



# **ETERNAL LIFE**

**THE NATURE OF GOD IN US**

**Awudese Azibalua**



# **ETERNAL LIFE**

**THE NATURE OF GOD IN US**

**Awudese Azibalua**

---

© Copyright 2004  
Awudese Azibalua

*First Published 2004*  
*Second Published 2024*

**All Rights Reserved**

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Nor shall it be sold or circulated in any form, binding or cover other than that in which it is published.

**ISBN: 978-36356-7-0**

## PREFACE



Christianity had been misconstrued as going to Church on Sundays. It is taken to mean becoming a member of a church denomination. Our knowledge of the good Christian is in terms of church attendance and on how much money he is able to donate to the denomination. There is confusion in man's thought about God.

But Christianity is not a religion. It is not joining a church, it is not a creed. Christianity is not having your sins forgiven but the reality of one becoming a new creation.

This book is intended to give the believer a picture of the true life of son of God as a new creation man, to explain the truth of one being born from above and the mystery of the word in this recreation and the work of the Holy-Spirit.

The book is divided into six chapters.

Chapter one is a summary of creation, the purpose of creation, the fall of man and the consequence of his fall.

Chapter two deals with the solution which God brought to man for his salvation, and the nature of the new relationship between God and Man.

Chapter three tries to show the suffering of the Christians in the present world as a part of the redemption plan which is the price which man will pay in his redemption.

Chapter four teaches about the word of God, the process of man's recreation through the word and the new spirit life.

Chapter five tries to show the devil in terms of manifestations in his nature and wisdom and the ability to kill those with eternal life through his doctrine.

Chapter six tries to give a picture of the fullness of Christ and to show how we can attain it.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT



No one can interpret the scripture except power is given from above. I thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus for giving me the grace to reveal His will on us in this book. I give Him thanks for raising teachers and prophets and for making me to see one in my generation. The truth and the abundant revelations given to our beloved Bro. Moris Kofi Odubo is an eye opener to me. It gives me the inspiration to hold on the Lord. God is indeed willing to save us to the uttermost by His Spirit if only we can accept His message. Bro. Odubo is a man I will always remember for his unshakable faith and love, and for the mysteries of the hidden things, which God revealed to him by Christ Jesus. His teachings have converted many including me, his words of encouragement had made me to look forward to the unseen. He made me know the reality of devil and his demon hosts as our real enemy. His teachings have made me have a radical view on perfection. I believe without doubt that no sinner is a Christian and nothing unclean will enter into the kingdom of God's beloved son, Jesus Christ. I John 3:9.

I thank the elders and deacons of Gospel deliverance mission who have worked hard to maintain the foundation as a free school for all that want to be Christians. I thank them for giving me the assistance and for preserving the foundation even in the midst of threats. I will always remember to mention them in my

stewardship, notably Bro. Clifford Isaiah, Bro. Felix Anyaeji, Bro. Goodluck Oke, Bro. Mayor Braide, Bro. Adolphus Nweke, Bro. Adoki Abiye, Bro. Jacob Kiarema, Bro. Anthony Ibomoghe etc. and every other member of the study center. My immense gratitude goes to Bro. Tonbra Robert Odubo who took time and patience to read through the scripts. I thank the publication committee for their encouragement and co-operation. I give thanks to sister Janet Odubo for her motherly care and words of encouragement.

I believe this book will be a source of inspiration to those who desire for the truth about God and His kingdom on earth.

# CONTENTS



	PAGES
<b>CHAPTER 1.</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
a. Creation	1
b. The Fall of Man	5
<b>CHAPTER 2.</b>	
<b>THE GRACE OF GOD</b>	15
a. Establishing Us in the Faith of Christ Jesus	17
b. What is Faith?	21
c. Understanding God's message	35
d. A Kingdom of Righteous People only	37
<b>CHAPTER 3.</b>	
<b>SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING IN CHRIST</b>	40
a. Salvation: A Gift But!	40
b. Wisdom	52
c. Perfecting through Suffering in Christ	56
d. Deceitful Gospel of Materialism	61
e. Conversion	64
f. Perfection: is it now or after Death?	67
<b>CHAPTER 4.</b>	
<b>THE WORD OF GOD, THE POWER OF SALVATION</b>	72
a. Two Kinds of Life	72
b. The illuminating Power of the Word	79
c. The Human Body, the Soul and the Spirit	86
d. Walking in the Spirit	98
e. Eternal Life	101



f. Exercising Ourselves on the Word	115
g. Cheerful Giving	117
h. Holiness	120

## **CHAPTER 5.**

<b>HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN DIE?</b>	124
a. What is Death?	124
b. Who is a Christian?	125
c. What is Temptation	128
d. Who or what is Devil?	130

## **CHAPTER 6.**

<b>ATTAINING THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST</b>	140
a. The Light of Life (Love)	140
b. The Word of Testimony	147
c. Attaining the Fullness of Christ	150
d. Comparing Spiritual Things with Spirituals	160
e. Freedom from Strongholds (Faith)	174
f. Ascending unto the Throne	177
g. Prosperity in Christ	181
h. We are Healed	188
i. Learn to carry Yourself	192
j. Discovering the Way	194

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION



**T**he evidence of the kingdom of God on earth is the Word and the Holy Spirit. The word and the spirit are in the new creation man. The word which is the nature of the Father and the Holy spirit also called the spirit of God are in man. This shows that God is manifested in the world.

#### **Creation**

Creation was made because of God's desire for children. To make his desires real, God framed in his heart what his children would look like. The being which God would raise up to be his son was to be called man. This is the true concept of predestination. Man was predestinated to be Son of God even before the world was formed (Eph. 1: 4-5).

God created the heavens and the earth by His word, but He created man with His hands and by His breath. The peculiar nature of man in the universe shows he was made by a perfect and wonderful being.

God created the world in six days, but a day with God is like a thousand years to man. God's calendar is not the same with that of fallen man. Here is wisdom.

God created light on the first day. This Light means the presence and glory of God in the deep (Ps.

139:12). He revealed His glory and presence within the deep. The earth was without form; it was void, but God manifested His presence and principles of life and eternal relationship.

Man that should be created would be a spirit in the likeness of God, therefore the glory of the heavens must be manifested in man's home. The light of the first day was the glory of God manifested in the home of man who himself was to be a spirit.

Man is to defer a little from the heavenly, so He was clothed with a body of flesh and blood, a house made of things of earth, and he lives in it as a moving earthly tabernacle (2Cor. 5:1).

In the midst of the glory of God the waters within the deep was separated to create a firmament, the space limit of the home of man. From the water below the firmament, God commanded land to appear. By His command, the solid earth, the vegetables, the forests and grasses were created on the third day. They existed before the sun and the moon were created. This is one of the mysteries of creation. How were they sustained? By the presence and power of God. The sun and the moon were created later just for the sake of man's flesh, because they would determine the earthly days and nights and seasons according to the physical lights which were designed for the flesh and not for man's spirit.

That is to say, before the heavenly bodies were formed, the earth physically was in darkness but

spiritually was illuminated by the glory of God, and the vegetation's were potentially there on it. Remember that a day with God is like a thousand years to man. The scientists should know that creation was not by chance because chance cannot create such a perfection.

The argument that God created more persons beside Adam and Eve is clear evidence that man by wisdom does not know God again (1Cor.1: 21, Gen. 1:27).

The first sons of Adam were Cain and Abel, daughters not mention, being normal with bible account. Cain killed Abel but married later. How does he get his wife? He married a descendant of Adam. In those days, people lived up to 900 years. They do not die when they are born. Cain must have lived in the same life span.

Before Adam was 130 years old Cain had received the curse already. At that age Adam had started having other sons and daughters and this he did until he died at the age of 930. The span of life was enough for a pair of male and female to produce a city, and beside this, children do not die when they were born except being killed by man or by a beast (Gen. 5: 3-5). In those days men were permitted to marry their sisters. This was the tradition in the world before the Law of Moses.

Some big cities in the world were formed by a man and a woman, yet such cities are not up to 200 years old. By the time Cain must have wondered for 400

years, it was enough for him to see a city. And if he was married, at the age of 500 years, it was enough for him to form a city of his own before his death probably at the age of 900. There was no infant mortality, people multiplied in geometric progression, and God did not create other beings as taught by some.

The interpretation that angels came down from heaven to marry daughters of men is indeed an indication that the carnal man does not understand things of the spirit. Angels were not created as sons of God, neither do angels come to have sex with daughters of men as thought by many. Angels were created as servants (Heb 1:14). None of them had been called son by God at any time since the world began (Heb 1:5). Angels are spirits and have no flesh and blood and cannot produce a body of flesh and blood. Angels have no sex organ and do not marry (Matt 22:30).

Man in the mind of justice according to the government of God, is crown of creation. He is the express image and glory of God, while the woman is the image and glory of the man (1Cor. 11:7). Therefore from the cradle, men were called sons of God and women daughters of men. At the time of old, Job and all wise and righteous men including the friends of Job were seen by God as appearing before him always as they gather because he was delighted in them (Gen. 6:1-2; Job 1: 6). Sons of God means

human beings. Adam was created son of God (Luke 3:38) and though he fell and his descendants were alienated from God, the fact still remained that they were the grand sons of God by creation law.

### **The Fall of Man**

Things seen and those not seen are created by a being not seen. That is God Almighty. He created the world in six days (six days of God's calendar) (Ps. 90:4).

These things were created because of man. Man has been the center of God's plan and creative thought. He needed a son that should be in fellowship with Him as a companion and as an associate in His eternity. He must be perfect, harmonious, and without blame, always before him in love (Eph. 1:4).

This man that should be Son of God was to be the crown of all creation, to rule over all the works of God (Ps. 8:6). Man was the most wonderful being in the scheme of things because of the position he would hold in the world according to the creator's heart, in his dream, and in his eternity (Eph. 1:4). God actually created man in his image and likeness and gave him dominion over all things.

This dominion was not only over things that were seen but it included spiritual dominion and creative ability. Man ruled not only the animal and vegetable kingdoms but also the forces of nature. The superman Jesus is an example of man's authority in the universe (Gen. 1: 26-28).

Man had this dominion because he was created as the image of God. That is, man by nature was like God, and his voice was like the voice of God to all creation. He was breathed out of God. When God moulded the dust of the earth, it was a house in which the spirit should dwell. But God breathed into its nostrils, and it became a living soul. What came out of the breath of God is actually the human spirit (Gen. 2:7, Ps. 104:29-30).

So, man was created a spirit being but possessing an earthly body. The spirit is the real man which was made as the image and likeness of God. It is called the inner man or hidden man of the heart. Since the spirit is from God, the outward character, conduct and behaviour of man was a reflection of the life of the inner man who is like God. Jesus Christ demonstrated this life in his earth walk because he was the image of God. He was an example of the life of the true man, the first Adam if he had not fallen. He said, "I am the light of the world".

God is love (1 John 4:8). This love nature harmonizes God and creation and guarantees eternal peace, joy, and rest in the universe. The spirits that have this nature are described as living. Adam was created with this love life, and was as righteous as God. He had the very nature and righteousness of God in himself (Gen. 1:31). There was nothing like Adamic nature. He was created as the image and likeness of God, Adam at creation had the very nature of God.

Man was created into the class of God to rule the works of God but was to be subject to his maker. He was to learn obedience in the Garden of Eden. He was commanded to keep away from the tree of knowledge of good and evil as a sign of obedience to God, his creator, and he was warned that in dying he will surely die if he dares eat of the fruit. If that tree was not planted, God would have provided another means of making Adam learn obedience.

However, Adam ate the fruit he was commanded not to eat, probably because his wife Eve gave it to him. His sin is not only the sin of disobedience but a High Treason against God. He refused the rulership of the Father over him. His action brought sin consciousness, sense of unworthiness and inferiority complex. The love that enabled him to be at peace with the Father disappeared, his fellowship with God was broken. Adam was fallen and separated from God his maker.

Because of his sin, his nature underwent a complete change. When God came down, Adam ran away and hid himself. He had no legal standing with God anymore. Man and God had separated (Gen. 3: 8-10, 24).

There is a being called Satan who had received curse from God because of Treason in heaven. Because of the curse, his nature changed, and became an evil spirit. He has no life in himself, now the opposite of



God. His cursed nature is called death or spiritual death, the very opposite of God. Satan was cast down from heaven by God without removing his powers. He is condemned awaiting destruction by fire (Rev. 20:13-15). When God drove him out of heaven, God knew that Adam who was created as son, and who had the ability and wisdom of God would rule Satan who was created as a mere servant (Heb. 1:14). Satan, with his corrupt wisdom, wickedness and deceitfulness tempted Eve and she fell, and consequently Adam became a victim also. He made man become partaker of his curse to suffer the same condemnation with him in the lake of fire. This corrupt nature of devil in man's spirit, means man is a partaker of spiritual death. Since Satan is the author and head of the spiritually dead, he is now the ruler and spiritual father of man. As ruler of man, Satan took over the dominion of Adam and made him a crippling slave and a servant of sin (Luke 4:6). As a new father to man, he had done everything he could to establish his rulership over the earth. He has blinded man and made him the enemy of God (John 8:44).

The nature of devil in man called spiritual death is the root of all that is evil in man. It makes him not only a sinner but sin itself. Man by nature is evil. This nature was passed from Adam to all men (Rom. 5:12) making every man a sinner. From Adam to Moses till the day Jesus was crucified, every man born of a man and a woman had this spiritual death. It is the actual sin in man that makes man appear before God condemned

already (John 3:18, Rom. 7:24). It makes man abnormal with innumerable problems including sicknesses and diseases, want, failure and physical death. Since Satan is the god and ruler of the world, he had breathed the same curse to the animals and vegetable kingdoms. Nothing is pure anymore according to the creator's design. He has turned all to his own advantage all for the destruction of man.

The work of redemption was therefore to remove this spiritual death in man's spirit through the precious and supernatural blood of Jesus Christ, so as to enable man receive back life eternal from the Father, to re-establish his pre-sin relationship with God. This will enable man to walk in the righteousness of God to utilize his Father's divine ability to re-conquer the earth and break the rulership of the devil over his life. This will also enable him escape destruction by fire since his sonship rights and privileges would be restored.

Though man is fallen, traces of his dominion over the earth are still evident. Man moves in the air land and sea in speed faster than the swiftest bird, he communicates his thoughts around the world within second, he had worked on the available stock of mineral resources to bring joy to himself. Yet these are the activities of a fallen man. It is therefore evident that if man had not fallen, he would have indeed been a wonderful being in the universe. The hope is not lost, accept the finished work of Christ and you will be restored as sons of God.

### **Selfishness: The Realm of Death.**

Selfishness is the desire to satisfy self-first. It is the opposite and enemy of love. It works to preserve self-interest, considering only things of personal welfare, and things of one's group interest and not caring for things that would help other people. It is the absence of love for others. This is the realm of devil. Selfishness is the mother of sins. It cries for its own, it clamours to get its share, it desires to have it and even if it has, it is never satisfied. Selfishness gives rise to fear, insecurity, want, covenant breaking, etc. It leads to lying, hatred, revenge, deceit, craftiness, etc. It is the reason for wars, strife, eye service, etc. The desire for self-gratification leads to fornication, adultery, stealing, robbery, extortion, uncleanness, etc. It is the foundation of envy, lust, want and wickedness.

The human body is made up of departments, which are called members of the body. These include the eyes, mouth, ears, nose, the belly, the hands, legs, the reproductive organs, etc. Each of these as a department desire to satisfy itself.

The eyes want to see the good scenes of the world. Majority of these sights are manipulations of Satan e.g., dances, drama, the battlefield, the nude display, etc. The ears desire to hear the sweet things of the world. e.g., the music, the tales, the corrupt communications, etc. And the tongue desires to enjoy good and sweet taste even if it is dangerous to the body. The stomach desires to be filled. The legs and the hands are always ready to carry out their

functions to satisfy the self. Unfortunately, worldly and fleshly desires are under the influence of Satan who rules man without power to resist.

There is an aspect of the human personality whose desires are ignored. That is the human spirit. It was created as the image and likeness of God. It has the desires of God. It is the light of God in the body (Prov 20:27). The spirit had been made silent by the works of the flesh. It is held captive by the senses, it is in the realm of death.

Selfishness is the realm of devil as love is the realm of God. It is darkness, which is of the spirit. It hinders the light of love to shine, it distorts and frustrates the wisdom of God. It makes the individual ignorant of the things of God. It is the blindness that is in the unrenewed mind, the nature of devil that is dominating the human personality. It hinders man from knowing God.

The new creation is born out of a love life. He is said to be alive because he is a partaker of divine nature. God is life and his nature is life eternal. The new man has this eternal life in his spirit. He has been born into the nature of Christ. The entrance of selfishness into a new creation is sin. It kills the new man and robs him of his love nature.

Selfishness is unrighteousness itself. It is like a tree that has many branches with fruits in them. These fruits are known as fruits of unrighteousness e.g., lust, covetousness, envy, pride, hatred, boastfulness, wickedness, extortion, oppression, strife, wars, etc.

Jesus' kind of love is the foundation of God's own righteousness. It is like a tree with branches each bearing fruits. These branches are the wisdom and the ability inherent in love to change situations. These are called fruits of righteousness. When we walk in the love of Christ, then we are walking in the righteousness of God. Love is the law or nature of the spirit of life. The new creation is walking in a sea of life, the realm of God.

When we are in his love we will never sin because His nature in us will constrain us from sin. Love is called the seed of God. It is the manifestation of God. When we are in him and he in us by his love, then we are His and we will exercise His ability (1 John 3:9, 2Peter 1:3-11).

### **The Worldly Mind**

The heart is an organ of the body, but it is considered as the center of the human thoughts. The heart is transcendental of a spiritual state. It defines the personality of the individual.

The heart is not the mind. The fleshly mind works with our feelings and emotions, from our senses in contact with the environment. When man was breathed out of God, his heart had the same principles of life and standards of judgement as that of God.

God is love. A brief definition of the nature of his heart is charity, because man was created in this love nature. Man was created as an under-ruler of God,

and his heart and mind were the same with that of God.

Man was endowed with riches, glory and honour. He did not lack or want. Selfishness was unknown to him. There was no appropriation and accumulation. The desire for wealth beyond personal need was unknown. This desire entered into man when he fell short of the glory of God. God cursed the ground and withdrew its essence. Though this curse had been withdrawn by God, Satan already has taken over the rulership of the remnant. He would give only to whomsoever he wills (Lk 4:6).

Now man lacks the basic resources with which he will meet up his needs. This creates the signal that he is not safe. Satan being the ruler of the worldly resources, he is using them to manipulate man to abandon his divine obligation to think of himself first for his survival. His love has been destroyed. The absence of love in his mind is the reason for corruption, craftiness, lust, covetousness, envy, pride, maliciousness, boastfulness, etc. and every kind of evil we can think of.

As man seeks, and clamours and fights for his interest, his mind is now materialistic, vain and desperately wicked. Man sees himself in his relationship with others only in terms of resources. Vanity means an illusory sense of wellbeing or an unreal perception of oneself. This is the worldly mind. The rich see the poor in terms of his riches and feel superior. He considers himself higher and more

powerful, he sees himself as a ruler. He is blind from the truth about God, his carnal mind has made him an enemy of God (Rom 8:7).

The remedy for the fallen man is the word of God. God has given us his word that it should be our mind, our thinking and reasoning, our will and nature. The word should be our opinion, understanding, wisdom, knowledge, our feelings, emotions, etc. (Deut. 4:6). That our human knowledge, wisdom, understanding, emotions and experiences which are generated through our contact with the world must be ruled, controlled and regulated by the word of God in us. The word must be built into our hearts and memory to take on the rulership of our being. The word is quick and powerful, speaking vividly regulating, controlling, over-ruling and suppressing our feelings and emotions. This word in us is Christ (Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:16-19, 2 Tim. 3:15-17).

The word enables us to walk in the righteousness of the Father, it brings us into fellowship with him. It lightens and broadens our heart, removing selfishness, imposing charity, the nature of God. We are born again through the word of truth. The worldly mind is the burden man is carrying and the word of God is for his healing (2Cor. 10: 4-5).

Man is sick with all kinds of vain imaginations. His life is a burden to him. The burden of envy, and of the materialistic mind, and of lust and of ignorance have robbed the unsaved man of peace and rest.

## CHAPTER 2.

### THE GRACE OF GOD



**G**OD created man as a companion to have dominion over creation. He was created as son of God. But he had fallen and is now different from the man that was crowned as Son. He sinned and fell short of the glory of God. He had lost all his sonship rights and privileges; he had been turned an enemy of God.

Man is condemned and doomed to be eliminated from the face of the earth. God would not withstand the ugly appearance of sin in him. It reminds him of his death and unworthiness to possess the earth. The first world was destroyed, and only Noah and his family were saved. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed; the inhabitants of Canaan were cut off and the land given to Abraham. God killed heathen nations who stood against His people, Israel, because they were condemned already (John 3:18).

The covenant children of Israel were not spared. The wicked and idolaters were killed: i.e., witchcrafts, sorcerers, diviners, adulterers and fornicators and immoral people, disobedient and wicked children were killed.

Injury was recompensed for injury: eye for eye foot for foot, leg for leg, hand for hand, etc. because the spiritually dead man is ignorant of the effect of his



actions towards others. And he must be made to suffer what he has done to others. The world would be destroyed on the day of God's vengeance.

A man could be justified only when he satisfied the requirements of the law. This was the government until Christ came. The coming of Jesus Christ was known as reformation. It is the establishment of a new dispensation known as grace (Heb. 9:10 John 1:17). Grace means undeserved love pouring out from God towards fallen man. Christ is the salt of the earth. The law of grace demands that the sinner should be allowed to live to amend his ways. He is to live to know Christ so that he would be saved.

God's grace towards us is the mystery of Christ becoming sin that we might be righteous, about Christ dying that we might live, and Christ being condemned that we might be free. What is left is for us to realize or to believe that we are free from our past sins and condemnation and that we are now righteous through the operation of the grace of God. If we know this, then we will know why we are not expected to continue with our former sinful life.

The commandment of the present dispensation is to love as been demonstrated by Christ to be legally adopted as sons of God. God no longer desire that the sinner should die. That the ungodly should live to know Christ and be reconciled with God. This is grace.

The effect of grace is that the sinner can pray to God,

and He will answer on the ground of grace, but note “do we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid”. Rom 6:1. If the sinner does not repent, he has no legal right to demand from God.

Many have received the grace of God in vain because they refuse to repent to be transformed in their life on earth. They live and die as sinners. They have missed the opportunity given to them to escape condemnation. They will find themselves in the lake of fire.

### **Establishing Us in the Faith of Christ Jesus.**

God sent his beloved son from heaven into the evil world to meet the unsaved man and save him from condemnation. He came to suffer the penalty the human race owes to the judicial council of God for its transgression.

Man disobeyed God and was condemned, and for man to be free, the issue of his disobedience must be resolved. Jesus came to satisfy the requirements of obedience for man. He has actually done all to satisfy God in all His requirements on man for obedience. Christ came in flesh and blood in the likeness of sinful man, and while in the flesh, he overcame sin and condemned it. Rom 8:3. Though he knew no sin he still carried the pains of sinners. He did these to please the Father. He poured out his soul unto death and bare the sins of others (Isa 53:4-12).

Our salvation depends on our ability to believe the realities of the operations of God in receiving us

through Christ. When the Father tells us we are free by the death of Christ we should see ourselves as being set free indeed. He was wounded for our transgressions and was bruised for our iniquities. Those things that rob us of peace are now put on him. The Father has laid on him all our sins, He has accepted us as his children, because He condemned Christ on our behalf. Our faith in his works is to believe that we are now acceptable as children of God, and no longer to do those things that bring condemnation to man since we are now free from our past sins. We are to believe we are righteous because he has carried our sins, we are healed because he has carried our sicknesses and diseases and are free from condemnation because he has been condemned on our behalf. Our ability to believe in this and to testify of His works on our behalf and of our salvation through him is the faith required for our justification (2Cor. 5: 21, Rom. 4: 25).

Man must suffer for his evil. He must pay the penalty for his sin according to God's judicial council. The wages of sin is death and hell is his lot. Jesus had done all on behalf of man. He suffered and died and went to hell, and in three days he resurrected by the justification and power of God. He is now in heaven with newness of spirit life. Those who accept His work on their behalf, who have given up themselves to Him to be their Lord and Saviour have in the mind of justice suffered with him and have been justified with Him in His resurrection. Being married to Him as it were, have died with him and have resurrected with

Him into newness of life. If one died for our sins, then we have all died and because he now lives in the mind of justice, we are also alive with him. He was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification (Rom 4:25, 2Cor. 5:14-15).

Our justification depends on our acceptance of Him. His death on the cross is substitutionary. The sinner has the sentence of death which had been passed on him already, waiting for the destruction of second death on the last day of God's vengeance (John 3:18, Rev 20:14-15). This condemnation can be waived off if a free man can die on His behalf. The law was a shadow of things to come, a schoolmaster to give us the knowledge of Christ redemption work. Under the law, the sinner offered blood sacrifice for his sin. But these could not take away sin because they were mere lessons pointing to the future concerning the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

The death of Christ is for us if we agree that He really died on the cross for us. The human race was condemned through Adam, and Christ came to redeem them. Salvation through the death of Christ is a matter of understanding and agreement. Christ died for those who agree to live on His behalf. Justice demands that if one is to die for another, the man that had been saved must not consider himself free to live for himself but to the man that had died for him. Therefore, it is believed that when he is set free, he will go straight to his saviour's house and assume his position to walk in His name, and on his behalf, in

order to sustain His saviour's name (2Cor 5:14-15). The work of Christ is stored up for those who accept His substitutional work, who take Him as Lord and saviour, who walk in His life and who suffer in His name. Salvation is for those who believe in Him only. They are not to live of their own because they have been bought with a price. If you agree to give up yourself for the price of His death for Him to own you, then His home is your home, and His Father your Father. It cost Him His life to save you, but the only thing required of you which is the price you will pay to Him is to deny yourself of your freedom and affections and lust and to live in His love life. It means repentance.

Justification and salvation of the sinner is now possible if the sinner can identify himself with Jesus Christ. The reality of his acceptance should be seen in his faith through action. His thoughts must be that: 'Jesus had paid the penalty for my sin; I am free from sin. I have been uplifted with him to the new heavenly life which he showed me before his death. I have died in my sin and was buried with him in baptism, and I have resurrected with him into a spirit life. My body of sin is dead, yet I live but not I, but Christ living in me. My body is now his body. I am alive with him. I have accepted his work on my behalf. I do not live a life of my own anymore but for him. I am now in his estate. His home is my home and his Father my Father. His voice is my voice, his heart is my heart, and his mind my mind. I am in him and he in me as he is in the Father and the Father in him. He is the living

word, the righteousness of God, he is my life. I am the righteousness of God in him. His name is my name and his power my power because I walk in his being, in his name and in his power. Now, I am not of the world. I am now a new creation and a child of God.

### **What is Faith?**

Paul defined faith as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11: 1. It means accepting that you now have what you hope to get based on the evidence you have. The evidence has shown you have it already. Faith is always now rejoicing in the present. The evidence is the word of God. God is the author of all things. He created the world by His word, and what He says is what has always been. If God tells us He has given us something, we must believe we have it already because he has said it. If he says he has done something, He expects us to believe that it is perfectly done because he does not lie and does not fail. If God says He has put our sins on Christ Jesus and that we are now free, our duty is to believe and to go and sin no more. Our faith in Christ is that we believe he has saved us from our past sins and from the sin we all inherited from Adam, and now, we are free. Therefore, we will no longer continue to do those things that brought condemnation to us since we desire to be with God and with Christ. Repentance is the fruit of our faith in Christ. Without repentance there is no faith of salvation.

