

2024 EDITION

# 40 Days

## EAST LESSONS

The House of God Church Inc.



Bishop Dr. Clary, K. Butler, Sr. | Chief Overseer & Senior Bishop





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On behalf of my wife (Deaconess Patsy Butler) and me, grace and peace to you all. We are incredibly grateful for all the support given by the Chief Helpers, staff of Bishops and State Elders, all Elders and Ministers of every rank and file, Deacons, Lay-members, Young Adults and Youth. We extend special thanks to the Branch Office and Headquarters Staff for we are laborers together with God.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, is the beginning of Lent. Our Annual Forty Days Fast in observance of Lent will officially begin at sundown on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The fast will commence daily from midnight to sundown and will continue until sundown on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and rebirth. It is a period designed to lead us into a deeper and more personal relationship with Christ. I am asking every State Bishop to make sure the 40 Days Fast Lessons are taught in your diocese. Moreover, when you fast, do not look sad and worn out. But anoint your head and wash your face that you appear not unto men to fast, but unto your Father which is in secret: and your Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward you openly. Matthew 6:16-18.

We greatly appreciate all acts of kindness, your beautiful inspirational cards, and gifts. May God bless you for your faithfulness and service to this sixth administration. Let us, "Evangelize, Bring Back the Love and Fill God's House."

In Service for the Master,

Bishop C.K. Butler, Sr.  
Chief Overseer and Senior Bishop







## WOE IS ME IF I PREACH NOT THE GOSPEL

**1 Corinthians 9:16** For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

*What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?*

The gospel of Jesus Christ can be defined in many ways.

- (a) The gospel is the good news of how Jesus died for our sins and rose again. On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.
- (b) The gospel tells the good news How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. *Acts 10:38*
- (c) The Gospel tells all about Jesus. Who He is, and was, and is to come. What He has Done, What He is doing right now, and what He is going to do in the future. How he was nailed to the cross: They drove nails in his hands, they drove nails in his feet. One of the soldiers took a spear and pierced him in his side, and there came out blood and there came out water. Now is the time to repent and turn to God. The day that you hear my voice harden not your heart.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and *how shall they hear without a preacher?* And how shall they preach, except they be sent? *Romans 10:14-15* Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel!

*The gospel of the kingdom*

- (a) The gospel of the Kingdom is the message of salvation proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
- (b) The gospel of the Kingdom is the message of salvation proclaiming the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It is written: And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him. Jesus cried out, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. *Luke 23:34*
- (c) The gospel of the Kingdom is the message of salvation proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. *John 11:25* Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. I will rise again. *John 2:19*



*Repent, believe, and follow Jesus.*

- (a) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. *Acts 3:19*
- (b) Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. *Acts 2:38*
- (c) I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. *Luke 13:5*

*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*

- (a) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and the sick shall recover.
- (b) If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- (c) This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Although I preach the gospel, yet God forbid that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified. *Galatians 6:14* Every preacher must remain humble. I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ: Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, encourage, with great patience, careful instructions, and sound doctrine.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. *Luke 4:18-19* And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. *Matthew 24:14*

#### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

##### **(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. What aspects of the gospel resonate with you the most, and how do they influence your daily life and interactions with others?
2. Discuss the sense of necessity and woe expressed in 1 Corinthians 9:16. How can believers navigate the responsibility of preaching the gospel with a sense of urgency and purpose?
3. Explore the call to repentance in Acts. How has this been transformative in your life or the lives of those around you?
4. Reflect on the humility required in preaching, as mentioned in Galatians 6:14. How can humility enhance the effectiveness of sharing the gospel, and what challenges might arise when humility is lacking?



## A CALL FOR PRAYER

**LESSON TEXT: Isaiah 65:24** And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. **1 Timothy 2:8** I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. *1 Timothy 2:1-2*

Do not forget to pray. Do not be too proud nor afraid to pray. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. *Matthew 7:7-8*

*Substance abuse will make a school boy forget his books, a world famous beauty queen forget her looks. Drugs will make a good man forsake his wife, send a King Pin to prison for the rest of his life. But prayer, Prayer Changes Things. It is time to call for Prayer.*

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. *Ephesians 3:14-19*

*Pray like David prayed Psalm 51*

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies,

Blot out my transgressions. Wash me from my iniquities,  
And cleanse me from my sins.

