



Class One

NEW CREATION

The New Creation

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION, old things are passed away all things are become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17

This is the cardinal point. The Christian is a NEW CREATION. He is one who never existed or pre-existed. Altogether a new man, with a new kind of life. The new creation is God’s workmanship created, made, brought to life by God, created in Christ to do good works – *Ephesians 2 :10*. Again, the new creation is not remade or refurbished. He is not just endowed with a new character. He is created with the nature of God in his spirit; he hails from God. *Ephesians 2 :10, 1 John 4:4*

The new creation may look the same outside but the truth is that he is completely new inside – in his spirit. Therefore, he now lives his life from the inside. He has the divine nature of God in his spirit. He is as holy and righteous as God is. This is why the bible says, “...now all things are of God...” *2 Corinthians 5: 18*.

2. Born Of God

This new creation in Christ Jesus is born of God. He firstly believes in his heart that the lord Jesus was raised from the dead and then confesses what he believes with his mouth (*Romans 10:9-10*). As soon as this is done, he is automatically birthed of God. The bible says to all that believe in his name, God gave right to become his sons. A son is the grown child of his father, and every child is his father’s seed. In *John 1:12-13*, God calls the one who believes in his son, born of His seed and God’s seed in His WORD. That is why we cry ‘Abba Father’ because the very life of God in us makes us his beloved son, just as much as Jesus is. *Romans 8:15-17*

3. Salvation by Grace (Eph 2:2-10)

Christ took the penalty of sin and overcame its power over us on the cross. Through faith in Christ, we stand acquitted (not guilty) before God. This is the grace of Gods work.

“For by grace you were saved through faith, and nor of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of the works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph 2: 8-9)

We became Christians through God’s unmerited grace, not as a result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice or act of service on our part. It is therefore evident that no action or work we did could have helped us obtain salvation. It was by God’s grace.

Romans 5:17. Those who receive abundance of grace of the free gift of righteousness will reign in life, though Jesus. This is God’s word to all Christians; we can reign over all the vices and evil in the world.

4. Assurance of Salvation.

A. The word: Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 5: 9-10

Sometimes, the devil likes to deceive all God’s children by making us feel that we are not saved. Our assurance of salvation is not through our feelings. Salvation is as close as a man’s



heart and his mouth, so the bible tells us in Romans 10:10 *“for with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confesses unto salvation.”*

You believed with your heart and your mouth confesses what you believed. No matter how doubtful we may feel sometimes this scripture gives us assurance from the word of God. We know that the ‘witness of God is better’ - 1 John 5:9-10. God himself witnesses that our salvation is assured by the belief in our hearts and the confession that our mouths made.

B. The witness of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:16

The spirit himself beareth witness that we are the sons of God, we may not always feel like we belong to God but the Holy spirit always bears witness with our spirits that we are God’s children. He does this through the inward witness. He lets us know by the witness who we are. The Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirit that is alive to God, that we are born and saved of God.

By the above two means, we are continually assured of the fact that we are saved despite our feelings it does not matter what our senses tell us. The only important testimony is the one God gives concerning us.

Question:

How will I be continually assured of my salvation despite what my senses tell me?

Handling a mistake – 1 John 1:9-10, 1 John 2:1-3

“If we confess our sins, God forgives us. He is not counting our mistakes against us. God sees us as righteous children always. He sees His son Jesus Christ in us, and sees us through his son even when we make mistakes. If we make a mistake or sin all we have to do is confess to him. And he forgives us. We must always believe that God has forgiven us, and not brood over our past mistakes.

“...If any (born again child of God) sins, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1-3). Jesus Christ is our advocate. He has already suffered your penalty in your place. All you need to do is confess and believe that you are forgiven, because he has indeed forgiven you.

5. Remission for the unregenerate – Acts 2:38, Matt. 26:28, Ephesians 1:7

Jesus, when he died on the cross of Calvary, died for the whole world. Both the regenerate (Christians) and the unregenerate (non – Christians), *“for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sin”.* (Matthew 26:28).

When a sinner comes to Christ, he does not receive forgiveness. What he gets is remission of his sins. Remission is the actual washing away of sins in such a way that the sin never even existed before. This is why the bible says that if any man be in Jesus Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away and all things have become new. It is wrong, therefore, for an unbeliever to ask God to forgive him of his sins. Forgiveness belongs to those who are in a relationship with God, but remission is for the sinner. Our redemption came through his blood. Eph 1:8 *“in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”*



6. **Forgiveness for the Christian** – 1 John 1:9-10, 1 John 2:1-3

We have established that remission belongs to the unbeliever, while forgiveness belongs to the Christian. When a Christian does what is wrong or he makes a mistake, he does not need to confess the lordship of Jesus Christ any longer. All he needs to do is to ask God to forgive him as the scripture says.

Question:

Differentiate between REMISSION and FORGIVENESS of sins.

God's Reason for Salvation-Genesis 12:2, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8

God wants to bless you and make you great.

Gen. 12:2 “*And I will make of thee a great nation, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing*”. God wants to bless His Children; He wants to make them great- in fact the greatest in the world. That is why He made us partakers of His divine nature. His divinity at work in us can only produce great achievements. He is our father. The earth is His and the fullness thereof (Psalm 24:1). If it is all His and we are His Children, it means that all that belong to Him are ours, and he wants to bless us with them.

God wants us to preach the gospel to the world- Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16: 15-20

One reason God saved us is so that we can be His outstretched hands to the world. He wants us to show His light to those who are in darkness and make them disciples of His kingdom. As we grow in our relationship with Him, He gives the ability to tell everyone that all who believe in Him will receive remission of his or her sins. One of the reasons for God's salvation for us is so we can prolong the days of His son Jesus here on earth.

Question: How does God intend to use you to bless the world?

7. **Man is a spirit. He has a Soul and lives in a Body** (1 Thess. 5:23, Hebrews 4:12)

7.1 **The Spirit**

a) **The Spirit Man got saved**

The new man in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) is the man that got saved. His body remains the same. All externals remain unchanged, because HE IS SPIRIT. The human body that houses a man is not the person. The real person is the spirit, the one who got born again. That is the one alive to God. God is Spirit. “*But He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him*” (1 Cor.6:17, 2 Cor.6:17). That tells us that the spirit of man is the one that is alive with God.

(b) **He lives in the word of God**

The Christian cannot live on bread alone as Jesus said, but on every one of God's word (Matt. 4:4). When we are born again, we become spiritual babies. If we are healthy, we will grow, that's the only way. Every Christian should be desirous of God's word to grow and be nourished by it (1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:14).

As we live by the word and feed on it our appetite for it increases, hence the development of our spirit is enhanced. Christians cannot live without the word.



(c) The Fruit of the Recreated Spirit- Galatians 5:22-23.

The spirit (man's spirit) produces these character traits that are Christ's nature. For these fruits to grow in us depends on how much of him we know by feeding on His word and how much we love Him. Jesus Christ is the vine; we are the branches – the fruit bearing part of the same vine. These fruits are different from the *gifts* of the Holy Spirit. These are the characteristics of the new creation man, but the gifts of the Holy Spirit are resident in the Holy Spirit who then gives it to every Christian as he wills. At every point in time the Christian has the fruit because they are in His nature.

7.2 The Mind

(a) Renewal of the mind_– *Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 4:22-24.*

Before we became Christians our minds and thoughts were filled with things and values of the world, obviously not of God. Therefore, our minds have to be renewed and our thoughts aligned with and consistent with godly living. The mind is the seat of the will, the intellect and the emotion. The information in the mind therefore is what determines what the man will become. Paul said that this transformation of our lives comes as we renew our minds. In other words as we take off the old information we had before we got saved and put new words from the word of God, our lives will be *transformed*.

(b) Sanctifying the thoughts_– *James 1:13-15, Phil. 4:8*

What we put into our minds determines what comes out in our words and actions. We should therefore program our minds with thoughts that are noble, true, right, pure, lovely and praiseworthy. We should replace harmful inputs with wholesome materials because that is what becomes of us. James said that a man is tempted when he is drawn away in his own lust and enticed. Sanctification means SEPERATION. Our thoughts must be sanctified in such a way that no dirt or filth is found there. The bible says a man is what he thinks about. God wants our thought to be based on His word. He wants us to think excellent things.

(c) It is renewed by the Living Word of God - *James 1:13-15, 2 Corinthians 3:18*

Paul, in his second epistle to the Corinthian Church, said that as we behold the glory of God, we are transformed into the same image that we see in the word, from one level of glory to another. Our mind is renewed by the word of God. The word of God is the glory of God. As we behold it, our mind is being renewed and our body is being transformed. The glory of God is revealed in our lives. James said our lives can only produce the right fruit when we consistently behold the word of God. He said that the word of God is the mirror through which we see ourselves.

7.3 The Body

(i). Bringing the body under subjection_– *I cor. 9:24-27; Col 3:5; Roms. 6:13-15*

The body has no will of its own. It is either a slave to the senses or a slave to the spirit. Paul lets us know that it is our responsibility to keep our bodies under the ruler ship of the spirit. The body wants to do what it feels like doing, but many times the feeling in the body may be contrary to the word of God. At such times, we put the body under subjection to our spirit. In other words, we tell it what to do. Paul says the reason for putting our bodies under is so that we do not get disqualified after preaching to others. It is possible to be disqualified for the prize. Anyone who walks by the flesh will definitely be disqualified for the prize, that is why



Jesus said that God is a spirit and they that worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth. We do not worship God in the flesh but in the spirit.

8. Who the Christian is:

Firstly, the Christian is a NEW CREATION.

We are truly not of this world. We live in God's Kingdom but we live on the earth also. We truly live in two worlds. (Hebrews 12:22, John 14:6, Isaiah 35:10, 33:20, Colossians 1:13, John 17:14)

8.1 He is complete in Him

And you are complete in Him which is the head of all principalities and power. Colossians 2:9-10.

The fullness of the godhead bodily dwells in Jesus, and we are complete in Him. It means that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in us. The bible talks about the mystery hidden by God from all ages and generations which he has made known among the gentiles, which is Christ in you the hope of glory. Christ dwells in our hearts fully. We have the full deposit of Gods anointing. We do not require a double portion of it because that is less than Gods best. The fullness of deity dwells in our hearts and we are complete in him who heads up all powers and principality.

1 John 3:2 lets us know that there is no difference between Jesus and us today. He said "as he is so are we in this world, and it doth not appear what we shall be but when h shall appear, we shall see him as he is"

Questions:

Jesus Christ had the anointing without measure. How about the Christian?

It does not make any spiritual sense asking for a double portion of the anointing. Why?

When I feel powerless, I need to fast and pray to receive power from God. Comment.

8.2 He has eternal life

Eternal life is the heritage of every Christian. In the Greek language from where this word was translated, it is called ZOE. It is the quality of life in the heart of God that makes him who He is. When people talk about the 'New Life' in Christ, they are making reference to the eternal life. It is his life that makes any man who comes into Christ a NEW CREATION.

When Jesus said in John 10:10 "I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly", He was referring to ZOE. The life of God is to dwell in the heart of the Christian in such a way that all he needs is found in that life.

There is only one condition precedent to having this life imparted in our hearts. The Bible declares that, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE" (John 3:16). The only condition there is to receive eternal life is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus declared: "verily, verily, I say unto you he that heareth my word, and BELIEVETH ON HIM that sent, hath EVERLASTING LIFE, and he shall not come unto condemnation; but is passed from DEATH unto LIFE" (John 5:24). Again: "but these are written that ye might



believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the God; and that BELIEVING ye might have LIFE through His name. (John 20:31).

According to the Bible, when a man believes in Christ Jesus as the Son of God, he immediately becomes the recipient of the God-kind of life, i.e. ZOE (2 Cor. 5:17) actually declares that he becomes a new creation with all things having passed away. He receives a new life. The God Life now inhabits the spirit and he immediately becomes a partaker of Gods divine nature. This nature or life is in Jesus Christ. *“And this is the record that God has given us ETERNAL LIFE”, and this life is in HIS SON. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son hath not life” (1 John 5:11-12).*

The Bible records that when a man becomes born again, he is born of God and not of human will. From this time he has actually become a recipient of Gods life because it was God who gave birth to Him. Everything produces according to its kind. Plant seed gives birth to plants. Dogs also give birth to dogs. Man gives birth to man with human life, and when God gives birth, he also reproduces according to his own kind. He gives birth to gods: *“Jesus answered them, is it not written in your law, I said ye are gods?” (John 10:34).*

It is becoming clear why Jesus Christ came into the world. He did not come to bring religion; neither did he come to introduce a sect. He came with the life of God for man. In Him there is proof that man has the capacity to both CONTAIN and EXPRESS God. He came to introduce life because he is the master of life himself. He said *“I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly”*. He came to put an end to death and its effect. The book of the Hebrews declares that *‘...he through death might destroy the one that has power over death, that is the devil and deliver those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage’*. He broke the power of death and took man out in freedom. He actually ABOLISHED death. *The Bible declares: “but it is now made manifest by the appearing of our saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death and brought LIFE and IMMORTALITY to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:10).*

This was the singular mission of Jesus Christ on earth and He completely fulfilled it. The bible says that he came and destroyed the works of the devil. He brought LIFE to the world. That life is ZOE.

