we were bought at a very high price, Jesus Christ bought us by His blood. We are the spiritual house, the Lord is building with living stones to be His dwelling place in the spirit. **(Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:17-20)**

The same words the Lord spoke to the Children of Israel when He was encouraging them to build the temple applies to the Church today, when He said I am with you, and My Spirit remains among you. To the Church He says I am with you always even until the end of the age, He says My Spirit dwells in you, therefore the Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the work of Ministry. Since the Lord no longer dwells in temples which are made by hands, the Church should be concerned with building the people by discipling them, making them disciples and followers of Christ.

As Zerubbabel was empowered by the Spirit of God, and was given grace to build and to finish the work of building the temple. In the same manner the Church is empowered to finish the work of discipling the Nations and bringing in the last harvest. Twelve men turned the work upside down with the Gospel of the Kingdom without the kinds of resources the present day Church have; with the different modes of transport, the different media platforms, the believers in different Churches and Denominations worldwide, the Gospel should advance faster than ever before.

The followers and disciples of Christ should fill the earth as the waters covers the see. As God is restoring the Church, the prophecies of Isaiah and Habakkuk will soon be fulfilled: *"They shall not hurt nor destroy on My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea."* **(Isaiah 11:9)** *"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Lord, As the waters cover the sea."* **(Habakkuk 2:14)**

May the Lord reveal the kingdom meaning of restoration to the Church and inspire those who are carrying the burden of the Lord for His Church pray and intercede for Her restoration. Restoration also speaks of abundant life, Days of prosperity and peace, a New Covenant to enable you to serve God in Spirit and in truth. **(Jeremiah 31:23-40; Ezra 36:25-28).**

The Lord is preparing the Church for revival and the restoration of Africa and the Nations of the World. He is restoring what we missed when we received Christ, when we got born again. The Lord is revealing spiritual restoration that it is the restoration of what we lost when we first believed. The Lord in His kindness and mercy is restoring the Church in this season. He is preparing the Church to fulfil Her mandate.

Restoration did not start now, the Lord has been restoring His Church since the dark ages, through reformation and the different moves of the Spirit that culminated into the different movements over the ages e.g. the Pentecostal and the Charismatic Movements, with every move the Lord restored the five ministry gift. All five ministry gifts have been restored now. The five ministry gifts were given for a purpose which was clearly defined in **(Ephesians 4:11-16).**

The spiritual gifts are not titles but are graces given for the equipping of the Saints for the work of ministry and for the edification of the body of Christ. In many instances the gifts are being used as titles or some form of qualification to gain respect and acceptance by society. This has led to much abuse of the gifts. The Lord is restoring all things even the abuse of the gift, He has given to the body of Christ. Now the Lord is transitioning the Church into the Kingdom Age. I believe this is the last move before the coming of Christ. In the Kingdom Age the Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all Nations as a witness to them before the end comes. **(Matthew 24:14)**

QUESTIONS

LESSON 19

(RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH)

1. What is the meaning of restoration in the Kingdom
2. What happened when God restored Job
3. Do you believe that God is able restore a broken marriage
4. How will a restored church look like

LESSON 20

WHAT DID THE CHURCH LOOSE? (PART 1)

1. Fellowship and Communion with God

In the beginning, immediately after creation mankind lost fellowship and communion with God because of sin. Man lost intimacy with God, yet God's greatest desire is to have a close, intimate relationship with mankind. God created man to dwell in His presence day and night, to be constantly in His presence at all times. To learn and to know His presence, that He may show mankind the paths of life, the godly way of living. In His presence there is fullness of joy and on His right hand pleasures forever more. **(Psalm 16:11)** After God created man, He put him in the Garden of Eden, the garden of God. Then He gave man work to tend the garden, to manage and to administer all of creation.

God had fellowship with the man He created, He would come in the cool of the day and would have communion with Adam. They would stroll in the garden and have intimate conversations. During these time of fellowship with Adam, God would give him instructions, He would impart wisdom on management and administration of the earth. *"I will instruct and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye". (Psalm 32:8).* Remember Adam had not gone to school to study these disciplines, therefore the God who created the heaven and the earth had to teach him.

He told him to eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He wanted Adam to live a holy life, He wanted him to keep pure and to continue fellowship with His creator. God wanted to enjoy all He created through the man He created. He gave Adam the responsibility to name all the animals and whatever name He gave them those were the names they were called. He gave him absolute dominion and charge over all creation. All He wanted from Adam was total obedience and dependency on the one who

brought to this earth. Adam was not lonely though He was the only man on earth, he did not know any better, as far as he was concerned he was not alone, he had God. He was satisfied with the relationship he enjoyed with his creator, he enjoyed the intimate conversations they had everyday.

He was not idle he was very busy managing and administering His Father's business. He depended on Him for strategic direction. It was while Adam was busy with His Father's business that God felt that Adam needed a companion. God said *"It is not good for man to be alone, I will make him a partner comparable to him"* (**Genesis 2:18**). Then God gave Adam a wife, Eve, when Adam saw her, he knew by the spirit that he came from a man and he called her, a woman.

