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Spiritual **FORMATION**



WALKING WITH GOD

Salvation by Grace
THROUGH FAITH.

The Bible declares the human race as a fallen race incapable of pleasing God (Rom.3:23). Disobedience of man brings about separation between him and God. So for man to be restored back and acquire the nature of God he must be born into God's family (John 3:6).

This spiritual new birth was emphasized in the Bible by Jesus himself. He told Nicodemus twice in John 3:3&5.

For man to acquire the nature of God he must be born into God's family (John3:6). This spiritual new birth was emphasised in the Bible (John 3:3,5).

This is the basis for walking with God as two cannot walk together except if they be in agreement. (Amos 3:3).

So everyone that must represent God before men must have a relationship with Him.

The entry point into this relationship with God is salvation.

To attain to this new birth, two issues should come to mind:-

- a. **The God-ward part:** (John 3:16; Rom.6:23b; Eph.2:8-9; 1 John 5:11). This part was perfected on the cross as Jesus Christ died and rose again. But the salvation thus purchased for mankind can be seen as a potential one to be made effective only towards the individual who desires it and receives it by faith. In Christ Jesus, God has given the gift; but every man has his own part to play. So all can be saved from what God has done, but not all will be saved
- b. **The man-ward part:** Since God has given the gift of salvation (eternal life) through His Son, He expects each person to receive his own (John 1:12; Rev.3:20; 1 John 5:12). According to Eph. 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5 any attempt to receive this salvation by good works or pious living will be abortive. Admit you are a sinner and that you can not save yourself. The adamic nature of man must first of all be dealt with through a spiritual surgery of repentance (See Jer.13:23) before you can please God. Mere head knowledge of these facts will even not benefit whoever has not appropriated his own salvation by asking the Lord Jesus to come into his heart.



In other words, God offers us salvation, but leaves it up to us to make the decision. Have you received this salvation? You can do so today.

Steps to take:

1. Realise that God's purpose for you is to have life, (John 10:10; John 3:1).
2. Realise that sin has separated you from God, (Rom.3:23; Rom.6:23).
3. Realise God's provision for your salvation - the cross (John 14:6; 1 Tim.2:5; 1 Pet.3:18a; Rom.5:8).
4. Admit you are a sinner and that you cannot save yourself.
5. Respond by repenting and inviting Jesus Christ into your heart (Rev.3:20; John 1:12; Acts 2:38a).

Now that you are saved, the next thing is to take upon yourself the yoke of discipleship and learn daily at His feet on how to live and do ministry. You must maintain a regular and consistent walk with the Lord. Y

our walk with God must take priority over every other thing in your life.

God attaches more importance to our lives more than the things we do. If our lives are not correct we cannot do things that would please Him. Everyone that must represent God before men must have a relationship with Him.

THOT: The work of salvation was started by God and completed in Christ Jesus. It will be imparted by the Holy Spirit unto any soul who is ready.

BIBLE VERSE:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph 2:8-9



CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIFE

Christianity is a life and not mere religion or an attempt of man to reach God. This shows that it is a relationship between God and man. The Christian life affects every aspect of our lives.

The Christian (born again) is the salt in this wicked world, which is full of sin and vices. (Matt.5:13; Col.4:6). He is also the light of this world (Eph.5:8,14; 1 Thess.5:5).

True Christianity is a battle (1 Tim.6:12). The genuine born again person is called to be a soldier and God's battle axe. Jer.51:20-23.

It is not a life of religious ease, indolence and security. War is waged against him by three principal actors:-

1. **The World:** - Rom.12:2; Gal.6:14; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15; 5:4.
2. **The Flesh:** Mark 14:38; Rom.7:23-25; 1 Corinth.9:27; Gal.5:24; Col.3:5.
3. **The Devil:** Job 1:7; Luke 22:31; John 8:44; Eph.6:11.

Except the Christian gets victory over these three things, all other victories are useless and of no effect.