### **The Origin of the Christian Faith.**

Man's knowledge of God was destroyed through the fall of Adam. He became flesh meaning blindness to spiritual truth. The fallen man does not know things of the spirit of God, he does not understand and does not believe because they appear as foolishness to him (1Cor. 2: 14). He is negative to God in his thoughts, and in his reasoning and manner of life. He walks in his own way according to the dictates of his senses and not according to God. He does not see things of God as real. Though he knows God is there in heaven, his understanding about Him is vague. He does not know God as God. The word of God has no meaning to him. He is blind from the truth about Him.

The history of man in his relationship with God since after the fall of man have been that of rebellion. Men have covered the surface of the earth since history, but only scanty and very insignificant number are said to have pleased God in some way. Enoch, Noah and Abraham are startling examples. Abraham believed the words of God and became His friend. By faith in His words God elected his descendants as chosen people who would be trained to know Him.

The actual faith that brings redemption to man is our faith in Christ. But before this opportunity was brought, God used people of Israel as the means by which faith in God would be cultivated to mankind. Everything that happens to Israel in its relationship with God was a schoolmaster to teach us and to bring us to our faith in Christ which was to come in the future (Gal. 4:1-4, Gal. 3:22-23).

God made Israel to pass through some difficulties after which He manifested himself to set them free to let them know His power and the realities of His promises. God sent them to Egypt to be in bondage and promised He would save them (Gen. 15: 13-14). We know the salvation of Israel in Egypt how through a mighty hand God saved them. God saved them and made a covenant with them. The covenant was that of faith in the word of God.

“If thou shall indeed obey my voice and do all that I speak then, I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and adversary unto thine adversaries... and I shall bless thy bread, and thy water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee” (Ex. 23: 22-25).

Those who believed God reached the Promised Land. Those who do not believe perished by the way. When Israel kept the words of God they triumphed over their enemies, but when they ignored his words, they were defeated.

### **Jesus Tells of His Faith**

Jesus said the Father loved him because he believed Him (John 8: 28-29). He kept His commandment and ready to lay down his life as he commanded for the salvation of man. This commandment of giving up his life for man was from the Father. The Father told him, if he lays down his life he would have it back again. John 10: 17-18. His obedience made him to always be in union with God. That if we walk in his own kind of love and obedience, we will also be with him and with



the Father, and they will live in us and manifest themselves in us even as he kept the Father's commandment and the Father was in him (John 14: 23, John 15: 9-10).

### **The God of Faith**

God created us in his image and likeness. God is God of faith because He has faith in His words. He said none of the words He has spoken is without fulfillment. Isaiah 55:11. He is described as faithful and just. The God that keeps promises (John 1: 9). When God revealed Himself through Christ, we saw His faith. Christ said, none of the word of the Father is without fulfillment. The word of God is eternal. It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than any of His words to fail (Luke 16: 17). God does not put trust in any or swear by any, but in Himself and in His words because He will hasten to perform it. He wants us to have trust in His words even as He has trust in Himself.

### **The Word of Faith:**

The word of God is eternal (Isaiah 40: 8). It is the word of eternal life. They are known as the word of faith. Rom. 10: 8. We have the freedom to accept or reject, we are to obey or disobey. Obedience to His word is life eternal but disobedience is death and eternal condemnation. We can now choose life or death by his words. Life and death are now the issues of faith in the word of God.

The word is spiritual, but we are carnal, it is almost in

opposite direction to our senses, but we have been commanded to obey. Obedience to the word is faith. The word might want us to suffer that we might have joy, to die that we might live or to abandon our pleasure and comfort that we might be saved. It makes us understand that fleshly desires and pleasures are a boomerang to our spirit. Therefore, we must obey the Father of spirits and live (Heb. 12: 9). Keeping the commandment of love and of obedience to God is the work of faith. The commandment is the word of faith.

Every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God is what establishes or destroys. It is the word that changes circumstances or causes an event to occur. He has made us known His mind and things that should happen. For example, He said we shall cast out demons, and whatever devilish devise we loose from a person is loosed in heaven, that whatever we bind is bound in heaven. Now if we speak those things which He desires should happen, then it will be as we have spoken, because we have spoken His will. When we speak his mind, we are speaking on his behalf. We have been given power of attorney to use the name of Jesus because we are acting on his behalf as co-labourers with him. We must have trust in what we say because it is the Father's will. When we command demons to come out of somebody they will certainly come out because we have spoken the word of the Father. We must believe in what we say because the word in our lips is the word of faith.

## **Saved by Faith**

The word of faith for our salvation is the good news or the message that our sins are forgiven, that God is now willing to accept us as children if only we can believe. Christ dying on our behalf is the work of the grace of God in saving us and this is made known to us that we might believe. The faith that will save us is the ability to believe that you are saved indeed. If we do not believe in our salvation through Christ, it means we will continue to live in the kingdom of the enemy of God. We were in Satan's prison, but now he is brought to nought. The prison yard is opened for us to go out. If we do not believe that the yard is opened it means, we will continue to remain in the yard, in darkness. But if we believe we will walk out of it with confidence and we will realize we are free indeed.

Christ was taken to the prison that we should be released, He was condemned that we should be saved. He was made sin that we should be righteous. He was wounded, bruised and afflicted that we should be healed and be made perfect. Our faith is the ability to believe that now we are free from sin, now we are saved, now we are righteous, and now we are healed. Our justification is through Christ, and righteousness of Christ. We have been made righteous by the works of Christ. This realization will keep us away from our past sins. This understanding will enable us walk according to his will. We will rejoice in his salvation. We will be perfect because we have believed in our hearts everything he has done on our behalf. We are ready and fully committed to bear

witness of the outcome of his works for us. We live to show that we have been redeemed from sin as a testimony of the new thing he has brought (Rom. 10: 9-10).

If you say you believe but you are still a sinner, it means, you do not believe or even know what he has done for you (1John 1: 6-7, 3: 6-7). You were a sinner and was condemned, rejected of God and doomed for destruction by fire. Now God has shown mercy, your sins have been forgiven.

Your condemnation has been removed, and now God has asked you to come to him and be with him. If you still continue in sin, it means you are unworthy, because you have rejected your redemption. You will be destroyed along with Satan in the lake of fire (Rev. 20: 14-15, 21: 8).

### **The Faith that cannot Save**

You know the truth about your redemption, and you understand what God has made you become. You now know about your freedom from sin and eternal damnation. When you testify of this understanding but walk in sin, it means you are holding the truth in unrighteousness. This is the worst sin you have ever committed. God might give you reprobate mind to completely be outside the truth of salvation. In this circumstance, you are unrighteous and abominable but doing things in God's name with the belief that you belong to him (Titus 1: 16, Rom. 1: 18).

Since you refused to accept your freedom from sin God has rejected you also. And because such a

person has refused to repent, Satan will now make use of him as a deceitful device. But he shall be cast into the lake of fire at the last day (Rom. 1: 18). He has received the grace of God in vain (Rom. 6: 1-2).

### **Faith of the Spirit Realm**

Faith means the assurance that exist in the heart with convincing evidence that what is promised is received already though it is not seen presently. It is an inward confidence in the reality of our union and fellowship with a trustable and un-disappointing Father. We see His blessings by His word and rejoice in it. This is the confidence of the new man. Faith is a product of the recreated human spirit. It is an integral part of Eternal Life that is imparted to the human spirit. The son knows the Father and has boldness and confidence in his promises and power (Gal.5: 22-24). Though we have not seen what we have demanded from the Father, we know we have it because the Father had said we have it. What the Father had said is more than evidence because he does not lie.

### **Two Kinds of Faith**

There are two kinds of faith, sense knowledge faith and faith of the recreated spirit.

**1. Sense knowledge Faith:** This is the confidence that exist in the mind over the occurrence of an event because it is logically true according to common sense, it is logically consistent according to natural events. For example, it is a normal occurrence that if

the event A happens, the event B must also happen. If the drug is taken, the sickness will go. Logically, this is an established truth. When sacrifice is offered, certain events are induced or hindered. If the man of God prays for me I will be well. They are facts commonly held and likely to re-occur at the given instance. There is a being called God who is merciful, answering prayers to give solution to one's problem. Let me pray so that God will see me through. The assurance about the occurrence of what is hoped for is ambiguous because it hangs on the natural sense, which can disappoint as the feeling changes.

**2. Faith of the Recreated Human Spirit:** This is the confidence and assurance that exist in the son over the ability of the Father. The son knows that what the Father says is what has come into being. He created the world by his word. He is the image and ambassador of the Father. Because of his union and fellowship with Him, the ability of the Father is his ability. He does the Father's will; his voice is the voice of the Father. The Father is faithful and just who does not fail because He keeps promises. He is in the Father and the Father in him (John 14:10-12). And because he is God's own spokesman when he speaks His mind, what is spoken will come to pass. This is spirit faith. This faith can only be found in those who have believed the Gospel by acting on the word of God. It is for those who have been regenerated to the image of Christ (Gal. 5:22, 1 Cor. 12:9). The spirit faith man is a creative agent of the Father who ordained him and confirms his prayers, over-ruling in

all things pertaining to him. It is rest in the word. He is in union with God as a co-labourer, and the answer to his prayer is a response from the Father who has assigned to him a duty.

Sense knowledge faith means trying to contact God through the senses based on rumours and testimonies given by others about God and Praying to Him based on what you hear about him. This faith is based on circumstances especially on the way you were told about God. It depends on the evidence you see with your eyes about others. This faith brings us to God but after we have known him, we cannot go on with it because it crumbles as the circumstance changes.

Faith of the Recreated Spirit means trust and rest in the word. The reality of an established union with God in the mind of the individual confirming that the word of God is always true and must happen as he has said It shows confidence in the Fathers ability and in his faithfulness in keeping promises. It is rest in the word, because the word being spirit, God is manifesting in the word. This assurance is part of eternal life. It flows out of divine nature in the believer (Gal. 5:22).

The faith needed to work with God is faith of the renewed spirit. It does not crumble. It abides forever. Fear is no longer part of the individual. The man is a partaker of divine nature. He is an obedient child. He is perfect in the love of the Father. He does the Father's will. Perfect love has made him be at

peace with God (1John 4:18). Fruits of love coming out of him is a proof of his faith in God.

Sense knowledge faith cannot withstand temptation because it is based on circumstances. It has not confirmed the possibilities of the event occurring because it is contrary to common sense. It sees the impossibility and shrinks in fear, it is foolishness to trust in the unknown. He dares not try the unknown. He lives and practices what is known only. He knows that chloroquin cures malaria, therefore, prayer without the chloroquin is a foolish trial (1Cor. 2:4-5).

Though faith of a recreated spirit is for the new creation, there were natural men who exercised such faith to produce startling results. These were shadow of things to come and were written for our learning. e.g., David killing Goliath, Israel using the instructions of God to demolish the walls of Jericho, Gideon with his 300 men, Noah and the ark, the call of Abraham and Joseph giving commandment of his bones based on the promise of God.

Jesus accused his disciples of lack of this kind of faith as people under the law. But now the new creation must know that we are in union with him by partaking with Him of His divine nature. His word, the seed of God is in us and we are in him and he in us. His word is our life, and his ability is our ability (John 14:10-12; 17:23). The disciples of Jesus discovered the fruits of their union with God after Pentecost. They received the Holy Spirit and began to walk in the new ability. The Holy Spirit bears witness of our



union with the Father. He makes us know our rights and privileges in Christ and in the word. Faith is a spiritual gift (Gal 5:22 Rom 8:16).

Many have failed in their attempt to be Christians because they have not acted on the word that would lead them to the realm of God's ability. Devil is a spirit, and it is only by using the armour and spiritual weapons of God that we can overthrow him.

### **Difference Between Faith and Hope**

Faith of the recreated spirit. It uplifts us into the spiritual realities of the word of God. Faith is always now, in the present tense, rejoicing in the Father's faithfulness in keeping promises even if what is promised is not yet seen. This is the source of joy. It makes the individual have a sound mind and unmovable in Christ. The believer has absolute confidence in the word and in the Father (Heb 11:1).

For example, if God has told us he has condemned Christ on our behalf and now we are saved by his death, then we now believe that we are saved by the death of Christ. We are saved now, not in the future. He has made him sin that we might be righteous. Now we know we are righteous by his substitutional sacrifice, our sins have been washed away, we are now free from sin and from condemnation. By his stripes we are healed. We know we are healed because he has been smitten for our healing.

Hope is hope of future glory that will be revealed in us

at the appearing of Christ. Since we have been saved through Christ substitutional sacrifice, we know that when he shall be revealed we shall all be like him, and we will be with him. We keep his words and suffer even ready to die on his behalf because we know that our suffering cannot be compared with the eternal glory that shall be seen in us in the future. Faith makes us know our duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges, and power in God. But hope gives us the mind to endure to enable us overcome pains, afflictions, temptations and tribulations (1John 3: 2-3).

Majority of those who confess Christ are not walking in the faith and joy of a recreated spirit but are filled with happiness, rejoicing in circumstances of music, deceitful words, and vain hope of material prosperity. This rejoicing disappears as soon as the circumstance changes. When the hope is destroyed, faith is no more present and the individual begins to blaspheme and to accuse God, denying him in all. Joy is of a recreated spirit, but happiness is of the senses or flesh.

Joy is an integral part of spirit life. Happiness is based on circumstances of the flesh. Happiness disappears in pains while joy is present even in pains. Happiness and unhappiness cannot be found together, but joy and sorrow can exist together. Though Christ was afflicted with pains, with shame and with sorrow, the joy that was set before him enabled him to despise the shame of the cross overcoming all the pains with absolute victory (Heb. 12:2). The victory of the

church over all the circumstances of devil is the joy that is planted in the heart of the individuals at the new birth.

### **The Faith that Heals**

Sense knowledge faith brought the sick to the presence of God. He has heard that God heals the sick and raises the dead. From all he had heard about God, he knows He can do all things. Therefore, he comes to God to see if He will heal him. The acknowledgment he has for God, which brought him to His presence, is the faith that has saved him. This is sense knowledge faith. If he is healed, it is not the faith he will exercise to walk with God. He has benefitted through his sense knowledge faith because he acknowledges that God can do it. But he is not saved yet.

The healing is actually done by the faith of the Son of God who prays the prayer of faith (James 5:15). The son is in union with God with divine ability. His prayer is not just to try but it is an established truth that it must happen as he utter the will of the Father. He knows that all demons and Satan's bonds must obey as he uses the Name to command. He is a spirit man in the likeness of Christ and the ability of God is his own ability. He is in the family of God, the realm of divine power. It is not the fasting done by the sick man that would heal him, it is God's divine action through his own instrument (Mark 16:18).

The sick man may not be healed if he blasphemes. Blasphemy is when a man looks at the instrument of

God and declares that the spirit in him is Satan. He proclaims that God is Satan thereby hindering others to have access to the Father through his works. This is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This sin cannot be forgiven (Matt 12:31). And secondly, not all are to be healed by God (Luke 4:25-27). Healing is God's own responsibility. The sick must surely be healed if He wills.

### **Understanding God's message**

Before the world was formed it was God's plan that man was to be like God. And when creation was made, God made man in his image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27).

So, man was made into the class of God as one brought up by him and was filled with His nature and life. We are God's workmanship created unto good works that we should walk by it (Eph. 2:10).

But man fell in the Garden of Eden because he committed a high treason against God and lost all his rights and privileges. He lost the nature of God and became abnormal, evil, unrighteous, hell doomed. and partaker of condemnation (John 3:18).

God has delight in man because of his position as son. Though fallen and condemned along with the enemy devil, God still desire that man be redeemed from condemnation. For this reason, he sent Christ who had finished the redemption work. God had commanded every man to believe him so that he would be legally adopted as son. That man should see

him and should learn of him because his being is our original being. That we should walk in the life of Christ Jesus whom God raised to be a model of our life and of our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1Cor. 1:30). All that believe "IN" him shall be saved (John 3:16, 18-21). God has given us back His life through His word. Christ is the word of life (1John 1:1-3). Our oneness with Christ is through the word.

The spirit of man came out of the breath of God. It came as the image of God, in the likeness of Christ. Christ is the word. John 1:1. The word is spirit John 6:63. Man is a spirit with a physical body whose life is love. God is love (1John 4: 8). Love is the realm of God. Man was the word or love of God in a personality that could be seen through his behaviour. It was destroyed through Adam but now it is brought back to us that we might receive. Our life on earth is God coming down to live in the habitable part of the earth (Prov. 8:30-31). The sin of Adam and Eve made God loose His dwelling places on earth. The word of God is now personified in Christ for us to come in. It is manifested as love and this love is God's divine will. God was in Christ through His wisdom, and Spirit (2Cor 5:19).

Man's spirit is the candlestick of God in us, the light and shepherd of the body (Prov. 20:27, Eph. 4:24, Gal 4:19). Believe in Christ means act on the word of His love, it means letting our spirits act on the word to be manifested as Christ. Acting on the word is allowing

Christ to act through us, giving Him the position of Lordship by which His life is manifested in the world.

We are described as living. We are now God's image and His instruments of dominion and rulership. Our voice is the Father's voice because what we say is his will, and they are confirmed because we have spoken his mind.

### **A Kingdom Of Righteous People Only**

There are only two spiritual Fathers in the world: God or Satan (John 8:44, 1 John 3:10). And there are only two kingdoms, the kingdom of God and kingdom of devil. All things were created by God for Himself only (Col.1: 16). with eternal purpose.

Everything was made with independent power of will to work in the law of love in such harmonious manner that will guarantee eternal peace, rest and joy according to the eternal law and purpose of the creator. Every element either in heaven or on earth which works in disharmony, which is a threat to eternal peace is an enemy of creation, therefore, an enemy of God. The creator will destroy such elements with an eternal fire (Rev. 21:8, 1John 2:6).

The kingdom of devil is made of all that are condemned both in hell and on the earth and awaiting everlasting destruction by fire. They are fallen short of the love, the spiritual law that binds creation onto the maker (1John 2:11). Love is the eternal nature of God. This was made as the wisdom

of man. With this wisdom of love man was to be an eternal companion of God.

Creation was perfect because there is no evil in God. The problem of sin started in heaven when Lucifer, an archangel of God erred in his reasoning and desired to seat on the throne of God. God cursed him and was rejected, condemned and doomed for destruction. As a cursed being Satan is now an evil spirit. He is corrupt, unrighteous and the head of all that is evil. He is the king of hell, the prison for the wicked until the time appointed for eternal destruction in the lake of fire (Ezek. 28:12-19, Isa. 14:12-15, 2Peter 2:4, Rev. 12:9, Rev. 20:13-14).

Adam was created by God to rule the earth and raise up children for Him, but he sinned and brought curse and condemnation to himself and his world (Rom. 5:12, 8:19-23). So, man is to be imprisoned in hell until he shall be cast into the lake of fire along with Satan. Man is now under the rulership of the devil. And as a spiritual father Satan has done everything possible to make man conform to his image. Man is now a partaker of satanic nature. He is evil, unrighteous, rebellious, revengeful, malicious, wicked, proud, boastful, deceitful, and unclean. Man is in the kingdom of the devil (John 8:44).

God is a spirit; he is Father of all spirits. His kingdom on earth is made up of an assembly or a set of human whose spirits are quickened with divine life (Lk. 17:20-21, Heb. 12:22-23). They are recognized as heavenly. They are known by their nature, life and

ability. They appear in love, in righteousness and in holiness as people different from the world (1John 4:4, Mark 16:17-18).

The kingdom of God on earth is a miracle, born out of incarnation. It was brought into being by Jesus Christ, the incarnate one. Incarnation is the union of God and man in an individual. Jesus came as an incarnate to reconcile man with God. Every Christian is an incarnate (2Cor. 6:16, Ezek. 36:26-27). Being made partakers of divine nature (eternal life) God is in them through His life and the Holy Spirit.

Righteousness is the sceptre of the kingdom (Heb. 1:8-9). As Jesus is righteous, so are all children of God (1John 2:29). He loves righteousness and hates evil. Children of God are partakers of Christ's nature (Rom. 8:29, 2 Peter 1:4, Isa. 51:5, Rom. 6:18). They are new creatures (2Cor. 5:17).

God's nature (charity or Agape) is planted in them by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5, Jer. 31:33-34). It was a promise from the Father that His kingdom shall be established in His righteousness (Isa. 51:5, Isa. 54:14). With the righteousness of God in them, God's children are the members of God's own righteous kingdom on earth with quietness and assurance (Isa. 32:15-17), and boldness in the judgment of God because as he is, so are they in the world (1John 4:17). All the unrighteous are children of devil (1John 3:10). Peter said we look on a kingdom where righteousness reigns. Nothing that is defiled shall enter into the New Heaven and New Earth (2Peter 3:13-14, Rom. 1:28-32, Gal. 5:19-21).



## CHAPTER 3

# SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING IN CHRIST



### Salvation: A Gift, But!

**T**he human race which had been under the dominion and power of darkness (Satan) has now been liberated by the grace of God.

Grace means undeserved love, which God poured down on rebellious man. Adam's transgression made man not only a sinner but sin itself. Sin is a curse which keeps man in darkness, outside the life and good things of God. Sin consciousness and sense of unworthiness are the basic manifestations. Redemption by grace means taking away sin consciousness and giving man the very righteousness of God to restore him in his fellowship with God.

Since man was created as son, God in his love will not forsake him without doing something to save him, so he planned, designed and wrought a redemption work for him (Lk. 3:38). The coming of Jesus Christ, his death on the cross and his resurrection were designed for man's justification. Man had nothing to contribute. It was a substitutional sacrifice. Even as the redemption work was going on, man was busy fighting God (Rom. 5:6-8).



The mystery of the gift of salvation is the mystery of Christ becoming a sin on the cross and we becoming righteous by the substitutional operation of God. Our faith in what he has done is in understanding and accepting that our sins are now washed away by the sacrifice of Christ and that we are now righteous through our freedom from sin. The believer should be able to confess or testify that he is now a product of the death of Christ. That he has become the righteousness of God on behalf of Christ. If we are being made free from sin, we must rejoice in our salvation and must stand to prove that henceforth we are no longer subject to it. It is in this mystery of the death of Christ that God has made the Holy Spirit available to be with us to recreate us to the realities of the spiritual truth. Therefore, the works of faith requires that we must abandon our former sinful life.

God has done everything to enable us escape death. He first made us know about our redemption by the promise of a new covenant as spoken by (Ezekiel 36:26-27) and (Jeremiah 31:32-34). Man is to respond to the terms of the covenant. God has done the essential and the vital part, and it is left for man to co-operate with God by accepting the terms. The duty of man in this covenant is “believe”.

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life”*(John 3:14-15).

Salvation is a gift but to those who accept it. Some

might ask, why should God require man to play a role for his freedom, knowing quite well that he is fallen and sick? Such argument would suggest that man should have been created like an electronic machine, without power of personal decision. God is God of judgment and he created us in his image and likeness so that man as son of God is to think, reason, plan, decide, etc. on his own, through the knowledge, understanding, wisdom and experiences which God had already established. If you follow God's guidelines, you escape destruction, but if you refuse God's way, you fall into eternal destruction. The duty of man is simply to accept the gift of life or to choose death (Deut. 31:15). Jesus started his ministry by saying:

*“The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; Repent ye, and believe the gospel”* (Mark 1:15).

The duty of man in his salvation is repentance by acting on the word of God. The new thing demands actual performance based on the word of love. You will discover the truth only when you do the will of the Father (Matt 7:7-8, John 8:31-32).

*“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself”* (John 7:17). See also (John 8: 32-36).

God is a spirit dominated by love, and he wants us to share with him His nature. He made us in his image and likeness as loving people. Though we are fallen, He still desires to uplift us to our love life which he gave from the beginning that we might be His sons. Absence of love is a poison to the individual because it

keeps our body, soul, and spirit away from God.

*“As he loveth cursing, so let it come unto him, as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him”* (Ps. 109:17).

“Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: For this is the law and the prophets” (Matt. 7:12).

This love life is the only solution to man's failure. There is no excuses because, God who created man knows all things, and having done this to save us, any refusal to accept it is willful, because he has made all things possible (Matt 19:26).

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35).

The man that is ruled by love is free from evil, they are called overcomers. They have overcome the desires of the flesh. You cannot lie to whom you love. You cannot steal from him. You cannot kill. You cannot covet your neighbour's property. You cannot envy him over his achievements, because you love him.

*“I am the way, the truth and the life,”* means we should live in the Jesus' kind of love to be justified as sons of God.

Salvation is a gift, but we must work it out by accepting it, and practicing to live the predetermined

life of God (Phil 2:12). When we do our part, then the promises of the new covenant will be fulfilled in us. The promise of God to man is the making available of His righteousness (Rom. 5:5, 2Peter 1:4). When His nature is imparted to us, then we are His. The individual must depart from evil. Repentance means accepting the heavenly life which God brought through Jesus Christ, our Lord and saviour, for our sanctification, redemption, and fellowship with the Father.

### **A Living Sacrifice: The way of life.**

Justice demands sinners be punished for their wrongdoings. Sin creates sinful propensities which are difficult to resist except power is used to stop it. Sin is the way of death. It kills and binds up the sinner unto eternal death: If the issue of sin is not resolved the sinner would have no hope in God. Justice is the umpire, and judgement is the light that shows the end. Punishment is the power that deprives sinners of their evil desires and apparent enjoyment. The counsel of God is light that gives knowledge of His predetermined judgement. It shows in advance the punishment for evil and the reward for good. He is righteous, He is God of judgement.

The Judgement of God is that sinners must die (Rom. 6:23). This is law of creation. Gen. 2:17. Adam sinned and died a great death. He brought condemnation to the entire world (Rom. 5:12). He then multiplied children with the curse of death in them. He produced children who were sinners by nature. They were not

worthy to be sons of God. They are called gentiles (Gen 10:5, Eph 2:12). They are by nature condemned (John 3: 18), because of the nature of sin (Rom 3:23).

How does God deal with His condemned children? And what hope have they that this condemnation can be taken out of them? This is the major story and revelation, which is in the bible.

We did not sin in the similitude of Adam but are made subject to vanity by reason of his disobedience, therefore God made way to save us if we can agree to co-operate with Him in His redemption work. He has a great sacrifice to make for us, and we on our own we have some sacrifice to offer according to His council.

### **The Death Sacrifice**

The issue of sin may not be resolved except the death sentence is resolved. The sinner must give life in exchange for his life. Justice demands that if a man is to die for the sinner, the man must not be one that is condemned. A criminal in prison custody who is condemned cannot take a man arrested on bail. Since all have sinned and have the sentence of death, no mortal man on earth was qualified to bring salvation to anybody. God had to do it by Himself. He is the father who is Holy, righteous, and living. He is the redeemer and beside Him there is none. When the fullness of time came, He sent Christ Jesus in His Image as an incarnate one to die on behalf of man.

### **The Blood of Goats, etc.**

Since man was ignorant of the council of God, and of His judgement, and condemnation and redemption

through the sacrifice of life, God had to establish the law of Moses as a school master to teach him of how sin could be washed away (Gal 3: 24). The Law demands that the sinner should bring a live animal for sacrifice for the atonement of his sin and failures. Blood means life, and the sacrifice of blood of animal means that the life of the animal had been given in exchange for the man's life. The animal had died on his behalf. Life had been given for life (Lev. 17: 10-14). And by this God taught man on what must happen before fellowship between Him and man can be restored. So, there were sin offerings, trespass offerings, peace offerings and burnt offerings and these were done by the given up of life as remedy (Lev. chapters 3,4,5,6).

The blood of goats and calves could not take away sin from man because they are earthly, and the world being condemned, they were under condemnation also. It was a temporary measure introduced by God to teach man of the sacrifice He was going to make for him in the future. It also serves as a means of reducing His anger over man because of the ugly appearance of sin and death in him. The sacrifices done where a shadow of good things to come (Heb 10: 1-4).

