



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pastor Ignatius Okwuchukwu Nwabuo, is a native of Ihenasa in Imo state. Born to the family of late Mr Ezeorji Nwabuo and Mrs Angelina Nwabuo. Presently the General Overseer of the Fishers of Men Charismatic Church, he started as the first General leader of the ministry, later addressed as the pastor in charge,

much later the General Superintendent and now the General Overseer of the ministry, presiding over the general affairs of the entire church.

Bro. Ig. Nwabuo joined the Catholic Pentecostal movement and bible society which later metamorphosed into Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1974 and was born again there; he was authorised to preach the gospel in the church and was used of God in diverse places.

He graduated from All nations for Christ Bible Institute Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria in 1983. In 1985 the move of God brought him and others out of the Catholic Charismatic renewal based on persecutions that arose as a result of Catholic dogma. Fishers of Men Charismatic Church was forced out of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1985, they started in one room apartment with a few brothers and Sisters under his watch as watch man over them.

Brother Ig. Nwabuo before he became a pastor did not choose to be a pastor or be in full time ministry for the Lord. Even while he was in Catholic Charismatic Renewal, he sensed and noticed the call of God into the service of the kingdom, but he ignored and resisted all dreams, visions and revelations, even many of his brethren told him of his call. But he rejected all, it came to a period when any church he enters to worship; there would be prophecy or word of knowledge that someone whom God is calling is running away like Jonah. He then stopped attending churches, he struggled and wrestled with God so many years, even when Fishers of Men started, he kept resisting the call of God until he started hearing God's audible voice warning him. He lost almost all his business outlets, some of his boys made away with his money. He then started closing up some shops; robbers attacked his head office and made away with much amount of money and goods.

The last audible voice was clear to him, when he was called by his name and he heard "until you are tired" and this happened in broad day light when he was on his motor cycle on his way out. That was when he responded "I am tired" this happened in 1990, he yielded to the voice of God in 1991 and since then he has been in full time service in the master's vineyard, (Fishers of Men charismatic Church) Pst. Ig. Nwabuo is married to sister Delight Nwabuo and they are blessed with Sons and daughters and grand Children. He is based in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

ISBN: 978 978 967 734 7

FRUIT AND THE BEATITUDE

PASTOR IG NWABUO

The FRUIT AND THE BEATITUDE



(A COMPASS FOR GENUINE CHRISTIAN LIVING)



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Published in Nigeria
By the Trumpet Publication
The Editorial arm of
Fishers of Men Charismatic Church
1, 4th Victory Lane, off New Lagos Road,
Benin City,
Edo State, Nigeria.

ISBN: 978 978 967 734 7

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INTRODUCTION

GAL. 5:16-25



The essence of this introduction is simply because of this scriptural admonition; 'that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good works', which happens to be the centre-focus of the Christian walk: (emphasis mine). The complete possession of this fruit places the believer in a height of spiritual maturity ripe for intimate relationship with God and rapture. It is at this point a person can truly be called a saint because of the truth that is available to him/her and in addition, his/her name is written in heaven. Also, the display of this fruit is the criterion for distinguishing between the spiritual and carnal Christian. Remember that none of these fruit can be produce by a natural man, education does not bring it, it is solely the work of the Holy Spirit to make you a kingdom focused believer. And never can the Holy Spirit produce these Holy virtues in a natural or carnal man who hasn't

yielded his will and ways to the Lord. This fruit is the glorious outward manifestation of an inward surrendering and consecration of an inward life to the Holy Spirit and kingdom principles.

On the other hand, those who do not possess the fruit that proves evidence of the Holy Spirit's manifestation and leading yet claim to be sons and daughters of God are just deceiving themselves. As far as I know, as many as are led by the spirit are the sons of God, still remain valid up to this day. And remains as the only yardstick for knowing the sons and daughters of God. This is why Jesus admonishes us not to be carried away by words but to check the fruit, "for by their fruit you shall know them".

Therefore do not be deceived, every claims on spiritual maturity should not be taken at face value but should be tested by the fruit of the Holy Spirit at display in a believer's conduct. The believer must have valid testimonies of trials and pain overcame through the power of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual aroma of love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance must so fill the air for Christians and unbelievers. This is how true

believers are known.

In a nutshell, these qualities were the characters of Jesus, when he walked upon the earth which He intends to replicate in you through the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is why it is called 'fruit of the spirit' only the Holy Spirit can make it a practical manifestation in your daily life. If you ever want to attain perfection, if you ever crave for spiritual maturity, if you ever long for an intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit, if you ever want to get to heaven; then endeavour to yield yourselves to the Holy Spirit so that "in all thy getting", you might get the 'NINE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'.

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When the Holy Spirit developed the idea of this series in my mind, little did I know that a test was going to follow it as a preacher of Holiness and Righteousness and a leader of our great ministry Fishers of Men Charismatic church. The scandal that followed immediately after the series was designed to try our faith as a ministry and as a member of the body of Christ in Nigeria.

In the early days of July 2018, our ministry woke up to discover an accusation and falsehood organized against us by a member of certain family in the Eastern part of Nigerian Imo State to be précised. One of our branches in this part of the nation was accused of wedding an under-age girl. If God had not given us the fortitude to manage the media attack against our ministry, we would have been in deep trouble. Thank God the gates of hell will not gain mastery over the church. This scandal became an international affair as calls came from different parts of the world to ascertain the veracity of the media attack against me and the church. Major social media platforms automatically became popular

because of us, National Newspapers sold better during the campaign against our ministry and my person, TELEVISION and RADIO STATIONS suddenly lost their professional assignment of casting News because of this scandal.

As a ministry we did detail investigation and discovered that it was a complete package designed in hell to bring the commission into national and international ridicule.

However, the team of investigators uncovered that the elder brother of the said “under-age girl” was not quite happy with the marriage, so in order to display his anger, he decided to bring the church of Christ down in collaboration with the media, especially the social media. We were called different names that are abominable to hearing.

While people were sad and sympathetic with our ministry, joy was in our heart because of Matthew 5:11-12 **“Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven...”** The media reported that the girl is 13 years old but investigation revealed that, she is 18 years old. The constitutional age of wedding for girls in Nigeria is 18 years. This age

is eligible to vote and be voted for in Nigeria political system which means, she has a mature and a sound mind as a lady. She was not coerced to marry but she decided to marry.

We realized that God used this supposedly “embarrassment” to launch the ministry into global media world and we are very grateful to God and the people involved in this free international publicity. It would have cost a whole lot of money to announce to the nations that called during the trial that we exist as a ministry.

Finally, there is no truth in what you heard about us, it was apparently designed to put the church into global ridicule. We have long forgiven those involved, we have prayed for their repentance and salvation. God bless you.

Join Fishers of Men Charismatic Church.
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INTRODUCTION TO THE BEATITUDE MATT. 5:1-2

I want to introduce to you the topic called beatitude today because of the necessity of it. Beatitude was an extract from the sermon on the

mount where Jesus introduced his commandments with blessing attached for those who comply. Jesus teaches the multitude, how to live on earth; whosoever is a doer of these commandments shall be blessed here on earth and in the world to come. Right there on the mount he speaks the word of life, this message was preached more than 2000 years ago, but its relevance conquers the various theologies that man had established in different era.

How powerful the word of God is? Jesus in His word reveals heavenly virtues called the beatitude as he speaks from his originality as the son of God (See Rev. 1:10 11, Cor 1:15-17). All you need is to do as he commands. As you digest this teaching of beatitude, and live by it you will never suffer deprivation, wants and limitation. No matter the trial, trouble and attacks, God will never abandon us on the way as God owes the teachings given to us by Jesus himself, for example, he teaches us humility and for a true Christian, the more holy you are the more humble you will become. The life of brokenness,

simplicity, sobriety, love and righteousness are leaving the present church age, that is why Jesus is calling us now to repentance. It is not the will of God that any man should perish but that all should repent and come to the knowledge of the truth. Not adhering to these principles in Matthew 5:1-12 has both earthly and eternal implication.

If you are born of the spirit and live in the spirit, you are a spiritual being. To be an overcomer you must be born of the spirit. When you are born of the spirit, living the teachings of Jesus becomes very easy for you. We must practice God's word. As we hear, we must do them. It is by this God knows we are sincere and ready to follow Him, the time is short so we must not procrastinate the call to holy living. The Lord says, if you obey my commandment, you shall eat the good of the land. That is our portion in Jesus name.



CHAPTER
ONE

LOVE
GAL. 5:22-25, REV. 22:1-2



The spirit of God bears fruit just like a tree except that its fruit is but one that is manifestable in different dimensions. This fruit is manifold in function. Gal. 5:22-25 makes us to understand that the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, faith, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness and temperance. It is by these you live a victorious Christian life on earth, verse 25 admonishes that if we live in the spirit, we should also walk in the spirit. In order to win the battles of life as Christians, we ought to have this fruit. If you are a Christian but do not have this fruit of the spirit called love, you are not

spiritual and you will not see God. Infact, it is the yardstick of measurement as far as man's relationship with God is concern.