Provisions to live a consistent Christian life.

1. **The word of GOD:** The word of God is indispensable in the Christian's spiritual warfare. Joshua 1:8; Ps.119:9,11; 105:130; Rom.12:2; Eph.6:17; 2 Tim.2:15 and 2 Tim.3:16-17.
Note that success in the Christian race depends on God's promises in His word - the Holy Bible. The need to have a regular study of the Bible cannot be over emphasized. It is the compass on ones journey. It must be accepted, studied and mixed with faith to be of benefit.
THOT: (Joshua 1:8).
2. **Prayer:** Prayer is communing with God. It is the Christian's breath. The importance of prayer is the realization that the Christian is joining his weak force with the Almighty, creative and all sufficient power of God. The mighty men whom God used in the past and those He is still using

today have tapped this infinite power. Jesus Christ gave us a signed blank cheque - John 14:13. This is a privilege in prayer. Jesus talked, healed and did many other good things, but His life was more of prayer. We, His disciples should not do less.

Carefully examine these examples of men who prayed.

1. **JESUS:** fasted for forty days and forty nights - Matt.4:2.
2. **Prayed alone all day** - Matt.14:23; Mark 6:46.
3. **Prayed all night** - Luke 6:12. This was before he chose the disciples.
4. **Was transfigured while praying.** Luke 9:29.
5. **Prayed at Gethsemane.** Matt.26:36-44 and John 17:9.
- B. **David's life was that of prayers.** 1 Sam.17:45-47; 2 Sam.7:18a; Ps.25:1-22; Ps.55:17,22.
- C. **Elijah** - 1 Kings 18:30-38.
- D. **Paul** - Eph.1:15-19; Col.1:9-11; 1 Thess.3:11-13.
- E. **Apostles** - Acts 6:4.
- F. **Jabez** - 1 Chr.4:9-10.

How often should we Pray? Isa.62:6-7; Lk.18:1; Rom.12:12; 1 Thess.5:17.

Hindrances to effective prayer

- (1) Sin - Ps.66:18; Prov.28:9,13; Matt.6:12,15.
- (2) Lack of knowledge of God's word. - Hosea 4:6.
- (3) Excuses and laziness - Matt.26:36-45.
- (4) Impatience - Luke 18:1,8b.
- (5) Pride and self righteousness - Luke 18:9-14.





Other provisions available to live a consistent Christian life are:-

A. HOLINESS

A crucial aspect of a Spirit-filled life is absolute separatedness unto the Lord. (i.e. to be set apart for God). A call to service is a call to holiness (Lev.11:44). It is a call to obedience. Our God is holy. His word, thoughts and actions are premeditated as well as entrenched in holiness. One of the distinguishing attributes of God is holiness (Ex.15:11; Zech.14:20; 1 Pet. 1:16). The undoubted call to holiness for the Christian is contained in Heb.12:14 - "Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

Consider the following carefully:

1. Call to personal holiness as vessels and worshipers of God (Isa.52:11; Rom.12:1).
2. Holiness as an act of grace. It is (a) positional (1 Cor.1:30) as well as (b) progressive (2 Cor.7:1).

a. Positional: Believers are called saints and are eternally set apart for God by redemption "through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb.10:10-14). This shows that they are "saints" and "holy" at the moment of conversion or new birth (Rom.1:7; 2 Cor.5:17; Heb.3:1).

The Holy Spirit also sanctifies or makes holy the believers through the application of scriptures (Ps. 119:9; John 17:17; 2 Cor.3:16 and 1 Thess.5:23-24).

b. Progressive: Holiness requires a daily yieldedness to Christ and complete separation from all forms of unrighteousness 1 Thess.5:22 (see also Prov.4:23; 2 Cor.6:14; Eph.4:23; 2 Tim.2:19).

Holiness does not indicate a state of sinlessness (Rom.7:22-25). However a believer cannot deserve to be called holy if he willfully continues in sin (Rom.6:11-16).