I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.

Against you, and you only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight.

Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceived me.

Make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

1. Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. *Luke 18:1 Luke 18:1*
2. Pray without ceasing. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*
3. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving. *Colossians 4:2*



4. All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. *Matthew 21:22*
5. I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
6. Whatsoever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. *John 14:13-14*

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. *Matthew 6:9-13*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** If you use prayer as your weapon of choice, no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper. **2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

#### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

##### **(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. In what ways can believers create a habit of consistent prayer, considering the exhortation to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?
2. Discuss the impact of intercessory prayer for all men and those in authority, as mentioned in 1 Timothy 2:1-2.
3. Share personal testimonies or examples where prayer has led to tangible changes or transformations in challenging situations.
4. Consider David's prayer in Psalm 51. What are ways believers can incorporate humility, repentance, and a desire for spiritual renewal in our prayers?
5. Reflect on the thought for today and the promises associated with prayer in 2 Chronicles 7:14. How can believers use prayer as a powerful weapon for the healing of the land?



## THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO SALVATION

**LESSON TEXT: Romans 10:9-10** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. *Isaiah 35:8* But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the LORD: *he is* their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him. *Psalms 37:39-40*

Salvation is the deliverance from the dominion or, the deliverance from the rule of sin. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. *1 Corinthians 12:3* Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. You will know that you are truly saved when you trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding, and in all your ways you acknowledge him, and allow Him to direct your paths. Jesus knows the road that you need to take. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? *Psalms 27:1* It is because of God's grace and mercy that we are saved. The Holy Ghost brings joy and salvation. *Romans 15:13* Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. The joy that the Holy Ghost brings is that unspeakable joy full of glory. Jesus said in *John 7:38* He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. *John 3:17-21*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** When traveling the road that leads to salvation, be sure to enter-in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leads to destruction, and many who go in: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and there are few who find it. *Matthew 7:13-14*



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Reflect on Romans 10:9-10 and the concept of confessing with the mouth and believing in the heart for salvation. How does this scripture emphasize the role of both faith and confession in the journey of salvation?
2. Explore the imagery of the "way of holiness" mentioned in Isaiah 35:8. What does it signify, and how does it relate to the believer's path to salvation?
3. Discuss the assurance of salvation mentioned in Psalm 37:39-40. How does trusting in the LORD and acknowledging Him in all ways contribute to the believer's confidence in their salvation?
4. Examine John 3:17-21 and explain 3 ways believers can consistently choose the path of light in their lives.



## JESUS IS THE UNSPEAKABLE JOY

**LESSON TEXT: 1 Peter 1:8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

JESUS has blessed us with all spiritual blessings. He is worthy, to receive glory and honor and power: for he has created all things. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. *John 1:1-4*

Let us continue to offer to God the sacrifice of praise, giving thanks to his holy name. It is written, *1 Chronicles 29:11* Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Jesus went about healing all who were sick and oppressed of the devil for God was with Him. He raised Lazarus from the grave, He gave sight to the blind and made the lame man walk. Jesus turned water into wine. There are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written everyone, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. *John 21:25*

*The Unspeakable Joy*

1. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. *Acts 3:6-8*
2. And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. *2 Samuel 6:14-16*
3. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. *Acts 2:1-4*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** Because Jesus is the unspeakable joy, our local church services should be full of Power, Love, and of the Word of God. Every person in your local congregation should be spiritually eager and excited to welcome guests, family and friends. Your local church should be styled as the “House that Love Built.”



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How can a local church foster an environment filled with the unspeakable joy of Jesus? What are 3 things believers can do to contribute to a joyful atmosphere within the church? What are 3 things we should avoid doing if we are to have a joyful church?
2. Explore the significance of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. How did this day contribute to the unspeakable joy of the believers? In what ways does the Holy Ghost bring joy to the lives of believers?
3. Reflect on the accounts in Acts 3:6-8 and 2 Samuel 6:14-16. How do these stories illustrate the expression of unspeakable joy in response to God's miraculous works? How can believers display this type of joy in our daily lives?