The Lord put them together as husband and wife and they became the first couple on earth. Through Adam and Eve the Lord established the institution of marriage and made it holy. Even today it is the Lord who puts two people together for marriage, for God alone knows the plans He has for the people He created and brought on this earth. (**Jeremiah 29:11**). God's plan for everyone is good, it is not for evil but for good, to prosper them and to give them the future they hope for.

The only way to know the plan of God for your life is to ask Him, which is why you must be reconciled to God in order to fellowship and to commune with Him. The Lord will reveal His plan for your life as you pray and seek Him with all your heart. It is during moments of deep intimacy with the Lord that destinies are revealed and released.

According to the Lords holy institution of marriage, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and in God's eyes the two become one flesh. (**Genesis 2:22**). The Lord made them one because He seeks a Godly off spring to come out of their union. (**Malachi 2:10-16**) Marriage is not only the Lord's holy institution, it is also honourable in His sight, therefore the marriage bed should not be defiled. "Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will Judge. (**Hebrews 13:4**) God hates divorce, He says it covers ones garments with violence. (**Malachi 2:16**) Jesus said people divorce because their hearts are hardened towards God.

I say they divorce because they neither love, know nor fear God as well as having hardened hearts towards God. If you love the Lord you will not do anything you know will not please Him, neither will you harm your neighbour. If you know your God, you will know what He loves and what He hates, you will not do what you know He hates, instead you will hate what He hates and you will love what He loves. You will know that God is a judge and a righteous one, that He judge's sin, therefore you will fear His judgements.

Thus says the Lord :*"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgement and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord."* **(Jeremiah 9:23, 24)**

The serpent, who is called the devil intercepted the plan of the Lord for marriage by deceiving Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which God had forbidden them to eat from. Through this act of disobedience from the first couple, sin came on the earth. When sin came, man was separated from God, the intimate relationship, Adam used to enjoy it was cut off immediately. God because of His grace and mercy immediately put in place a future plan for the redemption of mankind which will be realized by the coming of His son Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

Ministry of Reconciliation

Jesus Christ came to reconcile man back to God and with one another. He came to restore the relationship man enjoyed before sin came, that intimate relationship Adam enjoyed with God in the Garden of Eden. In order for the relationship to be restored, man has to acknowledge and repent for his sins and received Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Saviour. Once they are reconciled with God, they become ambassadors for Christ, to go to all the world telling people to be reconciled to God.

Jesus Christ showed the way and gave His ministry of reconciliation to the church to continue with it and to take it to the whole world.

*"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" **(2Corinthians 5:18-21)**.*

When you are reconciled to God, Jesus Christ comes to dwell in you by His Spirit, then you become one with Him, Christ in you the hope of glory. **(Colossians 1:27)**.

He gave the church the great commission, to go into all the world to teach and to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, to heal the sick and to make disciples of all nations. **(Matthew 28:18-20)**. As the church goes about preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, they must reveal to mankind what they lost, that they lost fellowship God and through Christ they can be reconciled and be able to relate and commune with God as it was in the beginning.

They must reveal that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life, therefore no one goes to the Father except through Him. **(John 14:6)** Jesus Christ is the way to the fellowship and the communion with God, one cannot go to God except through Him. Man did not lose fellowship with God only, they lost many things which is why the Lord is waiting for the restoration of all things before His second coming.

*"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of God, and that He may send Jesus Christ who was preached to you before. Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" **(Acts 2:19-21)***

Repentance brings forgiveness of sin and brings you into the presence of God, that you may have an intimate relationship and fellowship with your Maker. There are a number of benefits that flows from this relationship with God through Christ.

King David, who was given the honour by God of being called a man after God's heart, reveal these benefits in the book of Psalms. *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul; And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfy your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's".* **(Psalm 103:1-5)**

May you seek to be reconciled with God, so that you may be able to fellowship and commune with your Father, who loves you and desires to have an intimate relationship with you above all things.

LESSON 21

WHAT DID THE CHURCH LOOSE (PART 2)

2. The Kingdom

When God created mankind blessed them and He spoke fruitfulness, multiplication upon their lives and He gave them dominion over all creation. *“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)*. Man lost all these blessings because of sin. God of grace and mercy put in place a plan to redeem mankind immediately.

He planned to send come as a redeemer in the form of the second person of the God Head Jesus Christ to redeem man from sin and to restore that which he lost. In order to recover what you lost, as I said in lesson 20 you need to know that which you lost. If you do not know what you lost you will not desire recovery and restoration. I never knew I lost the blessings and dominion because of the curse of sin. Even when I received Christ I did not understand that not only did Christ come to save me but that He also came to restore the things I lost.

I was happy to be saved but did not know the fullness of redemption until the Lord by His mercy and grace revealed it to me. Redemption speaks of recovery of that which was lost as well as liberation from bondage. Jesus came to redeem those who are lost, He came to set the captives free, to open blind eyes (not only physical blindness but spiritual blindness) to open prisons to those who are bound. **(Luke 4:18)**.