The first demonstrator of the spirit of love is God himself. He subjected His only son to in-human treatment on earth to redeem humanity from the shackles of hell and eternal pain. Nobody wrote a letter to God for human redemption, it was the sole initiative of the trinity to rescue man from destruction.

Likewise, God expects us to demonstrate this unreserved love for our fellow human being. The only way the world will know we are of God is if we show love to Christians and non-Christians also.

So many Christians come to church speak in tongues and carry out all sought of activities in Church yet they do not have the fruit of the spirit of love in them. Sincerely speaking, anyone that has this fruit in him cannot go contrary to God's word (see I Jn. 3:4-10). On the other hand, anyone associated with anything unclean cannot claim sonship of God. This fruit of the spirit is the evidence of the truly sanctified life as it is a replacement of the fruits of the old man. It is

important in the life of any believer who claim to be born again and is going to heaven. You do not just stop at having the spirit of God, you are expected to live by its leadings. Also, it should manifest in your character and in your dealing with people. If you do not manifest this life, you have not seen God. Anyone that bears the spirit of God manifest righteousness, such one cannot accommodate lies, cheating, lust and other property of the flesh.

The Bible says, "by their fruit you shall know them" (Matt. 7:15-25). If you have God's seed in you, you will of course bear good fruit but cannot at the same time manifest characters of the devil because it is not possible for you to bear the seed of God and of the devil. There are people who think they are Christians but are not. Some of them after committing an outrageous sin out there, come and hide in the church like Gehazi but heaven knows they are not one of us because of the kind of fruit they bear. Submit your life for purification through prayer.

This year, we must bear good fruit. The devil is not moved by our size, education or abilities what he fears is God's spirit in us. We are

God's 'tree'. Let us bear the fruit or character of the Lord that planted us. In heaven according to Rev. 22:1-2. There is a tree and a river. The tree is the tree of life which bears its fruits every month in the midst of the golden street. Jesus the fountain of the living water of life is the fruit of life. If he is in you, you must bear good fruit throughout the twelve months of the year. As we all know, a mango tree cannot produce orange fruit, vis-versa. Just like that tree in heaven, every man created by God is bearing fruit but the fruit you bear matters a lot as it determines whether or not you will inherit the kingdom of God and have a fruitful life on earth. Jesus is the only one who will help you to bear the fruit of the spirit unto everlasting life. When He is in a man, he is made a new creation and that individual can boldly say I am born again as the spirit bears witness that he is a child of God. God planted his son in our heart so that we can manifest his life. If you manifest anything contrary, your salvation is questionable. Cry out to God to sanctify your heart for His purpose.

The Christians in Antioch were not called Christians because they wear long garments and

tied their ears to their head. It was because they manifested the character of Christ. They manifested the fruits of the spirit of love and so we must endeavour to do so. Show love to your loved ones as well as your enemies. Encourage one another in the Lord and enjoy God's revival and refreshing in the church and outside. Try to do the will of God in the life of others and see how fulfilled and strong you will feel in serving God. People can discourage others from doing good sometimes because of negative re-actions that follow from some wicked ones.

People act according to the spirit they possess, that is why we still find agent of darkness in the midst of brethren today in the church. They submit to the authority behind them; the devil. A pastor killed his wife and during investigations, charms were found with him meaning that the miracles, signs and wonders he has been performing were never done with the spirit of God. This is to say that having the spirit of God is not determined by our achievements, rather, it is determined by our fruit. Yes, miracles, signs and wonders attract people to the kingdom but the fruit of the spirit

does a great work in the kingdom. Those that hate their enemies and pray “die, die” do not know such heart and such spirit is not of God especially when such prayer is channeled toward a human being. They simply possess the spirit of witchcraft, if Jesus had dealt with us according to our wickedness, where would we have been? He shows us love and never paid us evil for evil.

You are a carrier of God's presence if you have his spirit inside of you. Though trials and temptation may come victory is sure. We are in a wicked world that hate us because of the spirit we carry and what we manifest. As believers However, we owe sinners love and kindness. Remember God is love. Our existence, Christ death, resurrect and second coming are the result of his love for mankind. The same love will take us to heaven but before then, let us practice it here on earth. It is the greatest of all the fruit of the spirit in my own emphasis. Faith and hope will end here but love of God, not that of the world endures forever. I pray that God helps us to manifest this kind of love amongst others in Jesus name. **(John 13:34-35).**

It is by this love that men know that you are

a child of God. It is your sure identity because while men increase in wickedness, you remain with the fruit of righteousness and holiness. Show me a Christian who is full of anger, pride, envy, backbiting, unforgiveness, who is immoral, drunk and a cheat and I will show you he who is like the devil, as the children of God we must allow the holy ghost work in our heart. Jesus decided to be numbered among sinners for our sake. By his supernatural and eternal love he took our place (Isaiah 28:11-12). As he demonstrated love he expects us to do the same as a sign that we are his true disciples who are practicing pure religion. The first initiator of love is Christ.

Like Christ did, we ought to take care of the poor, less privileged, widows, displaced person during conflict, the oppressed, and the weak. It is quite unfortunate that people do good only when they will be noted and praised by men. When they give to the poor they air it and boast about it to the world. Those that are gifted, now take God's glory like Lucifer and are cast down also, as it is written in 1peter 5:5. “He gives grace to the humble...” They rebel against authority over them even against God the highest authority. It

simply means they have no love because whosoever you love you submit to. Whosoever loves is always humble. Eph. 4:24 gave us a love code, that for love sake you are always forgiving, truthful, tenderhearted, merciful and peaceful. Love should be without discrimination and pretence. It is sacrificial and selfless. Love blesses and does not curse, love is always concern about others wellbeing. As a result of lack of love among some believers they concentrate on themselves without caring about their neighbours. So many keep noting offence and are willing to revenge but God says, "vengeance is mine" (see Rom. 12:9; Col. 3:12-17). Christ died for your sins even before you were born. So you ought to forgive others too. Beloved put on charity because it is close to holiness. When you love with godly love you can hardly sin against your neighbour. Love remain the greatest tool in servicing human relationship. Note that, without love, the message of redemption would not had come to the earth. Love is what bind heaven and earth together.

So many speak in tongues, hears from God, preach well, dress holy yet have no love in their

heart. You will labour for nothing without love, so examine yourself to see if you are lacking the most important of all commandment (see I Cor. 13:1-8). Do you rejoice over others misfortune, are you easily provoked, are you full of curse and pride? You have no love in action because you are not bearing its fruit. God through Jesus teaches us to bear with one another. Now hear this, it was not nail that held Jesus to the cross but love, he bore the cross for our sake even though we do not deserve it. The heart of Joseph also is the heart of the love of God according to the Bible. Gen. 45:1-15 reveals how after many years of suffering as a slave in a strange land because of the wickedness of his brothers, forgave them and rewarded them with good for evil. May God give us such heart in Jesus name. He received them when they were stranded and gave them the best of live in Egypt. We must emulate Joseph in the demonstration of Love.

Abraham had this love of God that is unconditional and so he agreed to give up his son of old age in obedience to God as a proof of how he loved God. Anybody that will serve God sincerely has something precious to offer. Today,

we have Christians that have love in words not in action. Most of us practice fake and conditional love. We give God our left overs of time, money, strength, wisdom and other resources. We find it difficult to give God our best like Abraham or tolerate others like Joseph, until we practice Christ kind of love, making heaven will be impossible. Repentance is what we need so that our Christianity will not be counted as wasteful effort. May God cause a positive change in our hearts and makes us be like him from this day in Jesus name. Amen.



CHAPTER
TWO

JOY
GAL 5: 22, ROM. 14:17



Notice the striking relationship between peace and joy as regards the fruit of the Holy Spirit? See how they appear in both text. While the peace talks about a state of calmness or tranquility especially as a result of assurance of salvation, Joy Emphasizes on the areas of spiritual excitement or happiness (mostly expressible) that comes from the knowledge of the power and personality of God or assurance of eternal life. This definition is a creation of my Experience.

This fruit is often described as superseding human understanding because it is not initiated

by any human activity. This type of joy comes not from success in business, remarkable achievement in whatever field of study, possessions newly acquired, position recently attained e.t.c but a product of the Holy spirit, this joy is always present in the life of every genuine Christian. This is why we find some Christians though poor and destitute, possess no status in social hierarchy, academically in incompetent, materially lacking, but still sings and praises God with a heart of appreciation and contentment. This is completely the opposite in an ordinary individual in the society. It is because of this that it is tagged as “superseding human understanding”. It does not always follow the situations or state that instigate human joy. Also, it is not subject to only times of goodies and plenty. Often times, it is one of the strongest hope that releases strength to the believer in trouble times. When sustained through prayer, study of God's word and faith, can so overwhelm the soul and the spirit of the believer so that such person is willing to trade ones life at the expense of being spiritually sound. The Bible is filled with characters who voluntarily sacrifice their human happiness, finances, possession, achievements,

even their very life just to retain this joy and the knowledge or the eternal rewards that follows after.