8.3 The son of God (1 John 3:1-3; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16-17)

The book of John 1:12-13 states clearly that we are empowered unto sonship once we receive Christ by accepting the gospel. The Holy Spirit confirms it.

8.4 He now lives in Zion (Hebrews 12:22-24; Colossians 1:13; John 17:14)

Zion is the city of God, and the kingdom of God. We were translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God (Zion). Hebrews 12:22 says, *“but ye have come unto mount Zion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and to an innumerable company of angels. God is within us (Luke 18:16; Luke 17:21).*



8.5 You seat in a place of power.

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 2:6) it is a place of power and authority. When Jesus rose from the dead, He said “all hail, all power in heaven and in heart has been given unto me. Go ye into the world and teach all nations...” He said that he was sending us even as the father has sent him. He did not reduce the authority, he sent us out with the same measure of authority. (Eph. 1:20-21; matt 28:18; mark 16:16-18).

Question:

What power does the devil have over the Christian?

8.6 The ‘I can do’ mentality

There is a mentality that ought to control what the Christian does. The Christian has no limitations whatsoever. The Bible says “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me”. (Phil. 4:13) nothing is impossible to the new creation. The reason is because the ability of God is at work in him. The power in him is the anointing of Christ.

The Christian should not let anything limit him. It does not matter what the situation looks like, the bible says you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. It says ‘nay in all things we are more than conquerors’ (Roms. 8:37) and greater is he that lives in me than he who lives in the world. (Philippians 4:13, Matthew 19:26, Mark 11:24, Romans 8:37, Galatians 2:20)

8.7 You are God’s Address

The address of a person is where the person lives. In the Old Testament, God dwelt in tents. During the time of Moses, he was instructed by God to build an ark according to the pattern shown to him on the mountain. After Moses finished building the ark, the glory of the Lord filled the ark (Exodus 40:34). *“Then the cloud covered the tent of the meeting because of the glory of the lord filled the tabernacle”*. Moses could not enter into the tent of meeting because of the cloud that had settled upon it, and the glory of the lord filled the tabernacle. That was when God started dwelling in that ark. The ark typified the presence of the Lord. It means that wherever the ark was, God’s presence was there. When the Israelites were crossing the River Jordan into the promise land, immediately the feet of the priests carrying the ark for the covenant touched the water’s edge, the water parted (Joshua 3:13-16). That was God’s address. They carried the ark to battle, and defeated their enemies.



During the time of Solomon, he built an ark and after dedicating the temple, the glory of the Lord filled the temple (*2 Chronicles*). God started dwelling in that temple. When they prayed to God, they came to Jerusalem where the temple was, but if they were far from Jerusalem, they had to pray facing Jerusalem. When they sinned against God and were afflicted because of their disobedience, they normally came with ashes on their head and their clothes torn, before the temple for God to forgive them. That temple became Gods headquarters, His home address and his office where He reaches out to sons of men. But the bible says that the Most High does not live in the houses built by hands (*Acts 7:48*). That was why when Christ died; the curtain of the temple was torn into two from the top to the bottom, and the Holy Ghost will now dwell in anybody that will confess Jesus as the lord of their lives.

In the Old Testament, there was the Inner Court, the Outer Court and the Holy of Hollies, where God dwelt. Likewise, our bodies typify the Outer Court, where all activities of life take place. Our soul represents the Inner Court while our spirit represents the Holy of Hollies. So in the New Testament, our body is called the temple of God (*1 Corinthians 6:19*), but he dwells in our spirit. We have the inner man and the outer man (*2 Corinthians 4:16*). The inward man is made up of the spirit and the soul. God dwells in our spirit, in the hidden man of the heart. Our body is our house; it houses the human spirit. And since God dwells in our spirit, it means that our body is the house of God (*Hebrews 3:6*).

This means that since God dwells in us, everybody that needs God ought to come to his house as they did in the Old Testament. For example, if you want to find the Prime Minister, you go to his office or his residence; Likewise if you want to come to God's house, you look at yourself because his house is who you are. We are God's address; he works in us and through us. We are his headquarters and wherever we are, God is there. We carry him around. The work of the master is taking place in our bodies. When a sinner needs repentance, deliverance or anything they ought to come where God lives. So we carry God to the people who need him. We are now the working houses of the Almighty God, carrying him to the world.

Ephesians 2:21-22 says that we are God's building. The foundation has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6:19, the bible says that we are Gods temple, and in Ephesians 2:21-22 we learn that we are still



being built to become a dwelling in which God lives by His spirit. We have come to a point where we are fully assured/ persuaded that we are Gods temple and his presence in our lives will start operating tremendously with power so that everywhere we go, we can actually feel the presence of God. It has to do with growing in grace and in the knowledge of us being the house of God. This is the mystery of Christianity – the pulsating, transcendent, victorious life of the son of God in any human person (*Colossians 1:27*).

8.8 His Extension

In Christ, Jesus is the head, and the church is the body but both of us make up Christ. i.e. Christ means the ‘anointed one’. When Jesus was anointed of the Holy Ghost he became Christ. He went about doing good and healing those that were oppressed by the devil for God was with Him. In Christ, there are two generations in one. In Matthew 1:17, the bible says that from the carrying away to Babylon, to Christ is fourteen generations.

But if you count it you will get thirteen this means that in Christ, the thirteenth generation is made up of two generation. Jesus and the church Jesus came and lived his life, performed outstanding miracles and was taking up to heaven, and we are the people that are extending his ministry and life here on earth. The bible says he shall see his offspring/seeds and shall prolong his days. What Jesus started, he continues through the Holy Ghost, whom he has given to us. Jeremiah 51:20-22 teaches us that we are Christ’s weapon of war, crushing the power of the devil through us. We are like him in every way, born of the same spirit, by the same word, and we have the same life and above all the same father.

The bible says that we shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us (*Acts 1:8*). That is when we receive power to become the anointed of Christ. First of all, we are baptised in the Holy Ghost, and He (Holy Ghost) comes to dwell in us. We are in Christ – which means that we are immersed in the anointing. The anointing abides in us. It does not leave - it stays there permanently. But we have to cultivate the anointing. We are the ones prolonging the days of Jesus. He can be felt in the world just as He felt during his walk on earth through the anointing that we received by the Holy Ghost. We are one and the same generation doing the same things that He did while on earth.

Jesus casts out devils, heals the sick, and raises the dead through us. We are His extension here on earth.



9. Our Inheritance in Christ

9.1 All Things

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according of Him who worketh in us all things after the counsel of His will” (Ephesians 1:11).

The Christian is identified with Jesus Christ in such a way that all Christ’s inheritance belongs to him. The bible declares them heirs of God and joint heirs together with Christ (*Romans 8:17*). All that Christ inherited is for the believer.

“God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in the times past unto the fathers by the prophets; hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He hath appointed HEIR of all things, by whom also He made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus received an inheritance from the Father. His inheritance is all the things that the father has. So God appointed Him heir of all things. In the same way, the Christian has become an heir or a possessor of all things. **“ALL THINGS ARE YOURS”** (*1 Corinthians 3:21*). ‘All things’ here consists of all of God’s possessions. *“The heaven, even the heavens, are the lords; but the EARTH hath He given to the children of men” (Psalm 115:16).*

9.2 Divine Health

“Surely He hath borne our grief, and carried out sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5)

The bible lets us know here that Jesus Christ suffered with our afflictions. He took our diseases upon Him and with those stripes we are healed. Divine healing is the Christian’s inheritance. Beyond divine healing, however, is divine health. It is for the Christian. A Christian can actually live in health and refuse the devils attempt to afflict his/her body with sickness. When the Christian was recreated in the life of God, He was recreated in divine health. The fallen nature of the first Adam came with sickness and could be influenced by it, but the nature of God, which the Christian has now received, came with life. It came with health.

The power of sickness has been destroyed and so it cannot dwell in a Christian body. Health became a part of our inheritance the day we received Jesus Christ into our lives. It is not something we get by faith; it belongs to us. It is our present tense possession.



“Beloved. I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in HEALTH, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 1: 2). Not only do we possess health now; it is also God’s supreme desire that we keep being in health.

9.3 Prosperity and Abundance

Not many believe that Christians should be wealthy and prosperous in material things. But the Apostle John clearly states that it is one of God’s foremost desires for His Children to live in Prosperity. *“Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2).*

Jesus did not only suffer for our sins and sicknesses. He also suffered for our poverty. He paid all the necessary penalties for our freedom from poverty.

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). God has reasons why He wants His children to prosper.

10. Your Rights in Christ

Slaves do not have rights because they are subject to their masters. When we talk of rights, we are presupposing the presence of freedom or liberty. A man has legal rights. The United Nations Charter on Fundamental Human Rights gives people the legal right to life personal protection to that life and property. In other words, these rights can be enforced. Jesus declared: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of the sight to the blind, to set at LIBERTY them that are bruised” (Luke 4:18)*

The word ‘liberty’ means ‘release’. That is to be set free or to bring out of slavery. Jesus said He does this by the anointing. Paul said, *“For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty: only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but, by love, serve one another” (Galatians 5:13). “And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty, which we have in Christ, that they might bring us into bondage” (Galatians 2:4).*

In the last two scriptures above, the word liberty is the same thing as ‘right’. It is synonymous with authority. So we have been called into freedom/liberty, and this freedom is empowered with a legal right. Christ



brought us out of slavery so he could bring us into freedom with legal rights. What are these enforceable rights?

10.1 Right to Choose

God made man a free moral agent with the right to actually determine his destiny. Because a lot of people view Christianity religiously, they treat it like just another religion of the world. In religion, man loses his right of expression. His right to chooses becomes nullified. When people make a statement like, “what will be, will be” they are demonstrating their ignorance of Gods plan for man. They negate the right to choose. When people want to get healed or receive something from God and they don’t get the right to choose. When people want to get healed or receive something from God and they don’t get it, they are quick to say Gods will is not for them to have what they desire of Him. They do not know that God has given us the right to make our choices and have them established.

Blind Bartimeaus demonstrated this right when he could not be kept from shouting at Jesus for his deliverance. Religion has taught people that sickness comes because one has committed one sin or the other, so the sick one would have no right to seek for healing. But Bartimeaus disagreed and Jesus healed him. (Mark 10:51). Jesus specially asked him what he wanted Him to do for him. He did not take him for granted that the man wanted his sight restored. He could have asked for money and Christ would have given him some, but he asked for his sight. He chose between money and his sight and Christ obliged him. God declared: *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live”*. (Deuteronomy 30:19).

This same principle is revealed all over the scripture. When God visited judgment on the prophets of Baal, Elijah the prophet asked the Israelites to choose that very day whom they would serve. God never subjects people to circumstances. He gives everybody the right to choose the kind of life they want to live. He even gives us the right to choose not to die. Paul said, *“for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour; yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Never the less to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with all for your furtherance and joy of faith”* (Phil 1:21-25). So God has given us the



right to choose what we want. People do not know this because they do not know the will of God. His will is in His Word. When we know his word we will not be in the dark.

10.2 Right to Live

This is one liberating thought that the gospel has brought to us. To many this is almost as heretic as saying that Jesus Christ is not the son of God. The religious leaders have made all their subjects believe that death came from God. They preach that God gives and takes at his own discretion. They even say that death is a necessary end and is inevitable. The Bible does not teach this. The bible actually calls death an enemy. *“the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (1 Cor 15:26).*

It does not make any sense to say that God takes people away by death. Yes, He does take people away but he has better means of doing that. He does not require the service(s) of an enemy to achieve a purpose. The Bible says, *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found because God hath translated him; he had a testimony that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).* So God did not have to kill the man to take him away. Death is an enemy and a tool of the devil for destruction. It can be resisted and subdued by the faith of God.

“for as much as children are partakers of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise took part of the same, that he through death might destroy him that has the power of death and deliver those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb 2:14-15). Jesus has destroyed him that had the power of death that is the devil. He stripped him of his power and made life available to us.