He came to recover all that man lost because of sin and to restore all back to Him. In these discipleship lessons the Lord is unpacking what man really lost so that they may have the desire to get it all back. Man lost dominion, dominion speaks of rulership, governance, power and authority. This authority was given to Christ and He chose to delegate it to His followers to empower them for the work He left them to do.

Daniel saw in a vision of Jesus Christ being given dominion, glory and a Kingdom. He says His dominion is an everlasting dominion so that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away. And His Kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. **(Daniel 7:14)**

Zechariah saw the coming of Christ and he says: *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you; He is just having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, And from River to the ends of the earth."* **(Zechariah 9:9, 10)**. Christ was given glory, He, Himself is the Hope of glory and when He comes and dwells in man He gives them His glory. **(John 17:22; Colossians 1:27)**.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He said pray and say: *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven For thine is thy Kingdom, thy power and thy glory forever and ever, Amen."* **(Matthew 6:9-13)** The Lord was confirming what Daniel and the all the Prophets saw, He was confirming that dominion, glory and the Kingdom was given to Him, that He is the King of the Kingdom of God.

When He was revealing the work of the Holy Spirit, He told His disciples that part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to take what belongs to Him and give it to His followers. *"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that My Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare to you."* **(John 16:14, 15)**

After praying for His disciples and for those who will believe their word, He said: *"And the glory which you have gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one."* **(John 17:22)**. Jesus and the Father are one, He gave us His glory so that we may be one as He and the Father are one. That tells you that we have not received any of the things that have been freely given to us.

If the Church had received the glory, She would not be as divided as she is today. If She received dominion, she would be operating with power and authority on the earth. If She had received the Kingdom she would be under the rulership of Christ and would be reigning with Him on earth and the will of God would be done on earth as it is in heaven. All peoples, nations, tribes and languages would be serving Christ today and there would be peace on earth.

During Jesus's earthly ministry He did not send out His disciples without giving them power and authority. He knew that they would not be able to accomplish His purpose on earth without His delighted power and authority. He knew that they would be able to preach and teach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and heal the sick, like He was doing. *"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick."* **(Luke 9:1, 2)**

After He resurrected He told them to wait in the upper room in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit which He told them about. *"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which He said, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now..... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* **(Acts 2:4, 5, 8)**

Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever, He never changes. If He Himself being God, needed to be empowered by the Holy Spirit before He

started His earthly ministry, and so did His disciples who became Apostles, How much more does the present day Church need the power. **(Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:1-4)**

When I had the revelation of the need for enablement and empowerment by the Holy Spirit, I began to pray and to seek the Lord be endued by the Spirit from in high for the work of ministry. I have been teaching and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom since the Lord told me to reveal my calling. That it is to teach and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the whole world and to call the Saints to possess the Kingdom. **(Daniel 7:18)** After preaching for many years without impact I went back to the Lord in prayer to ask whether in the latter days He wants us to preach the Gospel without power.

I have been in this pursuit now for many years concerned and burden by the Church that has no power. It is not enough that we are baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as long as we do not manifest the power and the authority that comes with the baptism.

In recent times the Lord has been revealing that we serve a God we do not know, we need to know pursue His knowledge. In that pursuit I understood that when I received Christ He came to dwell in me with all His attributes. Therefore the power is in me, the Holy Spirit, the word, the anointing and everything I need to preach the Gospel and to advance the Kingdom has been given to me.

If you do not know what you have received and you do not exercise it, you will never see a breakthrough. I believe that is why the Lord is now revealing what He has given to us and what we lost. The Lord is restoring the Church and soon we will see a restored Church.

The restored Church is going to be better than the early Church, it is something the world has not seen.

LESSON 22

WHAT HAVE WE LOST (PART 3)

3. Our Identity

As you know we are in the journey of recovery, the purpose of our journey is to recover everything we lost when we first believed. When I say what have we lost I am referring to us the church, the body of Christ, the ecclesia, the holy nation that Jesus Christ came to build and is building even now. The Lord has never stopped building His church, His spiritual house, His dwelling place in the spirit. He is preparing for His bride for His coming. He is coming for a bride without spot, wrinkle or blemish, He is coming for a glorious, victorious church. **(Matthew 16:18, 19; Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:25-27; 1Peter 2:5, 9, 10)** I will continue to call the church to her true identity until She becomes what the Lord is building to be.

Saints we are not the building we gather in every Sunday. We are not the ministry or denomination we belong to, the church is us the people, the saints of the Most High. We are not the institution called church we are a spiritual house, we are the house of the Lord, His dwelling place. We are the living stones God is using to build His house of prayer because He does not leave in houses that are built by hands any more. The Lord dwells in a spiritual house, a house that is able to offer unto Him spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The Lord is building Himself a Holy Nation, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, His own special people. He is building His people, who have received Him as their Lord, as their King and Ruler, people who understand and appreciate the sacrifice He made when He left heaven to come and save the world. People who acknowledge and recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of mankind.