### **The Sacrifice of Christ Jesus.**

God spoke concerning the end of sacrifices that were offered under the law. He said He does not desire sacrifice and burnt offering for sin anymore but repentance, because he had prepared a body for every man (Heb 10: 5-9). When that body would be revealed, the first covenant will end and a new

covenant with a new way and a new relationship will be established.

Jesus came as an incarnate one. He was not born of natural generation. A man and a woman did not meet before he was born, but a holy body was formed in the womb of a virgin as a divine manifestation. The body is called seed of woman, it was not natural, but a new thing God created (Jer. 31:22). This body was like the body of Adam before the great fall. Christ is an eternal being who had been with God from everlasting (Micah. 5:2). God sent Him to come on His behalf, with the body in the womb of virgin Mary.

Jesus was born as a quickening spirit. He came with the life of the Father. He did not partake in the sin and condemnation of Adam because He was not born through natural process (John 5:26, I John 5:11-12). Jesus was worthy to die for the redemption of the sinner. He knew no sin but was made sin for the suffering of death that man should be saved.

Justice demands that one man can die for many. That, as by the sin of one, many were made sinners for the suffering of death even so, the sacrifice by obedience of one should justify many unto life (Rom 5:14-19, Isaiah 53:4-6).

Jesus did actually satisfy the death sentence that was levied on man for his sin. Though he had the ability to resist this death on the cross, he yielded himself to it, that the will of Father God on man be established (Mat 26:52-56, Luke 4:28-30, John 18:6,11). He knew no sin but was given a death sentence, not only a mere death



sentence but the worst kind of it, the death on the cross, being the death of criminals. On the cross, the side of His body was pierced, and blood poured out. Christ told Pilate that he had no power over Him except it was given to him from above (John 19:11). The death of Christ on the cross was a substitutional sacrifice.

A heavenly being was made to belong to the condemned world to be counted as belonging to the human race. His coming down to the condemned without sin and the curse he received on the cross implies that a way had been made by which sinners can go to heaven by the grace of God. If a righteous man can be condemned without sin, then the sinner can also be saved by grace.

His death on the cross means our bodies and affections and lusts, and desires of the flesh were crucified with His body on the cross (Rom 6:10). He was dead unto sin. Since the motions of sin are in the body, his death on the cross is the end of sin because He had resurrected with a spiritual body. The body of sin on earth had been destroyed, therefore sin has no dominion over him (Rom 6:7). Christ's victory over sin is for the human race if we agree with him. If we abide in his life by his power and spirit, then His death is our death and his resurrection our resurrection.

A man without sin was given curse through wicked hands by hanging Him on a cross (Gal. 3:13). He died and descended to hell (Eph. 4: 9-10, Acts 2:31). A righteous man-receiving curse means the removal of

curse from the evil doer. And he going to hell means the sinner may no longer go to hell if he would accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

He was raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25). The sinner should consider his body being dead with the body of Christ and buried by baptism, therefore, being renewed by the power of God he is resurrected by the same baptism (Rom. 6:3-6). He is dead unto sin because the body of sin is buried and destroyed.

### **Our living Sacrifice:**

We do not offer any live body in exchange for our death sentence. Christ had done it on our behalf. In the mind of justice, if one had died for others, then, they which live would no longer live unto themselves but unto the one that had died on their behalf (2Cor 5:14-15). Since the old body is dead, the new man is free from sin. We are hid in Christ. Our lives is not ours but the life of Him that has saved us from death and eternal condemnation. In Gal 2:20, Paul said *"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

We should be willing to accept the facts about the new creation. The mystery of we becoming Christ's is the truth of we giving up our bodies unto him for use as instrument. Giving up our bodies to Christ means slaying the affections and lusts of the flesh even as he is dead to it. Christ had prevailed after He overcame pains and desires of the flesh and died on the cross in

absolute obedience. Sin had been condemned in his flesh for us (Gal. 5:24, Rom 8:1-3). 'Knowing that our old man is crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is free from sin' (Rom. 6:6-7).

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new”*(2Cor 5:17).

This new life in Christ is the denial of the body of its pleasures and desires if they are not in agreement with Christ who had taken us to himself that we should live His life. This indeed is a sacrifice.

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Rom 12:1-2).

There is no agreement between light and darkness, between righteousness and unrighteousness. Therefore, as Christ gave up Himself and overcame evil with good that He might be righteous before the Father, even so are we to offer our bodies as living sacrifice in the righteousness of Christ.

Being dead with Him, we are now reconciled with God by Christ as co-labourer with Him. Our duty is to carry out the work of reconciliation for the salvation

of sinners. Our work daily is: -

- a. To show the death of Christ on our body by dying daily. We are dead to sin because our affections and lusts and burden of sin had been crucified with Christ, sin has no dominion over us. While those around us would steal to make a living, we will not. And while they fornicate, lie, covet, clamour, be drunken and rejoice in evil, we will not, because we have a new life (2Cor. 4: 1-2, 8-12). We have lost our freedom to do what we like in the evil world. We are no longer to do things of our own selfish interest but the will of God who sent Christ into the world. This will give room for sinners to see the new godly way, the truth, and the life.
- b. To show the life of Christ, His kind of love, the beauty of His life, His righteousness and ability in the office, at home, in the streets, in the market and wherever man is found. We bear witness of the new life and the peace that is in it. While they persecute, we entreat and bless; while they despise, we endure the shame; and while they kill us, we pray that God should forgive them. We are poor that they might be rich, we are weak that they might receive strength from God. We offer the sacrifice of abstinence, endurance, self-denial, etc. proving ourselves as able ministers of Christ in much patience, in meekness, in love, in kindness, in faith, in long-suffering, in stripes, in necessity, in persecution, etc. that the life of Christ Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal bodies (2Cor. 6:3-10).

- c. To give explanation to others of the hope of our calling, our hope in Christ, the present benefits of our fellowship with God and with Christ Jesus. Showing the truth of our fellowship with God in power and might by the Holy Spirit that is in us. And confessing Christ in all manner of conduct and speech, showing that Jesus is Christ and Lord of Lords. To manifest the goodness of God, the beauty of His ways, the truth of His word and the light in Christ as shining in the dark world of evil. Because Light and darkness cannot agree and cannot go together, the world will do everything to quench the light, but we will overcome evil with good. The death of Christ is for us and we are ready to die for him also. If a death sentence is passed on a person on behalf of another, it is believed that the saved man will work for his saviour, to take care of all that He has, and to feed his people. The saved man can only be justified if he really works hard to preserve the name of his saviour. If we do not take on the burden of Christ, he will deny us before the Father.

## **Wisdom**

Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge that is acquired, the ability to understand, interpret and judge correctly based on the acquired knowledge and experiences.

## **Wisdom of God**

The ability to make appropriate and conscious judgement based on knowledge of the word. A wise

man is one that uses his knowledge of the WORD to guide and judge his daily actions. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Ps. 111:10). He has no wisdom of his own except as the word has said. His understanding, knowledge and belief, which determine his decisions and conduct is from the word of God. Under Judaism, the law of Moses was the wisdom of the Israelites.

*“Keep therefore and do them: for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”*(Deut. 4:6).

For the new creation man, Jesus is his wisdom, and the life of Christ is his life. (1Cor. 1:30). The WORD is God and God is LOVE, the word of God is love. His wisdom is love. This love is an integral part of divine life that is imparted to us at the new birth.

Our wisdom is love. It does not seek to satisfy passions and self-desires, but to establish the will of God. It is an expression of the word of God in our daily actions. That is God acting through us by his word in Christ that the world may know him.

That a wise man endowed with the knowledge of God is one that can show out of good character, conduct and behaviour the truth about God with meekness and lowliness, who is guided and ruled by love (1Cor. 13:4-7). This love is characterized by long-suffering, kindness, absence of envy and pride. The believer is

not crafty or cunning, he does not seek his own, but the wealth of others not easily provoked, thinks no evil and grieved at the sight of sin. He rejoices wherever truth is manifested, willing to bear the burden of the weak, he believes all things about God, and hopes of all his promises (1Cor. 13:4-7, 1 Cor. 10:24, 1 Cor. 8:13, Rom. 14:21, 2 Cor. 8:9).

Jesus Christ is the word in action for us to see, observe and understand the way, the truth and the life of God (John 14:6). When we believe by acting on his being, we are one with him because his own life and as his word has found expression in us, Christ is seen as dwelling in us (Prov. 8:12 and 14, Gal 4:19, John 1:14, John 15:7). He is now the spirit life that is imparted to us and manifesting as light for others to see and be reformed (John 1:4, John 8:12, Phil 4:9). The wisdom of God is a personified attribute, and that personality is Christ (Prov. 8: 12, 1Cor 1:30).

It is a gift of the Holy Spirit because He interprets the word to (1Cor. 12:8)prepare us to fully represent God on earth.

*“The spirit of the Lord shall be upon him, the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counseling, the spirit of might, knowledge and fear of the Lord”*(Isa. 11:2).

He could also lead us to wonderful invention (Prov. 8:12, 1Cor. 2:4-14). Wisdom from above gives peace, joy, welfare, success, harmony, etc.(James 3:17).

It is the wisdom of the fullness of Christ in us. In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

for our peace, welfare, and prosperity (Col. 2: 3).  
“For in Christ dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead  
bodily”. We are in union with him, and partakers of his  
being, we are complete in him, and can do all things  
through him (Col. 2:9-10, 1Cor. 1:3, Phil. 4:13).

### **Wisdom of the World**

Man's behaviour, his actions towards meeting up with his needs, his wickedness and evil, is a proof that Satan is ruling the heart of man. Man's understanding about life is in enmity with God. All about man's life is to protect self-interest, and to satisfy self-desires, fighting for one's interest is the reason for war, clamour, strife, envying, deceit, lying, pride, boastfulness, evil speaking, and every kind of evil that is in the world (1John 2:16, James 4:1-4, James 4:16). It is the wisdom of the flesh in relation to things of the world. Fear of failure or loss of honour produces negative defensive traits. It gives rise to corruption. It is the reason for the feeling of being different from others. Those who have are boastful and proud, and those who have not, are sorrowful and envious.

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descended not from above, but is earthly, sensual and devilish” (James 3:14-15).

In the parable of the dishonest steward, the servant could not repent or plead for forgiveness of his wastefulness, because he has the wisdom of devil. He



agreed with his master's debtors to falsify the accounts against his master. His craftiness makes him friend of corruption and mammon (Satan) (Luke 16:1-13). That there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end of it is destruction and death (Prov. 14:12).

The parable is an illustration of man's corrupt wisdom that has no room for repentance. The man has full trust of himself as a wise person that can always overcome situations to his own advantage. It makes him blind to the destruction that is awaits him.

Pure love cannot exist within the fabric of worldly wisdom. The worldly mind does not rejoice in the welfare of others except he is the beneficiary or is related to him e.g., son, friend, kinsmen.

### **Perfecting Through Suffering In Christ**

The angels that sinned were neither spared nor given chance to repent, they were condemned, kept in hell reserved unto destruction by fire. When man sinned, God the Father took the burden of the sin of his son and made a redemption work, a work that was accomplished through suffering and death travail. This suffering was seen in every step God took to prepare man for salvation. The prophets, who were sent to declare the will of the Father were tortured and most of them were killed (Heb. 11:36-40. Matt 23:31-35). John the Baptist, a messenger of Christ, the redeemer was beheaded (James 5:10. Matt 14:9-12), even Israel suffered in Egypt and in the wilderness.

Jesus Christ the saviour was persecuted from birth. Because of him all children of two years old and below were killed in Bethlehem. Jesus, a man approved of God with signs and wonders yet was condemned of the Jews full of good works, going about doing good, healing all manner of sicknesses and diseases, casting out the evil spirits from them that were possessed yet his reward from the people was stiff opposition, indignation, and evil report. He was accused of working with the chief prince of the devil (Matt 9:34, 12:24). Seen as rebellious, contravening the tradition and custom of the people, a gluttony and friend of sinners. The world took council against the prince of peace and slew him.

A Christian is a representative of Christ on earth acting on his behalf to ensure that the objective of saving man through Christ is achieved (John 17:18). The world has not changed; the Christian is therefore to continue in his suffering to be glorified along with him (1Peter 4:13-14, 1 Peter 4:1). Salvation is made possible through suffering and death (2Cor 4:10-18, Rev. 6:9-11). This suffering is not only for Christ but also for as many as shall be heirs of God's promises with Christ.

### **Sufferings of the Christians foretold**

“Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves” (Matt 10:16-28). Unbelievers and evil men are described as wolves. They hate without a cause and their feet lay wait to shed blood. They are Children of devil (John 8:44). Followers of Christ

shall be delivered to the councils, they will be beaten and afflicted, members of their families will hate them, and hated of all men. Many shall be put to death (Matt 24:9-10). The sufferings of Christians is an integral part of the redemption work and cannot be avoided.

They are to continue in the gospel of Jesus Christ, to spread it unto the end of the world. The word is light (truth) and the world is evil (darkness), the world would not only reject but will stand in direct opposition to do away with them (John 3:20). But it is the duty of Children of God to spread the gospel to the end of the world. They will not withdraw in any way in their duty. With much pains and afflictions they will enter into the kingdom. Only those who endure till the end shall be saved (Matt 24:13-14). The fearful will not be accepted (Rev. 21:8). “For if we be dead with Him, we will also live with Him. If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us” (2Tim 2:11-12).

The new creation man is instructed not to resist evil (Matt 5:39). He must endure and bear the pains of others and without revenge, he must overcome evil with good. He is to partake in the suffering of Christ, not to curse, but to bless and pray for those who fight against him. He should be ruled by the Jesus' kind of love, the very love of God (Rom 12:17-21. Matt 5:44-48). By overcoming evil with good we shall be called sons of God (Matt 5: 10-12).

The new creation man is born in the image of the

heavenly. Though walking in the flesh, he lives a life of the spirit (AGAPE) (Eph 1:3-6, Rom 8:9, Col 3:3-4). He does not keep the tradition of the evil world, consequently, he is counted as enemy as disobedient and rebellious and as an enemy of society (Math 15:2, Mark 7:1-13. Col 2:8). Persecution is unavoidable.

Sinners and evil workers are described as wolves or dogs. They are murderers, unreasonably wicked and blind from good works, abnormal in reasoning and in doings. They recompense evil for good (Matt 7:6, 21:33-40 22:2-6).

### **Suffering In Christ as Integral Part of Redemption Plan:**

Jesus Christ; a man without sin, approved of God, as heir of His kingdom, possessor of heaven and earth, received curse by the death on a cross because of the evil of man. Gal 3:13. If the man that had all power, yet without sin would humble himself to die because of the evil of man, God is justified if he desires that the sinner should also pay something for his salvation. It costs God the life of His son to save man, but it only costs you of your freedom to do what you like in the flesh. If his son died for your salvation, it is a great deal that you should withdraw from your own worldly pleasure and put on the life of Christ to suffer even as he suffered?"*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*" (Matt. 16:24-25).

The prophets said God's people in the world shall be like sheep tied for the slaughter and some might be killed (Psalm 44:22, Rom 8:36). Christians in the world live by the Grace of God. God allows them to remain for the sake of the lost ones, which God wants to save (Phil. 2:21-24). When each of them has finished his testimonies or service of the Father, they shall be given up in the flesh unto death (2Thess 2:7). We should be ready both to suffer and to die for him (Phil 1:29). When we partake in his suffering, we shall be glorified with him (1Pet. 4:13-14, I John 3:2, 2Cor.4:10-11). When we die for him, then we will live. When we deny him, we will loose our lives and redemption. This is the doing of the Lord (2Tim. 3:12).

### **Consolation of the Christian:**

Children of God would face tribulation in every aspect of life, for this reason, God has given them greater consolation. The Father has given them perfect peace, joy and rest in their heart reassuring them that he is with them and that He will deliver them in every trial (2Cor. 1:4-10). Christians rejoice not only when things are good but also in tribulation because the love of God is perfected in them (Rom 5:1-5). They know that the world is evil, but they are not of the world. All that will live godly life in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2Tim. 3:12). They have learnt to endure to please him that had called them to be soldiers. They are not discouraged but stand to prove themselves as able ministers of God in all patience, afflictions, necessities distress, stripes, imprisonment, tumults,

etc. (2Cor 6:3-10) and the Father has assured He will not allow them to be tempted above that which they can bear, He will surely provide an escape route (1Cor 10:13). In trials and temptations, the Father is there to give assurance and hope by answering their prayers.

The new creation man is sanctified by the word of God. He does not lust after things of the world. He does not lay burden on others but labours before he eats, (1Cor 4:10-13, 9:13-22, 1Pet. 5:3). Strife, clamour, war, etc. and their attendant woes are not part of him. The peace of the Father is in him. Fear is not part of his being; perfect love makes him be in the presence of the Father (1John 4:18). Though suffering in the flesh, he has the hope that when Christ shall appear, he will be like him. This hope is the strength and joy of every believer. (1John 3:2-3). It gives strength to overcome sin. He dies in this hope. If we draw back, he will draw back from us and we may lose the kingdom (Rev. 2:1-5). The believer is willing to give up his best things including his life for the things of God.

### **Deceitful Gospel of Materialism**

God provided the way of self-denial for man's salvation. The world is condemned already, awaiting destruction by fire. It is to pass away, and God wants to take man out of the condemnation. Therefore, man should keep himself away from things of the world. The insatiable desire for material things is due to love of the flesh. We know, man was created for joy, but sin actually turned the eternal purpose of creation upside

down. It is the Father's desire that we be drawn out of the world. Our separation from the world is indeed separation from worldly pleasures and fleshly lusts, which war against our souls. Devil has built in us a corrupt type of life. Our daily interactions with others are primarily selfish based on satisfying ourselves only. Self-interest is the reason for clamour, and war, which makes us the image of devil. Our knowledge and experiences are biased by Satan to produce a kind of man, which is always in opposition to God (James 3: 14 -16). We are now victims of corruption in the selfish realm.

Man sees material possession as an integral part of his life. He sees himself in terms of material possessions. and his relationship with others in terms of their wealth. If he has a car, he sees a man that has a bicycle and talks to him not as men, but a car talking to a bicycle. This is the reason for pride, boastfulness, arrogance, despising, etc. Man must find a means of acquiring wealth to back up his personality and authority. This clamour for wealth and pride in it is sin (Prov. 21:4, 1John 2:15-16, Rom. 12:16).

Primitive accumulation for selfish reason is a great hindrance to man's eternal salvation. The selfish mind is in enmity against God. God is love and his love nature must be fully established in us before we can be God's children. Perfect love makes us have fellowship with the Father. Absence of love in our hearts means absence of God in us. Selfishness is the

presence of the devil. It is the realm of evil, lust, envy, covetousness, lasciviousness, etc.

Every teaching that puts the hope that union with God is abundant financial blessing is anti-Christ. Prosperity in God is not financial per se (Matt. 6:24, 1 Tim. 6:9-10) but righteousness, godliness, faith, peace, rest, joy, meekness, goodness, etc. (1Tim. 6:11, 3John 2-4) It is the prosperity of the real man, the human spirit in the things of the spirit of God, which can bring peace, rest, and joy to the human race (John 14:12).

Wealth acquired at the expense of others is evil. Lust and pride for riches and material wealth is sin. (Prov. 23:4).

“A faithful man shall have plenty of bread; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent” Prov. 28:20

*“He that hasted to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him”* (Proverb. 28:22).

Only those who put their trust in God and are working in the newness of life are God's co-labourer, they will never lack, even in terms of financial resources for their daily needs.

*“I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”* (Ps. 37:25).

God is warning every man to be careful with things of



the world not to lust after them. Satan is using them to corrupt our mind.

The unrenewed man and the hypocrites need only money and material blessings from God. They do not need the truth. This makes them victims of false teachers and prophets who dupe them in the name of God (Prov. 28:22, Isa. 33:1).

The newly formulated Gospel of money prosperity in recent times is of mammon. It is a subtle way of deceiving innocent people who want the truth to lust after money. False teachers use deceitful words and make merchandise of the word. A preacher that boasts of his wealth through the gospel is Lucifer openly boasting of his ownership of the world to entice you to his kingdom.

### **Conversion**

Conversion is to turn away from devil to God, but the power to be converted is not within the individual. It is God that converts. Conversion is a change that occur in one's belief, opinion, life pattern, etc. it is God that really convert people to Himself. There are three types of conversion in the churches. (a) conversion to God (b) conversion to a man and (c) conversion to a church.

### **Conversion to God**

God is reconciling the world to Himself through Christ Jesus. God is a spirit, but the fallen man is flesh (John 4:24, Gen. 6:3). The fallen man walks in the flesh, doing things only as his senses tells him. His life in the sense realm has alienated him from the true life

of the spirit and has made him an enemy of God (Rom. 8:7-8). For man to be reconciled with God, he must be changed from living a life of the flesh, which is in enmity with God to the true life of the spirit in which God and his companions live. Conversion to God is the change from the carnal to the spiritual; from being flesh ruled to a spiritual life in which God is the source. It comes through hearing, understanding, and accepting God's message which leads to repentance and regeneration. Peter and others become converted from the day of Pentecost (Luke 22: 31-32).

Those converted to God are the truly reconciled, and partakers with God of His nature, the eternal life of God. They are now of the spirit, not of the flesh. God is their Father, and Christ is their master. They have the wisdom and righteousness of Christ (1Cor. 1:30). No respect of human opinion except such opinion is the will of their Father. They do not belong to a church denomination, they belong to God, not to a tribe or race. They are not of the world; they are strangers in a world that was originally their own but now it is not. Their mind and desires is to do their Father's will until the day they will go back to their Father.

They are the ambassadors of Christ to reveal the life of God in the world to shine as light in a crooked and perverse generation. Peter and Paul were converted to God as light to lighten others in the way of truth, to be the source of salvation to others.

### **Conversion to a Man.**

A man can be converted to the founder or leader of a church. This is done when one is made to see the pastor as God, and persuaded to accept the leader's opinion, belief, life pattern and to give him total support. The man would put all his trust and ready to defend him in every situation. He believes that everything about the leader is the truth even if it is evil. He is not converted to God but to a man. He sees evil in the man as normal, and fights to cover him and promote his name. He dares not challenge him in any matter believing such actions would bring to him curse from God.

### **Conversion to a Church.**

To be converted to a church denomination is when a man is persuaded to be a member of the church and its doctrines, laws, traditions, and practices as commandments from God. He sees all that happens in the church in which he is a member as the only truth. The mode of expression, the slangs, the dress or uniform, the types of music and style of dance, the various ceremonies and how they are conducted, the types of feasts, the different programs of giving out money to the church, the kind of honour given to the man of God, the way leaders are selected, etc. The laws, traditions and practices of the denomination is held as the law of God, and any violation is sin. It has nothing to do with whether it agrees with the will of God or not, the belief is that it is what our church holds.

The people usually limit their love to their church members only. They are converted to a church. They receive for doctrine, the commandments of men. The truth is not in them. They cannot love their neighbour except he belongs to their church. (Matt. 15:8-9), Agape or Charity is destroyed in their heart.

### **Perfection; is it now or after Death?**

It is appointed unto a man once to die, and after that is judgement (Heb. 9:27). Sin cannot be forgiven after death, neither would a dead man repent. It is deceitful to think that the dead can repent from evil. The ultimate end of the journey is either hell or heaven. In the famous story of the rich man and Lazarus, it is clearly explained that those in hell cannot go to heaven. (Luke 16:26). Their chance of salvation is gone forever. A believer must be perfect in his life on earth before everlasting union with God can be achieved. At death, his fellowship with the Father will continue (John 11:25-26).

“Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).

This demand is not for dead men but for people who are physically alive.

In the parable of the Sower, it is explained that those seeds which fell among thorns could not bear fruits because their growth was hindered by dangerous wild thorns. What fruit was expected of them? It is the fruit of divine perfection. i.e., righteousness of God

“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” (Luke 8:14).

God is a spirit, and he is perfect. His promise to redeem us from the hands of devil is a promise to uplift our spirits into his fellowship to be His image as sons through partaking with Him of his divine nature. The nature of God (Eternal life) is a perfect nature, the ultimate source of love, joy, peace, rest, meekness, gentleness, long-suffering, temperance, faith, etc. which are the fruits of perfection. Against these, there is no law (Gal 5:22-25). If we become partakers with God of His nature, these God's attributes will manifest in our behaviour in the flesh, and this makes us different from the people of the evil world. The purpose of the word of God to man is to show him God's way of reasoning, thinking, and seeing the world. The word of God is to renew man's darkened heart to enable him walk as image of God. It would not only set man free from sin but would enable him know the things which are of devil which Satan is using to deceive mankind (2Tim. 3:16-17, Heb. 13:21, James 1:4, Rom. 12:1-2). The human spirit is the real man in the human. It is the spirit that is to commune with God. (John 4:23-24). With the nature of God, the human spirit is as perfect as God (Matt 5:48, 1Cor. 13:8-11).

The human body has no life of its own. It is a mere house in which the spirit lives. It belongs to the world

and would turn back to dust and pass away with the world. For now, we worship and glorify God in our mortal bodies. Our spirits are in partnership with the Holy Spirit in our bodies, we are now in union with God. The body is the temple of our fellowship, and it must be holy for God to have comfort in it. Though the body is of the world, it must be subject to living a life of the spirit (Rom. 8:9). It must be made to be subject to the spiritual love life. In the resurrection, a new body, an heavenly body which Satan cannot kill or touch will be given to our spirits. With that new body, we shall not only be perfect but immortal, then our spirits would see the face of God (Phil. 3:8-16, 1Cor. 13:12, 1Cor. 15:42-55).

There is an error in understanding about perfection even among those who confess Christ. The literal translation of Jesus' conversation with the ruler in (Luke 18:18-19) is taken to mean that Jesus Himself was not good. We know Jesus cannot commend Himself in this instance even as the scripture taught us. The scripture said he knew no sin (2Cor. 5: 21), righteousness is the girdle of his loins (Isaiah 11: 5 1John 2:29). Jesus is God manifested in the world, therefore if he said "no one is good except God" we must exclude Christ in this rendering. Jesus the Christ is good and perfect.

Again, the epistle of Paul in Philippians 3: 12 could be taken to mean that Paul was not perfect. He was talking about the redemption of the body being the gift of immortality. Paul said he had not attained the

promise of immortality. That he had not received that perfect body which comes after resurrection (Rom. 8: 23). We see in (Phil. 3: 15-16) as Paul saying that he knows that he was perfect in spirit. And that as many as are perfect in the gospel of Christ should have the same mind unto the great day when our bodies shall be changed (Phil. 3: 20-21).

Only perfect people shall be given immortality. Charity or Agape or divine love is the evidence of divine nature. Charity is the bond of perfection. As many as have it shall have immortality to enable them see God their Father and live with him in eternity.

A perfect congregation is one whose bodies are the temple of God, with each having the Holy Spirit of God in it. They are the body of Christ (Col. 1:18, John 3:34, Rom. 12:5, Eph. 4:16). These are a corporate body known as the church or body of Christ. Every believer is in the presence of God through his spirit.

All humans recreated to the image of Christ, are called Christians, the likeness of Christ whose disposition is described as the spirit of Christ (Gal 4:19, Rom 8:9).

They have their bodies as the temple of God which is the body of Christ, and the Holy Spirit, lives in them. They are baptized into one spirit and have one God and one Father which is above all, one Lord, which is Jesus Christ Himself. They have the same faith, the same death and resurrection in Christ by baptism (Eph. 4:6).

They are in fellowship with Christ, and with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, with the same nature.

It is not true that a perfect man cannot be in business. This is devils own doctrine and interpretation of perfection. A perfect man can be angry for evil, speak hot words, and rebuke, etc. (Matt. 21:12, Luke. 13:32, Gal. 3:1, 2Peter 2:12), and can be in business.