“But is now manifest by the appearing of our saviour Jesus Christ, who hath ABOLISHED DEATH, and brought LIFE and IMMORTALITY to light through the gospel (2 timothy 1:10). Jesus Christ has given us the right to live. The Christian can refuse to die irrespective of the doctor’s verdict. Jesus said *“I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:25-26).*

People say that he was making reference here to spiritual death, but that is not so. He was talking to people who were already dead spiritually. He was talking about physical death. He said he shall never die. We can also



exercise our rights to live and behave like Paul who said, *“for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But If I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour, yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you”* (Philippians 1:21-24). When he decided to go he let them know also that it was a matter of decision.

10.3 Right to Rule.

“much more they which receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17).

The Christian has the right to take charge and exercise dominion in this world. The bible declares that God has put everything under the feet of Christ, and has given him to be the head of all things to his body i.e. the church. He made us kings and priests unto himself.

“and from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Revelations 1:5-6).

1 peter 2:9 declares that we are a royal priesthood, displaying the wonderful virtues of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. It is important to note that we have already been made kings and priests of God. It is not a promise from God that would be fulfilled at some future date: it is what God has already done for us. We are kings now, and as kings we have the right to rule. We are ruling over everything that should be subject to Christ; over principalities, powers, circumstances, diseases, etc. The power of a king is in his words. We exercise dominion through the words of our mouths.

“where the word of a king is, there is power, and who may say unto him what doesth thou?” (Ecclesiastes 8:4)



Class Two

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third person of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit gave birth to the church on the day of Pentecost and since then, He is the person that has been working on the face of the earth. The church was born in power, and the life of a Christian is a supernatural one. We cannot live the authentic Christian life without the Holy Spirit. Nobody knew anything about the Holy Spirit until Jesus introduced Him towards the end of his ministry. That day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and has been on this earth ever since then. It is God's dream that we understand the ministry of the Holy Ghost in the believer's life because His Spirit is necessary for living a real and fulfilling Christian life.

Purpose

The main aim of this class is:

- (1) To introduce the Holy Spirit to the believer.
- (2) To get the new believer filled with the Spirit.
- (3) To acquaint the believer with the ministry of the Spirit.
- (4) To create a passionate hunger in the heart on the new believer for a close walk with the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God Himself, is the third person of the trinity, the person that created the earth. He is a member of the Godhead (*Gen. 1:26*).

He is a Spirit and cannot be seen with the optical eyes, but He is as real as the person sitting next to you (*John 14:17*). He has a personality, just as every human being has a personality. He can be grieved (*Ephesians 4:30*), and can talk (*Acts 13:2*).

He is the angel of God's presence (*Isaiah 63:9*). He is the person that brings to us on earth the presence of the Almighty God. Jesus is in heaven, but His presence can be felt here on earth. God dwells between the cherubim of glory (*Hebrews 9:5*), but His presence can be felt in this world through the Holy Ghost.

God is too big to dwell in us but He is able to dwell in us by the Holy Spirit. Any time it was recorded that God appeared to men, it was the Holy Ghost that brought to them the presence of God. He is the angel of God's presence. He is one of the same kind with Jesus (*John 14:16-20*). The *Allos Parakletos*, one of the same kind; called alongside to help. He is not of a different kind but of the same kind with the Lord Jesus Christ. He talks, heals, saves and does everything like Jesus. Jesus is just like the Father; it then means that the Holy Ghost is just like the father. This implies that the Father, Jesus and the Holy Ghost are the same. The father says the same things as Jesus, just as the Holy Ghost speaks the very words of Jesus (*John 16:13-15*).



Parakletos means

- a. Comforter (*John 14:16; 2 Corinthians 1:3*).
- b. Counsellor (*Isaiah 11:2, Romans 8:14*).
- c. Helper (*Romans 8:26*).
- d. Strengthener (*Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 11:2*).
- e. Intercessor (*Romans 8:26*).
- f. Teacher (*John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11; 1 John 2:20-27; John 16:13*)
- g. Standby (*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*).

He is the Comforter (*John 14:16; 2 C Corinthians 1:3*)

As a comforter, the Holy Spirit was sent primarily to establish comfort for God's people. We (Christians) live in a world that is largely anti-God. God, knowing the opposition and the persecution we would face as Christians, sent the Holy Spirit to us to be our source of comfort. The early disciples during the time of persecution walked in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit and they were greatly multiplied (*Acts 9:31*).

He is the Counsellor (*Isaiah 11:2; Romans 8:14*)

Have you ever been faced with a moment of great decision? At such times you should turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is available to every child of God. We should all expect the Holy Spirit to be our guide. The Bible says, for as many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God (*Romans 8:14*). He leads us through our human spirits. Proverbs 20:27 says, "*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly*". To live in continuous victory, we must be led by the Spirit of God.

He is the Helper (*Romans 8:26*)

Help as defined by Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary means "*to make it easier for somebody to do something; to assist somebody*". The Holy Spirit as our helper assists us to do all that God has called us to do. He makes it easy for us to live successfully as Christians in this corrupt world. There are times where you are faced with a great task and you are wondering how you would succeed. Be sure of this, you are not walking alone. For example, Believers' LoveWorld is a ministry that God has marvellously helped. In just a short time of our starting, we have achieved so much, if it were not for the help of the Holy Spirit; we would not have achieved so much. We are conscious of this fact that is why we know what we have done so far is just the beginning. With His help, there is no telling what we can do and where we can go. Glory to God!

He is the Strengthener (*Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 11:2*)

God's Spirit gives strength to our inner man. Paul declared that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. Isaiah 11:2 calls Him the Spirit of might. In the Old Testament, men like David, Samson, Elijah etc, did mighty things by the power of the Spirit. If we stay full of Him, we can never experience defeat in our lives.

He is the Intercessor (*Romans 8:26*)



An intercessor is one who stands in the gap for another. In the Book of Romans 8:26, we don't always know what to pray for as we ought. We can't possibly know in our natural mind everything we should pray about in every situation and circumstance. The Holy Spirit assists us in our prayers with groaning, which cannot be uttered in articulate speech.

He is the Teacher (*John 14:2; 61 Corinthians 2:9-11; 1 John 2:20; John 16:13*).

As a teacher, the Holy Spirit carried on the ministry of Jesus, which was to a large extent a teaching ministry. When we receive the Holy Spirit, he indwells our spirit man; He serves as a teacher to our spirit. We must realize the things of God cannot be understood by the natural mind, they are revealed to our spirits; it is with our spirit that we contact God. As a teacher, He reveals to us the hidden mysteries of the kingdom of God. Non-Christians cannot understand why we do the things we do. “*we have unction from the Holy one and we know all things*” (*1 John 2:20*). As our teacher, He also reveals to us things to come. (*John 16:13*). We must realize that the Holy Spirit is in us to teach all things.

He is the Standby (*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*)

The Holy Spirit is also referred to as the standby, in *2 Corinthians 12:9-10*, Jesus said the Holy Spirit shall be in us and with us. There are times when our natural strength fails us, at such times we should trust in Holy Spirit for strength. Paul went through different experiences that revealed certain weakness in his life. The good thing was that even in the midst of his weakness, the Holy Spirit was at hand to strengthen him.

We can also enjoy this ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There are times when we are overwhelmed by issues and circumstances that reveal weakness in us. At such times we should remember the Holy Spirit as our standby. God has promised that he would never leave us or forsake us (*Hebrews 13:5*)

Thanks be unto God for He is able to keep us from falling, and he is able to present us faultless before the prescience of his glory with exceeding joy (*Jude 24*). So, whenever we are weak, he is in us to strengthen us. He is our standby.

Receiving the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is received after salvation. It is the Holy Spirit coming upon man that enables him do the supernatural. It is man receiving God's ability, becoming identified with the omnipotence of God by the enablement of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 says “but ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you”

The power here means dunamis. It is the dynamic ability to cause changes. God's ability is received after the Holy Ghost comes upon one's life. The Holy Ghost is received by faith, and he is mostly received by the laying on of hands (*Acts 9:17, 8:17*).

Receiving the Holy Ghost means receiving the anointing for Christian service (*1John 2:20, 27, 2 Corinthians 1:21*). It is God equipping you with the ability to do what he would have done if physically present on earth.

He received the power to preach the gospel, healed the sick and raised the dead.

The Holy Ghost is for every child of God and is received by faith (*Galatians 3:2*).

This is a gift (*acts 2:38-39*). Since it is a gift you don't have to work it – you only receive it when you hear that God desires to fill you with his spirit.

Once you believe and act on the word, the Holy Ghost comes upon you immediately.



Question

Samuel is a young Christian. He went to a friend to receive the Holy Spirit and he was told that unless he fast and prays for 14 days, he cannot receive the Holy Spirit. Do you agree with what his friend told him? Give scriptural reasons for your answers.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

You receive the Holy Spirit once but the infilling of the Holy Ghost is a continuous experience. The apostles received the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4 *“and when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them clothing thongs of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance.* But in acts 4:31 they were filled with the Holy Ghost again. *And when they had prayed, the place was shaking where they had assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they spoke the word of God with Boldness. This signifies that there is a conscious daily infilling of the holy ghost by the believer, Ephesians 5:18 “and be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit”.* It means that it is our responsibility to be filled with the spirit. This infilling of the Holy Spirit makes us to maintain our glow as Christians

Question

As a Christian, how can you make sure that you are filled with the Holy Ghost daily?

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 13:14 says: *“the grace of the lord Jesus Christ, the love God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, amen”.*

The Greek word for communication here means presence, sharing, fellowship, participation, intimacy, friendship, and comradeship. The Holy Ghost can actually become your friend. He is real and as you talk to him and recognize that he is always with you (*Matthew 28:20b*), your life takes on a new meaning. His presence always goes with you, you cease to fear and Isaiah 41:10 becomes a living reality: *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the hand of my righteousness”.*

As you know that he is always with you, you develop an intimacy with Him that the human mind can not comprehend. His presence saturates your life. He becomes a friend that sticks closer than a brother (*Proverbs 18:24*). He becomes the boss of your life. You wouldn't want to hurt Him. Always, worship escapes your lips and the only thing you long for is to be found in His presence.

Speaking in Tongues

Speaking in tongues means in a language which is not of this world – a language given by the Spirit of God. The bible also calls it the language of angels. The bible says that various signs,



amongst which are speaking in tongues, will identify those who believe. The world will recognise that they are believers by these signs. *Mark 16:17; 1Corinthians 14:22a* However apart from being a sign through which you recognise the believer, speaking in tongues help the believer to build himself up.

- a) *1Corinthians 14:4a*; “*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself...*” That is to say that the one who speaks in tongue charges himself up, he energises himself and builds himself up.
- b) *Jude 20*: the believer is built up as he prays and speaks in tongues. That is so to say that praying in tongues helps the believer in building up his faith life. It helps the believer to be established in the faith.
- c) *Acts 10:46*: Speaking in tongues is a language of the spirit through which the believer magnifies and glorifies God. The believer gives thanks and praise to God as he speaks in tongues. (*1Corinthians 14: 17*).
- d) He who speaks in an unknown tongue speaks mysteries to God. That is, he speaks hidden truth to God. No man understands him but God, because he speaks in the language of the spirit *1 Corinthians 14: 2*).
- e) ‘Speaking in tongues’ is a sign that should follow a believer. If you are a believer, you ought to speak in other tongues just like a man ought walk, talk and eat. These are signs, apart from a physical look of a man. A Christian should speak in tongues; it is a sign that must follow the believer.

In *Mark 16:17*, when the bible talks about speaking in tongues, it means the language given to every believer to communicate in the Spirit. This is a sign that God gives to everyone who believes the gospel. It is a mark of identity. Here lies the major difference between speaking in tongues as recorded in *Mark 16:17* and *1 Corinthians 12:10*. The latter is a gift of the Spirit. It is giving to believers as the Holy spirits decides. In *1 Corinthians 12:10*, the bible talks about the working of the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God gives to certain individuals various gifts or operation as He wills. The Spirit of God gives to each one the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all (V.7)

The Spirit of God does at will for the purpose of the building up of the body of Christ. This is not the same thing as in *Mark 16:17*. In *1Corinthians 12:10*, the Spirit of God gives the individual the manifestation of different kind of tongues to operate for a particular purpose. The Spirit of God gives the different kinds of tongues for the purpose of building the church.

The Gift of The Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 12; 7 -12

The gifts of the Holy Spirit refer to the manifestation of the Spirit given to every Christian for the profit of all. There are nine gifts of the Spirit as outlined in *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*.