B. WITNESSING (Rom.10:15; John 4:35-38)

Witnessing is an essential element in consistent Christian living. Witnessing is sharing what you know to be correct about an event. It testifies to the validity of a claim or belief. A man who has received Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal Saviour is enjoined to tell others about his faith by sharing the Gospel of Salvation through Christ (Acts 1:8). It is a way of giving, having received the gospel.

Carefully consider the following:-

- a. **The Great Commission** (Matt.28:19-20; Mark 16:15-; Acts 1:8). Mark 16:15 emphasizes that every creature includes children.
- b. **Examine** Rom. 10:13-14 about the urgency of preaching the word of God.

Your faith in the Lord Jesus and the joy of salvation grow as you witness to others.

C. FELLOWSHIP

A sheep is more secure in the company of other members of the flock. A member of Christ's body performs best when integrated into other members. A lone sheep is an easy prey to its devourer. (Prov.27:17; Heb.10:25).

D. VISION/GOAL

Every Christian should have a vision/goal. This will help to make him consistent in his Christian walk. It helps him have a focus in Christian service.

"Where there is no vision the people perish. (Prov.29:18; John 4:34; Acts 20:24; Phil.3:13-14).

Memory verse:- 1 Corinth. 11:1.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ."



THE MAN GOD *Uses*

God always uses men to do His work here on earth. Even though it is not impossible for God to use stones or animals or even angels, it has always been His practice to use men. For God to move and manifest His power in any generation, there must be availability of usable men.

The deficiency in the availability of such usable men always results in a poor manifestation of God's power and presence. Whereas there are many people in the church today, usable men are rare to find (especially in the field of child evangelism).

Consider the following examples of men that God used in the Bible:-

- God used Moses for the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt - Ex.3:7-22.
- When there was a need for a King in Israel, God sought for and found David. 1 Sam. 16:1; Psalm 89:20.
- God used Gideon and several other men during the period of the Judges to deliver Israel from the hand of their oppressors. Judges 6:14.
- In the salvation of man, God did not send an angel, but Jesus His Son who came in the form of man. Gal.4:4.
- In the case of Cornelius, God did not use an angel to preach, but instead asked Cornelius to send for Peter in Joppa. Acts 10:1-6

In all these examples and several others in the scriptures, God's use of men is evident. His power was demonstrated through the hands of men. These men were nothing in themselves, but God worked through them.

QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN THE MAN HE USES

- Willingness and yieldedness - God does not force/compel anyone. Hence the man that God will use must not be one that struggles with God.
- Consecration (Holiness): 2 Tim.2:19-20.
- Dead to self: He must crucify the flesh he must be broken. - John 12:24; Gal.2:20. He must be willing to lay his pride, ambitions, achievements, prestige etc at His altar.

- Absolute dependence and submission to the Holy Spirit Zech.4:6b; John 15:4-5.
- Boldness and courage Ex.14:13-14; Jer.1:6-8; Joshua 1:6.
- Commitment to studying, obeying and teaching of God's word. 2 Tim.2:15; Joshua 1:8-9.
- Faithfulness (accountability) 1 Cor. 4:2; Luke 16:10.
- Prayerfulness - Matthew 11:12.
- Giving: ability to give sacrificially our time, substance and finance to the work of God. Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Mal.1:6-8,14.

God is not bound by age in His choice of men to use. Jesus, Samuel, Josiah, David etc were all young when God began to use them. Because He's a great God, He can use small men to do great things.

God doesn't, most of the time, use refined men. He instead refines the men he uses. 1 Cor.1:26-29.

WHAT GOD DOES TO THE MAN HE WANTS TO USE

- God selects, prepares and trains the man He wants to use. He arranges and determines the kind of training that is most suitable for the person He will use. Most often the training God passes them through is commensurate with the assignment He has for them. David and Moses, are examples of men God trained in different circumstances for different responsibilities.
- God empowers, equips and anoints the man He will use. The anointing, just like the training, is never the same for all men that God uses. The level and measure is determined by the nature of calling and responsibility.
- God breaks, prunes and purges the man He uses. God must destroy every affection and attraction to the world. He will ensure that we are drained of every worldly venom. Mark 14:3; John 12:24.