## CHAPTER 4

### THE WORD OF GOD, THE POWER OF SALVATION



#### The two kinds of Life

**M**an's blindness is seen in his inability to understand the heavenly life as a result of his inability to understand the nature of his fall and the natural process of human life. God created man in his image and likeness but the original design was thwarted and the purpose destroyed because of Adam's High Treason against God. Man has lost his glory and position as crown of creation. His world has been taken over by an evil spirit who has turned almost everything upside down. He has a new way besides the design of God. Man is born into this new way to grow up with satanic life.

Human development takes two basic processes of life. First is the development of Basic features and human attributes. e.g.

- a. Development of human features.
- b. The ability to eat and drink with the mouth.
- c. To Stand and walk with one's legs and feet,
- d. To understand and speak human language.

If a child is lacking in these, he will hardly be called a



human being. He is an incomplete person because it is not the will and original design of God.

The second and most important aspect is ability to respond to values and to live in them. Value here means knowing what is right and wrong. Man is born into a value system which has been established already. The thoughts have been established, and traditions, customs and laws have been made. Life is being determined by laws. The life of man depends on the value he holds. This may be linked with either God or devil. The law of God is the nature of God, and those of devil the image of his being. Our ways depend on who created the thoughts and the values that we hold. Who made the laws?

The values of God are known as the ways of life but those of devil the ways of death. These two value systems define two kinds of life.

God's laws are known as creation law. For example, clothing as a covering for nakedness was established by God when he clothed Adam and Eve after their fall. Again, Man marrying a woman as wife was from the beginning when God made Eve as a wife for Adam (Gen. 2:22-24). Man as head of woman was also from the beginning (Gen. 3: 16, 1Cor. 14:34).

The summary of the law of God is in one single attribute- LOVE. His laws are love, His commandment is love and His statutes are peace

through love. The decree for men to wear men's clothes and women women's clothes and the prohibition of sex outside husband and wife, are for peace, for joy and for harmony. God's creation is perfect and His laws are perfect. His values have no place for strife, hatred and contradiction.

Besides eating and drinking man is made to respond to God's values and to hold on them as his thoughts, beliefs, and life. They are to be cultivated into man through His word which he has spoken to us. Natural life merely makes the individual have his appearance of the human. But values determine character, conduct, behaviour and kind of life. Believing and walking according to the laws of God gives God's own life. Values of the world make people sinners and enemies of God.

The sinner or the natural man had grown up from his youth with worldly values. He is known as the worldly or natural man. Besides the normal development of his natural life, he also develops along with the evil world, he holds and walks in their beliefs and values. Unfortunately, worldly traditions all came through the fallen man who is under the influence of Satan. The fallen man is an image of the world which has made him to be what he is. He is described as walking in the flesh (Rom. 8:1-13 Gal. 5:16-21). This is human life in his fallen state.

The senses of freedom to do what you like if it does

not hurt or offend anyone means one can freely do anything if people are ignorant of the effects on them. It makes man very destructive. For example, nude display, extortion, environmental pollution, etc. which do harm without the victim knowing will be justified as good.

Freedom to enjoy what one likes because it is personal, after all it does not harm another person. This makes men drunkards, smokers, fornicators, etc. This lack of judgement of one's own action is the broad way to destruction.

The Right to defend oneself from threat produces hatred, lying, deceit, revenge, strife, wars, etc. Except our thoughts and actions are weighed and controlled using God's standards, we will ever remain sinners and enemies of God, and the end is the lake of fire.

The natural man is condemned in his ways (John 3:18, 1Cor. 2:14). Give yourself to God and allow him to determine your thoughts, beliefs, and law of life. He has brought His life that we might receive and live.

### **The Word Made Flesh**

Man is not a mere body but divine will manifesting in a body as image of God.(godly life manifesting in a body). The word of God is about God Himself. It is about God's nature, character, conduct, behaviour and kind of life which He ordained for us at creation. God is God because of who he is. We have not seen

him but we know Him by His words. We see Him by His words. The word is God.

Man had sinned and is fallen short of the glory of God. He is alienated from God, a slave of Satan. His life had been cultivated with sin, he is now the image of devil. His life is a product of the world, which is ruled and dominated by devil. The world has taught man what to do and what he should be. He is a product of the doctrines and values of the world. He neither hears nor understands the voice of God. He has been blinded by the adversary. But God has come to remove his blindness and to reveal himself so that man will have knowledge of Him.

The word becoming flesh means God manifesting His will, His thoughts, His wisdom, knowledge and understanding as revealed in Christ Jesus.

The body of man is like a sensitive field that can be cultivated with a kind of life. What you see in the field depends on what is cultivated. What is cultivated depends on the one who cultivated it. God had made himself known to us by His love in the person of Jesus. His standard, model and counsel has been practically demonstrated by Christ as a doer of God's word and Gods' principles of life. The word of God is the commandment to walk as image of the Father (Eph. 1:4), to love as He loves. God has revealed what He wants, and we are to put ourselves into His word to be what He wants. His righteousness is ours

because He has given us His word to be a substitute of our lives.

Christ and His works are God's epistle to the world. If we are in Christ, then we are also the epistles of God to the world (2Cor 3:3).

### **The Evil Man: Devil**

The evil man is the man whose thoughts, beliefs, values, character, conduct, and behaviour are evil. He is the means by which Satan and his nature is manifested to the world. The evil in man is not the knowledge of sin, but the appearances of evil in him. If we hear of stealing, fornication, lying, envy, covetousness, idolatry, etc. and we know them as evil, our knowledge of them is not evil but when we have the pleasure to be partakers of such things, and we do them then, evil has come in and we become sinners (Rom 1:28-32).

The medium through which evil is manifested is known as devil. The man whose knowledge, wisdom and desires are evil through whom they are manifested and passed to others is not only an evil man but is sin itself. The sinner has the nature of devil known as SIN or Body of Death or spiritual Death (Rom. 7:24).

Every sinner is an agent of evil, a servant of devil. The sinner is the means by which evil is revealed, publicized and cultivated into the being of others

(Rom 6:16, John 8:34). Going to church and calling on the name of Christ is not an exception. One had to be free from sin and the works of devil. Except we are the image of Christ, the Father does not see us as belonging to Him as ambassadors on earth.

### **The Love Personality**

The scripture reveals that love is a personality. God is love. Man was created in the image of God. As a love product, of the image of His love. It was love nature manifested as a person as the image of the living God. No one has seen God except Jesus the Christ who came from heaven. Though we have not seen Him the scripture has revealed that the Father's nature is love.

The love of God is not the mere feeling of deep affection for us. This is human feeling in our fallen state. We have strong affection for those who are related to us.e.g., kinsmen, friends, family members, etc. We describe them as our loved ones. However, affection is different from the love of God. Inordinate affection is sin (Col. 3:5).

The love of God is a product of divine nature. Though affection is present, the action depends on God's will.

Love is the throne of power and authority, the seat of care and responsibility, provision, protection and counsel. It is the seat of goodwill and chastisement, the throne of kindness, goodness, gentleness, meekness, long suffering, judgement and mercy.

The lover is the one acting as the Father, taking the position of the Father to care and to provide for the needy. He gives good and godly counsel to the ignorant. He chastises the fool and erring and saves the sinner.

He as the ambassador of the Father with the righteous ability of the Father to save souls, and to create joy and welfare for the people.

### **The illuminating power of the Word**

The life which the word of love demands is the true life God ordained for man. It is called truth. The word is truth (John 17:17, John 1:14). This true life is presented to man as one seen through a mirror of his true person. The light of man (John 1:4) is the light of knowledge, wisdom, understanding and ability, as image of God. It is the light of the word.

The glory of God overshadows us in the presence of the word to transform us from a state of wicked life to the love of Christ. Christ is to intrude into our conscience, to illuminate us with his kind of love, to produce in us the desired character, the conduct and behaviour. The word should produce fruits of its own kind in us. We are to be born again by the word of truth (1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18).

The Holy Spirit come to convict us through the word. He is the teacher of the word, a guide and comforter. He recreates us through the word. He leads to make



the word real in us to attain the fullness of Christ.

Every believer of Christ is the light of God to the world. The man through whom the Father is revealing His nature is known as light. The light of Christ first illuminated us and overshadowed our conscience to dominate our thoughts. We have become new species of people. The word has converted us to his kind of obedience (2Cor. 10:5). As Jesus illuminated us by the truth of his life, so are we to allow the truth of the Father to shine in us for others to be transformed. We are not only to preach or teach with mouth but to show the desired life.

All righteous men are ambassadors and instruments of God. On the other hand, all sinners, and hypocrites are instruments of devil and are on the side of devil fighting God.

In the work of redemption, the blood of Jesus cleanses our spirits, but we must cleanse our mind, will and heart from evil thoughts and our bodies from unclean habits by His word. Obedience to the call of God means giving up ourselves to God to allow Him be all and all. This makes our spirits to be developed by meditating and acting on the word, and letting the word live in us to become part of us. When the word is in you, it will speak and manifest itself for others to see what spirit we have become.

## **The abundance of the Heart**

The outward man is a product of his knowledge of the world, his understanding, wisdom and ability in dealing with situations.

The heart of man and the mind is a world of its own. It has a vision of the real world and false imaginations. The world is clearly written in the mind, we see those things that happen, and we anticipate those likely to happen. Our behaviour is a response to those things which happen as they affect us. We respond to things we think are likely to happen. Some of these are mere speculations of unreal things.

Our vision of the world, our knowledge and understanding, our needs, desires and aspirations all constitute what the scripture calls the abundance of the heart (Lk 6:45). We are what the world has made us to become. The language we speak is of the world. The food we eat, our tastes and special interest is derived from the world. We will not know if they do not exist in the world. We do not know what we have not seen or heard or tasted. We cannot do things unknown to us. We cannot respond to them; we cannot desire for them. But God has made known to us those things which we do not know which we should desire for spiritual things of God are eternal. The things that are seen are temporal but those not seen are eternal (2Cor 4:18).

We know our needs and those things that hinder us.

We know the violence in the world, and the oppression and how to defend ourselves. We have seen what others do to have what they want. From the world we know how we can lie or deceive to get what we want. Though we know all these, God is telling us that what we see is not for our interest but for our destruction. If we allow the events of the world to dominate us, to determine our actions and attitude, we will be His enemies (Rom 8:7-8).

For instance, we know those who oppose us, who stand against our interest, and our minds tell us they are our enemies. Though we see what they do, the Father is telling us they are not the enemy. The word of God is in opposite direction to the world in our minds. God said we were created in His image and likeness. God is a spirit, and we were created as spirits in earthly vessels. If we do not look on things seen but on things not seen; He will reveal to us those things that are unknown. We do not need to look at the human enemy who is seen but on the one that is not seen. Only faith in the word can renew our minds and give us a new mind.

### **The Word of God as the Spirit of Christ**

God is a spirit, and we believe by faith that he created the world. In every local language in the world there is a name or an expression for God.

Man is fallen and separated from God. This separation is in our knowledge and understanding of

Him so when we see Him, we do not know Him. The enemy has blinded the minds of all against God (John 12:40. 2Cor. 4: 3-4).

The word of God exists in three ways:

(a) The Logos (b) the spoken word and (c) the written word.

### **The Logos**

The word is a revelation of the personality of God, His nature, His thoughts, His mind, attitude, character, behaviour, ability and strength. We can see God through the word. Our contact with Him in this present world is the word. The nature of God is called the Logos or the original word. That is what is revealed in Christ.

God is what He is as God because of the nature He has. Love makes God peculiar in holiness. If we have this love which God Himself has, then we are said to have possessed the seed of God in ourselves. This seed of God in us is the Logos, Divine Nature, Eternal life, the spirit of Christ. It is the source of peace, love, joy goodness, kindness, meekness, long-suffering, faith, etc. This nature guarantees peaceful eternal existence in the universe. Those who have divine nature or eternal life are seen as branch of the vine, or as offspring of God or sons of God (1John 3:9).

When we understand the nature of the word and act upon it, then we have enabled our spirits act on the word, which originally is his being. In this case, our

spirits are said to have been quickened by the word. This is the reason for the Holy Spirit in the world as spirit of truth to teach us thereby recreating us through the word. The word is the image of God.

The word is God speaking the truth about himself to us. The word of God and God himself are the same because God is revealed through the word.

We can be reconciled with God only through the word. The word is always now and it exist to make us think like God. It gives us understanding or conviction of sin, of judgement and of righteousness (John 16:7-11). The word exists to recreate the fallen and unrighteous man by renewing his minds (James 1:18, I Peter 1:25).

The seed of God in us is divine love in our spirits manifesting in our conduct. This is different from human love. It is called charity or agape, it is the realm of life, in which God is the origin (Rom. 5:5). If one is dominated by God's life then we know that his spirit has been quickened by the power of Christ. In order words it is converted and led into a sea of love, the nature that ensures eternal peace in both heaven and earth.

The word is God, and the word is spirit (John 6:63). But God is love, man's spirit was a love product. God's commandment to us is God giving us His being that we might receive it by faith.

God is a spirit and it is man's spirit that is to be the image and likeness of God. Our spirits is converted to His image by the commandment of love. The converted human spirit is described as the image of Christ. We are partakers of Christ (Gal. 4:19; Rom. 8:9-16, Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). The spirit of Christ means the essence of God in our personality: in our character, nature, attitude, and state of mind. We have the mind of Christ through the word and through the gift of eternal life which we have received.

The human whose spirit is quickened by the word is said to have received or possessed the word of God in himself. The Word is not the teaching or preaching or doctrine but the image, which God wants us to receive. The teachings and doctrines merely describe it so that we will understand.

The manifestations of God in the individual is in the speech, attitude, character, conduct, behaviour and life (John 14:10-11, 1John 4:16-17, John 17:17-23).

The spoken word is the voice of God, telling us of who He is and how He wants us to be in His fellowship. It is made of teachings, doctrines, commandments, laws, statutes, prophecies, etc.

The written word is an account of the history of God in His relationship with man, his ways and desires for man. It is a stock of record of all His activities and everything He had done to make himself known to us.

## **The Human Body, The Soul, and the Spirit**

The human body is of the earth. It is made of matter from earth regenerated beyond man's comprehension. It is the house of the spirit (Gen. 2:7). The body contacts physical things. It touches them, it handles and feels, it smells, it walks to site, and runs to escape, etc. It is where work is done, where obedience is shown and where sin is committed.

The body is made up of departments known as members of the body. It has five sense organs, which are messengers of the body. They receive messages from the environment for the body. These are the eyes, the ears, the nose, the mouth and tongue, and the skin. The sense ruled man is the man whose senses determines the actions. The world is the teacher and the interpreter.

The sense organs are not of the spirit, they are of the body. They are the means by which the spirit can contact the material world, to express itself through the members of the body. Because the soul, is connected to the body.

The behaviour of man in the body was a reflection of God's own life before the great fall. Man had supernatural intelligence and creative ability. He loved God and communed with Him without fear or inferiority complex or sense of unworthiness. Man was in the class of God because of his nature and the position God gave to him.

But he fell because of rebellion and died in spirit. He received the very nature of the evil one. He is now a condemned being.

Man has become flesh or sense ruled. He is no longer spirit ruled. The fleshly senses have become the determinant of man's action. Every natural man inherited this lost glory from Adam (Gen. 6:3, Rom.5:12).

The sense organs are daily in contact with the material world, which is owned and ruled by Satan. The adversary has used several events to cultivate our senses to his advantage. Every sin man commits forms an impression in the mind that hinders him from God. Through sin in the flesh the human spirit is separated from God and divine life. Sin creates sin consciousness and unworthiness making it difficult for the inner man to come to God. His voice sounds as a subconscious mind or conscience that cannot be respected by the body. Conscience is the voice of an inward man. It is a love product reminding the body of perverseness, ungodliness, and condemnation. If the spirit has no say in the person, God Himself will speak through the human mechanism. The spirit is the light of God in the person (Prov. 20:27).

The sins you commit, the evil habits you have and your agreement with the world have is the darkness that you have in the mind, and the light of God through the spirit does not come out. The mind is in enmity with God (Gal. 5:16-21. Rom. 8:7-8).



The mind is the storehouse of evil, the seat of knowledge of the world, the interpreter of events, and the place of imagination. The soul has the impression of the deeds of the body, no more in the original state of love. It is dead. Man is dead through sin (Rom. 8:5-8, 13).

The mind that is filled with selfishness, hatred, revenge, and evil cannot know God. God walks with the individual whose mind is renewed by His word. Whatever step the unrenewed man takes to please God would be evil because he is in darkness.

### **The Human Spirit**

Man is three-fold being of body, soul and spirit (1Thess. 5:23). The spirit of man is called the hidden man of the heart. This is the real man. It is called the inner man. (1Pet. 3:4, Eph.3: 16).

The spirit contacts spiritual things. It is the spirit that contacts God. The recreated human spirit is in partnership with the Holy Spirit. The human spirit is of the spirit world as the body is of the physical world. It has its appearance in the true shape of the outward man but, a spirit. God illuminates the spirit to walk in His being. He is the image of God because He brought him out of His breath.

The spirit is a spiritual body with a soul. It comes out through the breath of God (Ps. 104:29-30, Gen. 2:7). He rejoices in God. It does not grow old, it does not die, it is eternal.

The spirit has a soul where God's wisdom and will is expressed. The soul of man was the same as that of God before the great death. God is life, His nature is life, God is living. Man was a living soul. The heart of God and that of the unfallen man is the same.

The spirit of man came out of love, clothed by love, and works through the wisdom of love. This love life is eternal life, the very life of God.

Man sinned against God and died. He died in spirit and loses his love life, eternal life was killed. Man's spirit became clothed with another life, with sin consciousness, sense of unworthiness, inferiority complex. He is in an environment of want, wickedness uncertainty, now a subject of the flesh. He is spiritually dead, rejected and alienated from God. He is now prisoner of evil, prisoner of devil and prisoner of his devilish life.

### **The Human Soul**

The soul is the center of the human sensibilities. It is of the spirit but is connected to the body through the sense organs and fleshly mind. It is the center of man's thoughts.

As the body contacts physical things and the spirit spiritual things so is the soul in direct contact with thoughts, feelings, knowledge, intellectual and mental things, busy communicating intellectually, mentally, emotionally etc. with moral principles and

laws. It is the center of life. The soul is influenced by the material world through the five senses.

Man sinned and is fallen short of His glory. He is worldly, sense ruled and materialistic. Satan has possessed man's soul; man's life and he is ruling him through the world. Every imagination of man is evil (Gen. 6:5).

In the redemption work, neither the body nor the soul was born again, but the spirit. The human spirit is given back the life of God to quicken him with God's life. The word of love is communicated and established in him to be a remedy for his hatred and revenge. This word of love is Christ. It is brought to him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Though the soul and the body are dead, the spirit is reawakened by the life of Christ in him (Rom. 8:10). Through the recreated spirit, the human senses are subdued and the mind renewed. God is making a new creation by the breath of His word and spirit. He has poured out His soul into the spirit of man to make it new by His breath of life.

### **The Recreated Human Spirit**

The part of man, which is born again now is the human spirit. It is not a change of spirit but the entrance of the word of God into the spirit and into his doings to quicken the same spirit that was dead.

The body is not born again but it shall be redeemed at the resurrection of the dead (Rom. 8:23). The soul

and the senses are not born again. The word of God shall be a substitute for the dead soul. The word shall be the life of the spirit (Prov. 8:34-36, Prov. 3:21-22). The word is Christ. The word dominating our spirits means the Lordship of Christ over us. The word in us means Christ living in us.

The uncreated human spirit is dead from the life of God. It is carrying a load of devilish objects e.g., hot iron (1Tim. 4:2). It is possessed by demons and unclean spirits (Eph. 2:1).

The human spirit must be delivered from these powers of darkness holding it and be made new (Col. 1:13). After freedom is given through deliverance, it must be transformed or regenerated by the word of God through the Holy Spirit.

The spirit that is delivered from its bondage is still leaving in a mortal body, that is subject to manipulations by devil. This is the reason for temptations. But since the power of sin is destroyed through deliverance and repentance he can overcome. The sinful and unrepented human has no access to the life which Christ brought except he repents. This life is in the word. This is the reason for the Holy Spirit indwelling in us to give us understanding about God so that we might resist the devil.

We are to hear the word and understand the mystery of Christ, to put ourselves in the word. Putting ourselves in the word means separating from worldly

lust, denying the senses, despising it so that it would no longer dictate what we do. It means repentance. If we disagree with the rulership of the senses, we have yielded ourselves to God to act through us. Though our senses are still with us and corrupt, the Holy Spirit in us will give us the understanding of the need to act on the word of His love. The word of love is divine life brought down from heaven for the fallen man to receive. We are to exercise ourselves in the word, to do it and live in it, to make our spirit exercise itself in it also. By this, we have allowed it to partake of the nature of God, and live in its spirit life, then it is quickened. The recreated speaks through the word and the senses will obey. The cloud of evil in the mind will begin to clear because you have rejected its rulership. The man is become spirit ruled and not sense ruled. The word of God is now his spirit life, (John 6:63) and that life is the spirit of Christ. Acting on the word is yielding ourselves to the lordship of Christ. The Lordship of Christ over our lives means He is living in us that His life is our life.

The Holy Spirit communicates with our spirits, revealing the life, intruding into it through the word, and empowering to dominate the senses. Through understanding and power of the Holy Spirit our spirit is filled with abundant love life. Sin consciousness, sense of unworthiness and inferiority complex have disappeared. The man is now at peace with God.

The recreated human spirit is the source of Jesus' kind of love. The life flows out and dominates even

the flesh. The recreated human spirit is the source of real faith. It is the source of love, joy, peace, rest, meekness, gentleness, long-suffering, etc. These attributes are bound to be manifested in the body because it is the nature of the new creation. The man is so because divine life has entered him. He will not say, I will exercise my faith to overcome. It is foolish to say I will exercise my faith in a given circumstance. This is a confession of doubt and unbelief. The word has become his life and he walks by it because he is ruled by the word.

This promise of man's recreation was through the prophets (Gen. 3:15, Jer. 31:22, 33, Ps. 102:18, Isa. 43:18-21, Isa. 45:8).

That a new creation shall be made by the spirit of God and by the word (Isa. 59:2, Isa. 51:16). The old creation has been made subject to vanity, (Rom. 8:20). It is condemned already (John 3:18).

But the new shall form a new generation, a generation that fears the Lord (Ps. 24:3-6, Isa. 53:8, 11-12, Ps. 22:30-31). It is to be born from the dead (John 12:24-26. Rom. 8:13).

This truth was revealed to Paul, that to be born again is to be born of the spirit. And for the spirit to be quickened, the flesh must die (John 12:24; Rom. 6:3-13, Rom. 8:1, Gal 5:24, John 6:63). The senses must die for the word to rule. The flesh is to be dead to sin.

It means repentance and separation from evil. The man that is dead to sin is servant of righteousness (Rom 6:18).

The fruits of being born again are as in (Gal. 5:22-23). The man is ruled by the new man which after God is created in righteousness (Eph. 4:24). This new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Col. 3: 10). He is a new creation (2Cor. 5:17).

### **Regeneration And Translation (Born Again)**

Man is three folds being of body, soul, and spirit (1Thess. 5:23). The body and the soul are not born again. It is the human spirit that is to be born again John 3:3-6. The new birth is an act of spiritual operation.

The body, which is the house of man is endowed with human life or fleshly life. The spirit has the life of God. The fleshly life is without order except it is ruled, controlled and moderated by the inward man. The beauty of human life depends on the nature and life of the spirit in him. Sense knowledge is a product of world events.

Behind the fleshly mind is the human spirit. Before the fall of man, the fleshly mind was in harmony with the hidden man of the heart. Man was created with the life of the spirit, keeping laws of the spirit of God. The spirit had ascendancy over the flesh and body.

After man sinned against God the human spirit lost the dominion over its body. Man is living a life that responds to the demands of the body only. Since Satan is the prince of the world, man in the flesh is now servant of devil. He is subject of Satan who manipulates him daily through his fleshly desires.

Man in the senses is in darkness, ignorant of spiritual things. Since his reasoning is determined by the events of the body, the mind can only understand worldly things. It feels only about physical things. Man's feelings are product of his flesh. They are ruled by devil (Rom. 8:5-8, 13).

The reasoning of man is a function of the physical world. It cannot contact spiritual things, neither can it obey God. All the knowledge acquired through schools of learning including psychology is sense knowledge. They cannot discover things of the spirit. Psychology is of the mind, which is of the flesh, it cannot understand the spirit, it cannot tell spiritual things. The spirit in the body is subconscious and speaks as conscience (John 8:9).

The spirit has the soul in it, the center of all sensibilities. It works even without the body and the sense organs. The spirit has its own life, which is of God. The Holy Spirit does not impose divine life to the flesh; he can only commune with the human spirit. This brings conviction and makes the person to repent and to control his desires.



The sense of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and feelings are in the spirit. In the beginning God overshadowed man with His love and caused man to walk as He walks.

If the human spirit is out of the body, the sense organs would cease to work, but the spirit is complete with all its feelings.

If sin is committed in the body, the spirit becomes guilty before God and separation follows, fellowship with God is broken and the man becomes flesh (Gen. 6:3). The sense ruled man is the man that is ruled by the outward man through the flesh. His sinful fleshly life makes his spirit be cut off from God, the source of its spiritual life. He is now slave of Satan. Man's mind is described as carnal because worldly things have occupied it. Since Satan is the god of the world, Satan rules the mind and reasoning faculties through things of the world. The carnal mind is a hindrance to man in the things of God (Eph. 4: 18-22).

Every man that come through Adam is born into the sense realm, the realm of Satan (Gen. 6:3, 2Cor. 4:4; John 14:30). There are things, his reasoning faculties cannot give explanation. In some cases, the fallen man is so far from God and married with Satan as agent that the spirit has no voice anymore. The conscience is dead. These men are described as reprobates. Otherwise, the spirit laments over the sins committed in the body. Sin consciousness is of

the spirit, not of the flesh. Conviction and grief are spiritual.

The works of redemption through Christ are to revisit the human spirit, deliver it from bondage of Satan and to give it a new life. This life is the life of the Father which Christ brought from heaven through the word. The word of love would build Christ's nature and God's nature into our spirits.

The word of God is God, it is the nature of God, the righteousness of God, the ability of God. If the word is imparted to our spirits and engrafted as our lives, then God is in us with His power and authority and might (1John 1:1-3, John 1:1,4,14).

The word is God speaking to our spirits by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts our spirits of sin and this leads to repentance. As we act on the word in the flesh, we have liberated our spirits from the evil of the body, to walk in the life of God. With divine life in our spirits the fleshly mind and the world would have no dominion over us.

The word is God (John 1:1) and God is love (I John 4:8), the word is love. (John 13:34), Love is divine life, brought down from heaven for us to receive, and live by faith. The word of life is the word of faith. Mental assent cannot give life, but the word of faith becoming our lives. The believer is the one that has so acted on the word of God that he is the word himself.

He has become the epistle of God in the world. When we act on the word, our spirits are loosed from the bondage of sin to be filled with the nature of the Father. The Holy Spirit dominates us with the life of the Father (Rom. 5:5, 2Cor 3:18). Our spirits are hid in Christ and in Him.

When the human spirit is regenerated through the word and the Holy spirit we are said to be born of the spirit. That saves us from the sense realm to the spirit realm, the realm of God. The man is now of the spirit, translated into the kingdom of God (Col. 1:13). Though he is living in the flesh, he does not walk after the desires of the flesh. The man cannot do evil because the mind is subject to the spirit, it is renewed by the knowledge of God (Roman 12:1-3).

### **Walking in the Spirit**

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit” (Rom. 8:1). The secret of the spirit life is the word. The word is spirit and the word is life. John 6: 63.

The three world powers are all spirits: God, devil and man. Man has lost his divine qualities as a spirit being. He is fallen short of the image and glory of God and has become inferior to devil. He has lost his dominion and authority to the devil.

Satan is condemned already and wants man to be

condemned along with him. Fallen man is spiritually dead, and being dead in spirit, he can understand only things of the flesh. He is blind to spiritual truth, without spiritual wisdom and ability that makes him the image of God on earth.