- a. Word of wisdom



- b. Word of knowledge
- c. Faith
- d. Gift of healing
- e. Working of miracles
- f. Prophecy
- g. Discerning of spirit
- h. Diverse kind of tongues
- i. Interpretations of tongues

a) *What is the purpose of the gift?*

The purpose of this gift in the life of believers is to build up the body of Christ. *1 Corinthians 14:1-3*

b) *How can these gifts be received?* This gift of the Holy Spirit can be received by faith and through strong desire *1 Corinthians 12:31*. There must be a strong and earnest desire for these gifts. *1 Corinthians 14:1, Mark 11:24*.

c) *The gift of the Holy Spirit are permanent Romans 11:29* when God gives a gift, he gives it never to take it back- his gifts are irrevocable.

d) *One man can receive and operate all of them.* Yes, one can have all of them *John 3:34, Romans 15:29, Mark 9:23, Ephesians 3:19, James 1:5-8*

e) *The gift can be exercised at will. 1 Corinthians 14:15, 1 Timothy 4:14*

The Ministry Gifts

It was Paul who first gave a very definite explanation of the distinction of the gifts of God in the body of Christ. He said, “*but unto everyone of us is given grace according the measure of the gift of Christ*” (*Ephesians 4:7*). This shows that every Christian has been given the grace of God to work in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Paul went further to say,

” *Wherefore he saith, when he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some apostles and; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ* “(*Ephesians 4:8, 11-12*).

Paul shows from the above scripture that has a master plan for the Church. He planned for every one who is a member of the body of Christ to be vitally involved in the ministry both within and outside the Church. At the same time, he planned for leadership and proper coordination of the Church. He also has a grand plan for the development of leadership and multiplication of ministry within the Church. Paul, more than anyone else, shed much on the involvement of the laity as a major factor for the Kingdoms expansion and Church building. He clearly spent out the various offices God has set apart to see to it that the Christian is built and made ready to do the work of the ministry.

There is a ministry given to those who occupy these **five offices** in the body of Christ. Their ministry is primarily to PERFECT THE SAINTS. In other words, to prepare and build up the saints, so they can fulfil God’s purpose for their lives on earth. From Paul, we also learn a basic function of these five offices in the Church. However, before explaining their functions, I want to point out that the ministry gifts i.e. the five fold ministry gifts are callings from God



upon certain individuals. It is not everybody that occupies these offices it does not fall within the gifts of the Spirit that Paul asks us to desire. It is a calling.

To be an apostle is not by desire; neither is being a teacher, a pastor, evangelist or prophet. These are by Gods calling. Someone may teach but that does not mean he is called into the office. Someone may preach but it does not make him an evangelist because God admonishes each and every Christian to do the work of an evangelist. Someone may hear a message or oversee a congregation, but neither of these makes him an apostle or a pastor. He has to be called into the office to occupy the office. The Bible says that He gave every one of us grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

A. The Apostle

This comes from the Greek word *Apostolos* which means a sent one, a delegate, an ambassador of the Gospel, officially a commissioner of Christ, a messenger of Christ. An apostle is sent out with a message. In this sense, John the Baptist was an apostle because, concerning him, the Bible says,

“There was a man SENT FROM GOD, whose name was John. The same came for a WITNESS, to bear witness of the light that all men, through him might believe” (John 1:6-7)

John was sent with a message about the coming of Christ so an apostle is sent of God with a specific message. Paul declared:

“For I speak to you gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the gentiles, I magnify my office” (Romans 11:13)

Paul was an apostle to the gentiles. According to Paul, signs, wonders and mighty deeds accompany the office of an apostle. He said,

“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in SIGNS, and WONDERS, and MIGHTY DEEDS.” (2 Corinthians 12:12)

Paul tells us that each Church was built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. (*Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 3:10*)

B. The Prophets

This is derived from the Greek word Prophets. It means a foreteller, an inspired speaker. A prophet speaks forth the inspired word of God. He speaks forth the mind of God. He sees and hears things supernaturally. Someone who occupies the office of a prophet brings God’s vision to His people and helps build proper spiritual foundation for the people of God. *Ephesians 2:20*

According to Paul prophecies are for exhortation, edification and comfort of the Church. Again in the third chapter of the book of *Ephesians*, Paul declared:

“...whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy APOSTLES and PROPHETS by the Spirit” Ephesians 3:5

It does appear from these two Pauline scriptures that the office of the apostle and prophets were more essential at the foundation of the Church. The apostle taught the word, pastured the first few Churches and preached evangelistic message. After some time the other ministry gifts began to emerge.



This however, does not give these two edges over the other ones. For example, Paul admonishes elders of the local assembly in Ephesus (Acts 20) did not call for the apostles or prophets in the Church. He called for the elders, overseers of the Church. Basically, the office of the prophets brings direction to the Church of God, because it sees into the mind of God. Again it exhorts, edifies and comforts the Church.

C. The Evangelist

Paul took this from the Greek word Evangelist that literally means, ‘a messenger of good. It means one who brings or communicates the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of the ministry the evangelist i.e. mostly where the needy of the world is, this office is more often characterized with the manifestation of the spirit of God by signs, miracles and wonders. Paul in Hebrews 2:4, said of how God bore witness to the words of the gospel preached, with signs, wonders, diverse miracles and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Evangelists are the ones that motivate the Church towards reaching out to the lost and the training of the Church members in evangelism. This is one of the major reasons why Paul said they are given for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry.

D. The Pastor

The Greek word for Pastor as Paul used it is Poimen. This means a Shepherd or one who tends/herds flock. In the Church Paul speaks of the Pastors as those who care for, rule over, nurture, feed, guard and guide members of the body of Christ. The Pastor does not just relate with statistics, figures and things. He relates with people and their spiritual well being is his prime concern. According to Apostle Paul the Pastoral office has been charged by God with the responsibility of watching over the souls and providing for the spiritual needs of God’s people placed under their local assembly. Paul said, “Obey them which have the rule over you and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls as they must give an account that they may do it with joy and not with grief for that is unprofitable for you” *Hebrew 13:17*.

E. The Teacher

The teacher’s aim is to nourish the life of God implanted in others until it blossoms into confident openness before God and they would be able to bear whatever fruit God intends it to produce. In short, it is clear that in the New Testament the specific aim of the ministry of the word (teacher) is to bring believers to maturity.

According to Apostle Paul, the fivefold ministry gifts motivate and train the saints for the work of the ministry. The apostle motivates and trains them to do apostolic work. The prophets do the same thing and so do the evangelist, Pastor and teacher.

Paul made us understand in Ephesians 4: 7 that God has given every Christian grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. However, the saints who are all gifted need to be properly brought up and trained to work in these gifts. This is the reason for the five-fold ministry.

Having been perfected, Paul shows that ministries can then come into operation so that the Church will be built. Remember he said:”*from whom the whole body(Church) fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplied according to the effectual working*



in the measure of every part, maketh INCREASE of the body into the EDIFYING of itself in love” Ephesians 4:16

The Church cannot properly grow without every member exercising his gift.

The difference between the ministry gifts and the gifts of the Holy Spirit

The major difference between these nine manifestations of the spirit of God from the ministry gifts earlier discussed is found in 1 *Corinthians 12:7*, which says,

“But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal”. This shows that each and every Christian necessarily has at least one of these nine manifestations of the Spirit. All however cannot operate in the five ministry offices. The second difference is found in *1 Corinthians 14:1*; where Paul said “Follow after charity, *DESIRE* spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy”.

So we find here that the gift of the Holy Spirit can be coveted or desired but nowhere are we told to desire the Pastoral, Evangelists, Prophets, Apostle or Teachers offices. These, according to Paul, fall under the specific calling of God. He said, “And no man taketh this honour upon himself but he that is called of God as was Aaron” *Hebrew 5:4*.

All these manifestation of the Spirit serves for the edifying and common good of the Church (*1 Corinthians 12:7*); but Paul shows that the best of them is the gift of prophecy (*Corinthians 14:1*).

Above all else, God desires His Church to be built and so the gift that directly builds the Church should be desired more according to Paul.

Question

Outline the two major differences between the ministry gifts and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Every Christian can walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The bible says in Mark 16:16-1... “*These signs shall follow them that believe. They shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover, if they shall drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them*” (Matthew 10:1).

By believing, an individual puts himself in the power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Peter 1:5 says that we are kept by the power of God through faith. Not by works but by the faith of our lord Jesus Christ who died and gave himself up for us. Praise God!

2 Timothy 1:7 God has given us the spirit of power, that is, dynamic ability to cause changes. We can do all things through the anointing of the spirit of God that energized us. Ephesians 1:19, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 1 Corinthians 4:20.

Every Christian can walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and live in boldness.

Question

What is required before a Christian can cast out devils?



Class Three

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Preface:

In *Hebrews 12:22-23*, the Bible says,

“Ye are come unto Mount Zion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels.

To the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God be the judge of all, to the spirit of just men made perfect...”

When we receive Christ unto our lives, He makes us new creatures (*2 Cor. 5: 17*) and we brought into a new kingdom. (*Col. 1: 12-14*). In this kingdom, we have a lifestyle which is based entirely on the faith of God’s word (*Romans 12:3, Hebrews 11:6*) when we were in the world, there are certain mannerisms, lifestyles or ethnics that we learnt, either consciously or unconsciously. It is good now that we are living in the new kingdom to evaluate them in the light of God’s word and see whether the Bible still expects us to live by them. Apart from this evaluation, the word of God gives us express instructions on the kind of lifestyle that we should adopt. This class deals with this lifestyle which have become doctrines in the church of God, and especially this local assembly Christ Embassy.

1. Meaning of doctrines

St Luke, writing to Theophilus, said,

“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are surely believed amongst us , even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning where eye witnesses and ministers of the word; it seems good to me also having had a perfect understanding of all things from the first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightiest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou has been instructed.” (*Luke 1:1-4*)

Here Luke takes out time to explain to a disciple the origin of the doctrine of Christ, and the foundation of his faith. A doctrine is a recognisable principle of beliefs, teaching values or instruction that is adhered to, accepted, believed, taught and practiced by a given set of people. Most doctrines are transferable concepts, which have been handed down to us; for example in the New Testament, we have some major doctrines: Righteousness, Baptism, sanctification, prosperity etc. Each of them is important in ensuring that we live a sound Christian life.

Doctrines can be classified into three basic groups:

Scriptural doctrines

Man-made doctrines



False doctrines

Scriptural doctrines are founded in the word of God and its context. They are doctrines which have been handed down to us from the Apostles who were taught by our Lord Jesus Christ in the very beginning (*Acts 1:1*)

Men made doctrines are patterned after the fleshy minds of human beings. They are doctrines that border on the five senses – touch, taste, smell, sight, feel. They often bind the people of God. A typical example is the circumcision which some believing Jews wanted to impose on the gentiles (*Acts 15:1, Gal 1:6-12, Col. 2:18*).

Some characteristics of Man-made doctrines:

- They are totally based on the five senses and not on the sixth sense of faith.
- They are not based on the understanding of Christ.
- They make a poor specimen out of the new creation.
- They exalt the flesh but are often hidden under a cloak of humility. They do not offer liberty to the new creation that, indeed, has been called into liberty.
- Their end has no spiritual base.

False doctrines

“as I besought thee to abide still in Ephesus when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightiest charge some that they may teach no other doctrine; neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies which minister questions rather than Godly edifying which is in faith” (1 Tim. 1:3-4)

“now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith; giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of the devils. Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron. Forbidding marrying and commanding to abstain from meats, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth” (1 Tim. 4:1-3)

A lie is not the opposite of truth, but pervasion. Most false doctrines are based on pervasion of the truth of God’s word. From the time of Christ, we have had false teachers and prophets who brought in false revelation. Amidst the diverse teachings they bring, they always try to disprove the fact that Christ was manifested in the flesh, and that is the spirit of the anti-Christ (1 John 4:1-3).

Scriptural references: Acts 2:42, Gal. 1:6-12, Col. 2:18-23, Eph 4:14. 1 Tim. 1:3

2. **The foundational doctrines of Christ**

Hebrews 6:1-2: **“ therefore leaving the principals of the doctrines of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, the doctrine of baptism and of laying on of hands and of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement.”**

Certain truths contained in the Word are referred to as foundational principals of the doctrines of Christ. They are fundamental of faith and form the foundation of a sound Christian



experiences. Any doctrine that in any way disagrees with these fundamental doctrines is, according to the standard of God's word, a false doctrine; they therefore form a good reference point for judging any doctrine. All of the major cults and religions of the world deny and reject one or more of these fundamental doctrines, but these doctrines form the bedrock of the Gospel of Christ.

The foundational doctrines of Christ are:

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith towards God
- Baptism
- Laying on of hands
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgement

a. Repentance from dead works

“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ that we may be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of law shall no flesh be justified” (Gal. 2:16).

