

PRINCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PETER TAN

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1. GOING THE SECOND MILE

We are going to do a series on principles in Jesus' life that He applied that made Him who He is and caused Him to succeed. We are going to touch on some of them, which we believe we will need in the days that we face.

Turn to Matthew 5; some of the principles that Jesus walked in are found in the Sermon on the Mount. We will only touch on one key principle at a time. Matthew 5:38 onwards "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. 'But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek; turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.'"

Now He is not asking us to be foolish. He is not asking us to be taken advantage of because Philippians 1, which says to let your love grow in judgment and in discernment, supplements these principles. It's not the kind of foolishness that allows people to take advantage of you, make use of you for their own evil ends. Or to steal from your life, your time, your possession by deception. Or by making demands on your life. The key principle that Jesus is bringing about here is going the second mile. This principle that Jesus shared are special New Testament principles. It's nice to teach from Old Testament and New Testament and share these lovely truths. But let's focus on these facts here. There are some principles that are impossible to keep in the old but may be possible in the new. And among those principles that Jesus gave forth is the principle of going the second mile. So if somebody asks you, "Would you do this for me?" You are not only doing it, you do it with all your heart and you do beyond what is asked. It does not necessarily mean that you allow people to make use of you until you have no more life with God. Jesus is not talking about that. But it does mean that when you choose to do something, you will go the second mile. It doesn't mean that you have to say yes all the time and whatever demands are thrown at you, you keep saying yes, yes, yes. We have to learn to say no and we have to learn to say yes.

Do you know that to say yes is easier to say than no? I don't say yes to everybody. Neither do I expect people to say yes to me all the time. I mean a relationship is built on understanding and I treasure those kinds of relationships. Like for example, when we were doing our praise and worship album, we gathered several friends and we asked, "Would you like to help where you can help?" There was a man who owns a Christian bookstore. So I said, "Would you like to go with me in a partnership in this project?" Because it's going to take a lot of finances and I said, "Just pray about it." I said, "We are just discerning and if you don't feel that can be done, let me know. Just say no." I don't expect everyone I ask to say yes. Then they become yes men. He came back to me and said, "I don't think I am able to do it." I said, "Fine." And he was so afraid of saying 'no' to me. Why is it that 'no' is so difficult to say? Some people when you 'no,' they would not be your friends anymore. So be it, such friends are not friends.

Do you know there are friends who can tell you what is right and what is wrong? Friends who love you enough to say I think that is something wrong. They will say I think this is wrong. When you need encouragement, they are there to give you

encouragement. When you ask them for a favor, they will always say yes. But if they really can not, they will also tell you no, I can't but I still love you. Sometimes people want relationship with people who always say yes. That's wrong. He said no, I said fine. After the whole thing was over, I sat down and had lunch with him. He was asking questions about his life. Over the table the Lord gave me prophecy. The Lord can give prophecy all the time. You don't have to have song. We were just eating; as we were eating I saw a vision. Isn't it nice that you can see vision without fasting? Some people see vision only when they fast. So you can see a vision while you are eating. And I saw this vision of this eagle over his life. As we closed in closing prayer, I told this brother, "That is strange, the Lord showed me a vision of an eagle." Then he took out his card and said this is my new card. When I saw it, I saw he has chosen a new logo for his new international company an eagle. So you can see vision while you are eating. You can see vision while you are fasting. So fasting or eating, whatever you do, we are in the Spirit all the time. Jesus is not talking about an inability to say no in all these areas. What He says is going the second mile.

I want to talk about the spirit of an overcomer. The spirit of a champion that must come in our life. I see it lacking in the body of Christ. I realize what you and I will be in ten years time depends on whether we have this kind of spirit. The spirit of going the second mile. Many do not have the spirit of a champion because most people prefer to be mediocre. But in the last days we need the spirit of a champion, the spirit of triumphing over everything. The spirit of an overcomer to do what it takes in these days that we live in. These are not days that you could be lukewarm.

Lets look at the book of Revelation 3. The whole book of Rev.2 and 3 speak about the spirit of an overcomer. In every age in any generation, it is the spirit of overcomer who partakes of God's best. I know that there is something that God wants to do in our days but it takes the spirit of an overcomer, the spirit of a champion. In chapter 3, he says to the last church, the church of the Laodiceans. He says in verse 15 and 16 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." This is to the Laodicean church and in our Laodicean age. It's time to rise up like an eagle. Get rid of the spirit of slumber and move into that which God wants us to move into. The spirit of great zeal, the spirit of going the second mile, must replace the spirit of slumber. Not just waiting till something happen. Not just waiting for the tide to push you through. But people who would challenge the tide and turn the tide of events, the spirit of an overcomer, the spirit of a champion is what God makes us to be. Jesus is a mighty warrior and everyone of us are made in His image so that when we sing Mighty Warrior, dressed for battle, in a sense we are singing about Jesus, but on the other hand we are also reflecting what we are. We are a warrior tribe in Jesus. The spirit of a champion must be on our lives to press into what God wants us.

Having a look at Revelation 2 and 3 all His blessings may be slightly different from each church. All the situations each church is facing may be different. All the manifestations that Jesus gives to each church are different but there is one thing similar that runs right through in the church in Ephesus to the church in Laodicean is the spirit of an overcomer. It doesn't matter whether you are here in Asia or you are in the Western countries or anywhere on this earth. It doesn't matter the circumstances, it doesn't matter whether you are called to the ministries or you are called out there in

the business world. It does not matter. It is not your situation that makes you who you are. It is the spirit of an overcomer that will make you who you are in Jesus. And if you don't have the spirit of an overcomer we could put you in the easiest place and you will still not succeed. It is not because you are in the difficult city or town starting a church or you are in some faraway flung out island starting a church. It doesn't matter what type of ground you face because if you have the spirit of an overcomer, you will overcome. We have overcome by the blood of the Lamb.

Lets look at Rev. chapter 2, it say in verse 7 the last sentence "To him who overcomes." The overcoming spirit is the spirit of going the second mile. Whether I am washing the toilet or whether I am preaching to a million people, it is the same spirit. Whether you are well known or you are unknown now, whether your ministry is in the first phase or in the last phase, whether you are in the preparation of a ministry or you are in the zenith of the ministry it makes no difference. It is the same spirit of the overcomer where the Lion of Judah looks out through the pupil of your eyes, that you will overcome every task thrown to you. What we need is the spirit of an overcomer. Get rid of the spirit of a sluggard and spirit of lazy bones.

Chapter 2:11 last sentence again "He who overcomes". Chapter 2:17 "To him who overcomes." Chapter 2:20 "and he who overcomes." Chapter 3:5 "He who overcomes." Chapter 3:12 "He who overcomes." Chapter 3:21 "To him who overcome." The spirit of an overcomer must be on your life. If the spirit is on us, the world can be an ocean of a sea glass, broken glass, and if there is one soul waiting right on the other shore about to die without Jesus, you will crawl on your bare knees to reach that soul for Jesus. It is that spirit of an overcomer that we must have, the spirit that Caleb and Joshua have. The bible tells us that there is one thing different between Caleb and the other. There is only one thing different. It's not the knowledge. Every one of us has the bible from Genesis to Revelation. We carry it to church and we carry it home. Some of us may have more than one bible. You may have two or three with different translations. We all have the same bible. We all have the same knowledge. We attend the same seminars, the same conventions but something is different about them. They all have heard Moses; they all saw the glory of God in Mount Sinai. They all saw the face of Moses shining with the glory of God. They saw the judgment of God on those who disobeyed. They saw the hand of God providing manna. All of them had the same knowledge. All of them had the same experience. But only two of them had a different spirit. They had the spirit like the Lion of Judah, the spirit of overcomer.

Deut. 1:34 "And the Lord heard the sound of your words." God heard the murmuring of the other ten spies who influenced the whole nation not to go into the land of promise. "The Lord heard the sound of your words and was angry and took an oath, saying, surely none of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked because he wholly followed the Lord." That is the spirit of an overcomer. He wholly followed the Lord. So the Lord speaks expressly that Caleb was totally different. They had a different spirit about them.

Numbers 14:24 "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him." We read about the twelve spies going out and only the two spies gave a good report. We read about how your confession is your possession, they confessed wrongly and they

didn't possess. They saw the wrong thing. Instead of seeing the land of Canaan and the promises of God, they saw the giants. But behind all these things, the essence of it is that these two men, Caleb and Joshua had a different spirit altogether different from the rest. And the word spirit is with a small s. it means a certain kind of attitude. Look at it very carefully, it is not a capital s, it is a small s. Verse 24, "because he had a different spirit in him." It is more like a setting on their inside, an inner setting of going the second mile.

Long ago the story of the second mile started in this way. In those days in all the occupied lands, the Roman soldiers could tell anyone to carry their things and walk with them. They had the authority because the world was under Roman occupation and so the Roman soldiers could tell anyone in the street to take this for me, take that for me. And they had to obey. They may have to carry a mile or so. What Jesus was saying is when such is required you don't go just a mile, you say let me take you a second mile. Going beyond what was required. That different spirit has something to do with the word attitude. The attitudes of people will determine their success.

Remember the cross-reference in Deut. chapter one with Numbers chapter 14. The difference in the spirit has to do with the heart. One does something with the heart, no matter how difficult it is, let us push through. The others are used to ease. It is convenient if our needs are met. The spirit of the Lion of Judah doesn't say if my needs are met. It says come what may. God has put me here; I am staying on my ground. If I die I die. If I live I live. That is the spirit of champion. That is the spirit that made the thirty men mighty in David's time.

But do you know what the other spies said? You know what caused them to have the different spirit? They were thinking of things that the others never thought of. See some of the things that they said when they come back. In chapter 13:13 "We are not able to go up against the people for they are stronger." Then look at chapter 14:2 "And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, if only we had died in the land of Egypt." They still had memory of Egypt. Or if only we had died in this wilderness. Look at verse 3 "Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims. Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt? So they said to one another, let us select a leader and return to Egypt." Now what can Egypt offer them? You know what Egypt offered them? Egypt offered them a hard life, but a life where they don't have to think for themselves. They just work day to night. Food is brought to them. They have a place to sleep. They have food, clothing and shelter. Their work may be hard at times but they will always have those things there. They don't have to worry about earning their own living. They don't have to worry about getting a job. And now they are going to move into the land of Canaan and they have to fight. They have to plant their own vineyards. They have to do all these things by themselves. They want a life of convenience.

There are people who flow with the tide. When the wind blows this way, they go this way. When the wind blows that way, they go that way. One day there is going to be a tornado and you will be going round and round. The spirit of a champion is lacking in their lives. Only two people had a different heart. The word different spirit is described in Deut. 1 as people following with all their hearts. Are you someone when you do something, you want to do it well, good, excellent and beyond the second mile. You see right now we can determine whether we are people who go second mile

or not. You don't have to wait until you get a multi-million dollars business. You don't have to wait until your ministry reach to ten thousands people or a million people, right now how you approach life or how you do something determines whether the spirit of an overcomer is there. Right now while you are doing little things.

Look at Joshua, what was he doing before he was leader over the nation? I guarantee you he did his job well. While others stayed behind, he could have stayed behind, he did not have to go up to the mountain with Moses. He went up as far as he can. The bible says he went up about half way, because God won't permit anyone to go further. It is because God said only Moses could come. While the rest stayed back, he did not have to follow all the way. After all Moses is going to meet God alone. Think about that. Why should he have to follow Moses? Because he said maybe Moses may need my help. Maybe Moses may need my help to carry something. Moses didn't ask. Moses just said, God spoke to me to go up there. You all stay here. Joshua said, let me carry your bag. Let me do this. Let me do that. As far as I can go right now until where I can not cross the line where only you can go. But I will be there waiting till you come down. Do you know how long it took Moses? Forty days and forty nights. You see the faithfulness. He could have said it's inconvenient for me to wait here for you. When you come back from God just wave your scarf and I will climb all the way up and help you. We may think that is good enough. But that kind of spirit will not conquer this world. We are talking about winning millions of souls to Jesus. That kind of spirit is not good enough to evangelize the world. We need more, more than that. We know what forty days and forty nights is. Do you know Joshua did not know neither did Moses. God did not say exactly forty days and forty nights. If that is so some bright Alec will say, I will come back in forty days for you. I will pick you up on the 40th day. He didn't know. Moses didn't know. Nobody knows. And everyday he waited. You know what his attitude was? He said, I would wait here till he comes. What happen if his food runs out? Eat leaves. What if leaves also run out? Eat roots. What happen if he had no more food? I will wait here till he comes. That is the spirit of an overcomer. Going the second mile. That is why by the time he became a general over God's army he was a great general. He was fully dedicated to the Lord.

When you do something for the Lord, do it with all your heart. Whatever you do, do it with all your heart to the Lord. That is the spirit of an overcomer, the spirit of a champion. Why should God be asking this of us? Let me give you a little secret. All through the whole bible all those who go the second mile has been out of their own initiative. Somebody initiates the first mile. It could be God, by a soldier, by somebody else. Only you in your own heart can initiate the second mile. God will not help you in the second mile. He will help in a sense that after you make a decision and decide to do it then He will help you. But He will not make you go the second mile. You have to do it by choice because you have a spirit of lion, spirit of a champion on you. I show you from the bible that all those things that God's people received are only because they go beyond the ordinary. Something extra pushes them on. Something in their hearts say, this is not good enough, lets press on for the best. We are not satisfied with just being good, we want to be the best. That is the spirit of a lion, to do the best for God. Not the best in the wrong sense of comparing with one another but the best that we individually can give to God and bring to God and do for God.

Notice here in the bible you have people like David. I Chronicles after David had reigned in all his life, chapter 15:1-2 “David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.” Now even that he did by himself. He already pitched a tent for God. He was better than other kings. He brought the ark into the capital city but then he wanted to do more for God. He wanted to go the second mile. He said, is there anything else he can do for God, I will serve God with my whole heart.

He says in verse two “Then David said, no one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever.” Chapter 13 verses 1-3 “Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said to all the assembly of Israel, if it seems good to you, and if it is of the Lord our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priest and Levites who are in their cities and their common lands, that they may gather together to us; and let us bring the ark of our God.”

Notice no.1, he never had a word of prophecy. If he had he would not say in verse two ‘if the Lord wills’. He did not have a task here. A prophet did not come and tell him to do it. He did not have a prophecy on that. He did not have a vision on that area. No.2 he was the leader behind it. That tells you and me something. Maybe other people had the idea. Maybe the thought have struck some people. I think we should have the ark here. But no one dares to say and no one dare to try to do it. That’s the difference between people who are in the first mile and people in the second mile. The people who walk the first mile are those who go with the tide. You want to do it;

I will do along with you. They know it’s good but they will never initiate. They wait till somebody else does it, and then they will do it. These are not the spirit of overcomer. David knew this was good. God did not ask him. He saw good about it. Do you know how long it will take to consult with all these people? They don’t have TV, radio, phone or any of these things. When you read the scripture, you just say that’s it. He consulted. That means he had to meet with them. There will be many meetings. In everything that you do, there will be some opposition. The question is not whether there is opposition. The question is how much opposition. The thing is that, when you trust in the Lord, you walk in the Lord; you know how to walk through all those times. I am sure some of them may say I am not sure. Did God give you a vision? Have a prophet told you this? And David had to speak out and say we should do this. We should be doing all those things. It’s the blessing of God for us to do all those things. He had to persuade people.

We have to go from speaking to persuading if you want to lead. Because if you want to lead people you have to convince people that what is right is right. Not just tell them because telling is not leadership. Some people want to be leader, they say everybody lets do this. Everybody lets do that. That’s not the leader. That’s an announcer. A leader is when he says, everybody do all this. But some will say no. Lets deal with the no. Find out what’s the difficulty over there? And he would encourage them. He will say, well, we have these bad times, we have financial problems and all these things, lets pray through that. All right? Let that not hinder and just do your best. Another group will say, we have got all these troubles. We are fighting and we can’t do these things here. He will say, well lets pray through this. That’s the leader. A leader is not someone who will just say, yes, yes. A leader is

when people say no, he examines it, and find out why are they saying no. Is it because they are having difficult time? Is it because they are not fully convinced by the Word of God? And a leader patiently grooms them. If they are discouraged, a leader encourages them. If they got the wrong teaching, a leader shows them the correct teaching. And finally from 10% with him a leader turns 100% for him. That's the leader. Not an announcer. So the next time God appoints you to do something, don't expect to go there and say well ladies and gentlemen lets go. And nobody follow. God doesn't want you to be an announcer. He wants you to be a leader. When they say no, you tell them, you consult, you persuade, you show forth the Word and only the stamina of a lion can last through that.

Have you tried persuading thousands of people on certain things that only you see? You tell them and tell them. It takes stamina to do that and you must be pretty determined to do it. To go through all those process, David consulted with the leaders. It says with the captain of thousands and hundreds and I like the last phrase, with every leader. If it were the same throughout the generation of men, I don't think he got 100% consent from everybody. Maybe about 90% of the people give some form of support. Out of the 90% maybe about 20% give wholehearted support. Maybe another 20% give partial support. Maybe the other 50% just went along. That's leadership. The spirit of a lion. He wants to do something for the Lord but he didn't stop there. The bible tells us that even after that time they placed the ark in Jerusalem in chapter 17 of I Chronicles, "Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house." Other cross-references in II Samuel tell us that David had moved into his new house. When David moves in, he keeps thinking about the Lord. He is thinking that he should build a house for God too. God did not ask him to do it but he thought of it. He thought of doing that. Was God disappointed? No, God was very pleased with him. God was touched because David was one who goes the second mile. Look he had done so much for God. He has brought the ark. He has instituted worship. Made a nice tent for God. After all God originally wanted a tent from Moses' time. And you think that's good enough. But David kept thinking second mile. Some more things I can do for God. Isn't it wonderful to know that God never stops? There is progressive revelation till we meet Him.

I am surprised at people who would like to park their cars in the place where God has met them. People who want to build the tent and say O Jesus. Like Peter, James and John, Jesus was up in the mount of transfiguration and the glory of God was on Jesus and the glory was all around and Peter says, Jesus, why don't we build a tent one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah. People like to build tent and stop. But Jesus wants to go on further. I am surprised that sometimes people say, pastor we have done this much. Why don't they do some more? God never stops. We must keep going on. Keep pushing on until we meet Jesus. There is no end to doing more things for God. As long as God puts it in our heart to do something else, something else that we discover that we can do for Him and is in the line of God and in the time of God then lets do it.

The people whom God blessed are people who go the second mile. Those who go the first mile only got the leftovers. I mean the accidental overflow. But those who really get the blessings of God are those who go the second mile. God blessed David in Chapter 17 and He made a covenant with David. He said, David, I will make a special covenant between you and I. He said, I would go the second mile. As I said every man

in the bible had done that. Maybe the bible has finished its record from Genesis to Revelation. The record of our lives may never enter in as Holy Scriptures anymore but there is a record that is still going on up there of your life. Are you going to be those men and women who change the generation they live in? If you want to, then go the second mile.

What about people like Moses? He went the second mile. When he came into his heart to visit the Israelites, he went the second mile. He is a man who means business with God. He was frustrated because the people did not receive him but he never gave up. In Hebrew 11 we are told in verse 27, "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible." Did he ever give up faith in God? Never. Hebrew tells us he always remember the covenant of God to his people, the promises and his call to the ministry, even though he was a shepherd for forty years. Now understand the kind of man Moses is. Moses is not the type of man who says yes easily but when he says yes, he is prepared to give his whole heart. You can tell from Exodus chapter 3, the story between God and Moses. When God wanted to send Moses, Moses was a bit reluctant to go. You know what was part of the reluctant. He tried once and he was rejected forty years ago. So he said, God, if you want me to go, you must give me more signs. He was not a man who says yes easily. But Moses was a man when he says yes, he will push it right through the end. After all his great exploits and all those things that he had done and when he came to the peak of his ministry that you may think that will be all.

Look at Exodus 33:18 "And he said, please show me Your glory." Something on the inside of Moses was the spirit of an overcomer, the champion. Something that says, I am not satisfied with where I am, I am not going to remain here. I am going to press on. And there is something in him that yearns after God. He had kept it to himself. But when the opportunity comes, he said, God! I want to see your glory. I want more of You. Here is a man who saw the burning bush, saw the glory of God on the Mount of Sinai. Here is a man who had talked with God in a way that no other man had done. And he says, God, I want some more of You. I want to go the second mile with you. I am not satisfied where I am. I want to go the second mile. That was the only recorded incident in the bible of a man having his face so touched by the glory of God. It was like a light bulb. In Acts 7, I know that Stephen's face shine but this was Old Testament and he reached such glory. The glory that continued to shine so bright that they had to put a veil on his face. Think about what Moses would have missed if he didn't press on it to God.

God loves zeal and God looks for people who are zealous for Him. Not half hearted. Not lukewarm. Not those who want to go only first mile but those who really want to go the second mile with God. There are other people who are specially mentioned because of their zeal for God in the book of Numbers 25:6-9 "And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Now when Phinehas the son of Eleasar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body, so the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. And those who died in the plague were twenty four thousand."

One man's zeal stopped the plague. We don't know how many thousand lives were saved in that one act. If the plague was not stopped, maybe another forty eight thousand die. When will it end? When the man of zeal stands up above the others and who will not tolerate the first mile.

Everybody was weeping at the first mile but it took a man to go the second mile to stop the plague.

The bible tells us that God spoke to Moses in verse 10-12, "The Lord spoke to Moses saying, Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. Therefore say, Behold, I give him My covenant of peace."

Do you know God reserved his special covenant? His special initiative covenant and blessing were with those who go the second mile. He did that with David. He is doing it now with Phinehas. Nobody asked Phinehas to do it. No visions, no dreams but that zeal for God, that zeal for God's name and the willingness to go beyond the ordinary. God was pleased. See God always look for those who go the second mile.

I could name you countless of stories. Noah when he came out from the ark, God never ask him to bring a sacrifice. He brought a sacrifice. God smelled it and God made a covenant. Although the covenant looks like is for all of us, it you look carefully, it's Noah's family. And because we are all descendants of Noah it was for the whole earth. God reserved His special covenant for those who want to go the second mile.

What about people like Daniel? While all the other Israelites in Daniel chapter one were going the way of the world, while it was convenient for 99% of the people to serve the Babylonian and eat Babylonian food and forsake the Jewish laws, maybe 0.1%, four of them, Daniel and all his other friends, Shadrach, Mishael and Abednego chose to follow the Lord. But it was Daniel who was the leader. It was Daniel who purposed in his heart. Look at it very carefully, and I want you to look at the difference between the follower and the first miler and the second miler. In Daniel chapter one, it did not say that it was the other choice, but Daniel was the leader in verse 8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies." It was Daniel's decision. And the other three who were probably thinking about it said we would follow and go along with you. Remember what I said God always blesses those who go the furthest, the second mile.

In chapter one verse 17, "As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." It doesn't mean that by going the second mile we always had to be in the front line or in the public. You can go the second mile wherever you are and receive the covenant of God and the blessing of God in your life. I could name you more and more countless people. The people whom God used are not first milers. The vast majority of Christians are first mile goers but in our day and age because God is raising a mighty army, He is asking for more people to go the second mile. Will you be the one? You know why God used Paul mightily? Because Paul was the type of person whether he was serving the Jewish custom or God, he will do it with all his heart. He was not someone who use to do something half-heartedly. If he does

anything, whatever he does, he will do it with all his heart. And when he became a Christian, he became a Christian with all his heart. He doesn't know how to serve God half-heartedly. He only knows how to serve God whole-heartedly.

Gal. 1:14 "And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries." See he is a person when he does something, he will do it with all his heart. He doesn't believe in half measures. He doesn't say yes to every situation. He learns to say yes and to say no. But whenever he says yes, he does it with all his heart. Even when he was in Judaism, he wanted to do it so well that he excelled above the rest. Now that he is born again, he is a preacher, he wants to do it with all his heart. He is willing to pay any price to preach the gospel. He is willing to go anywhere to preach the gospel. He is willing to lay down his life for the gospel. He is a man who goes the second mile. And through his life, God touched the entire known Gentile nations of his time through one man who would go the second mile. Will you go the second mile? Say, I will go the second mile.

What about people like apostle Peter in the bible? He had many weaknesses. He had many failings. But do you know one thing about Peter? He is a guy who will take the initiative and who will go the second mile. In spite of his many weaknesses and failings he was different from the rest. When they were all in the boat, and all of them said it's a ghost and Jesus from across the wave said, "It is I, be not afraid." Everybody kept quiet. But Peter said, "If it is You" - he is a second miler. He has many weaknesses and many faults. Why did God use Him? Because he is the second miler. "If it's You, call me to come." Jesus said, "Come." All the rest said, "Peter, it's a trick." Before they could stop him, he went. And do you know why I know he is a second miler? Because before he could think he acted. And as he was acting, suddenly he started thinking. That story is in Matthew chapter 14.

Matthew 16, when all the disciples were being asked, "Who do men say that I am?" They gave different answers. Who do you think that I am? All of them were saying Elijah or one of the prophets but Peter was the one who dared to commit himself and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." He knew in his heart. He confessed it. He is one who puts his head on the chopping board all the time. He just commits himself. That is why of all the disciples, God chose him to lead the others, because he is willing to go further. You say I thought John. John is the one who is closest to Jesus. John had a vertical relationship. Peter had some form of a vertical relationship but a great horizontal relationship. He was someone when he does something, he get everybody else to do it. When he backslides, he also pulls everybody along.

John 21:2 "Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Verse 3, "Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing. They said to him, we are going with you also", including John the apostle. See if you have only vertical relationship but you are a nice, and a coward and timid and you are not bold, you can never slay your Goliath. Before David had a chance to slay Goliath, David had to prove himself by saying it out loud. What created the opportunity for him to fight the Goliath was his confession. When he said, "Who is this giant?" and his elder brother scolded him and said, "You are just a small fly." But David kept on talking. He said who is this uncircumcised Philistine to shame the army of God, and he kept talking and kept talking. Don't you

think he is a leader? He is. He did not care about the tide. He knew what was right and he spoke what was right.

There are some people with vertical relationship but in front of people they are cowards. You say that vertical relationship should produce horizontal relationship. Usually, but sometimes it does not because when you fellowship with God, there is certain ease about it and presence in your zeal. But when you fellowship with fellow man, you must be prepared to take hurts. You meet with all kinds of human relationship, which some people just run away from. Do you think I love being a leader to thousands of people? Do you think it's easy? No, you have to sit with people you don't like and love them. You have to face leaders in the body of Christ whom you think are compromisers of the Word and love them. You got to sit with people whom you know behind your back say things but in front grin like a cat. But do you know you learn to love such people? And it takes effort to develop horizontal relationship.

I know it's possible to develop vertically without horizontally because I experienced it. When God first called me, my vertical relationship was like a rocket, I mean who else prays in tongues for eight hours. Very few people spend one whole year meditating on the Word. I was having a great vertical relationship. Then God says, "Son, you must develop your horizontal relationships too." If you keep running away from people who are difficult to deal with, you will never develop it. I know people who every time when they a difficult situation, they run away. Maybe they have a problem with their father. Maybe their father died and they never had father's love. So they never submit to authority. They come and work under one organization; and every time authority comes they run. And they never develop horizontal relationship because they never stay long enough to develop it. Every time problem comes they run. If they don't watch it, they may die in the wilderness without developing the horizontal relationship.

It's easy traveling all over the world and preach. But being a pastor is different. But there is something interesting about being called. When you are called, I would rather be a pastor than a prophet. It's something about the call of God. You learn to love people and you just love being with people. You just love to hear. Sometimes I am with a prophet, who asks me, "How can you stand it, people just talk and talk, pour out their problems?" When you have the anointing and you are called, you just love to hear. Sometimes their story is very interesting. The exciting part is when they are about to punch one another, you just like to hear and you really feel for them. You just like to pray for them.

Horizontal relationship is produced only horizontally. If you keep running, every time God says, stay there and you develop. We should be glad when God puts us in certain place. Don't get out of it. Stay until you are changed. God wants to open you up until the fragrance of your special flavor fills the room. Horizontal relationship is produced horizontally. If you remain long enough, God will change you. Everyone who has touched and contacted the realm of God has gone the second mile. Like Daniel, he not only moved into the depths of God, he moved horizontally and is willing to say and confess publicly.

Like David, when it's difficult, he says to the others, what shall be done to the man who will slay this Goliath? And the words of what he said got to the ears of the king.