The attributes of a renewed spirit is Supernatural wisdom, superhuman intelligence and supernatural powers. Spiritual things are unveiled to him through revelation knowledge.

Our knowledge, understanding and acknowledgment of the things of God is the work of faith. Rom. 8:5 says, *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”*

Fallen man is in the flesh walking with his sense of hearing, seeing, tasting, smelling, and feeling. The wisdom of the senses is too weak to understand things of the spirit of God (1Cor. 2:14). So God has done something to convert man into the spiritual realm to walk in spirit. He brought Jesus as spiritual light; this light is divine life and of the spirit of the word (John 1:4). This word of life when received is known as spiritual reawakening. It is the conversion from the flesh and the senses to the dominion of the spirit, the realm of God.

Conversion is of the spirit, not of the body. The body still remains mortal. Total conversion will come on

the day of the Lord when immortal bodies shall be given to us at the resurrection of the dead.

God wants the word to be our wisdom to walk as faith men. The word is the secret of divine life (John 6:63).

The word of God makes us the image of the heavenly. The word is spirit life in a mortal body. Through this word of life, we can exercise God's ability and authority. The Word is God (John 1:1) and God is love (I John 4:8), the word is love. Love is spirit life. When we walk in love, then we are in the realm of God.

We have let our spirits act on the word as image of God, whose primary desire is to keep the law of the spirit of life and live as the being of God.

Fruits of walking in the spirit are love, peace, joy, rest, meekness, gentleness, long-suffering temperance, goodness, etc.(Gal. 5:22-23). These are fruits of the word in us.

The desires of the flesh are complex. Much of these desires are being manipulated by devil. They are not part of man from the foundation.

The sense ruled man is called carnal man because he lives by the desires of the flesh. Since he does not walk by the word of God, the fallen man is described as walking in the flesh, who is rebellious, and always in opposition to God (Gal. 5:19).

God has given us the word of love to be a substitute of our life. His word is to guide our decisions and

actions. When we walk in His commandment of love, we will be like Him. Love is the realm of God.

Everything we desire in the flesh and those in our imagination must be judged by the word that is given to us as our life. Ungodly desires must be slain by the word in us.

The flesh lusted against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh: The desires of the flesh are against the life of the spirit and desires of the spirit are against the life of the flesh. The human personality is in a state of confusion; therefore, the word is the only solution to the believer (Gal 5:17).

### **Eternal Life:**

Eternal life is the Nature that is imparted to man at the New Birth, making him a New Creation. The natural man is spiritually dead, having the nature of devil in him. To eradicate this death is the reason Jesus came to earth (John 3:16, 2Tim. 1:10, John 17:1-3, Rom. 6:23). Man is condemned because of spiritual death. He needs eternal life to lift him out of condemnation. When you have eternal life, you no longer belong to the world but to God. You can freely and boldly stand in the presence of God as your Father without sense of guilt or inferiority complex. It is the identity that makes you belong to the family of the living where God is the Father.

### **Nature of Eternal Life**

Eternal Life is known as divine nature (2Pet. 1:4). It

was the spiritual nature of man before the fall. It is the only way we are passed from death to life (John 5:24). Though we were dead in the past because of trespasses, eternal life has made us alive again (Col. 1:13-14). Eternal life is the nature of God, the nature that satisfies eternity. It is God's eternal law. It guarantees peace, harmony, joy and rest. It kills contradiction, eliminates destruction, and slays death. Eternal life holds creation to eternity. It is God's eternal nature. Eternal life in us means we are partakers with God of His eternal nature. It is manifested in terms of attributes.

## **Charity**

Charity means love in our thoughts and reasoning, a sense of responsibility to people's welfare, the ability to care for the need of mankind and to save people from God's condemnation.

Charity makes an individual the image and true representative of God on earth. The ability of changing people's welfare by His grace, to overcome evil with good (1Cor. 13:4-7). It was commanded by Christ to be practiced in the flesh, but the implantation of this attribute in man is from God. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We must practice to show love in the outward as an indication of our co-operation with God to be worthy to receive His loving heart (Rom. 5:5, Matt. 5:6-7). Charity is the bond of perfectness. This is the foundation from which all other Christian attributes find expression. Love is the

law of the spirit, the law that governs the family of the living, including the angels. Charity means we have assumed the position of God on earth as caretaker and provider, as source of peace, joy and rest and, as source of welfare to others. It makes us co-labourers with God, that we might be servants and ministers of God to all mankind.

## **Joy**

Joy is a state of gladness arising from the assurance the Father has given and our confidence in his promises. It is an outcome of the word in us. Since the word is spirit, joy is a product of a renewed spirit, it is an attribute of God.(Gal. 5:22). It comes to the believer through knowledge of the truth about His love, and the hope, and assurance of our fellowship with God and the blessings to come. It is confidence in the realities of God's promises. Joy and happiness are not the same. Joy is of the spirit; happiness is of the flesh (senses). Happiness depends on circumstances e.g., good health, a pleasant event, one's fortune, etc. Happiness and unhappiness cannot exist together at the same time but joy and sorrow can exist together. Jesus, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, but on the cross, the joy that was set before him enabled him to endure the pains, despising the shame, and he is now at the right hand of God (Heb. 12:2, Isa. 53:3). Paul and Silas at the prison had an unpleasant moment but the joy that was in them made them to sing which shook the foundation of the house and brought salvation to the



prison guard. The secret of our victory power over temptation is joy.

## **Peace**

Peace means peace with God. The nature of God in us makes us be at peace with Him. We are the reconciled ones. We can go boldly to the throne of grace without inferiority complex. Perfect love has removed fear in us (1John 4:18, Heb. 9:14). Peace is fruit of the spirit, an outcome of the word in us. It is a product of the new thing in Christ. Peace with God enables us to reap the full benefits of fellowship in fearless confidence (Phil. 4:7). It is described as abundant peace. It gives us boldness, confidence, and assurance in the things of God because He is a powerful and trustable Father who cares and keeps promises. It gives soundness of mind as a superman in a world ruled by a wicked enemy, Satan (2Tim. 1:7, John 14:27).

## **Long-suffering:**

This means patience in tribulations, the ability to endure through the love of a trustable Father who does not disappoint. Love made God to endure man's rebellious attitude with long-suffering. We are also to possess the ability to endure the pains of those who persecute us, and pray—*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do*” (Lk. 23:34). It makes the believer endure till the end. Long-suffering would make us overcome doubt over the delay of the Lord's coming.

## **Gentleness**

Condescension to people of low estate, mildness, quietness, humility and kindness. It is a fruit of the recreated human spirit, a product of the word in us (Gal. 5:22). He will not strive, he is not rough or fierce but mild (2Tim. 2:24) not arrogant, or proud, or boastful, or high-minded but mild and lowly, (Matt. 12:18-21), he is not easily provoked.

## **Goodness**

Kindness, mercifulness etc.

## **Faith**

Faith is the ability to believe that you have what you hope to get based on available evidence. The evidence is the word of God. It is the ability to stand and rejoice in the word of God. God has recreated us by His word. He has given us all things through His word and we have believed it. Our faith in His word is producing fruits of its own kind in us. We are now faith men and lovers of God through the word. Faith means standing and rejoicing in God's promises. It is an outcome of our knowledge and understanding in His word, which has given us boldness, confidence and assurance. The Father is faithful and just who is willing to do all things for those who love him. We have confidence in His words. We are in Him and He in us by His words which we have received. The ability to stand and do the word of God is the fruit of faith. This is the faith of the recreated spirit.

## **Meekness**

The ability to endure oppression and overcome evil with good. It does not imply weakness, but the ability to overcome oppression without revenge. It means obedience to the Father. Vengeance belongs to God (Matt. 11:29).(Gal..5: 23). Lowliness and meekness must be shown one towards another (Eph. 4:2. Isa 53:7).

## **Temperance**

Self-restraint and moderation in fleshly things e.g., abstinence from alcohol, avoidance of excess eating and drinking, clothing, etc. and the ability to control anger.

## **Rest**

It is not rest from work. God worked and rested after creation (Gen. 2:2) and He is in His rest in His temple (1 Chronicle 28:2). God commanded that the Sabbath be kept by the Israelites as a memorial to abide in His rest (Ex. 16:23, 31:15). But the rest of the new creation is the rest of his soul through Jesus Christ. Eternal life in the believer has renewed his mind, eliminating lust, anxiety, clamour, war, concupiscence, envy etc. Eternal life has given him rest (Matt. 11:28). Jesus is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1Pet. 2:25). Unbelievers will not enter into this rest (Heb. 3:11). All Christians are in this rest of God.

## **Righteousness**

The gift of eternal life makes us walk in the righteousness of God.

We have two kinds of righteousness, the Righteousness of God, and the righteousness which of the law.

Righteousness of God means God's own life, his love and wisdom as manifested in His relationship with us. Righteousness of the law is the justification given to the covenant children of Israel who kept the Law of Moses. As many times as they would sin which was not unto death, the sinner should offer blood sacrifice to obtain this righteousness which is of the law. This is the same as self-righteousness (Rom. 10:1-5, Phil. 3:9).

God has sent Christ to reveal his righteousness to us to enable us obtain it. We have the righteousness of God when we are partakers with Him of his nature and being. We are His resemblance, and as He is, so are we. We are His witnesses and true representatives. Righteousness gives us the boldness to stand before Him.

Divine nature makes us to stand before God without sense of guilt. Love has produced its own fruits in us making us be united with God.

Righteousness is the ability to be co-worker with Christ to create peace, joy and welfare for others to be at peace with God. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous is as bold as a lion" (Prov. 28:1). Righteousness is the ability to stand before

God without fear or sense of guilt. For God to be now first and the center of all our thoughts and actions, to work to fulfil the will of God as Father.

Righteousness is the fruit of love, a product of the word. Love makes us assume the position of servant to mankind. The believer does not think of his own but the interest and joy which he will create for others. It makes us speak the truth, be faithful, honest, and sincere, we are men that can be trusted (Phil. 2: 38, Rom. 12:3-5, 1Cor. 10:24, 2Cor. 8:9). The ability to create Joy and welfare for people is righteousness.

God is love. Man's creation in the likeness of God is about how God made man as the image of His love. Fellowship was established because man and God had the same nature. The separation of God and man is not about total rejection of man as a son, but about Satan's nature which is incompatible with God. Man, the victim of this separation was originally the image and likeness of God. Adam had no such "*Adamic Nature*" as asserted by Theologians. He had no nature of his own. He had the nature of God at creation. But when he fell, he became partaker of the nature of devil.

Man was perfect at creation. He was the righteousness of God in the world. But the story is different today. Adam committed a High Treason against God and his divine nature disappeared, and

was overtaken by a corrupt nature characterized by fear, insecurity, inferiority complex, strife, hatred, revenge, lying, selfishness, etc. This is the opposite of the being of God. It is the nature of devil called spiritual death (Gen. 3:10-11, Eph. 2:3, Rom. 5:12), with this nature in him man is unrighteous before God.

This cursed nature is the source of evil. As long as man is in this condition, he has no legal standing before God. Except man is redeemed from this fallen state and made to conform to the image and likeness of God, fellowship cannot be restored. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). So God sent Jesus Christ to die for man's transgression to restore him back as son through the gift of eternal life (2Peter 1:4, John 5:24). By this the unrighteous man would once more become righteous through the nature of God that is imparted to him

The restoration plan of God was based on righteousness. He said, "In righteousness shall thou be established". God who has the ability to do all things has declared "Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness, let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together, I the Lord have created it" Isaiah 45:8. God is saying he has made his nature available to man through Christ, and that the very righteousness that is of God would manifest from the new birth. The love of God will be

planted in man so that the righteous life of God will appear in him. The kingdom of Christ is labelled with righteousness, he said, “a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom”. Those who are born into the house of God are indeed the righteous ones (1John 2:29, Heb. 1:8). The effect of righteousness in a full-grown faith is peace, confidence, quietness, and assurance forever. Righteousness is the ability to stand in the presence of God without sense of guilt or inferiority complex (Isa. 32:17, Heb. 10:38, Heb. 4:16). It determines the sweetness of the fellowship between God and man. The righteous ones are ambassadors and co-labourers with God in the world.

### **The Old Testaments Saints**

If righteousness came through Christ, what was the conditions of the saints that were accepted by God before the coming of Jesus Christ?

Love disappeared in man from the fall of Adam. Till Christ came nobody had eternal life (Rom. 5:14). Every man was spiritually dead. This problem would be removed only by the substitutional sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Since the sacrifice was not offered then, God decided to establish the old covenant (the law) to rule man till the time the sacrifice of Christ would be done (Heb. 9:10, 8:7-13). The Old Testament saints including those who kept the law were all under the curse of death. God looked down from heaven to see if any was good, but said none, not even one. They did not receive the promise of life (Heb. 11:39-40).

God gave them the law not because it would make them walk in his actual righteousness, but those who kept it, their obedience to God was counted as righteousness (Rom. 4:3). Since they had not the righteousness of God inside them, their righteousness was considered by God as filthy rags Isa. 64:6. The nature of devil in man is the reason David killed Uriah and took his wife. The law made nothing perfect. Perfection came through the death of Jesus Christ (Heb. 7:19).

So, by the deeds of the law no one was righteous or justified before God. The saints who attained to the righteousness of the law could not see God because they were spiritually dead, for that reason, they were reserved in Abraham's bosom or paradise or Third Heaven until the Saviour came, and finished the redemption work. Christ resurrected and went into paradise and delivered them with his blood and they were taken to heaven (Luke 16:22, 2Cor. 12:2,4, 1Pet. 3:19, 1Pet. 4:6, Luke 23:43).

Through the substitutional sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God has made his righteousness available to us through love. And He has said he has a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness (Rom. 1:18, Acts. 17:31). Judgement must begin in the house of God. Repent and obtain the righteousness of God into your being to escape His judgement.

### **Characteristics Of Divine Love**

Love is the fulfillment of the law of God. Those who



are ruled by love cannot be sinners because they are sons and companions of God. Jesus gave love as the new commandment (John 13:34-35). It is an appeal to our senses of what we should do to win the heart of God to receive us into his being. It is our co-operation with God for our salvation.

“Blessed are they that hunger and taste for righteousness for they shall be filled” (Matt. 5:6).

Charity is the being of God (1John 4:8, 16). We know Him by His nature. The fulfillment of the promise of salvation is the implantation of this love in the heart of man by the Holy Spirit. It makes man conformed to the image of the Father; it makes him represent God on earth. Charity is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5, Gal. 5:22). Only truly repented people can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift makes man a lover of God and man (2Cor 5:14-15, John 4:20-21). It is expressed through our service to others (Gal. 5:13). It is the acid test of discipleship (John 3:35, 1John 3:14, Luke 14:26).

Divine love is not affection. It is defined in terms of some attributes (1Cor. 13:4-7): goodness, temperance, faith, meekness, gentleness, kindness, long suffering, peace, rest, joy, etc. It is the bond of perfection. It establishes us with an unshakable faith. It gives the believer a sense of fellowship and the assurance that nothing can separate him from God (Rom. 8:31-39). Faith without love of God is dead and

worthless (James 2:17-26, Gal. 5:6,13). The believer loves God, and he loves his neighbour as himself. He loves his human enemy as well as his brother (Matt. 5:43-48, Rom. 12:19-20, 1John 3:14). His love is without hypocrisy, it is love indeed 1 John 3:18

God has demonstrated His love for us to see. He gave up his only begotten son because he loves the world (Matt. 17:24, John 3:16). Though man is a sinner, God loves him (Rom. 5:8-10). He supplies the needs of the good and the evil (Act 14:17). He works out a redemption plan for him. The peak of His love was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary for all humanity to be saved(1John 4:10). He is a Father with a loving heart. He chastises His children that they might be good. He does not want them to be condemned.

Agape is the life of the spirit of God. It is life of the recreated spirit. The spirit is healed with the word of love.

Agape love or the love of Christ would produce its own life and wisdom in us. It would produce fruits of its own kind in us.

It cannot enslave others. It cannot take advantage of the ignorant. It would never reign as absolute monarch or tyrant. It does not take advantage of the weak.

It does not give consent just for selfish gain, it does not agree with evil against others, it does not steal, does not covet, does not envy. It does not seek its own, does not set bad examples, it does not divorce. It does not fornicate.

It does not count or remember evil done against it. It does not rejoice in the failure of others, it does not despise the weak, does not rejoice in evil, does not rejoice when his enemy is fallen.

It is never involved in a crime. Love destroys selfishness and carries the burden of others. The selfish mind is always afraid in an environment of love and flee from it. Love is open to all. It is the light of God.

Love endures and prospers in the midst of selfish people. This is known as long-suffering. They lie, criticize, fight and see only evil but love bears them, love is patient and kind.

Love is not proud, not boastful, not loud mouthed, not high minded, not arrogant. It does not despise; it is not partial.

Love is not crafty but plain, it speaks the truth. It is not easily offended; it does not think evil. It cannot revenge, it cannot fight for selfish interest.

Love is humble before God, it believes all things God has said, it hopes on all things God has promised.

It does not fail, it is eternal, it is the realm of God, the bond of perfectness. It is the rock. If we build our lives on the foundation of the kind of love of Christ, we will never fall (2Pet. 1: 3-11).

### **Exercising Ourselves on the Word**

Christianity means union with the Father and with Christ by partaking with them of the same nature and life. The nature of God is to become our nature through His word. We are to be established in His image by His word. If we act as loving children, He will manifest Himself to us as a loving Father. When the Father says “keep my words”: this means we are to take our place as sons, taking our responsibilities as sons. The word in memory alone does not work. We are to exercise in the love life, to do it, live in it until it becomes our being.

The nature of God in us is not of the body or of the soul but of the spirit. Believe in the heart means, let your spirit act on the word. The word of God is spirit (John 6: 63) and you are to allow your spirit become the likeness of God through the word. Acting on the word is against the comfort of the body and soul but it is the means by which our spirits will be integrated into God and His spiritual kingdom. Our soul and body create emotion and passions, and sentiments, but the word of God in us, despises and destroys them. The mind is deceitful and desperately wicked above all things. Gen. 6:5. Emotions, excitements, passions and sentiments do not give room for real faith and objective life, they suppress godly wisdom,

knowledge and understanding. Inordinate love for one's child may constrain a person to see evil in him to punish him for wrongdoing. A deep sense of hatred for a people or tribe may restrain a person from associating with any from such tribe as a beloved. Anger can hinder somebody from consciously doing what is right. Happiness see tribulation as a monster, but hope which is based on knowledge of promise of future event may see tribulation as an event that might lead to a good thing. A deep feeling of love at the emotional level is passive and subjective and needed to be controlled. It is of the mind and not of the spirit. They are forces that hinder man from consciously and objectively doing the will of God. They do not contribute to our knowledge of the word. They do not give wisdom or understanding about God. They impair the power to discern.

The word of God is consciously established in our heart through communication as we believe and act on it to be justified by God. Our conscience bears witness that we have done or are doing the right thing. It is based on knowledge and understanding about God. The word is spirit, and the word is life. John 6:63. The word of God in us is in doing the will of Father God who is a spirit which the Father had established for us from the beginning of creation.

Worship based on worship songs and music, and inducement of feelings is not spiritual but carnal. It may hinder the congregation from the truth about God. It is an easy ground for devil to divert the people

to ignorance thereby ruling them at the emotional level.

The word in Eph. 5:18 is that we should not be drunk with wine wherein is excess but to be filled with the spirit. The word excess means excess spirit which is alcohol. Anything beside the spirit of God is loss of objective reasoning, ignorance, lack of knowledge, loss of wisdom, loss of understanding and lack of ability. To be filled with the spirit means to be filled with the spirit of the word and to be alive with the love life of the Father. It is consciously cultivated in us by living, doing, acting and exercising ourselves on it until we are swallowed up of His life by His grace

### **Cheerful Giving**

God created all things for man. God who created them has no need of any of these things but for man's use. Before the fall of Adam, there was no need that God should demand anything from man.

Man was created with perfect love nature and kept the law of love. Divine love made him be with the creator in the needed eternal relationship.

Adam sinned against God and his nature changed, God's own love disappeared from him and was substituted with the nature of Satan. This corruption was passed unto all men. For man to be saved, this evil nature must be removed and be given back his love. The new creation is to walk in the God's kind of love.

As the image of Christ, he is a lover of God. He belongs to God. He is well tutored, thoroughly furnished in all knowledge on how to love God, he knows what to give and how to give his Father. He acknowledges that every brother is of God. He knows that if he gives to the brethren, he has given to God (Matt. 25, 1John 3:16-17). If he gives for the gospel of Christ, he has given to God. He has learnt to give to God through His children, through humanity, and through the church. He gives out his money, goods, resources, and time for their service.

God ordained we should give our power and strength for the joy and welfare of all creation. We give our lives and resources for their salvation and comfort. It is done out of love, willingly and not grudgingly, as the instruments through which God can provide for the needy (2Cor. 8:11-12).

You give out of what you have and not out of what you do not have (2Cor. 8:11-12). Not to be deceived or to be forced to give, or until they beg you to give. When you give out your ability, others including God will give you back more fold (Luke 6:38).

Pay your tithes for Jesus the High Priest (Heb. 7:8, Mal. 3:10-11), offerings (Deut. 16:16-17) and vows (Deut. 23:21).

Tithes is God's law. God demands that rulers should take a tenth of the increase of all their subjects to sustain their government on earth.

Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedec. Gen. 14:20. This is not of the Law of Moses. It is creation law as a remedy for the fall of man in his love of God.

The Levites who received tithes paid tithe to Aaron, the high priest who was the head of national worship (Num. 18:21, 26-32).

When Israel demanded for a king, God agreed but told them that the king will take a tenth of their increase for his government (1Sam. 8:9-18), because it is God's requirement for those under rule.

The kingdom of God has been established on earth. Jesus is the King of kings and High Priest of the likeness of the Priesthood of Melchizedec. Melchizedec was a righteous king and a priest and Abraham paid tithe to him. Jesus is king and high priest, and all that walk with God shall pay tithe to the priesthood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 7:8).

Christ is seated in heaven, but his disciples are walking in his priesthood on earth. They receive the tithes on His behalf for the church (1Pet. 2:5, 9). Every believer is in the priesthood of Christ. As the Levites pay tithe to Aaron so are the Christians to pay tithe to Christ (Num. 18: 26-32). If tithe is abolished as some argue, it means it is no longer acceptable to God. This is not true, the giver of it is acceptable to God and has all his right and privileges in God. Those who give less have given sparingly.



Giving tithes, offerings, and vows to God's priesthood makes the believer a co-labourer with Christ (Matt. 10:9-10, 42; Matt 25:31-40). Paul received his wages (2Cor. 11:6-7). It is described as expedient (2Cor. 8:7-15). It is for children of God only. But our love as new creation is more than those under the law and our commitment to God is more than tithes. We give him more than tithe because we have given up ourselves and our resources for his service (Matt. 19:21). Tithe is a rudimentary relationship with God as demanded by Him because it was due to man's fall. But now, we are in union with Him and are His. But we are in the midst of subtle and crafty people who would want to eat without work. Since He has set a standard for giving, we know that when we give him one-tenth of our income it is acceptable to Him. Beyond this, the son knows that all that he has belong to his Father and as a caretaker he knows how to use them for His praise. He has given himself to God with all that he has. But anyone that is unable to provide for himself and for the needs of his family, is not in the faith, he is worse than an unbeliever (1Tim. 5:8).

## **Holiness**

Holiness means absolute separateness from the condemned. It is God in heaven and the angels that are in this state of separateness.

The condemned part of creation is considered as unclean, evil, sin, contrary to God and shall be eliminated by God. The unclean things are related to

character, conduct behaviour, attitude, habits, events, inventions, tradition, etc.

God had spoken to man to denounce the unclean things, to be separated from them, and to worship him in the beauty of His holiness (1Chro. 16:29, 2 Cor. 6:14-18).

God said every man should sanctify himself so that He would live and walk in him such that holiness is his sanctuary (Ps. 93:5 1Cor. 3:16-17). God is present in every state of holiness. We are to mortify our members which are upon the earth (Col. 3:5-7). That is, to kill our desires from the unclean things which God had condemned. Sanctification means being separated from the unclean (evil) to be set apart for God's use as temple of God (1Thess. 4:3-7).

The call of God is for man to repent from his evil ways to be in union with Him. That devil is in man through the unclean things. For man and God to be reconciled, man must reject Satan, and the unclean things in his being. These unclean things include fornication, inordinate affection, lust, covetousness, wickedness, maliciousness, envy, murder, hatred, deceit, backbiting, haters of God, despising, pride, boastfulness, invention of evil things, disobedience to parents, covenant breaking, implacability, unmerciful, idolatry, witchcraft, emulation's, strife, sedition, heresies, drunkenness, extravagant festivals, lying, robbery and oppression, revenge, etc. (Col. 3:5-7, Rom. 1:29-32, Gal 5:19-21). These are the manifestations of devil in the human. They are sins,

evil, iniquity, works of death, works of devil, uncleanness, works of darkness, etc. Those who go by this way are described as having yielded their members (sense organs) to unrighteousness. This is the way that leads to hell.

Those whose unclean things have been done away with are dead to sin. Rom. 6:11-19. Being dead to sin, a new life has appeared through the power of the word (Christ) and the Spirit. He is described as a new man in Christ. The man is no longer of the world, he is heavenly, set apart and holy as the abode of God on earth (Eph. 4:24). The gift of eternal life has made us righteous before God. We are His righteousness and holiness, (Rom. 6: 19) separated from the evil world.

### **Misconceptions About Holiness:**

**Holiness under the law:** Holiness under the law was not the true holiness of separateness from evil because man was yet to be delivered from sin by the coming Messiah. Carnal ordinances and religious observances were commanded by God to be observed as holiness.

For instance, the Sabbath was commanded as a holy day for Israel to keep for worship. Because man in general is evil and condemned in all his ways (Eph. 2:3, Rom. 3:10). Therefore, man must cease from every kind of work on the Sabbath as a memorial of broken rest that God had after creation (Deut. 5:12-15). Keeping the Sabbath does not mean they were holy according to the standard of God. It was an

outward show of separation from the life of the world. The commandment to keep away from unclean meat (Lev.11: 43-45) was a lesson to enable man have knowledge of clean and unclean things, holy and unholy, good, and evil. Though those mentioned in Leviticus were actually filled with the spirit of devil, in the mind of justice, everything on earth was unclean after the fall of Adam (Job 25:4-5 Rom. 8:20-23).

Remember, the sacrifices of purification and sanctification which were done under the law could not take sin away from man, it could not make any man perfect. The washing with water and the anointing of holy anointing oil would neither change man, nor sanctify him in the true sense of God's sanctification. They were used as schoolmaster to bring us to Christ as shadow of good things to come. Gal. 3:2-25. Heb 10:1-5, Rom. 3:19-20. Those who do these things in the name of Christ in the present have misunderstood God. They are described as walking in the flesh or senses.

We must give up our members as instrument of righteousness to be holy (Rom. 6:19). Holiness is not of putting of coat and tie, or of putting of some kind of priesthood dress with cap. When we walk in the righteousness of God, we are in His state of holiness because our bodies are His sanctuary. He is revealed in us by His life and ability. We are the means by which he is revealed in the world.

## CHAPTER 5

### HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN DIE?



#### What Is Death?

**T**here are three kinds of death but only two are of immense significance to God. These are spiritual death, physical death, and eternal death. Spiritual death is the primal death that gave rise to the other kinds of death. It is the transformation that occurs in man's spirit in which man lost the image of God and received the image of devil (Rom. 5: 12). Eternal death is called second death (Rev. 20: 13-15, 21:8). This is the everlasting condition of torment in the lake of fire. Physical death is known as sleep (Dan. 12:2, 1Thess. 4:13). It is called sleep because the body is merely laid to rest after which it will be raised at the resurrection of the dead.