When people understands this truth, they show forth their love for God by offering unto Him praises for saving them and delivering them from sin and from their own destruction. They are so grateful to the Lord for saving them that their only desire

is to serve the Lord their God in spirit and in truth. They want nothing but to please their God that they strive to obey His commandments, His statutes and His judgements. They love what He love and hate what He hates. They are one with their God, they are in Him and He is in them, they live to please their God all the days of their lives.

King David had a revelation of this truth and He offered praises unto God by singing psalms to Him alone looking after sheep in the field. He says in **Psalm 103:1-7**: *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfy your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel."

When you seek to know the Lord, you get the revelation of the benefits of loving and serving God, the benefits of being a child of God, the benefits of the kingdom. You understand the transaction that took place on the cross.

Remember Jesus had not come in the time of David therefore Christ was revealed to Him by the Holy Spirit and through the revelation, he was moved to sing praises to Him.

He tabulates the benefits in this psalm and in many of His psalms. When you know what the Lord has done for you, why would you not praise Him. When you know He has forgiven your sins, He has healed you, He has redeemed you. He has given you His word, He has filled your mouth with His word, so that what comes out of your mouth is nothing but the truth. Because you are full of the word, which David calls good things, you keep young, your youth is renewed everyday. Your mind is renewed by the washing of the word that you may know the perfect will of God. **(Romans 12:1-3)**

When I saw this psalm I prayed it every day and I saw my youth renewed. People do not believe my age and I tell them every time to stay in **Psalm 103**. I tell them to praise the Lord at all times, His praises to be in their mouth. To praise the Lord in good times and in bad times, praise is the key to youthfulness. You don't have to spend money doing plastic surgery, you simply meditate on the word of God and keep praising the Lord. I said earlier you will love what your Lord loves and hate what He hates. You will love righteousness and justice because your God loves and delights in them. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne, this means the throne of God is founded on righteousness and justice. **(Ps 97:1, 2)** Righteousness is the sceptre of the Kingdom of God. **(Psalm 45:6, 7)** All God wants to see in the nations is righteousness and justice, He wants to see them in the way we relate with one another, in the homes, in the market place, in our judicial system virtually in everything. **(Amos 5:21-24)** When righteousness reigns in the lives of people they dwell in peace and security. **(Isaiah 32:15-18)**

The Lord executes righteousness to all who are oppressed. He hates oppression and He delivers those who are oppressed and bound by sin, or by people, He delivers them from all form of oppression. We saw this by how the Lord delivered the Nations of Africa from colonization and apartheid, not because they were good but that is just the nature of God.

Moses sought to know the ways of God not what He could do for him. The bible says ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened for you. If you ask anything in the name of the Lord it will be given to you. **(Matthew 7:7; John 14:14)**

The children of Israel wanted to see the acts of God, they wanted to see the blessings. Yet physical things come and go, they pass away, only things that are eternal lives forever. Therefore it is childish to ask God, the creator of all things for things instead of things that you cannot buy or buy.

Children of God are forever asking God for things, like houses, cars, money, because He already knows what you need, all He wants is for you to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. When you do what God wants He will add all these things you need. **(Matthew 6:24-34)**

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught saying, sort out money issues, do not serve money or mammon, serve the Lord and Him alone, therefore do not worry about your life, what you will wear, what you will eat, where you will stay, because He already knows you need shelter, clothing, and food.

If being children of God we seek God for things, it is a sign that we do not know who we are and whose we are. This saddens the Father because He has already given us all these things, because it is nothing to Him to give His children what they need but He has better things, things that are eternal to give us.

He rejoices when we come to Him to ask to know His ways so that we may walk in them, like Moses or for wisdom to lead His people like Solomon. When you ask for spiritual gift, He gives you even the things you did not ask. God was so pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom, the principal thing that He gave him riches and wealth. **(1Kings 3:6-14)** That is why he says get wisdom and in your getting get understanding because she gives you things money can buy. *"Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding..."*

Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honour, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory she will deliver to you. (Proverbs 4:5-9) These are things wisdom does and Solomon is not writing about things he read about but things he personally experienced. He says again about wisdom: *"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honour are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. (Proverbs 8:17-19)*

May the Lord reveal Himself to us that we will be delivered to ask Him for things but to seek Him. In Him there is life and everything you need to fulfil your purpose on earth. What Solomon needed to lead God's people was God Himself. Same as Moses in order for him to lead God's people from the bondage of Israel he needed the Lord and to learn His ways, because His ways are not man's words His paths

not man's paths. You need the Lord at all times to find His way, you need Him to lead you with His righteous right hand to destiny.

When Moses asked the Lord to reveal His ways to him, the Lord showed him His ways, He reveals that His ways are mercy and truth. "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His ways. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, too such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. **(Psalm 25:9, 10)** The Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived advises us not to forsake mercy and truth but to bind it around our necks and to write it on the tablets of our hearts. When we do we will find favour and high esteem in the sight of God and man. **(Proverbs 3:3, 4)**

Lordship

When we get saved we say we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, the question that we need to ask ourselves is: Is Christ truly Lord in your life? Does He rule your life? First of all we must understand the meaning of Lordship. Lord is ruler, master, owner, one who have absolute authority over your life which stems from ownership. The best way to describe Lordship is to use land lord. The one who owns property has absolute authority and control over the property. A tenant cannot do as they please in someone's property without the permission of the land lord. He cannot break walls and renovate the property to suit his taste.