## LET THE WHEAT AND TARES GROW TOGETHER

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 13:30** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

**The Wheat-** are the good seed, they are children of the kingdom.

**The Tares-** are the children of the wicked *one*; *Matthew 13:38*

The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, an enemy has done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. *Matthew 13:24-30*

Jesus explained the parable of the tares of the field this way: He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. *Matthew 13:37-43*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:**

Jesus uses the parable to demonstrate that we must be careful when we become so eager to pull up tares (people we consider undesirable people in the congregation), that we don't root out the wheat (their good, saved family members). Let both grow together until the Lord's harvest.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Reflect on the parable of the wheat and tares. How does this story challenge our tendency to judge others prematurely? How can we practice patience and understanding in our interactions with people who might seem like "tares" in our lives?
2. Consider the idea of letting both wheat and tares grow together until the harvest. How does this principle apply to fostering unity within a local congregation? In what ways can a diverse church community work towards a common goal?
3. How can a church balance addressing issues within the congregation and maintaining a supportive environment for everyone's spiritual growth?



**ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL**

**LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 5:22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Abstinence is the abstaining from some or all meats, drink, food or other pleasures. For the purpose of today's lesson, abstinence can be defined as Christian tolerance. Temperance is the practice of controlling your actions, thoughts and feelings. Temperance also means that you must abstain from fleshly lust. It is written *1 Peter 2:11* Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor. *1 Thessalonians 4:3-4*

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. *2 Timothy 2:22* Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost? You are not your own.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. *Galatians 5:19-21*

For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. *1 John 2:16-17* Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. *Jude 1:21*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:**

**John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does the concept of controlling our own actions, thoughts, and feelings contribute to a sanctified life?
2. Reflect on the Bible verses that emphasize abstaining from fleshly lusts and fornication. In what ways do these teachings guide Christians in maintaining purity and honor in their relationships and actions?
3. Discuss the list of works of the flesh mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21. How do these actions hinder spiritual growth and inheritance of the kingdom of God? Share insights on overcoming these temptations and cultivating the fruit of the Spirit.



## O YE OF LITTLE FAITH

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 14:31** And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Doubt simply means unbelief. When we doubt, we lack faith. Prayer still works but you must have faith. Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. *Matthew 21:21*

And Jesus spoke this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. *Luke 18:9-14*

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he* ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? *Luke 11:9-13*

1. *James 1:6* Ask in faith, nothing wavering. He that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
2. *James 1:8* A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.
3. *Proverbs 3:5* Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
4. *Mark 16:16* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
5. *1 Timothy 2:8* I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
6. *Luke 8:25* And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Matthew 14:29-31**

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Reflect on the relationship between doubt and faith as discussed in Matthew 14:29-31. What factors contribute to moments of doubt in our lives, and how can we strengthen our faith in challenging situations? Share personal experiences of overcoming doubt through prayer and trust in God.
2. Explore the parable of the Pharisee and the publican from Luke 18:9-14. How does this story illustrate the impact of pride and humility on our approach to God? Discuss the role of humility in building a strong foundation of faith.
3. Analyze the teaching in James 1:6 about asking in faith without wavering. What are the consequences of being double-minded, and how can believers maintain a steadfast faith in their prayers?
4. Luke 11:9-13 emphasizes the assurance of receiving from God when asking in faith. How does this encourage believers to approach God with confidence in their prayers? Share examples of answered prayers that strengthened your faith.
5. Discuss the significance of Jesus' question in Luke 8:25, "Where is your faith?" How can fear and doubt hinder our ability to witness the miraculous power of God in our lives?



## WHAT A FELLOWSHIP

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 18:20** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not know the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanse us from all sin. *1 John 1:3-7* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

We fellowship with other believers in order that we may be strengthened in our own faith. Christians must encourage one another especially in time of need. Fellowship allows us to build one another up instead of tearing one another down. Remember we have more in common than the small differences that tears us apart. *Mark 9:38-40* John said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followed not us: and we forbid him, because he followed not us. But Jesus said, forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.