Maybe, businessmen, you are not sure you will succeed because you didn't dare to confess what God wants you to confess. You do your confession privately but in public you dare not confess that God will work my business. Now you are frightened, you think if you fail, God's name is at stake. Maybe you don't dare to say that and then everyone will be looking to you and say that guy God is with him. If he fails, God fails. I tell you God will guard His name. I mean as long as you live your life right with God, your heart is right with God. You have done everything you know best. God will guard His name because you become associated with the name of God. Maybe you are not where you supposed to be because you do not speak out with the spirit of an overcomer. Lets go for it. We can do it. The spirit of an overcomer. Say, I will go the second mile. That's the same spirit that is on Jesus Christ, which only twelve years old boy knows the bible from the front to the back. Which twelve years old boy will say I am about My Father's business. Which twelve years old is so dedicated to God? Jesus of Nazareth. If we have the spirit of an overcomer, it is caught besides being taught. The spirit of a champion can rub on you. Just like from David's life it rubbed into the thirty mighty men and on his army. We need in our days the spirit of an overcomer. I want to summarize by giving just a few points.

First point that spirit of an overcomer is actually the lost authority that was given to Adam to rule the earth. In Genesis 1:26 "Then God said to Adam, Let us make man in Our image." And God gave Adam authority over the birds of the air, over the beast of the field and over every creeping thing that creep. That dominant note, that note of victory and that note of triumph was given to Adam. Like Paul says, God who causes us to triumph in Christ was in Adam. The note of an overcomer was in Adam until he sinned and lost it. But when we get into Adam, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, the same Spirit of an overcomer gets onto us. When it comes on us, it causes us to walk in authority. You know you have the authority. You walk in that dominion that God has for man. Man was made to have dominion. They were not made to be cowards. We were made to walk in that dominion and that lost dominion is restored in Christ Jesus so that you could see every dark force of Satan eye to eye and you will have no fear because you know your dominion. We are made to rule the earth with that same note of victory. That's the same spirit of the overcomer.

Second point, that spirit of overcomer that God imparts into our lives today, that brings us so much blessing if we follow, that brings us to the second mile is the same spirit that Jesus had that He now gives. Hebrew 1, it's the Holy Spirit. Verse 13-14 "But to which of the angels has He ever said: Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation." Now Jesus is seated at the right hand of God. Chapter 2:10 "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Paul says here in a different manner in Eph.2 he says we have been raised up to be with Jesus Christ seated at the right hand of God. It's the same spirit that is on Jesus. It is a spirit of authority, the Spirit that exercises the authority of heaven. So no.1 is the same dominion given to Adam. No.2 is the same dominion as in Christ Jesus now. Jesus seated at the right hand of God. A lot of people keep getting off the heavenly places. But if you will to sit in the heavenly places, you can exercise the scepter of authority in your life. Get seated in the position in Christ. Partake of the heavenly place authority that has been given to us.

II Cor. 2:14-15 “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”

Do you notice in verse 14 lead us triumphing in Christ causes the knowledge of God to go forward? The bible says that the glory of God shall cover the earth even as the seas. The knowledge of the glory of God shall cover the earth as the seas cover the earth. How is it going to happen? The church rises up to take its place in dominion with God. When we rise up and take authority in the area we live in, in the city we live in and in the nation we live in and go the second mile beyond His call for us, we will begin to defuse the knowledge of God. This is the third thing that we see that the glory of God and the dominion of God are related. The knowledge of God is related to the glory of God and that glory that is defused throughout the earth is related to the dominion of us going the second mile. You see nobody will notice anything if you go with the tide. But if you stand against the tide and you go beyond and into the second mile, that's when the fragrance of Christ begins to affect this earth. Either we affect the earth or the earth will affect us. Either the world is getting into you, or you overcome the world. There is no half-half about it. Its either our lives overcome the different areas of our lives or we are being overcome. We live in a world that is like a tidal wave flowing down in one direction of sin and doom and death. And to go forward we need to exercise effort and overcome the tide and turn the tide that God has. The knowledge of the glory of God being defused is tied up to us going the second mile. There is where the testimony of Jesus comes in. That's where the glory lies. The glory lies in the second mile. Provisions are in the first mile but the glory lies in the second mile.

Fourth point as we conclude in the book of Rev. 2:7 only those who hear will go the second mile and overcome. That means if we are not overcoming is because we are not hearing. If you are hearing from God, you are overcoming. How could David overcome the Goliath? It is because he heard God. He knew that this is the uncircumcised Philistines. He knew his covenant. He knew his God. He has confidence in his God. He heard from God but the hearing is general. He has an ear. Hear what He is speaking to the churches in plural. In other words, what do you pick up in the wave of what God is speaking? Now God has a personal word for us but we must pick up the general word that is speaking to the church first. In other words, what is He saying to the church today? What does God want of the church today? You can hear it right now. He already had sounded it from heaven. He that hears and responds to it and overcome, then He will give that special covenant that we have been speaking about. In other words, there are two parts to hearing from God. Unless you hear what has already been spoken by the angels of God, by the Spirit of God to the churches today, you can never hear His personal word in your life. Unless you obey that which God is already signaling in His church, he that has an ear hears, you can not move into that which God wants. In the fourth point we see that overcoming depends on us hearing from God and doing what God tells us. It doesn't mean what you are hearing is what the majority are saying. It doesn't depend on what you hear the world is saying. It depends on what you are hearing what the Holy Spirit is saying today. He that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Fifth point that we want to point out is the Spirit of overcoming begins with our attitude. There is scripture for that. Daniel 1, the purpose in our heart. Deut. 10 serving God with the whole heart.

It starts with our attitude on small little things like going the second mile. It means going further than what we are asked to do. Are you a second miler or a first miler? It starts with our attitude. Rev. 3 the message to the church in Laodicean says, their attitude was wrong. They say they were rich but Jesus says you are spiritually poor. They were comfortable but Jesus says actually they should not be in that stage. It begins with our attitude.

2. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

We are looking at some principles of the Lord Jesus Christ that He practiced in His life. We have taught on the first lesson, going the second mile and how that there is something for those who go for the second mile that make them excel above all the others, both in this life and in the next life to come. There are many principles but we just want to highlight some. Another principle that we want to touch on is in Matthew 5:43 onwards. We were looking at verse 38-42. This time we are going to look from verse 43 onwards. Listen very carefully because these are the words of Jesus Christ. The one who died on the cross for us, shed His precious Blood, left His glory in heaven to come for us. May it never be that when we read God's Word we get dull of hearing. But as we hear these words we must always let them refresh our lives. Especially bearing in mind that these are the words of the Savior whom we confess and profess to love. We need to put into practice not only some of His commandments but all His commandments. And here is a passage that is well known but seldom practiced.

Jesus said in verse 43, "You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

If you have been a Christian long enough, at some point of time, you will need these verses. If you have not come to the place where you need these verses, blessed are you, for He is coming soon. Practically every one of you in this Christian life has a need to practice these verses at some point or other, some in a wider situation and some in a personal situation. We have seen how many times when Christians have problems with one another, even if they see one another in the supermarket, they will go the other way. It happens all the time. And here we are bible carrying; tongues talking, demon casting and we say we are Christians. There is something that is so true out there in the church and sometimes we look at ourselves we say, "Lord, when will your people be perfected?" I mean it's happening right now all the time in various churches and various places. Everywhere in this planet earth, you will find brethren not walking in unity. To change the world, we must change first. Before we talk about changing the world, we are already speaking negatively about the church and each other. Have you forgotten that you are the church? That you are the brethren? It starts with one person. The flame of love will go to all. It only takes a spark to get the fire going. Will you be the spark? Will you be the spark Christian? Will you be the spark that will be different from the rest? Maybe 99%, of you are not practicing that. But lets not say the church didn't practice that. We are part of the church. Lets learn to do it first in our lives.

Here are principles that we need to seek in God's Word on Jesus' life. If there was anyone who has faced criticism, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. If there is anyone who had faced family problem and misunderstanding with his/her own loved ones, it was

Jesus Christ. His father and mother never understood Him when He was twelve years old. The bible says that she hid this in her heart and pondered over these things. That means she didn't understand. When He launched into His ministry, His own mother and you know how persuasive that is. If your mother comes right now to the door, while you are sitting here, say, Joshua and Joshua hear that familiar voice. It's mummy. Please come back. A part of Joshua wants to go to the door but a spiritual part of him say, stay here. Think about Jesus as He was ministering and His mother and brethren came. And they send a message and said, your mother and brothers are here waiting for You. He got to disappoint them.

If there is anyone who has faced betrayal by those close to him, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. First of all His disciples disappointed Him. Just as when He was going on His grand finale when He started marching into Jerusalem for the last Passion Week. He had spent three years with these folks and as He was marching in and set His face like a flint to enter Jerusalem for the last Passion Week, the disciples were quarrelling among themselves who was the greatest. Doesn't anyone have compassion for Him? And right in Jerusalem and Bethany, He used to travel during the last Passion Week; Judas turned around and betrayed Him. He that had Jesus washed his feet. He that knew Jesus for three years. He that handled all the money. He that ate of the same bowl and drank from the same cup as Him. He that ate of His plate. Shared with Him but turned around and turned Him to His enemies. Besides that He had all these Jews coming against Him. And on the night that He was betrayed, everybody left Him and this same Jesus Christ says love your enemy. Without friends, without encouragement, He went to the cross. The Pharisees who brought forth the crucifixion instigated it. They were screaming their lungs out at the cross. Some of the people who love Him don't dare to stand for Him. Do you know that people can love you but don't dare to stand for you? Because by standing for you they get part of the stoning. They were crying and weeping all the way as He took that heavy cross up to Golgotha. The women cried but they could not confess that they were on His side otherwise they will get it too from the Romans and from the Jews. As He went up Calvary' road, the women cried. And Jesus for a moment turned and said, don't weep for Me but weep for yourselves. He knew that He was in the perfect will of God. They were not. When He was hanging on the cross, while they were screaming at Him in anger, He says, Father, forgive them for they know not what they have done. These were most beautiful words.

I have not met a single Christian who does not struggle with forgiveness. That's the greatest battle you could ever win in your life. It's not a battle against sicknesses and diseases although those are tremendous because this body will soon pass away. But your soul is part of eternity. You could get healed of every sickness and disease in this life and it's good to be healed and God wants us to be healed and be whole. But it's better to be healed in your soul. It is better to be free from the clutches that will prevent us from tasting all the fullness of the heavenly blessing. You are going to take your soul to heaven but you are not going to take your body to heaven. The greatest battle and war in your life that you could win is the battle over your own soul. Jesus says, what would it profit a man if he were to gain the whole world and loses his own soul. My friends, the battle over your soul is greater than the battle over your body. And there is a slight blessing there. When your soul is whole as your soul prosper, your body too will prosper. These are the words of Jesus Christ: He says, love your

enemy. He is asking that our Christian love will encompass situation like He mentioned here in Matthew 5.

I am going to share with you some little secrets on how to walk that kind of walk and follow the principles that Jesus laid down: Love your enemy. Firstly, we need to understand that persecution, misunderstanding, criticism will always be there. Jesus said, in the world you shall receive tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world. It is always there. It's just the question of the measure that is coming on your life.

Now understand this principle No.1, sub-principle. The main principle is love your enemy. But under this point no.1, the greatness of God's glory in your life, the greatness of God using you is directly in the proportion to the greatness of the suffering you must endure for Him. In case somebody has not told you that, we are going to tell you the full picture. People promised you the athlete trophy without promising you the athlete training. People promise you the blessing of an anointing without promising you and telling you about the picture that is being paid for that. People tell you about the abundance of prosperity that you can have in Jesus but they don't tell you what Mark 10 declares, that you shall receive hundred fold in this life with persecution. In the proportion to how much of the glory of God, the blessings of God that God wants to demonstrate in your life to the same proportion that you have to endure the suffering for His sake. You can ask any blacksmith who is preparing an iron work, or sword or axe or hammer. They could produce different kinds of steel. It depends on what you want to use it for. But the tougher you desire the steel to be, the tougher the hammering you have to give to the steel. In many times, if it's just an ordinary thing that you need to use, you don't need really tough steel. They could just heat it up and hammer it to the shape and to the sharpness that is required and give it to you and you can use it. But if you need that steel to cut through other tough material, they will have to heat it up and hammer it. And while it's hot they take that steel blade and they plunge it into cold water then they will heat it up again and when it is hot, they will knock it again. The tougher the blade the more times they have to do it. The greater God wants to use you, the greater ministry God has for you, please prepare for greater suffering. The greater you want to be a blessing to all men, the greater must be the testing, the forming and the tempering. So that's why the tougher material goes to the fiery furnace more times.

Acts 9, here Paul is just born again. He is blinded by the glory of God. Waiting three days for God while Jesus went to Ananias to call him to minister to Paul. And as he appeared to Ananias in Acts 9, he said here, His words, when you read it, it causes us to tremble. Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." And some of the translation says, I will show him how great he must suffer for My name. He said that while a great ministry awaited Paul, great sufferings awaited him too. Could I have the ministry without the suffering? No, they are one and the same. The stronger the blade of steel that God wants you to be the greater the fiery furnace you will have to go through. The most interesting thing is this; every one of us has a destiny. According to that destiny He has for you, He will have to temper you and shape you for that destiny. And along the way He will let you suffer persecution, misunderstanding, and criticism. That's the tempering process of God. Now a most

interesting thing happens sometimes. People think they can run away but the world is too small to run from God. In fact, like the Psalmist says in Psalms 139, where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heavens you are there, even if I sink to the lowest part of the earth you are there. What happens is wherever you go; it will be the same process coming to you. They may be different actors in the process. However, the spotlight will be staring at you. The main star will still be you. There will be a lot of support actors that changed but you will never run away from that fiery furnace because that's your destiny. It's part of the reward. You say, "O God, what happen if I change shirts." It would be the same thing. There will be different actors, starring Habakkuk Smith, co-starring Pastor Ringo. So you run away, couldn't stand it. You say, I don't want my part and you opt out in the first scene. This time the co-star is Pastor Alberto. Different co-star. After some time you call out, "Cut! I can not take it anymore." You say there must be a way out from this. So you decided to migrate. You migrate to, say, South Africa. While you are there again, Scene 1 comes, starring Habakkuk Mombasa, co-starring Pastor William. Same scene, same difficult situation until you finally submit to God's will. Isn't God interesting? He knows how to get at us until we conformed to His perfect will.

I want to share with you a little secret that may help you to overcome these things in your life. That is no.1 in proportion to the amount of use God has for you, you will have to suffer. Since God has a ministry for everybody, everybody has to suffer self-denial in different measures, some greater than the other. There is no partaking of His resurrection power without partaking of the fellowship of His suffering. Understand that principle. We see here in the life of Paul, he really suffered. And God is gracious; we say that He will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able to take. Not only that, He will not let you know what you are able to understand. He just gives you one step at a time. If Paul had knew everything he was going to go through, he will say God, I will rather die now than to go through all those things. But God is good; He gives you a little bit at a time. Every one of them suffered. We all must enter into the reward of God with persecution. But here is the key no.2: no suffering is permanent. All suffering is temporary. God is not like the devil that would like to torment you day and night. God has time for refreshing for you. So all sufferings, all persecutions will die. I can prove to you from this bible that persecution has its beginning and ending. The church is not permanently and continuously persecuted. There are times when persecution die down before a new phase come forth.

In Acts 8, there was a persecution that came, verse 1, "Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church." See sometimes it's greater than other times. I have been through many great times of persecution and I marveled at people's lack of stamina. You must understand the principle of God. That's the part of His testing of your life. See a great persecution arose against the church, which was at Jerusalem. There were times in my life when there were great persecution and then at other times it filtered down to normal misunderstanding and criticism, which is normal. Once in a while the bubble bee comes and jab you once, other times it's ant bite. You just brush it off. Sometimes you meet a baby Christian who has an ant bite, and cries, "Nobody loves me. Pastor I don't want to go to church anymore. I don't want to read my bible." That's what pastors are for. You take them and you comfort them. You love them and you encourage them. You give them all the scriptures and promises so they grow. One day when they have grown, two years later, they say actually it was an ant bite. So a great persecution arose. But how many

knows that the great persecution will die. Acts 9 within one chapter it's finished. Verse 31, "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified." Some translations say they had rest. You ask, "How did they have that?" The main persecutor was converted.

Now I give you a little secret here. Behind great persecution and great criticism is only one man or one woman. There is always a key instigator, the rest are cohorts. There had been different times when the Word of Faith message was attacked. Every time it is attacked Hagin's name will come in. Copeland's name will come in. But do you know who were behind those persecutions? Famous people. When a famous pastor takes a stand and gives a faith message, all the others dare not take a stand. The majority of people are not leaders. They are just sheep. In 1970s some prominent people took a stand and said that the Word of Faith message is not in season. It's cultist, because they are famous. Because they are well known. Those not so well also say yes that's right. But after sometime, the most prominent people move out of the scene, the dust settled and Hagin is still there. You see behind it are just prominent people or influential people. Once you understand the key element behind persecution, you won't be so worried about it.

Acts 5:17 "Then the high priest rise up." The high priest was famous, the most influential man in all of Israel. You see before that, some people disagree but don't dare to speak up. Some people are not for it. They just hold their peace. But when a high priest stands up, all those who are with him also stood up and they started going against the Christians. Whether you are persecuted or not, whether you are criticized or not, nobody agrees with you all the time. You don't have 100% of people understanding you or agreeing with you all the time. So let's accept it as a fact because people are at different levels you just walk your walk with God and leave the rest with God. It does not mean that when you are persecuted or criticized, that is the only time that they have disagreed. No, that's the only time they spoke out. Understand here is that fact that only God can bring unity but it can only come when all of us walk right with God and walk faithfully in what God wants us to do. But when somebody prominent stands up against something, that's when the wave of persecutions comes.

Paul had faced many different ways of persecution in his life. He speaks about all those things that he had gone through in fulfillment of what Jesus said to Ananias in Acts 9.

II Tim. 3:10-13 "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra, what persecution I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me."

You notice the word; out of them all the Lord delivered me. He says all who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. For example, persecution can come in simply among brethren just because of different levels. Somebody will say why must they be so outwardly expressive? Why not be like me? Straight away you will have criticism and misunderstanding. But understand, it's because they are at two different levels. One compartmentalized God but to you, you don't, God is everywhere. Whether in the street you will behave the same. You are not making it up. Of course if you are making it up, it's different. But just be yourself and walk with God and forget about what people say. You just walk with God. Some people are in

the flesh, some partly in the flesh, and they will always be there in your life. Why let them make your life miserable, when you are making theirs miserable? They are miserable because every time they see you fervent, they get convicted that they are not close enough with God. When they see you pray, outwardly they say I don't like it but inwardly their spirit say I wish I could be like that, giving myself whole-heartedly to God. There are many ways people get rid of their guilt. By removing those who make them guilty. Understand that when you walk godly with God you will bring conviction to anyone who walk less than you. It's a fact of life. And with conviction comes all kinds of reactions. People can be convicted and give different reaction.

The key no. 2 is no persecution, no criticism last forever. It has only a life span. Some are shorter and some are longer. But they will all die down. If you walk with God, God deals the key persecutor, they either get converted or get coffin. No two ways about it. Provided you walk in certain principles. Sometimes people lengthened their own persecution in suffering by not walking in these principles without knowing it.

Before I go to that, there is a separate major point. Let me go to no.3. The first is proportionate persecution, second is all persecution is temporary, all misunderstanding is temporary, because everything that is in the flesh never last. Only the spirit can last. So make sure you got enough stamina when you are walking in the Spirit because when the smoke has cleared, you are still there. What has to be shaken will be shaken. What is built in the word will remain. I hope the second point helps you. You say is this my whole life? It's not, however it may be your whole life if you don't observe some principles.

But point three not only it is proportionate to your use down here by God, it is proportional to your reward in heaven. I love point three very much. I don't know why it must be that way but how many of us love that one day we are all in heaven and you would love to have the biggest crowns and prizes that Jesus gives away if possible. I mean Moses, John the Baptist and all the others will be there. And you are called out and the scroll is read out. Habakkuk Smith and the entire choir will be playing and you walk out to receive your crown. In the presence of all the billions of saints and Jesus gives you a crown and said well-done, good and faithful servant. However, there are different degrees of reward. Some of them the angels will call out. They will open the scroll of your name and said John S. Doe and Jesus will just take a small little reward in the presence of three billions of people and you have one tiny little thing. It is so small that you need the super eye in heaven to see it. You say what's that Lord? That's your crown. You say, why Lord? Because you can only stand ant's bite size persecution so I give you an ant size crown. I don't care what people say about me, as long as I know in my heart I am right with God. I am not living in sin. I am living in righteousness and holiness. I don't care what people say about what God calls me to do. Whether they believe it or not, I just want to do my part. But I do care that when I meet with Him face to face one day; I will have my reward there. I want to make sure I have my reward up there.

The third key is important. You see God does give us some glimpses of heaven. What will take place in heaven? Your reward in heaven is proportionate to the amount of persecution you endure here for Him. I hope that helps you. If you really get this into your heart and your mind, the next time somebody say a wrong word and say things like: this Christina, I don't like her or whatever and when words get around, (bad news travel faster than good news, the devil makes sure you hear it), and say do you

know who is saying this to you. Christina will say, praise God, one more reward added in heaven. One more jewel on my crown. Why am I teaching this? Because I want to produce different types of Christian call the overcomer. The champion of God who would not be coward so that when the smallest thing happens they won't tuck their tails between their legs and scream away. No, they will instead stand bold and say, praise God, one more jewel for my crown if we understand that your reward in heaven are measured on your persecution you endure here on earth.

Matthew 5 Jesus tells us here in verse 44-45 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

You want to be called a Son of God; you must be able to overcome all those things that are thrown on your life.

Luke 6:27-29 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And for him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either."

Luke 6:22-23 Blessed are you, that's a blessing when you are persecuted. It's not a curse.

Sickness is a curse, poverty is a curse but blessed are you when you are persecuted for My sake. Now not for your mistake. You get persecuted for your dumb mistakes it is different. You get persecuted because you are in sin is different. But if you live right and you are holy in God's sight, blessed are you when men hate you, because they hate the Holy Spirit when they hate you. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you. Has that taken place in your life? And revile you and cast out your name as evil. What does that mean? Call you false prophet. In verse 23, Rejoice, it didn't say cry. It didn't say weep. It says rejoice in the Lord. We rejoice in that day. In what day? The day you are persecuted. In the day when you heard the bad news that the devil wants you to hear. Now try to see it from the heavenly perspective. The devil stirs up something against your life, he makes sure you hear about it. He got all his co-runners along the way and the words pass from one mouth to another until it gets into your ear. And usually the one that gets it into your ear is one that is quite close to you. And the devil makes sure that it gets into your ear. He wants you to hear it. He will say so and so says this of you. That you are a false prophet and every other name that is not good under the sun. Do you know what the devil is looking for? He wants to see your reaction. Because when you begin to cry, "Aaarghhh," then you are still an earthling. Not a citizen of heaven yet. Or when you start to scream, then you are still in the flesh and not renewed yet. Or when you get angry, then you still got anger in your heart and you are not renewed in your mind. But what's a surprise to the devil. When he makes you hear the gossip or slander and you heard it and you say, "Halleluiaah," the devil will get the fright of his life and then he will know you are no ordinary people. Let me tell you the devil will be so frighten to fight against you.

When I read these passages I asked God. I said, "Lord You help me to get Your children to see this truth so that they may be the kind of Christians that You want them to be all the time." That's not supposed to be the super Christians. That's the normal Christians. He didn't say that to some super Christians love your enemies.

Rejoice when you are persecuted. He said that to all of us. He expects us to be that way. And I said, "Lord why is it?" I mean I can ask anyone who has pastored any church and say, "Have you found a congregation who comes to you and said, 'Praise God, pastor I must tell you this, they have just persecuted me.'" In all my years of pastoring I never had a congregation come to me like that. I have been in pastors' fellowship. I have been in ministers' fellowship and I have met hundreds of pastors and not a single one has ever come and says, "You know I have this unique member in my church. Whenever he hears something bad about him, he phones me up and says, 'Praise God, pastor, I got one more jewel added to my crown and I want you to know that I am so happy and I can't wait to go to heaven.'" If a pastor has 1000 of those members, it will be a powerful church. The devil will be scared to attack them. I asked God why are the modern believers so different from them? The Lord said, "My people have not been taught." I mean we teach them prosperity until their eyes turn green. We teach them healing until there is power coming out of their fingertip but we don't teach them to love their enemies. We are told to love our enemies but we were not told how, why and all these reasons. So a lot of Christians are not loving their enemies and loving those who persecute them. In fact most of them are claiming other promises. Like Elijah, he said, God send fire. What kind of Christians are we producing? You want to know what the New Testament Christians are like? See what I am talking about is not something strange and something so extraordinary. Look at Acts for a moment. Look and consider Acts 5; this is the kind of mentality that they have and we need to have.

Acts 5 we read the part about the high priest stirring up the persecution in verse 17, "then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison."

The bible tells us in verse 33, "When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them." Only one man stopped them, that's Gamaliel who was even tempered than the rest. Finally when they did not kill them in verse 40, "And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus."

It says and they had beaten them up. Those Christians, those apostles, when they walk out of that place, they didn't walk out like little mice, like a dog with the tail tuck between the legs. They didn't drag their feet like they just come out of a tribulation. No, my friends, after all that they had gone through, they went out praising God. I tell you this high priest is shaking his head. How could they do it? How could they rejoice? The bible says here in verse 41, "So they departed from the presence of the council." That tells you that the moment they left, they walked out like champions. The spirit of a champion is on their lives. They walked out rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. As they walk out they say, thank you Jesus for the extra beating, for the suffering. Thank you Jesus for the criticism. Thank you, you counted us worthy enough to take that for You. What a different type of Christians they were. No wonder they changed the world. Here we are modern Christians with modern technology, video, CD, computers, satellites, internet etc. One tiny criticism, with all that we have, we should have changed the world by now. Because of the type of Christians that we are producing, Christians who love their comfort more than they love Jesus. Christians who will suffer to get something more

in life. Some food, some clothing, some shelter, some luxury and they will pay the price. They will suffer to get all those things. They will burn the mid-night oil. They will spend hours to get something that doesn't last. But they are not willing to suffer for Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Just because they were persecuted a little bit, they can not take it. The Lord's Spirit is causing the rising of a new breed of people.

Understanding principle No.1, when God wants to use you, the great suffering that you are going to bear.

No.2 they all don't last long. If you get the stamina to endure, you will see the reward at the end.

No.3 your heavenly reward that is there. When you understand that the heavenly reward is waiting for you, when persecution comes you will say, "Bless God. Thank You Jesus for the privilege of being criticized for you." When you stand up for the Holy Spirit, the anti-charismatic will criticize you. You say, "Thank You Jesus that I can stand up and share the persecution against the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit Himself is facing that. Thank You for the privilege of taking part of the suffering that the Holy Spirit is taking." When people resist the Spirit and you are filled with the Spirit, they will also resist you because the Spirit is in you. And you will be able to say, "Thank You Jesus that I could partake of the grief and the suffering that the Holy Spirit is going through. Thank You that you count me worthy to partake of it." Why worthy? Listen very carefully, not all are given the privilege to suffer. You see the privilege, because that privilege equals the heavenly reward. The next time something is spoken against your life, some suffering, remember this, don't ever forget. Not everybody is given that privilege. You get the privilege of being criticized that other people don't get. No.3, you get your reward in heaven.

But no.4 is also important. There are different progressions that we grow in suffering. The level of your suffering is the level of your Christian life. How much you can take it. Let me show you. When you have reached a higher level in your Christian walk, and when persecution didn't come you will get confused. But for a baby Christian to experience persecution, he or she will have confusion, despair, and disorientation. But when they learn point one, two and three they move into rejoicing.

Remember the apostle Paul? He had great suffering. He learned something that we need to learn from him. II Cor. 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure." He not only rejoices, but Paul moved beyond rejoice by faith to the fact that he really take pleasure. He said I take pleasure in reproaches, in infirmities, in distress for Christ sake. For when I am weak then He is strong. Have you come to the stage in your life where you take pleasure, where they can throw mud on your face and you smile with pleasure? The only form of pleasure perhaps people have is when they are really relaxing. When they are in the bathtub. They just don't have a care in the world. How wonderful if the same pleasure could be felt when they say something about you that is not pleasant and you say, aah ... that's nice. They throw a mud ball at you and you say, ooh, so nice. Paul takes pleasure. This was the same man who changed the world. If you can not overcome that confusion in your soul and that persecution you can not overcome the world. But when they don't hurt you anymore, then you will know that you are dead completely to self and you take pleasure.