It is essential for a Christian to realise that he is justified by his faith and not by anything that he did or does. The bible says, “If you confess with your mouth the lord Jesus Christ and believe in you heart that God raised him up from the dead, ye shall be saved” (Romans 10:9). That is all that is required for salvation. In Hebrews 9:11-14, the writer lets us know that through the blood of Christ, we have our consciences purged from dead works to serve the living God.

What are dead works?

Studying from verses 11-13 of the same chapter, we can see that the Apostle Paul was talking about the rituals by which the people of the Old Testament came to God. He is letting them know that no act of sacrifice on our part to please God is acceptable. Rather, God sees them as dead works, but all that is required for us is to believe and be justified.

b. Faith towards God.

The bible says in Hebrews 11:1-2, **“now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report”**.

The life of the believer is a life of faith, and God has called us to live in the realm of faith. As Gods children, we walk by faith and not by sight. ‘Sight’ here means sensory perceptions. (2 Corinthians 5:7). Before we got born again, we were led by our sensory perceptions, but now God wants us to change. He wants us to live in his realm, the realm of faith. To some people, the life of faith is a struggle, but it shouldn't be like that for a Christian, because we are born in faith. The bible says in Romans 12:3, “for I say, through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think solemnly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith”. That is all we require - that measure of faith. This is the faith that brought us to Christ by our responding to the word of God (Romans 10:9-10).



It is every believer's responsibility to develop his faith. Now faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). As we hear the word of God, we are building up our faith; so every believer must make conscious efforts of continually hearing the word of God not just by attending church gatherings or being in meetings where the word of God is taught, but also by buying and listening to relevant audio and video tapes and other faith building materials.

c. Baptisms

The word 'baptise' is derived from the Greek word baptizo, which means to immerse completely into.

There are two types of baptism talked about under the new covenant. These are:

***Baptism into Christ:** this is what happens when a man is born again, by the Holy Spirit. He is buried into Christ in identification. He thus partakes of his death, burial and consequently, resurrection in a new life.*

“know ye not that as many of you as were baptized into Christ, were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like Christ was raised up [from the dead by the glory of the father, we too should walk in newness of life” Romans 6:3-4.

“For by the one spirit are we all baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink in one spirit”.

***Baptism by immersion in water:** This is one of the sacraments of the church of Christ. It is the immersion of one completely into water, and is an outward manifestation of what happens to a man when he is born again, and baptised into Christ. It was commanded by the lord himself as a sign of faith, showing the world that we have believed and identify with the redemption of God for mankind.*

“go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:19).

d. Laying on of hands.

The main reason for the laying on of hands is for the imparting of grace upon an individual either for healing or empowerment or to impart a gift. During the laying on hands that has to do with imparting a spiritual blessing, it often goes along with a prophecy. For example in Numbers 27:18-23, where Moses laid on hands on Joshua to impart his honour, we find that, by the spirit, Moses gave him charge. Deuteronomy 34:9 records that Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses laid his hands on him.

From the New Testament, there are four main reasons for the laying of hands:

- To minister healing: and they shall lay their hands upon the sick and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17-18).
- To Minister Holy Ghost: and Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands upon him said brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in



the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 9)

- To impart spiritual gifts: neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy with the laying of hands of the presbytery (1 Timothy 4:14).
- Ordination into the ministry: as they ministered to the lord and fasted the Holy Ghost said, separate unto me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed and laid hands upon them, they sent them away. (Acts 13:2-3)

e. Resurrection of the Dead

The scripture record that it is appointed for a man to die once and after that the judgement (Hebrews 9:27). But from the understanding of God's word, we know that death is an enemy. God never meant for a man to die but through the disobedience of an, death came into the earth. The bible says in Romans 5:17, **for if by one man's offence death reigned by one, more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.**

Death reigned until the obedience of Christ. Now, Christ has abolished death (2 Timothy 1:9-10) and has given us the power to choose life. In Christ Jesus, death is a choice for the believer; death cannot reign over us. But those who die in Christ have hope in the resurrection. The bible says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16, **"but I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as other which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus which are alive and remain unto the coming of Christ shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then, we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord, wherefore comfort one another with these words"**.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead because the word of God teaches us so. Man is a spirit being and does not go extinct. When he dies, his spirit goes to his master – either God or the devil (*Romans 6:16*). But his body is buried and returned to dust.

Scriptural references: John 5: 28-29, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16.

f. Eternal Judgement

The scriptures record that it is appointed for a man to die once and after that the judgement. We have two types of judgement, one for believers and the other for unbelievers. **JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:** The judgement seat of Christ is where Christians receive rewards for the deeds they performed while on Earth (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). Note that the Christian will not face the judgement seat to be condemned or judged. There is absolutely no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1, 14:10).

The Great white throne Judgement: This is when the non-Christian will be judged or condemned for not accepting Jesus Christ as their lord and Saviour. Here the church also will be present together with God to pass judgement on the non-Christian (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).



3. You are God's Righteousness

Righteousness is the nature of God. It is the nature we have received from God that gives us a right standing in His presence. It gives us the ability to stand before God without sense of guilt, inferiority or condemnation. It is a gift bestowed upon us by God irrespective of whatever good we have done. The gift is received by faith. It is the righteousness that gives the ability to reign in life without feeling any sense of condemnation. Every born again child of God is as Righteous as our Lord Jesus Christ himself. Nor can anyone grow or increase in Righteousness. This helps the communication of your faith to become more effective and productive (Philemon 1:6). Other scripture references Romans 3:21-22, 1:17, 8:1-4, 3:22, 10:10, 2 Peter 1:4.

“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one: much more they which received abundance of grace and of the gift of Righteousness, shall reign in life by one Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17).

It is our tool of dominion. It is received by faith because it is a gift and not by observing the works of the law.

“And be in Him. Not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith”

We submit to God's righteousness by ceasing to trust in our works. Righteousness gives us access to God's presence.

- *Boldness*
- *Peace.*

4. Sanctification

This means 'consecration' or separation from others for a special purpose. It is two-fold:

- Separation of the believer from the world when he gets born again. This is instantaneous upon receiving Christ. "... But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of our Lord Jesus and by the spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 10:10, Jude 1)
- The ultimate separation of the believer unto God. This is by the word of God affecting his being. This is gradual. It is not progressive or gradual, but continuous. Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy word is truth.

5. **Doctrine on holiness.**

Holiness can be said to be a state of purity or sacred act. It can be seen as anything that God comes upon or tabernacles upon. Since God has come to dwell in us, it means that the new creation is holy. It can also be said to be anything or a place where God is present. God is the one that makes us holy but this holiness can be seen through lifestyle, speech, appearance and body living sacrifice. Although, holiness is not physical, it can be seen in the way we do things and in our appearance.

6. **Doctrine on the law.**

Though the law was not given to us the law brought about the knowledge of sin, which brought about all death to all. With the law, none is justified. Therefore, the law was abolished and done away with. Now, we have a new law that is at work within us; "The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus". This law supersedes every other law and it is by faith in



...giving your life a meaning

God. This law comes alive when you put the word of God into account and is very affective when you believe what God says about you in His Word.

7. Deliverance.

The word 'deliver' means 'to take out', 'to save', 'to rescue from', for example from danger. The salvation is the central theme of the gospel and one of its benefits to the new creation is deliverance. God has delivered us out of the control and dominion of darkness. We are free from the power, hold, dominion or authority of darkness (Colossians 1:13). This is a present tense reality; Jesus came to redeem man not just by paying a price (ransom), but by force. Jesus made a public display of Satan's defeat. He conquered and disarmed the power of darkness and spoiled them. He took everything they had that was of value. This victory secured our deliverance. What more? He translated us into the kingdom of his dear son. He bought us out to take us in. we have been delivered out of the domain of failure, fear, poverty, sickness...not, will be delivered. It is our present tense possession. God did not stop there. He also gave us authority over Satan and all his cohorts in the name of Jesus. We have been given the power of attorney to use his name, and in that name we cast out devils (Mark 16:17).



Class Four

CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND CHARACTER

(1) THE IMPORTANCE OF GROWTH FOR THE CHRISTIAN

(A) GOD DESIGNED US TO GROW GALATIANS 4:1-2

As a new creature who had just received the life of God, you need to grow in that life which you have received. That life has now been designed and packaged to grow hence God commanded us in the book of 1 Peter 2:2 that as babes in the lord, we should desire the pure milk of the word that we may grow thereby. You have to grow up in your Christian life for the scripture to be fulfilled in your life. Grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. Eph. 4:15 –16

(B) INCREASING THE RESULTS WE PRODUCE

When your growth increases, your output will simultaneously increase because the Bible makes us to understand that greater works we shall do if only we allow ourselves to grow on the word. As we yield ourselves to grow in the lord, we receive the ability to discern both good and evil hence we are able to do the extraordinary. Heb. 5:14.

(2) STUDYING THE WORD

This cannot be over emphasize as the word of God is the key weapon a Christian can utilize to experience the extraordinary in everyday life and have constant transformation in his life 2 Tim. 2: 15

(A) REASON FOR STUDY

(i) THE WORD OF GOD IS TRUTH

Because as Christians, we need the truth which is the word of God that will activate our spirit of discernment enabling us to decide and choose rightly? Eph. 4:14

(ii) FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH: 1st Peter 2:2

You may never be able to see beyond your present horizon until you change your present position to a higher one and this can only be by studying the word of God.

You need to grow spiritually, you need to leave the level of life you have been living for a better and higher one. Make studying the word of God and spiritual development a priority today. Move beyond merely praising God in the flesh and learn how to study His word and praise Him from inside out.

(iii) GOD'S WORD YOUR WORDS

“Please I need your advice” is not an uncommon request today because they are so many who don't seem to know which directions their lives should go. The bible say we are the light of



the world (Matt 5:14) and that is why we ought to speak as the oracle of God (1st Peter 4:11) wherever we are approached like this. The word has a lot to say about life's circumstances, it has the answer to every question and the solution to every problem a man could ever have.

The natural man is selfish and has a tendency to consider himself ahead of others, whatever he says is tainted to his selfish interests. But we, as the light of the world speak reality according to God's word. So you see when you study God's word and fill your heart with God's word. You are not the only beneficiary. Many more will also benefit from your knowledge of the word. And more so your words are the product of your heart. You can't confess the word of God when you don't have the word in you and you won't get the word in you by watching television, or by wasting your time in irrelevant activities. You must study the word of God. Master it. Learn it and live by it. This is so important because what you have in you is what will come out of your mouth and what comes out of your mouth is what will govern your life. *Luke 6:45*

(iv) IT IS A COMMANDMENT FROM GOD (*Proverb 4:20-22*)

Studying and paying attention to the word of God that comes to you is in your best interest. The same way a student of an institution of learning is expected to attend to his studies in order to make good grades, God expects you to attend to his word so you can be successful in life. You know, it really doesn't matter as much if you score a 'D' in school, but if you score a 'D' in life, you are sunk! Success in life is not dependent on the number of degrees you bagged in college. It is in the amount of God's word you know and put to work! No demon will listen to you because you have a P.H.D, neither will sickness, disease nor credit crunch bow to anything else except the word of God. Life is spiritual and Jesus said 'the word that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life (*John 6:63*). It is so compulsory for you to study and give all your attention to the word of God because his words are life unto those that find them and health to all the flesh. If you take the word of God into your system, it will produce divine health and destroy every unwanted growth in your body. God's word is infallible and can meet every need. As you study, it opens your hearth to it in faith and will produce for you what it talks about. *Matthew 4:4, Psalm 119:10; Matthew 7:24; 2 Timothy 2:15.*

(B) NECESSITY FOR DAILY STUDY

To Stay Fresh

Philippians 1:9-10, Philemon 1:4-7. The Oxford English dictionary defines the word fresh as not stale, musty or faded. This gives an impression of health rather than luxury. We all require certain things to be fresh: we need fresh air and water daily, we need fresh clothes and keep our homes and surroundings clean and fresh. The bible says in *Acts 3:19* that times of refreshing comes from the presence of God. The presence of a believer ought to be refreshing also. It ought to clean up and gladden the hearts of people around with sweetness and gracefulness of the word of God.

Stay fresh in God's presence; don't pollute your mind by digesting wrong materials and entertaining worldly materials and entertaining worldly things that will pollute your soul.



IT HELPS YOU TO STAY FOCUSED. *Hebrew 12:2. Isaiah 50:7.*

There are times God shows you great visions of your life and then instructs you on what to do to accomplish them. But many people will try to discourage you as you set about doing those things; they will criticize the way you talk, walk and your life style generally. The psalmist said 'as the hearth pants after the water brooks.....' (*Psalm 42:1*). I love what he likened his hunger for God's presence to, a deer thirsting for water. This animal would do and risk just about anything to get water whenever is it thirsty, so you see when people try to keep you from what God has for you, just push them out of the way because you know what you want. Stay focussed on it by daily studying and meditating on the word of God. And by the time you get it, you wouldn't need to tell anybody you got it; they will see it by themselves.