In addition to this, only the believer can comprehend the fullness of this kind of life because it is the spirit's fruit, which believers alone possess. To the carnal man or unbeliever, it might make no meaning or seems impossible. But one should not be surprised, because it ought to be so since it is not among human experiences, losing this kind of joy by virtue of engaging in sin can be very dangerous. If lost, it should be regained by confession of the sins committed, asking for forgiveness and demanding for the restoration of it, like David did in Ps. 51.

If you have not experienced this kind of joy before: maybe because of carnality or backsliding or you have never encounter Jesus, the giver of this joy. I ask you to invite Him into your heart to day and see the remarkable wonders of this overwhelming joy. One of the ways to ignite this kind of joy is to persist in the place of prayer genuinely and develop a worthy and robust study life especially study of the bible.

(GAL. 5:22, ROM. 14:17)

What is obtainable in God's kingdom is not

just eating or the joy of it, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. God's kind of joy can only be obtained in God's presence. This was the reason according to Ps. 122:1, David said he is glad whenever they say, let us go to the house of the Lord. That was because he knew that there is fullness of joy in the presence of God (see. Ps. 16:11).

There are ways people make themselves glad, but the joy of the Lord is not the joy of the world that can be found in amusement park, money, sex, drinking and smoking, food, clubbing, cultism and robbery. The joy of the Lord is far from a backslider when someone backslides he lack pleasure in thing of the Lord and then lack joy and spiritual strength to continue in heavenly race. This joy sustains every believer in times of trial and temptation and so the Bible says, "the Joy of the Lord is my strength". (See Neh. 8:10).

When I gave my life to Christ newly I faced so must persecution, humiliation and mocking from family members as well as outsiders but the joy of the Lord sustained me. I know a woman who came to this church for prayer because her

child was sick. At the long run she got saved. She later lost the child but the day I heard and visited her, she was smiling and I wanted to know why. She explained to me that she came to the church because of that child's sickness and got salvation which is the greatest. Though she lost the child, she found what is more than a child. Many are offended by Jesus today because their expected miracle delays. As a result they are always sorrowful. The things of this world may be good but the greatest is salvation of soul. It is an error for a believer to live in bitterness because of life challenges. Such life style drives the spirit of the Lord from men, and drives the liberty that follows. Remember the Bible says, where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. If you need this liberty, retain the spirit of the Lord and His fruit and Joy of salvation. May God help us to retain God's complete joy that no sinner has in Jesus name.

In the world, you have crisis, sorrow, pain, tribulation but in Christ you have full joy. Many Christians are humiliated and mocked in their family, neighbourhood and place of work but a wise Christian never give up because he knows his hope is blessed. Just like a woman after her

travailing, she will be comforted. When the baby come no man will take away this Joy from her because it is from the Lord. Joy, rejoicing and happiness are expression of God's faithfulness in a man's life. Sarah having gotten a son at old age said let him that hear rejoice with me for who could have told Abraham that Sarah will give him a son at old age. Rachel also rejoiced exceedingly when God gave her Joseph. God want his people to be joyful and he says in Phil. 4:4 rejoice in the Lord always, I say rejoice evermore. The joy of the Lord is the joy of the redeemed, it is a sign that Jesus has visited his people and it manifest a when one is born again or when a believer is winning souls amongst other spiritual activities. A believer may not have money, house, children, job or helpful family but once with this joy, he is more satisfied than he that is fed with meat and drink (see Act 8:8, Luke 10:17-20). If you have not gotten this joy, you are missing something very important, come to him who can give it. If you have Jesus you have joy and without him you can do nothing to help yourselves. Even if you surround yourself with drinks, women, money, cars or guards, when Jesus is missing, true joy will be missing. You need Jesus beloved so that you will not miss his joy here and in eternity.

Years back as I went with my evangelism group to preach to a man. This man felt he had everything but he discovered we are enjoying a kind of joy he had not and so he asked, you people do not have money, car, house, neither do you enjoy drinks, women, partying yet you people are always happy, what is your secrets? we told him that what we have is the joy of the Lord. It is the greatest and it is from God every man needs it. But whosoever need this joy must come to Jesus who gives it. So many people once had this joy but lost it because of life challenges if you have lost yours, come to Jesus return home and he will restore this joy by the Holy Ghost. To overcome this world or to be sustained during hardship, trials and difficulties of life, the joy of the Lord is needed when it comes, sorrow will go and you will begin to have a smooth fellowship with the Holy Spirit as if you have no problem. May God send this joy into our heart and help us. Laugh in the face of life challenges until we see God face to face in Jesus name. Nehemiah said the joy of the Lord is our strength. Neh. 8:10.



CHAPTER
THREE

PEACE
GAL. 5:22-23



Jesus is the giver of the peace produced by the Holy Spirit as a trait, In other words, peace is the trade mark of the Holy spirit. It is the peace that flows like a river in the heart of men. It is an everlasting peace made available by God for His people. When the Holy Spirit comes inside a man he is comforted and it's evidence is peace of mind. Jesus says, "my peace I give to you not as the world giveth the world looks for peace in achievement and pleasure of life and when these fail, they are left battered and frustrated.

God's own peace is far from the world because they are carnally minded. God's peace is

for the redeemed so that even in times of crises, tribulation and disaster, they will still enjoy God's peace that surpasses human understanding. (See Phil 4:6-8). God admonishes us to come to Him because in Christ we have peace but in the world we have tribulation, the Bible remark. The world government have been doing all they could do, to ensure world peace yet all to no avail, until the world realize that the peace they seek can only be found in Jesus, they can never enjoy peace. UN, AU, ECOWAS cannot give God's peace that money cannot buy. Though, with money; all is at their command, it is not so with the gift of God such as life and peace everlasting. How can mankind have peace when they say give me bananas but crucify Jesus who is the prince of peace, until we make peace with God through the person of Jesus, we will experience troubles (see Jn. 16:23; I Thess 5:23; Phil. 4:6-9).

Just like one cannot get clean water from corrupt water so can no man get peace of the Lord from this wicked world. When you surrender to Jesus, you automatically have peace such that even they that have the whole world will begin to

envy you Rom. 5:1. Worries, anxiety and anger is not of God and the Bible admonished us to beware so that things of this world do not get our hearts against the will of God. What make some people happy is eating, drinking and clubbing and when you ask them of things of heaven, they will be blanks. They thinking the world of pleasure will be forever.

Peace is a ruler at the bible says, let the peace of the Lord rule in your heart, when it is in place, no tempest, trial and hardship can move you. You may not have food, good health, money, husband, child and job yet you will be at peace because you have the prince of peace inside of you.

Anyone who rejects the Lord of peace is a wicked man and can never enjoy his peace. Remember the Bible says, "there is no peace for the wicked" so we see that when a man commits evil and repents not, he will continue to run even when nobody is pursuing him, but once he repents from his sins, he enjoys God's peace because the devil who is an accuser has been disarmed. Jesus is so powerful that even the storm obeyed him. At his command the troubled

sea was at peace. As you welcome Jesus into your heart, he will send His peace into your troubled heart. No matter what you are passing through, and it has taken your peace away. Let that problem hear the voice of the master as he says 'peace be still in Jesus name.

The world is looking for peace when Jesus had already said "come unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest take my yoke and learn from me.... (Matt. 11:28-30).

We should learn to be peace makers from Jesus. If you want peace, give your neighbor peace, when your neighbor is at peace, you also will be at peace, but when you trouble him. The trouble will bounce back to you. May God help us to be peace makers. Matt. 5:9.

See, God's peace you wish to enjoy starts now. If you do not have it now, you cannot enjoy it in eternity. Whenever one die, people wish his

or her soul to rest in peace. As believers, troubles of life tends to take our peace away but God's eternal peace swallows all. Before you get to heaven, follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man can see God. Heb 12:14. Depart from evil and seek peace pursue it the way you pursue what you need. If it is possible, live in peace with all men (i.e even your enemies). Even when your troubles increase, let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God and in Jesus for in his father's house are many mansion, for those that will make it to the end, when you have God's peace, you will naturally become a peace maker and the Bible says in Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God. May God call us children and receive us on the last day because of the life of Jesus we lived on earth in Jesus name.



CHAPTER
FOUR

LONGSUFFERING
GAL. 5:22-23, MATT. 24:12-13



Longsuffering talks about patience, endurance and the ability to remain in faith in times of trials and challenges of life; Bible says, in this end time iniquity and tribulation shall increase and the love of many shall wax cold. Nevertheless, they that will endure unto the end shall be saved. Beloved, for the fact that you are born again, your name is in the book of life and God answered one of your prayers does not mean the troubles of life will not come again. What keeps you to the end is this fruit of endurance. The Lord according to 2 Pet. 3:9 relents not for the sake of our salvation the

purpose of His patient with us, is such that it might be well with our souls. The same way we ought to be patient with him and our fellow human beings when things are not working out the way we want it.