The death that grieves the heart of God is spiritual death. God created man in his resemblance, as His image and likeness. God is a spirit. He is described as living, His nature is called life. So, when man was created as image of God, he was made a living soul. Satan is a spirit which is under curse. He is the opposite of God. Satan is expelled from the family of life. He is the opposite of life; his nature is called spiritual death (Rev. 6:6).

When Adam sinned against God, his nature changed. His sin took him out of the family of life. He became partaker with devil of his cursed nature. The spirit of man became partaker of spiritual death. The devil and all the spiritually dead are under condemnation and are awaiting destruction by fire. The condition of torment in the lake of fire is second death.

### **Who Are the Christians?**

The word 'Christian' means Christ-like. It means those who have been redeemed from spiritual death by the finished work of Jesus Christ and have been transformed to his image. Their death sentence has been waived off because Jesus had died on their behalf. These are people who have acknowledged the death of Christ on their behalf and have given up their lives for his service. They have repented of their evil ways. God has justified them and has given them His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. They are partakers with God of His own spirit nature and life. They are the image of God in the world. As the image of God, they are described as Living. As God is living by His kind of life, so are those in Christ living by the life of the Father. They are born again not of the flesh but of the spirit through the word. God is a spirit, and His nature is in man's spirit making man the image of God.

Christians are alive in spirit by the gift of eternal life which Christ brought. The life of God makes them the image of God. This resemblance is the fellowship they have with the Father. They are in the realm of life.

Christians are peculiar people in the world. They are counted as a generation, the generation of the righteous. They are the righteous ones (Ps. 22:30-31).

### **How does a Christian Die?**

Jesus revealed, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28, Luke 12:5). If the death of the body is not important and for that reason, we should not be afraid to die physical death, what is it then that is going to take our soul and body and destroy them in hell? It is Sin that kills (Rom. 6:23).

A sinner that is not redeemed from the curse of death is dead already. He has received the death sentence and is condemned already (John 3:18). This statement by Christ (Matt. 10: 28) is not for sinners. The warning is for those who have passed from death unto life. It is for the people who have received the gift of eternal life and are quickened by the life of Christ Jesus.

A Christian is somebody that was once dead (Eph.2:5) but now is quickened by the life which Christ brought (Eph.2:1, John 5:24). Those who are alive are now the sons of God.

Physical death is called sleep and the death of a saint is the delight of the Father (Ps. 116:15). If a righteous man dies, though his body is laid to sleep, his life which he has received of his Father is with him, and

with that spirit life he will go to the land of the living. God is God of the living, and His home is the home of the living. Physical death for Christians is not death but a journey to the home of the living, to be with the living God.

A living soul is described as having died when he is cut off from the life of God to the realm of the spiritually dead. It has lost contact with the life or nature of the Father. This happens when the individual becomes a partaker of evil. When a man with divine life commits sin or transgresses the will of the Father, evil shall overtake him. His disobedience to the Father has removed him from the realm of blessings and fellowship to the state of condemnation. He is in the realm of devil, in the land of the dead; he is spiritually dead. Though in the body, he is dead in spirit because he belongs to devil.

### **Who has the power to kill a Christian?**

Man cannot kill a Christian; he can only kill the body but has nothing more to do to remove eternal life from him. And when he is dead in the body, divine life will take him to heaven, the home of the living. God cannot remove eternal life from his children because He wants them to be His image and likeness. God predestinated man to be His image ever before he was made. But after man sinned, he fell short of the glory of God because he lost the life of the Father. God still sent Christ Jesus to die on man's behalf to make him have back this life. Therefore, it is unthinkable that



God would kill His children and loose them to his enemy, devil.

The one that kills is sin, and sin is devil. The enemy tries to make children of God transgress thereby bringing them to the condemnation of God. It is sin that takes them out from the presence of God to the dominion of Satan. Satan approaches them and speaks tempting them to disobey their Father. This is called Temptation.

### **What Is Temptation?**

Temptation is a series of suggestions from devil as a solution to one's problem. The suggested solution is in opposite direction to God. It is a test on whether the individual has perfect knowledge of his Father's will. The tempter wants to see whether he is perfect in his love of God. Temptation takes the form of logical questions beginning with the word 'if'. e.g., if you steal, what is going to happen, is it true that God will reject you?

Though the consequence of such action is clearly known, the tempter will suggest in such a manner as to create doubt on whether what God said is actually true. The serpent asked Eve, "Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden?" (Gen. 3:1). Eve remembered the commandment God gave to them as pertaining to the fruit. She told the serpent what God had commanded them to do. The serpent tempted Eve with this basic question: if you eat of this

fruit, is it true that God has said you will die? If you eat, is it true that you will die? Later he came out openly and told Eve: "ye shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:4-5). Eve considered what devil had said and when she looked at the fruit, it was good and something one should desire to eat. Eve had doubted the truth of God's commandment. Satan made her to doubt because she gave room for Satan to communicate with her.

Satan created the circumstances to tempt Eve. What circumstances? He created the scene to discuss. Before Satan will tempt, he will first create the circumstance or the scene.

This may be done through the following:

- (a) Creating a fascinating environment to appeal to man to become his friend.
- (b) Causing sicknesses, diseases, pains, affliction, disappointment, deprivation, blackmail, etc.
- (c) Creating an environment of threat, violence, intimidation, despising, derision, etc.

When the circumstance is created, then devil will speak to tempt. He will suggest solution, and in it he will deny, misinterpret, and misconstrue God.

### **The Devil That Speaks**

The devil speaks through the following instruments:

1. The knowledge and wisdom which devil had created in the world, which had been established in the heart and mind of man. These had been stored up in the memory and can be recalled and be utilized to achieved one's desired worldly ends. This devilish and corrupt wisdom in man is the devil or sin that is in the flesh or senses. It speaks and suggest vividly in the mind.
2. **Human Agents:** Devil speaks through his human agent by bringing out Satanic utterances. They tell you their deceitful dreams and prophecies, rebellious counseling, perverted teachings, destructive commands, unjust laws and ordinances, etc.
3. **Demons and Foul spirits:** They can manipulate the individual by showing false vision, deceitful dreams, and can speak in the thoughts of the man that is possessed.

### Who Or What Is Devil?

Devil means the evil one. The one that had been condemned as sin in opposition to God. It is the sum of all things which operate as evil, which is to be destroyed by fire. It includes: (a) Spiritual beings that are rejected of God, e.g., fallen angels, demons, foul spirits, etc.

- (b) Personalities who have fallen short of the glory of God and are now used by Satan as agents.
- (c) Institutionalized bodies, principalities and powers which have been condemned by God,
- (d) Everything in the world which is under the

dominion of evil through which evil can be manifested, e.g. land, rivers, seas, vegetation, plants, animals, etc.

- (e) The corrupt knowledge and wisdom, and laws and habits which had become the life of the unsaved man which make him to behave in the way it is seen. As the word of God is personified in Christ so is the wisdom of evil personified in the fallen man as devil. As Christ is a manifestation of the word of love, which is God, so is the fallen man a manifestation of the wisdom of evil, which is devil. The corrupt and the condemned man is the image of devil. It is the image of devil taking form in the individual making him become the devil in action. Satan is full of wisdom, which is negative to divine life. The wisdom he has is called devil; the wisdom of stealing, robbery, killing, deceit, political dominance, dictatorship, cunning economic manipulations, and extortion; historical genealogies and sedition; materialism, boastfulness, and pride, etc. is now the image of man.

The head of the condemned is Lucifer. His names are devil, Satan, Abaddon, Apollyon, the evil one, etc., full of wisdom. And using his wisdom to create ways that makes man his image. Satan creates events and put the knowledge of it in man, to use them. By this, man is now filled with satanic wisdom, attitude, and behaviour.

## **Who Created Devil?**

Lucifer, being the beginning of evil was created by God. He was created perfect in beauty, next to God's throne. Lucifer desired to sit on the throne of God and was condemned. He was cast out of heaven as a condemned one. Anything condemned is cursed and evil. Lucifer became evil spirit through God's condemnation. Lucifer was created with wisdom and immense power and when he was cast out of the home of God, his power was not destroyed, his wisdom was not taken away. Since he is condemned as evil, awaiting destruction by fire, this fallen being is using his power and wisdom to fight against the family of God. He is always in opposite direction to God, and now devil. Lucifer and the fallen angels, and everything under their dominion is against God as Devil.

## **What Is Sin, How Does It Kill, How Did It Come About?**

Sin is defined as transgression of the Law of God (1John3:4). Sin is anything or action which is in opposite direction to God's will on creation and going contrary to the commandment of God and the things He had condemned.

God's law makes sin to be sin. What God says is what it is. If God says thou shall not steal! If you steal, your action is transgression of the law, and it is sin. Stealing has become sin by the commandment of God (Rom. 4:15, 5:13).

Creation is eternal and only God the creator knows

those things that prevail to eternity. Man as son of God was created eternal. The angels as servants are also eternal. Eternity demands love, peace, and harmony. Only God determines the laws that hold creation in its eternity. He knows those things that are a threat to His eternal purpose. Though they are the outcome of His creative process, as a perfect and master builder, He would destroy everything that appear to be different from his will. The clay and its potter is an example. The clay will not know what it is but the potter who is the maker. God knows in His mind things that are good and those that are not good. Those things that are not good shall be destroyed for the interest of the eternal purpose of God.

He expects those who walk in His love to discern lovely things. Lucifer's desire was contrary to God and was condemned. His desire to sit on the throne of God is a threat to creation. To overthrow the creator who knows all things, who made and holds creation by His power, is indeed unthinkable. To outstrip God of His throne and of His authority, and His glory and ability is indeed unrighteous, evil and abomination. Those who sinned without law were judged without law because every creature that is made in the glory of God must know those things which are threat to God and His world (Rom. 2: 12-16).

When God created man as son, He made him know the law of obedience to the Father. Adam knew disobedience is evil, and the penalty is death. Disobedience to God is rebellion. Adam's

disobedience was high treason. He desired to be as God, to be independent as a god. He died in his sin and produced children in his lost glory. His curse of death was passed to all men.

The sinful nature with which man came out from Adam did make man ignorant of God. Man is now unable to understand the ways of God. He does not know how to walk to please Him. But God has not been silent. He has brought His counsel to Man to make him know that he is not only a sinner but sin itself (Rom. 3:23. Gen. 6:5).

The fallen man does not know the law of God. He is evil by nature, living, walking, eating and drinking in sin without knowing who he is.

The truth of him being evil is made known by the commandment of God. When man was ignorant of sin, there was nothing to condemn him if he walked to show that he loved and revered God. Since there was no commandment given to him he would not be condemned on the bases of breaking a law except on the bases of moral value. The sinner was worthy of life or existence if he acknowledged the supremacy of God by discerning those things that were destructive to society and to man and keeping away from them. Therefore, the fornicator who enjoyed his passion in ignorance, who was not a threat to society was guiltless if he loved God. The dancer who danced to entertain the audience was not condemned because he was not a threat to society. Fornication becomes the sin that kills through the commandments of God. For

example, adultery, robbery, drunkenness, strife, banqueting, etc. would not have been sin if society approves them as a game which is not a threat to creation. Adultery became the sin that kills when God said; “thou shall not commit adultery.” The act of adultery becomes disobedience to God and the penalty is death. In the beginning people married their sisters until God said, “Thou shall not marry near of kin”. Marrying a sister becomes disobedience, therefore it is sin. Drunkenness would have been a personal affair without threat to anybody. It becomes sin when God said, “Woe to them that give themselves to wine until they are inflamed”. Drunkenness is now evil and doing it is sin punishable by death. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

The commandments of God had made sin to be sin. Before the law, sin was in the world, but sin was not sin until the law (Rom. 5:13). The law kills (2Cor. 3:6). It brings condemnation to the sinner. (1Cor. 15:56, Rom. 4:15, 5:13).

Is the law of God evil? God forbid. God is perfect. The law was made to preserve creation to eternity, so it is good, but since man is sinful, instead of the law saving him, it rather made him become guilty before God. The law made him realize his sinful life because he could not keep it thereby making him to cry for help for redemption and for perfection. It brings man to the law of obedience to the Father. (Rom. 3:19-20, Rom. 7:7-12). The law makes sin to be sin thereby bringing man into condemnation by the commandment. Since man is evil by nature, the motions of sin in him



compelled him to disobey the commandment thereby bringing him to condemnation. A normal child, though born under sin might be justified on the day of judgement because he is blind to the law of sin. But when he attains the age of understanding and knowledge, sin will revive in him and in his knowledge of it, he will commit it and die. He will not be justified of the Father. His disobedience has made death (devil) to reign over him (Rom. 7: 7-9).

### **What it is that kills. Is it the law of God or sin?**

The law of God is the law of love, the law of peace, harmony, and fellowship. It is the law of eternity; the law of life and this life is life eternal. The law is good and perfect. It is sin that brings man into condemnation. If man is obedient to God and his commandment, he will never be condemned, he will be with the creator in His eternity. The devil, taking occasion by the commandment had stirred up in man uncontrollable desires which makes him to sin. The sinner will receive a death sentence for his sin. It is sin that kills and brings destruction to man.

Before Christ came, the ability to satisfy the law of God was not in man because he was a sinner by nature. But now God has redeemed man from sin through the death of His son Jesus Christ. God has provided a way in Christ through which we can keep the law of love to stand above all that is condemned. We will become perfect through faith in Christ. The decision to live or to die or to continue to abide in the curse of death is in man's hand.

Those who have been redeemed who have received divine life should keep away from sin. They have the ability to do it because they have received the nature of the Father. It is not the commandment of God that kills, but sin. The commandment is for eternal peace. His judgement is passed already against those things, which He had spoken.

Condemnation through sin is established already ever before the sinner will fall victim. The commandment and judgement is to preserve creation. God's law and His judgement is like a pit of flaming fire that had been made for the purpose of preserving His creation and God had warned that those who enter into it would die. The decision to enter and die belongs to the individual. You know it in advance, therefore if you enter into it, it is not the fire that killed but the action or the one who brought you into it. Sin brings man into God's condemnation. Sin is the killer. Devil is the killer. Repent and overcome condemnation.

### **Devil the Killer**

Death has been shrouded in mystery and no one had given acceptable explanation except the bible. There are three kinds of death according to the scripture: Physical death, Spiritual death, and eternal death.

Physical death is the dissolution of the body after the departure of the spirit. This is not a defeat on the side of man or end of life but the end of strife with devil. A time of seeing the result of God's judgement about your life. It is like a man who in his lifetime was writing series of exams, and now is time to see the

result. It is time to know whether he has passed or failed, or whether one is justified to receive a prize or not. The matter of earthly life and its ordeals are over. Physical death is the end of activities and action, it is the time of assessment, judgement, justification, or condemnation. God would see whether you were held by death (devil) and bearing fruits of it or whether you were made alive and bearing fruits of life.

Spiritual death is the realm of Satan, the nature of devil which was translated to man after the fall of Adam. Spiritual death makes man the image of devil. Sin is described as works of death, it is the fruit of death (1John 3:8, Heb. 9:14). Sin is the manifestation of devil in the fallen man. Satan is death (Rev. 6:8, Rev. 20:14). The final home of death is the lake of fire. This eternal condition is known as second death.

The word Life, as used in the scripture is spiritual life. It means the image of the Father, the nature of God. When we have life in the spiritual point of view, it means, we are the image of the Father by our nature and manner of life. God has revealed himself to us by his life in Christ. God had defined life and has determined the boundary between the dead and the living. He wants us to keep his commandments to abide in his life. He has determined the personalities that are favourable to the universe in their eternal fellowship with Him.

The law of God is the fence beyond which something is to be destroyed, the boundary within which

something is ordained to enjoy eternal fellowship with the creator God. The wicked shall be destroyed in hell but the good, loving, and righteous shall enjoy eternal life. Absence of love is darkness, the realm of Satan. It means moving from the realm of life into the realm of spiritual death. The sting of death is sin. 1 Cor 15: 56. "The strength of sin is the law" i.e., the law of God had determined what is to be condemned. Rom 4:15. Death comes through sin; sin is the killer.

Satan deceives us through lies and causes us to sin. He speaks to us through the members of our bodies. He makes the eyes to see his fashion and manner of life. He makes it very attractive and suggest to our hearts to consider it. He uses human beings to demonstrate to us the nature of his life. He speaks to our ears and makes us appreciate his wisdom. He tries to give us a different understanding about life on earth. He teaches us to abandon love and adopt selfishness as our ideology. He came to steal, to kill and to destroy and his ability in doing these is sin. He makes us go beyond the limit of life as ordained by the Father into the condemnation of death (Rom. 6:23). The wisdom of sin is the same as Devil even as the word is God.

Satan has the power to kill with physical death. Those under him live at his mercy (1Pet. 5:6-10, 1John 5:18). He can even kill a Christian if God permits, i.e., if God desires, he should come and rest in his bosom (Rev. 11:3-7). He has the power to cause war and accidents, he can kill through his human instruments (Job 1:12-20).

## CHAPTER 6

### ATTAINING THE FULNESS OF CHRIST



#### The light of life (love)

**W**e know light as the energy that comes from the sun or from a lamp or from any illuminous object, which makes it possible to see. The importance of light is the sense of direction. The greatest light on earth is the word of God (Ps. 119:105).

There are two kinds of lights that give people sense of direction. The light of the senses and of the word of God or spirit.

The light of the senses is the eye. We see with our eyes, and we observe the scenes and events. We are part of the world we see. The world has influenced us by what we see, we are made to live and walk according to what we see. We are part of the culture, the tradition, the social and political group, we are part of the economic environment. This light of the senses is what the scripture calls darkness, and Christ said it is the worst kind of darkness (Matt. 6:22-23). The light of the word is the light that shows the very life of the Father which is brought down from heaven for man to follow and live on it. It is love manifested for man to receive and walk by it. When

we keep his commandment of love then we are in him and he in us. Walking in His kind of love means ascending into heaven to be with him in his home. The word of God is the way to the Father, the word is the light of the spirit(1John 4:16-17).

The word is love and this love is revealed in Christ. The love of Christ is the way to the Father. I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me (John 14:6). It is the love of God from heaven for us to receive to be His image. This is the source of salvation.

Whenever we think of Christ, we always imagine him seated at the right hand of God as a person. We are seeing him with our minds seated as a human being, as our Lord and Saviour, but not as the word has revealed him. We do not see him as love and as God's life. This is the view of the carnal mind. The spiritual man sees him as the word. We have seen love being brought down from heaven to save us. *"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction"* (Ps. 107:20). The rendering of this scripture is that He sent his love and healed them and made them be partakers of it to be saved. *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"* (1Cor. 1:30). That he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (Jer. 9:23-24). Because of his desire for us, God made us to be in Christ Jesus whom God brought to be a model of our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Our way to the Father is in accepting the nature of Christ. When we receive his kind of love, then we will have a new consciousness. He is the shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1Pet. 2:25, John 10:14). He said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not work in darkness but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). Those who follow the light of the flesh are in darkness because they have not followed the light of life. This light of life is love, the very being of the Father, as manifested in Christ Jesus. This is the righteousness of God, the Father.

When we accept the being of Christ Jesus, we will be given the power to become sons of God John 1:12. The Father will pour out his love into our spirits to be partakers with God of his nature. Rom. 5:5 2Peter 1:4. We will become new creatures. “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new” (2Cor. 5:17).

As new creation, we are called children of light. We are followers of the light of Christ. He said: “ye love one another, AS I HAVE LOVE YOU, ... by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples...” (John 13:34-35). He had shown us the love. We have kept his word and his life is in us. We have the hope and joy of the new life. Our salvation in the light of Christ and in the reality of our union with the Father. We are no longer ignorant of Him, we know our hope in God, we are now in the truth of His life.

He had delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear son (Col. 1:13). We are saved from the darkness of ignorance and sin. The scripture says, ye are all children of light, not of the darkness, therefore, let us not sleep as do others. They that sleep, sleep in the night and they that are drunken are drunken in the night (1Thess. 5:5-8). Those who do abominable things are of the night and of the dark world of Satan. The condemned world is of the night, they love darkness more than the light because they are evil. *“And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”* (John 3:19-21).

Those who walk by the light of the flesh are blind from the truth of the Father. They are what they see, and are what the world is. They are members of the evil world. They are part of the life of the flesh. *“Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditious, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before..., that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal 5:19-21). In the book of Romans, Paul said, not only those who do



such things are condemned but those who have pleasure in them that do them (Rom. 1:28-32). These are sons of darkness. It is a shame to talk of those things that are done in darkness. They are enemies of God. That the world is drunken but not with wine, they have been drunken with the spirit of deep sleep (Isa 29:9-16), they are blinded with the desires of success, pleasure and worldly lusts, and with the anxiety and desire for freedom from pains, sorrow, poverty and want.

God said it is not for man to direct his ways, neither is he to determine his path (Jer. 10:23). *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes, fear the Lord, depart from evil.”* (Pro. 3:5-7). We should agree to be what he says because He created us by his wisdom.

Though we were in darkness by the blindness of our hearts and by the ignorance that was in us, we are now children of light. And because we are light, we have made ourselves known to the world that the light in us should shine to reprove the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5: 8-13). We live the Jesus' kind of life while the world lives in their ignorance and sin. They pursue to fulfill their selfish interest but we deny ourselves of our pleasures for their joy and welfare. They do not understand who we are. They have been blinded by the world and by the adversary. If they understand who we are and walk as we walk as

he had commanded, then they will know the truth and they will be saved by the same truth that is in Christ.

### **Abundant Life**

Jesus said: “as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the son to have life in himself” (John 5: 26). The nature of God is life and this life has been revealed to us by his son Jesus. There is no being greater than God the author of life, therefore his life is abundant life. The life of God being manifested means God being revealed in the world. God has appeared to the world to reveal himself by his life. *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”* (1Tim 3:16). John said, “he that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love” (1John 4:8). This means God who is love has really appeared in the world through Christ.

In the beginning was the word and this word is God. The word which is personified as God is love (John 1:1-3). The disciples testified of this love being. They said, the messages, which we received of old, has appeared real. Love has appeared in the world, we have seen him, we have handled him with our hands, we have heard him speak. His thoughts, his doctrine and his commandment is love. His home, His clothes and His life is love. We have seen and have fellowship with him and our fellowship is with the Father (1John 1:1-3). The love of the Father is manifested as a love

being known as the word of God. This is revealed as Christ Jesus. Love has appeared with miraculous power to create a world of its own kind.

“What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh...” (Rom. 8:3), why was the law too weak through the flesh? Why was it unable to change man in the flesh? It was imposed on man who by nature is selfish and wicked. Man's life is in rebellion against God. He cannot live God's life except he is recreated. God's life is contrary to him. It is not his life.

Man is in a world dominated by the adversary, devil, with diverse problems hanging on him. He is concerned with his survival; he is conscious of uncertainty and possible failure. He has to fight for his welfare. Another person will not do it for him. He would fight for himself and not for another. He cries for his own, he clamors for it, he covets, he is full of envy. He is to receive, not to give. He is self-conscious. He cannot love his neighbour as he loves himself. He does not have that life; he does not have that ability. The law that was imposed on him he could not do it. It is against his welfare. It would rather kill him. Paul said: The law is spiritual but he was carnal sold under sin, and his life was not him in action but sin working in him. He is a sin personality, and except he was delivered from his body of death (sin) he could not keep the law of God. But he said, I thank God through Jesus Christ who had delivered me that with my mind I can now serve the law of God. That, there is now no

condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit, that the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 7:6-25, 8:1-5).

Now we have been quickened by his life that is in us (Eph. 2:1, 5). Sin has no dominion over us (Rom. 6:1-12). We have been made alive. This life is the very life of the Father, which we have received. We were stolen and killed by the enemy, devil, through wicked works but we have been reconciled to the Father by his abundant life through Christ. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" John 10:10. He had come that we might have love and that we might have it more abundantly so that we will be the image of the Father. Love is the realm of spirit life.

### **The Word of Testimony**

A testimony is something presented as evidence that a thing really happened, it shows that something else is true. Though it testifies of the truth, an image of it is a better evidence.

To bear testimony of Christ is not the mere word of acknowledgment but of the new life he brought. This new life is to be manifested in the person that is standing as a witness of the works of Christ on humanity. To reveal Christ means to confess or manifest him in one's body.

You testify of what you are in Christ, of his righteousness, of his fellowship with you, of his indwelling in you and of your faith in him. Faith becomes real through testimony. Faith is revealed by works, otherwise it is dead or not there at all (James 2:14-22). Fruits of love coming out of the individual are known as works of faith.

The word in our lips merely stirs up people's minds and move them to study the word to know the manner of love God has revealed. When they receive the knowledge and the understanding, then it will now create faith in them. Faith means believing and acting on the word.

*“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things.” (Rom 10:14-15).* Those who bear testimony of Christ are those justified and kept in the world as ambassadors of Christ. They are the image of Christ in the world. They testify of what they are in Christ, of his righteousness, and love, and holiness and of their faith in him. They have believed in their hearts the lordship of Jesus, and for that reason they confess him with their lips. *“With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom 10:10).* Believing in your heart means acknowledgment and acceptance of the

lordship of love over your life. You have understood his substitutional sacrifice and has believed about your redemption through his work. You are now rejoicing in it. You have believed you are now clean, righteous and justified. By his substitutional sacrifice, he became unclean and now you are clean. He became a sinner, unrighteous and imperfect; and now you are righteous, perfect and justified. He was condemned and now you are free and justified as son of God by his works henceforth, you have now given up yourself to live his life on his behalf. You have become the righteousness of God in the world. Love has changed your life, it has created in you a new consciousness, it has made you a new creation. Love is now your life being manifested by works. Believing means acting on the word of love. Confess of what you are in Christ with your lips, give explanation of your fellowship with him, and of your hope and the reason for your behaviour. This makes you profitable to God as a saved man.

Miracles merely appeal to people's mind to respond to the new thing. They do not give the word of faith upon which to act. They invite the people to come and understudy God. Faith comes through knowing and understanding the love of God, of what good thing He has done. Faith is established when the individual knows what he is in Christ. Many believers of Christ in this generation are unbelievers because they hang on sense knowledge faith. They do not understand the manner of love to act upon. They respond to philosophy and theological teachings and doctrines.

Philosophy, theology, psychology and sociology all give a picture of a theoretical God and impart sense knowledge faith on the people. It makes people become vain in their imagination. There is no reality of union with the Father except through the word of faith. Theology produces creeds and confession of unworthiness every day. It gives a feeling of one being unclean every day, it gives the testimony that one is ever unrighteous. It repudiates in practice what the Father had said about us the new creation.

The word of faith (love) gives us the right mind. It uplifts us into the Father's presence and into His realm of life. We are the righteousness of God in Christ. We have become his ambassadors, His image, His righteousness and His ability in Christ in the world. He created the world by His word. We have also become what he said about the new creation. We are His children and are in the world to do His will.

That God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself (2Cor 5:19). Christ was God-inside-man. We are the image of Christ. We are God-inside-men. We are God-inside conscious because his light is in us as co-labourer. We are the light of the world in God through Christ our saviour. Those who confess Jesus with their lips but do not act upon the word are condemned as hypocrites (Matt. 15:7-8).

### **Attaining the Fullness of CHRIST**

We have always thought nobody could be like him. Our senses had created in us a strong hold of doubt and unbelief concerning our fellowship with him. We

have not understood that he came to make us become his own resemblance (Matt. 10:24-25. John 17:18-23)

We are what he says but our minds have spoken to us saying we are not. We have been blinded by the adversary. For the scripture had said, "for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:9-10). Jesus had manifested the fullness of the Godhead in the body. And we have been made his image, we are complete in him. We are to be the fullness of Christ to manifest the fullness of the Godhead in our body. What is this fullness and how it is to be revealed? The fullness of God is agape love and it comes through knowing the truth of it.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2Tim 3:16-17).