What is it like when people take pleasure in nice food? Larry loves food. When I give him something nice, I like to see how he eat. He really takes pleasure in his food. When I give him one of those spring rolls he says, "I could eat 100 pieces of these." Maybe I should preach a message on fasting when he is around and then he will say, "One more, pastor." One more, he wants more. How nice if somebody criticize you and you say, "One more, one more." Why don't we have that kind of attitude? Your reward will be great in heaven. That is the same man the apostle Paul who said, "I take pleasure," when they beat him until his back was blue black. When they imprisoned him unjustly, when he followed a vision and it looks like the vision is going down the drain, Acts 16 says, he looked up to God at midnight and they prayed and they sang songs. They rejoiced in the Lord. And God sent a mighty earthquake, spiritual earthquake that knocked off every hindrance. As far as I know God's Word, earthquake is usually produced by a strong presence of God or by a strong angel. While Paul was rejoicing, the demons that were against him were rejoicing too. They thought they had won and the demon probably having their own good orgy. That's how the rock and roll fellows got it from the demons. But Paul is singing Psalms. While that is happening, God in heaven sent a delegation and when the delegation arrives on the earth, the earth would not take their presence. Paul took pleasure in reproaches, in infirmities. What kind of Christian are we? Lets be the Bible type.

There is one more stage to go. From this orientation to rejoicing to pleasure, there is one more stage. Hebrew 11:24-25 now you know why God use Moses. It says here, "By faith Moses when he became of age refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter." Verse 25,"choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he looked to the reward."

That's point 3 that we saw just now and to strengthen point 3 there is always a reward at the end of all your suffering. The greatest is in heaven. But God is so generous that even on this earth you experience some reward. Look at Moses, it says he chose to suffer affliction. Paul also went to that stage. Where you chose the road where you know a road of no compromise that will have persecution inside. And you know there are men of God even today, sometimes they get criticized and people are pressuring them to compromise. And they chose a road of compromise so that people will stop bothering them. They chose their reward. In the business world is like this, everyone around you is corrupted but you chose not to be corrupted. What happens? You get persecuted. All you have to do is to compromise and they will stop jeering at you. Or when you stand your ground at a business meeting, everybody drink wine, they say what do you want? You say orange juice. They all laugh at you. Do you know all you have to do to stop the laughing is to take a glass of wine, join the club and they will stop laughing at you? But you chose to drink orange juice and get the jeers. You chose to suffer affliction. You chose not to compromise. It's so easy to compromise when the pressure is turned on but you chose not to compromise. You have your principles. You have the words and you say, "I rather have this people jeering at me than to compromise God's Word in my life." You chose to suffer affliction rather than the temporary pleasures of sin. People don't like you, so what, that's their problem not yours. You got reward in heaven and they got none.

At that fourth level, you learn to make the uncompromising choices knowing that by choosing that you are to be reproached and persecuted. Paul made those choices

many, many times. Many times he knew what was to happen. Remember how on his last trip of his third journey, he says I know that persecution and affliction await me. But I go bound in the Spirit. He chose the reproaches of Jesus Christ in order to receive the reward.

The fifth, it's also the last point, which helps each one of us to understand God's system. Why we must act like this in 1, 2, 3 and 4. Romans 12:17 onwards. We have saying that when someone does evil to you don't do evil back. When someone criticizes you don't criticize back. When a dog barks at you, don't bark back because that makes you a bigger dog. When people do wrong things against you, they are just behaving in the flesh. You keep your peace. If one day, you get in the flesh and you bark back, but at the end of it, you have become a big dog. You are not renewed at all. Are we preparing ourselves for heaven or just on earth? We want to change right now on earth. When someone does evil, you don't overcome evil with evil. Although many time you could have possibly done it.

It says here, repay no one evil for evil, in verse 17, have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath, for it is written, vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. Therefore if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink, for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Even when people keep doing evil against you and the Proverbs says that coals of fire be on the person's life. What is the meaning here? The key to this meaning is found in Ezekiel 10, the whole chapter is the departure of the glory of God. But how does it happen and what took place? In verse on onwards, "And I looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne. Then he spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hand with coals of fire from among the cherubim and scatter them over the city and he went in as I watched."

The cherubim went in and he took coals of fire and basically what takes place is the cherubim they took the coals of fire and they spread it on the whole of Jerusalem. What is the coal of fire represents? The judgment of God on the city. From that day onwards the glory of God was going to go. And execution of justice and judgment will take place. Listen very carefully in point 5; remember what I said earlier of people prolonging their sufferings? I am not talking about things that you suffer because of mistakes or anything but if you know that you have done right in God and there is no evidence from the bible that they can fight and you have obeyed God, you have followed after the Holy Spirit and the Word and yet people come against you. Remember this if you learn to walk in love, the period of persecution will be very short because God will bring it to its climax and bring judgment. But if you don't walk in love, what happens? God can not execute the justice. You know God is a just God. Some of you are asking why must God execute justice when you got all those rewards. Remember this, God will not allow a right to be wrong for long because many people will be lost if they keep seeing evil winning over good. I mean if you are right you are right. And if people say you are wrong and you say you are right. If God does not do anything and waiting for heaven to do something, a lot of people will be lost because most people believe the multitude and think that you are wrong. And you

may lose out your blessing that you have brought forth in your life. Therefore God has to execute judgment. But his executing of judgment depends on you - that you do not react and you walk in love. I mean there is nothing as malicious as when you have endured and finally people say, you know for those past ten years actually you are having a truth and you are correct in your life. When you are justified not by man, not by yourself but by God. And by that time, people will begin to turn to your leadership and to the truth, to the Word and the river of life in your life to feed them. But that process depends on you.

Now what happen when you react when people criticize or persecute you? The coals of fire can not be released. The Word of God's judgment can not work. By judgment I am not saying that God will wipe off the person. God will do two things. He would either convert that person or He will remove that person. There is no half about it. It is always from Genesis to Revelation. It's a dangerous thing to go against the Spirit of God. There are only two endings that are possible. Either we humble ourselves or God humbles us to the way of God. But God doing it in your life and for you depends on your reaction. If you react and get in the flesh the time span of the persecution will be longer but if you walk in the love the time is very short and your reward is very great.

Point 5 for God to work justice on this earth and the quickening of your process depends on you repaying evil with good. It depends on you giving love where people give you hate. It depends on you obeying Jesus' command 'love your enemy'. Because when you love them, God could at least begin to convert and turn them. If their heart is really sincere, God will turn them for good. If their heart is set for the devil, God will remove them. That process will be quickened when you learn how to love and walk in love.

3. THREE LEVELS OF PURITY

Matt. 5:33 onwards, “Again you have learned that it was said to those of old, you shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord. But I say to you, do not swear at all, neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you can not make one hair white or black. But let your Yes be Yes, and your No, No. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”

Let your yes be yes and your no be no. It is established in His life. Notice that as He introduces this principle, He is talking about swearing oath and everything else. That people are looking for finality. When a person swear he/she is trying to rest his /her oath or his/her ability or his/her promises on something stronger than him/her. But Jesus said don’t do that. You can not do it by heaven nor by earth and not even by your own body because you can not even make your body. It’s God who make your body. The principle behind that He is bringing forth that is present in His life is simple but yet there are many applications of it. Letting our yes be yes and no be no. It also means say what you mean and mean what you say. No twist and turn. You may say everybody knows that. Then why is it that nobody is doing that? Because for some people yes means no and no means yes. It’s just the opposite. As we grow in life we realize that transparency. The principle behind is the principle of transparency. I want you to know that Jesus was transparent. What you see of His public life is what His private life is. What you see Him saying in public is what He says in private. Jesus is transparent. What you see is for real.

Sometimes people don’t believe that people can be as good as people think that they can be.

They say is this for real? How many times you have encountered situation and said is this for real. I can’t believe it. That is possible. We need to be transparent and being transparent is not as easy as we think it is because most of us dare not be transparent, lest we be hurt or lest we be misunderstood. But look at it this way. You are going to be misunderstood anyway, because misunderstanding depends not only on the person to be understood but also on the person who is trying to understand. And as long as people are at different levels of growth, there will always be a lack of understanding depending on the spiritual level of the growth. We have to learn to be what we are. To say what we mean. What we are in public and what we are in private must be exactly the same. We mean business with God. I know sometimes even men of God live one way and do another. Or they do one thing and they do something else privately. They are not what I call inconsistent.

This looks like a simple principle but basically it is the principle of transparency. It is a principle of consistency. Being what you are in public or in private without wearing any mask. Just follow after God and being obedient to do what God do and say what God say without any fear of men or demons. The only fear you have is the fear of God in your life. In the bible as in our time today, people don’t always say what they mean and mean what they say. We learn through culture and through society and through diplomacy to beat around the bush. We are not transparent enough. Jesus likes transparency and Jesus looks right through at our life. There was a man who came to Jesus Christ and said, Lord, divide my brother’s inheritance with me. Jesus did not even bother to say anything about the division or to help. Jesus looks right through his

eyes and right through his heart and Jesus saw resting in his heart covetousness. The incident recorded is in Luke 16:14 “Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.”

Notice here, the Pharisees in his days told the people to do many things but in their heart they were covetous for money or for position. Jesus called them what they are. He called them hypocrites who made their robes long. Made their prayers long for display not really out of their heart. Long prayers are all right because when your heart is burdened you cry longer. But they made it for display. Jesus picks up the covetous in their hearts and began to speak parables against them.

The other incident is in Lk 12:13 “Then one from the crowd said to Him, Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

Now it looks like a normal request. It looks like a normal day’s work for a pastor. So here is a request. “Pastor, divide the inheritance for me. My brother is bullying me.” Most people will say, “I know a Christian lawyer.” But Jesus didn’t just look at what we say, He look at why we say it. It’s not what we say that is important, but it’s why we say. If you learn this principle your social life with people will be more discreet and will be more fruitful because you can pick up falsehood from reality. It is not as important what people tell you but it’s more important why they tell you. Why they say those things. Because what we say is colored by why we say. Ask any lawyer. If they are trying to win a case, they choose what to say and what not to say in case they give their opponent ground against them. The choice of what we say is determined and controlled by why we say.

Jesus looked right into this person and saw why he said it. It’s because he was greedy for money. Now Jesus is not going to help a greedy man. He has to deal with that greediness. Jesus spoke a parable against that man. Some of us think that Jesus is so gentle, so kind He will never hurt a fly. Are you sure? This man came and asked for help and He began to say, “Take heed and beware of covetousness.” Straight away people would be hurt. Even if he is a greedy person and he comes to a pastor and say, “Pastor, can you help me?” Pastor looks at the covetousness in his heart and tells him, “Beware of covetousness.” “Oh, pastor you hurt me. You are a pastor how can you hurt me?” He is just telling you the truth. Speak the truth in love. And it’s amazing that sometimes we are not willing to speak the truth in love. We are willing to love without truth or we are willing to speak the truth without love.

Think about Jesus. This fellow came and these Pharisees were all sitting down there. He looked around and he said, “You hypocrites.” This is the Lord Jesus fairest of ten thousands, bright and morning star. If Jesus was in charge of a church or a ministry, He will correct where correction is needed. And as Jesus was talking about the Pharisees, one lawyer came and said, “Lord Master, by talking like that; you are also talking about us.” And Jesus turned around and said, “Woe to the lawyers.” When you see the word lawyer in the bible, it usually talks about the Scribes.

If anyone of us has enough fellowship with Jesus, let me tell you, Jesus is willing to tell you things that nobody else is willing to tell you. He is willing to correct you in areas where no one dares to correct you. He is like that. Jesus looks at not only what we say but also why we say it. The majority of people who are not trained in social skill and discernment are captivated by what He said. Leaders must always go by why

people say and not what people say to effectively lead people. Why? People are not transparent. Only when God deals in their life, they become transparent. Another more blunt word for transparency is honesty. People are not outwardly honest to tell you the truth. Do you like this food? Yes! If I tell them I don't like the food, they throw the food on me. Just tell them I don't quite like this kind of food, but I appreciate the food and the thought. Just be honest, that's all. You know in your heart it's not easy to be honest. You are newly married. Your wife cooked the first dish for you, which turn out to be the bitter gourd. You wrestle between your love for your wife and your hatred for the bitter gourd. How to tell her in love? Say, dear, I appreciate this so much but I don't really like bitter gourd. Isn't it better to be honest? At first people don't appreciate the honesty but in long run they appreciate because it's easier to deal with you. How many of us here admit that it's easier to deal with an honest person who tells you things that you don't like to hear, than to deal with a dishonest person who says nice things that you like to hear. I don't know why God made all the good food bitter and all the bad food sweet. One day I found the answer. It's not that God made them that way. The devil made them that way. He turns our taste buds until what is bad for us tastes good. Nice tasty prawns, crabs, we develop a taste for them so that we end up eating really unhealthy high cholesterol toxic food and eat less of the really good and healthy food. Praise God that can change. Say, I am subject to change until eternity is birthed in my heart and my body. That can change.

When I was small I never like bitter gourd. Maybe there is a teaching in there. One day, I was doing house visitation, and there was this dish there. It was bitter gourd but I have never seen bitter gourd like that. They sliced it very thin and fried it until it's a little bit crispy. I took one bite and from that day onwards I like bitter gourd. So what's the principle behind that parable? The cook makes the difference. When some people don't like certain people, it is not what it is. It is presentation. If you love someone who resists the gospel, maybe it's not they themselves resisting the gospel. Maybe they are resisting the way the gospel is presented. There would be more people in church today, there would be more people saved if we were to learn to present the gospel. Because there are a lot of hungry people out there who really want the gospel, but because of the presentation, it doesn't taste good. They have a stereotyped image of what Christians are like. They don't know that we have fun in Christianity. That Christian life is enjoyable. A lot of businessmen think that when they come to God they will lose all their money. It's because of their stereotyped wrong mental thinking of what Christianity is.

The world would be a better place if we all were honest, transparent and forthright. Say what we mean and mean what we say. And dare to tell when we defer. We could disagree with being disagreeable. There are no two people who will agree 100% on everything. You may agree with some, 10%, some 50% but you will find that there are areas that you may do it differently. But we must learn to be gracious to disagree without being disagreeable so that we could live and let live. We realize that for example, Jesus had to deal with all the people around Him who were not honest all His life. One of His twelve apostles was not honest. Do you remember the incident when Jesus was being anointed? Then one of the disciples said why wasn't this money given to us? Why such a waste of money put this perfume on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lets turn to the book of John. It's John that gives us the inside picture and tells us in the gospel of John 12:4-5 "But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii's and given to the poor?"

Was he concerned for the poor? John says in verse 6, "This he said, not that he cared for the poor." He does not care for the poor but because he handles the money and if the money is in his charge he could fiddle with the money. Judas said what he did not mean because he meant something else in his heart. His yea was not yea. His nay was not nay. He did not care for the poor. He actually was concerned for himself. See that is an example of not being transparent. Yet you notice the skill of people like that is they turn the attention away to somebody else. They turn and make the woman the accused when he is the accused. Throw a red herring into the picture – a distraction. He did not say what he really meant in his heart. His heart and his mouth and his head are going different directions. To be transparent is a principle of the Lord Jesus Christ. What does the bible say in the other places?

Turn to the book of James 5, which includes a little warning here. When we are not transparent people, we will begin to take on the nature of the devil. Jesus warns us in Matthew 5; anything else that blocks transparence is of the evil one. Anything else is of the evil one.

James 5:12 "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your Yes be Yes, and your No, No, lest you fall into judgment."

In Matthew 5 it warns us that anything else is evil. In James 5 it warns us that the judgment that is there for a lack of transparency. We need to be honest with one another. To be honest with God and we need to be right for right. Anything outside of it is classified as deception. That is why Jesus says it is like the devil. It is the beginning of deception. First we deceive ourselves. Then we begin to deceive others and there is a judgment involved. Our nature will be affected. The enemy will have an open hand here.

Paul and many others and Jesus Himself were effective in their lives because their hearts could come right out through their actions and through their words. Effective people are those who allow transparency to flow out of their lives. They can touch your life. They can transform your life because you know that what they are saying is from the heart. It is not a put on. It is not something artificial. It's real and it comes out and that reality hits you and blast away everything that blocks your life.

Paul was a very honest man. He lived right with God and he did right with God. When he was talking to the Corinthians he encouraged them. He said, look, we open our hearts wide to you; we are speaking to you the truth. In II Cor. it tells here in chapter 6:11, now this is a man who wrote the major portion of the New Testament. Why did God use him so mightily? There was a clear channel for God to flow through. There was transparency. There was no slyness, craftiness, and deceptiveness. He is for real. He is what he is in public. He is what he is in private. Because his life was transparent, the glory of God, the power of God and the Word of God could flow through his life and touch the lives of the people around him and touch every other

life today in our time. When he wrote those words, he wrote what he meant and he meant what he said. He could back it up with his life. And he could touch people.

He said to the Corinthians, “O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.” Therefore the anointing of God can flow. How shall I develop transparency? There are three little words that we want to consider. As I was studying in my private devotional life sometime back about purity of heart, sometimes we sing that song in our worship, a pure heart that’s what I long for. A heart that’s undivided but one you rule and reign. A pure heart that’s what I long for. Because blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Why don’t people see God and know God? Because their heart is not pure, their heart is not transparent. There are things blocking them. And as I was studying purity, I was stunned by some facts. At first there were two words that I struggled with because there were two Greek words for pure. I couldn’t see why there should be two. I know the four Greek words for power. Two Greek words for pure. In our English language pure is pure. But the words for purity are so different and unrelated. I thought they could be related but I examine more carefully I say no; there must be something to it. In Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” How many here desires to see God? Do you know it is possible? Having vision and seeing the things of God are very easy. It has to do with something on our inside.

The Greek word is the word ‘katharos’. Blessed are the pure in heart. ‘Katharos’ mean cleansed, washed and purity. It carries the same meaning like our English word pure. It’s undefiled. It is used as in a pure heart or a clean heart. It is the same Greek word that Jesus used in John 15:3 “You are already katharos because of the Word which I have spoken to you.” You are already clean. You are already made pure by the Word, which I have spoken to your life. Jesus spent three years cleaning them up by teaching them. What is teaching? Teaching is cleansing us from the wrong thing and wrong principles we adhere to. Remove them from our lives. Jesus said, “You are katharos because of the Word that I have spoken onto you.”

But that’s a strange thing. There is another word for purity.

I Cor. 5:8 “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

He is asking us to be sincere. If you analyze the illustration He is talking about purity because leaven in the bread defiles it. If you think the principle we are teaching about yea, yea and nay, nay is not something important, I want to bring to your remembrance the incident in Mark 8. After two miracles of feeding the five thousands and then the four thousands when Jesus Christ was in the boat with His disciples, He turned around to them and gave them a warning. Now when Jesus gives warning, it means we got to hearken too. He told them in Mark 8, He says, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and His disciples thought that He was talking about natural bread. No, Jesus was telling them to be sincere, to be pure, to be upright.

What is a sincere person? What they say and what they mean is one. They may not say in a right way but they mean what they say. The sincerity, the purity comes out. As oppose to insincerity. There is no malice in their heart. Now sometimes people claim sincerity but if you could examine it, there is no sincerity. Not everybody who says, “I am sincere,” is sincere. You could tell it in the spirit because when a Christian

has true sincerity he or she will spill it out. There is the presence of God flowing out. There is anointing if true sincerity is there. The Pharisees are different. They do one thing and they say another thing. What they say and what they do don't synchronize. Isn't that what the Pharisees are? Jesus says, unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Pharisees, you shall not inherit the kingdom of God. And He says what the Pharisees say to do it, although they say but they don't do. Now isn't that people whose yea, yea and nay, nay are not synchronized? Their yes and their no, their word and their heart were not synchronized. And Jesus says, we must synchronize our heart, our mind and our word.

II Cor. and we want to look at the different word here in chapter 11:3 "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceive Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Now Paul was talking about serious matter about simplicity. He is not talking about simplicity in a sense of being nice. He is talking about simplicity. The word simplicity is a different Greek word. You have learned three Greek words this morning. In verse 3, the word simplicity is the word 'Haplotēs'. Now 'haplotēs' has powerful meaning and it also means a type of transparency and purity. Let's look at this other word for simplicity or purity of heart. Here when he says simplicity it means from your heart. It says don't let your mind become crafty. Do you know deceiving and sly people are crafty? They know how to twist and turn their words to deceive. Paul says don't be like that because that is how the serpent is. That is how the devil is. Their yea, yea and nay, nay is not what it means. But be sincere and forthright and honest as it comes up from your life.

When I examine the word 'haplotēs', I was astounded at its various meaning. It means things that we never realize that it will mean. And it brings blessing that we never dream that it bring blessing. So most of us are interested in the blessings. Let me talk about some of those blessing that are involved when you begin to see how the word is used. And the word is found in places that you never thought you would find it. For example, in II Cor. 8:2 "That in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality." Now where is the word 'haplotēs'? The word liberality is the same word 'haplotēs'. So the word 'haplotēs' means their liberality and the generosity of their spirit that comes forth from their lives. What is inside is what is outside. There is no mask. It's pure undefiled religion, honesty, and integrity. Integrity is based on the very structure of our life. If you have integrity you don't have to swear by heaven. You don't have to swear by the earth. You don't have to swear by your own head. If you have integrity, what you say is what you meant. That's it. Your yes is yes, your no is no. It's people who lack integrity that struggle with the liberality of spirit; you are not one who hides or covers up. You are the one who say it from your heart all the time. Hearing the heart of people and speaking your heart. It just comes forth. You hide nothing from people.

That same word is used in chapter 9 of the same book in verse 11, "While you are enriched in everything for all liberality."

Now notice here, your transparency will determine your prosperity. You know why God does not bless people? He does not bless people who are crafty and shrewd but the meek shall inherit the earth. Not the crafty, not the shrewd but the meek who open

their heart and they will inherit all those things. The shrewd try to obtain by force. See God will enrich that liberality in our heart.

This word is also used in Romans 12:8: “He who exhorts, in exhortation, he who gives, with liberality.”

Some translations put ‘he who give with simplicity’. The word liberality talks about the heart. Being generous is not just something you do. Being generous is something in the heart. It has a big heart for people. And so liberality flows forth. It is the gift of God in our lives that can flow through us.

We look at Ephesians 6:5. I like to give some examples and that will suffice. Verse 5, “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ.”

Now he is speaking here the sincerity of heart. Servants may serve their masters with deceptive hearts. They may hide things. But it’s important to be sincere and forthright. Yea be yea and nay be nay. Some translations put there with singleness of heart. So we see three little root meanings of the word ‘haplotes’. First is singleness of heart. Second is generosity of heart and the third is simplicity. Purity that is uncorrupted. And then transparency comes out from soul and body.

And as I compare these words, I asked, “Lord, what are these words for purity ‘katharos’, ‘haplotes’?” What are all these words coming together? Then I found in the book of II Peter 3:1 “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder).” You would have thought the word pure was ‘katharos’ but its not. It’s the other third Greek word that we are learning today. It is the word ‘eilikrines’. Now the word ‘eilikrines’ has a totally different word and it also mean pure, transparent. But it’s a combination of two words. It’s the combination of the word ‘eili’ and ‘krines’. The word ‘krines’ has its roots in the word judge. The word ‘eili’ has its roots in the word shine. The early meaning of the word ‘eilikrines’ means the purity when something is brought to a shining light and the bright light exposes it. It’s pure. It’s a different degree of purity. If you see an airplane, you would have noticed some parts of the airplane are painted white. The white parts of the plane looks so white on the runway but when the plane takes off to the sky that same whiteness compared to the white clouds and the dazzling sunlight, the white of the plane looks gray. That means it doesn’t have ‘eilikrines’. When its in the light its no more pure. It doesn’t look white anymore. The word ‘eilikrines’ means when its in the light its still pure.

I wrestled with these three words and I said, God, these many scriptures on purity and they are all these together. God began to show that there is the purity of the heart, which is katharos, there is a purity of the mind which is eilikrines. And there is a purity of you action, which is haplotes. There are three areas of purity, a purity of the heart, purity of the mind and a purity of the action. Now when we look at that, people who says, “My heart is sincere,” do you know that in the bible purity of heart alone is not enough? If you really desire the things of God, then you notice that when Paul mentioned about the Macedonians’ gifts and liberality like II Cor.8 and II Cor.9, and when the abundant blessings of God come, they have reach a purity of actions, spirit, soul and body.

Lets look at the book of Job. When he started, he only had purity of heart and purity of some of his actions. But there were still areas that he was not renewed yet. Look at Job chapter one and the commendation that God gives of Job. Many people don't even reach that state.

Job 1:1 "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil."

Now he had a certain measure of purity, but I want to show you that the man in Job chapter one and the man in Job chapter forty were different. It was the same man but now touched and changed. Job started with purity of heart but there is an area of purity that he has not come to. His yea was not always yea, and his nay was not always nay. Sometimes he doesn't mean what he says. He cursed his body, but it's not really in his heart. He cursed the day he was born, but in his heart, he didn't really mean to do that. And then when the light came, God's eilikrines or light of judgment began to deal with him and shone on his imperfections. Job said, "I cover my mouth for I have spoken things that I don't know of." His yea and his nay were not perfected.

When God appeared, in Job 38, these are Job's reply in chapter 40:3-5. He was pure in chapter one. These were three different levels of purity.

In verse 3-4, "Job answered the Lord and said, Behold, I am vile." Was he pure? Was he sincere? There are three different levels of sincerity. Sincerity of heart. Sincerity of mind. Sincerity of action. "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand over my mouth."

He knew he was wrong. He knew he had said things that he should not have said.

Chapter 42, the Lord challenged him to reply. In verse 2-3 Job said, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, who is this who hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand." His yea and his nay was not exactly in his heart. It's almost like Elijah, he says, God I want to die. It takes testing until our yes is yes and our no is no. This is not something that you are going to reach instantly because eilikrines takes time. Now God was dealing in his eilikrines his word.

If there is one key to long life, what's the key? Proverbs 18:21 says "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Psalm 34:12-13 Who is the man who desires life and loves many good days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

Now what does it mean by honoring the parents? You can outwardly obey everything but if your heart and in your lips you rebel, is that honoring? They asked you to do work, you do work but you grumbled and complained. He is not talking about obeying. He is talking about honoring. Honor comes from a person's heart and a person's lips. You honor a person by giving recognition. So it all comes down to one key. The tongue. God has to cleanse our tongue. There must be purity of heart. There must be purity of mind, which includes the renewal of the mouth.

When God's light shone upon Isaiah, (Isaiah 6) a prophet of God said, "O Lord, I am a man of unclean lips and I live among people of unclean lips," and God said, "I will

take that coal.” God took that coal and touched his lips and cleansed his lips. Perhaps your lips need cleansing today. Perhaps our lips not only our hearts but also our lips need to be cleansed. What do you do when in a crisis or when pressure is hot? What’s the first thing that happens? The lips go wrong. People grumble, people complain, people say the wrong thing. They are like Job. They haven’t reached chapter 40 of their life. We say we are sincere, but do you know we can instantly be sincere right now in our heart by just setting our heart right and removing all grudges and having the love of God? But sincerity in our mouth and our mind and sincerity in our action is a different realm. When we look at that, I will say the vast majority of the Christians world are living with unclean lips but proclaiming with a clean heart.

The word eilikrines is powerful because it means a purity that shines under a shining light. So that when the glory of God comes, you are the one who gets anointed. The light shines brightest to you. I want to challenge you this day, that one of the cardinal and key principles of Jesus’ life are transparency of heart, of mind, of lips and of action. You don’t deceive through your lips, you don’t deceive through your actions and you don’t deceive through your heart when we are people who are transparent in God’s sight and before man. Then the power of God can be released through our lives. It will change those around us. It will bring deliverance to them. It will release the grace of God because it’s powerful. That’s the reason why sometimes it hurts some people because it’s so powerful. Truth plus love cuts. The Word of God is like a sharp two-edged sword. But sometimes people need an operation. One day we will all stand at the judgment seat of Christ before God and you will be thankful to people who come to your life where iron sharpens iron and purify your life. Not people who come and say nice things only.

Paul in the book of Corinthians talks about purifying ourselves from the things that defile the spirit and the flesh. II Cor. 7:1 “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” What is the filthiness of the flesh and the spirit? It has to do with the second level of impurity that people have. They have the purity of the heart but they don’t have the purity of their mind and their lips. They only have katharos. They don’t have eilikrines, much less haplotes. And God wants a perfect cleansed mind, heart and soul, so that when that happens, you could walk in what Jesus says, your yea is yea, your nay is nay. When you say yes, you don’t take it back. When you say no, that settles it. You are a person from the heart. Your heart comes right out without any blockages.