TO DEVELOP THE SPIRIT BEING *1 John 5:11-12, John 5:24.*

By virtue of the new birth, you received the life of God into your Spirit. But you see, you have got to develop your body by eating a balanced diet and exercising your body regularly. That's the way the vast potentials of the human body can be adequately harnessed. It is the same spiritually, spending quality time fellowshiping with the holy spirit and studying God's word will ensure an effective development of the of God. But that doesn't guarantee your living to the full potential of the God life you have to cultivate that life develop it every day as you study God's word and fellowship with the holy spirit.

(C) RHAPSODY OF REALITIES

It is an effective study guide, a daily devotional guide written by Pastor Chris and Pastor Anita Oyakhilome. It helps you as a believer to know and desire more of God and walk closer with him in the glory of his presence. The word you study from Rhapsody of Realities activates your spirit to be at an alert hence eradicating fear and enabling you to exercise faith because the word of God says he has not given us the spirit of fear but that of boldness (we walk by faith and not by sight). As you continually study the Rhapsody of Realities, your spirit eyes are opened to see your authority as a believer, live in divine health and prosperity. `

3. EVANGELISM / SOUL WINNING

(i) **For the purpose of reconciliation (Eph. 2:14-16)**

The Bible says is or peace, who has made both (Jews and gentiles) one has broken down the middle wall of partition. The living bible calls it 'the wall of contentment that used to separate us; this is what reconciliation is all about breaking down of the walls of separation between man and God.

Reconciliation means to restore a broken or estranged relationship to its formal state, Christ has not only reconciled us to God, but he has given us to reconcile others to God as well. In 2nd Cor. 5:18-19, the Bible says that God has reconciled us into himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, Halleluiah! So we now have a responsibility of reconciliation others to God and to his son Jesus Christ.



“To will that God was in Christ, reconciliation the word into himself”

We have the responsibility to let people everywhere know that, contrary to what they think, God is not counting and holding their trespasses against them but cancelling them.

This is the message of reconciliation that has been committed to our trust. It is the message of restoration to favour with God, it is a message we must deliver urgently. We are heavens ambassadors to earth, and through us, God is making an appeal to a sinful world to derive favour that he has so generously offered. It is about time we fulfil our diplomacy obligations.

COLL. 1:19-22

(ii) **Lord’s commandments (Luke 4:18-19)**

“And he said unto them, go ye in the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

(Mark 16:15). Go I am convinced, the Lord says this to us again with the same urgency and passion. He said unto those disciples in mark 16 he says to us “go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and he that is baptised shall be saved but he that does not believe shall be dammed” he said “....these signs shall follow them that believe in my name shall they cast out devils..... they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18) halleluiah.

These signs are being established today in God’s kingdom; they follow every person the body of Christ

It does not matter that they were only born again yesterday. As long as you are a believer, these signs automatically follow you. This was the last testament of the Lord Jesus, gave to his disciples. He said to them, in other words (and to us), “go into the entire world and my power will follow you, my strength will go with you”.

Remember he also said, “Greater works than these you will do because go unto my father” John 14:12. He knew we would do greater things because of the generation we live in. God’s word is not void of power, God word is indestructible, incomparable, and indispensable....you cannot compare it to anyone or anything.

You cannot even really live without Gods word Hallelujah! God says he will not leave us without power. That is why we ought to go with great confidence and authority to win our world for him.

(iii) **It’s your calling to bear fruit. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)**

The moment you gave your life to Christ and the Holy Spirit made his abode in you was when God called you to the ministry of reconciliation that was when you became a witness for Christ. This calling is not optional, neither is it for a few hours, it’s our lifestyle it is the will of the father for every one of his children (2 timothy 1:9). We have been chosen and called to bring men to other inheritance in Christ with our words and our lifestyle. The lord Jesus Christ said “ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you...” (John 15:16) Hallelujah! It is important to realise that God has already planned for our success. So there’s no question as to how successful well be in our bid to win the world for Jesus.

(Psalm 2:8) says ask of me and I shall give thee...

(Romans 8:19) says for the earnest expectation...

Christ has given you this lift to bear fruit there fire let your lifestyle reflect Christ.



B. WHO IS QUALIFIED TO WIN SOULS? Acts 1:8

As a new creature that is a believer and cost death and resurrection of Christ had to receive the life of God hence he is the son of God, because the bible makes us to understand that for as many of us that received him, to them he gave them power to be the sons of God. The bible makes us to be witness of Christ to the end of the earth (Mark 16:15). Because of this you as a believer (son of God) who had received the Holy Spirit has automatically qualified to be witness of Christ that is evangelising and winning men to Christ.

C. REWARD OF SOUL WINNING. Romans 10:15.

Only the facts of those that bring glad tidings of good news are beautiful. The bible tells us in proverbs 11:30 that he that wins souls is wise, and he that is wise shall shine (Daniel 12:3). Some would say “Thank God for those who have been called”. Even if you say “well God has not called me as a full time preacher”. But everyone who is a Christian is first of all a minister of reconciliation. And as heir of God and a joint heir of the spiritual kingdom of God, you have become an ambassador of heaven to earth.

This is the first thing anybody should notice about you that you’re born again, because they see you going about your father’s business. This is what makes you shine as the brightness of the firmaments and as the stars forever, this is what makes your feet and your life beautiful. Ephesians 6:15.

4. PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

(a). Importance of prayers

(i). To produce results

Prayer prevails, it brings our expectation to pass, and it is effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man that produces result. (James 5:16); the Amplified Bible puts it this way “the earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available, dynamic in it’s working.” This means effectual, fervent prayer is earnest, heartfelt and continued prayer. This is a serious prayer. Serious prayer is not just squeezing your face, clenching your fist and screaming at the top of your lungs. No, I’m talking about when a prayer is coming from your innermost being.

James gives Elijah as an example of a righteous man who prayed and got results. There was no rain on the earth for three and a half years because Elijah prayed earnestly.

Is there anything you want changed in your life, family, business, church, city or nation? You can change it, anything is possible. You can change any situation with the Word of God and you better believe it. Start praying earnest, heartfelt prayers with deep convictions. Do not stop too soon. Continue until you have stirred up tremendous power that is dynamic in its working and can produce the change you desire. Continue until you get the note of victory in your spirit. Mark 11:24, 1 John 5:14-15

(ii). To issue commands



There comes a time when you have to take things by force, you have to stand on your footing by force. You have to stand on God's Word by force because things around you want to make it look like the Word does not work. You may command yourself to work in the knowledge of God's word. I force my body to pray. I force my mind to stay on God's Word. I see God's Word as for me the final authority. Then you recognise God's Word as a commission and a command and you stay in the Word praying without ceasing then you can be in control. Your command should be issued when you pray and speak God's Word and not issued to order people around you. Never forget this, when you command, you give command to the devil and circumstances you want to change. Do not even wait until the devil messes things up for you. Start issuing commands now.

Declare God's Word. When you declare the Word, you are issuing commands. You command instant respect and authority in heaven, on earth and in hell.

(iii). To strengthen your heart

Do you really want to grow in the knowledge of God? If your answer to this is yes then you are alright to be a praying person.

Sometimes you may not know which way to go; there may be several options present to you and you don't know which way is God's way. That's when you are right to pray and then you become strengthened towards the direction you should go.

When Paul prayed that Christ may dwell in our heart by faith, he was not talking about the man Christ Jesus, but His anointing. Thus he prayed that the anointing of the anointed one would dwell in our hearts by faith. This is the prayer you should be strengthened with right in your inner man and that the anointing of Christ may dwell in your heart. Then you will find that your heart will always be strengthened and directed towards the will of God and become more and more sensitive to the voice of God. Colossians 1:9-11.

b. Praying in the spirit

To pray in the spirit means praying in tongues, because the Bible makes us to understand that when you pray in tongues your spirit prays. 1 Corinthians 14:2-5, 14-15.

5. What is reality and truth?

In John 14:6 Jesus said "I am the way, the truth (REALITY) and life."

Truth is not what we can see with our eyes, feel with our bodies or hear with our ears. It is not anything we can perceive with our five senses. Truth is whatever God has declared about anything in his Word. In other words if the doctor says you have cancer but God says you are healed then the doctor lied irrespective of what you feel in your body. Truth has nothing to do with your senses. Jesus prayed "sanctify them by the truth, thy word is truth." John 17:17 Reality is not what you feel or see. It is what they say (2 Corinthians 4:14, John 1:17, John 17:17, John 14:6). Anything that disagrees with the Word of God is a lie even though it may be real to the five senses. It is important we understand perfectly what reality or truth is because we are dealing with what happens to the Christian, who he has become and what he now has.

6. God's mirror principle



...giving your life a meaning

This refers to our transformation by the Word of God that is to say as new creature and believers in Christ, when we continually study and remain doers of God's Word, in no time we will be transformed into the very image of God (from glory to glory) just as by the spirit of the Lord. James 1:22-25, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

7. Importance of convictions for a Christian

Acts 1:1-4

8. The right attitude in courtship, engagement

(a). Purity in courtship

As a new creature having the life of God in you, you need to be conscious of the fact that where God dwells is his temple hence your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which has been bought with a price for the purpose of glorifying God. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. Therefore your body should remain pure and holy to the service of God before and after marriage as the Bible makes us to understand that marriage is honourable and the bed undefiled. Hebrews 13:4, Eph 5:3-5.

(b). Getting the church involved

It is very important and necessary to get the church involved as God ordained them and gave them authority to counsel you during this period of courtship. Matthew 16:19, Hebrew 13:14

(c). Be careful whether you are married or not, live as though you are in service of God.

This means that we should be careful in what we do by putting God first in our lives and ensuring that all we do should be in the service to God and to the glory of His name.

(d). No marriage in heaven

This means that husband and wife is not recognised in heaven. There everyone will stand on his own to give account of his or herself that is why the Word of God encourages us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.



Class Five

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND PROSPERITY

Christian Character:

Introduction

Christianity is not a religion. It is the life of God revealed through the human person, it is God dwelling in the heart of man and causing the man to manifest such attributes known only with God. The bible says, *“If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation; old things are passed away all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

The new creation has a brand new life working in him – it is the life of God. The bible says, he has *“... the fruit of love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22).*

These are not the fruits of the Holy Spirit. They are the qualities, characters and the nature of the ‘new creation’.

The New Commandment

We are living in a new dispensation. We are living in a kingdom that is different from the kingdom of this world. It is the day of the church. The order of things has changed. The law governing life has changed. Jesus said, *“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I HAVE LOVED YOU, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one another” (John 13: 34-35).*

In the Old Testament dispensation, God told the Jews to love their neighbours as themselves. This means that they had to love their brethren to the extent that they love themselves. Jesus said the law or the commandment has changed. He commands that we should love our brethren not as we love ourselves but as He loved us. The love of Jesus is different. It is not self-seeking, it is not envious or jealous and it does not think evil (1 Corinthians 13). The love of Jesus Christ has no conditions attached to it. The bible says, *For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man some will even dare to die. But God commanded His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).*

This is the way God wants us to live. In *Ephesians 5:1-2*, we are asked to be imitators of God as God’s dear children and walk in love as Christ has loved us (*John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:21; Ephesians 5:1-2*).

In *Ephesians 4:1-3*, the Christian is exhorted to walk worthy of his calling by being meek, loving and humble. Because we are one body and belong to one spirit we are asked to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We are members of the same body, but we all have different gifts and callings.

Questions



- 1) Differentiate between the old and the new commandment.
- 2) How do you maintain the unity of the Spirit among the brethren?

Our Confession

“ We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Christianity is a life of confession. Confession comes from the Greek word

‘*Homolodia*’ which means, speaking the same things with God in consent. The bible says that what we speak is not what we see, think or feel. We speak what we believe. In the book of Hebrews, the bible says, *“let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have; for he has said, I will never leave thee. So that we may BOLDLY SAY, the lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”* (Hebrews 13: 5-6).

God has spoken so that we may boldly state what he has said concerning us in agreement with him. This is the Christian life. It is our confessions that put our faith to work. Salvation is sealed by confession. Merely believing in the mind does not do anything until we declare who we are and what we have become etc. Confession puts the power of God to work. The bible says, *“that if thou shall confess with thy mouth the lord Jesus”*. And also *“with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*.

Our confession sets our lives on course. Our life goes in the direction of our confession. Bible says *for by faith we understand that the world was formed by the word of God*. Hebrews 11:3.

Questions

- 1). what is confession and how can I use it to build my life?
- 2). Quote six or more scriptures that deal with confession apart from the ones used in this text.