"And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-13). Because of our ignorance, He brought the scripture to make us know Him so that we will accept and receive His being by faith.



The image of God is not to be unconsciously fulfilled and manifested in us. It has to do with our knowledge and understanding about God and consciously acting upon the word of love after repentance. The Father had done everything possible to make us know him to enable us see his beauty through his Word and through Christ. Brother Paul said I would “that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:2-3).

The fullness of God in Christ Jesus is the fullness of the love of God. He said, if you see me, you have seen the Father. He came as the image of the Father in His own kind of love. The appearance of Christ on earth is God's love manifested in a human. This is the word of God which we will receive. The fullness of God was manifested in Christ in love. Christ had faith in God because he kept the commandment of love which God gave him. God wants us to come to the unity of the faith with Christ that we might attain his fullness. Jesus said: As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love” (John 15:9-10). “This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have love you” (John 15:12). In keeping this commandment of love, our joy might be full. The fullness of the joy of Christ is the

hope given to him of the Father in keeping His word.

Paul said we should all be bound in love to discover the riches of the full assurance of understanding in the acknowledgment of the mystery of God and Christ (Col. 2:2). Now the true facts of Him has been well described and explained and demonstrated. Knowing Jesus means proper knowledge and understanding of his manner of love. Receiving Jesus means allowing the love of Christ to become a substitute of our life. Walking in the fullness of Christ comes through knowing and acting on the word of God. Christ is the word made flesh (John 1:14).

Knowing Christ may come through meditating on the word and acting on it. Meditation is not mere committing the words into memory and bringing them out in remembrance. It is the inward desire for the truth that is in the word, which God had spoken, trying to discover the substance of our hope in it and that moves you into action.

Meditation at the intellectual level is mere mental exercise of memorizing the history, and statements and events of the Bible and bringing them out verbatim when it is needed. This is an elementary process of studying and knowing the word of God. The word is spiritual and mere mental exercise does not give the true knowledge to the individual.

Meditating on the word is meditating on his manner of love. We know the word already, we know what God had spoken but we want to understand the

substance or essence, the way God is revealed in it and our fellowship with Him in the word. That inward desire for the truth on the word brings our spirits into contact with God and the meaning is unveiled to us by the Holy Spirit. As we seek and ask for the truth, the treasures that are hidden in it is unveiled to our spirits and we receive the understanding of it. Our knowledge and understanding of His spiritual things will enable us to act to bring us into the abundant spiritual life of Christ. We are transformed by the word of truth (James 1:18, 1Peter 1:23).

The word of God is Christ's own personality, and it is as real and as powerful as Christ was in his earth walk. The being of Christ in the present can do everything Christ did while on earth. The problem is, on whose body is it going to find expression.

Love and faith in God would lead us to a higher civilization. It produces perfect, disciplined, righteous and trustworthy people. Ungodliness produces uncivilized, barbaric, criminal and destructive people, and the outcome is destruction or underdeveloped society. If we accept the being of Jesus and walk in his fullness, society will be a shadow of heaven. The beauty of the fullness of Christ is righteousness, prosperity, discovery, inventions, good governance, and peace. The end of our fellowship with him is immortality and everlasting union with God (Prov. 14:34 2Tim 1:10).

The dominion over the universe is that of son of God. If we know him as an able son of God, then we will

also learn to take our place as sons, and to assume the responsibilities of sons in God's family. The position of son is that of authority, power, and responsibility. We learn to assume the position of the Father in his dream towards man and to do His will. We are not in this position to seek for our own but for the peace, joy and welfare of others. We are the righteousness of God in the world.

We do not occupy the position of a babe but the position of an able son. We know our sonship rights and privileges, and our responsibilities in the family. A babe is ignorant of his responsibilities, and his authority, and rights and privileges. He does not govern, he does not contribute, he has nothing to give to the family. A babe is unskillful in the word of righteousness Heb 5:13-14. He is only concerned with his welfare and comfort. He cries for his own, he clamours for his share, he wants to receive and to enjoy, he has nothing to give out. His prayers and desire is about himself only. He needs wealth, protection and power, but has no responsibility in the family.

An able son is one who had attained the position of giving. He has assumed the responsibility of giving; he has the mind of giving rather than receiving from others. He gives out the word of the Father. He allows the righteousness of the Father in him to be let loosed and be manifested everywhere he goes. He gives out his time, his strength and resources for the service and gospel of his Father. He is an instrument or an

agent of the Father. “We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God had before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10).

## **A New Creation is Made**

We have believed the facts about the old creation. We have been told and by faith have believed that God created the world in six days. He created the world by his word. He commanded and it came into being. He created man with His own hands and by his breath. The breath of God is spirit (Ps. 104:29-30, Gen. 3:7). He created man in His own image after his likeness.

We know the account of the old creation but not of the new. We have believed God on the old one but not on the new one. We are in doubt and unbelief of the new thing because the enemy has blinded us, that seeing they see but see not, and hearing they hear but hear not (Matt. 13:13-15). We do not believe because we have no trust in his word.

“Faith is the end product of the things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb 11:1). Faith means accepting the evidence in the present of the existence of things we hope to get in the future. The evidence is that God has said it. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Heb 11: 3. If we have faith in him and in his words as in the scripture then we will not only believe on the old but on the new also.

As we have heard and by faith have believed that the world was created by his word so are we to believe by faith that the world is condemned, and it will pass away. We also believe that the natural man, which is of the old creation, is condemned already and is doomed for destruction by fire (John 3:18, Jer. 4: 23-28).

But in the midst of the world which is to pass away, God made a promise of a new creation, to be formed out of the one that is condemned. The new will be called the generation of the righteous (Ps. 102:18, Ps 22:30-31). Jeremiah confirmed it saying the Lord had created a new thing (Jer. 31:22, Isa. 42: 9, 48:7).

As we have believed on the account of the old so are we to believe in what he has said about the new. We have heard from him and by faith we are to believe that the new creation had come into being. He said it, and it has come to light. He made it by his word and his spirit. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new" (2Cor 5:17). Though we were dead in the old, we have become alive in the new. We have become what he said. He commanded it and it came into being (Isa 45:8, 54:11-17). He sent his word and we are transformed. Though we were sinners in the past, we have become righteous by his word. With his hands he made the body of Christ for us and with his word we have received his spirit. We are new men in Christ (Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10, 2Cor 5:17). We are of God who had reconciled us to himself by his life.

while we were dead in our sins, He quickened us by his word (James 1:18, 1Pet. 2:23, John 6:63, John 3:6). We are born again to God as sons by His word.

### **In His Presence**

Man is full of unanswered questions, full of doubt and uncertainty. He does not understand things unseen. When the unknown God is presented, he has no option but to accept it. When you ask: where is God? The simple answer is that, He is in heaven. We lift up our hands and look up and pray because He is right up in heaven. Our senses have limited the presence of God in the universe.

We confess Him with our mouth but have forgotten that God is omnipresent. We have limited him to heaven because that is his home. We see Him answering our prayers from heaven. Our senses have lowered God from His immensity and omnipresence in the universe.

God has told us about Himself and what He says is what He is. God is a spirit. John 4:24. He is in heaven (Eccl. 5:2). Heaven is his throne and earth is his footstool (Isa. 66:1). He is everywhere (Col. 1:17 Ps. 139:8-12). He is in heaven, His dwelling because heaven is holy.

The earth is in the hand of the wicked (Luke 4:6, Job 9:24). God had no dwelling place on earth because it is unholy. Now, God has made his glory to shine on

earth that he should have a dwelling place. He is a spirit and does not dwell in a temple that is built with hands. He dwells where His glory is to be revealed, in a holy place.

Though the earth is condemned, God is still present in every state of holiness. Holiness is his tabernacle. He speaks in his temple of holiness and goodness (Ps. 93:5). Those who worship Him must be in His presence, in his beauty of holiness. God is holy, and his temple must be holy. You cannot approach Him except in the state of holiness (1Chro. 16:29, Ps. 47:8).

Sin is an unclean thing, it is an enemy of God. For God to be present, sin must be taken away first. Sin is related to our character, behaviour, attitude, conduct, habits, vocation and tradition. The unclean things in our lives must be removed or destroyed and the body be sanctified. When we repent of our sins, our righteous life will bring us into His holiness, and this will be our fellowship with him (Rom. 6:19).

Righteousness through God's own love is God revealing Himself in us that the world might see Him. We are the temple of God on earth (John 14:23, 2Cor 6:14-18, 1Cor. 3:16-17).

The man who himself is the holy place of God is in direct contact with Him. He is in His presence and his prayers are His delight. God is love, we are sons of love. We have been clothed with the garment of abundant love. We have been clothed by God, we are



covered by His presence and being. We are in Him and He is in us because we are partakers with Him of His divine nature. We are the place of His abode, we are His temple (John 14:23). We are always before him in his love (Eph. 1:4, 2:22). We are in the light as he is in light. He has lightened us by his unique nature that we might be the light of God in the world. (John 19:20). His light of love is shining in us manifesting God in us. We have received the promise of Christ as in (Isa 60:1-2). "Arise, shine: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

### **Comparing Spiritual Things with Spirituals**

Spiritual things are those things that were hidden from the foundation of man's fall, which nobody ever saw, neither heard nor perceived. These unknown things were ordained for man, but he lost contact and become blind to them because the adversary has held humanity captive. The fall of Adam made the whole human race be alienated from God and are called Gentiles, Gen. 10:5. Gentiles mean strangers to the household of God and to all his promises and goodness, who have no hope, and without God and without Christ in the world (Eph. 2:12). The abundant treasures of God have been hidden away from them.

Nevertheless, good tidings had come being made known to us by the angels of God that the glory of God is now being revealed on earth to give peace and to

express goodwill towards men (Luke 2:14). Brother Paul confirmed it saying, the mystery that had been hidden in ages past had been revealed.

When we think of the treasures of God which is now being revealed to us, we still do not know what to hold out of it. We do not have the ability to see or to identify, and to receive. We do not know how to possess those things that are freely given to us by our maker. Our sensual expectations and imaginations have hindered us from knowing the things of God.

The revelation of the unspeakable riches of God which is now made known to us is the abundant treasures of Christ (Eph. 3:3-5, Col. 1:26-27). Paul wrote “the mystery which hath been hid from ages past and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints, to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles: WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:26-27). This is the mystery of our fellowship with Christ, which will lead us to unspeakable riches to the extent that we might know heavenly things. What we should do is to have Christ's personality by being grounded and rooted in love so that we will know the height and the depth of the treasures of his love which gives knowledge and all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:9-19). God has revealed the fullness of His being through Christ that we might obtain it and be filled with it, so that we will be the image of the Father God. When we are in Christ, we

will walk in the fullness of the Father according to the measure given to Christ Jesus by the Father. This will make us be the head of all principalities and powers (Col. 2:9-10). The fullness of God in Christ is in His love, and our fullness in Christ is also in the same mystery of that divine love.

Jesus explained as he warned: “Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.” Luke 8:18. Paul explained, the important thing is for us to be filled with God's kind of love to be able to discover the riches of Christ and of the full assurance of the understanding of the mystery of his love in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2: 2-3). This secret of Christ cannot be unveiled through the Jewish law and one cannot receive it by the works of the law. It is the secret of the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom, which God had formed through Christ. It is the gift of the Father to the new creation. The fullness of Christ in us is the greatest thing we should ever have in the world, which is wealth above every other thing. “Therefore, every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which brinngeth forth out of his treasure things new and old” (Matt. 13:52). Jesus is saying that those who are properly rooted in Him are like a prosperous farmer who have new stock of food while the old still remain. That is, the man will never lack.

The oneness between a tree and its branch is the true picture of Christ and the church known as the Body of Christ. He is the vine, and we are his branches (John 15:5). He is the head of all principalities and powers. He said: "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" (Matt 28:18). And again, he said: "ALL THINGS are delivered to me of my Father" (Luke 10:22). Remember that in your oneness with him, the promises of God to Christ are yours. "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principalities and powers" (Col. 2:9-10).

In the scripture, we understand that knowledge, wisdom and understanding come from God. Though man is fallen from his glory and has lost his wisdom, God still desire to pour out his soul on him. His being which is now manifested in Christ is the Word, and this is the attribute which he wants man to receive. Man is an image of God because of his wisdom, knowledge and understanding as God-manifested man. God's attributes in man was designed to make him a ruler. The nature of God in us is the only legitimate power and authority to rule according to God (Prov. 1:21). God made the world by His own wisdom, he created it by his own understanding. The eternal purpose of God is revealed in the wisdom through which he made the world, the wisdom of love and peace. This wisdom is the rulership quality of God. It was personified before the world was formed in Christ (Prov. 8:22-30). He puts this wisdom into man so that this nature, wisdom, and understanding

which is called Christ was actually the being of man (Prov. 8:31). This is the life and the soul of the Father, which he gave to man at creation so that man will stand as the eternal wisdom and creative agent of God (Gen. 1:28). Man lost it but the Father had brought it back to him through his beloved son Jesus Christ (Prov 8:32-36, 1Cor. 2:16).

Now, the issue of love, wisdom, knowledge, understanding and other attributes of God which flow out of his being as spiritual gifts are to be properly understood by the spiritual man and he should put them on a scale of priority. These things can only be understood by those who have known the mystery of Christ. “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect, yet not the wisdom of this world nor of the princes of this world that come to nought. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory” (1Cor. 2:7-9). This leads us into the general issues of spiritual gifts.

The gifts of the Holy spirit as manifested in the body of Christ are: - the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, apostleship, teaching, help, government (1Cor. 12:31), hope and charity (1Cor. 13:1-13). These gifts are for our services in the vineyard, for the edification of the church. Therefore, we should understand and know our portion as labourers in the vineyard. The question is who is in a

better position to work more and to do better to be worthy to wear the crown of the Father?

Now, wisdom is a measure of the creative ability of the Father (Prov. 8:12 Ex. 31:1-4). Knowledge is the omniscience of the Father, faith is the ability to do the will of the Father, prophecy is the power to reveal God's mind, healing and miracles and tongues to show the sign of the Father's presence, discerning to guide the flock against the enemy, helps to provide for the needy on behalf of God, government to keep the flock etc. yet in all these, Paul said "But covet earnestly the best gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way" (1Cor. 12:31). He concluded and said: "And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity. That the revealer of the love of the Father is above all (1Cor. 13:13, Dan. 12:3). Every other gift will end with the world and will pass away but charity or agape remains forever. It is the attribute that will usher you into heaven.

### **The Dividing Line (Agape)**

The disciples asked Jesus who was greatest among them in the New Kingdom? Jesus answered, the greatest among all is the one that has served who had loved and trusted as a little child. A certain rich man also desired for the kingdom. He said he had done everything the law had commanded and he desired to know his hope in the kingdom. Christ said, though he had done well, he needed to sell all that he had to give

the money to the poor and hopeless, and after that he should come and follow him. The man hearing this was greatly troubled because he could not afford to do that. Christ asked him to forsake the world and to surrender all that he has to God to be a co-labourer with him. He could not do it because he had great wealth, and much honour in the world (Matt. 19:16-24).

The mystery of true riches and position of honour in the kingdom was revealed to Paul. He said: "Though I speak with tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge: and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing" (1Cor. 13:1-3). Why should such a man who is capable of doing these things suffer such great loss? We see the man being filled with spiritual gifts or as one committed to the welfare of others with good works or as one that could die for others, yet he is of no value. The answer is that though he has done well to appear good, he still does not have the new life and the Jesus' kind of love which is the sceptre of the kingdom.

The man that has the nature of the father is the one that acts on behalf of the Father in His fullness. Agape makes the believer rises above childhood to the position of a representative of the Father. He is an able son to do his will. Every other gift is in part, not a

full picture of the body. A particular spiritual gift does not actually manifest the true nature of the body, therefore, it is not a mark of the citizenship of the kingdom. It will not even lead the individual into heaven, it will cease or end and will vanish away with the world 1Cor.13: 8. There is no prophecy in heaven, no tongue speaker, no healer, etc. these will end with the present world. The gift that is eternal, which will usher the individual into heaven, is agape love. Those in heaven are filled with this nature. It is the gift and identity of those who belong to the kingdom of the living. Agape makes the believer the fullness of Christ, it is the gift of the perfectness of the Father. Agape is an eternal attribute; it is life eternal. With this nature, eternity is peaceful and harmonious. Hence the law of eternity is love.

The man that has no agape love may do a good thing in the eyes of men, but there may be a reason for it, which is not approved of God. The man has fed the poor but he knows what he will gain from his action. He has done it, not because he desired for the welfare of the people. He knew he would receive praises and honour from them, he knew he would contest for a political office, he knew he would demand for something in the future so he had to lay a good foundation. He is working for himself, he needs gain, he is selfish. Agape does not seek for his own but for the joy and welfare of others.

Agape does not allow evil against his neighbour (Rom. 13:10). Paul said this is the fulfillment of the



law. It does not rejoice in evil but rejoices in the truth. It does not count evil done against it, it endures and overcomes evil with good. The man without agape had prophesied, he has healed, he has spoken in unknown tongue but the same is found sleeping with his neighbour's wife. The man has performed a miracle but is a liar and a deceiver, he is not a citizen of the kingdom of God. He may have worked by another authority beside that of the Father. For by their fruits ye shall know them (Matt. 7:20).

Agape love defines the boundary and makes the difference between truth and that which is not truth, between holy and unholy, and between good and evil. The man is a preacher and a teacher of the gospel. He preaches very well, but he does not have the Jesus' kind of love. He has just worked for his pay. He had bargained for it. He had been employed to teach because he has accepted to work on that wage level. He just have to work because he is paid. If his salary is stopped, he would stop also. He will not preach again; he has no time for it. It is not his business.

The man with the Jesus' kind of love is God's own workman, and it is God that would pay him for his service. After he has acted, he rejoices that he has done His will (Luke 17:7-10). He is conscious of his fellowship with the Father, he is conscious of his work as a co-labourer with Him, he has said in his heart, I will do His will to please Him. The mightiest thing in life is to be chosen of God. Though nobody recognizes me I know what glory is to be revealed in

me. The Father loves me who has reconciled me to himself, I am rejoicing because I have been ordained to do his will on earth. I do not demand for my pay, I do not bargain for it, I am working on behalf of Christ who saved me, and know the one that has made me a labourer will provide for my daily needs. The believer is working in the position of an able son in his Father's estate who knows his inheritance in it. He represents the Father who will support him for his needs. The Father makes him rejoice in His abundance and hope of his future glory. He does not want (lack) (Ps. 23:1).

### **In His Goodness**

God is a spirit. His immensity covers all the worlds. He is present in all the worlds from heaven to earth and down to the abyss (Ps 139:7-8). With him, nothing is impossible, He knows all things. He created both good and evil, He kills and makes alive. All the worlds are in His hands. He is Almighty God (Deut. 32:39).

His immensity is such that we dare not talk about Him except of adoration. All things are possible with Him. While on His throne He still has proceeded and had manifested Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit. God will visit you by His spirit (John 15: 26).

He is eternal, and His world is eternal. He is the king and ruler of the world. His will for eternity is peace, joy and harmony. Only God is able to do this, and His ability to do this is love. Love is the goodness of God to the world. He designed the wisdom, the

understanding, and the knowledge of His love, which have peace. This body of wisdom and knowledge and understanding, for peace and love in the world is known as the word of God. The word of God, is the love nature of God, is the rulership quality and attribute of the Father. He is God, our Lord and King. Though He is on His throne, in His omnipotence, He still had proceeded out from within Himself and had manifested His wisdom of love as a personality (John 8:42). He is Christ, the Word of God, the king of kings and prince of peace (Prov. 8:12-23). Christ is the goodness of God to the world. Beside him is the severity of God (Rom. 11:22). The Father is the invisible God whom none has seen (John 1: 18, 1Tim. 6: 16).

Christ and the Holy Spirit are His two witnesses who represent Him in all things (John 8:42, John 16:27-28, John 15:26). The immensity of the Almighty God is unlimited. He is indescribable. He is everywhere, he is all-knowing, omnipotent. Christ is not in a position to tell the day of the end. Christ will not judge but by His words (John 12:48-49). Christ will not avenge; God is the one that have vengeance. If you walk contrary to Him, he will walk contrary to you (Lev. 26:18-29). To the merciful He will show Himself merciful: and with the upright, He shows Himself upright. With the pure, he will show Himself pure: and to the froward man He will show Himself froward (Ps. 18: 25-26).

He has designed the way for everybody that will be with Him in His eternity and has manifested Himself as a model of it. Eternal life is God's model of peace in Christ, His righteousness to the eternal world. The Father said, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall be after me. I even I, am the Lord: beside me there is no Saviour" (Isa. 43:10-11). And again, he said: "Hearken unto me, my people: and give ear unto me O my nation; for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgement to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near: my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people: the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust" (Isa. 51:4-5). And because He will show himself and his life in a body of flesh to rebuild man and reconcile him to Himself, he said: I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of host" (Isa. 45:13). And again he said I have put my word in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, thou art my people (Isa. 51:16). *"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people, to it shall the gentiles seek, and his rest shall be glorious". (Isa. 11: 10).*

God has defined the way of peace, the way of joy and the way of rest. He has given it out by His own word. He has designed the wisdom of the new creation, the wisdom of love and of peace and joy. He has shown us His goodness, His righteousness, and His holiness. These were personified in Christ Jesus. Paul said, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. This God in Christ is the goodness, the righteousness, the nature, and spirit of the Father, which He brought that we might receive to become his image (2Cor. 5:19. 1Cor. 1:30). His ability is in His wisdom, and love, and righteousness. God does not desire sacrifices and burnt offering for sin. He has described the approved way in the volume of the books, concerning the right wisdom, knowledge and understanding, His image and all in Christ (Ps. 40:6-8, Heb. 10:5-9).

With His plan, God commanded and the heavens and the earth were created. He created the world with His word to be dominated by His Love. After God had created the world with His wisdom, he moulded a body of clay and engrafted His body of wisdom and understanding into it and it was called man. God brought out his image with rulership attributes to have dominion over all His works (Ps. 8:6). After the fall of man, the Holy Spirit and the Word are now the principal actors in revealing the Father. They are not created, they are the being of the eternal God (John 8:42, John 15:26). But man was created with matter above human comprehension and filled with the love-

nature of God to be in the class of God as son, to have dominion, and authority and might over God's creation. Man was the goodness of God to creation.

Man sinned against God and lost his divine attributes. He became a mere body of flesh with devilish and fleshly life, So, was condemned. Nevertheless, God's desire for His man was still present. Therefore, He sent Christ (the word of God) in a body of flesh to meet man at his fallen state, to covert him and to uplift him once more into his position as son in Christ (1Cor. 1:30). He would give him back His wisdom and understanding in Christ so that his sonship rights and privileges will be restored. He had sent His word, His love being, His goodness, His wisdom, etc. for man to receive so that he will be healed from his corruption (Ps. 107:20, Prov. 3:21-22).

Though man was fallen and cut off from God, his Father's glory is now revealed for him to see. He has brought His being back to man, to receive back and be uplifted. "The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Love came as a person with miraculous power to appeal to us to receive him. His good works is his beauty, his attractiveness and power for prosperity and success. When we reject him, we will be destroyed (John 15: 22-24).

## **Freedom From Satan's Strongholds (Faith)**

Man is in the prison yard of an enemy of God. The world is in the hands of devil (Job 9:24, Luke 4:6). He rules the world to his advantage. He has power over the flesh and senses of fallen man.

Satan rules man through the flesh and through his thoughts, imaginations, and desires. He speaks through the senses and gives knowledge, which are now strongholds of rebellion against God.

Man is a prisoner of Satan's wisdom. He has believed the adversary. He believes his sinful life is God's own plan on him. He feels normal, he says, there is no other way. If he is unrighteous, it is God that had created him to be so. He is blind to God's own life. He does not know that his enemy is in him, in his thoughts and imaginations, in his knowledge and understanding, which he has received from the world of devil. The greatest hindrance to fallen man is his devilish wisdom and understanding about life. They have exalted themselves against and above things of God and have made man enemy of his maker. They are speaking, saying No to everything God has said about him. The ability to break away from these strongholds is faith in the word of God (Christ).

The flesh has felt the taste of all habits as good, and as something one should desire for. The flesh has said, fornication is good, but the word of God is saying it is bad for you, that, it is sin against God. Though God has said the habit is evil, the mind is saying it is not possible to overcome. The mind says I cannot, but the

word of God is saying: you can break away, you can do it. The flesh says it is impossible, but the word of God says it is possible. When we believe in God's counsel, we will be liberated from the captivity of devil which is through our senses (2Cor. 10:3-5, Heb. 7:19).

The greatest stronghold of Satan against humanity is the Jewish tradition, the ordinances, statutes, and religious observances including the various feasts as commanded by God under the old covenant with Israel. The law is now a great hindrance to our knowledge of Christ (2Cor. 3:14-16). We have read in the scripture, that God commanded it and it was written for our learning. We know the sacrifices for sin and the atonement of the blood of goats. We know the peace offerings and the trespass offerings. The old covenant had taught us that we are not good, and it has provided daily solution for our sins. The law had taught us to do the daily sacrifices for our sins and to observe to do the feasts and various ceremonies as contained in it. It has made us religious people and not Christ personality. It has made us sinners. It does not make us walk as those who are free from sin who are as perfect as the Father. It has held us bondage of vicious circle of sin and ignorance (Heb. 10:1-6).

The word of God is brought for us to be partakers with Christ of his ability to overcome the bondage of sin. The greatest enemy to our knowledge of Christ is



our knowledge of the law. The only solution to this, is understanding the mysteries of Christ and having faith in him. The senses might want us to keep the old covenant, but the word that is brought through Christ is saying: the law is fulfilled and kept aside (Heb 10:9). The senses would say the commandments are still there in the Bible, do it: but the testimony of Christ is saying it is abolished. That a new law with a new dispensation is now in place (John 13: 34, Heb 9:10, Heb. 7:12). The law creates in people sin consciousness, but Christ brought freedom from sin. The daily blood sacrifices for sin have no place in the follower of Christ (2Cor. 3:6, Gal. 4:3-7). The law holds people under the bondage of unbelief because there was no liberty to look for another hope (Gal. 3:9). The rulers of Israel who believed him could not confess him because of fear of being thrown out from the temple (John 12:42-43). Israel was blinded by the old covenant, which God made with them. The old covenant did not allow them to understand the spiritual being of God, so when he appeared they did not know him. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own and his own received him not" (John 1:10-11). The Jews said, "Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is" (John 7:27). They did not believe in Jesus because they knew him and his parents and where they came from. Knowledge and wisdom of the world did hinder them from seeing the attributes of God in him. But now the spirit has revealed to us the treasures of Christ and we know

that He is the saviour and word of life.

Fear is a deadly thing. It can cut man off from the goodness of God. Fear is of the senses. Fear of the unknown, and of failure, of loss of wealth and of honour, and the fear of physical death is a thing that holds man and makes him subservient to devil. Fear is one of the strongholds of Satan in man. Christ is the solution to fear. Though the senses have said, you will die: the word of God in Christ is saying, you ever liveth. The flesh would say you are weak but the word has said you are strong. The flesh would say, if you loose the wealth of the world, you would be poor: but the word says, then you are rich. The man had acquired a lot of wealth for himself and his mind tells him you are rich: but the word tells him, you are poor.

Christ had killed the fear of the unknown, he had destroyed man's pride and had brought him low to be subject to the Father. Every stronghold and imagination which hinder us from knowing the Father had been killed by Christ, and by our faith in him.

### **Ascending unto the Throne**

We know the immensity of God. We know his greatness, and power and might. The heavens and the earth tremble at His presence. His throne is glorious, its beauty is unspeakable and His power is mighty. It is the throne of the Almighty God.

We have seen kings reign on earth, and we know the power of their throne. We know of their demand for

obedience for their honour, praises and respect. Their laws had always commanded us to serve them. The king is our lord and master. We tremble at his sight because he bears the rod and the sword, and our lives is at his mercy. Human kings are great in our eyes, yet God is Lord of lords and King of kings. His greatness is unspeakable. How could we think of ascending unto His throne?