Are we brave enough to be honest or are we cowards. Are we men and women brave enough in Christ to be ready to look into someone in the face and say I want to be honest with you or are we cowards to hide behind diplomacy? My friends, it’s not time to play games or play church. It’s important that we say what we mean and mean what we say. Let our yea be yea and our nay be nay so that God could bring His power through your life to others, so that your life could be a transparent jewel in the sight of God. Don’t live in Job chapter one but move forward to Job chapter 40. Move forward till to Jesus time where Jesus was what He is inside and outside. A man after God’s heart. A man of pure spirit, soul and body. Will you be that man or woman who will say, God, purify my heart, purify my lips, purify my mind and purify my action.

4. SOLITUDE

This morning lets look at the book of Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

Jesus is speaking about a desire. Not just an ordinary desire. Not an inclination but something that is deep inside His life that is instilled in His disciples. A desire for God. From the first time that I was born again at the age of seventeen, I had a burning desire for God. Through the years, the desire has not diminished but it has grown even stronger. And that driving desire to know God has been the propulsion that drove us to seek the best from God. And it astounds me many times when I fellowship with people, why some lacks that desire. That’s what we are going to touch on this morning.

Matthew 7 and it is in line with what we are looking at. Verse 7 onwards, “Ask, and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” Those who don’t ask, those who don’t seek and those who don’t knock will not have it. There are many ways we could title this message that we are bringing forth.

As you know some of the principles we have titled them differently but this morning we want to look at one of the principles of Jesus’ life that I call solitude. Taking time for solitude to fulfill a desire to be alone with God, seeking Him and away from the distraction of the crowd. Away from the hindrances of those who demand a part of your life but just seeking solitude and a quiet moment with God. You will realize as you study the lives of great men and women, whether in the kingdom of God and not in the kingdom of God that these great people had time for solitude. This is something that the modern generation lacks. See many people are brought up without the art of contemplation and solitude. They are surrounded by noise all the time. Even the music in the world begins to get more and more noisy. That’s why today scientists tell you that a prolonged hearing of some of the modern rock and roll music can cause deafness. People surround themselves with noise. As they grow into teenagers, they always want to be in the crowd. They always want to be in the in. They always want to be among the crowd. Always want to be like everybody else.

But great leaders are those who learned how to strive on times of solitude. Why is that so? In crowd psychology people have a tendency to follow the crowd and herd instinct to have psychological peace. They are easier to manipulate. They become people easily manipulated and they just flow with the tide and are as unstable as the wave of the ocean. That’s what the devil wants to do. He wants to bring people to the place where he can cause them to walk as zombies in their daily life. Go to work, work, work, drive, drive, drive, traffic jam, jam, jam, jam, go home, eat, sleep, on the alarm, wake up and work. See we live life like a zombie. And then what do these people do when they are stressed out? They go to the pub. They go among friends to play snooker. They do all kinds of things to draw out all those things. But none of them seek solitude. In fact a lot of people in the world are afraid of solitude because when they are on their own, they do not know what to do with their time. Have you notice this? If some of the teenagers are left alone, they don’t know what to do with their time. They are either be phoning some friends, surfing the Internet or looking at

the TV box. They don't know what to do with their time. We are not producing a generation of great leaders.

People are afraid to be alone. They are afraid. They always need to be somewhere. But aloneness was not designed for loneliness. Aloneness is part and parcel of every human life that God designed it. We need fellowship yes, we also need solitude. Without a combination of both, we will not be the perfect man or woman God wants us to be. One of the key secrets in Jesus' life is solitude. Let me give you some examples of His desire for aloneness. You see people who are strong, who know their God and who know what they want in God loves to be alone with God. They love to be left alone with God. But people who are afraid to be alone with God are people who are filled with noise, that is external noise and internal noise. Their soul is not at peace. People who are not at peace in themselves and with themselves are afraid of being alone. When there are internal noises, you are not at peace in yourself. You are afraid to be alone because when you are alone, all the external noises quiet down and you can hear your internal noise and you can't live with it. But those who are at peace with themselves, at peace with God and with men love the quietness, the solitude because when everything is quiet around them, they can set their quietness on their inside. And it's such a delight. It's a powerful peace that garrison heart and mind.

Jesus enjoys solitude and it's one of His principles. If you have never practice that before, it may be time to start. If you want to reach into greatness in God, it's one of the key principles. If you are afraid of being alone, be daring, this Christmas, just be alone for one whole day. For six hours. You will find that during that time of solitude, you wrestle with your thought life. You wrestle with the desires of your life until finally you are at peace. And you come out a stronger person. There will be solidness in your character that was never there before. Lets quickly look at the life of Jesus.

Mark 1:35 "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed."

Do you think our Lord loves solitude? Do you think our Lord loves to be among the sinners and publican too? Yes He does. He is balanced and is not like some people. They are either in a vertical relationship with no horizontal relationships or in horizontal relationships with no vertical relationship. The Lord is balanced. And through the teaching of Jesus we can find the balance. He loves the solitude. Could He have prayed in the house, after all He got up earlier than everybody. Yes, but He wants to get out of the place. One of the things I enjoy most when I go out for a walk is just get out of the house, just get out of something that is made by man. Just be like Adam with his clothes of course, walking and seeing all these houses and see how small these pigeonholes are and how our minds become restricted. You just love to go out to an open field, somewhere in the open, somewhere away from the things of man and just walk to God, to hunger for Him, thirst for Him, to seek Him, to ask from Him, to knock the door of the spirit realm.

Lets look at some of the examples here. In the gospel of Luke, do you know that the man who was going to announce Jesus' coming, grew up in great solitude? The greater God wants to use your life, the greater your life is going to change other lives, the greater your need of solitude because you need to be different and find the difference to bring to humanity. John the Baptist was going to change his generation and prepare them for Jesus. The bible in the gospel of Luke speaks about his life in

chapter one verse 80, “So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.” He was out there in the desert contemplating on the things of God. That quiet solitude with God away from mankind, building those things in his spirit in his life. Getting that kind of mental concentration necessary to the kind of leadership he has to bring forth. Remember God may have a special call for some of your life. In order to change the world, you must come out of the world. You can’t change the world within the world. You have to come out and then change the world. Come out and live in the heavenly places of the spirit and then you can go back and change the world. He probably started his life and ministry about the same time as Jesus. He was probably about thirty years old, which means minus the time that he was a child. For twenty over years he probably lived in wilderness. He is different from other people. He has a destiny. Is your destiny just to be like an ordinary person in this world? You could live and die and the world has not changed. Or do you want to live and die or live and then go to be with Jesus knowing that because of your life society and the world have changed for the good, for the better and for God because of you. Then seek solitude in your life. What about Jesus’ life?

Lets look at Him in the gospel of Luke 4. The moment he was filled with the Holy Spirit, He went to be alone. Isn’t it strange? If people are filled with the Holy Spirit you want to send them out. Yet the moment He was filled with the Holy Spirit in chapter 4:1 He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to wrestle with the things in His soul, in His flesh, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. To be tempted by the enemy. To wrestle in a realm which no man has seen before. The Holy Spirit can lead you into the wilderness to be quiet and there in the quietness of the wilderness, God deals with your life. You don’t know what that quietness is like. When I was in New Zealand Sr. Clara took me to visit a farm and we were way out, we were acres and acres away from the city and there’s hardly a soul in sight. You sit down and there was quietness like you never feel. I call it awesome and I just enjoyed that quietness, that peacefulness, internally and externally. The wilderness in there, although there is some natural noises here and there but generally it’s quiet. And there for forty days and forty nights there was a wrestling that went on in His soul but when He overcame the storms and the temptations in His soul, Jesus walked out in the power of the Spirit. Solitude makes strong people. The lack of it makes weak people. Weak people are easily manipulated.

Even when He started His ministry in the gospel of Luke 4:42 “Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him and tried to keep Him from leaving them.” So we are told here that the Lord Jesus continue to seek God’s face every time after great meetings. That’s why many preachers after they had great meetings at night, and whenever they travel all over in any nation of the world, Eastern or Western is always the same. The people want to take you out for supper; it’s always the same. They will say, “Do you want supper?” Usually you don’t eat before the meeting. They always want to feed you. After the meeting, it is time for feasting. But as for me after a meeting and the Holy Spirit has moved, what I like to do is not sit in a restaurant. What I like to do is to quickly get alone and just meditate and thank God. Just be in quietness with Him to enjoy and review all that He has done. So different, not only it’s better for your spiritual health, I think it’s also better for your natural health.

In chapter 5, another statement made by Jesus and here it's sort of another repetition. Luke 5:15-16 "the report went around concerning Him all the more;" Now He was getting more famous. "And great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."

In anything of the human life, anything that has touched your life or anything great, the great principles that you have learned from people here and there have always come from the solitude of their lives. Have you notice that? Or the great song that we sing, great phrases that touched your life that come in those times of solitude. The great poems, the great stories that come forth, great novels that are written that transformed people's lives have come from the solitude of human life who gets alone to draw from the riches of the spirit and soul that God has placed within him or her. So Jesus obviously loves that solitude. What's the reason for this love and what's the necessity for that? You will realize that there is always a necessary point in our life. In our heavenly development it is necessary to get away from everyone, to get alone with God, to ask, to seek, to hunger and thirst. It has to do with the hunger and thirst in our lives for God. For when we are really hungry and thirsty for God, you will seek solitude to be alone with Him. To drink of the fountains of heaven that God has so designed.

As we look at that area, we want to consider two things. One is that there is always noise out there on this earth. There are two types of noise that we face. The noises physically which includes the crowds in people and all those around you. Now those noises are not just what we classify as noise but the kind of noise that comes is this in Mark 4:19 "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." Now if you know in this life that there is something very dangerous to the Word of God in your life, would you be careful to watch over it? Of course, now some of those dangerous things are not what we consider dangerous in our natural man. They are, for example, the cares of this world. Do you know what the cares of this world are like? I mean everyday you have housework to do. Everyday you have your office work, business deals, datelines to meet, bills to pay, children to take care, books to study, reports to make etc. You could get so absorbed in them that they are strangling the Word of God in your life. Wouldn't you be watchful of it? Yet a lot of people are not watchful. They just allowed the cares to overtake them and choke the Word. You don't have to break the Ten Commandments to lose your productivity in God. All you have to do is get the cares of this world and they choke the Word. We have to be very watchful and treat all these things as enemies. All your jobs on this earth, you do it watchfully. You have to constantly watch and pray with awareness that these things won't pull you down. And you got to say no many times.

When we moved into the new house, there were hundreds of thing to do. Boxes and boxes and I have got to tell myself, forget it, I am going to leave them untidy. Let me feed my spirit man. I got to say no to it. I will give only that amount of time to do this kind of things. The rest of the time I just want to seek His face. The world may call you a fool, the world may call you all kinds of names but in heaven you got a bigger reward. You rather be called a fool here than to be called a fool in heaven. Although in heaven everybody is so nice, they won't call you a fool. You don't need to be called a fool because you will know it. You will know as you are known. We got to

put ourselves to a stop. Lets not get too busy about this life. It doesn't matter even if it doesn't look like a human habitation. Some of our homes probably will look like Away in the manger. If your home looks like a manger shake hands with me, it's all right. I would rather have Jesus and a manger than a palace without Jesus.

These are what I call the noises. These are the soul noises, the things that are there. The more dangerous noise is the noise in the soul. Worldly cares occur in your mind and they are the internal noise that are there all the time crying out things to be done. We have to learn to shut them out and say no, I am not going to do it. Just leave this aside and let me worship God. Be like Mary. When Mary and Martha were having Jesus coming to the house, Martha was busy cooking all the best food and so busy thinking of pleasing Jesus in all these ways. Her intention was good, but her method was wrong. But Mary, she was a different type of character. She sat at Jesus' feet and says, "Jesus tell me one more parable, one more story. Tell me Jesus tell me." But Martha was concerned for all the physical things to be done and she got upset because her sister didn't help her. Since she can not scold her sister, probably she wouldn't listen, she tried to get Jesus to scold her. Yes, that was the master plan. She said, "Jesus please talk to my sister, she won't listen to me. Tell her to help me." You think Jesus just do what you tell Him to do. Surprise, Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, why are you troubled about many things." By that time Martha was about to cry. And Jesus said, "Mary has chosen the good part." What would be your feeling if you were Martha? Rebuked, corrected and loved at the same time. You want to cry. You want to obey. You didn't know what to do. This was Jesus; you don't just react. If it had been anyone, you would probably say, "What are you? You don't care for me. Don't want to cook for you next time." But this is the Lord Jesus Christ, you don't scold the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Martha must have felt crushed, humbled. If I were her, I will quickly sneak out, put off all the fires, take whatever cooking that is ready, just bring it there and place it before Jesus. Quickly sit next to Mary at Jesus' feet and listen. You can always eat food at any other time but you don't have Jesus words to hear all the time. Mary knew that the words that Jesus spoke were more precious than any other things.

These are the noises that are out there that we need to cut ourselves from. Move away from. If you don't learn to do that your spiritual life will get choked. There are a lot of Christians going to church whose spiritual life is actually choked up. They sing Amazing grace how sweet the sound but the sound that they sing were not so sweet in the spirit because their lives are choked up. God doesn't want that. He wants us to be free from those noises so that out from our life comes fragrance to God. A heart undefiled, pure without the cares of this life. That's the noise we talk about. Have you notice that the only way to get out of those noises is to get away. To get away. There is no short cut. You just got to get away. Ladies, if your kitchen is where the noise is, get away. Lets look at it this way. If you don't get spiritual and get close to God, how do you expect God to touch your husband? Do you realize that, ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened. You are knocking heaven's door for your husband. If you don't get into that kind of presence, how can your husband change? We are talking about an overabundance of that crushing our lives. The only key is to get away from it. I love to get out, get away, and just be with the nature. If it were possible to have a world where we don't have to live with houses, all you need is just build the toilet. Have you wonder whether your heavenly mansion has a toilet? Do you know that Adam and Eve didn't have to go to toilet until

they fell? They don't have to. It was a different kind of world. All these things took place only when we began to depend on physical food for our lives. When the body just feeds on spiritual food and the body is in line, there is no such need to expel anything from our bodies.

Secondly, there is a noise that is sub-conscious. That is at a higher level than we realize. There is a noise, the cares and concerns that are boggled up but there are some other things that we need to get out from. There is what I call a sub-conscious influence over every nation, over every city, over every place that we need to get out from. Somehow if in the city of one thousand, one thousand people are thinking the wrong thoughts, it has a certain atmosphere over that place. In the book called 'Prayer The Greatest Force On Earth' the author says he visualize the world like a world not just made of buildings and people but a world made from peoples' thoughts. For example, there could be five billions people on earth, and he makes this statement, he has gone very deep in the area of prayer. He says if all the five billions people in the world and the majority of them are thinking the wrong thoughts, the whole world pushes towards the evil side. But if the majority of the people began to think the good thoughts of God then the world began to go into a closer walk with God. Do you know that there is such a thing as the world influences that are taking place besides the angels are working, besides what we are doing by prayer? In the book he was teaching people how to transmit thought prayer. Transmitting thoughts in Jesus.

But there is something if we understand carefully can explain some mysteries even in the natural realm. In the natural realm people have realized that there are twins. If people who are twins, there are something that can be explained, something that can not be explained. There is an example of two twins and their names are Tony and Roger. Tony and Roger were born and from the time they were born, they were separated. They were twenty-four years old. Identical twins who had been separated at birth and reared far apart. No two people can be more alike than this identical twin. There are two types of twins but here we are talking about identical twins. One day they met together. When Tony and Roger were born in 1938, their destitute parents could not support them and they were offered to an Italian couple named Malassi. Unfortunately, the couple could care for only one child, thus the twins were separated. The lucky one Tony grew up in a secular environment but in contrast Roger had dramatic early life. His life was full of insecurity. He was shunted among foster homes and orphanages. He did not walk until 18 months compared to 12 months for Tony. At age two, he was judged to be five months retarded in his development. He had difficulty combining words and was unable to do mathematical calculations. When he was four, his natural father's wife heard of his plight, took him in and continued to raise him up. Anyway they both grew separately and finally when they met each other at about twenty-four years of age, brought up differently but born of the same parents. As soon as the twins were reunited, comparisons were made. They certainly were physically alike right down to the same aching wisdom tooth but there were other unexpected and puzzling similarities. Not only do they used the same shaver, smoke the same cigarette, hold a pen in the same awkward way. They both also used the same brand of toothpaste, imported from Sweden. They entered the military service within 8 days of each other. They like the same sports. They enjoy performing before an audience. There were slight differences though because of their upbringing. Tony who had a more secured childhood had made him more adventurous. He was more extrovert. Whereas Roger was more introvert because of

his upbringing. But there were other things that were uncanny similarities that scientists could not explain.

Let me read about other twins and some of the similarities that they can not explain. Although there is no proof that twins has ESP, there is evidence that many pairs communicate more closely and more mysteriously than normal siblings. This unusual sensitivity for each other thoughts and feelings, a kind of heightened empathy may account for some strange experiences twins had reported. One twin will occasionally feels the urge to call his brother. Usually he finds that his twin had wanted to call him. Some twins also say that they have felt each other's pain. One woman, whose identical twin was killed in a plane crash, reported feeling heat pain and then a black void at the time of the crash. How do you explain these things? Scientists had no explanation.

I have a theological explanation that I am bringing forth. Our brain works by electrical impulses that produce magnetism and all electrical impulses and magnetism produce electro magnetic waves. There is something there about twins because twins basically are biologically the same. Each one of us here has a slightly different chemical make up. The signs of our internal organs are slightly different and chemically are slightly different. But twins basically are same. Their genetic code is very similar and what happens is when they think certain pattern, we could measure the electrical impulses of the body using more powerful instrument kits that were recently invented. Every time when a person thinks, there are certain thought patterns and things that come forth. Not only in the conscious realm, which you know, that are spoken in words that are thought in the mind but their sub-conscious pattern that radiate invisible vibrations when another person has an exact similar kind of chemical make up or so make up. That thought pattern causes what I call a vibration in the other person. Just like two tuning forks, when two tuning forks of the exact pitch are placed at a certain distance, you hit one the other will move. So people with similar make up, especially twins are able to pick up in that way. It's at a very level that we can not pick up at the moment. Now you don't believe that we are sensitive to magnetism, let me tell you that it's only been verified by science recently that sharks moves by electricity and are sensitive to electricity and magnetism. They are affected by electricity and magnetism. So the lower primates and animals do sense electricity and magnetism in ways that scientist could only imagine. They have even found one little cell that knows which direction is north, south, east and west. There was an experiment in one of my research books that was conducted by scientists to see whether man has a natural magnetism. They blindfolded people and turned them round and round and asked them which direction is north. They were surprised that the results were quite comparative that although after some mistakes. That most of them could have an uncanny sense where north is. Now that is not in the area of our intellect at all. It is something lower than that. It is something more powerful than that.

Husband and wife who love each other or family members also have keenness in that. So that's why even for people who love each other, who know each other and they have been so united in their soul that when one thing happens to the other, the other knows. It's not telepathy. Telepathy is the reading of the mental thought but these are influences that are not in your intellect so it's not telepathy. Something you know you pick up but you can't explain it.

The whole world or even a group of people when they are thinking the same kind of thought pattern would produce certain type of electro magnetic patterns that can affect another person that is in the natural. This is why sometimes even radio broadcast and radio waves and television waves are different forms of electro magnetic waves in just different waves lengths. We could pick it up with something deeper than your conscious mind. This is why if you go to America, which is saturated with sins being broadcasted, there is something there at the lower level of the sub-conscious that is affecting people. In the far remote areas of New Zealand where radio reception is almost nil, there is not only a natural quietness, there is another quietness that could be perceived. Then I begin to realize why Christians needed to go on radio waves, TV waves, because we are also countering in that same realm the evil sub-conscious influence on people's lives. This is why America there is a place they called that Bible belt where most of the revivals take place.

Now that's no.2, the second type of noise. It is a sub-conscious noise. We need to be able to overcome those things. I do it in my way. We always place music in the house and the Word of God in the house. It produces a totally different atmosphere. You will notice it even if you go to a Christian house and they have been spending a lot of time in prayer, you don't have to say a word, when you go into the house, every one of your thought tends towards God. If you go to a pub or any place of sin, if I don't tell you what it is, you step in; you will suddenly feel all the temptations that were there. What is that something? It is in a very deep sub-conscious. There is a necessity in our lives to pull away from these two types of noises and move into the depths of God in order to draw from the realm of God, realm of the spirit things that will strengthen our spirit, which is more powerful. If you notice, Jesus likes to draw away from people at the most important junctions in His life. During the most critical points in your life, when you need to make a big decision in your life, don't run from counselor to counselor. Go into solitude and you will find your answer there.

Turn with me to Luke 6:12 "Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."

He continued, He cried and He prayed to God. He must be alone. Which is why my friends, if you have learned solitude, your closest solitude is with a group of people, you will never know what it is to rise in greatness in God. To soar like an eagle beyond the richest of what others could comprehend.

In Jn. 6:13-15, after the feeding of the five thousands only recorded in the gospel of John. It is not recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke. It is only recorded in John. After the feeding of the five thousands Jesus sought solitude. You could imagine the many other times in the gospel when something happen that He sought solitude that are unrecorded. But here is the time that John happened to record it in verse 13, "Therefore they gathered them up, all filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, this is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world. Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king." What did He do? He quickly walked out of it to be alone with God. Why, because that's where you get your bearing and direction. All of us need our bearing and direction in life. So in verse 15 it says, "Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone."

You can be alone but not lonely. Great men and women of God need solitude to develop their strength in God. If you want to be great in God's kingdom, you learn to be a servant to serve, but you also learn solitude in God. You say how does it relate? Look at it carefully; you can not really serve properly until you have a relationship with God. If you are not in relationship with God, your service and ministry is either for self or some other motives. But when you are in God your service is pure. You reach the height of your greatness and the greatest point in Jesus' life. If you look and study people, a lot of the people out there in the world, when they are about to make some decisions, they run to the wrong places and they make blunders. But if you want to make the right decision in your life, you seek to be alone with God. In the silence of your soul you find your resting place and you hear your spirit coming forth. Does Jesus love fellowship? Yes of course He does. But you need both. And of all the times in His life in the gospel of Luke when Jesus knew that He was about to be betrayed and He was to be crucified, where would He go? Not to friends, not to people. At the greatest point, when He was about to die on the cross in Luke 22, and there was a lot of noise taking place around Him in verse 24. There was also rivalry among them as to which of them should be considered the greatest. The disciples were excited because some of them had the Jewish concept that He was going to be an earthly king. They were arguing about who was to be the greatest next to Jesus the earthly king. They had all kinds of power ambitions in their mind and they can not comprehend what He really came to do. There was so much noise around. And Jesus in verse 39, "Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him." Do you notice that; as was His custom, even in Jerusalem He always finds a place to pray. Do you have your secret place to pray? Where could you pour out your heart with God? Where could you seek solitude in God where no earthly beings come between you and God?

In John 18, we are told that Judas knew where He was. In the first few verses, it says it's because Jesus used to go to Kidron there to pray and Judas knew where He was because Judas used to go there to pray. My friends, when you have come back from a hard day's work, do you just go to your bed and slump on your bed? Or do you seek some solitude with God before you sleep? Do you know Jesus worked hard? There were times He hardly had time to eat. No matter how tired His physical body was He always needed to be alone with God before He let His physical body sleep. How many Christians seek to be alone with God? Do you know there are not many? Most of them can only survive in the crowd. They can only survive with their cliques. That is why we don't have that kind of people on this earth to change the world. If we have one life like Jesus, if we have just one more person who lives like Jesus, he will change the world. The vast majority is living in mediocrity. There is not greatness, there is no spirit of Jesus, the Lion of Judah that roar and change the world. From time to time, this earth has seen men and women come by who were like that.

Paul was a man who seeks solitude. When he was born again, his ministry could not take off when he tried his best but God sent him back to his hometown. And for many unwritten years and unaccounted time, hours, days and weeks, he was left on the back part of silence. But when he came out, he rose to greatness and he changed and shook the world in his time. Why solitude? The world's thinking is different. They think small but when you touch God, your thoughts rise up. For man's thoughts are not like God's thoughts. God's thought are higher that our thoughts. But people, men and women who get alone with God, their thoughts began to soar. Their lives began to

soar. Their spirits began to soar like an eagle and they come not thinking their own thoughts but they come out with the thoughts of God. When they speak forth those thoughts, they lead people with those directions; they cause other to soar into the heart of God to change the world. Jesus needed His solitude. In time of great suffering, most people ask for an arm to lean on, a heart from a loved one but Jesus asked for the heart of the Father and an embrace from the Father in His solitude.

In Luke chapter 22:39 “Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And then He did a strange thing in verse 41, I mean you would have thought that when you need to face a spiritual battle, you will get your few intercessors together to be with you. Yes, by all means, to do all that is necessary and to get as much prayer as possible. But Jesus knew there was a realm that was only between Him and God. My friends, the church can help you, your friends can help you, your family can help you, but there is a place in your life, which is sacred and reserved only for God. But in so many Christians’ lives, they don’t have that part of their life, which is why they are not where God wants them to be.

Jesus in verse 41, “And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw,” He had to be alone. When He was alone, “He knelt down and He prayed, saying, Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Three times He rose up to check on His disciples and He could have joined them after that but He got to get alone and pray.

Are you afraid to be alone? That fear needs to be cast out. It is not from God. Neither is it a natural human fear. It is the fallen nature of fear because God made man for Himself, for His own bosom. Renewed men are different.

Why must we be alone in God? No.1 like in Luke 6, there are things that God wants to reveal to you. That is your destiny. It’s nobody else’s business but yours. A part of your destiny has to do with them but there is a part that is specially reserved for you. That it can only be revealed when you are alone. Firstly, this solitude is for God’s special revelation to you. In Luke 6, after He was alone He came down, and He chose His twelve disciples. He knew whom to choose. Where did He get that? It’s from God. He needs to get alone so that He could hear God. He could receive the revelation God wants Him to receive. Moses never received his call until he turned aside and went alone to seek after that bush. You know why Elijah was discouraged? He had been with the people so long that he needed to be alone and God sent him all to be alone. In the Mount Horeb, God spoke to him in a still small voice. The word still means peaceful. The word small means gentle and quiet. He could hear God, and when he came down from the Mount Horeb he was no more discouraged because he knew his destiny. Why must we be alone? Because you will only discover your destiny when you are alone. Too many people are living the destinies of other people. There are many sons and daughters who are doing things just to please their fathers. Nothing wrong with that, but if it robs them of their own destiny, then it becomes wrong. Too many people are doing things for others but they are not fulfilling their destiny. Why must I be alone with God?

Secondly, to cut off ties from the wrong things that is happening. It's a kind of purification. It's a kind of separation that is necessary to live a holy life. It's for cleansing and purification because you will never be cleansed and purified unless you get alone and you hear whatever is in you that needs to be cleansed. As long as you are with people, you can not really hear any noise on your inside. You need to get alone so that you got nobody else but yourself to deal with and face it. And that all the darkness and the woe from your own life will rise up like a dragon and you will have to slay those dragons in your life. What happens if you don't? It will affect your eternal destiny and reward in God. You will be saved if you are born again but it won't be effective. Slay the dragons in your life. Be daring to be alone to wrestle. What would you do today if you were left alone for three days and three nights? It's easy to say if you were left alone in a desert island where there is nothing, but if you were left alone with an opportunity to do every thing you want. What would you have done? The dragons that you have kept in your life will rise up and you are to slay them. So no.2 for cleansing and purification is necessary in our life.

No. 3 is the most important. It is to meet with God beyond the revelation beyond the cleansing. God wants to meet you face to face. God spoke to Moses and said, Moses don't let anyone else come up to that mountain, neither man nor beast if they do they will be killed because God wants to be alone with Moses. Why, although there are billions of Christian on this earth, yet Jesus loves you as if you are the only love in His life. You know what love is? Love needs a special place and time. Marvin Ford, my friend who went to heaven recently sent me his latest book, a revised version. He said that when he went to heaven and he saw Jesus, there on the throne of God before the crystals seat and Jesus was just looking at him. He said, "Lord, why of all the billions of people on the earth, how do you have all your attention for me?" Jesus said, "Son, there is enough of Me to go around." Jesus doesn't love you generally; He loves you like you are the only one who ever existed. And the only time you can experience that kind of love is when you are alone with God. You will know that He did answer your prayer because you prayed with somebody else, that He did answer your prayer because you have two other brothers and sisters as strong as you helping you. Then you will know that He is there with you because He loves you. And He is coming to you right at your level in your desire for Him.