1. *Hebrews 10:25* Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.
2. *2 Corinthians 6:14* Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
3. *1 Corinthians 1:9* God *is* faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his Son.
4. *Ephesians 5:11* Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.
5. *Philippians 3:10* That I may know him and the fellowship of his sufferings.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Philippians 2:1-2** If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does walking in the light contribute to meaningful fellowship among believers?
2. Discuss 3 practical ways Christians can provide support and encouragement to fellow believers, especially in challenging times. Share personal experiences of receiving encouragement within the church.
3. Why is regular fellowship with other believers crucial for spiritual growth (*Hebrews 10:25*)?
4. Consider the warning in *Ephesians 5:11* about avoiding fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness. How can Christians navigate the balance between engaging with others and maintaining spiritual discernment?



**WE ARE COMMANDED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL EVERYWHERE**

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The Apostle Paul Wrote: Grace is given to me, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. *Luke 4:18-19*

Go ye therefore, and all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. *Matthew 28:19-20*

We are commanded to preach the gospel everywhere. In *2Timothy 4:1-2* It is written: I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: 2 Timothy 4:5-8** Watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus outlines His mission to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, and set captives free. How can we apply these principles in our efforts to share the gospel with those around us?
2. Matthew 28:19-20 is known as the Great Commission. How does sharing the gospel with others strengthen our walk of faith?
3. In 2 Timothy 4:1-2 Paul charges Timothy to preach the word in and out of season. How can this instruction guide our approach to sharing the gospel with consistency and resilience?



**WE NEED A HOLY GHOST FILLED CHURCH  
LORD FILL THIS HOUSE**

**LESSON TEXT: Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Anoint us Lord with your Holy Ghost and let the Holy Ghost fill this House. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26

Peter challenged us to, Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. It is written: Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** A Holy Ghost filled church Is a God centered Church. A Holy Ghost filled church is built on His Word.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How can a church experience the teaching and guiding presence of the Holy Ghost in its activities and decision-making?
2. Discuss the challenge Peter presents in Acts 2:38-39, urging repentance, baptism, and the acceptance of the Holy Ghost.
3. How can a church cultivate an atmosphere where members are filled with the Holy Ghost and speak the word of God with boldness?
4. What are 5 ways the church can respond to the call to fill God's house? What has worked in the past? What will you try new?



**THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING HOPE**

**LESSON TEXT: Romans 15:13** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Despair means to lose, give up or be without hope. All our Hope is built up in Jesus, especially in the midst of despair. *"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness."* When it looks like there is no hope, there is Jesus, coming to rescue and deliver us. Therefore, I admonish you to rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; and be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

Many of us come to church very sad and burdened, but thank God even for the call to worship that reminds us: I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the House of the Lord, make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with praise.

Clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. Rise up and live. Don't give up hope. There is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch will not cease. The roots may wax old in the earth, and the stump die in the ground; Yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant. *Job 14:7-9*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:**

You may be down today, but you are not out. Trouble is momentary. The sun is going to shine, afterwhile. They crucified Jesus. But God raised him up. God is about to do a new thing. Are you ready?

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does the concept of hope through the power of the Holy Ghost impact your faith journey, and how can it inspire hope in challenging times?
2. Romans 12:12 teaches us to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer. How can these three elements work together in maintaining hope during trials, and what practical steps can we take to consistently have a hopeful mindset?
3. How does worship contribute to the experience of hope? Share specific ways in which participating in worship, including clapping hands and shouting, lifted your spirit and renewed your hope.



**THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH GOD**

**LESSON TEXT: Psalm 130:3-4** If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

*Out of the depths have I cried unto thee...*

God said I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. *Hebrews 8:12* If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:9* "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. *Matthew 6:15*

God has commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*Romans 5:8* There is forgiveness with God, therefore, if you have an ought against anyone, please find a way to forgive them. And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. *Ephesians 4:32*

*Daniel 9:9* To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14*

God does not have to wait for man to clean up his act. You do not have to be clean before you come to him. "I came to Jesus as I was, weary, wounded and sad, I found in him a resting place and he has made me glad." You just need to come, run for your life. It is written: Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Luke 6:37**

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. There is forgiveness with God.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does God's forgiving nature increase your respect and love for Him?
2. What are 3 ways we can integrate a forgiving mindset into our daily spiritual journey?
3. How does God's forgiveness serve as a model for believers to extend mercy and forgiveness to others?