MEMORY VERSE:- Phil.2:13.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.





FULFILLING ONES



What is a calling?

- A call dignifies you, reflecting the uniqueness of your life. A man with a call does not merely exist, but lives out a purpose.
- Calling has to do with who you are (i.e. what God has made you to be). It's not just what you do or what He wants you to do but what he does in you (1 Sam. 22:3).

2. By hearing someone preach.
3. Through inward witness (conviction).
4. Through dream (Matt. 1:20), vision (Isa.6:1ff), or prophecy. The witness of the Holy Spirit in one's heart must confirm this type of leading. No matter the way one receives his calling, he operates maximally if he remains in the area of his calling.

Picture of calling:

- Calling is not a matter of doing a great job or a small job. It is all about God's working, His purpose. No calling is "Big" or "Small".
- Discovering ones calling, in many cases, happens by accident than following a formula. It is not a matter of sitting in a dark closet, waiting for God to tap you on the shoulders and hand over a script of your life purpose. It is not a function of isolation but a stepomatic (step by step) experience (not automatic).
- Calling is progressive. It develops with a step of coherence from one level to another level.
- God's calling is uniquely separate but fits into the overall picture of His universal purpose.

To fulfill one's calling, one must:-

1. Set one's heart to do so (Joshua 24:15; Neh.6:3-4; John4:34; Acts 20:24; 21:13; Phil.3:13-14).
2. Reproduce (or duplicate) one's self, i.e., praying and speaking others into the vision (Neh.2:17; John 1:45-46; Acts 15:36).
3. Identify with people of like mind. Luke 9:59-60; Phil.2:2, 19-21).
4. Be committed. While observing (3) above, he sees the work solely as his Father's own; he should regard his absence from his duty post as leaving a vacuum that no one else can occupy.
5. Be fully yielded to the Holy Spirit (John 15:4-5). Self must be crucified, for the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong (Eccl.9:11).
6. Be patient. (2 Tim.2:24) and prayerful (Matt.17:21; Gal.4:19).

Discovering a call:

- Calling is so simple but yet difficult. Naturally it is God who does the calling. Discovering God's voice, through all ages has been a challenge to man.
- There are several characteristics of God's voice, these enables us to recognize His voice. Quite often God's voice seems disguised, distorted or unclear but most times, the reason we do not hear His voice is because we are expecting either the dramatic or the bizarre.

Some hindrances to fulfilling one's vision:-

- a. Pride (2 Chr.26:3,5,16), flesh and worldly desires (Num.22:12,17,19); desire for self recognition and honour.
- b. Opposition by the devil through distractions, discouragements, trials, feeling of unworthiness, ridicules, persecutions, etc. (Neh.4:1-3).
- c. Being busy here and there (Jack of all trade). (1Kings 20:40; Matt. 6:24)

Ways one could be called into a ministry

1. By reading a portion of scripture (e.g. Matt. 9:37; Isaiah 6:8).

MEMORY VERSE: Col.4:17.

"And say to Archippus, take heed to the ministry which thou has received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it."



EFFICIENT & FRUITFUL SERVICE

“You have not chosen me, I have chosen you.....that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...” John 15:16.