Longsuffering has eternal value, Jesus says if you love me, pick up your cross and follow me. You must go through the cross experience before you can wear heavenly crown, longsuffering is one of those fruit that enables us to overcome life challenges. This cross talks about pain, reproach, deprivation, lack, affliction, sorrow, poverty and oppression. These things must happen but the Lord admonishes us to count it all joy when we pass through all these trials because they work for our salvation and spiritual nourishment. The Lord speaks to prepare our minds that we should not be offended because of the troubles and tribulations which will come our way because it is necessary we are tried and reprovved by trials. (See 2 Pet. 3:9; James 1:2-4, Jn. 16:33).

Jesus knew we can't bear all these things and so He promised and sent us the comforter in the person of the Holy Spirit who releases its fruit of longsuffering to sustain us, especially His end

time believer, in every condition until He returns. Some believers suffer poverty, joblessness, and sickness as the price to pay in the race to heaven. Some usually ask, 'God why me?' God says to you like he said to Paul when the messenger of the devil buffet him, 'my grace is sufficient for you'. Not that God is no longer hearing your prayers or does not care about you. He only want to build and sanctify you through those challenges. The fruit of the spirit enables you to continue i.e the race despite the nature of the challenges. Jesus endured the cross despising the shame that was inherent in it. He never changed His mind when His problems increased until He died on the cross. In all the problems you are passing through for Christ sake, you have not yet resisted unto bloodshed, but Christ bore the troubles of life and for the necessity he gave his life for the purpose of eternity in Heaven.

God wants you to rejoice in every longsuffering, it is not forever, pains does not encourage joy and cheerfulness yet you must count it all joy when you pass through diverse trials and temptation. The Bible says, "who the father loves He chastens". God, like every earthly

fathers, does not mean to punish us, He wants to make us better through what comes our way. When you pass through challenges of life, endure, because God will preserve and bless you when you endure to the end. Remember job, Abraham, Paul and many others who suffered for righteousness sake, learn from Heros of faith like Moses, though they suffered reproach, affliction, poverty, persecution and hardship the Lord did not fail them at the end (see. Heb. 11:22-27; I Pet. 1:19; James 5:10-11).

Heros of our faith did not see God but they believed and willingly pass through all the troubles and trials that came their way. Not as a thief, murderer or idolater but for the sake of the love they had for God. Like gold we must pass through fire to become pure gold, we must be willing to be tried in God's own fire. Rev. 3:10-11, reveals the glorious end of the overcomer. Jesus says, "to him that overcomes will I permit to sit with me at the right hand of my father" (emphasis mine). May God help us to submit our self to longsuffering like Jesus who because of the glory that awaited Him endured the cross, when we endure with full understanding of the

kingdom purpose, we will no longer complain up and down. May the fruit of longsuffering be at work in our life from now to the end in Jesus name. Shalom!



CHAPTER
FIVE

GENTLENESS
GAL. 5:22; JAMES 4:6-10



Gentleness is one of the fruit of the spirit and the nature of God. It is the opposite of pride. When one is born again, the fruit of gentleness manifests against the formal way of life. Though one might be well placed in the society, handsome and educated such person does not mind his status. When this fruit is at work a gentle believer is portrait of the personality of the kingdom of God. His life proves that God dwell in him.

God wants us to be like him. He is humble that was why he could live his throne and came in the person of his son and took the place of sinful

man on earth. In humility he went through the cross and finished it. When the spirit of Christ is in you, he makes you to be gentle and humble, “God resist the proud and gives grace to the humble”, when you are humble you become accessible to both God and men.

Loyalty of the spirit makes your enemy submit to you. Yes, when you submit yourself to Jesus in humility and resist the devil he will flee. Satan hates humble people because he will never succeed in their lives. Such people are unstoppable and unlimited. The Bible says, “humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he shall lift you up”. (Emphasis mine)

The proud are known wherever they are, they are stubborn, sarcastic, arrogant and offensive, Matt. 7:20 says “By their fruit you shall know them,” when you talk, look, walk and dress, people around you will know if you are proud or gentle in spirit. It cannot be covered. I mean your true nature cannot be hidden for a long time. John the Baptist according to Jn. 3:26-35 manifested the fruit of gentleness and humility. John was in ministry before Jesus but He elevated the office of Jesus instead of his

baptismal ministry, He humbly told the jews that has the bride is the bride groom. But friends of the groom rejoice with him. Jesus must increase while I decrease. He that come from above is above all". He so exalted Jesus to the extent that he said, I am not worthy to untie the lace of his shoe." The Ministers of today can hardly advertise the true preacher - Jesus. Because of pride they sometimes take even God's own glory right on the altar.

Many people and preachers in the body of Christ are opposite of what they preach. Samson was not a gentle man that was why he fell for Delila. He was so full of himself because he got whatever he needed even the best woman because of his gift. Solomon the King was not a gentle man. I king 11, makes us to understand that he lived the life of a proud king. He felt he was on top of the world and the most wanted, with this in mind, he married 1000 women. Little did he know that he was but a foolish-wise king. He made his self enemy of God and had a miserable ending. So many of us who come to church have not yet received this spirit of gentleness. They marry anyhow, do business

anyhow, dress anyhow and drive anyhow because they lack the gentle spirit of the Lord. Many are not doing well even in business because they are not gentle. By themselves they drive away their customers. By their careless disposition they drive their supposed life partner. By their arrogance, they drive their helpers yet they are saying, the Lord does not want to bless me. One truth we must know is that, we by our life style attract our kind of people. If you want gentle and decent, and well behaved people around you, you must be gentle, decent, and then you will not only attract God to yourself, you will also attract good people to yourself. It pays to be gentle, so pray to possess such spirit if you have not yet experience the fruit of Gentleness. God bless.



CHAPTER
SIX

GOODNESS
GAL. 5:22-23



Goodness is part of God's personality when he created all thing he said "it was good he specially made man and as an expression of His goodness, he supplied all his needs. Even when man fell from garden He says, it is not my will that any man should perish but that all should repent and come to the knowledge of the truth". By this he sent his son to come and demonstrate His goodness on earth. Bible says "how the Lord highly anointed Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good." Act 10:38. The gospel is a direct expression of God's goodness in all ramification.

Goodness is expressed through giving and sacrifice, that is why God gave his son in demonstration of His goodness. Reconciliation of a sinful man to God by Jesus is the greatest goodness one can ever demonstrate. He exchanged His life for that of a sinful man who had been condemned to death through the sin of disobedient in the garden of Eden. God's natural goodness is that while we were yet sinner he sent his son to die for us. It is not that we merited it, it is just that God says 'I will show mercy and compassion to whom I will, by His election He chooses who to show goodness. This is why some of us who were once chronic sinners were savaged and cleansed today. (See I Chron 28:2-8). God so favoured and chose David and his children amongst the entire house of Israel because of His goodness. It was not because he was a perfect man. For God to have chosen Solomon to build his temple is a clear indication that God's goodness was upon him. Remember Solomon was a product of immoral affair. Remember the case of Joseph in a strange land. It was God's goodness that singled him out for blessings and promotion so that for his sake the

entire children of Israel were preserved even the nation of Egypt. I speak to your life to begin to experience the goodness of God in Jesus name. When God's goodness met David, He was transformed from a shepherd boy to a king. You may be the least in your family, you may be nowhere in the society but God will single you out for something great, His goodness will do great things in your life.

A farmer in Bible hired workers at different times of the day. After the work he paid them as agreed. But by goodness, he paid those who came late the same amount with those who came before them. God does not think the way we think. He favours who he wills. God expects us to show this goodness to everybody around us not only our family members, town or countrymen. We should behave like the Good Samaritan as illustrated in the Bible. The injured was abandoned by the Levites and the Priest who were even his own countrymen but a Samaritan came and showed goodness to save his life. He gave his time, money, material things and strength. He had compassion, love, mercy and he showed them through his goodness. So many of

us are heartless, we are not compassionate at all. That is why we shut our bowels even against members of the household of faith, pastors are not left out in this act of wickedness. Evangelism is one way you can show goodness to people out there. As you go out use the resources the Lord provided for you to do good to all men. By so doing, they are won to Christ. God wants you to channel your resources to kingdom project. A brother was visited by another brother to assist him financially. The brother said, I have nothing at all to help you with. I am sorry I can't help. Very early the next morning, he was on his way to buy goods with a huge amount of money when robbers double crossed them. He handed over the whole money to them with 'I beg' so that they may spare his life. Some brethren would say I have no money to give towards the work of God but the moment they are called from village to rescue a sick family member, they run hither skelter to solve that problem. Kingdom service should be much more important than earthly matter. I am not saying you should use your business money for charity. Do good to people Jesus gave illustration of goodness and how best

it can be demonstrated, when you give to the needy out there, the widow, beggars, orphans and the less privileged you have done goodness to Jesus. If you refuse and chase them away you have despised and chase God from your life unless you repent. May God help us in Jesus name. He also said, when you give even a cup of water to my servant, you have done it to me and you will never lose your reward, but the love of money is a great yoke holding people. A man called Jesus Good Master, what should I do to inherit the kingdom. Jesus listed some laws to him and he claimed to have been doing all. When Jesus told him to go and sell his possessions and give them to the poor. His countenance changed and he walked away sorrowfully. He claimed to be holy yet lacked the fruit of goodness. He turned away from Jesus and eternal life for the love of the world and its riches. The fruit of goodness is lacking in our present day church, that is why we hardly retain some people for God. If you must make heaven, practicalise God's unconditional and selfless goodness to people today. God bless you.