**THE MOTE AND THE BEAM**

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 7:3-5** Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Jesus speaks of the mote and the beam in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:1-5. Be careful not to judge others. Do not look so deep at the fault of others that you cannot see yourself. Have you ever made a mistake or did something wrong and God forgave you? God wants you to forgive others also.

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. When thou do thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may have glory of men.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: James 1:23-24** For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. In light of Matthew 7:1-5, what is the importance of self-reflection before pointing out faults in others?
2. How does hypocrisy hinder our relationships with others and with God? Share personal experiences or observations of how hypocrisy can be detrimental.
3. How can a desire for public approval hinder the sincerity of one's actions? Discuss the importance of genuine motives in serving others.
4. Read James 1:23-24 and the analogy of looking into a mirror. How does self-awareness contribute to personal growth and humility?



**UNITED IN LOVE:  
BUILDING STRONGER CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES GOD'S WAY**

**LESSON TEXT: Colossians 3:12-15** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

The lesson teaches us that love is not an optional characteristic for Christians. Love is the fundamental virtue that sustains the entire Christian journey. Without love our churches and communities are in danger but with love the impossible can be accomplished.

Love has the power to unite our churches and communities God's way. The context of Colossians 3 is important to understand the urgency and importance of love in our Christian journey. In Colossae, the church was facing challenges and divisions, similar to what some of our churches experience today. The Apostle Paul, in this letter, exhorts the Colossian believers to put on the characteristics of God's chosen people, to mend their divisions, and to live united in love.

**Point 1: Love is the only true Foundation for a Christian Life**

Paul instructs us to "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Colossians 3:12). Here, we find the first point of emphasis – love as the foundation of our Christian life. Love is the source of all the virtues we are to embody. Picture love as the fertile soil from which all other godly traits grow. Just as a tree draws nourishment from the soil to bear fruit, so do we draw upon love to display mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

**Point 2: Love is the Bond of Perfection**

There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." The ultimate punishment or fear is separation from God. Thankfully, for those who believe in Jesus, that fear is no more!

**Point 3: Love is the Rule of Peace**

Paul concludes with a special call to "let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15). This final point of emphasis is that love paves the way for God's peace to rule in our hearts. As we embrace love, we find unity, peace, and gratitude. Love not only unites but also ensures we remain in perfect peace.

Finally, let us focus on the greatest example of love – Jesus Christ. God is love. He willingly gave His life for the church. Picture in your mind Jesus on the cross, arms outstretched, bearing the weight of our sins. That's love. His sacrifice is painted in shades of love. His blood flowed as



a crimson river, washing away our lies, our deceit, murder, and adultery. The love of Christ is beyond words, beyond comprehension. It is a love that unites us as a church, as a community, and as children of God. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

*John 15:13*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** Let us pray that the love of Christ guides our every action and interaction, uniting us in love, building stronger churches and communities God's way. And in this, we will find the strength to accomplish the impossible, for with Christ, all things are possible.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Why is love the foundation for a Christian life?
2. How does perfect love cast out fear? Share examples.
3. How does consistently sharing love with one another contribute to a sense of unity and peace in the church?
4. How does gratitude contribute to building stronger churches and communities? Share examples of how expressing gratitude can foster a sense of unity and love within the church and community.



## LORD MAKE US ONE

**LESSON TEXT: John 17:21-22** That they all may be one; as thou Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me. And the glory which thou gave me, I have given them; that they may be one even as we are one.

Lord Make Us One. Make us one, united only in you. My prayer is that the MANY will become ONE: One in Spirit, one in Heart, and one in Hope. When all of God's children get to Heaven what a time, what a time! We will be walking by the same rule, and we will be minding the same thing. No longer will we walk after the flesh but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. *Romans 8:5*

We have a high and holy calling to be one as GOD the Father and GOD the Son are one. It is written: I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Lord make us one. *1 Corinthians 1:10*

We must become so spiritually united as a church family and as a Diocese that nothing, **no not one**, nor anything will be able to separate us from the love of God. And that no weapon that is formed against us will prosper. We are laborers together, working with God and we must do it with excellence.