For there to be efficiency and fruitfulness in service, the Christian must serve:

1. **According to rules:** He must walk with God (Amos 3:3, see also Ex.33:13). God knows the way and the method. Therefore he must submit to Him and to the authority or standard set over him. This involves:
 - a. Prayer: Prayer gives strength for service. It confers anointing, enabling one to break up fallow grounds. Prayerlessness leads to lack of burden, which in turn leads to divided attention. Fruit does not last without prayer.
 - b. Knowledge of His will. The word of God is the compass, the constitution. It should be known and practised, otherwise, neither the minister nor his/her disciples will grow. You will stop growing without it and so also your flock.
2. **In Holiness:** Sin renders one unproductive, and makes one's fruit become premature or aborted. Sin blocks the flow of divine enablement and puts the enemy at a vantage position.
The life of the minister determines how fruitful his/her service will be. Therefore we are exhorted in 1 Tim.4:16 to watch our lives and doctrine. Don't teach people to run a Bible Club when you do not.
3. **With a goal and focus:** (1 Corinth.9:26). One should be a man/woman of single eye. You can't serve two masters at a time and be effective (1 Kings 20:40).
4. **With enthusiasm and commitment**

(1 Tim.4:13-15). The Lord Jesus set us an example of commitment..... (John 4:34) Paul is another example.....Acts 20:24; Phil.3:12-14.

5. With the aim to reproduce himself or herself:

Without this reproductive process, the service dies with the visionary or minister. Moses had a Joshua; Elijah had an Elisha; Paul had Timothy and Titus; 2 Tim.2:2 should be the aim, even as we teach children.

Whatever we are called to do, and at whatever capacity, it is the Lord we are to serve. Service is like offering/sacrifice (Mal. 1:6-8). God wants our lives to be fruitful. He frowns at unfruitfulness. Consider these passages:

☉Mark 11:12-14; Luke 13:6-9.-Unfruitful tree.

☉Matt. 25:28-30-Unprofitable servant.

☉Luke 20:9-16. -Wicked vine-dressers.

God is not a wasteful investor. Having invested in our lives He expects fruits.