Life and death is in the power of the tongue

This is an extension of the last point we made concerning confession. The last point deals with saying the same things with God. In other words agreeing with what God has said and the power to kill or make alive. The reason why we have to agree with God and say what He says is because His words are spirit and they are life (John 6:63). Therefore His word will produce life for us. Any other word will produce negative things because there is power in the tongue.

The bible shows that the tongue controls everything about life. Jesus said in Mark 11:22 that we shall have whatsoever we say. We must keep speaking the word of God. The bible says we should hold fast our confession.

Questions

- 1). Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Discuss this exhaustively with scriptures.
- 2). you shall have whatsoever you say. Explain.

Faith walk.



The Christian walk is a walk of faith. The bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God because *he that cometh unto God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarded of them that diligently seek him.* (Hebrews 11:6).

We do not walk by what we see but by what the Word says. Our focus should be on nothing else but on the Word. The bible says, while *we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal* (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Everything the senses can perceive is temporal. They are subject to change but the word of God abides forever. So the bible says we walk by faith and not by sight. 2 Corinthians 4:13, *we having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.*

This is why God said let the weak say I am strong.

Question

- 1). Explain, “*for we walk by faith and not by sight*”
- 2). Explain the law of faith.

Tithes and offerings

Offerings.

To offer is to present something or oneself for acceptance or rejection, or as part of a requirement. It can also mean to express willingness or intention to do something. We can thus conclude that an offering is something that is offered or given. It is sacrifice that we willingly carry out. As a Christian, our intentions while carrying out this act is very important because God is interested in the heart of man and not necessarily in the material things.

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus could have felt sorry for this woman and asked her to take back her offering but he recognized the intention behind her act and valued her offering above the larger sums given by the wealthy. Hers was a great sacrifice because she gave ALL that she had to serve the Master.

Offerings are not mandatory. You should not feel compelled to give if you don't want to because that will not yield any fruit in your life. We give because it opens up a channel of blessings into our lives.

Reasons for offerings.

- God has called us into the ministry of reconciliation. He gave us Jesus, the best that he had, so that we could come into fellowship with him.
- We also have a part to play in this ministry of reconciliation. God is not going to come down and minister individually to every man when he has us here and we are in partnership with him. We give our offerings to enhance the furtherance of the gospel.
- When we gather together in a meeting, God ministers his word to us through the speaker by the Holy Spirit. Our offerings are an expression of our appreciation for his word that daily builds us up. Gal 6:6

Types of offerings



- General offering is taken whenever believers gather together as a form of worship and appreciation of God. It is in an expression of love and not just routine activity. **Gal 6:6**
- **Thanksgiving** offering. An offering to express thanks for God's mighty deeds in our lives. This is a special offering that is given because we recognise that God has done something special for us and we want to say thank you. It shows our affection for God and strength in Him for He is our peace. **Ps 50:14**
- **Seed** Offering. This type of offering is given in anticipation of getting something a return, based on the kingdom principle of sowing and reaping. **Mark 4**. To get a good harvest, one needs to plant a good seed **2 Corinthians 9:6**. By speaking God's word and praying over your seed, you are also ensuring a good yield just like a farmer who waters and attends to his farm so as to get a good harvest **Ecc 11:6**. You should see every offering that you give a seed. That way you are increasing your potential to receive.
- **First fruit offering:** *Exodus 22:29; Romans 11:16; Deut. 18:4*
- A **Pledge** is a formal or solemn vow to give an offering. It is a guarantee that it will be redeemed before a certain period. In the eyes of God, it is as good as having made the physical offering and you are expected to pray and meditate before committing yourself **Prov. 20:25; Ecc 5:4-5**.

Other types of Offerings

- **Partnership seeds** are givings by those who have willingly committed themselves to giving on a regular basis to finance the gospel like through the television broadcasts. There are various ways in which this offering is collected such as using standing orders and direct debit. Once every month, the offering is collected in Church to give opportunity to those who are not involved using the means above.
- **Ministry Programmes** are designed to have an impact on the lives of those that are in attendance and are organised with this in mind. The brethren within the ministry fund the programmes. This is because we recognise that it is God who has given us the vision to have these programmes and He provides for the vision. No contribution is too small or too big to affect a soul because we see ourselves as co-workers with God. **1 Cor. 3:9**.
When giving your offerings there are a few things one should bear in mind.
- **Give cheerfully.** The attitude you have towards the way you give affects the way it is received. God is not pleased when we give with wrong kind of attitude **2 Cor. 9:7**.
- **Give willingly Ex. 35:21; 36:4-7.** Only those who were willing gave towards the building of the tabernacle and they gave so much that they had to be stopped because it was too much. One should not feel pressurised but give to God from a willing heart.
- There is a response to your giving **Luke 6:38**. The way you give is the way you will receive.
- Don't limit your giving by dwelling on things you don't have. Rather, call to remembrance the things God has done for you.

Tithes

A tenth of your income or profits are referred to as tithe. For a farmer, it is the tenth of his harvest.

Mal. 3:8-12

Your tithe does not belong to you. It belongs to God. If it belongs to you then God will not call it 'robbery' if you hold it back. Your tithe symbolises your covenant partnership with



God and cannot be substituted for your offerings or used to redeem a pledge. We are called to be a blessing and you cannot be a blessing unless you are already blessed. The above scripture from Malachi shows us that nothing good can emerge from not paying our tithes. In fact withholding tithes brings a curse on the withholder.

Tithing is the only area in which God asks us to prove him. That means that his name is on the line and paying our tithes are in a covenant relationship.

Below are some questions answered concerning tithes?

Someone may wonder and say “Nothing bad has happened to me and in fact, I’m increasing every day, yet I do not pay my tithe. I therefore see no reason to pay it.”

You can’t go against God’s word and expect God to work on your behalf. If a branch is separated from its stem, the leaves on a branch remains green for a while but will thereafter die because the branch is separated from its source of life.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation that we don’t expect and things aren’t going well for us. Until you re-establish your covenant with God, nothing will change your situation, just like the branch separated from the tree.

“Tithing is an old testament doctrine. How relevant is it in the New Testament?”

Tithing began before the law. In *Gen 14:20*, it is recorded that Abraham gave tithe to Melchizedek. This was before the law was given unto Moses. The bible also records that the Levites, who were the receivers of tithes in the Old Testament, paid their tithes through Abraham to Melchizedek, the higher form of priesthood. From this we can see that tithing existed before the Old Testament came into effect. We, in the New Testament, are of the seed of Abraham and partakers of his covenant with God. Our blessing is walking in the covenant.

“Why can I not pay my tithe anywhere after all we are all part of the body of Christ?”

God is not an author of confusion but is a God for order. He has placed us in a local assembly in identifying with the vision and participating in the work the local assembly is carrying out. We do not see a salaried person, who lives and works in a particular country, asking for his tax to be paid to another country in the same continent; after all we are part of the same continent

“Do I tithe from my gross income or net income?”

By definition, a tithe is a tenth of your income or profit. Income, after deductions, expenses and taxes have been removed is called net income. When Abraham gave his tithe to Melchizedek, it was not from what he had left, as requested by the king of Sodom, but from all that had received *Gen. 14:20-21*. What we should do is separate our tithe first before any other thing is taken off. This means we should tithe on our gross rather than our net income. For people earning a salary, taxes are automatically removed from sources and are left with net income but the tithe should still be given from the gross sum and not from what we have left with. Moreover, the Bible teaches that our receiving is tied to our giving.

“Is it right for me to demand to know what my tithe and offering is used for?”



...giving your life a meaning

It is not scriptural for you to demand to know what your tithes and offerings are used for. Before you brought it to God it was yours, but once you give it to God, it is no longer yours. You have given it to God in faith, and you can expect a multiplied harvest according to His Word **John 12:24**

Conclusion

The kingdom of God is based on sowing and reaping Gen 8:22, Luke 6:38. Anyone who seeks to excel in the kingdom of God must be a giver. Acts 20:35. God himself is a giver, big giver as shown in John 3:16 and the Bible says we should be like God. Eph. 5:1. God has made us His partners and each time we give to the gospel, we are establishing our position as Gods partners. 1 Cor. 3:9. A man's wealth is measured by what he gives and not by what he gets. Rise up and give your way to the top. Doors of opportunity cannot be shut to the giver. Therefore, we must get to the points in our lives when nothing is too big for us to give to God.

Questions

- What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?
- Robbing God is robbing yourself of God's blessings in your life. Discuss
- What are the four rewards for giving tithes and offerings according to Malachi



Class Six

BELIVERS LOVEWORLD AND THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY

Introduction

And hath put all things under His feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23) The scripture lets us know that the Church is the body of Christ. He is head, while we are the body. *“And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; some evangelists and some pastors and teacher, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edification of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4; 11-12). We find that Christ Himself, being the head of the church appointed (gave) the five ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) for the church.

The body of Christ

The church is God’s peculiar treasure. The word of God declares in Psalms 16.3 *“but to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight...”*

The church is God’s delight. The NKJV reads *“....and to the excellent ones.....”*

What is universal church, and how do I become a member?

It’s very important that you get to understand what the universal church is and also to know how one becomes a member. It must be understood that the church is one. The universal church therefore comprises every member of the body of the Christ all over the world. This is the whole family of God that meets in every part of the world. To become a member of universal church there is one prerequisite: one has to be a born again. To be born again is to appreciate the salvation that Jesus has brought for oneself. All one has to do is to act on the word of God as it is in Romans 10.9: *“....that if thou shall confess with thy mouth the lord Jesus and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*.

By reason of this proclamation or declaration, one is baptised into the body of Christ through the instrumentality of Holy Spirit, this is born again (i.e. ... Holy Ghost baptism) 1 Corinthians 12:13; *for by one Spirit are we all baptised into the body....”*

The purpose of the church

Primarily the purpose of the church can be seen as three-fold

- § First to glorify God
- § Second to witness to the world
- § Thirdly to build up the church

A. **To glorify God:** Ephesians 1:9-12, Ephesians 3:20-21



“ having made known unto us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in Himself; that in dispensation of the fullness of time: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will; That we should be the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ”

God’s purpose is for all the church to glorify Him and to show forth his glory (i.e. His Excellency, His perfection). Ephesians 3:21 says *“unto him is glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end Amen”*

B. To witness to the world

Apart from glorifying God, the church also is involved in witnessing to the world about our Lord Jesus Christ. This talks of soul winning and it is Gods number one job. Every Christian should make soul winning a priority. Involvement with witnessing is not negotiable. Both singularly and corporately, the Church should evangelise and disciple the world for Jesus (Mathew 28:18-20; Acts 1: 8:2 Corinthians 5:17-49; mark 16: 15-16)

C. To build the church.

Every member of the church has the responsibility of contributing to the building or edification of the Church. The things that we learn as we are taught by the ministry gifts (i.e., pastors, prophets, evangelists, teachers apostles) and the Holy Spirit we should also use to teach others and bring them up in the faith. Its not enough to witness to somebody of Jesus but adequate follow up should be made to win and develop him to the level that he become involved in winning and developing others (Ephesians 4: 11-16).

Why do we need local assembly?

Every child of God is expected to have regular fellowship with the brethren. Paul in Hebrews 10: 25 admonishes the church: *“Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another and so much more, as ye see the day approaching”*

Local assemblies are place where Christians come together to pray, worship, hear God’s Word and be built up on God’s Word and also where others can come and hear Gods word and get saved by acting on the word. Example of local assemblies are Christ Embassy, The Redeemed Evangelical mission, Foursquare Gospel Mission etc. It is important therefore that we have the local assemblies because it ensures the work of the ministry. Also, unity of the brethren is adequately enhanced (1 Corinthians 12:21-26). Secondly, local assemblies enable members to identify what office or role they can perform (Romans 12; 4, 5)

Everyone should belong to a church

It is very important that every Christian belong to a church (i.e. Local assembly). We have seen in Hebrew 10:25 that the Apostle Paul admonishes that we should not forsake the gathering of ourselves together as in manner of some is. We should not make ourselves church inspectors going from one church under the pretext that God spoke to us, for there is no thing as that. We should be committed to a local assembly. The only time God will speak to you to leave a church for another according to the scriptures is when his word is not taught there (i.e not having sound doctrine). He would then (by the Holy Spirit) direct you to a



proper place. See Acts 2:42 and Hebrews 2:13. Also going from church to church would not allow to be built up. It only helps to raise questions, doubt and suspicion.

Why do I go to church?

Hebrews 10:25, “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting on another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*”. It was the custom of Jesus to go to the temple, and the disciples also.

They are our examples. We should follow after them. Also it is important that we go to church to be built up in God’s word and to be equipped so that we can build other up too. Finally, we got to church to worship God, to pour our heart out to him, to praise and glorify him.