CHAPTER SEVEN

FAITH
GAL. 5:22-23; I COR. 12:8-9



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 (Hebrews 11:3).

Just as money rules the earth as it relates to commerce and industry, that is the same way faith rules in the kingdom system.

Faith as a fruit of the spirit is for every believer, it is an essential part of the kingdom reality. There is yet another kind of faith that is a gift which God gives to people according to his calling for special purpose. In this, God says “we should desire spiritual gifts but in righteousness.

Faith as a fruit of the spirit can access God's kingdom benefit for you. After prayer, faith shows you the substance of what you hope for, unbelievers say "seeing is believing but faith says believing is seeing". Faith gives you evidence of things not seen. Take for instance, when you go to a bank to borrow money and they request for a collateral valuable which may be land or any other value. If you have land somewhere you do not submit the land but the document is the evidence that you have a plot of land somewhere and for that alone you get what you want.

Faith is a supernatural language you need to learn because it serves all purposes. Someone who could not hear nor speak came to the church and as the word of faith was spoken, the demon in him heard and trembled and deliverance came. By word of faith, a woman we prayed for, gave birth to bird and another vomited a snake. Later they became pregnant with babies. By the word of faith, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Faith can move your own mountain. As I speak, let your mountains be removed in Jesus name demons must obey God in your life. See, fish obeyed Jesus and conveyed currency to the

disciple to pay tax in their time. When you use faith wisely you will enjoy it, when Peter obeyed Jesus by going against all hope to cast his net again for a catch, he got a big catch, without faith you can't please God. Note this if you are not born again you cannot access divine faith. You may enjoy natural faith that makes someone sit on a chair without thinking that the chair may not be good or strong enough to carry his weight.

Looking at Mark 5:24-35, we see how powerful and effective faith could be as that woman with the issue of Blood said to herself. "If alone I could touch the garment of Jesus I shall be made whole. She pressed harder towards Jesus by faith and the moment she touched Jesus, Jesus recognized the special touch and said who touched me? The disciples did not understand the question of Jesus and so they wondered why the question. However that touch of faith brought the woman's problem to an end. To prove it, Jesus said woman, your faith has made you whole. Jesus is here, if you touch him by faith your life will be transformed for good in Jesus name.

A brother in our Ministry saw that

recession in the country was beginning to shake him and he agreed with his wife to double their tithe and financial sacrifice for change of condition and as he did, God opened his way so that he built house, bought a car and some good amount of money came to him. It took the eyes of the spirit for this man to take such risk even when some church members who have no such faith stopped paying their tithe with many excuses especially because of austerity then. Jesus marveled at the faith of the Centurion who came to him and said just speak the word and my problem will be solved". I know as a man of authority that your word alone is all I need. Jesus told him to go that the servant is healed by his faith and it was so. By faith Jesus walked upon the sea. Even Peter for a moment he remained faithful and walked upon the water also to meet Jesus, until fear set in. We may say Jesus could this, because he was also God, if peter who is not different from you and I could walk upon the sea by faith you too can, when the faith of Peter failed him he began to sink and cried out, immediately Jesus gave his helping hand. He will help you and I in Jesus name.

In Act 3:1-11, Peter and John just coming from the upper room met a cripple at the beautiful gate. I believe he saw faith with the eyes of the spirit and as Peter demonstrated his faith, the man jump, leaped and began to walk. Because of that miracle, the gospel of the kingdom spread the more, what will help us in the day of trials is faith in the finish work of Calvary. It is the kind of faith that made the womb of Sarah to become like that of a young girl. Where faith is operational some, one with only one thousand naira in account can become a billionaire in a matter of time. A barren woman can become mother of many children. A house help like Esther can become a queen. A native doctor can become a saint. Our problem is that we are very impatience with God. we have plan B, and C when following God. When you stagger not in believing in God, your Isaac must come. May God help us like he helped our heroes of faith. (See Heb. 11:20-33). God will give us such faith to subdue kingdoms and powers in Jesus name. In Mark 9:2-3 Jesus cursed a fig tree and it withered within some hours, Jesus by this taught us that if we have faith as small as a mustard seed we can say to the mountain be thou removed and

cast to the sea and it will be so. The Blind man in the bible only heard about Jesus and cried out in faith. Jesus, though was on a mission, the voice of faith from this man made him to stop and say, “fetch me that man”. Instantly the man cast away his begging garment, upon all the multitude following Jesus, non have such faith as to stop the master except the blind man. If you can come by faith to Jesus you will be made whole totally. This man after the encounter did not go back to begging. Your faith can move the hand of God to rewrite your story. Let it be so, as I connect my faith with yours for your needs to be met in Jesus name.



CHAPTER EIGHT

MEEKNESS
GAL. 5:22-23, Num. 12:3



Meekness here should not be mistaken for a quiet disposition characterized with solitude. Neither should it be interpreted as a state of being calm and coordinated. In fact the attainment of this quality has never and will never come by the ability of the natural man. This is because it is the absolute opposite of man. What then is meekness?

Meekness is the very act of enduring oppositions with patience. It is the act of not being violent in the face of crisis (personal definition). This is clearly explained in the response of Jesus to his accusers when He was

reviled, reviled not again, when He was insulted, threatened not, but commit all things to God who judges righteously, why then do we say it is beyond the reach of the natural man? Man is wicked and full of pride, He has no room in his heart for forgiveness when offended. In fact, rather than enduring pain, man will always want to be in the position of inflicting pain. The very nature of man put him in the position to recognize the opposite of kindness-revenge! A man is never quite when his right is being violated. We see it in Samson and the Philistines, Saul, David, Joseph and his brethren etc. even in the New Testament, among the very apostles of Jesus, we notice it, when the mother of James and John demanded an exalted position for his sons in the world to come. And the fellow disciples did not accept it with smiles.

Is the church of today free from the opposite of this fruit of the Holy Spirit? Certainly not! Today, we see unhealthy competition among various churches instead of unity. Gone are the days when we still find ministers like John the Baptist, who would commend another meek minister and glorify God because of their

uniqueness.

This is why we emphasize on the fact that meekness is solely the quality or fruit of the Holy Spirit that is available for anybody. It is the working of His power in us as we let Him burn every trace of pride in us. The mere act of taking up the form of godliness can never bring us anywhere close to meekness. If our lives is not constantly surrendered to the will of the Spirit and is not allowed to involve in the day to day activities of such power, meekness will be unattainable. Think of Moses, the man God described to be the meekest man on earth, how much of his life was spent in the presence of God? The Bible records that the more, Moses was with God, the more he wanted to be with Him. It is in the presence of God for the spirit of meekness to be endue. Joy and peace in the Holy Ghost are the end products of the fruit. It is highly required to live a fruitful life on earth. I want you to consider this fruit seriously and allow your life to experience it.



CHAPTER
NINE

TEMPERANCE (SELF-CONTROL)

GAL. 5:19-24, I TIM. 6:6



It is often said that the greatest of man's enemy is himself, therefore a man who is not able to control himself cannot be for kingdom aim, such person cannot live above reproach or mere tricks of men and the devil. Also, we are well aware that this character is one of the rarest features in a man. No doubt, people exhibit temperance to some level depending on the nature of the circumstances surrounding the situation. For example, most people give negative re-actions i.e slaps, matching of the feet; in the church or at home in a way and manner that depict immaturity. One cannot go far in life

without the fruit self-control. Many a time, people show the feeling of lack of temperance hypocritically. In other words, a Christian can pretend to be calm and reserved only in church, when such individual gets home he becomes like a tiger or tigress. The Holy Spirit should be allowed to do a transplant in our heart, so that we would be a resemblance of his nature.

The lack of self-control is a disaster to human existence. This lack creates the spirit of inordinate ambition.

In addition to this, we also find this lack extended to other spheres of man's life. So many people and even Christians are being duped as a result of manipulation by lack of self-control, wanting to acquire money that they never labored for. Some are involve in rituals, others into get-rich-quick syndrome. Illegal business, failing to realize that man's life does not consist of the abundance of the things that he possesses. We have fads and fashion playing its role in the lives of most believers. We see men and women having acquired financial wealth now have their attitude changed and come up with culture of life that negate the law of the kingdom. They want to

come late to church and other social gathering so that everyone will see their latest attire and cars. And even when they arrive they brag about their wealth and they always want to be recommended each time they lunch in the house of God, and they consider every other person who asks for their help a beggar and demand reverence and worship when they offer such request. Women of today want to marry wealthy and influential men not because it is God's will, but because of their crave for material things, this is lack of self-control. Some pastors today, now bury animals and put charms on the altar just to get fame, power and wealth.