The next question to ask ourselves is whether we are still under self-rule or under the rulership of Christ though we are born again?

If we discover that Jesus is not truly Lord over our lives and that we are still under self-rule, we do what we like.

What is the remedy?

The remedy is to repent and to turn from our wicked ways. It is to surrender our lives to the Lord. To lay down our agendas and our plans but to seek to know His will for our lives and to align with it. Even Christ came not to do His will but the will of the Father who sent Him. *"For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."* **(John 6:38)** If we are truly followers of Christ we must follow His example as well.

It is actually wisdom to seek the will of God, because His will for us is good, it is not to harm but to prosper us. Therefore why would anyone not want to do the will of the God the Father.

May the church of Jesus Christ be restored to Her true identity this season in Jesus name.

LESSON 23

WHAT DID THE CHURCH LOOSE (PART 4)

4. The Original Mandate

Jesus Christ came preaching and teaching one message, the Gospel/message of the Kingdom of God. He came to re-establish, to re-enforce and to restore the Kingdom of God on earth. He taught and preached this message of the Kingdom in the synagogues, to His disciples to the multitudes and everywhere He went.

The message of the Kingdom is no longer preached, the church has lost Her mandate, to go to the whole world and to make disciples of nations. As a result the Lord has not power, She has lost Her power and Her glory because of disobedience. The power is for going not staying and building your own Kingdom.

Remember when God created mankind He gave them dominion which is the Kingdom. **(Genesis 1:28)** *"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over everything that moves on the earth."* This was a covenant the Lord made with mankind, He blessed them and He gave them rulership, dominion and a Kingdom.

He delegated power over mankind to manage and to administrate His creation. He taught His disciples to pray and ask the Kingdom to come so that the will of God will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. **(Matthew 6:9-13)** Jesus knew that when you invite the Kingdom of God to come, you are inviting the Lord to come and invade the situations and circumstances that are confronting you on earth so that His will may be done. When the Kingdom of God come, His will is done. When you enthrone Christ with your praises, He inhabits your praises and His will is done in your life. As the Lord went about preaching and teaching the message of the Kingdom, Healing every sickness and every disease, He was advancing the Kingdom on earth. Those who received the message, received Him as their Lord and saviour and He brought them into His Kingdom.

When He unveiled His mandate in the synagogue one day, He told those present saying: "*The Spirit of the Lord* (Please write the full message in **Luke 4:18, 19**) He was telling them that the Father has empowered Him with His Spirit for the work for which He came which is to preach the good news to the poor, the poor in this case is the poor in spirit, those who are spiritually bankrupt.

A person can have physical riches and wealth but be poor spiritually. That is a worst case of poverty because money cannot deliver you, only the Lord Jesus Christ can deliver those who are poor in spirit. He went on to say He has come to heal the broken hearted, meaning He has come to end human suffering. The suffering affects people, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically. The emotional hurt and pain causes a broken heart, therefore Christ came to heal those who are suffering. He came to set the captives free, He came to free those who are slaves and prisoners of sin.

He came to open the eyes of the blind, those who are spiritually blind not necessarily blind physically. He came to preach to those who have eyes but do not see, they have ears but they do not hear, they have hearts but do not perceive. They are blinded by Satan, when they hear the good news of the Kingdom of God and their eyes and their heart will see and perceive and He will save and heal. Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom, He healed the sick and He delivered the demon possessed. He sent His disciples while He was with them to do what they have seen Him do. He was specific regarding the message He was sending them to preach.

He said to them: Go, and whatever city you enter, heal the sick there and say to them the Kingdom of God has come to you (**Luke 10:8, 9**) He knew they would need empowerment to do the work He was sending them to do, therefore He gave them power first then He sent them. (**Luke 9:1, 2**). When we look at Jesus's ministry we see that, healing was the integral part of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus Christ, taught and preached one message, He healed the sick, delivered the demon possessed and made disciples.

Jesus did not lack messages to preach, He was on a mission, to seek and to find the lost, to heal and deliver them and to make them His followers. He was not moved by little success in the villages, towns and cities He touched with His ministry, when they wanted Him to stay and build His ministry there, He would

tell them that He has to preach the message of the Kingdom in other towns as well because He came for this purpose.