3 AREAS OF FRUIT BEARING

1. Soul Wining: Matthew 28:19-20

2. Ministry and Gifts: 1 Tim.4:14

3. Character: John 15:12-14; Gal. 5:22-23

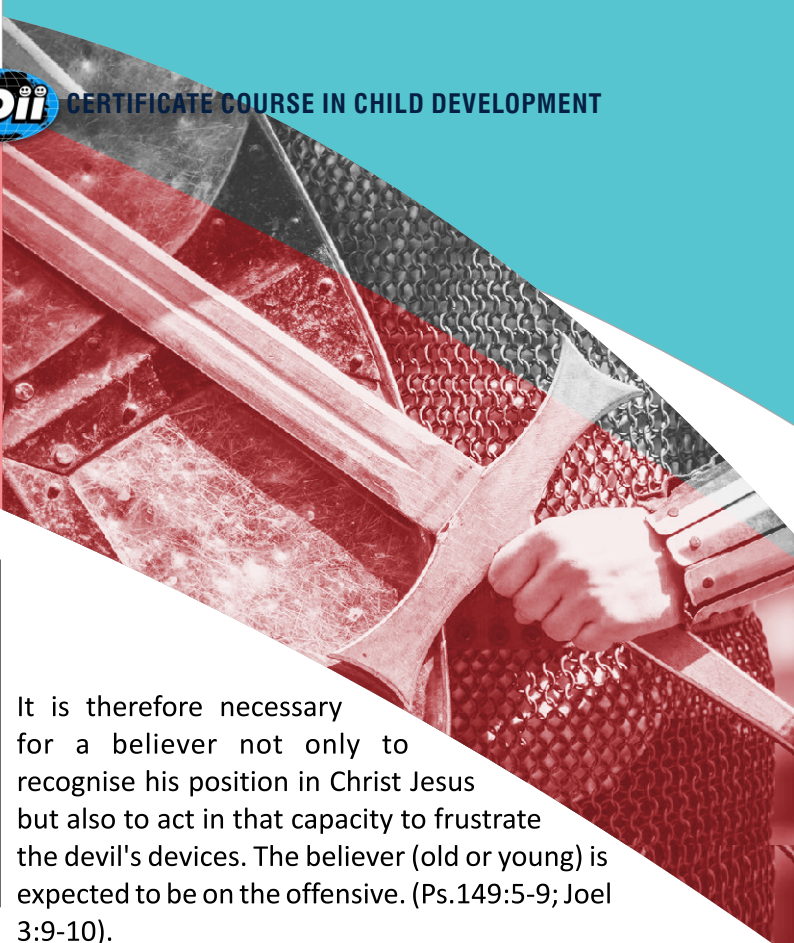
HINTS FOR ASSESSING YOUR EFFICIENCY

1. The level of interaction among the teachers in your Sunday School?
Is it the best for a fruitful service unto the Lord?
2. What is the level of interaction between you and the children in your Sunday School and Bible Clubs? (Acts 15:36). How many of them can you call by name? Are the children individually getting rooted in the Lord Jesus? (See Prov.27:23; Acts 20:28).
3. The Teacher's example e.g. in Sunday School preparation, and also in regularity/punctuality to classes.
4. Faithfulness in adequate lesson preparation e.g. spending much time praying, studying the word, preparing your lesson outline.
5. Continued communication between the Sunday School/Bible Club teacher and the children who have left for another Town/State.

“Half hearted” attitude to our Sunday School and Bible Clubs can hardly bring fruit that will abide.



THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND HIS AUTHORITY



It is therefore necessary for a believer not only to recognise his position in Christ Jesus but also to act in that capacity to frustrate the devil's devices. The believer (old or young) is expected to be on the offensive. (Ps.149:5-9; Joel 3:9-10).

Christ's coming to the earth was not to acquire authority for Himself, but for believers in His name.

The source and secret of the believers' authority is therefore the Lord Jesus (Matt.28:18; Eph.1:19-22; Phil.2:9-11; Col.2:9-10,15). By His death and resurrection He led captivity captive and brought victory for the Church. His victory on the cross confers His authority unto all believers (Matt.18:18; Mark 16:15-18 and Luke 10:19). This authority is to enable the believers to be victorious and triumphant over the devices of the devil. This is because the believer in the Lord Jesus is in a constant war front, faced with invisible enemy forces.

Since satan can no longer directly attack the Lord Jesus, he targets the Body of Christ; he trails the believer, seeking an occasion to take advantage of him, and to oppose God's plan. He frequently operates in the believer's mind and thought pattern. He does not cease to oppose the believer's walk with God. Trials, discouragement, afflictions, persecutions, frustrations, sickness and anxiety are some of his weapons (We are therefore admonished to be vigilant and not ignorant of his devices. 1 Pet.5:8; 2 Cor.2:11; Eph.6:11-13).

Only born again Christians have this privilege; they are in Jesus and Jesus is in them (John 14:20). We died with Jesus (Rom.6:8; Col.3:3), rose with Him and are seated with Him in the heavenly places (Eph.2:6) far above principalities and powers (Eph.1:21). In this exalted state we war from our victory position and are detrimental to satan and his cohorts.

From the believer's victory position he can therefore trample upon the devil (Ps.91:13), cast out demons (Mark 16:17) and tread upon the devil and his agents (see also Jer.51:20; 2 Corinth.10:3-6). God expects every believer to exercise this authority (Ps.149:5-9). At least the believer has the backing of the King of kings and Lord of lords (Isaiah 41:10-12; 44:24-26; 54:15,17).

MEMORY VERSE: (2 Cor. 2:14) "Now thanks be unto God who always causeth us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place."



THE CHURCH

What is your concept of the word "Church"?

If a Church building is pulled down, does that Church cease to exist? If a Church/Fellowship in a rented house is later taken over by the landlord of the house, do you know that the members move out and still continue as a Church? The Church is therefore something else other than a mere physical building.

The Greek meaning of the word Church is "ekklesia," meaning the called out ones. It is an assembly of believers who have been called out from among the unbelieving world. If you are a true believer in the Lord Jesus you are a member of the Church (1 Corinth.12:27).