Thirdly, in the book of John 3:17 we are told that God loves us. Jesus prayed that we may know the love of God as much as the Father loves Jesus. Think about how much the Father loves Jesus. He loves you as much as He loves Jesus and He has no opportunity to show it to you until you are alone with Him. In secret place of the Most High God there will I ascend in God. Thank you Jesus for that secret place. Do you have your secret place of the Most High God? And in that secret place you can say, I will say of the Lord, He is my rock, my fortress; in Him alone will I trust. He that dwelt in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Are you in His shadow? He wants you to come under His shadow to be loved, to be cuddled, to be embraced by Him and Him alone.

5. THREE BLESSINGS OF SELF DENIAL

John 12:24-26 “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me, and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

One of the key principles in ministry, I have always shared that two principles on success in the ministry for God, No.1 is to know the bible like the back of your hand. No matter what schools you have been through, no matter what the logical training you have received or the lack of it. Whether you have gone to bible school or not, if you know the bible like the back of your hand, it is an asset that will help you to succeed in the call of God for your life.

No.2 is to know the Holy Spirit like the closest person on earth. If you know the Holy Spirit the prime mover of our life and you hear His voice, sweet and gentle at all times then you would be able to be and do what God wants you to be and do.

But there is a third principle involves which is one of the major principles of Jesus' life. That ministry can not really begin until we die. Die to self. There is no possible ministry for Jesus, through Jesus and in Jesus until we die to ourselves.

II Cor.4 Paul speaks about that same principle but in a different manner. II Cor. 4:7-12 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.”

Now Paul is speaking in different words what Jesus said in John 12:24 that unless grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it can not bring forth much fruit. We live in times and days when so much is done for Jesus but not really for Him because there is a side motive sometimes for doing something for God. Either it is self-glorification or showing off in a Christian sense and in a church sense or sometimes there are selfish desires involved. Like Paul said, some preached out of gain, some preached out of different reasons for their own success or to build their own ministry. And I have heard it many times. Some of the most selfish people on earth say that they are not building their own ministry but actually they are. God knows the heart and I want you to know that in heaven's record and as far as heaven is concerned, we can hide it from man, we can even say something very different from what our hearts meant but God knows whether you have died to that. And as long as you have not died to self, your ministry and service for God is not pure. I know there is an objective incident when we looked back at the cross and say we have been crucified with Christ in Galatians 2:20 but at the same time in I Cor. 15 Paul says we die daily. Here in II Cor. 4 he says in verse 10, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ. So he partook of what it means to die to the Lord Jesus Christ daily. There is no ministry until we have tasted what dying to self means. There is no resurrection power until there is crucifixion on the cross.

There is too much done in the name of Christ and in the name of Christianity and in the name of churches. There are too many things done that are not done with the sole purpose of glorifying the Lord. You know it because the Holy Spirit doesn't anoint. You know it because the flesh stick out like a sore tongue and it stinks in God's presence. Unless we die Jesus can not live in us. But most of the time we don't die completely. We die in percentages. Some die to self 10% thinking that is their tithe. Some die 20%, some 30%, some 40% and it's rare to die 100%. But God wants us to die completely. I know what it is to die to self. I know what it is to say no to the things of the flesh. Say no I can't cross the line or to say no to many areas because God has put us through the heat and through the fire and we die. It was not easy to die. I remember in the early days of ministry, we were facing so much persecutions and being called all kinds of names under the sun. And I was there on a little hill praying and God said to me, "Son, just die." I say, "God, there are thousands of things that people who say of me and they are not true. People who do things that should not be done especially they are born again." I said, "God you know." God replied, "Son, just die." And I took one little stone and the Lord said, "That will be your tombstone." Every time you have a hard time, every time when you are misunderstood, Jesus was misunderstood. When you are persecuted against, I want you to take that stone and remember to die. There has been times when I held that stone up when the things that I have done and I felt that O God that's just not fair. The Lord just led me to that stone and I remembered the day that I die. I remembered what it was like to die. I only think, do and believe what Jesus believe and let Jesus in your life rise up to respond.

Kathryn Khulman before she stands up to minister, before she could minister she died a thousand deaths. We speak about revival, my friends; I think very few people know what it means. You roughly know what it is but you may not really know what it means to die a thousand deaths. She talked about the time in her life, the struggling with things that the Holy Spirit was convicting her and she walked and walked down the street with tears running down her eyes, not knowing where she was going. Losing her way. Just walking and walking until one day she came to a dead end street. And she said, "Lord, that's just like my life, dead-end street, nowhere to go." And she said, "God, if you can take this life and use it whatever you will, then use it, O God." God has anointed that woman with that anointing that has touched millions of people. Time Magazine even came out and called her 'The One Woman Shrine of Lourdes'. Thousands and possibly millions of people have been affected by her life.

Your life can not bear fruit until it dies. You say, "Yes I have got this gift I want to build my ministry," "Yes I have got this thing to do," die to your own plans. "Yes, I need to meet my needs and I need to do this," die to your need for security. "I need to promote my ministry," die to your desire for fame. "Yes I need to find a place," die to your own wisdom. "Yes I need to know this person so that he can help me in my ministry," die to your dependency on others. Unless we die there is no real ministry. Any ministry that is done out of a self that has not died is not recorded in heaven. For Jesus says, they already have their reward. If you want the real pure stream of ministry, you have to die to your selfish and self-centered motives.

There is so much in Christianity today that is pleasing men that is for men. Sometimes I look at big huge meetings and gatherings and there they are trying to please man. Nobody was concerned about Jesus and what He thinks. Nobody was concerned about the Holy Spirit, whether the Holy Spirit wants to do those things or not. We got all

these programs and we say we got to do this. O yes, this official person needs to do this. We have to die. There is so much done in the name of Christianity, in the name of Jesus, out of flesh. Self has not died. I tell you one day we are going to come face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ for everything that we have done. Those who seek to do things out of self other than a pure desire to please Jesus and obey the Spirit, I tell you pleasing and obeying God the Spirit may not be easy. Sometimes when you seek to please God and please Jesus you may be disappointed. Sometimes when you seek to please God you may displease man. Always something is done out of self and we all say O this is for Jesus. It's all for the church. We have excuses and excuses but God sees the heart. God sees the real motives. God sees what we really want to do. That we can not hide. We are coming to the last days in this last move of God when God will not put up with flesh and self. God says we must die; I want to share with you three little points to test whether you have already died to self.

See it's easy to say theologically we have died in Christ and we have been crucified with Him in Christ and seize that as an objective experience. But here is where it goes beyond the icing on the cake. In I John 3:14-15 "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. (now listen here) He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hated his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

Firstly, if you don't love those who hate you, if you don't love those who were your enemy, if you don't love those who cheat you, disappoint you, if you can not find it in your heart to love them, all you want to do is to be angry at them, all you want to do is to revenge them, all you want to do is to do something to justify yourself, if that's your feeling, you have not died. You have not passed death and into life because I know what it is, my friends. From the very day God called me, I went into the seminary and I had fire burning in my heart. I wanted revival. I was not satisfied with mediocre Christianity. We say we love Jesus but we don't really love Him. I wanted the real thing and there were two people there. One of them was Anne who was from East Malaysia. Another one was Michael. They were my seniors in the seminary. We were together. They had experienced the revival in their homelands. Here was I hungry for revival. We used to pray together for revival. And I remember when we were praying, one day he laid his hands on me and he started crying. I was just new in the seminary, I was new in the ministry and he laid his hands on me and he started crying. He says, "You are going to go through much persecution much more than others who had been called." He cried and cried. I never understood what he meant but after that time, I was expelled from the seminary. The Baptists said something about me, which was not true. And then later on when we move among the Pentecostals, they began to say things the same way and I found that people had a lot of insecurity.

It's easy to look at something happening and say it is alright but what happens if that were you? I came to God and said, "Lord, who am I? What am I? How is it that I have it different from other people?" I was infamous among the Baptists. I was infamous among the Pentecostals. Then I was infamous among the top people. I moved with them for some time and just because I chose to follow what I believed to be God's Word, I took my stand when I know that something is right, they gave me the left leg of excommunication. There came a time when I cried twenty-four hours. You don't know what it is to cry. I came to a point I thought people wished me dead so that I

won't trouble them anymore. I cried twenty-four hours non-stop. I said, "God if you don't strengthen me take me home. I can't stand it anymore." I know what it is to die to self. But this is what God did. God touched the inner most of my heart.

My friends, I never felt one bitter moment. I never felt non-forgiveness in my heart for I forgive for the misunderstanding, for the rumors that spread. And I knew it was God in His mercy and the love of God that has been something, that has been steadfast. There I remember at the end of forty days fast, I was so hungry for God. I sought Him. At the end of forty day fast, in the early morning I heard the voice of Jesus, it sounds like music. Jesus' own voice and I can recognize it every time He calls me. I know His voice is different from the Holy Spirit. I know His voice. I tell you when the Son of God allows His sweet voice to raise. I was in the Baptist parsonage and in the early hours of the morning, I heard His voice waking me up. And He only said three words, He said, "I love you." I felt like my whole being burst when the love of God came. I never up to this day any of those persecutors that come to me now. I still receive them like my own long lost brothers because the love of God came and I am here to tell you that if you don't walk in love, you have not died. I knew what that dying process was like. I knew what it was like to pass from death to life. I mean some of you wouldn't work with certain people because they have hurt you in the past. You haven't died. So you will find excuses not to be with those people anymore. You haven't died. Unless out of our hearts come the pure love of Jesus and all you want to do is to love back in return. All you want to do is just keep loving. Yes, they hurt you but you keep loving. Yes, they stabbed you but you keep loving. Yes, they punched you but you keep loving.

Just like Jesus when they took Him on trial, when they spit on Him, when they punched Him, all He did was keep loving. When they put the slashes on his back, all He did was love them. When they make Him carry the cross on His wounded back climbing up the hill to Golgotha, it was painful and the women cried because they knew how unfair it was, but Jesus said, women, don't weep for me but weep for those here in Jerusalem. On the cross, when they nailed Him to the cross, when they hung Him up, they still hated Him; they hated Him so much that they were mocking Him. I mean under normal circumstances, a man who has already suffered so much, even if that person were guilty, you don't make them suffer anymore. But they came right under the cross and they mocked, they jeered Him. They said, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." I want you to know He had the power to come down from the cross. It was not the Romans nails that nailed Him to the cross. Peter tried to save Him from the cross and took the sword and cut off somebody's ear and the Lord Jesus said, "Put off thy sword. Don't you know that all I have to do is to call My Father and He will send me twelve legions of angels?" One angel can slay an army. He said, "I have got twelve legions of angels." It was not the nails that kept Him there. He could have freed Himself anytime but the love was bubbling out from His side and He says, "Father forgive them for they know not what they have done." If you have not been able to love in return for hate, you have not died to self. That's the first test.

I John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because involves torment."

Fear is the force by which the devil has controlled this world. In Hebrew 2, it tells us how Satan by the power of death, by the fear of death put all men subject to bondage,

yet that spirit of fear in many of its little forms is still ruling the hearts and the minds of the people in their thinking and in their decision making. The only way to be free from that spirit of fear is pray for the Spirit of love to be in your life.

The second reason why we need to die to self is to pass from death to life. Some of us know what it is to die. There are all kinds of things thrown against us; you feel that dying process coming on you. You feel wounded, you feel hurt, you feel crushed in your inside but my friends, God doesn't want you to just stay there. He wants you to pass from death to life. And if you were to allow the love of God to flow on your inside and let that self dies, you will pass from death into life. When that grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, its life will come out and produced other lives, other seeds and other new plants came and more seeds are produced. That was like Jesus' life.

Secondly, when you have died, you are freed from fear. People who have self will always have fear. The only way to eradicate fear is to eradicate self. People who have no self are the most fearless people on earth. When you are not afraid of dying, you are not afraid to do anything. When you are not afraid of being hurt you are not afraid of anything. When you don't care for money, you don't care for fame, you don't care for anything, you are not afraid to obey God. But when you care for fame, you care for money; you care for your self-reputation, then you will not be able to fully be what God wants you to be. For fear will still reign in your life. You will be having the fear of losing your money, fear of losing your reputation, fear of losing your worldly goods here.

Have fear reigning in your life? In order to be freed from fear, you must die to self. Only death and dying in the Lord will free us from this fear. I want you to know that in this move that God has for us, we must be freed from fear because fear will prevent us from moving into the things of God. Doubts and unbelief are children and by-products of fear because people are afraid.

Story of June Davis. One day the Lord wanted to take her to heaven and this is what happened. He spoke to me in the spirit as I was being transported to heaven. He said, "Enter into My gates with thanksgiving and into My courts with praise." That very second before my eye, I saw Pearly Gates glittering with many colors. These gates were huge columns decorated with sculptures across the tops, which arched together in a semi-circle over the door to form the opening. Below and in between these gates is one huge golden door, which fit into these doors. It was filled with beautiful sculptures. I would notice this because I was a sculptress at one time. Around the outside edge of the door where they fit into the arch column and down into the center of it, a brilliant golden orange and yellow light was shining through. When I first came to those gates through a mist, it makes the gates look like they were made of oyster shell pearl. After observing all these, the door began to open inward. The immensity of the door was evident because of the smallest of the figures I saw standing inside the door. When this door opened the glory of God shone in such brilliant. It was like looking at the sun without burning your eyes. When I begin to pass through these gates, I cried "O Lord, I am afraid." Immediately I was conscious on kneeling on the cold terrazzo floor in the room of the hostel. Why I was afraid I couldn't understand. Maybe it was the awesomeness of this occasion. The next minute I thought I really blew it because I became fearful.

Fear will always be there until you have died totally and you couldn't care less anymore about your life because you have died. You have only concerned about Jesus and Jesus alone. When the Spirit of God starts moving in our life, firstly, you would be passing from death into life. When we began to have the prayer meeting here where hundreds of people begin to come, be prepared, Satan will have some people criticize you. They will say this and they will say that. Be prepared, there is no enlargement without some sort of testing. Somebody is bound to say something negative, something is about to happen to you but whatever takes place, focus your love on Jesus. The Lord told me a secret one time. He said, "Son, if you can have the love for a million souls, I will give you a million souls. If you only have the love for ten souls, I will only give you ten souls. If you can have the love for one hundred souls, I will give you one hundred souls." How much love do you have? Is it just for one or two of your close ones? Look around you, the world needs love and unless you are a lover of people first of all, you can't be a minister to people. The Lord told me, "Son, if you have the love for a million people, I will give you a millions and if you could grow to have the love for a billion people, I will give you a billion souls."

Loving people is very hard on the self. Parents you know what is like to love your children. You have to be selfless. You got to give up things, sacrifice for them to have something. You got to give up your time. You got to give up some of your finances in order to finance them. You see, you can't love when you are selfish. Loving people is not easy. It takes selflessness to love people. And then you enlarge it; you got to love people who have different characters, different imperfections. You know what it is. It's far easy to keep a pet dog then to love people because a pet dog won't come and complain. No matter how you shout, how you kick the dog, the dog will still come to you. I once saw a car sticker that says, "The more I know people, the more I love my dog." But people are different; it takes dying to self to love people. In your prayer meeting if your heart grows to love one thousand people, you will have one thousand people there. The day your love grows to love one million people, one million people will be there. The love of God must be perfected that we can pass from death to life.

Firstly, dying to self means loving people. Secondly, dying to self means being freed from fear. If there is the fear of the future you haven't died to self. If there is the fear in any form you haven't died to self. If there is fear of man it's your own self-consciousness, you haven't died to self too. All fears work through self. If self could die then there is no more fear. You are free from the devil and your words carry an authority that will overcome the spirit of fear. In this world you could either live in fear or in faith. There is no half way. When you have freed yourself from the spirit of fear, there is something about the words you speak. There is something about the life you live. There is something about the action you do that breaks the spirit of fear from people's life. When you have overcome fear, you have overcome the highest weapon of Satan. In other words you would have overcome Satan himself. When you have overcome fear and the key is no. 2 in dying to self.

Thirdly the dying process must take place for the resurrecting process to flow in.

II Cor. 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Only when you die to self will the glory of God come in your life. You could be the best musician in town but if self doesn't die, the glory of God has departed. But the moment self die, your music becomes glorious. You could be the best preacher in town, filled with knowledge and oratory but if self is present, my friends, there will be no glory. God is very careful as long as the self is there. There was one time in Israel, when the glory of God departed in fact twice, once was in Ai. The Ark was stolen, was taken away by the Philistines, and things was disastrous. I mean the Israelites lost the Ark; the glory of God had departed. Another time was in the time of Ezekiel, when the glory of God departed. My friends, do you know how to get the glory of God back? Let me tell you this from my heart. It's no point wasting another ten years of your life and ministry, trying to do something for God that had no glory. I don't know about you but I can't live without that glory of God. I would rather have the glory of God then anything else on earth.

The glory of God can only come when you die to self. Not just intellectually die but until something on your inside knows that is no longer you but Christ who lives in you. It is only and only then that God will call to His angels in heaven and say, "Bring the glory of God down there because now there is a vessel who seek only My glory, who will not steal My glory, who will not steal My honor." My friends, Moses tried to do his ministry like many other people today. They try to do their ministry, like Moses after 40 years filled with ability and got the right vision. They got the right commission but they haven't died to self. It took 40 years before he dies and he said, "Who am I, Lord?" He knew that he had died. There is so much done in the body of Christ of people who had no glory. What is the use of having a temple without the Ark? What is the use of a church without the glory of God? What is the use of home fellowship without the glory of God? What is the use of a multiple ministry, radio, TV, books without the glory of God? What is the use of all the wealth in the world without the glory of God? The glory of God can only come when you die completely to self.

Like Peter praying for those disciples in I Peter 5 think it not strange for these fiery trails that has come on my life, for when you are proven and tried then the Spirit of glory will come on your life. I want the glory of God more than anything. Which is why I don't play games. I don't like to sit in inter-church committees anywhere, where all they want is talk about man's things and man's ideas. I don't waste time. Other people can do it. I live for revival. I live for Jesus. I only want to bring the glory back to the church. I don't care whether I am famous or infamous. My words that I speak to you from my heart, my friends, if we don't have the glory of God, it's no point having a priesthood, it's no point having any semblance of religion or Christianity if we don't have the glory. We need revival. We need God. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it can not bear much fruit. Unless you die, you will not bear much fruit. Watchman Nee gives a very simple equation for ministry: Ministry = Revelation + Suffering. No revelation of God in your life, no suffering in your life means no ministry. Pure and simple.

How do we know we have died? We know we have died by finding if these three principles are present in our lives. They will also bring us the three blessing of dying.

No.1 if you die then you can really love. You know that you have died and passed through that stage into the resurrection power when you could love your brethren. Don't you think it's the greatest thing to love? To me it's more important than anything because the greatest commandment in I Cor.13 the greatest is love. People

may quarrel with one another. If they only know you can go anywhere on this earth and they don't learn how to love you haven't grown. You can transfer your residence from one place to another but if you haven't learned to love, you will be back to square one. Paul said in I Cor. 13 the greatest is love. This is why I consider the highest call in any life is the call to love. It's not just to be so concentrated on winning souls. If you don't love people you can not win souls. You will lose as many as you try to win. It's not just trying to build a great church, although that's our vision but then we don't forget the things that are fundamental.

My friends, the first blessing if you will die is you will be able to love people the way Jesus loves. Don't you think that's the greatest blessing to be like Him? Before Jesus ever healed anyone, before Jesus ever won any soul, He says for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Before Jesus healed anyone, before Jesus ever won any soul, love was in His heart. Such love that He says, "Father I am willing to give up all the glories in heaven." He was willing to die to all the glories that He has to come down to live as a man. Just because of His love. His healing and His salvation were just because of His love. There is faith, there is hope, but the greatest is love. Unless you die you can not love. But when you die, there is a supernatural love that comes and fill you and you can love the way God loves. You can love the way Jesus loves and that same love will touch many other lives like the apostles. Paul began to love the way Jesus loves, that he changed his entire generation. Men and women of God in every generation when they caught a vision of that love, they are able to love like Jesus loves. They have always changed the generation they live in because the greatest is love. That's the first blessing, when you die you are able to love.

The second blessings; when you die you are free from the devil completely. The devil can not touch people who are full of love. He doesn't know how to handle love because he doesn't have love. And fear can not rule you, which is why if you are filled with the love of God, one tiny word from your life, you don't have to shout and scream like people do, "Come out in Jesus' Name." Although sometime you can scold the devil. All you have to do is to say in the Name of Jesus and demons will flee. It's because fear can not live together with agape love. When agape love comes out from your life, demons tremble, devils flee. You will be free from fear permanently and forever. You will be immune to anything of the devil. The devil can not touch you nor harm you because when you walk in perfect love God is there. The devil doesn't dare to come near where God is. For God is love. You are like in Psalm 91, dwelling in the secret place of the Most High under the shadow of His wing. You know what His wings are. His wings are the wings of love. When you are in His love, no devil, no enemy, nothing can touch or harm you neither plague, nor sicknesses or diseases nor death when you have perfect love. I am sorry to say that if your love is not perfect, the enemy can touch you. Fear can touch you. Which is why sometimes people get all kinds of problems. They were not made perfect in love. Perfect love cast out fear.

No.2 if you die to self, you will receive the blessing of being freed from fear and everything of the enemy. You live immune from all the power of the enemy. You will tread on scorpion and serpent and they shall in no wise harm you.

No.3 if you die to self, the glory of God will be on your life. We read of prophecy that say the glory of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the earth. I am sorry to say the glory of God can not come on anything that has a smell of self and selfishness

inside. It can only come whenever self dies. How He love to fill each and every vessel with His glory. When we look back at the bible days and we say how can those people live without the glory of God? Ask yourself today in the church age, how can you live without the glory of God? Yet there are a lot of Christians going around on their own steam, on their own self who is living without the glory of God. A lot of churches, a lot of ministries are going on in their own steam. A lot of things are not for God but for man and they are living without the glory of God. In one day in the presence of God is better than a thousand days. My friends, one second in the glory of God is worth a million years. Where are the highest points in Israel? When the glory of God was there. When the glory of God came upon Moses tabernacle it was their highest. When the glory of God came upon Solomon's temple it was the high point. This is the third blessing of dying to self.

This is the principle of Jesus Christ. He died to self, that's why He could love completely. He died to self, that's why the devil can not touch Him all His life and even after He give Himself the devil still couldn't touch Him. He resurrected from the dead, that's why Jesus had the glory of God. He died to self. Will you and I follow after His footsteps?

6. THE REALM OF POWER

We have been studying the principles of Jesus Christ. Principles that work in Jesus' life and that need to work in our lives so that we could be like Him. Being like Jesus is not something outward physically but being like Jesus is to put into practice in our personal life the very principles that are precious to Jesus.

In the gospel of John we see another principle, which He applied in His life in the success of His ministry. God, has called Him to. John 10 as Jesus face the Pharisees who challenge His ministry, challenge His authority and challenge everything that He stands for in all that He represent from God. Jesus answered them with words that are astounding in verse 32 onwards "Jesus answered them, many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me? The Jews answered Him, saying, for a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a man, make Yourself God. Jesus answered them, is it not written in your law, I said, You are gods? If He called them gods, to whom the Word of God came (and the Scripture can not be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and set into the world, You are blaspheming because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me."

What a statement? He says that if He did not show any of the works, the signs and the wonders that He brought forth, He is telling them they don't have to believe Me. This is a statement, which many who proclaim Jesus Christ will find it difficult to make. But this is the gospel that Jesus came to bring. It is the gospel of the kingdom of God, a gospel that threatens the demonic realm, where demons have to be cast out. The sick has to be healed. The blind have to see. The lame made to walk and the dead rise again. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. And Jesus said, "If I do not do any of these works, do not believe in Me." He gave them the privilege of not having to believe in Him if He didn't show forth the works. Something which modern Christianity tremble for there is much that is going on in preaching the gospel without the power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel was never meant to be shared without signs and wonders. The gospel was meant to be a demonstration of the kingdom of God versus the kingdom of the devil.

Jesus went on to say in verse 38, "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." What a challenge He made to them. These statements are made to the unbelieving world that were challenging Jesus Christ. They were represented by the Jews for they do not want to believe in Jesus Christ. Through the ages Christianity sometimes lost some of its glamour, some of its power, Jesus says here that the gospel must come forth with signs and wonders. Through the ages somehow we get the idea that just sharing Jesus and the forgiveness of sins and the promises of heaven is enough. We don't realize that people do not come to God by argument. Sometimes there are some of the most intellectual people who could argue on any point. See no one has come to God by intellectual argument. If you have two champion intellects, one an atheist and the other one theist a believer in God, do you know that know that the argument will still end up in a draw? Intellectual arguments in whatever form will only lead to a statement. Although sometimes some arguments sound convincing but it's just because of the strength of the argument. But when two people are really able to argue it out, it will end in a stalemate statement for believing in God takes faith. You could

say the world was not created by accident yet the people could use the same argument to disprove that thing and you end with a stalemate.

In the end, no matter how intellectual a person is, when they see miracles take place and demons driven out in the Name of Jesus, that's the end of their intellectual argument. The doctor says there is no more hope, there is no cure, and they will be forced to acknowledge that something is there when they see a miracle. The signs and wonders will only stir their curiosity to look for alternative explanation or get into the faith. Jesus says that this gospel must go forth with signs and wonders.

In John 14, to His own disciples, this is not the same group as John 10 was with the Jews. John 14 is now with the disciples. Jesus said here in verse 7, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also, and from now on, you know Him and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

Philip desired to see God, to see the Father. He has seen Jesus but Jesus was in human form. He could not see beyond the veil of human flesh. He says, show us the Father. Just like people want to know the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is here this morning. You sometimes could feel His presence in a strong way. He is invisible and we know He is here but we can't see Him. Sometimes people want to see Him. He says show us the Father and the Lord said in verse 9, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, show us the Father? Jesus said, the Father is revealed in Him, and verse 10 He began to make this astounding statement. "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

Jesus places a high importance on the works and the signs and wonders that He brought forth, that when people find it hard to believe in Him, He says look at the works. These are not normal works. These are supernatural acts. These are the spirit realms breaking into the natural realm. High laws breaking natural laws or superseding natural laws and causing a tremendous out-working of signs and wonders. Then He ends with this promise in verse 12, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." We need to place a high importance on signs and wonders in the kingdom of God because if all we do is just talk about God and God doesn't show up in signs and wonders, something is still missing. We need to reach a position where we learn to cooperate with God. God with us and we in God, the divine union such that as we go along, it's God works in our lives and bring forth signs and wonders. Paul the apostle has this to say, in II Cor. 12:

12 "Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds."

See, it is by signs and wonders that the Gentiles became obedient to the gospel. Romans 15:18-19 "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient." Somehow along the way in Christianity, we have lost one part of it. We have only

made people obey the Word but the deeds need to come. He explained what they are. In verse 19, “in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” The gospel of Christ is not fully preached in many places. It’s only partially preached. Many preachers give part of the gospel and bring people to a certain point in God but not to the fullness of God. Paul says, the gospel is fully preached with signs and wonders.

I Cor. 2:4 “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

In Thessalonians the same thing about how the gospel came to them. Not in word only but in deed, in signs and wonders, in demonstration of power. We realize here that the realm of signs and wonders and powers can mean different things to different people. It includes healing, it includes demonstration of resurrection power, and the presence where there’s such power without a word being spoken. People get convicted and dropped on their knees before God or they just can not do anything but just get their lives right. It includes healing power, all these powers but there is a power that is beyond words that can only be felt. You can talk about it. You can’t explain it but there is a power that is beyond words. It can only be felt and it’s so powerful that healing takes place, demons flee when the power comes. That’s the power we are talking about that God is bringing forth. That also includes in these days a new realm of power that I call creative miracles.

Long time ago when God first called me, He talked to me about creative miracles. It talks about paying the price to move into that realm. What are creative miracles? Someone comes to a meeting without an arm, and the arm grows out. Someone comes without a leg and the leg grows out. Someone comes without a kidney and another kidney appear. God kept on speaking about that over and over again. Part of the call is to move so deep in the Spirit until that realm comes. In our church’s newsletter you read about Sister Sally going to that room in heaven where the human parts are to be sent down to earth for people and that keeps coming over and over again. God keeps talking about that special signs and wonders in creative miracles and that seems especially reserved that God has called people move into. There is a landmark in my life to move into that and to get people to move into that. We will have healings and demons casting, etc. But there is a special thing that God has spoken to me from early days and even when Jesus appeared to me in 1986, He spoke about the same thing. Kenneth Hagin seldom prophesy but when we were visiting him, just on that very day, he began to speak about creative miracles and many times when we have gone to meetings and places and every time we were there, there is prophecy talking about a creative miracle that is happening. There is a realm of power that God wants to bring. There is a price we have to pay to move into that power. Please don’t misunderstand, the power of God don’t just come like that without a price being paid. Or without a certain laws being obeyed. In order for a plane to fly, there are many hours of detailed work and planning and construction and building of an airplane that will break the laws of gravity with a higher law of lift and to bring the plane up to the air.