“Upon this Rock I will build my church”. Is the rock Peter?

Taking a closer look at Matthew 16:13-19, you will discover that many people have erroneously interpreted Jesus statement or words to mean that Peter is the rock. We must get it right and this can only come as we take this in context. After Peter answered that ‘thou art the Christ the son of the living God’ and Jesus acknowledged his answer by saying flesh and blood hath not revealed it to him but his Father which is in heaven, He went further to tell Peter that upon ‘this rock I will build my church’. ‘This’, means ‘the Christ’. So we find that Jesus Christ is the rock upon which the church is built. Other scripture reveals this clearly. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says “*for other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*”. Also see Ephesians 5:2-25, Ephesians 2:18-20, 1 Peter 2:4-7.

Who builds the church?

“When the Lord would have built up Zion, then he will come in his glory”.

We have seen that Jesus is the rock upon which the church is built (Matthew 16:18). And God through the Holy Spirit is the builder of the church. Jesus is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23). He is the author and finisher (or Perfector) of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). You will find that the reason for which Jesus gave the ministry gifts is for equipping and perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up (edifying) of the body of Christ(i.e. the Church).

Thus therefore make us partners with deity. God is building his church through us. The Word declares that we are Gods workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works. (*Ephesians 2:10*).

Importantly also, we find in 1 Corinthians 3:9-10 “*for we are labourers together with God, ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation and another buildteth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth there upon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth there upon*”.

A. Jesus is the builder (Matthew 16:18).

He is a rock of ages in whom there is salvation. Jesus Christ is the true membership of Christian life (1 Peter 2:6). He started building when he died on the cross of Calvary for all men.

B. We are also builders.



We are builders also because when we believed, we began to exist as members of the body of Christ, and therefore we need to take our place in the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-14 says it is for the edifying of the body of Christ and the perfecting of the saints.

B. We are co labourers.

We are partners with deity because God has chosen us as co-labourers in his vineyard and therefore we are Gods husbandry and his building (1 Corinthians 3:9-10). We are in partnership with God and we have been given the ministry of reconciliation whereby we reconcile souls back to him.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Ministry is rendering service in the body of Christ or the Church. Consequently, Christian service or ministry is the believer's active involvement in the body of Christ. (Romans 12-1, Goodnews Bible)

- a. Your involvement in the activity groups such as choir, ushering, helps etc.
- b. Your involvement in the cell system.
- c. Your involvement in the ministry programmes

The great commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16-18, Acts 1:1-8).

The great commission is a charge or commission given to all Christians by our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel of salvation. It is necessary for us as members to preach this gospel, thus liberating men from the evil intentions of the devil. We are to be witnesses of Christ in our world of interactions. Witnessing Christ helps us grown spiritually. The gospel of Christ is God's ability for salvation for man (Romans 1:16). Carrying out this commission is equally rendering service in the body.

The need for training (Ephesians 4: 11-16; 2 Timothy 2:20-21)

The reasons you need to be trained for Christian service or ministry are as follows:

- a. It helps you to identify your ministry office (Ephesians 4:11).
- b. It helps you to be effective in the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4: 12).
- c. It perfects you unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4 : 13)
- d. It ensures that you receive good doctrines necessary to guide your Christian life (Ephesians 4:14).

Examples of people that were trained by God

- a. David (1 Samuel 17:34-36). David was trained from when he was a shepherd boy at the age of 17 to becoming the king of Israel.
- b. Moses (Exodus 1-3). Moses training was in 3 phases :
 - i. The first 40 years was in the courts of pharaoh where he was raised as a king's son.
 - ii. The next 40 years was in Midian – he was a shepherd man
 - iii. The last 40 years was in the desert–God delivered the Israelites through him, from Egypt through the red sea to the wilderness.

And God gave him the Ten Commandments and the unction to write the first five books of the Bible.



Note: *Just as God trained each of these men to enable them fulfil their ministry; God is also training us for the work of ministry.*

Christianity is a life of submission

God recognizes constituted authority He expects us to obey authority as long as they fall within the context of his Word. He is a God of order. (1 Corinthians 14: 33). The Scripture urges us to respect authority. For example, in the Church, God has placed your Pastor over you. You should be faithful to instructions given, not rendering eye service but serving with a cheerful heart and doing all things as unto the Lord. There are 3 levels of authority:

Authority in the home

In Ephesians 6:1-2, children are admonished to obey their parents because they stand as God's representatives. This scripture shows the first commandment with a promise. Children are to obey their parents even when they are demanding and they are unfair. God will bless children who obey their parents here on earth and in eternity. The obedience includes inward reverence as well as outward acts. Ephesians 5:22 talks about duty prescribed to wives: to submit to their husbands in the Lord, which includes honouring and obey them. The wife is to submit to the husband's authority in the home. By a conscientious discharge of our duties we owe to our fellow creatures; we obey and please God Himself.

Civil Authority

This refers to the governing authority in a state, country or locality. The grace of the gospel teaches us submission and quietness, but pride and carnal mind causes murmuring and discontentment. Whatever the person in authority over us maybe, yet the first power they have as those in governing authority must be submitted to and obeyed. In *Matthew 22:21*, the Lord said, "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's", when he was asked whether it is right to pay tax to the government. In the general course of human affair, rulers are not terrors to honest, quiet, and good subjects but to evildoers. As Christians we must never be involved in tricks or fraud or disobeying civil authority, because they exist by God's appointment and sanction. In *Proverbs 8:15* talks about Kings reigning and rulers decreeing justice by God's wisdom. *Daniel 2:21* also tells us that God removes and sets up Kings.

Authority in the church

Ephesians 1:22 tells us that all creatures are in subjection to Jesus Christ and must either yield to him in sincere obedience or fall under the weight of his sceptre or receive their doom. God gave Christ to be head over all things. It was a gift to Jesus Christ and it was a gift to the Church to be provided with a head with so much power and authority. God gave him all the power in heaven and in earth. In the local assembly (the Church), the Pastor stands as a representative of Christ's authority. Disobeying your Pastor is as good as disobeying God because God has appointed him to watch over His flock and God speaks through him to His flock.

Your Relationship with your Spiritual leader

The Bible says we should obey our spiritual leaders and submit (*Hebrews 13:17*). Your spiritual leader has been given the charge by God to watch over your spiritual welfare. The leaders in the church have responsibility of training people who are under them to full



...giving your life a meaning

maturity. This responsibility could be a lot easier when the followers humble themselves in obedience to their leader. Your attitude should be such that your leaders would give your report with joy and not with grief. In *1 Samuel 15:22-23*, this scripture like many other places clearly explained that, “*obedience is better than sacrifice*”. This is one of the very important required characters of a Christian in his relationship to his leader. In other words rebellion and stubbornness are serious sins. Scripture equates them to WITCHCRAFT and idol worship, sins worthy of death. Refer to Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:6. Also in *Numbers 16* we read how Korah who was a Levite, and already was one of the leaders rebelled against Moses and was punished.

Speaking against your leaders (*Numbers 12:1-6*)

As Christians it is not in our positions to speak against our Leaders even if they do something wrong. This is because they are naturally ordained by God and are answerable to Him or their leaders and not to you that are under him. *Romans 13: 1-2* says “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power than that of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisted the power, resisted the ordinance of God: and they that resist the power shall receive to themselves damnation.” Just like the example of Miriam and Aaron in *Numbers 12:1-6*.

What should you do for your leader?

Pray for them *1 Timothy 2:1-3*

Paul urges us to pray for all people particularly for our leaders. This is not when they have been good for us but even at times when things are not well.

Believers Love world

Our Name

This Ministry is known as Believers Loveworld Inc. It has several arms for example the ministry has Churches and Chapters on campuses. The churches are known and called Christ Embassy while the chapters on campus are known as Believers Loveworld Fellowship. The ministry also operates churches known as Christ Embassy Satellite Churches. They are not autonomous but are part of the main church from which they were pioneered.

The cell system

The cell system is a system that creates an avenue for soul winning and development. It gives every individual in the ministry an opportunity to be vitally involved and be part of what God is doing. The cell system is also designed to encourage fellowship amongst brethren which is necessary for the nurturing and development of their faith. The cell system is organised in such a way that it makes it easy for monitoring and co-ordination. The cell units (groups) as they are called are meetings of 2, 3 or more people as the case may be. They meet together weekly, share the word of God together, win other people like themselves and add to the body of Christ. They are meant to know each other's addresses (home and work) be closely knit together as brothers and sisters. They care for one another and are concerned about one another. The cell is expected to grow that is increase spiritually and numerically. However, the cell does not exist alone; it operates under larger body called Pastoral Care Fellowship (PCF).



...giving your life a meaning

The cell is structured in such a way as to suit the individuals' vocation, residential and age groupings. The cell system creates a lot of room in individual growth. Every member of the ministry can aspire to be a cell leader and indeed a PCF leader.

Loveworld Ministerial College

This is the BLW School of ministry where members are further equipped for the work of the ministry. The college offers courses ranging from general knowledge of the Bible to the Pastoral ministry courses. It also offers Administrative courses. The programs usually run for a year and the college organises graduation ceremonies annually for her students. The School has various departments. They include the Pastoral Ministry Department and the Department of Lay Ministry. The college offers a correspondent and online courses whereby you are given assistance for a rich Bible life regardless of your tight schedule or where you live

THE VARIOUS ARMS OF THE MINISTRY

Church ministry

The name of the church is Christ Embassy. Every Church in the ministry belong to a Zone headed by a Zonal Pastor and in some case a Zonal Director. And finally, every Zone is part of a Region headed by a Regional Pastor. All the Regions are under the President.

Administrative Structure:

The President – Pastor Chris Oyakhilome (PhD)

The CEC – the Central Executive Council which includes the Secretary General of the ministry.

ASGs – Assistant Secretary Generals. There are currently 3 ASGs

The CEO – The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry. This position could be, as it is currently been, held by a senior Pastor (a Zonal Pastor) in the ministry.

The COO – The Chief Operating Officer of the Ministry. This position could be, as it is currently, held by a senior Pastor (a Zonal Director) in the ministry.

Campus ministry

The ministry, as stated earlier on, started from the campus. Pastor Chris has a unique ministry for the youth, which is why we have the results we get from our campuses. It is in line with the vision of the ministry. Today, we have our fellowships in several Universities and Colleges. The name of the campus fellowship is Believers Loveworld (BLW) Campus Fellowship. They are divided into zones. Training programmes are held from time to time for the leaders, to empower them for the work of the ministry.

Mutli-media ministry.

The term media refers to the mode of transmitting information on news. This is done either by print or electronically. For the ministry, we transmit the good news through our books, tapes, TV programmes and the Internet. We ensure the gospel is available to all men as much as possible. Our partnership with Rhapsody of Realities, LTM, LCN, Cyber ministry, LWP&T makes this possible.

Music ministry

Healing school



...giving your life a meaning

Inner city missions Cyber ministry etc.

Ministry programmes.

These are programmes that are held either annually or quarterly or at the discretion of our pastorate and by the direction of the Holy Spirit.

- a. Camp Meeting
- b. Charismatic Renewal Conference
- c. International Pastors and Partners Conference.
- d. Total experience
- e. Night of Bliss

The Believers' Statement of Faith

This is a statement of Bible doctrine as believed and taught by the Believers Loveworld Inc. aka Christ embassy. The statement of faith has its source in the Bible and is in total agreement with the foundational principles of the doctrines of Christ.

1. We believe that the Bible contains the inspired and infallible Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. We believe that there is only one God eternally existent in three persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. (Ephesians 4:5-6; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17)
3. We believe in the deity of Christ (John 1:1, John 10:30, Hebrews 1:1-5).
 - a. He was born of a virgin; (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:30-35);
 - b. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:30-35);
 - c. He died (John 19:30);
 - d. He rose again from the dead (John 20:25-29, Luke 24:36-40);
 - e. He ascended into heaven boldly (Acts 1:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16);
4. We believe in the rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:14-16, Matthew 24:29-30);
5. We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19, Luke 24, Ephesians 1:7);
6. We believe that the regeneration of the Holy Ghost through the Word of God is essential for personal salvation (Titus 2:5, Ephesians 5:25-27);
7. We believe the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides divine healing for the body and salvation for the soul of everyone that believes (1 Peter 2:24, Acts 3:16, 9:32-35);
8. We believe that when an individual receives the Holy Ghost, he receives divine enablement for Christian service and witness (Acts 1:8, 2:4, 3:1, 4:5-12);
9. We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:16, 1 Corinthians 6:11);
10. We believe in the final resurrection of both the saved and the lost – the former to eternal life and the latter to eternal judgement (Revelations 20:11-15, 1 Corinthians 15:12-23).