It is solely the property of the Holy Spirit if you allow it to dominate you, it will give you a Balanced life. Little wonder why a great pastor once said "one of the evidence of being controlled by the Holy Spirit, regardless of your performed signs, wonders, miracles or power to cast out demons and evil spirit; is the manifestation of humility owing to self-control". Since the fall of man, he lost the power to control himself. He lost that dominion over the wicked spirit of Hell. Over his impulses, desires and emotions. Man

was reduced from superiority to slavery. Be it known to you this day that only the spirit of God can control "self" not you. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, this is why it is His fruit. "For the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to another: so that ye cannot do the things ye would: therefore whosoever you give attention wins the war. With the flesh you have self-centeredness, but with the Holy spirit self control, choose Self-control for a better Christian Experience.



CHAPTER
TEN

THE POOR IN SPIRIT
MATT. 5:3



The first nine verses of this chapter which reveals the blessedness of the righteous is called the beatitude. In verse three Jesus says, 'only those that are poor in the spirit shall have the kingdom and so they are blessed (emphasis mine). He was talking about spiritual poverty. Jesus for example according to 2 Cor. 8:9 became poor for our sake even though he was rich, I have always known that it was not possible for the owner of the earth to be poor. He became poor so that through his poverty we might become rich. He was equal with God in richness and greatness but He made himself of no

reputation for our sake. He allowed himself to be as a man, He humbled himself unto the cross (see Phil. 2:5-8). We are expected to follow this order as the children of God. Any experience outside this reality is absolutely fake.

The gospel is for they that are poor in spirit, the proud have nothing to do with the gospel because he is always full of himself. God is after the repentant (poor) in spirit to help them inherit his kingdom. Before you can enter God's kingdom, and obtain mercy from God over any sin you must acknowledge God, repent of your sin and forsake it. The Bible says "he that covereth his sins shall not prosper". Sinners and the religious are always full of themselves and so do not have space for the gospel of the kingdom in their heart. It is for their purpose that Jesus came to the earth, preached, be killed, hung on the cross, buried, then He came out of the grave on the third day. He lived the life of the poor so that men might see the reward of humility. He resist the proud but gives grace to the humble. The Lord resist the proud any and everywhere You see, the Bible talks about two men who came to God in prayer. The proud was praying and

reminding God of His goodness and that he is not like that sinner over there who does wickedness daily. But the sinner was on the other side saying, "God, I am a sinner, forgive me. God accepted the prayer of the humble sinner like me. God is interested in those who are willing to humble themselves before him. Lk 10:10-14.

Your personality is inconsequential when it comes to kingdom issues. Unfortunately, many are so proud because of their money, beauty, influence, position and prosperity. Beloved, it pays to be humble in the spirit. It will bring you closer to your God. It will enable you to overcome this world of sin. Pride is of the world. Are you rich? You can still be humble, prosperous and righteous. Do not be like that rich man in the Bible whose pride of life separated him from God, because he wanted to retain his wealth and respect in the society, he failed the test Jesus set for him when he was asked to perfect his claimed righteousness by selling all he had and share the money to the poor. He became sad and walked away from Jesus the only way to eternal life sorrowfully. Mary was exalted and made the mother of Jesus because God saw humility in her

amongst other virgins around then (see Luke 1:28-35, 46-53). Another examples is the Ethiopian Eunuch. He was a very rich man yet he humbled himself to receive the gospel from Philip the evangelist. He humbly sort it and seized every opportunity to embrace it (see Act 8:26-31). As he humbly received the gospel and water baptism, God did something in his life, I am sure the gospel got to his country through him. After the baptism, Philip vanished. He thought he encountered an angel but it was not so only that God wanted to show him a sign that he did the right thing. As you continue to seek your God also, He will give you a sign. He is going to fill that vacuum in your life. For the Ethiopian Eunuch, he lack salvation and hungered for eternal life. God went extra mile to satisfy him. He will satisfy you on every side. That thing you lack, the Lord shall supply it to you. He shall grant your prayers in Jesus name.

So many people today have no regard for the gospel or except they see miracles, signs and wonders such people are foolish. Know that miracle itself cannot bring salvation alone, there were many Jews who witnessed the miracle of

Jesus, but they refused the message of salvation. The bottom-line of the message is that humility is a crucial part of the kingdom experience. Jesus your Lord and my saviour was so humble to the extent that one of His disciples could only identify Him with a kiss. This scenario connote that, Christ was probably not wearing a different and expensive clothes than His followers. The entire body of Christ have a lot to learn from this experience. Brothers and sisters let us be humble because humility pays.



CHAPTER
ELEVEN

THE MOURNER

MATT. 5:4



The Lord understands the trials of men and the He spoke the word of comfort to them that are mourning not just because of earthly disadvantages or deprivations, He spoke concerning spiritual mourners who could be burden bearers, intercessors, the oppressed and those travailing as a result of pains in the course of their wilderness experience and cross bearing, the Lord says people like these shall be comforted. Mourning in this context does not only mean sorrow, pain and distress. The word mourning is a kingdom terminology that represents calmness and the state of being sober.

It is the highest form of quietness and equanimity, maybe as a result of one form of discomfort or another. Are you one of them that mourn the Lord shall comfort you on every side in Jesus name.

People may not notice your labour in the house of God. It doesn't matter, so long you are genuine and persistent, you will prevail and be comforted by the Lord. There was a woman who though poor, old and illiterate, decided to give her self to intercession. The church for her sake was doing well without anyone knowing she is the reason God was blessing the ministry. A day came that the woman died and from then the church began to experience backwardness. When it became so obvious, the pastor cried to God and God reminded him of that woman and told him that the woman had been standing in the gap for the church and now that she is no more, no one else is doing her assignment. The pastor announced the revelation to the church and from then many decided to give themselves to such secret but honourable service unto the Lord. Interceding is a kind of mourning in the kingdom. You may have been expecting the Lord

to give you some comfort and it is not forthcoming do not worry because your redeemer is alive. He is the timely comforter of they that mourn.

Moses was a mourner, He stood in the gap for the children of Israel before the Lord when the children of Israel sinned against God and provoked Him to wrath, he prayed to God to kill him instead of the people if he cannot overlook their sins. (see Num. 11:10). Today we have more complainers than "mourners". Though we have so many workers even intercessors in today's church, the church is still looking for burden bearers like Moses. Isaiah is another mourner who insisted on God delivering and blessing his people in his generation. He was always praying that sinners turn to light and see the salvation of the Lord. (see Isaiah 63:1-2). So many believers are pursuing shadows they are never happy because of unanswered prayers. When you ask them what makes them sad, you will discover they are all earthly. They mourn because of car, children, money, marriage, job etc. and not even for their unsaved souls. May God help us to give attention to what matters most in Jesus name.

There is an earthly and the age to come reward for those who will pray to see the glory of God in their generation, these are the true biblical mourners. If your concern is about seeing righteous on earth, you are an authentic mourner.

Prophet Jeremiah was another great man who was known for intercession, infact he was called a weeping prophet. He never rested but lamented over the sin of the peoples that the Lord might show them mercy. Prophet Ezekiel on the other hand also partnered with the Lord for righteousness to reign in the land of Israel. God is interested in those who are willing to cause a change in their territories. You can be one. Remember, being in the gap will help you to be of them more holy and connected to God knowing that the prayer of a sinner is an abomination unto the Lord. Remember the man Daniel, He was a praying machine and they hated and conspired against him in the land of Babylon. Upon all the plans of the enemy God saw his innocent and closed the mouth of the lions. If you are one of the mourners in the household of faith and for that reason the enemy is looking for you to devour.

Do not give up, the Lord will close the mouth of the Lions for your sake but the conspirators and your full time enemies shall be devoured by the Lions in Jesus name. Though your weeping may last all through the night, your joy will surely come in the morning. God bless you. Psm 30:5.



CHAPTER
TWELVE

THE MEEK

MATT. 5:5, PSALM 37:11, NUMBERS 12:3



The meek here is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ, who lived and die for us, and also the meek is still talking about the righteous, the believers, the peace maker and the self control servants of God, these are the people we call the meek, they don't look for trouble, they are always peaceful in all their deed, but the sinful man will find himself in hell without this spirit of meekness.

In Isaiah 65:17-19 and Isaiah 66:22, the Lord say he will wipe away division and corruption from all the states in the world. (Matthew 24:35, 2 Peter 3:5-7:10:14), no matter your sin, no matter

who you are, we are all suppose to fear and serve him with all our heart. The meek are gentle and friendly with believers and non-believers, these set of people allow the word of God to use them instead of the philosophy of men.

The meaning of the word (meek) is gentle, humble, obedient, respectful, righteous, etc. meekness is necessary for every Christian in all generation. (See Philippians 2:5, Isaiah 53:7, I Peter 2:21-23). The Lord tells us to learn his ways and follow him all the days of our lives. Meekness is an attitude of living a godly life in Christ Jesus even in the face of a wicked world. (Matt 10:16.) Now that you are living for Jesus, you are suppose to benefit from it. The meek will inherit the blessing on the earth and everything in this world, don't forsake the spirit of meekness because of money, fame, power etc, all these things come from the Lord Jesus when you obey him and serve him with all our heart. (see Psalm 25:12-13). The end of a righteous man is peace, the end of an upright Christian is meekness. (Psalm 37:37). So many people are no longer functionable in the things of God, most of them move around from one church to another,

looking for where they preach against the word of truth, while some move around looking for power and miracles “enjoying” their life in pain and sorrow, the lord is telling you today to repent and serve him with all your heart and he is ready to accept you not minding your iniquity you have committed, he is ever ready to listen to your prayers. (John 12:26). Stay away from sinful things, that will not lead you to heaven, stop every stubbornness, lying, stealing, fighting, fornicating, adultery, pride and evil thought and ask the Lord to help you and bring you back to his presence, he will cleanse you, wash your sins and make you strong in him. Prov. 28:13, I Jn. 1:8-9.