In the same way, Paul says in II Cor. 12, that the signs and wonders will work with the key word perseverance. Perseverance is necessary. We need to persevere into that realm. Now this is one of the key principles in Jesus life. See Jesus persevered into

that realm. For thirty years there was no record of a single miracle. There are some apocryphal records but those are not scriptural. For the bible declares in the gospel of John, when He turned water into wine, that this is the first signs and wonders that started. That tells us from scripture that there was no sign and wonder that came upon His life for thirty years. For thirty years He lived as a carpenter, as an ordinary man with the exception that He spent more time in the Word and in prayer than any other person and with the added facts that He never got distracted with worldly things.

When William Branham was young, there is always this wind that come into his life whenever he is alone. It frightened him until he met an angel in his adult life. When he was young, he tried to smoke a cigarette because of peer pressure from his friends to prove that he is a man or something. As he was just about to smoke a cigarette, there was this wind that came and he heard this voice. It seems that only he heard the voice. The others felt some strange presence coming on the treetops. He heard a voice that says, "You must not smoke. You must not drink. You must not give yourself to all these. Keep yourself holy because when the time is ripe I will use you." Because of that all his life he could not smoke, he could not drink, because there was something that drove him. Something that tells him that God has some special power for His life. Later on he moved into ministry and he is the key leader to bring the 1950s revival to its peak.

Oral Roberts and every famous men of God today trace their ministry to William Branham's ministry. But that's the realm we are talking about - a key in Jesus life. If you were to take Jesus minus the miracles, which a lot of modern scholars and theologians who are not of God, have what we call Higher Criticism saying this is not of God. They cut the Scriptures until there are no more miracles and all you present is Jesus a good man. If that's all we have, we have missed out everything. Christianity is a supernatural encounter with God Almighty. Jesus is not just a good man with nice teaching with great love. Although all these things do move us and change us but Jesus uses signs and wonders as a key principle in His life. Because He uses them, He challenges the people and says, "If there is none of these signs and wonders in My ministry, you don't have to believe Me." There is this realm of signs and wonders - the key principle in Jesus life. It's His stepping into this river of signs and wonders that helped Him move into that.

That is where God is leading this revival that God is bringing. In fact the revival has already began and has began with repentance and cleansing. You could feel it in your heart. But that's not the end. That's leading us somewhere. And as we continue to press on to pray, we will see the days of the Acts of the Apostles all over again. You remember the book of Acts chapter one and two, the 120 disciples continued to pray for ten days, probably in several sessions of prayer together. As we meet week by week before we hit what I call the power line, God is cleansing us. If you hit the power line with sins in your life, you may die. If you hit the power line with things that are not right in our life, it's the end of you. It is the most dangerous thing. So God is doing a cleansing work in our life and as we keep on, you could feel it in your spirit something is building up. I know prayer meeting like this is revival. As we keep on, something will give way. The flesh of course will give way. We die to self. A lot of things are dealt with and it's leading us somewhere. These things have happened in pockets here and there in the early ministry.

I remember in the second year of seminary, I was in a small town Baptist church. When we were there, having a call to bring people to revival. One of the first things we did was to call a prayer meeting for revival. After church on Sunday, we used to stay back and pray. We wept and we cried. Things began to happen. The Lord began to appear to people and some of those who were not in the meeting the Lord visited them in their house and some in their dreams. One of the sisters had a dream. In the dream she saw the Lord Jesus was passing by and then she saw a red light. She didn't recognize the Lord until the end. When she got up from that frightening dream of seeing the Lord and not recognizing Him, the Lord said to her, "You should be in that prayer meeting. But you are not recognizing Jesus when He comes." She got frightened and she quickly came to the prayer meeting. Then the Lord began to deal with the chairman of the church. The Lord said, "You have sinned. You have pride." He came and he wept at the meeting. Then strange things began to happen. People who have not been Spirit filled came for the prayer meeting and suddenly the Spirit came on them and they talked in other tongues without anyone laying hands on them or touching them. Strange things began to happen. You can not have this kind of prayer meeting continually without hitting something somewhere. It's an awesome thing when you become a part of the move of God. Here we are touching on the fact that one of the principles of Jesus is the principle of signs and wonders. It's not something you just move into. Why is it not so prominent? Let's us consider three things in regard to the principle of signs and wonders.

Season

No. 1, there is always a season when signs and wonders are manifested. Remember Paul said; preach in season and out of season. When it's out of season, we still can lay hands on the sick, we still can cast out demons, we can anoint with oil and receive miracles based on our faith in God and the believer's anointing. But there is a season where it just manifests even in a greater measure. I met some of those people who have worked in the 1950s revival in America. Some of these main preachers in the revival said that during the 1950s getting miracles was the easiest thing. It was like a blanket that was covering the whole of America. It was like any new preacher, any Tom, Dick and Harry could just come up and say "Jesus is alive," and miracles will happen. See there was a season.

After this outpouring of the Spirit, God saw that the people needed the Word of God and it went into a season of the Word of God. People learned to believe for themselves and not so much depend on the preacher or the vessel of God because some of the vessels of God began to go off track. In the 1970s and 1980s we began to see that there were fewer and fewer people with a miracle ministry. However, we don't see that kind of miracles anymore that they had in the early days. There still are but they are pockets of them. Not a whole season. So there is a season of signs and wonders and outside the season, those who have the faith are still able to get those miracles. But when it's in season, those with very little faith still can see miracles. But when it's not in season, it takes perseverance and deep faith to stay on in that realm of miracles.

So the first thing we see here is season. Jesus knows the season. Why didn't Jesus do any signs and wonders in the early days? Is it because His relationship with God was not deep enough? Who dare to say that when Jesus was 20 years old He was not as much as the Son of God as He was when He was 33? Same Jesus same obedience but

Jesus knew there was a season when He was to demonstrate the signs and wonders. He knew that the season was coming to an end. He needs to increase that in His life and He began to anoint His twelve disciples and He sent them out. Then He sent the seventy disciples out. They began to experience signs and wonders. Jesus knows the season. Now in the gospel, healing, salvation, deliverance belong to us in season and out of season. Anytime you have a sickness and you claim God's Word for healing you can receive your healing.

But we are talking about a time of season of signs and wonders. In God's special move there will be signs and wonders everywhere accompanied by visions and dreams. People who are preparing themselves for revival will be getting signs and wonders effortlessly. When it's outside the season, you still can get the same signs and wonders but it may take for example three days of fasting and prayer to do a special sign and wonder that God instructs. You still got to listen for God's instructions to raise a dead or bring a healing to a very difficult case. But when it's in season, it's different. You could be just having a full meal and you are still burping but suddenly the dead will be raised up in Jesus' name. That is what I am talking about when it is in season. There is a season. My friends, we are entering into that season. The kind of prayer meetings that are taking place is because the season is coming forth. When you see people gathering in great numbers to pray, to weep before God, to kneel, to sanctify their lives, you know that the flowers are budding. The fruit flowers are budding and it's heading somewhere. Don't miss this move that God is bringing forth because the flowers are budding. The flowers of revival are blooming and after sometime the flowers will begin to bring forth fruits.

Acts 19, Paul started with twelve of them in verse 7. Just with twelve people in verses 8-10 "He went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and do not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannous. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."

Now they were faithful for three years. Either somewhere in the third year or towards the end of it, we do not know. It says in verse 11 "Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul." Suddenly there was a season of signs and wonders. When the season of signs and wonders comes, go after it with all your heart. You could be wearing glasses and you could enter that presence and your glasses can not be used because suddenly you are healed. You didn't even ask for it. You could be having a kidney operation and you have only one kidney left and you come into that presence in that season, and you feel something happening on you inside. You check it up and a new kidney was there. In this season there will be tremendous signs and wonders. You enter into it and you see unusual signs and wonders.

Turn to the book of Acts. I just want to show how that there are seasons of signs and wonders that take place. Even in the revival in the book of Acts the first thing that took place in Acts 2 was just salvation and repentance. Three thousands souls were saved. They repented, they were saved, they were followed up, they were in home meetings, praying and breaking bread. Imagine how much prayer was going on. You know people always look at the book of Acts. We need the book of Acts for revival. The same people don't go to prayer meetings. We need the church like the book of

Acts. But they talk in an academic way without any real passion for revival. Do you know how often they prayed in the early church? Their revival prayer was everyday. I mean there was a prophecy that came Saturday before that God wants the prayer to go on everyday. But who will pay the price for it? You say, "Oh no, our society is different. People still got to work. People still got to feed their family." What do you know? In the revival among the tribal people of East Malaysia it was the same: they still have to work. In fact, their work is harder than our work in a modern city. The tribal people have to get up early in the morning. Do you know the life of a farmer is very difficult? It looks easy but it's very difficult. They get up in the early hours of the morning and they have to water their plants. In spite of all their hard work for survival, they meet for prayer everyday in that village. What are we saying? To put it very crudely we are lazy bones. Or rather we are not lazy bones, we are hard working for the world but not hard working for God. We don't work hard to press through in prayer. But when it comes to pursuing something for your family, pursuing your career, you work twenty-four hours.

The early church prayed every day from home to home, house to house. Revival took place and there were much repentance in their lives. It says in Acts 2 verse 42, "And they continued steadfastly." Now the word steadfastly implies that they remained faithful in the face of challenges and distractions. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, in the breaking of bread and (you see the last word,) in prayers. We do not know how long they continued in that manner. Usually the most excited people are those who are most recently born again and they want to win somebody else for Jesus. But those who have been saved for long time, they will cool down after a while. God does not want everybody to cool down. The excitement of sharing the gospel is no more there. Remember the first day when you were born again? I mean you thought this was the best thing in the world. Saved from hell to heaven. But after ten or fifteen years of Christianity, you will say, "Well, I have got a ticket to heaven." What happened to the initial excitement? May God restore to us the joy of salvation.

You know why the joy of salvation has disappeared? Sin and compromise. David said, "Create in me a clean heart. Renew a right spirit within me." David realized the joy of salvation was missing. We need that joy of salvation in our life. The early Christians love to fellowship and pray together. It's not too late. Now that the move has begun flowing in God, Acts 2:43 says, "Then fear came upon every soul." What kind of fear is that? It is the fear of God. I mean don't you fear God when you began to see multitudes seeking God? You are afraid that you may displease God. You are afraid that you may miss out of it. There's a fear that comes. Some of you working very hard in the secular world would ask, "Is my life right with God?" Some of you who normally say, "I didn't do my devotion today, well it's okay," suddenly you say, "Did I miss the visitation?" The fear of God has descended on you. People began to get their lives right with God.

Acts 2:43 continues, "and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles." And do you know why we are on the right track? The same thing is happening right now. There is a love of God that is being shared in each one of our hearts. You could feel that love overcome every weaknesses, every hurt and it's causing the Body of Christ to be one. With that kind of love as we continue to pray we will hit the power line. There will be signs and wonders. And then in chapter 31, Peter and John went up

together to the temple at the hour of prayer. Again they were on their way to a prayer meeting. Who knows one day on your way to a revival meeting, as you are catching the bus, you see someone stretching his arm out for alms. You may suddenly be on fire for God and the anointing of God comes upon you on that street and you say, "Dollar and cent I don't have, but such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk." There you see the person starting to walk. Before we know it, suddenly 3 dozens new people showed up in our meetings in addition to the 200 now present. Where did you get these people? They saw somebody received a new leg. See Peter and John were on the way to pray in the Temple and they brought forth a miracle. And because of that one miracle the church increased to five thousand people.

They continued on in God and then suddenly there was a wave of persecution. The authorities got to hear it; the authorities got concerned in chapter 4. They began to persecute those who were leaders of that revival. What do they do? Get down on their knees for more prayers. So when they were released in Acts 4, they went forth in verse 23-23 and they continued praying even more. As they prayed even more, the revival reached its highest point in chapter 5. Remember what I said before you hit the power line, you can get away with small sins and do not seem to pay the consequences. But when you hit the power line, be careful – you will be judged severely for any sin. You could even die. There was Ananias and Sapphira and all they did was to hold back part of the money and tell one simple lie. It was kind of half-truth. They only told part of the story because they kept back part of the money and immediately they died. The revival reached its height and during this season though the signs and wonders were tremendous, so was the judgment of sin. This wave of revival will sweep both sicknesses and sin away in its path. Acts 5 verse 12 Through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were done among the people. They were all in one accord in Solomon's Portico. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. The people of the world began to notice. They said don't play around with these people. Don't you think that is revival? They began to honor the name of Christ and didn't dare to lightly speak the name of Christ. That revival was affecting the society.

Verse 14-15, And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. So they brought the sick out into the streets. In chapter 5, that was the season for signs and wonders. People were out on the streets receiving the signs and wonders. This was like Jesus Himself walking in their midst. And as the shadow of Peter passing by, just walking, people got healed. Isn't that wonderful? They were not even laying hands. They were just walking and it brought healing. That's the high season. After that you notice that the season sort of tapered off. You still can have signs and wonders but you got to flow with what God is doing. It's sort of tapered off because the church structure was not big enough to contain the group. The apostles had a restructuring of the church in chapter 6. And after the restructuring where this time seven deacons were ordained, and the multitude increased.

Suddenly there was the fiercest persecution they ever had with one ringleader named Saul. Many people died in the persecution. You thought that was the end of the church, but no, it expanded because the persecutor became a believer. And then suddenly unknown people, people who were known as deacons, like Philip goes up to Samaria to announce the gospel, telling them about Jesus, and mighty signs and

wonders took place. You see how it began to flow. That's the revival move of God. There is a season for revival. What God is bringing us into is a season of signs and wonders. If you are inside the season, and you tap into the high level of presence and anointing that God placed, like Philip that high level of anointing and presence will be on your life all the time. And then, wherever you go the same presence will bring revival. The same presence that brought revival in Jerusalem through Philip was brought to Samaria and Antioch and to any place that he went. The presence was carried by human vessels into Samaria and all the surrounding regions.

So No.1 be sensitive to that season that God is moving into us. We had the Spirit movement in 1950, 1960. We had the Word movement in 1970 and 1980. Now in 1990 to the year 2000 we have the Word and Spirit movement. We are experiencing a revival in the move of God. It has begun in our prayer meetings and as we keep that prayer meeting heat up, as the fire of prayers are fanned up and as more and more keeping up, something is bound to happen. You will enter the season of signs and wonders, something that you could not enter alone. For one person to pray through it may take a long time but if all of us pray through, it will speed up the process. It's interesting, once you enter that season of revival and you learn the key, you can move in it anywhere. But unless you enter it you can not learn all the rules in that season.

Just like Elijah, do you know that before Elijah you hardly see any miracle? The people had fallen into sin. It took one man and he prayed to God earnestly and slowly he began to move into the season of signs and wonders. His life became a sign and wonder. His first ministry was to stop the rain and that sign and wonder was brought into the other areas. He brought fire down from heaven and then he began to raise the dead. Then there was someone who caught on to that season. Do you know that if nobody catches on zeal of Elijah it would have died with Elijah? But good for us there was Elisha. For ten years he lived with that man. He washed his clothes, took care of him like a servant but because he wanted that presence, he wanted the Spirit that was there. For ten years Elisha never had a miracle, never had a sign and wonder. He knew that it came from that man. One day as Elijah was going home and he said what do you want? Elisha said, "I want twice the Spirit of God." Elijah said, "Okay, if you see me when I go," and as he kept walking with him, suddenly the chariot of fire parted them. As he saw Elijah going up, he wanted it. He doesn't want it to go off.

When Kathryn Khulman died people were asking who would take her mantle. If Hagin goes home who will take his mantle. People are asking who would take all those mantles. When he saw Elijah going up, he said, "My father, chariot of fire," and Elijah dropped his mantle down. When it came, he tore his own and put Elijah's on him. He walked to the Jordan and said, "Where is the God of Elijah?" See he was depending on that season that Elijah had. He wants to continue that season. He strikes the water and it parted. The season had continued. The sad story is that when Elisha died, no one was there to continue that season.

Gehazi was supposed to take that mantle, but unfortunately he was overtaken by the love of money, and Naaman's leprosy befell him instead of Elisha's mantle. When the anointing is so high, sin will be severely dealt with. Gehazi was in the presence of a very anointing upon Elisha, but he dared to covet that which Elisha spurned, he dared to lie to Elisha, and as a result he suffered the consequences. God is no respecter of persons. When the revival hits, and the presence of God is very high, those who dare

to sin in such a presence will be dealt with severely, sometimes even with instant death. Annias and Sapphira instantly died. Gehazi was inflicted with leprosy.

Please understand what I am talking about. When you tap into a certain presence and you experience it and that presence of the signs and wonders, you do not come out the same. Something of that presence gets into your life. The rest is for you to learn how to let it flow. We need that season and we need to flow into that season.

We need to understand the season of signs and wonders and be there when the season is there. When you are there where the season is, that's where the presence will come on your life to bring the signs and wonders. In Acts 13, they had a prayer meeting that was like a holy club. Paul, Barnabas and others were there praying, and they received the call of the Spirit to go forth. As they moved out, the first thing they did was the signs and wonders. Where did they get that power to do that? From that prayer meeting where they were sent forth. Elymas tried to stop them, Paul said, "You will not see the sun for a season," and he was blinded for a season. Where did Paul get that power? From the prayer meeting in Acts 13 where they touched the glory realm and God said, "Separate me Paul and Barnabas for the work, which I called them." Paul was called ten years ago but that season had now come. I want you to see clearly my friends, what brought about the season. The prayer meeting was like the fire cooking and bringing the season out. You may have a call of God in your life. You may be like Saul, but unless you are in one of those revival prayer meetings, your season may never come.

Do you know what it does when you enter this kind of revival prayer? Something changes on your inside. Something ripens on your inside and you enter your season of the gift of God in your life.

There are seasons so that you know when the season is not there, you just continue moving at your level. John the Baptist never performed a single miracle because he could not move into that realm, which was reserved for Jesus. John the Baptist only ministry was repentance but he moved into the fullness of it. He could not enter further because it was not reserved for him but yet wherever he preaches, in the wilderness, in the desert where nobody normally goes, the crowds flocked there. He was faithful. There are seasons and we need to flow with them. The season of just teaching the Word is almost ending. It's like the season of signs and wonders accompanying the Word and the presence of God coming in more and more glorious ways. In the 1970s and 1980s those of us who were called by God, your faithfulness was to the Word. You stayed true to the Word. You preached the word. You practiced the Word. You meditate on the Word. That season is coming to an end because we are entering into the Word and Spirit.

The Glory of God

The second key is the desire for the glory of God, which is why we talked about dying to self in the last message. A lot of people want to move into signs and wonders but their motives are not right. It only works when you are fully and truly desire the glory of God and all you want to see is the glorification of Jesus Christ and His precious Name. God is willing to do mighty things when all your desire is the glory of God. It is a prayer meeting if the fans of revival burn in us. All other desires die and you only desire to glorify God and see His name is lifted up.

Moses knew that he was called when he was forty years old. At the age of forty he went to visit the Israelites, thinking that they would know that he was the one sent to them. He had a call and a mission to deliver the people. He wanted to glorify God but he also wanted to glorify himself. People have a mixture of that. They want to glorify God and they also want to glorify themselves. He wanted the people to be freed and he killed the Egyptian. In Acts 7 we are told, thinking that the people will know that by his hand God will deliver them. But God was not in it.

Why? It was the wrong season and the wrong timing. The four hundred odd years were not up yet that God prophesied to Abraham. Secondly, Moses still wanted some glory. So God put him on the shelf in the wilderness for forty years. He just lived as a shepherd. He got married and thought that he will settle down. Forgot about his ministry. Forgot about delivering the Israelites. He even forgot about all these things. You know when you put aside your ministry God builds your ministry. When you build God's house, God builds your house. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. Including our own ministry, our own gifting, and our own talent. When you put them aside, God will pick them up. When you bring them up, God will put them aside. Remember what we shared about the third blessing of dying to self? Only when that happens the glory of God can come. There must be this supreme desire to glorify Him and Him alone. There must be a desire to do something but try to be hidden so that everybody can see God and God alone. When that comes, we are trained to move into signs and wonders.

By the time God called Moses God said, "Moses come, I want to send you to free my people." Moses said, "Who am I Lord?" He had no more desire for his own glory. God said, "Give My people the revelation of My Name, I Am Who Am. In chapter 4:1 Moses answered and said, "Suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice. Suppose they say the Lord had not appeared to you." God gave him signs and wonders. That was what Moses failed to receive earlier. The moment Moses move into signs and wonders, it was powerful. In ten plagues he destroyed all the Egypt until the people became frightened when they hear the name of Moses. But God had to let him die first before God could exalt him. It was only when Moses went into Egypt with the only desire to do God's will and glorify Him that God gave him the signs and wonders. Because if the signs and wonders come into his life if he still had self-glorification then he will use that for himself. God reserves these things for those who really desire His glory. Sometimes Christians and people say it in their mouth that they are glorifying God but God read the heart and know that is not what they really want. Self is still involved.

If you want to follow Moses' life, it was the signs and wonders that God gave him that enabled him to shake the entire nation. My friends, the only way to win your country for Jesus is signs and wonders. It is not just trying to get on TV to tell the people about Jesus. It is not just trying to put billboards everywhere to tell them about Jesus because it doesn't affect anybody. You can win some but you can not win the nation. The only way for us to win the nation for Jesus is through signs and wonders. The only way for us to win the whole world for Jesus is through signs and wonders. No other way. It is not just great preaching although great preaching is good. It is not great music although good music is good for it helps us to worship God better. It is signs and wonders. If you are faithful in God and you move into signs and wonders, your preaching can have signs and wonders. Your music can bring signs and wonders.

It is signs and wonders that will win this nation. So let's not settle for anything less. Let's pray through until we break into the realm of signs and wonders. There is no other way. Isn't it better to pray through on our knees for signs and wonders until one day God may give one or a few signs that you could demonstrate all for the glory of God and win the entire nation than to try to work your fingers to the bone with human method of evangelism. Trying to win millions to Jesus. Let's choose the right thing and the right way. Let's choose Jesus' method – the Jesus principle of signs and wonders. One sign is enough many times. Because of one sign in stopping the rain, the whole nation of northern Israel heard about the name of Elijah. When people in the street said why there is no rain, they said we heard that there was a man Elijah who said that there would be no rain until he says so. It put the fear of God in their lives. It's signs and wonders that will bring the revival.

Let me show you that Moses had become the man who only seeks after God's glory. There were many times where he had the opportunity to seek any things for himself but he put them aside. In Exodus 32:7, God said this is his first 40 days and nights on the Mount, "go, get down! For you people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way, which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, this is your god, O Israel that brought you out of the land of Egypt! And the Lord said to Moses, I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! (Now look at God's offer to him in verse 10) "Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

Moses had an opportunity from the Almighty God to accept an offer of a great nation for himself. I want you to see how much he had died to self. No wonder God gave him signs and wonders. Here was a man who could move so powerfully that he parted the entire sea until waters of the sea stood like walls on both sides. The signs and wonders became a part of his life. I want you to see that this is the man who only desired for God's Name to be glorified and not his own. He says in verse 11, "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people."

You know what Moses was saying? He was saying, "God, if You do that and I became a great nation and all these people die, it's good for me. It's good for my name but God, what will people say of you?" I mean he cared for God's Name more than his own. When did this quality come into Moses life? When he died to self. When we care about the glory of God, when all we want is to glorify His name and you really meant it and even if you have an opportunity to promote your name, you rather want the name of Jesus to be glorified as much as you can. God has tested you and He will know He can trust you with operating in signs and wonders.

Do you really desire the glory of God? What happens if God uses you in many ways but nobody ever heard of you or knows that it was you? In your heart would you be satisfied? If you are not then you haven't died to self. You don't really desire the glory of God. You only desire the glory of God and your own glory. It's still not good enough. You will tap on some realm of achievement and power, but there is a realm

that God reserve, something that our generation has never seen before. I mean we have seen many great things. Mighty great men of God have done many things but I want to bring to you brethren, the Word of God says, that there is a realm. There is a place in God. A realm of power that this generation has never seen. A realm of might and demonstration that maybe the body of Christ has not seen for fifty years. That is only reserved for those who truly from the heart love His name more than their own name, who love His glory more than their own glory, who love to broadcast Him more than any other things. Even if you got to live and die without even your neighbor hearing you but yet through your works you have brought glory of God to millions of people, you will die a secret worker knowing that the glory and the rewards will be given to you in heaven, but you still would do it, then and only then God will bring you into that realm of the secret place of His power, signs and wonders.

Do you know that Jesus desires only the glory of God? There was many times where He was challenged. Satan came and said, "Turn this stone into bread." He could prove Himself but what's the point? He says that He can do nothing except what the Father calls Him to do. But the devil challenges Him to turn this stone into bread. He refused. Take all the silver, the gold and the glory and the glamour of this world and He refused. Do you know that Jesus rejected faith in one of the temptations? He did not just reject silver and gold. The devil said in one of the temptations, if You were to bow down and worship me, I will give you all these glory. Remember what the word said, the devil showed him the glory of the world? The fame, the silver and the gold. And Jesus said, no, thanks! Do you know the devil can offer you fame because he is the lord of the worldly spirit. But I wonder how many people can say no to him. I want you to know our Lord Jesus said no. He refused to glorify His own name, even though He was the fullness of God in human form but He waited on God to exalt His name. How humble He was. If you could have this kind of humility in the body of Christ, the church would be mighty. What happens after you have been tested and proven and God knows that all you want is to glorify Him to the extent of removing your self-glory? He will give you a realm of signs and wonders that you have never had.

Need

The third and the last point, to move into the realm of these signs and wonders, no.1 understand the season. No.2 desire only the glory of God and not thy own. No.3, which is important, you must see the need of the dying world. We must know the need that is there. I mean when we began to turn our prayers from O God revive us to O God heal us to O God save me to O God save them, then only will God bring you to the glory realm. Unfortunately so much of our prayers have to do with ourselves. Until we are willing to be like Jesus to lay down our life that others may live. Until we are willing and we see that vision of the need. I mean how many people constantly feel the need of this dying world? If we could see the fires of hell that have taken so many millions souls who have not heard about Jesus, you would have been willing to sell all you have to preach this glorious gospel to save one soul. But the vast majority of Christians have been so caught up with their lives, their problems and there are so few who would see the need of the dying world. And because so few see the need of the dying world, so few receive that empowerment to go out and help them.

Although Moses had his faults and problems but I want you to know, from the age of 40, Moses saw the needs of his people. He may have his timing wrong; his methods

wrong but Moses couldn't stand it anymore. Everyday when he was in his luxurious palace, there were these cries of his Israelite brothers being whipped and being tortured and even killed. The people were treated so cruelly that they cried unto God. Maybe if it were any other man, they would not care for the world but be satisfied with the luxuries offered by Egypt. As Moses grew up, he could not stand the silent cry anymore. He could hear that cry of his people. In Hebrew 11, we read how Moses forsakes all the luxury and the pleasures of Egypt. I mean he was a prince in Pharaoh's court. He could not stand it anymore. As he looks at his food everyday, he would think about the people without food. As he sleeps on his nice luxurious bed he would think about his people as slaves with no bed to lie on until he could not enjoy his luxury anymore. He was driven out not from external force but from something on his inside that say I must go and live with them. I can't stand it anymore and he lived with them because he saw their need. He made one mistake. When you see the need, you don't try to meet the need yet. Jesus said, the laborers are few, the harvest is ripened but He didn't say go. He says pray. Why pray? Pray until Almighty God sends you the supply of His power to meet that need. Seeing the need should not drive us into the need. Seeing the need should drive us into God deeper and deeper. The more you see the need the more it drives you deeper. Until as you grow so deep in God, you touch the realm of power.

Do you know why God used the apostle Paul? If you read what he said about himself, everyday he says the burden of the church is on him. It was his driving force. He says, woe unto me if I don't preach the gospel. I am indebted to preach the gospel. Let me tell you the apostle Paul saw the need. Many times he would be pleading with the people. He said in Acts 20, day and night he told the elders of Ephesus, I pleaded with you. I have spoken to you with tears to seek after God, to go after God. That's the passion of his life. A passion for souls. The needs. No.1 the season. No.2 the glory of God. No.3 the need. Do you see the need? Do you hear the silent cry of those who are without God? A cry that is so silent that only those whose ears are tuned to the ears of the Holy Spirit can hear. Do you hear the cry of the church? I could hear it when leaders began to fall. You could hear the cry in the Christian life. Do you know what the cry is, the reality of God and the cry of many preachers? When you go out to preach and you see the blind not being healed and you that Jesus would have healed them if Jesus was there. You see people whom you know if Jesus was there, He would have done a work of wonder. And you know that there is something more the church have not tapped on and let it drives you deeper into God.