When we see the power, and the honour, and the glory of our earthly kings, and we think of the greatness of God, we tremble because his throne is unspeakable. But God has revealed His throne of Lordship to us and we are confounded because we do not see what we think. It is something hard to believe but it is real. His throne is revealed in Christ Jesus whom he appointed heir of all things. He appeared as a man of low estate, as a servant. This is the opposite of what we know in the flesh, it is a mystery beyond our understanding. The sense ruled man cannot accept it, but the man of faith would know it. The word of God has made us not only to know, but to believe the wonders and mysteries of God.

Our senses had exalted us through our imaginations, and we see ourselves above the stars of God. We are out of the way, we have gone astray, and none did understand him any longer (Ps. 14:2-3, Rom. 3:10-18). The faith man is a believer of the word of God. The word is the light, which shows him the way. God created the world by His word and what He says is what has been. Now God has created a new way

which is different from the one in our senses. This new way is for our honour and glory. He created it by His wisdom and understanding (Isa. 48:3-8).

Look at the following scriptures:- *“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for and ensign of the people, to it shall the gentiles seek, and his rest shall be glorious.”* (Isa. 11:10).

“Behold I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and a commander to the people” (Isa. 5:54). “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness: that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified (Isa. 61:3).

When he finally came and was conceived of Virgin Mary, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, she prophesied and said, “And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath showed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away” (Luke 1:50-53).

The thing God had done on earth is that he has turned darkness to light, he had made mountains and hills to be low and lakes to be dry, He has brought the mighty man low, and the wise men of the world he has made fools. He has made crooked things to be strait. He has

created a new way that the blind would see and the deaf would hear (Isa. 42:15-16, Isa 40:3-5). He had commanded saying: “Hear ye deaf, and look ye blind, that ye may see” (Isa. 42:18, Isa. 29:18-20). Captivity is now made captive and the captives are free. The predator is now prey and the prey is in authority. Death is abolished and life and immortality had come into being (Eph 4:8, 2Tim 1:10). Jesus said: “ For judgement I am come into this world that they which see not might see: and they which see might be made blind” (John 9:39). God has held the wise in their craftiness and has exalted the humble and simple. Christ is now the power and wisdom of God to the world. To the world, this is foolishness, but to God, the throne of power (1Cor. 1:24-25).

Brother Paul wrote: “ for ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty: And the base things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence” (1Cor. 1:26-29).

Jesus demonstrated in his teachings and in his life this new way, but men did not understand. It is against the fallen man's nature in his pride and arrogance. He said, “ye know that the princes of the

Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister: And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even so the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:25-28. Matt. 23:11-12. Matt. 5:3-12).

To ascend unto the Throne of Christ to be and reign with him is to descend from the throne of pride, oppression, arrogance, wickedness, and extortion, etc. This is the throne of the enemy of creation. God has condemned it and shall soon be destroyed by eternal fire. The throne of the Father which is given to Christ is that of love, peace, long-sufferings, gentleness, goodness, meekness temperance, etc.(Gal 5:22-23). It is the throne of lowliness and humility, and of carrying the burden of men. You become the Father's able son who work as a servant to care for his children and for them that are lost. You no longer seek to satisfy your desires but for the welfare of others. You are to carry the burden, the pains and weaknesses of men. As able sons of God, the chances of people obtaining salvation depends on our ability to endure pains and hardness. It is the throne of love.

### **Prosperity In Christ.**

“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein” (Ps 24:1). The world is owned by God, it belongs to Him. God

created it for man his beloved. Man was ordained to be son of God to reign as king, hence the Father endowed him with abundant riches and blessings as a king (Gen. 1:26-30). If this is so, why should we suffer want? Why is it that some people have plenty while others have none? And if it is owned by God for his children, who should own what, and by what measure should an individual own something? These are basic questions that need answers.

Man, the crown of creation is no longer the kind of person that was ordained to rule creation. He has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. He has lost his sonship rights and privileges. An enemy of God has held him and has claimed ownership of man's world (Luke 4: 6). And because it is in the hands of the adversary devil, God Himself has rejected it. He has condemned it, he has appointed a day it would be destroyed, it will pass away.

God has a new dream. He wants to take man away from this condemnation and to give him a New World. This will satisfy His eternal purpose on man as His son. He will redeem man from the hands of the enemy and will reestablish him as son with power, authority and might, to have dominion of all His works once more (Ps. 8:6). In this redemption, God needs instruments and co-labourers to make His mind come true. He first used the prophets of old to reveal His mind, and then, He came in the person of Christ Jesus. He has done everything on His own ground

according to His council. He has made salvation available to all mankind. Though the world has not accepted, He indeed has reconciled with some and has committed unto them the ministry of reconciliation.

The disciples or followers of Christ do know that the world being condemned would pass away. They know that the desire of God is to save man. He has made us co-labourers with Him for the reconciliation of men to Himself. The believers of Christ have no desire for the things of the condemned world but for man whom God desire to save. The ability of the believer to understand himself as God's own labourer in this reconciliatory business is the beginning of prosperity in God (2Cor. 6:1, 1Cor. 3:9). The Law that governs this prosperity is that, those who have, more will be given to them, but those who do not have, even the little they have will be taken away from them (Matt. 25:29, Luke 8:18). In the law of God, those who are rich in His things will be richer and those who are poor in them will be poorer. Those who have are those who have the proper understanding to please Him. Children of God prosper in the truth about their relationship with God (3John 2-4).

The disciples asked why Jesus spoke in parables and he said: "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath" (Matt. 13:11-12). Our profitability to God is in



the ability to utilize the Father's ability, and this is a function of our understanding of the true facts of one being a co-labourer with Him in the redemption of the human race.

Christ differentiated two kinds of riches. These are riches on things on earth where thieves can steal where nature can cause to decay and rot away: and riches from above which are eternal (Matt. 6:19-21). We understand two kinds of prosperity: the prosperity, which is of the senses (flesh), and that which is of the spirit. Now, the word is God, the word is love, the word is Christ. Prosperity is in God. The word is the secret of peace and joy, the secret of good governance, the source of discovery and inventions, it is the ability to create things that will increase the welfare of people (Eph. 3:10, 16-19, Eph. 4:18). "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). The man who has manifested God's attributes for the welfare of mankind will be highly honoured in heaven. God does not bless wicked people; He does not give holy things to dogs (Matt. 7:6, Matt. 15:26). How would God redeem or save man from his sufferings? And who will do it on his behalf? This is the major concern of the Father. God wants to save man and to show him hidden treasures. He wants to unveil the hidden things of the world to man as son. Though man's hope is on a new world, God still want to give him not only the things of the new world but the secrets of the hidden treasures that are contained in the things of the present world which the enemy has claimed. This

will remove some of his sufferings in the present world.

Since God cannot reveal except for his children, the work of the believer is to help create the conditions that would attract God's blessing on man, that is, to help build up the people in the fear of God. The first and primary duty is to convert souls to God, and second, to show the beauty of God in his person to appeal to people to abandon their old ways for Him. He should show the goodness, righteousness, and glory of God in his person so that society will be transformed by him to the praise of God (Rom. 12:1-3). Prosperity means man's ability to utilize God's ability for the joy and welfare of others (see *Hidden Truth* by M.K. Odubo 2003). God's ability in us is in His divine attributes, His nature, His love and righteousness, His wisdom and understanding, which we will utilize to change situations for the salvation and joy of mankind. The question is, after you have been reconciled with him, how much have you worked? How much of His fruits have come out of you? To what extent have you revealed his glory to increase His kingdom? How many souls have given themselves to God because of you? How much have you worked to create peace, joy and welfare for humanity? This is the nature of the vineyard where we are working to be rewarded by the owner.

God said through Jeremiah the prophet: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in

his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgement, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord” (Jer. 9:23-24) read the following scriptures and you will understand the ways of the Father (John 15:16, Ps. 23:1-3, 1Tim. 6:3-12, 2Tim. 1:3-11, James 4:4). We walk by faith, not by sight (2Cor. 5:7). We do not look on things that are seen, but on things not seen, because the things which are seen are temporal, but those unseen are eternal (2Cor. 4:18, Luke 12:15).

Prosperity, which is of the senses, is the acquisition and accumulation of material wealth for personal and selfish reasons. This is the prosperity of the natural man who is working for himself and not God. This is the realm of the devil (1John 2:15-17). The fallen man is full of confusion, wickedness and selfish appropriation. They have deprived the weak and powerless of the things God has created for mankind. They are the enemies of God. God is now to be responsible for the welfare of the deprived. This He will do through His labourers. How much have you assumed this responsibility of the Father so as to be given a special place in His mind in His family? Consider the parables of the Master Jesus the Christ and you will tremble at your duty.

In the parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), Christ said a man gave his goods to his servants according to

their abilities as he travelled. One was given five talents, another two talents and the other was given one. The first two servants were servants indeed, because they actually laboured for their master, not for themselves, and the money given to them doubled. Because they were profitable to the master, they were made rulers of cities. The one that had one talent felt he could not be a servant to anybody, he had to work for himself, so he kept his master's money away from his own and hid it. He said, he knows his master (God) is such a one that always claim to own everything including things belonging to others. He is such a one that appropriate the fruit of others labour who want to reap where he does not work. So for fear of his appropriation tendencies he kept his money separate from his own lest he comes and claim the fruit of his personal labour. The master actually came and found him unprofitable due to his unruly attitude. The servant was not only rejected but was cast into hell. The believer should know that he is in the world as God's own workman and His gifts must be properly utilized (Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 19:12-27).

Many of those who are called now merely claim to be Christians but are really unprofitable. When they pray, their prayers are not answered because they have not given out the gifts in their service to others. It is more blessed to give than to receive. When you give out the word of God, and much of your time, and strength and resources, then God will bless you with abundant blessing in return. True riches come from

God (2Cor. 9:10). A prosperous man in Christ is like a giant tree as in the parable of the mustard seed (Luke 13: 18-19). He is a man the entire community would rely on for help at the time of need because he possesses God's ability.

## **We Are Healed**

Healing means making somebody healthy, eliminating pains, burden and worry. Sickness means broken peace, broken joy and broken rest. Healing is bringing sickness into an end.

People under the law were healed of their backslidings, but those in Christ are healed of their unrighteousness. Sickness is the product of sin, and sin is the breaking of the law. Sin gives rise to separation from the Father, and produces insecurity, uncertainty, want, selfishness, diseases, etc. Man is sick because he is not only a sinner but sin itself. He is death doomed, hell doomed, polluted and unclean. He is sick spiritually, mentally and physically. Man is dead in spirit, and true healing will come only when he is reborn (1John 3:14-15, John 3:3-6).

Righteousness of the law does not bring healing because it does not solve the sin issue. By the deeds of the law no one was justified (Rom. 3:19-20). It was called self-righteousness because man was not given the being of the Father. God said I give you these laws to be YOUR righteousness. It was not the righteousness, which is of God, but He gave them laws by which they could be justified (Deut. 6:24-25,

Phil. 3:9). Christ had come with a better hope by which our conscience will be purged from dead works (spiritual death) to be quickened by the life of God so that we will be with Him (Heb. 9:14, Eph. 2:1-3, 5). By his stripes we are healed (Isa 53:5).

Christianity is not having your sins forgiven, it is being purged from sin and dead works, it is the reality of one becoming a new creation (2Cor. 5:17). Man is born again as the image of God by the work of Christ (Eph. 4:24, Eph 2:10, Col. 3:10, John 5:24, John 1:13). He is healed. The healed man is of the body of Christ. Christ is the vine and we are his branches. We have been chosen of him to bear fruits and to ask the Father in His name. He is alive even as the Father is alive and we are in him, we are living even as he is living. We are alive as the branch of the living vine. We cannot be sick because sickness has no dominion over the vine. The branch is the manifestation of the tree. We are the righteousness of Christ to the world. The word is God (John 1:1), God is love (1John 4:8), the word is love. We are His love being. We are in Him and He in us. We are masters of Satan and his circumstances. As long as we are the love being of the Father, sin has no dominion over us. We have power over sin, sicknesses and diseases. We are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).

We are in Christ, with his nature, and being and life. He brought perfect redemption to us. We have become perfect new creation in him. We have Perfect

relationship with God. Satan can only come to us and as he went to Christ and tempted him. We walk in his name with the same ability treasured up in it as it was in Jesus while on earth. Our peace had been restored. His righteousness in us is our peace and this peace is our victory over the enemy (Isa. 26:3, Isa. 30:17).

Peace means absence of fear of the unknown, a feeling of perfect safety, absence of sickness. Joy means quiet confidence, quiet assurance and hope of future glory. Rest is the absence of the burden of evil habits and of the evil mind. We are healed indeed (Ps. 23:1-3, 2Peter 2:24-25).

The enemy came to steal, to kill and to destroy (John 10:10). He stole the world from man and took over control of man's wealth, he destroyed his authority and robbed him of his divine life. His ability to do all these to man is sin. His weapon and amour and sting is sin. But Jesus came and defeated him in the body of man and stripped him of his power (Rom .8:3-4, Rev. 1:18). Christ defeated him on our behalf, on substitutional ground. His victory is neither for himself nor for angels but for us. Our victory over the enemy is our victory over sin. And our victory over sin is health.

### **The Healing of our Body:**

We are healed in our hearts of the burden of evil and of the uncertainty and of the unknown after death. We have joy in our hearts because of our hope in the glory that shall be revealed in us at his appearing. Our joy

through this hope has enabled us endure pains, afflictions, wants, and temptation. Our body is yet to be redeemed, it can never be free from pains and afflictions and sorrow. The body is mortal (Rom. 8:22-25). The problem of pains and sorrow will be over at the resurrection of the dead. This corruptible body will be changed to that which is incorruptible, and mortality will give way for immortality. When this happens, death (devil) finally has been destroyed. In that circumstance, there will be no more pains, no more want, no more sorrow, and no more weakness of any kind (1Cor. 15:53-54).

Though our bodies are mortal, the Father has promised He will still heal us any time the adversary brings sickness to us. The Father is justified because sickness is no longer part of our being. It is for our consolation in the present (2Cor 1:3-10). It is the beauty of our union with the Father who is the author of life. John said we shall prosper in health even as our soul prospers in the truth by the word of God (3John 2). Healing of the body is for our peace and confidence. It is a sign of the new things in us (Mark 16:17-18). It is the beauty of the doctrine (Mark 1:27). It removes our fears and increases our joy. It gives us peace, assurance and confidence (John 16:23-24). The contenders of the world would see it and be confounded, and they will bow down through the wonders of God.

We are children of signs and wonders (Isa 8:18). The Father said, ye shall decree a thing and it shall be



established (Job 22:28). The word in our lips will bring healing to the sick (James 5:15). When we speak with our lips, the spirit of the Father, which is in us, will do the work (John 14:10-12, Rom. 8:11).

The word of God (Christ) had brought healing to us. We are healed body, soul and spirit. The word made us to know we are healed. It gives us the Hope to stand in the faith of him. When we ask in his name, He answers because it is his will that we are healed children. When we speak to the sickness, it goes. The word of God is producing fruits of its power in our lips.

However, not all are to be healed (Luke 4:27). It would come as the Father desires (2Cor. 12:6-10). We have been taught to endure pains to be Masters of all circumstances. We are healed because it is for our consolation and for his testimonies, but the body being mortal will still die one day.

### **Learn To Carry Yourself.**

Many have thought the ability to carry oneself is the ability to fast and pray. This is the understanding of babes whose knowledge of the truth is still unfounded and therefore unfruitful.

No one can carry himself except God. We will cast our cares upon Him because he really cares for us. We give ourselves to Christ for him to carry our burdens. (Matt. 11:27-30. 1Peter 5: 6-10).

To learn to carry oneself in Christ is to learn to cast one's trust in God whose power is unlimited. Since the power of God is in Christ, we have to learn to wear His armour in Christ. We must learn to overcome sin through the word, and to be co-labourers with him for power of attorney in the use of his name.

We learn to receive His wisdom, His knowledge and understanding, and to walk in them as able sons approved to act on behalf of the Father. This will make the Father to answer us any time we call. This means prayer result.

God does not regard the demands of babes. A babe is unskillful in His ways; therefore, he cannot act on His behalf (Heb. 5:13-14). A babe is an ignorant person who has no sense of responsibility. He does not contribute, he is not a co-labourer with the Father. He only demands and cries for his own, for his welfare and comfort. His desires are food, clothing, protection, healing and things that will give him comfort. He does not endure pains and cannot carry the burden of others. Babes in Christ think of prayers alone, they do not learn to carry the burden of others. They are babes in the word.

The word of God is love and the doing of it means a sense of responsibility to carry the burden of others. It is the ability to give out one's time, energy and resources for the joy of others. Doing the word of God

as an able labourer is in giving out of your treasures, not in receiving from others. (1John 3:16-18, James 2:14-20, Matt. 5:42, Luke 6:38).

The eyes of God are over the righteous and his ears are opened to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (1Peter 3:12). We must learn to walk righteously. We must learn to take our place as sons of God, and to assume a son's responsibility, to enjoy sonship rights and privileges. We must learn to wear the armour of God to defeat the enemy on our behalf and on behalf of others. We must stand in the truth of the word, walk in the righteousness of the Father, carry the burden of the gospel of Christ, rejoice in the promises of God by faith. Be in sweet fellowship with the Father, and Christ, and with the Holy Spirit and you will be able to carry yourself and others through your prayers (Eph. 6:10-18).

## **Discovering The Way**

Jesus was to go to the Father to prepare a place for the disciples. Thomas was confounded when Jesus told them they knew where he was going. He could not contain it and he confessed “we know not whither thou goest” (John 14:3-5).

Thomas knew of places in the world. He knew their locations. He knew the way to where he would go. We have also known as Thomas knew. We know the highways, the waterways, the airways, etc. we know where to start and where to stop. We have only known

of our movement in the physical world but not in the unknown and the unseen.

Human society is graded into hierarchy. The people have been classified into categories according to their wealth, power, political position, education, skill and achievements in the world. We know the offices, the various positions and the environment they could be found. We know what to do to get to the position. We know the way to do it. We can undertake a course of study and obtain the certificate that will qualify us to the position. We can join a given trade or a profession to acquire the skill and to improve on it to a greater height. We have known the ways of the world. We have perfect knowledge of the routes and the means of getting to wherever we desire, we can even go to the moon.

We have only known the ways of the physical world, and not the unseen one. We have known the earthly ways but not the way to heaven, the spiritual home of God. Our towns and villages are clearly written in our minds. We know our father's house; it is written in our consciousness that we are part of it. And as members of the family, we know our fathers and how to please them. We have only known of those things that are seen but not the Father that is unseen. We have not seen him before, we only heard of him and of his family, we do not know where they are. We do not even know the way to his house.

Now, destruction is coming, and the unseen Father

has said only those who will ascend to his heaven will be saved. The earth has responded with many seeking to flee the world to the home of God. There is a mass movement of blind and ignorant, and confused people who confess to have fled the world for heaven, but without knowing where they are going. The basic questions are: Where is God? Where is his house? And where is the way to the Father?

Jesus has given us a simple description of the way. He said “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). God is a spirit, though He is in heaven, He in reality is in every place man can imagine. His presence fills heavens and earth. Heaven is a holy place, and that is his home. Holiness is the sanctuary of God. He is present in every holy place not only in heaven but in the entire world including the earth (Ps. 96: 9, Ps. 93:5).

God has sent Christ to show us not only the way but the truth of his word and of his life as the way of reconciliation, and reunion. Christ came to reveal the holiness required of God for his presence. Holiness comes through righteousness; therefore, righteousness is the secret of our union with the unseen Father. Righteousness is the fruit of perfect love, the nature and being of the Father. Christ came to lead us to the unknown with the rule of “Do As I Do” and you will be translated. “That ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 13: 34B). And he said: if you continue in my word, you will know the truth, and

the truth will set you free (John 8:31-32). What truth? The truth about your recreation and of your union with him, the reality of you becoming a new creation.

The Israelites in Egypt believed in Moses about their redemption. They believed and they went to Pharaoh and said, let us go. They ate the Passover as Moses commanded. Because they believed, and did what was commanded. They were allowed to go by the mighty hands of God. They crossed the Red Sea on dry-ground, and they realized God was able, and that they were saved of a truth. Joshua and Caleb believed without wavering and they reached the Promised Land. Those who doubted or who murmured fell by the way side and died without seeing the land.

God has brought the word of faith as the means by which we might reach him. Jesus said: my doctrine is not mine, if you do what I have said, then you will also know that it is not mine but the Father's way of receiving you to Himself (John 7:16-17). God brought him as light for us to see practically the way to His holiness and presence. He is described as an ensign (Isa. 11:10-11) the express image of God's personality (Heb 1:3, Col. 1:15), the shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1Pet. 1:25), the eternal life (John 17:2-3, 1John 5:11-12) the door (John 10:9). He is the vine, and we are his branches (John 15:5), the bread of life, the word of God, etc. everything about our salvation is in Christ (Cor.1:30). He is the foundation stone upon which we have been built. He is the body, and we are members of his body (1Cor. 12:12-27). He is our king.

His name is THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:5-6). We will walk in his righteousness to legally have our names written in the book of life. He is the standard God has set by which we might be judged. His righteousness is the approved standard. We are reconciled with God in his being.

### **Knowledge and Wisdom, the Ultimate Way**

Knowledge is the stock of things in one's store of memory. Man is peculiar because of his wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

Animals are lower creation, and their memory is so low that they are rightly of a lower class. It is believed they walk by instinct. Man is made with high memory and learning capability. He is a being that can receive knowledge and instructions and do them. He has the ability to comprehend and to communicate with lips and walk according to instructions. Man's ability to comprehend and communicate ideas is the power he has to overcome danger and destruction. Lower animals cannot tell their history, they cannot tell the past, neither can they tell the future. They do not have the ability. They walk by instinct. God created this capability in man so that he could rule creation.

Though man is fallen, he is to be uplifted, and this depends on his ability to understand and have wisdom and knowledge. This will enable him do what is required to be free from condemnation.

The scripture has said Adam sinned and brought condemnation to the entire world. The world now is in the hands of devil who has turned everything including man into corruption. And God is now to destroy all things. He has set a day for this. But he has made a way for man to escape. Lower animals cannot receive counsel because they do not have the ability. The counsel of God is for man (Prov. 8:4). Every other thing shall be destroyed without mercy.

The wisdom by which man will be saved is Christ. Receiving God's wisdom means receiving Christ. This is the true word God wants us to receive.

The blind does not go out alone except by the aid of another. If he has a sense of direction, though he is blind, he can walk in the faith of his knowledge and understanding in the direction he believes. The word of love is the word of salvation. This word is the being of Christ, it is the righteousness of Christ. Man must hear and understand, and believe that God is able to save us by this means.

God wants us to be blind to everything except his new way. He wants us to see the way but not with our eyes, and to hear but not with our ears but with our understanding. People are destroyed because of lack of knowledge (Hosea. 4: 6). Israel went into captivity because of lack of knowledge about their God (Isa 5: 13). The human race is in the hands of devil because of lack of understanding about God.



God is making us to understand that it is Him that decides the way. Man should glory only in his knowledge of the way (Jer. 9:23-26). Those who run a race run with knowledge to win a prize. And those who take a course do it with knowledge and receive a certificate. Our salvation depends on our knowledge of Him (1John 3: 5-6).

Out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding and sound wisdom (Prov. 2: 6-7). God wants us to accept his law and his counsel as our guide and word that speaks to us, rebukes and reminds us of danger, gives us assurance, confidence and boldness. We should see it as our Lord who wants to save us from destruction (Prov. 7: 2-4). The wisdom given to us shall be life unto our souls. (Prov. 3: 21-22). By walking in His counsel, we shall be safe from danger, our feet will not stumble, and our sleep shall be sweet (Prov. 3: 23-24). Our ability to walk in His counsel depends on our understanding of His ways. Except we understand and see the need to love, the door to the Father will not be opened. And except we will learn to surrender ourselves in weakness the Father will not reveal His strength in us. The word is our life and strength. It is the righteousness of God which we have through his word. This is the attribute of the anointed Christ. It makes us the image of Christ. We are justified before God if Christ has become our attribute. He is our wisdom, understanding and strength (Prov. 8: 12-14). We were made subject to vanity by the sin of Adam (Rom. 8:

20). We lost contact with divine life, we became vain in our imagination, we lost the wisdom that qualified us as crown of creation. We were made low by reason of our vanity and corruption. We loved evil, we had pleasure in unrighteousness and in wicked works, and were cut off from the family of God.

God once more has brought to us the right consciousness, our wisdom which was ordained for us before the world began (Prov. 8: 30-31). We have received his mind through our knowledge of him. We have been converted, our minds have been renewed, we are now born again through the word of God. We have become new spirits with new souls and new life (Ps. 19: 7-8). We have passed from death to life (Matt. 5:24, Prov. 8: 35-36).

We will now reign with Christ as kings. But kingship is justified in wisdom. What qualifies a man as a king? What makes him crown of creation? It is wisdom that justifies him as God's own representative. Man is the instrument of God's dominion on earth, the medium through which he will rule creation. Man was not created to walk in his own power but in the wisdom and power of God. It is God that walks through him (Dan. 4:32). The Lord is our king.

But by whom will the Lord reign? Who has walked in his wisdom? who has kept his commandments? It is Christ Jesus who has pleased the Father in all requirements of obedience. He is a model of the right wisdom, he is the right understanding, the true man of strength (Prov. 8: 12-16). The being of the right

attribute that is personified as man. If the wisdom and ability is eroded away, then man is no longer man as crowned by God.

We will walk in the fear of God to allow him manifest himself in us. The fear of the Lord is to depart from evil, and to keep away from pride, arrogance, wicked talks, and every evil way (Prov. 8:13, 16: 3-9).

God said if he is hungry, he will not demand from us, because everything belongs to him. He wants thanksgiving and commitment to his instructions and commandment (Ps. 50: 12-17). That the curse of God is in the house of the wicked but that of the just is blessed Prov. 3:33. The wicked is an abomination to him, but his secret is with the righteous. He scorns the scorner and shows loving kindness to the lowly. God will never walk with the wicked and evil. Only righteous people are justified in His sight (Prov. 3: 27-32) in this dispensation.

Therefore, we need the right understanding about our life on earth, the right wisdom as God's ambassadors. We need the knowledge and wisdom that brings peace and joy, not the one that gives room for strife, envy and clamour. When we walk with the wisdom that is from above, we will save ourselves and others. But when we walk with those of the world, the outcome is strife, clamour and destruction (James 3: 14-18) and the end is hell and the lake of fire (Isa. 5: 14, Ps. 9:17).

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Awudese Azibalua is both a Teacher and Pastor of the flock of Christ. His desire is to convince people about those things that are contained in the scriptures. He loves discussing areas of the Holy Bible where people have doubt. He also accepts questions from anyone in the congregation and gives answers. His teachings are centered on salvation through Christ, and strongly believes that God has made man perfect and righteous through His substitutionary sacrifice. His teachings have convinced many about the truth contained in the Bible.

Some of his recent writings are: Who is a Christian? – Religion versus Christianity in a confused world, Who is Jesus? – an in-dept Teaching on the person of Jesus Christ.

## **ABOUT THE BOOK**

### **ETERNAL LIFE:**

The Nature of God in Us.

Do you know every sinner is under the curse of death and is condemned already?

Have you known about spiritual death?

Do you know Satan is death as God is life?

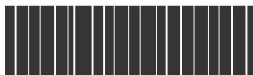
How do you escape Satan's body of death?

Do you know Eternal Life is the Nature of God?

How do you have Eternal Life?

How do you know you have it?

This book will enable you understand what Eternal Life means and how to have it.



ISBN- 978 -36356 -7-0