"Now when it was day, He departed to a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; But He said to them, I must preach the Kingdom of God to the other cities also because for this purpose I have been sent. And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee." (Luke 4:42-44)

Jesus was purpose driven, He was determined to finish His assignment in the time that He had, He also knew that He would not be able to accomplish it without prayer. From time to time He would go to a dispersed place alone to pray. When the disciples saw how Jesus would go away to pray before and after His ministry, they asked them to teach them to pray. **(Luke 11:1-4)**

The Great Commission

The Great Commission was the original mandate Jesus gave to the church. He gave His disciples a commission to follow on His footsteps and to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world. The commission the Lord Jesus Christ gave to His disciples, He also gave to the Church He is building is called the great commission. It is the ultimate commission that is given to every believer who comes into the Kingdom. Jesus gave the commission to all believers, to the church, the entire body of Christ not to the Fivefold ministers only. When He said "Go Yea therefore ", He was speaking to His disciples who later became Apostles and to those who will believe in Him through their word.

Therefore all the followers of have been commissioned to follow the teaching of the Lord, to advance the Kingdom of God on earth. The Apostles of the early church followed the example of the Lord and preached the Kingdom of God everywhere. **(Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23,30,31)**. Many miracles were done through their hands and they led a great revival. *"And through the hands of the Apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people and they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch."* **(Acts 5:12)**

The miracles that were done through Apostles were more in no than during Jesus earthly ministry, to fulfil the word that was spoken by the Lord in **John 14:12-14**. The Apostles were in one accord, they had the singleness of heart to fulfil their purpose, like their Master, Jesus Christ our Lord. There is power in unity, when brethren dwell together in unity, there the Lord commanded the blessing and life forever more. **(Psalm 133)**. The Lord gave believers the glory which was given to Him, the purpose of the glory was to make us one as He and the Father are one. **(John 17:22)**

As the Apostles were going from city to city, nation to nation, preaching and teaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, making disciples and healing the sick, they turned the world upside down. *"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."* **(Acts 17:6)**. When the church responds to the commission the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God and of His glory as the waters covers the sea, the prophecies of Isaiah and Habakkuk will be fulfilled. **(Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14)**

The Lord is restoring the message to the church of the last days so that they may go into all the world and make disciples of nations. He is restoring the original mission of the church. Jesus is waiting for the Gospel of the Kingdom to be preached to every creature. **(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-20)**. The harvest is ready, it is waiting to be harvested by the church. The Lord is calling the church to go to the nations to bring in the end-time harvest. **(Matthew 9:37, 38)**

When Jesus Christ returns, He will judge all nations. As a righteous Judge He cannot judge those who have not heard the word. He is waiting for the church to make the children of Israel jealous when they see the God of Israel moving among the Gentiles. They know the God of signs and wonders, the God who delivered them from Egypt, who opened the Red Sea and the River Jordan, who gave them the land which He promised their forefather Abraham to give them. When they see God moving in the church with power, doing signs and wonders, when they see His glory they will know that Jesus is the Messiah and they will believe in Him. By church not doing the great commission, She is delaying the coming of Jesus Christ. The Lord never calls and not anoint and provide. During His earthly ministry, Jesus promised to pray to the Father to send another helper, the Holy Spirit. **(John 14:15-18; Acts 1:8)**

When He ascended to heaven the Father sent the Holy Spirit to come to help, to enable and to empower the church to fulfil Her mandate. The Holy Spirit has been on earth since the day of Pentecost. He is waiting to be invited by the church to help them. He came with 9 fruit to build the character of Christ in those who invite him. When you invite the Holy Spirit to lead and to control you He comes and He produces the 9 fruit in your life and He distributes His 9 gift, in order to equip and to empower the church for ministry. **(Galatians 5:22, 23; 1Corinthians 12:1-11)**

When Jesus was teaching about the work of the Holy Spirit, He said He will take glorify Him and take what is His and give to them. **(John 16:14, 15)**. He is not here for Himself but to glorify Jesus. The Holy Spirit reveals all that has been freely given to the Church, because everything that God has given to the Church is discerned by the spirit. The Lord knew that the church will not be able to fulfil Her mandate without the Holy Spirit. Even the Lord being God needed the Holy Spirit for His earthly ministry. The Spirit came in a form of a dove and remained with Him throughout His ministry on earth. **(Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:29-34)**

If Jesus Christ needed to be empowered by the spirit for His assignment on earth, how much more the church. After the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles in the upper room they were endued with power from on high, such that revival broke out when Peter preached and when miracles were done through their hands. **(Acts 2:40-42; 4:1-4)**. Peter and the Apostles never claimed glory for the miracles that were done through them, they gave the glory to Jesus. They told the people who saw the wonders that Jesus has healed the people not them. *"So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go."*

Peter knew that Jesus has healed the man not them and was not prepared to grieve the Holy Spirit and take glory. The Lord provided for the work, in the early church people gave for the work of ministry, the bible says some sold their properties and gave the money to the Apostles. **(Acts 4:32-37)**.

The church was birthed by the spirit on the day of Pentecost, how it ended up in religion. How did the church become an institution or a cooperation? Who bewitched the church, how did the church that started in the spirit end up being a religious organization. But the Lord is restoring His church and is going to use the church to reveal Himself to the world. What has happened to the church happened before in Galatia. **(Galatians 3:1-7)**. The power of the Holy Ghost and the anointing is given for the ministry that glorifies Jesus.