That is why when Elisha cried my father, my father, and the chariots of God that's the glory of God and the chariots of Israel; he is talking about Israel needs this kind of power. Israel needs demonstration. Elisha who is going to carry the Word of God to Israel and the power with a double portion came on his life and he was able to continue to lead the people of Israel because people will know. People anywhere of Israel will say if you need to know the realm of power with God go to see Elisha. One day the Syrian king sent Naman and he reached the palace of the Israelites king, and he said, could you heal me. There was no man who could heal him but there was one man who was living in that realm of reality. There was one man who was living in the reality of God's power where God was not a God of yesterday, where God is not a God of history, but whose God is truly alive today. He can still part the waters and can still do the signs and wonders. Elisha said, send him to me. The miracle came forth like in the days of Gideon. The angel came to Gideon and Gideon said where are all

those wonderful things we heard about from forefathers. If only Gideon know today and the day that angel met him, it was the beginning of signs and wonders. There are a lot of Christians living onto yesterday and on history. We are talking about a God who parted the Red Sea. A God who turned water into wine. A God who caused the blind to see and the lame to walk. A God who says, he who believe in the works that I do he will do also. A God who raised the dead. Where is this God? He is here in our heart and life, except that we must go so deep into Him when we see the needs until we contact the realm of signs and wonders and power and He will send us forth.

7. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Matthew 1, these words of prophecy is spoken to Mary. Verse 21-23, “She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, (the word Jesus means God is my salvation) for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

If there is one key principle that we could point to in Jesus life, it is His desire to always be God with His people. We know that He left His glory above in heaven. Phil. 2 tells us in the Greek it call that the kerusso of Christ, the emptying of Himself. Kerusso is the preaching but here it’s a Greek word in Phil.2 that talks about Him. He emptied Himself of all His Godhead and He come down as a man. While He was a man in order to be God with us He need the presence of God in His life. He had to learn how to enter into God’s presence, maintain God’s presence and flow in God’s presence. To Jesus the presence of God was of great important in His life. It’s the key principle in His life. He practices the presence of God in His life. One day in the God’s presence is better than one thousand days. The presence of God is what He came to bring. If we were to be able to travel through time and be with Jesus where He was, when He walked the shores of Galilee, there’s something about His life that is something about His word. There’s something about His action. There’s something about Him that is different. He had the presence of God in His life.

So this morning we look at the presence of God in Jesus life and how the presence is precious to Him. As we consider that, lets consider how once upon a time the presence of God was with man. When God created us, He created us to be holy temple to be filled with His presence. Adam and Eve was created to know God and to enjoy God’s presence. When God created all of the creation, and every animal He said, it was good. But when created man, He said, it was very good because that is where He can place His presence. When Adam and Eve had fellowship with God, they could see God when God comes. They could talk with God; like the old hymn says, My God and I, we walk the field together. God and I talking in the garden. Just like Adam and Eve before they fell. Now we know that the fall of man was the result of sin and we know that after sin came death, sickness and suffering came into man’s history. Before that it was not present. But of all the things that Adam lost, it was not his health that was most precious. It was not his wealth that was most precious. It was not even the garden that he lost. Of all the things that Adam lost, I believe the most precious possession he ever lost was the presence of God.

In Genesis 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God.”

They were no more looking for the presence of God. They were no more comfortable in that presence. Something of their nature changed so that they could not stand that presence and they ran away from the presence. They hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. That caused God to look for Adam because Adam had never ran away from His presence before. The sad story is that God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden and placed a flaming sword. From that time onwards man was hungry for the presence of God. How God loves to be

with man but there is no way God can come to man because of his nature. God brought forth a way which man could have His presence. The presence of God and man were meant to be one but suddenly in Genesis 3 you could hear the cry and the agony that was in God's heart. When He said, Adam! Where art thou? God knew where he was but it was a cry of anguish. If God could cry, I wonder if there were tears drops that formed when God had to send man and woman out of the garden because now God could not have fellowship with us. He can not come to us and man can't go to God. There was a separation but there is one way in which God allows His presence to come. We were made to be temples of God. We were made for God's only pleasure and to be vessels to contain His glory. God brought forth the blood covenant. In every animal that was killed, that has its blood shed upon the ground, points forward to the day when the Lamb of God will come and shed His blood once and for all. All the animals' blood that had been shed; thousands upon thousands of them pointing to the day when once and for all the blood of the Son of God and the Son of man will be shed for us. Through the Blood Covenant God can put His presence among His people. Every time you see God's presence comes, immediately there must be blood because without that blood His presence can not come.

In Exodus, we know the story of Abraham. How God dealt with Abraham and began to talk about people whom He prepared. I want you to see this longing in God's heart and the panorama of the history of mankind from God's prospective. In the book of Exodus, when God met with His people as they come out of the land of Egypt, God called them aside in order to speak with them.

In chapter 19 of the book of Exodus verse 3 onwards, "And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to Myself."

God wanted them for Himself. God wants to hold His people in His presence. Verse 5, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

What are priests? Priests are those who can come into God's presence. God says, every single one of you, I want to bring into My presence and I want My presence to come to you. We are told about the blood that was shed in chapter 20, when the people saw flashing clouds and thunder. You see them coming into God's presence was one thing but God longs and wants to dwell among His people. That is what He made man for - to be pillars in His temple. Sadly the Israelites did not fulfill God's plan. When Moses went up later to receive the Ten Commandments from God, a great number of them went astray and worshiped the golden calf. When Moses came down judgment came and only one tribe could be priest. God brought them out of Egypt. He sent the ten plagues. Parted the Red Sea. Send them with manna; let them drink water from the rock. He said, I want you to be Mine, that My presence can come to you and you could come to My presence. I want every single one of you to be priest. On the very day when all of them could be priests and a holy nation, only one tribe, the Levi, could be priest. The other tribes, because they worshiped the calf, were disqualified from the priesthood.

There's another time and I wondered whether God cried if He could. If the angels could weep, the many ten thousands angels who were assigned to help them in their priestly work, suddenly had no more ministry for them in that area. Of all the twelve tribes only one could be priest. God only had to deal with one. That was not what God really wanted. He could have a sample of what He wanted and yet He went on with His plan because even if He could find one individual from the ten thousands, if He could just find one, heaven is My throne and earth is My footstool, where shall I dwell but on him who has a humble and contrite spirit. If He can find one, just one, He will still come. He will bypass the ten thousands because He wants His presence to be with man and man to be with His presence.

The Israelites has to prepare all kinds of special instruments and furniture as part of Moses Tabernacle for one purpose. For one year they were in the wilderness building according to the pattern of the tabernacle that Moses had seen. I want you to know that what Moses built was a shadow of what was up there. Moses had a glimpse of it during his forty days and forty nights in the mountain with God. They built it according to the pattern that Moses saw. There is only one reason for building the tabernacle. Not because each of those little parts were lovely to behold. Not just because each part had a representative of a truth although that was a truth. Each part had a representative of the truth, an important truth to God. But that tabernacle with the brazen altar, the laver in the outer court, the lampstand, table of showbread, the altar of incense in the inner court and the ark in the most holy place. All these furniture with the entire special scheme that they had to dye and all the ropes and all the nails, all were specially made right to the smallest nail it had to be the way God wanted it. They were made for one purpose. One year of hard labor for one purpose, that purpose is Emmanuel God with us. That God could bring His glory down to this planet and place it in the tabernacle that He asked the Israelites to build.

Exodus 40 we read about how Moses finally put all the pieces of furniture together and when all the pieces of furniture were placed in order and Moses had anointed them with oil and blood, I could hear the heaven move. I mean Exodus 40 was what he wanted to do. When he created Adam and Eve that Adam and Eve lost. All heaven was excited that day. Finally once again the glory could come and Emmanuel could take place.

Verse 34-35, "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."

We are told about that special presence in the Ark of Covenant, between the wings of the cherubim above the mercy seat, there lays the presence of God. We thought that we human would learn a lesson but no, after Moses died, after Joshua died, when they saw what the presence of God did. Understand that the presence of God was everything. If the presence of God is there, there is health. If the presence of God is there, there is wealth. When you look at Isaiah 61, it says arise and shine or Your light has come and the glory of God is risen upon you. You look lower down it talks about favor. It talks about multiplication. It talks about wealth. All these will come because the glory of God is upon you. Without the glory of God the tabernacle of Moses was nothing. It was the presence of God. The presence and it's because of the presence that when they took the Ark of Covenant and marched round Jericho walls, it came trembling down on the seventh day. They marched according to God's specification.

It's because of that same presence of God that they could cross the Jordan River on dry ground at the time when it was at its highest. The presence of God was with His people. When Joshua died, on and on and on again, people kept their religion, people kept their creed. They had a form of religion and a form of worship. Although there were some idolatry that came in but they lost the presence. They had a form of godliness. The priests were still functioning but they don't have the presence of God. And one of the lowest points of Israel was when the glory of God left them.

In I Samuel 4, Eli was a priest. They had a high priest. They had priesthood. They had a form of religion. They had a creed. They had a scroll. They had the writing of Moses and they even had the tabernacle there. They had the ark. They had the brazen altar. They had the lampstand. They had the table of showbread but they don't understand or appreciate the presence of God. All they thought was the religion. They thought lets use the ark for victory. But unless you live in God's presence, you can not demonstrate His presence. They had failed to live with God and now they expect God to live among them. In chapter 4, the saddest moment in Israel, when the Israelites took the ark of the Lord into the battlefield, when normally it would have brought them victory but on that day in verse 11, "the ark of God was captured." They lost the ark. They lost the glory. The ark was taken into a foreign land. When Eli heard it he fell down and died.

In verse 18, "When he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years. Now his daughter- in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her. And about the time of her death the woman who stood by her said to her, 'Do not fear, for you have borne a son.' But she did not answer, nor did she regard it. Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, 'The glory has departed from Israel! Because the ark of God had been captured.'" God's glory left Israel once again.

What a sad moment. People just don't appreciate the presence of God. If you don't appreciate the presence of God you can lose it. If you don't treasure the most precious possession, you can lose it. Finally it was God who had to defend His own presence and He has to protect His own ark. In Samuel's time the ark came back to the Israelites. The people again had the semblance of the presence of God, a small manifestation of Emmanuel God with us. God still patiently work among His people because He desired His presence to be among His people and He raised a man who knew God's presence and who understand the value of God's presence. His name was David. Of all the judges before him and of all the kings before him, he was the only one who understood. It's not by might, not by power but by the Spirit of God. You can't have the Spirit of God without the presence of God. He was the one who understood. That is not the weapons of war, the arm of flesh or human intellect that works. He was a small boy. He had conquered Goliath. He knew it is important to have God with him. When God made him king, one of the first things that he did was, he said lets put the presence of God where it should be. The center of our lives. He brought the ark into the capital city and there was a huge celebration because the presence of God was recognized and not just put aside. It was the prime thing in their

lives. Together with his son they finally brought Israel back to what God wants it. At least to a certain extend.

God gave David the plan of the temple. Although he didn't have a hand in building it, he had a plan. What was God after? The same thing that He was after in Genesis. The same thing that He was after in Exodus in the tabernacle of Moses. He was trying to bring His presence to man. After Solomon took seven years of hard work to build the temple and finally the day came that Solomon dedicated the temple to God. We read about it in II Chron.5, how as the musicians sang and worshiped God. The presence of God came once again. Heaven must be rejoicing when the presence of God came back into the temple. How God had longed for that moment. Once again it was like the Garden of Eden. Once again it was like Exodus chapter 40 when the presence of God came. Because of that presence they had health. They had wealth and they rejoiced. But over and over again people don't appreciate Emmanuel, God with us. It's as if we don't want to have God with us. We want God to be a compartment in our life but not as Lord and ruler and King. God only had a small room in the attic. We have the main hall and all the best room. He sought to dwell among His people on and on again. If He could find any good thing, He will stir them up to restore the temple.

You notice throughout the time of the kings, every time the temple was restored, the people were blessed. You can't see the connection but every time the temple was restored, the people were triumphant over the enemy. The people had health and the people had wealth. No matter how poor the nation was, when the next king took over because sometimes the king was bad and sometimes the king was good. In the northern kingdom all the kings were bad. In the southern kingdom sometimes it was good, sometimes it was bad and sometimes a good king takes over from a bad king who had bankrupted the nation and turned the nation into sin and idolatry and into crime and impoverished the whole nation. The new king started with nothing but God. Whenever a king came and restored the temple. Restored the worship of God. Restored the glory of God and the presence of God, Isaiah 61 took place. Arise and shine for Your light has come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. It says and the Gentiles will come to your life. All the wealth of the Gentiles will come to you. When the glory of God is upon you, health and wealth are there. But one day people began to do things that God could not tolerate anymore. Heaven had a decision to make. King after king, God strove to work among His people, to make Emmanuel God with us rue. One day among the last prophets who prophesy in that land, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, finally God said, I am taking My glory back. I could see the same Father, the same God, who had to send Adam and Eve out because they could not stand His presence. That same loving God now stood in the book of Ezekiel and He says, I want to take back My glory because the people don't appreciate My presence. The people don't understand that I want to be with them but they don't want to be with Me.

In the book of Ezekiel 10:1 "Ezekiel looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne. Then he spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, 'Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire from among the cherubim, and scatter them over the city. And he went in as I watched. Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when

the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple.”

It was like the prodigal son’s father who probably gave everything he wanted to the prodigal son when the prodigal son wanted everything. If only the prodigal son knew that being with the father would be everything. He wanted wealth. He wanted fame. I could see the prodigal son’s father gave the son one last hug, knowing that if his son doesn’t come to his senses he may never see his son again. Yet his son doesn’t appreciate the presence of the father and goes out seeking the things of this life. Until one day the son realize that to be with the father was everything. He had lost everything yet the father wants him back. I am sure when the son was going away from the house, for a moment the father may have called him, like all loving father words, my son, my son, won’t you please change your mind for the last time. Don’t think that the father didn’t persuade the son. Don’t tell me that the prodigal son’s father didn’t cry. He did.

Here is the presence of God, for one last moment, one last look, one last time. Hoping the people may understand but they did not. He had to call back that presence into heaven in verse 4, “Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory. And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks.” O, God was grieved. Finally God reluctantly left the temple.

Verse 17-19, “When the cherubim stood still, the wheels stood still, and when one was lifted up, the other lifted itself up, for the spirit of the living creature was in them. Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord’s house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.”

God’s glory reluctantly and slowly left the temple. We saw the coming of the glory in II Chron, 5. My friends, there should never be a going away of the glory. We see in Ezekiel 10 the very opposite of II Chron.5 when the glory departed.

Finally God said I need to show man how to keep My glory because every time I send My glory they don’t understand My presence. I need to show them and tell them that My glory is to abide in their lives forever. Not just for a moment. Not just for a time but permanently. God had a conference and the second person of the Godhead his name is the Word. He decided to come. He took upon Himself the name of Jesus so that if any man thirst; in that thirsty cry that raged through the generations. The cry for God. The cry from the spirit of man for the presence of God. For man was created for His presence. If any man thirst they can come to the Son of God Emmanuel and they can drink of the living water and they will thirst no more.

Jesus spoke to the woman at the well and said, if you drink from this water, you will thirst again, but the water that I can give to you, if you ask for a drink and He will give you living water, water full of life and you will never thirst again. That woman had been seeking religion. She said, the Jews worship in Jerusalem and we Samaritans worship on this mountain. Where did you get this living water? She knew religion.

But Jesus came to bring God with us. His precious presence the second person of the Godhead.

Finally God sent His Son and it prophesied that His name is to be called Emmanuel God with us. To show us the way to live in that presence and all the miracles, all the signs and wonders were glorious. I want you to know one thing. The miracles were there because the presence of God was there and all the works of Jesus which the bible only recorded a few for our edification. Book of John tells us if everything that Jesus did was recorded, the whole world couldn't contain. This same Lord Jesus Christ said, when He talked with the disciples, He said that the Father would send them the Holy Spirit to be with them. In the book of John, the same Jesus He did not come to live and die to live without God's presence. He came with the expressed purpose so that once and for all in the church of Jesus Christ, a nation above all nation, a holy nation, a holy people, a holy priesthood to God were permanently and forever receive His presence.

He says in John 14:17-20, "the Spirit of truth from the Father whom the world can not receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be with you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. And that day, "The day when My presence come permanently on your life. "You will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

He tells us in the gospel of John 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." Verse 10, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."

He says I am able to do all those things because of the Father, the presence of the Father, the glory of God in My life. And the same glory He wants to share with us. In the book of Ephesians chapter 1, 2 and 3, right at the end of it, it says that He is building the church as a holy temple, a holy habitation of God that God's presence can come and live among us. He failed with Adam and Eve. He failed with Moses' generation. He failed with David' generation. Will He fail in our generation? God forbid, there are many times He looks like He is failing but God forbid because as long as there is one little spark somewhere with God's presence, one little child of God somewhere who has a contrite spirit, it only takes a spark and that fire will again burn the way it should burn. God is hungry and so desirous of His presence come into our lives. That when in the book of Revelation His presence finally come upon our lives, there was great rejoicing and it was announced in the heaven, behold the tabernacle of God is with man and He will dwell with them. We are part way in that story. We are in this move of God when God wants to bring His transforming presence into our lives so that the glory of God that has begun in our lives as a little spark and a little flame can grow bigger and bigger until Isaiah 61 takes place. The glory of God that began in your spirit as a peace when the presence of God came will begin to grow and grow until finally it's upon us.

The glory of God shall be seen upon His church once again. But for this glory to come upon our lives to be upon our lives, we need to know and appreciate His glory like Jesus live inside His glory. I can tell you that even though Jesus Christ left His glory in heaven to live as a man on this earth, from the day He was born until the day He died on the cross, He always treasured that presence. Not for a single moment did He go without that presence. There will be many times He would be tired physically from the ministry but yet at night you will find Him climbing the mountain. Why, because He desires the presence of God. There were many times when He gets up early in the morning and if you think that He didn't get tired, look at John 4, you will understand why was He sitting at the well, because He was tired from the long journey. He was thirsty. He was hungry but when the disciples brought food back, He said, I had meat, which you do not know of. His meat was to do the Father's will and to be in the Father's presence because one day in the presence of God is better than one thousand days. He lived in that presence so much. Everyday; for thirty years even as He lived as a carpenter.

Some of you may say, how can I have the presence of God as an engineer? How can I have the presence of God as a carpenter? How can I have the presence of God in my work? Jesus for thirty years had the presence of God in His life even though He was only a carpenter. He came to show us how it was possible once again to live with God's presence. It is possible if we will long and desire for that presence like He did.

There was an increase of that presence in those three years of His ministry when the Holy Spirit came on Him. It was a greater presence and the Father declared when the Holy Spirit came on Him as a dove, "This is My son in whom I am well pleased." Everyday of His life He was pleasing God. He lived in that presence. I want you to know there was only one moment, just one moment in His life, when that presence had to go from His life because of what you and I did. Jesus is not afraid of physical suffering. He is not afraid of the nails going through His hands. Physical suffering is nothing to Him. When He struggle in Gethsemane and says, Father if it be possible take this cup from Me. It is because He knew the only way for the presence of God to come on our life is that He shed His blood and take the sins, our sins upon the cross. When He exchange our sins for His righteousness. That was only a moment of time. As He hung on the cross and died for a moment of time the presence of God left Jesus. That was when He cried, My God, My God, why have thou forsaken Me because He could not live without that glory. He had never been without that glory. He had never been without that presence. He had lived with it all His life. He was forsaken so that you and I will not be forsaken. That one moment of time to Jesus was the greatest suffering in the world, that's to be without the presence of God.

My friends, what about you and I? Do you think being criticized is suffering? It's nothing compared with the losing of that presence because if you have the presence, you can take all criticism. Do you think all the hardship in your life is difficult? No, because if the presence of God is there it's not suffering. There is joy that fills your heart and a peace that fills your life. Do you think all the difficulties of this life are difficult? All the pains, the wounds are difficult? They are not when you have the presence of God. My friends, going without the presence of God is the greatest suffering that man could ever have and the greatest suffering that God has to endure for man, because He knew man was made for God's presence to dwell in.

If you want that presence of God in your life to be restored, there is one key to focus on and that's on the mercy of God. No one can receive that presence of God by works. Remember the song they sang in II Chron.5 "Our Lord is good and His mercy endures forever." Remember what that seat was called between the cherubim. It was called the Mercy Seat. No one can enter that presence by works, by religion, by our achievement. But the presence of God is available when you throw yourself to the mercy of God. Like David though he had failed many times in numbering the Israelites, he threw himself at the mercy of God and God brought a greater presence into his life.

In Hebrew 4, the Mercy Seat is called the throne of grace. Do you know why? In the Old Testament, you read about how Noah found grace in the eyes of God by his walk and his righteousness. But in the New Testament, grace has already been given in Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners he died on the cross for us. While we were in enmity with God, enemies of God, He shed His blood for us. God took that first move and initiated fellowship with us. Now through the blood of His eternal Son we can have fellowship forever more. This is the grace of God. He says in Hebrew 4, come go into the throne of grace that you may obtain mercy and find grace in time of need the mercy of God. Which is why in Isaiah 61:1 "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me?" I will dwell on him who has a humble and contrite spirit who would tremble at My word. Who will come not by their works of righteousness but who will come by the blood of Jesus, by the mercy of God, in the grace of God given so freely.

The presence of God that was so hard to have and so hard to achieve is now so freely given to us. Will we take it for granted? May we take gratitude in this great grace of God, this great presence that is made available for us. Like Paul in II Cor.3, we are told that if the administration of the law be glorious, how much more glorious will the ministering of grace be. We have a grace greater than Moses saw. We have a glory greater than Adam and Eve saw. We have a glory greater than David saw. We have the glory like never before. The mercy, God says, I will restore to you to show mercy of David and that's the presence of God. We have a greater glory than David ever had. We have the glory that Jesus had and it says the works that I do, you will do also and greater works. If the works of Jesus came from His glory, the greater works will come from a greater manifestation of glory like it had never been before. Something that reserved only after Jesus was raised from the dead, ascended on high and seated at the right hand of God. Then only God can release in John 17 the glory of God among His people like never before.

Will you take advantage of that glory? Will you take gratitude and respond to that presence of God in your life? The glory of God, how precious it is to your life. Is it suffering to be without glory? If it's not you have not known the glory and the presence of God like Jesus knew it.

8. SUBMISSION AND TIMING

As we were worshipping the Lord said, “There is something that I am dealing in the whole heart and life of each one of My people. Let them go home early and have more time with Me because there is something that is coming forth in the spirit.”

Just now as we were going around, one of the sisters was a bit shy to share a vision she saw yesterday. She wrote this vision and I read it, I felt it was good to know something that the Lord is doing.

This is what she said: ‘Yesterday at the Saturday prayer meeting, I had a vision. It is not something very easy to share. If I tell it some people might think that I have gone into the deep end. First I saw a thick cloud of darkness and I also noticed there was a crack in the darkness. Through the crack I noticed that beyond the darkness is brilliant gold colored light. But as we prayed the crack still remains and it got no wider. Then I saw the devil. I knew it was the devil beyond a shadow of doubt. I saw fear in the face of the devil.’

It’s not easy to share a vision of a devil. It’s easier to share a vision of Jesus. What I believe is happening is we are cracking some realm of darkness over this land through all the prayers and there is something happening. There is a flow of the Spirit we all can sense. You and I know that the fullness still had not come. It had begun. Revival has begun. The fullness has not come and apparently the devil knows that is coming forth. There is a great fear. There is a great stirring in our hearts knowing that something is about to explode.

This morning we want to close with the series on principles of Jesus Christ applying in His life. This morning we are going to touch on the principle of timing and submission. The two go together. Jesus’ life is the ultimate example of what submission is like. The ultimate example of what timing is like. When we were young, we thought that being right about certain things is enough. But as we grow and mature in life, we realize that being right and doing the right thing at the right time is also important. As maturity sets in we realize that timing can play a big role in many situations. The timing for saying certain things, the timing of winning a person back to the Lord and the timing of doing the right things, all these rest around the big word timing.

The word timing is related to the word submission. You notice that basically in a lot of problems that we read in the bible and in church history have to do with submission and timing. Many people who have gone from one phase of ministry to another, one phase of life to another, have encountered submission problems in their lives. Either they are submitting to some authority figure or somebody else is submitting to them. You notice that timing has to do with it. Sometimes when we are under authority, we have to wait for the right time to do or say certain things. The ability to wait has to do with the quality of submission. So timing and submission are related.

And the reverse is true. It’s important as a leader to enhance the people flowing in one accord and one leadership. The leader must also move in the right timing of the Lord. If the leader does the right thing in a wrong time, people will find it hard to submit. So when the right thing is done in the right time, in the fullness of time you will have the full backing of the people. But sometimes some things are not done in the fullness of

time and a leader is not able to do what he wants to do. If the leader has the patience to wait a year or two, then more people will be willing and information would have been gathered and more people will be able to flow along with that vision. So we find that both ways, submission and timing always plays a dual role together.

Philippians 2, we see Jesus' life in His submission. When we talk about Jesus submitting and obeying in His life, learning the principle of submission, we also find it relates to the principle of timing. In His life, He was sensitive to God's timing to do the right thing at the right time.

Phil. 2 verse 5 onwards, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Lets look at some examples in Jesus' life in regard to timing and submission. How Jesus grew in learning submission. Submission is something that we all have to learn in our life at certain point. There was a teaching on submission during the Charismatic movement that went to the extreme. People submitted themselves to church leaders to the extend that they do not have anymore thinking process going on or they do not make decision for themselves anymore. Somebody else make decisions that are personal and private for him or her. That's where the doctrine of submission has gone to the extreme, so that for many people they do not know how to hear God for themselves. If they want to get married, they have to ask permission from the leaders. If they want to make a personal decision in their job, they will ask permission from the leaders.

Now there is a difference between asking for permission and asking for advice. Advice and counsel means there is option whether you want to follow it or not. You just want to get more information to make a right decision but you are making the decision. But in many cases of Christian extreme groups, they teach submission to a point that the church members don't grow anymore. They remain spiritual babies because they never learn to hear God for themselves. When they have to make a decision, all they have to do is to depend on the leaders. That's how extreme some groups can become like Jim Jones and all those cults. They could dominate peoples' lives since they surrender the right of their own personal life to such leaders. When the leaders go wrong, it's very dangerous. The whole group dies.

God did not design submission in that way. He designs for it to flow in a give and take manner. Every time the bible talks about submission, it says submit one to another, that's a give and take process. Submission is not demanded. People who recognize something in others give and yield their submission. Remember the principle is that submission is never taken but it's given freely. In other words, when we respect and we learn something from someone else and we recognize the hand and the wisdom of God in someone, we voluntarily yield our submission because that person knows better in that area. So it should be given rather than be demanded or

taken. So in all of our life, we need to learn the principle of submission and principle of timing. These are the things that break our pride, break our self, break our flesh and cause us to be able to be filled with the Spirit of meekness that would inherit the earth.

Jesus learned submission from very young. Lets look at the gospel of Luke. There are many times in His life when submission was demanded. We want to consider the special time in His life when He practiced those principles. In Luke 2, Jesus was twelve years old, just a little boy about to turn a teenager the following year. Luke 2:41 “His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.”

I want you to know that at twelve years old, He was remarkably matured. Verse 48, “So when they saw Him, they were amazed;” at such maturity in a boy so young. “And His mother said to Him, ‘Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.’

And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.”

Although Jesus was twelve, He knew more than His parents about spiritual things. He knew the purpose of God in His life. He knew the call of God in His life. He had more knowledge than them. He also knew His destiny and call. He says, ‘I must be about My Father’s business’. Very few twelve years old children know what they want to do in life. But Jesus knew what He was called to do. He knew His destiny at twelve years old. Normally if we Christian parents bring their children up in the way of the Lord by twelve they would know their destiny.

In verse 51, “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them.”

The Greek says, “He was submitted to them.” I don’t think it was easy. It’s easy to submit to someone who knows better than you but it’s hard to submit to someone who you think you know more than him/her. Secondly, it’s easy to submit to someone who knows what is God’s purpose for your life. It’s easy to yield to that person because that person will help you into God’s purpose. But it’s hard to submit to someone who does not know what God wants to do in your life. And as great a miracle as Jesus had when He healed the sick, cast out devils, opened blind eyes, healed the lame, opened deaf ears and made the dumb to speak. As great a remarkable miracle is the fact that in all His perfection, in all His holiness, in all His wisdom and knowledge, He could learn to submit which is also learning to wait. Submission and timing always goes together. Little children have the habit of being impatient. The interesting thing is patience comes from experience. We learn patience in life. I pray that the older we grow in the Lord, the more patient we may be.