The Bible also refers to the Church as the body of Jesus Christ (Eph.1:22-23a; Col.1:18,24b). The Head of that body is Jesus Christ Himself. The believers are members (parts) of that body. (Rom.12:5; 1 Corinth.12:27).

Symbolically the Church is spoken of as a building of which Jesus Christ is the foundation or cornerstone (Eph.2:20-22). It is built on Peter's confession (Matt.16:16,18). Christ is the rock upon whom the Church is built. The believers are the living stones (blocks) of that spiritual house. (1 Pet.2:5).

There may be a multiplicity of Churches (denominations) yet we have one Church - the

body of believers (The name of the denomination does not matter; what matters is whether it is a Bible believing Church). Every part/living-stone or member of that body is important and unique to the Head (Lord Jesus). Each member has a very important position he fills in the normal functioning of the body, and is needed by other members for perfection of their own functions (1 Corinth.12:14-27; Eph.4:16). Every joint in the body needs the co-ordination of another joint for undisturbed body movement, just as each 'lively stone' in that spiritual house needs the support of another block to maintain stability of the building. (Eph.4:16).

Since we all need one another, God's children should be inter-denominationally minded. Unfortunately some Christians regard only the members of their own denomination or fellowship as brothers and sisters. Let us see one another as the Lord Jesus sees us (the body).

We should see the programmes of other Churches/Fellowships as our own, working harmoniously and in one accord. In this way the world will know we are one, by our love (John 17:21-23).

Memory Verse: (1 Corinth.12:27) "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."



GIVING



GIVING

Half the possibilities in the world become impossible if men would not commit their human, material and financial resources as well as talents to it. There is no gain-saying the fact that the Christian life is a life of commitment, sacrifice and self-denial. This does not only enhance the work and the glory of God but also encourages the Christian worker as souls are constantly saved, restored and established.

The spiritual law of receiving is based on GIVING. "Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom" (Luke 6:38; Prov.11:24-25; Phil.4:18-19).

The Lord God demands that believers honour Him with their substance, with the promise that blessings will follow - Prov.3:9-10. A very noble and simple way of honouring God is giving to evangelism, particularly "Child Evangelism", as this aspect has been neglected for so long. Note that not so many Churches commit their financial resources to it. Others merely give lip-service and engage in window dressing programmes. You (trainees) who know the importance and urgency of reaching the children and catching them young for Christ should take the lead in giving yourselves, money, time, talents, prayers etc., to this cause. Concern entails responsibility.

Giving should never be for ostentation or human reward. It should be to God's own glory and in His method.

Ponder on these facts:-

- Macedonian system of giving. 2 Corinth.8:1-6, 11-15.
- Every man gives as he is able (i.e. according to income) Deut.16:17.
- Every man gives with simplicity - Rom.12:8.
- Every man gives regularly - 1 Corinth.16:2.
- Every man gives cheerfully - 2 Corinth.9:7.

Method and Blessing:

- Tithes and Offering - Mal.3:8-11.
- Freewill offering as the need arises. 1 Chr.29:6-9; Ezra 8:26.
- Giving for specific projects e.g., Literature development; Total Child Schools; Total Child Welfare Centers. Ezra 2:68-69.
- Helping, supporting missions and missionaries on the field -Acts11:29; Phil.4:10,14,15-16,18 and 19.
- Supporting CEM missions effort and missionary staff in kind and cash. (No CEM missionary staff is on salary.)

SONG

I'm a missionary helper, praying everyday,
I'm a missionary helper, my money goes God's way,
Leading precious souls to Jesus, My heart is all aglow,
I'm a missionary helper, pray and give and go.

NOTE:

What we give adds to our credit in God's inexhaustible banking system.

Memory Verse: Luke 6:38. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."



THE MINISTRY OF THE *Holy Spirit*

HIS DEITY

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third person of the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son being other member. The three are co-equal, indivisible and inseparable. As God, the Holy Spirit is to be revered and worshiped.