LESSON 24

WHAT DID THE CHURCH LOOSE (PART 5)

5. The New and Everlasting Covenant

Our God is a covenant making and a covenant keeping God. He called Abraham out of his country, his family and from his father's house to a land which He will show him. Abraham obeyed God, he left his country and followed God though He did not know where he was going. The Lord promised to make him a great nation and to make his name great such that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him. (**Genesis 12**)

Abraham's obedience was accounted for righteousness. When the Lord looked at his obedience it added up to righteousness. Then the Lord said to Abraham, In **Genesis 15:1-6**, the Lord introduced Himself to Abraham as His shield and His exceedingly great reward. He promised to multiply Abraham's descendants as stars, meaning he will give him countless descendants.

When the word was spoken Abraham had no child, he was old and his wife was barren. The word of the Lord is powerful, He calls the things that are not to be. All you need is the word from the Lord. If you have a word from the Lord hold fast to it because He will surely bring it pass. The Lord speaks a thing before He does it and suddenly He does it. (**Isaiah 48:3-6**) Never fear saying what the Lord has said, be confident when you declare it that He who has spoken is also able to perform it. (**Jeremiah 1:12**). You must never give God time frames for His ways are not man's ways nor His thoughts man's thoughts. His word will not return to Him void, it will accomplish what He sent it to do. If He has spoken a thing He will do it, if He has purposed it in His heart He will bring it to pass. (**Isaiah 55:8-11; 46:11**) He says in His word: "*My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.*" (**Psalms 89:34**). In Genesis 15 when Abraham asked the Lord how will he know the things He has spoken will be done for him. The Lord entered into a covenant with him as a sign that the things He has spoken will come to pass. He

told Abraham things that will happen even after he is gone. He told him that his descendants will go to a foreign land for 400 years, that He will visit them after that time and bring them to the land He has shown them.

They will not leave the land of their oppression empty handed, He will give them favour to plunder their oppressors and He will deal with them for the unrighteous treatment they will give to his descendants. **(Genesis 15:9-21)** Abraham held fast to the word of the Lord and it came to pass. The Lord gave Abraham a son Isaac in his old age and inspite of the barrenness of his wife Sarah's womb. The Lord has kept His covenant to date. He gave Abraham's descendants the land of promise, which is today's Israel. A land of milk and honey, a desert that has become a fruitful field.

The Abrahamic covenant is one of the most important covenants because it is fulfilled in Christ. Those who have received Jesus Christ as Lord partake in this covenant as well. Out of the Abrahamic covenant flows blessings and those in Christ are also partakers of the blessings. *"that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith."* **(Galatians 3:14)**

What is a covenant?

A covenant is like a contract. It is a compact, pledge, treaty, agreement between individuals, Kings and his people and most importantly by God with His people. (Strong #1285) *"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."* **(Genesis 17:7)**. This is the most important covenant of all covenant because it shall not be broken for generations. Agreements or contracts with man can be broken but not this one. What do I mean when I say we lost the covenant when we first believed?

When we got born again we were not told we were entering in a covenant with God. I pastored a church for 10 years and since my conversion I have led many to the Lord but have never told them they are entering into a covenant. I have attended many services in my life in the Lord but I have not heard the word of the covenant

taught. When we take communion we read the scriptures about the blood of the new covenant but the revelation of the meaning of the Lord's Supper in relation to the new and everlasting covenant is not clarified. As the Lord has been revealing what He is restoring to the church, I received understanding of danger of being in a covenant that you do not know.

A covenant is between two parties, it is an agreement between the parties if the other party in the agreement does not know he/she is in a covenant can there be an agreement? An agreement comes with obligations, one part promises to do something so does the other party in the agreement. They both sign and take up witnesses to witness the agreement be it a lease agreement or a marriage covenant.

The Lord promised Abraham that He will be God to him and to his descendants. On the other hand they will be His people. He gave them commandments to live by the 10 commandments. He commanded them to obey His commandments, His statutes and His judgements. If they do that He will be their God and they will be His people. God told them to keep His covenant and if they do He will make them a special people to Himself above all peoples on the earth. *"Now therefore, if you indeed obey My voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is mine. And you shall be to Me a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."* (**Exodus 19:5-6**).

In order for the covenant to stand the people God has made a covenant with must keep their side of the covenant. God will surely keep His part because He does not break covenants. When they sin He punishes them but does not break the covenant. When they repent and return to God, He forgives them and He remembers His covenant with Abraham and He restores them. Even if He scattered them to the nations He brings them back to their land. We see this throughout the bible even in our time. (**Leviticus 26:40-45; Jeremiah 32:37-44**)

God is forever bringing the children of Israel back to their land. After the bible days God gave them back their land and Israel became a state recently in 1948. This happened because of the covenant God made with Abraham their forefathers

many, many decades ago. That is the power of covenant. When the children of Israel sin against their God, He allows the land to be taken and He scatters them. Each time He scatters them in the nations of the world wherever they are they keep being a nation in those countries. When they remembers the laws they were given by Moses the servant of God and they keep them in those nations. They live according to the laws that are written in the 5 Books of Moses, the Torah, they keep the Sabbaths and their feasts. The Lord blesses and prospers them in those nations.