Young ministers after graduation usually are very impatient to get to do what they want to do. But after a few hard knocks, they learned to be a bit more patient. Submission and timing flows together. Jesus knew that one day He will come out from the umbrella of His mother and father but now He has to learn the most difficult thing to do. That word is easy but the most difficult action to do in the Christian walk and its spelt 'WAIT'. It's not easy to wait but Jesus was not like other children. Have you ever seen little children? You ask them to wait and they want to do something. They are eager to do it. Perhaps you are taking them to a park and you have something else to finish. You say, "Could you please wait for another hour?" You could see them waiting but every five minutes they say, "Papa, is it time to go?" Half an hour later, they will say, "Can we go now?" I mean they could hardly wait. But submission and waiting go together.

So Jesus submitted to His parents and we know from references in the gospel of Luke 3 that He only launched into His ministry at the age of thirty. This means eighteen long years of patient waiting. A lot of pastors especially denominational pastors who want to renew their church struggle with submission to their superiors. When they ask me, "Pastor, what is your advice from your point of view?" I said, "There is only one key word 'patience'." Unless God calls them out it's different. Patience to wait on the people to come to know the Holy Spirit and when we get on fire by the Holy Spirit we sometimes lack patience with people. It's amazing that Jesus with all His glory and splendor had so much patience. Because most of time in the world, the more knowledgeable a person is the more talent or ability a person have, the more impatient he/she has with others who are too slow. They either scold the people who are too slow or push their way around. But that's not God's way. God's way is to be patient. Eighteen long years He is subject to His parents. I believe that from that day onwards He just obeyed. I mean every year they went up to the feast, but from that day onwards, He never stayed behind.

Can you imagine Mary calling Jesus, I mean calling a small boy. Not calling for help. It is quite a unique experience. Can you imagine this unique experience of Jesus' mother? "Jesus, can you come here?" "Yes mom." You mean Jesus never called His mother mom? Of course He did. Who do you think He is? Son of God yes but He was Son of man. If He didn't call His mother mom, what do you think He calls His mother? Oh yes, instrument of God to bring Me forward. Of course He called His mother mom. "Jesus can you please wash the dishes?" "Yes, mom." He submitted. He waited on God. He didn't say, "I am not made to wash this. I am made to cast out devil, heal the sick, open blind eyes." It's important for us to learn to yield and to submit.

Submission has to do with timing and our ability to hold ourselves back in God. Waiting for God's perfect timing. The people around Jesus in His hometown knew Him as a carpenter. Which means that as He grew up helping His father, He was probably making some tables and chairs. I mean Jesus Christ, Son of God, a man without sin doing such a humble job. Some of us think that this kind of jobs is not for us. No such thing. We need to learn humility and submission in ordinary matters of life. I realize that sometimes in some church groups they force people to do humble tasks. That would be wrong. People have to be slowly taught how to do it and not compelled to do it. As they learn to do these little things their lives develop the quality of meekness and submission that money can't buy. No bible school training, no

lecturer can give you the training of meekness. That can only come with washing toilets or doing the most humble task that is given to you.

There are times when Joseph must have sent Jesus out and said, "Jesus can you go out and deliver this stool?" He delivered the stool or delivered something else. People will place orders and Jesus will be there and ask, "What would you like to order?" "A table and two chairs." No wonder when Jesus went out as Son of God, people can not accept Him. They asked, "How can this be? This is the man who delivered my table and now He commands demons to come out." They couldn't put two and two together. It was harder to accept Him especially if you know Him. In fact the one place that had the most resistance to Jesus Christ was His hometown. He could not do mighty work because when He tried to do something, they would say, "I know you. You are the carpenter. Now you are saying you are the Son of God." It was very hard to accept.

Do you know why Pharaoh was so cruel to the Israelites when Moses came? The Pharaoh was most probably Moses' colleague in the school for princes. The Pharaoh whom Moses came to meet grew up together with Moses. Moses grew up in Egypt. He grew up as a prince. They had a special school. Suddenly Moses was missing for forty years and he comes back and say, "Let my people go in the name of Yahweh." The Pharaoh said, "This is the fellow I played marbles with." You could see that some of the resistance that Pharaoh had. How could Pharaoh be so hard? Part of the reason is familiarity. Familiarity breeds contempt.

Here is Jesus and He did all these things in His hometown. In verse 51, He was subject to them. But His mother kept all these things in her heart. There are many degrees of submission that we learn to. We learn and we grow in submission. The first and hardest lesson, which Jesus here succeeds beautifully, is to learn to submit when you have something greater than the one you submit to. When you know more than the one you submit to. When you know your own life than the one you submit to. It's very difficult. Most people would rather not submit. They will rather call it quits.

Another example of this area of struggle of submission is the life of David. When David was launched out into his public ministry after he had slain Goliath, the women were singing, "Saul had slain his thousand and David has slain ten thousands." Can you imagine David coming to work under that kind of set up? He was more anointed than Saul. Saul had already lost a great portion of his anointing. The only difference is that David was talented, gifted, anointed but he didn't have a position. Saul had a position. David had to learn submission. I mean he could have easily instigated a rebellion. But David submitted because he waited for the timing of God. God had prophesied that in his life that he will be king. Yet he didn't view Saul and Jonathan as a rival. He viewed them with love. Even Jonathan told David, 'When you are king, I will be next to you.' Jonathan was a submissive person too. He says, 'I recognized God's call in your life. This is divine destiny, nothing human. When you are king, I will be next to you.' Sadly, he died with Saul. All through Saul's life, David had to learn to yield and to work under a man who was less anointed than him. He was more gifted than that man but yet he could be under him.

Now the reverse is also important. Many times people find it hard to be leader over others who are more talented. Most people feel insecure. That should never be. The reverse is also necessary when God teaches grace. Do you know what Saul's failure

was? He failed to realize that position also comes from God. When God gives you a position, unless God takes it away, no man, no demon can ever take it away. Instead of being thankful for David, who could now help him to extend his reign and all that God wants him to do, he became insecure and he wanted to get rid of David. You noticed that David had that kind of grace to take people who are as talented and who are as powerful as he was. Remember the time of Abner? He wanted to receive Abner but Joab didn't want because Joab thought his position was threatened. Then David wanted to receive a lot of these mighty men who are skillful in the own right, they came to David and David became captain over them. He never felt insecure because when God calls and God positions you, your security is in God. So from the reverse side, we need to understand that most of all is our walk with God. We must rest in God. From the point of submission and timing, which is in Jesus' life, He learned to submit to imperfect human parents when He was perfect. Jesus knew no sin. He was perfect in His heart, mind, thoughts and deeds. To submit to parents who are less perfect than Him, it's as amazing to me as healing the sick and casting out demons. That shows the grace on Jesus' life, the willingness to flow along with God's plan and God's timing. Eighteen years of that.

Finally Jesus graduated from the first stage of submission and He moved into the second stage. In Luke 3:23 when Jesus was thirty years old and He was about to begin His ministry, He had to do something more. He had to submit in another pattern in another realm. He already submitted to His parents for eighteen years and God looked at Him and when He came out of the water baptism, God says: 'This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.' Do you know that you can please God by submission and timing? When you allow God to exalt you rather than exalting yourself, everything will be in divine harmony. But most of the time being human and if we get in the flesh, we want to do things ourselves. But if we were to just go on our knees and pray and let God do the exalting, you do the humbling, and all things will fall into perfect place. It may not come in the time that you expect but it will come in a time that God has.

What Jesus did was very interesting. First of all He had to say goodbye to his home. From that day onwards, He was not coming back home or going back to his job as a carpenter. He's no more going back there. Sometimes when you have been in something for eighteen years, if you don't watch out, you can be comfortable in it and you don't want to change. Moses was pretty comfortable after forty years in the wilderness. He had a good wife. He had a family. He had a good father-in-law. He had a nice job taking care of the sheep. He had his food, clothing and shelter. He had everything nice for himself. There is nothing more he could ask for in life except to live all his days for God. So when God asked him to go he was a little bit less willing. If we don't watch out, sometimes we are staying in certain areas for eighteen years or forty years, we don't want to change anymore. We are so complacent. God is bringing us to another deeper realm and we say, 'No God, we don't think we could go along with that.' God has to shake us up in order to promote and bring us into a deeper realm of submission. This is the most interesting thing I have found.

We all know that promotion come not from the east or from the west, but it comes from God. Now the word promotion also means exaltation. And the word exaltation also goes with the word humbling. The humble shall be exalted. So there is no exaltation without humbling. So before God promotes there must be a humbling

process in our life. There must be another area of submission and yielding that demands of our life. To be willing to yield to Him even more. To be willing to submit to Him and His timing even more. As Jesus was about to launch out into His ministry, God spoke to Him to have one more realm of submission. By that time John the Baptist was already out doing his ministry. Jesus knew more than John the Baptist. Jesus had more and a bigger calling than John the Baptist. But God wanted Jesus to go and submit to John the Baptist. How did He submit? John the Baptist's portfolio in ministry was preaching the baptism of repentance. Calling the people for the Lord. Now Jesus could have just started His ministry in another corner of Jordan and started preaching straight away. But God is a God of order not disorder. There is always a proper channel and a proper flowing of one thing into another. God asked Jesus Christ of Nazareth, fully God and fully man, sinless, pure and perfect and the Holy Spirit spoke to His life to go and submit to John the Baptist. That act of submission is to be baptized in water by him. That's another act as great as Jesus' healing the sick.

In Matthew the record tells us, as Jesus came to John's ministry in verse 13, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him." John himself knew. Look You are greater than me. I am not even worthy to unloose the shoes lace from your sandals. Verse 14, "And John tried to prevent Him to persuade Him from doing so because he said, "How can I do that to You? You should be baptizing me rather than me baptizing you." And John said, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

What a marvel of submission. The bible says submit one to another. When we come to one another and we are willing to submit to one another, there is always unity. When each one of us comes with a servant heart and we say, 'I am prepared to serve you and wash your feet.' And you come prepared to wash my feet, and then there is no strife. There is no striving because I have come prepared to serve you and you have come prepared to serve me. There is perfect harmony. The only reason why there is disunity would be we are no more willing to serve one another and to wash one another feet. May God deal in our hearts that we will say, "Lets serve one another."

Lets see what we can do to show our love for one another. Here you could call Jesus a spiritual giant, and yet He comes to John the Baptist and said, 'John, please baptize Me.' John felt like a small little shot and say, "How could I do it?" But Jesus says in verse 15, "Permit it to be so now."

If you read it in the Greek this is what Jesus is saying, 'Ask your permission for this to be done.' Just permit it to be done. Jesus is saying, "Can I have the permission to enter your house." If Jesus comes physically right now, Jesus won't even enter your car or house. He would still come and say, "Can I have permission to enter your car or house?" You will say, "Lord, you are my Master, you own my life." What a polite Jesus we have. We can see evidence of that in chapter 24, when Jesus Christ was about to go off, and the two disciples on the way to Emmaus had to welcome Him and persuade Him to stay. Unless He is invited He won't stay. So Jesus said, "Let permission be granted." That's what He said, "Let permission be granted now in this matter for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." It's a right thing to do in a right time. This submission He went through is slightly different from the first one. Although the factors are still there but it's slightly different. In this area of submission, it is what I call a joining of the flow of the Spirit of God, where Jesus recognized that John' ministry is vitally important. In fact all of Jesus' disciples were

in a certain sense touched by John the Baptist's ministry. Some were great followers of John the Baptist. Some were just touched. Look at the ministerial ethics involved. Jesus didn't just come and preach in the opposite corner and started taking away John the Baptist's disciples. He could have done it but Jesus came to John the Baptist and yielded to him and then John the Baptist gave permission for his disciples to follow Him. Look at the ministerial ethic involved. These are small things that matter as far as God is concerned.

Look at the gospel of John. We got to compare all the gospels to get the full picture. After He was baptized in water, Jesus kept coming to John. Now you know that He came the first time, it was for water baptism. Why do you think He came the second time?

John 1:35-36 "Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!'"

What was Jesus doing with John the Baptist? Did He start preaching yet? Not really in that sense. Why did Jesus go a second time, a third time and a fourth time? Jesus was submitting Himself to the ministry of John the Baptist and to the timing of God. So Jesus kept going there. I mean you thought, oh, He finished His water baptism and He can run off now with His ministry. It is not like that kind of submission. Submission, you say, "Let me do this one act of submission and then after this I can get away with what I really want to do." That is a right act but with a wrong attitude. Unless you are willing to submit forever it's not real. Jesus was prepared to just wait and He came when John the Baptist was still the main preacher. Jesus was the new man. Look at the ministerial ethics involved. Jesus had the ability to preach. I mean the anointing had already come on Him when He came out from the water baptism. The Spirit of God was already on Him. But Jesus just hanged around, stayed around with John the Baptist and stayed among the group.

Sometimes when you see an anointed person leading in a revival prayer, some of you may feel that you could do a better job. You think God has called you to many areas of prayers, Praise God! Just like Elisha hangs around Elijah, Jesus also hangs around John the Baptist. It doesn't mean if you hang around these people you will be limited by them. But it means that everything that they have for you can be imparted properly so that you can build on the foundation that they have for another realm. You yield, you submit and let the Spirit take His time. Usually you think its time to start your own ministry, but actually it's not time until we die to self. When that happens, then we think, God, even if its forever, no problem Lord. When you began to think that any time is fine, as long as God's will be done, then you are ready to do God's work. You began to think that, Lord, anytime is your time. My time is Your time. Then you are more ready. So Jesus hung around and waited around. John did the right thing. See this is a good reflection on John. He was not insecure. He knew where he was. He knew that the success of his ministry means as Jesus comes he could pass over to Jesus. John 1:36 "And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God.'" That day he lost two more disciples. These are all ministerial ethics.

When you want to start a church and you know that your ministry comes from another ministry, you wait. You abide your time. You don't decide your own time. God decides a time for Jesus. John the Baptist was sensitive to decide the time. What happens if John was not sensitive? God would have taken him off the scene. You

don't have to worry about that. Will you miss God's time if you submit to somebody whom God told you to submit and don't allow you to do what God wants you to do. Don't worry about it. As you keep submitting God will take that person off because God will not allow His plans to be delayed by anyone who is disobedient. He will just take John the Baptist off the scene. Thank God, John was sensitive. John says, this is the one I am talking about and more and more disciples started deserting John. More and more disciples started following Jesus. That took place for many months. Through all those times, after Jesus was baptized, He had forty days and nights in the wilderness. Then He had submission to John the Baptist for a period of time. Several months, Jesus was waiting for one signal. Jesus can not really start His ministry until John the Baptist's ministry was shut down because there can not be two opposing forces on a sense. Although there were many people who were following Jesus and whatever John gave Him He took. So somebody came to John the Baptist and said to him and made this statement to him, that would have been upset some Christian leaders if it happened to them. But John was not upset because he knew his calling.

John 3:26 "And they came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified – behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!'" So Jesus began baptizing and people are coming to Him.

Verse 27-30, "John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.'"

What a lovely man. I am sure he got a great reward in heaven. Jesus had some people following Him by now although His followers were not baptized by Him but by His disciples. Jesus had some measure of ministry but He didn't go all out yet. He didn't go all out because He was still waiting for one more signal from God. One more sign from God. He had to work in a very quiet way. He didn't really broadcast Himself. Whatever advertisement He had, He got it from John the Baptist. Until one day, the signal came. John the Baptist was put in prison. It's all the timing of God. His ministry had come to an end. The bible tells us in the gospel of Mark chapter 1:14 "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled.'" This record of Him doing all these things and announcing publicly was after John was kept in prison. The time has come so He announced.

So we see in the second lesson on submission is a different lesson compared to what we learned earlier. First of all the lessons are different. The first lesson we learned is personal ethics. He says, "Let's permit this to be done for righteousness sake," and then He waited for John to turn his disciples to Him. All these are personal and ministerial ethics that go a long way. All these are evidences of submission that we need to watch and flow along with.

So, firstly is in the area of ethical things, where we learn what is the righteous thing to do and how to fulfill righteousness. This looks like some kind of delay and it seems to hurt but it doesn't. Learning patience in the area of ethics and righteousness. Do you know that in this life, if all of us believe that what is right and wrong is the same for

everybody, there will be a tremendous peaceful world? Generally as Christians, we have a general sense of what is right and wrong but when it comes to some specific areas, people began to differ. How do they differ? According to the development in their life because Hebrew 5 says, that those who mature in God learn to discern right and wrong, which means that discerning right and wrong is a growth process.

There is something that we know the Word says it is wrong but when you began to apply to different areas and to the situational ethics that's where you are left with only your conscience in God. And you got to discern the principles in your heart. That discernment is where people differ. That's for the development of applying the Word correctly and ethically that sometimes people just cast aside. Like for me, I make a strong stand about collecting love offerings in any public ministry. I don't believe in collecting love offerings as practiced by some flamboyant evangelists. It's my ethics and I will not permit it. No matter how anointed a man of God is, I say these are principles of righteousness to me. I will not bend. I will not bow to that. No matter how famous the man of God is. I say it's wrong, that's it. I don't like a man of God coming to the pulpit, saying, "How many here have a one thousand dollar bill, how many have gold rings and how many have this or that?" To me this is wrong. But these are things that we learn to adhere to in the second process of submission. That we wait and we learn to wait until everybody flows along in that area. In the area of these small things of right and wrong, we learn what I call a patient submission.

The second area in His learning to submit was in the temptations that He had forty days in the wilderness. Jesus submitted His success, His plans, His life, and His desire to God. But behind the temptations was this, lets turn to the gospel of Matthew 4:2 for forty and nights He was already tempted. In Matthew 4:2 "And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry." Do you see the word that He was hungry? Jesus was tempted when He was hungry. When you are in an ordained fast, you normally get over the hunger. You don't feel hungry. But the moment the time period of your fast is over, you can feel the hunger. Imagine after the end of the fast, the devil came when He was hungry and said, "Turn this stone into bread." Jesus had the power to do it but He didn't want to use that power. These three temptations have to do with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.

So my friends, the second point has three sub-points. The submission that God deals in our life is in the areas of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. You may encounter some testing in submission and timing at the second phase of whatever you are doing. Maybe it's in business. As you launched out, the devil gives you an offer to compromise your Christian principles and ethics to get a million dollars. All you have to do is go along with some bribery. All you have to do is to do this illegal thing. What do you choose? Remember that principle that we have spoken? What you get by compromise you will never be able to keep to the end. Nor will you ever be satisfied. You compromised and you got it. What happen you get sleepless nights? Secondly in the end you lose it because you can't live with that kind of thing. So we realize that the second area of submission is very deep area. As you look and you ask, "Shall I yield to God's higher principles?" If you answer is yes, although it looks like you will lose but you gain on your inside. It looks like you lose on the outside but you gain on the inside. The gain on the inside will in the end lead to gain on the outside. God doesn't shortchange you. Everything that you yield to God, He bless in return.

The first submission of Jesus is with His parents and He learned the normal submission to parents' authority that we all learned as children. This is what I called the basic area of submission. Just learning to flow along with parental authority.

The second area is in the area of principles where we learn that submission and principles go together and higher principles are called in the realm of submission. Submission without principles is not submission. Most people only know the first level of submission, like the parental kind of submission or an army kind of submission. But the second level of submission goes higher. It touches on higher principles like personal ethics that you hold to and principles that you value in your life. These areas that you submit to will begin to produce another dimension in your life and ministry. That is the second phrase of submission and timing. Jesus waited until John was shut up in prison and He launched out His ministry. It was the divine timing. He did not instigate. He did not do anything to try to remove John the Baptist. He waited because He knew God has His time. He just hung around the group. He did whatever He could in His time. He did most of His ministry in private. Disciples followed Him to His house and He shared with them. He reserved His public ministry until John was put in prison and He launched out because now He is ready. He was all tested and proven. God gave Him great success. That went on for three years. At the end of the three years, there was the third area of submission that God dealt with His life.

Luke 9:51 "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem."

When He knew that the time had come and He had to submit to something else, something else that even His own disciples could not understand and comprehend. The third level is awesome.

It is like Abraham giving his son Isaac. Because what you give up is what God gave. Do you know that Abraham went through these three realms of submission? God first called Him out of the land of Ur. Abraham wrestled with submitting to God's call in his life. God called him again after his father died. Which means that he found it difficult to submit to God and leave while his father was still alive. There was a struggle in his life. When his father died, he yielded to the call of God to go out of the land of Ur. So he overcame the first level. Then at the second level, he didn't fully obey God's command. God said, "Leave your kinsfolk." He had one kinsfolk with him called Lot. So finally they had problems with one another. And here is where Abraham yielded everything to God. He couldn't care for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. He said, "Lot, if you turn left I will turn right." Although Abraham was older and Abraham had the first choice yet Abraham said, 'Lot, you go and take your first choice, I don't mind anything. I give you first preference.' You see, Abraham was tested in the area of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. What kind of man he was. It was like the temptation of the forty days in the wilderness. He went through all these all the time. The bible tells us that when Lot left him, God said, 'Abraham, look up, lift up your eyes and see the land I give to you.' So God waited until that area was dealt with in his life. He knew what kind of heart Abraham had. You learned about the story when Abraham delivered Lot and all these other people of Sodom and Gomorrah and then Melchizedek came to him and blessed him. The king of Sodom said, "You can keep everything." Abraham said, 'I will not take one shoe string from you.' He was being

tested on the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. When he passed all these tests, God's blessing came on his life. The final test of Abraham was in Genesis 22 when God said, 'Abraham, give me your son.'

The final test of Jesus when He was successful was when He was told by the Father to give His life for the world. This was something that His disciples never fully understood. Now here is a point. Jesus yielded His submission even when His parents didn't understand Him. Because He succeeded in the first level of submission, and in the second level where He submitted to John the Baptist's ministry, now in the third level He could push through ahead of what God told Him to do even though His disciples did not understand Him. That was how submissive He was to God.

Lets look at His disciples' reaction when Jesus started going forth. In Luke chapter 9:51 "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and He sent messengers" to prepare the way. Verse 53, "But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem." I mean the people who receive Him, now didn't receive Him anymore. He just pressed on. He knew His destiny, like a lamb led to a slaughter. When He heard God, He will just yield to God's call for giving up His life.

In Matthew 18, the disciples knew that something was up and they were saying to one another. They came to him and said, "Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" The disciples started arguing about this because they thought that some great kingdom was going to be set up in Jerusalem. There is the misunderstanding of what Jesus meant when He was going to Jerusalem.

Mark 9:30-32 "Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, 'The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day. But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.'

There were amazement, bewilderment; all these were taking place among His disciples. The force of submission drove Jesus as He prayed and tarried in Gethsemane, and went on in Jerusalem to the cross. Submitting ultimately to the Father's will whatever happens. What divine submission. What is involved here in this third level of submission? It means that is completely, everything that He had from God is also taken from Him. At least at level one, what He had from God was still there. At level two when He submitted to John the Baptist's ministry, what He had from God was still there except that it was waiting to be manifested. But at level three, everything, all the success He had, He was willing to surrender to God. In other words, the eyesight you received from God, you are willing to give it back to God. Abraham knew he risked everything when he offered his son Isaac. It was up to God. He knew God could do it but it was still up to God. That was the level of submission.

The three children, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, said to king Nebuchadnezzar that if God were to save their lives, that is fine but if God doesn't save their lives that is also fine. They are not going to bow to idols. See they had the level of submission that surpasses even the natural. This third level is very high. It's the giving up of everything. Usually the third level you do it alone because everything is stripped from your life. It's literally like the cross. Everything that is

there is stripped from Him. All you have is God and the divine knowledge that you are doing what God wants you to do. I don't know if anyone of you have been there, but it's the most difficult thing to do. Now these three comes in cycles too in our life; they come with each phase in our life and in ministry but the third submission is more powerful than we think.

Now if you read I Peter 2, you realize that the topic was on submission. In verse 13 it says, "Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme. Then in verse 18, "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear." So the example he is talking about is submission. In verse 21, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sins, Nor was deceit found in His mouth."

Look at that kind of submission. I mean He just sealed His mouth. Pontius Pilate questioned Him but He didn't answer a word except for a certain point where the name of God was involved. Verse 23, "When He was reviled, did not reviled in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously." That's the high quality of submission. Total, everything. God doesn't bring us to the third level until we passed the first and second level. In the third level, we see it's like the kind of sacrifice where Abraham sacrificed Isaac. It's total complete and you and God. When Abraham was offering Isaac, he had nobody, not even his family. It was he and God. If he makes it, he made it. If he fails, he failed. It's something that you go alone.

No.2 in the third level, the submission is not for you. The first two levels are for yourself. The most remarkable thing about this third level of submission is for those around you to be blessed. What is Jesus doing at this third level? He is giving Himself as a sacrifice for us. The women cried when He carried the cross up the hill and He said, "Women don't weep for Me but weep for yourself." Because He knew that this doing was to bring forth something for His disciples and for the others. He knew that this sacrifice He paid was not for Himself but it's for others. The first two levels of submission are just; the first one is learning authority. The second is waiting for the time of your gift and has to do with principles. The first one has to do with authority is learning to work with authority which all of us struggle at different time. The second has to do with principles. The third has to do with life. First you give up your own life and then others will get life because of your sacrifice. If you could give your life then other lives will come forth.

I remembered the man who first translated the bible into English. All because he translated the bible, he received much opposition and persecution at that time. See sometimes to turn the tide you got to lay down your life. You have to lay down one life in order that the tide will change. Do you know sometimes when I pray for our nation, I weep and cry because I know that there are some in our nation who never have the chance to hear the gospel. You know whom I am talking about. I know in my heart that it will take some lives that are sacrificed before this group can hear. Not sacrificed in vain but it will take some lives at the third stage of submitting to the will of God. God will call forth some to be martyrs but the blood that is shed will open the door for thousands to come into the kingdom of God. I wonder whom God will call to that task. You can obviously see that unless we go through the first two stages, we can not understand the third stage. When John Wycliff translated the bible into English, he

knew that he could die for doing so. But yet he did it because there was another hand leading him. There was a hand higher than the human hands that were laid upon him. There's another hand compelling him.

Like Paul, Paul says, 'I go bound in the Spirit.' There's something higher. Even if we live to 120 years old, it will still be short compared to eternity. If we live our little life for a cause bigger than us, it will leave a great impact. John Wycliff knew that something was bigger than he is individually. When the authorities found out about his translation they arrested him. It was a custom of that time to burn such people considered as heretics publicly. As they put the firewood around him and hung him up to be burned at the stake that one life was sacrificed for generations down the road. You say, 'Brother, isn't the Blood of Jesus Christ enough?' My friends, the world will not come to know the Lord Jesus unless we have people who are willing to lay down their lives and blood for Jesus. We can confess prosperity, we can confess protection but there are some places and some groups and some doors that are never opened unless human blood is shed to open those doors. As he laid his life at the stake he did it not for himself. He didn't translate the bible for himself. If he dies his children and his wife will miss him. He put aside his family because there was something bigger that he must submit to for eternity. As he died on the stake burning, he said, 'God open the eyes of the king of England' and he died. Years later his prayers were answered. God opened the eyes of the king and the king commissioned the King James translation. From that time onwards the bible came into the hands of the common men on the street. I want you to know the bible you hold in your hand didn't come without blood being shed. I want you to know that history is being made that day when John Wycliff lost his life. History is being made all the time. If you want to make history, you must move to the third stage because in order to change the forces that need change, we have to love God onto death. Then and only then we can change the world.

At one point the church of Jesus Christ was being persecuted right and left. But there was one righteous man called Stephen. As he was persecuted and as he died, he said, 'Lord, lay not this charge on them,' and God took that one prayer and He started working in Saul's life and converted him. In Act 9, we are told when Paul was converted Jesus appeared and said, 'I will show you how many things you must suffer for My Name's sake.' Preaching the gospel is not just for the sake of amassing prosperity; there is something deeper that should be working in our life. Paul says in II Cor.4, we give our lives daily. The dying of our Lord Jesus Christ is on us so that life may come forth. That's the submission he is talking about. Unless we are willing to give ourselves to the degree of submission, we can not make history and change the world for God. But when we are willing, there will be a quickening of the spirit because God honors that kind of submission. It's eternal powerful and thousands can come to God as a result of that one life that is shed as a seed. Where is your level of submission? Is it at level one in authority? Or level two in principle? Or level three in life? How do you measure your submission? Lets move deep into what God bring us to submit to. Submission and timing is a divine combination.