EVIDENCE OF HIS DEITY

1. He possesses all the attributes of God such as love, holiness, eternal etc. (Luke 11:13; Heb. 9:14; Ps. 139:7 1cor. 2:10-11; Gen. 1:2; 1 John 5:6).
2. His works: Only God can do what He does, e.g. Creating (Gen. 1:2), Regenerating (John. 3: 5-6), Inspiring (2 Peter 1:21), etc.
3. Equal associate with other persons of the Trinity. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor.13:14). Some verses spoken by the Lord in the Old Testament are referred to in the New. Testament as being written by the Holy Spirit, e.g. Isa. 6:9 and Acts 28:15, 26; Jer. 31:33 and. Heb. 10:15, 16.

HIS PERSONALITY

The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force, not an "IT".

EVIDENCE OF HIS PERSONALITY

- He can see (1 Cor. 2:10,
- Hears (John 16:13), and speaks (Rev.2:7).
- The Holy Spirit has feelings and emotions, and so can be grieved. Eph.4:30; Isaiah 63:10.

Because He's a person, He understands our problems and can help us.

As a person, you can relate to Him on a person to person basis. We need to cultivate His presence and commune with Him consistently (2cor. 13:14).

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the Old Testament

- (a) Creation - He gave life and order to creation. Ps. 104:30; Job 33:4; Gen. 1:1-2. Quickened man in creation (Gen. 2:7).
- (b) He indwells and used men in the Old Testament. Gen. 41:38; Num. 27:18; Dan. 4:8; 5:11-14; 6:3. He came upon many. Judges 3:10; 11:29; 14:6; 1 Sam. 10:9-19; 6:13. He empowered men for service. Ex. 31:3; 35:31.
- (c) He led the children of Israel through the wilderness. Isaiah 63:10.

In the New Testament

- (a) In the life Jesus Christ: Luke 1:35; 4: 1-2,18; John 1:33; 6:27; Act 10:38; Heb.9:14; Rom. 8:11
- (b) In salvation: He convicts John 16:8-11). He regenerates (Titus 3:5).
- (c) In the life of the Apostles: Act 8:5-8,; 4:13, 31; 15:28; 16:6-10.
- (d) He Inspired the New Testament. 2 peter 1:21; 2Tim. 3:16.
- (e) In the Believers' life: Acts 1:8; Rom 8:26, 14, 16, John 16:13, 14; 15:26; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph.1:13; 4:30; Eph. 1:4; 1Cor. 1:20; Acts 2:4; 2 Cor. 1:21;1 John 2;20,27

SYMBOLS (REPRESENTATION, EMBLEM) OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Dove: Matt.2:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32.
2. Fire: Acts 2:3; Matt. 3:11.
3. Oil: Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; 1 Sam. 10:9-10; 16:13.
4. Water: John 4:14; 7:38-39.
5. Wind: John 3:8; Acts 2:1-2
6. Seal: 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30
7. Wine: Eph. 5:18 Acts 2:12, 13.

NAMES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Spirit of God. Eph. 4:30; 1Cor. 2:11
- The Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9
- Parakletos. John 15:26

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Revelations gifts.
Word of Wisdom - 1 Kings 3:16-28; Matt. 22:15-22; John 8:7.
Word of Knowledge - 1 Sam. 9; 2 kings 6:8-12; Acts 5.
Discerning of Spirits - 1 kings 22; Matt 16; Acts 16.
2. Vocal gifts.
Gifts of Tongues - (a sign and a gift) - 1 Cor. 12; 14
Interpretation of Tongues - 1 Cor. 14:13.
Prophecy
3. Power gifts
Gift of faith.
Gift of Healing.
Working of Miracles.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Spiritual maturity is not determined by the spiritual gifts, but by the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:2-23).

Conclusion

We cannot finish learning about the Holy Spirit and His operations because He is Eternal. But we can grow in our relationship with Him. This will enhance our fruitfulness in life and ministry. Obedience and fellowship are two essential things in developing a close walk with the Holy Spirit.