- **Heavenly Father**, make us one that the world may believe, that thou has sent me.
- **Holy Spirit** make us one that the glory which thou gave me, I will give unto them that they also may be one.
- **Jesus Christ**, make us one, that we may lift you up until you draw all men unto you that they may be one even as we are one. Lord Make Us One.

Finally, we must now surrender all to JESUS! God is love and we must invite him back into our lives, our churches, our homes, our schools and our communities. *Return O Holy Dove return, sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.* Lord make us one.

**TOUGHT FOR TODAY: 1 Timothy 2:5-6** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

## (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. According to John 17:21-22, how should unity among believers reflect the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?
2. In what ways can a sense of unity impact the effectiveness of a church or diocese?
3. How does having a spiritual mindset contribute to unity within a church?
4. What are 3 ways a church family can guard against division?



## WE MADE IT

**LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. *Jude 1:14-15*

After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, untill we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. *Revelation 7:1-4*

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. *Revelation 7:9-12*

Finally, on that day we can say, thank you God, we made it. We came out of great tribulation, and have washed our robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, we will stand before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and the Lord God Almighty will dwell among us. We shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed us and shall lead us unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. *Romans 15:13*



**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. *Matthew 25:21*

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Consider the diverse multitude from all nations in Revelation 7:9-12. How does this emphasize the universal nature of God's redemptive plan?
2. What are 3 ways the church can foster unity and a spirit of welcoming visitors?
3. How does the hope of Revelation 7:14 provide encouragement?



**WATCH YOUR COMPANY**

**LESSON TEXT: 1Corinthians 5: 11** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one know not to eat.

Watch the company you associate with, because all kinds of spirits have gone out in the world. Bad company has infiltrated the church almost everywhere. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Here is how we know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that do not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: this is that spirit of antichrist, and you have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. *1John 4:1-4*

In our lesson text the Apostle Paul warns us not to keep company with fornicators, effeminate, thieves, drunkards and the like. Paul asked, did you not know the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? He said, do not let anyone deceive you: idolaters, nor adulterers, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor covetous, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. He reminded us that such were some of us: but we are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. *1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. As we review the traits (Paul warns against) mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:11, what are the dangers associated with these behaviors?
2. How might bad company impact your spiritual health?
3. How can believers navigate friendships and associations with neighbors, classmates, co-workers, family members, etc that are non-believers while staying true to their faith?



### HOW CAN WE LIVE SAVED, SANCTIFIED AND HOLY?

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 19:23-26** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

- In this lesson we shall discuss the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of being saved, sanctified and Holy.
- 1. *Who then can live saved, sanctified and Holy?* **Mark 16:15-16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **Ephesians 4:22-23** He that put off the old man, which is corrupt according to lusts. He that is renewed in spirit and mind. He that puts on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. He that put away lying, back biting and speaks truth with his neighbours.

*Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?* **Psalm 24:3-5** He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of our salvation.

- 2. *What then does it take to live saved, sanctified and Holy?* You must be filled with the Holy Ghost. **1 Corinthians 12:3** No man can say that Jesus is LORD but by the Holy Ghost. Marvel not that I say unto you, you must be born again.

It takes being able to glorify God in your body and in your Spirit with a clean heart. **Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. It takes laying aside every weight and the sin which so easily beset us, running with patience the race that is set before us.

- 3. *When should I begin to live saved, sanctified and Holy?* Today. **Hebrews 3:15** Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart. **2 Corinthians 6:2** Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
- 4. *Where can I live saved, sanctified and Holy?* Down here in this present world. **Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.  
The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but peace joy and righteousness in the Holy Ghost. **Matthew 6:10** Let Thy kingdom come, let thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
- 5. *Why should I live saved, sanctified and Holy?* You should live saved, sanctified and Holy if you want to see Jesus. Being saved also means your sins have been forgiven. Being saved



means you now have eternal life through Jesus Christ and you are assured of that special place called heaven.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: John 10:28-29** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Who can live saved, sanctified, and holy?