Meekness does not mean that you should appear like a sad and distress person, the meek people are usually friendly and happy even in the face of pain and sorrow. This kind of spiritual disposition is what draws unbeliever close to us. Money may attract people to you, as long as you keep having it, but if the money goes, they will run away from you. The spirit of meekness will retain people around you. Cry out to God and tell him to baptize you with the power of meekness. May God answer you in the name of Jesus.



CHAPTER
THIRTEEN

THE HUNGRY
MATT. 5:6, ISAH. 55:1-3



The Lord says you are blessed when you continuously thirst and hunger after righteousness, things that have eternal value and kingdom relevance. It is his wish that you desire more of God and his righteousness every day of your life. This is to say you are not expected to settle on your yesterday spiritual achievement but think of him to be better than before. Beloved, are you hungry after spiritual things such as the word of God, prayer, evangelism, fasting, holiness, fellowship with the brethren than you thirst and hunger after earthly things like food, money, car, fame and power?

You need help!

I want you to know one thing; there is no satisfaction in the things of this world. Unfortunately, many kill themselves over money, women, food, position, job and pleasure of life, thinking they will find satisfaction from them. Have you not imagine that the more you get things of this world the more you want them and the more you loose your peace and suffer divided attention, because you want to secure all your possession the other way round, the moment you become born again, peace and joy of salvation which passes human understanding lift you and you are full of strength. Remember the bible says “the joy of the Lord is our strength”. How far then can you go if you go without such blessing that is eternal.

The more you know God the more you want to know him. This is because God wants to bring you to perfection and intimacy with Him. He opens your eyes to see your neckedness because your soul thirst after his righteousness. Also, it is his good pleasure to give you his kingdom. David confessed how his soul long for the Lord to praise him all the days of his life. Then

shall his soul be satisfied (see Ps. 63:1-5). Many children of God are unrepentant and so their prayers are not answered. When the children of Israel were in Egypt. It was their thirst and hunger after righteousness that made the Lord to have regard for their prayers and show them mercy. As a result he sent Moses as their messiah and deliverer (see Exd. 2:32-25). God never force himself into people. He says, if you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land. Are you willing and obedient? Then you are blessed!

In John 4:10-16, the woman of Samaria encountered Jesus, at first she thought the physical water was the greatest until Jesus introduced the spiritual water to her that she might not thirst again. The moment she desired it she got anointed and became a city winner from that moment, the hundred and twenty in the upper room gathered asking the Lord to send them power as promised. Because they were yearning after righteousness, they all received the Holy Ghost. When you are physically hungry and you eventually see food, you may almost finish the food before you realize there is no salt.

If you are thirsty also and you happen to see water, you may finish drinking before you will realize the cup is dirty. If we can hunger and thirst after righteousness that way, we will go far with God.

Many are okay with half baked Christianity, yet there are others who never rest until they locate a church where raw truth is being preached. They say, "I am not satisfied with this kind of message". I desire something better. When they therefore locate a holiness church, you will see them rejoicing because the bible says, in the presence of God there is liberty and fullness of joy, you are privileged because God's fountain of living water is before you. All you need to do is to take and drink, until you are satisfied. No matter your life challenges, you need to get your spiritual thirst and hunger satisfied first. The Lord knows how best to fix your issues so that your joy might be full. May the Lord baptize you with the spirit of hunger and thirst after righteousness in Jesus name.



CHAPTER
FOURTEEN

THE MERCIFUL
MATT. 5:7; MARK 8:1-3



Merciful people are blessed people, we attract God's mercy to ourselves when we show mercy to others. Jesus therefore teaches that blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Jesus demonstrated his own love for the world by showing compassion on us even in sin. According to Mark 8:1-3, Jesus had pity on the hungry multitude. Having fed them with spiritual food, compassion moved him to perform the miracle of bread and fish so that the same multitude might be fed with physical food. What a merciful God!

So many of us stop at preaching to sinners

and never care about their physical well being. Such people say, so far I have preached to them, they can take care of themselves. They shut their bowels of mercies knowing fully well that this person does not have food, money, clothes, house etc, if you are a true child of God, you must be full of compassion and mercy like your father. (see Ps. 86:16) God is not happy when you are selfish and not caring for the people or the less privileged knowing that you are a child of mercy. In fact it was mercy that found you and so that you were not consumed by the enemy.

Mercy belongs to God and comes from Him. If you are not born again you may not be able to show concern, pity or care for others, God's mercy is great, as heaven is far from the earth so is God's mercy upon us. Like a father pities his children so the Lord cherishes them that fear him (Ps. 103:11-14). Do yourself good to show others mercy and God will also show you mercy. He will forgive you your sins no matter how many or how great your sins are. He says, "I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy and compassion to whom I will show compassion". It is not of him who wills nor of him who runs but of

God who shows mercy (see Rom. 9:15-16). Mercy works like favour, God's mercy never fails. When strength and hope fail, mercy will show up in your own case, mercy has found you in Jesus' name. It was told of a woman who was barren for years until all hope was gone. Everyone knew she was barren. One day a sister saw her with a child and asked, whose child are you carrying, did you do adoption? The woman smiled and told her story, that when she had lost hope, one day God showed her mercy. Show mercy to others and mercy shall speak for you in the time of trouble. It will save you even from death. The Bible tells us of a woman called Dymas who out of compassion made clothes for poor women. A day came that she died. The women cried out to Peter that the woman must not die. After Peter heard them, he prayed and the woman came back to life to continue her good works. You can see how mercy spoke for that woman. It has a voice to speak for you when the time comes, so do not relent in showing mercy to people. Do not stop because people around you seem not to deserve it. They may have paid you with evil but continue because it is God's grace. If you stop showing

mercy then you have neglected your God given assignment which begins with mercy. You cannot give without mercy, you cannot evangelize, encourage, advise, counsel, or direct without compassion on the people. Jesus had mercy on the Leper and all with terrible sicknesses. He did not run from them because they smell or because the disease is contagious. Do not neglect sinners and those with serious problems because they irritate you. Put yourself in their shoe and see how it feels to be with such problem.

In Matt. 18:32-35. Jesus demonstrates how he deals with those who do not show mercy to others who wrong them. A master forgave a servant who owned him huge sum of money. That same servant refused to forgive another servant who owed him little. The master on hearing what the servant did angrily withdraw his forgiveness and threw the servant into prison until he could pay him all that he owed. We couldn't have paid for our salvation nor the blood of Jesus. God gave us freedom free of charge. He expects us to show mercy to others, do not fail in the assignment. When you do, you will also

obtain greater mercy from the Lord.

Furthermore, to be merciful is to forgive your wife, your husband, your business associates, your children, your church member and every other individual on the surface of the earth. No matter the culture and race, God commands us to show mercy to people. One of the ways that Christians and heaven bound people are known is by the level of compassion they have on people. When people are in pain how do you react? When you see the oppressed what kind of feeling exude from your heart? Jesus is our perfect example in the business of mercy, if we are not as compassionate like master Jesus, our Christianity is in doubt.

To be merciful as the children of heaven creates absolute disparity between us and the children of the world.



CHAPTER
FIFTEEN

THE PURE HEART
MATT. 5:8; DEUT. 32:4



As we continue on the Series title the beatitude, we are going to be looking at the blessedness of the pure in heart. God is a perfect God. There is no sin or iniquity in Him and so holiness and purity is his nature, his name and his power. All He made both in heaven and on earth are made in purity of heart and established by it. There was no altar of impurity anywhere. That was why when Lucifer invited sin into himself he was cast down. It was until iniquity was found in him, he was cast down. The same way beloveth sin of all kind separated man from God and made such a person slave of the

devil. (See Habb. 1:13; Heb 12:2).

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith whom we must look unto. That is, we are expected to emulate him or make him our role model, by so doing we inherit the kingdom of God where Christ whom we follow dwells. Until you are pure in heart you cannot make it to heaven you must be born again. When you are born again you experience the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus. You do not say I am born again when you are still lying, fornicating and cheating, fighting. Genuine encounter with Jesus is confirmed by holiness. In your relationship with God and man you must prove your genuineness through a life of purity. I Jn. 3:9. The Bible says, follow peace with all men and holiness without which no eyes shall see the Lord. Heb. 12:14. Holiness and purity cannot be possible when you live in enmity and unforigveness with your neighbours, co-workers and church members. Are you troubled in your heart because of temptation and challenges of life? See, any heart that is troubled cannot please God, so you must let God's peace reign in your heart. Do not say, I am not the cause, they trouble me a lot. My

dear, pursue peace and holiness even for your enemies, for heaven sake. If you can make it to heaven you will remember those challenges no more.