They never stop being a nation wherever they are. They are not bound by the laws of those nations they are bound first and foremost by the laws of their God. They keep the ordinances of the nation where they are but they remain a nation within that nation. When this truth was revealed to me I realized that we have lost much. Through Jesus Christ the Lord has made those who have believed in Him a nation and has made a new and everlasting covenant with them. The new covenant is made with the innocent blood of Jesus Christ, it is a better covenant but it is not evident simply because it is not taught. God has made a covenant with us but we do not know we have a covenant as a result it is not working for us. We have Jesus Christ as our Lord and saviour, we have the Holy Spirit but we are not the blessings and the prosperity that flows from the covenant.

Instead we envy the Jews sometimes we even leave the faith and join Judaism because we see how God is blessing them. We have a better covenant but we look down on it because of ignorance. The covenant God has made with believers did not come cheap. It was not established with the blood of animals but with the precious blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God. The blood of Jesus speaks better things than the blood of animals or even of man.
(Genesis 4:1-15; Hebrews 12:18-24)

The New Covenant

The Lord spoke through the mouth of Jeremiah the Prophet saying:
"But this the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord, I will put My law in their minds, and write them on their hearts; and I

will be their God they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbour and every man his brother, saying know the Lord, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." **(Jeremiah 31:33-34)** Jesus inaugurated this covenant on the night He was betrayed when He instituted the Lord's Supper. This new covenant is an everlasting covenant it has no end. All will believe in Christ until His return will be partakers of this covenant. When the Lord made what is now the old covenant with Abraham, He chose his descendant to be His people and that cut out all other people. He made the descendants of Abraham to be His people, but now with the new covenant He has made all people who receive Christ to be His people.

The institution of the Lord's Supper was the inauguration of the new covenant **(Luke 22:14-23)**. The Lord knew that He was going to be betrayed that night and be crucified. He knew He was going to the cross to die for mankind which is what He came to do. On the cross He was going to shed His blood and therefore establish the new covenant. He had finished the work He came to do, He had taught the values and the principles of the Kingdom. He has taught a new way of living and by the Lord's Supper He was putting a seal to everything.

All nations, all peoples, all tribes and all languages would now serve Him because of this covenant. They will be His nation, the difference is that even the people who were not people of God, through the new covenant they will become His people. He will bring them to His holy mountain, He will build His house of prayer with them, and they will all be His people, Jews and Gentiles together. All He is asking them is that they may hold fast His covenant and His testimonies. God does not relate with anyone outside a covenant, when you enter into a relationship with the Lord through Jesus Christ it is a covenant relationship.

The covenant is by sacrifice because He Himself sacrificed to establish the relationship that is established through the new covenant. As I said before the covenant comes with benefits and blessings. If you do not lay hold of the covenant how are you going to lay hold of the benefits? Therefore it is important to be told upfront when you get born again that you are entering into a covenant with God. You are a child of God by covenant. Then you must be taught about the covenant

you have just entered into so that you may be able to do your part of the agreement.

When Isaiah prophesied about the salvation of the Gentiles he said: *"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants. Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant - Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offering and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar, For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."* **(Isaiah 56:6,7)**

Before Christ Gentiles were strangers and foreigners from the covenant of God and from the commonwealth of Israel. Through the blood of Jesus now they are no longer strangers and foreigners they have been grafted in they have become a household of God. **(Ephesians 3:19-22)**. They are the people of God, His holy nation His special people **(1Peter 2:9, 10)**. The tragedy here is that most of us we have head knowledge of this truth but we are not enjoying the benefit of the covenant. In this time of the restoration of the church, when the Lord is restoring all we lost, He is restoring the church to the covenant. God has remembered His covenant and is calling His people who are covenanted to Him by sacrifice. *"Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."* **(Psalm 50:5)**.

This is the time for the church to walk in the new and everlasting covenant the Lord has made with them and see it work for them. When we take communion now we must know that we are invoking the covenant should therefore be conscious of the fact that we are God's people and that we are a nation. We must operate as a nation in the world so the world may know that we are God's people and desire to be part of this nation. We must know that we are people of God by covenant, keep that in mind at all times and do what is pleasing to our God. Most of all we must teach this to our children in turn they must teach it to their children as a testimony to them.

I pray that this truth will be revealed to everyone who lays his hands to this disciple manual and that this word will spread.

QUESTIONS

LESSON 20 – 24

(WHAT DID THE CHURCH LOOSE)

1. What did man lose when sin came on the earth
2. Why did God create man
3. What did God give man in order to accomplish his purpose on earth
4. What did Adam do in the garden where God put him
5. What is the ministry the Lord Jesus left the church
6. According to the vision of Daniel, what did the Father give the Lord
7. Give 3 things the church has lost
8. What is the Lord building
9. What is the church building
10. Where does the Lord dwell
11. Who is the house of prayer
12. What is the church
13. What is the mandate the Lord gave to the church