God is a respecter of no person. If he could not tolerate the sin of Adam and Eve or Lucifer he can never accommodate your sin in heaven no matter your place and sacrifices in his church. The reason is because heaven is a holy place demanding a very high range of holiness and purity. Christ Jesus understood this and so came to destroy the power of sin in man. All you now need to do is to run to Him. The Bible says whosoever abideth in Christ cannot sin. One can be in church yet not abiding in Christ. Such people will hear, depart from me you worker of iniquity for I know you not on the last day. Why? That is because such a person has no nature of Christ in him, it will be a great mistake to receive another Lucifer into heaven. That child of the devil, with the nature of the devil and could cause problem in heaven if he or she should be let in.

Watch your heart to guide it daily. Every sin man commit comes from the heart and then defiles a man, the purity of your heart matters a

lot, when your heart is pure then your body and actions will be pure if you are defiled by evil communication, then you must ensure separation. As a child of God you must come out from the world and be separated for your masters use (see 2 Cor. 6:18:7:1). You have a role to play if you must make heaven, for example, you are the one to decide what to do and what not to do, whether you will live a holy life for God or a sinful life for the devil. You must willfully surrender your heart and do away with worldly properties, attire, ordinances and pleasure. You must decide to do the will of God. What is the will of God for you? It is that you be example of believers where ever you are found and attracting sinners to God. It is that you live above sin and the devil even while on earth. It is that you present your spirit, soul and body blameless before your maker daily until you are called up to Him.

Except your name is in the book of life you cannot smell heaven. Nothing that defiles shall enter there, that is why you must be pure right from your heart. Do not postpone your day of salvation, say to sin bye-bye now that you can do

so because tomorrow may be too late, if you think you are born again yet with inward sins, Cry for sanctification now. Seek the Lord now that you can find him if really you want to see God on the last day. In every condition, see that nothing hinders you from making heaven. God bless you.



CHAPTER
SIXTEEN

THE PERSECUTED

MATT. 5:10



Today we are looking at what the Lord says about they that are persecuted for righteousness sake and not for their sins. Jesus says such people are blessed, why? Because it is written in His word that righteousness exalts a nation while sin is a reproach," whosoever pursues God righteousness is blessed with both physical and eternal blessings. Considering this we should not be discouraged when we are persecuted for well doing. Prov. 14:34.

So many people are serving God today with the mind that it will make them to be free from troubles such as persecution. Beloved, you

must understand that the Bible says, they that will live godly in this present world will suffer persecution (emphasis mine). You will never be exempted. Infact God permits trials in order to be matured in faith. He is interested in our spiritual maturity and growth and whatsoever instrument He want he employs to train us. Let us consider this in Heb. 12:5-7 Where in the Bible says “if we are without chastening we are not sons but bastards” (para phrased). God's chastening is an expression of love not hatred. When we overcome the trial, blessings and promotion must follow as a proof of victory.

In the book of Genesis we see that for many years Abraham was without a child, when God finally gave him a son at old age he came up again to try him with that same delayed son by asking him to sacrifice the son to Him. Thank God for Abraham as he obeyed, God seeing his decision told him not to proceed and blessed him. One thing we must know is that God will never allow a temptation bigger than us to come to us, whichever challenge comes our way should be accepted in good faith as matured Christians, when we do so God will be pleased and send forth his blessings meant for His child. See, no

matter what you are going through in your marriage, business, spiritual life, neighbourhood or family, it is for your own good, they will surely work out in your favour (I Cor. 10:13).

All the problems you are going through in life are not for your down fall, but it is designed by God for your lifting, let the fruit of the spirit empowers you. Jesus seeing death stirring at his face refused to give up but pressed to fulfill his mission on earth. Child of God you are here to do something for God but your adversary the devil is not relaxing, his struggled is that you might give up, but he will struggle to fail in Jesus name. The trial you are facing now is working out good things such as patient and perfection in your life. Count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptation for such is the case of the faithful men of old (see 2 Cor. 7:10, James 1:2-41). All the heros and overcomers of faith are products of troubles, remember Sarah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Peter, James, Stephen, etc. some of these people even risk their lives but gained eternal life. Christianity is not always pleasurable and pleasant.

Are you afraid and worried because people mock and reproach you? Do not be ashamed but

glorify God even in your pains and predicaments. Are you barren, sick and jobless? Do not give up but be strong like Job who resolved never to give up until his change came. As long as you are a Christian, God allows your sufferings to last for a reason. Remain steadfast because your redemption is near. I understand that no temptation is pleasant but that which comes to a believer yields pleasant fruits at last. The more you grow in faith, the greater your trials, but God's grace is sufficient. Are you a pastor? You may have greater challenges but they will not swallow you. Are you a pillar in your family? Great may be your challenge like it was in the case of Joseph. Though he was not the first son of Jacob, but God chose him to redeem his family, they hated him, plotted his down fall which eventually landed him into slavery in the land of Egypt.

Though they tried to remove him from the earth they did not prevail because God was with him. When God saw they wanted to kill him. He turned their hearts, slavery became a journey of promotion and greatness for Joseph even though things were tough at the beginning. That is how God will turn the wickedness of the wicked

assigned against you to be in your favour. They may mean evil but all things will work together for your good. All these trials are not for your down fall. God will eventually lift you from pit to the palace in Jesus name. No matter the prison that is before you spiritually, solution is locating you right there in Jesus name. cry no more for God allows those troubles to better you and furnish your future with admirable results.

So many of us are Bible scholars but I earnestly wish we emulate great men and women of faith in the bible, when we do so our enemy will remain under our feet. Shedrack, Meshack, Abednego and Daniel suffered a lot in the land of Babylon but they were not consumed because the fourth man on fire, the lion of the tribe of Judea is their God, it is better to suffer for righteousness sake like these people than to suffer for sin sake. Have you been suffering because of sin, you have no hope of being comforted at last unless you repent. The strength of believers comes greatly from their righteous testimonies. You must possess such testimonies. First you must be born again if you are not, though being born again attract more affliction, but the final outcome is victory in Christ. Many

are the affliction of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him from them all". The Lord shall prepare a table for you in the presence of your enemies. You can't afford to miss the Lord's banquet specially prepared for you just because of the things of this world. Let persecution come because of your faith. Fear not because your God is able, He shall see you through, God bless you.



CHAPTER
SEVENTEEN

THE PEACE MAKER

MATT. 5:9



Paul in I Thess. 5:23A, described God as a peaceful man and a peace maker when he said "and the very God of peace sanctify you". Sin makes man not to be at peace with God as it creates a great wall of separation between us and God. Jesus had to come and die in order to take away our sins and reconcile us with God. God because of His love for man initiated this great move carried out by Christ Jesus. Infact God deliberately took the form of a man so that he will break the wall between the Jews and the gentiles, 'that he might make us worthy of God's presence, so that He might make us sons and no longer

enemies of heaven. The essence of Christ's coming is to reconcile man with God. If Jesus had not made peace between us and God, none of us could call God father, all the things about us became new from the time we received Jesus the reconciler, into our lives (see 2 Cor. 5:12-21).

Many of us who say they are Christians (Christ like) are trouble makers in our neighbourhood when we ought to be reconcilers with Jesus. Jesus reconciled us with God and he expects us to reconcile others to God through the act of evangelism and daily holy Living where ever we are. Let your life attract others to heaven. No sinner can give peace to anyone because he is not living a peaceful life, the Bible says, there is no peace for the wicked, though they pretend and hardens their hearts, they do not sleep like the righteous does. When you are sleeping, their eyes are wide open, they are thinking, wandering and panting. They are always restless. A slightest treat can make them relocate. In many families, things are not working at all. They suffer set back, stagnancy, demotion, and lack of progress just because there is no peace. Each one is on the neck of the other and so no one want to see the other

progress or succeed. No matter how it is on your side, ensure peace with others and the prince of peace will bring peace into your Life. When you let Him into your boat, there will be peace everywhere just like it is in the Bible when he commanded peace upon the tempest that came to destroy the disciples. No matter the power behind your trouble, they will all obey the voice of Jesus and submit over all your situation. I command that promise be still in the name of Jesus in every area of your life.

Ensure that you are a peace maker in your family, in your church, in your school, in your office and in your business environment, the only way the children of heaven are known is by the peaceful co-existence they promote when ever they are found.

You are not a peacemaker, if you are a wife beater, that kind of character apparently demonstrates that you are a wicked person and a child of hell. You are not a peacemaker if you do not want another person to be better than you. Just as Jesus love everybody, you too should imbibe that character of loving both the Christians and non-Christians. Jesus refers to the

children of heaven as the salt and light of the world. Light does not discriminate in its shining, it spreads its brightness to everybody and every place. Salt does not have the character of making a part of the soap sweet and leave some bitter. Let your character be similar to the feature of light and salt as demonstrated in the word of God. (see Matthew 5:13-14).

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