- A. Those who believe, are baptized, and put off the old sinful nature.
- B. Individuals who are renewed in spirit and mind, creating a new self in righteousness.
- C. Those with clean hands, a pure heart, and who do not lift their souls to vanity.
- D. All of the above.

The answer is D. Please explain why.

2. As we recognize the urgency of salvation and heeding the call for a transformed life, when should one begin to live saved, sanctified, and holy?

3. What are 3 reasons a person should live a saved, sanctified, and holy life?



**THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES  
AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE**

**LESSON TEXT: 1 John 2:15-17** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

*Roman 1:21-32*

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Matthew 5:28** Whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How would you define the "lust of the flesh," the "lust of the eyes," and the "pride of life" based on the lesson, and what examples from daily life can you identify for each?
2. In what ways do you think the world's temptations, as mentioned in the lesson, can subtly influence people's beliefs and behaviors?
3. Compare the warning in 1 John 2:15-17 with the consequences described in Romans 1:21-32. What connections can you draw between turning away from God and engaging in worldly behaviors?
4. Considering the seriousness of sinful thoughts mentioned in Matthew 5:28, what are 3 ways believers can actively work on maintaining purity in both actions and thoughts in a world filled with various temptations?



## ONE NATION UNDER GOD

## LESSON TEXT:

One Nation Under God. Those sacred words are found in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Historians dealt with its natural meaning. For our purpose we shall consider and recognize the spiritual meaning and significance of this phrase. The Pledge of Allegiance demonstrates a united America with one people and one nation.

Spiritually God wants his people to have spiritual oneness and have the mind of Christ. *Philippians 2:5-6* Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. God does not want his people to be divided but one people obeying God's command. *1 Corinthians 1:10* Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

In recognizing the spiritual significance of "One Nation Under God," we should strive for unity among God's people. The Bible emphasizes the importance of spiritual oneness and having the mind of Christ, urging believers to emulate the humility and obedience demonstrated by Jesus. *Philippians 2:5-6* encourages Christians to adopt the mindset of Christ, who, though equal with God, humbled Himself for the greater purpose. This aligns with the spiritual aspiration for a united people, not divided but perfectly joined together in mind and judgment, as stated in *1 Corinthians 1:10*.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Let us reflect on the profound spiritual meaning of being "One Nation Under God" and consider how, as believers, we can foster unity, shared purpose, and obedience to God's commands.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

## (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How can Christians embody the concept of "One Nation Under God" in their daily lives and interactions with others?
2. In what ways does spiritual unity contribute to the effectiveness of the Church in fulfilling its mission?
3. How can believers overcome divisions and differences to achieve the spiritual oneness encouraged in the Bible?
4. Reflecting on *Philippians 2:5-6*, what practical steps can individuals take to develop the mind of Christ in their lives?



## ARE THERE ANY SICK AMONG YOU

**LESSON TEXT: James 5:13-16** Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

When it comes to sickness we must have faith, pray, and believe. Jeremiah cried out to the Lord, Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou *art* my praise. *Jeremiah 17:14* God promised that he would heal the broken hearted, restore them with good health and heal not some, but all our wounds.

In Exodus 15:26 God said, If we will diligently listen to his voice, and will do that which is right in his sight, and will give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, that He will not put any of the diseases upon them, which he has brought upon the Egyptians. God is our healer. The power to heal is in his hands.

## Are Their Any Sick Among You?

- Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- Psalm 107:20 He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.
- Matthew 4:23 He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
- Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.
- Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: 1 Peter 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

## (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. The prayer of faith is mentioned in James 5:14-15. How does the prayer of faith contribute to the healing process mentioned in these verses?
2. In Psalm 147:3 and Psalm 107:20, God is portrayed as a healer of the brokenhearted. How might a healed spiritual body contribute to a healed physical body?
3. How does reading and listening to God's Word and following His commandments relate to our healing? Explain a time you experienced the power of God healing you?



## I ACKNOWLEDGE MY TRANSGRESSIONS

**LESSON TEXT:** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

David's humble acknowledgment of his transgressions in Psalm 51 reflects a heart that seeks God's mercy and cleansing. In spiritual terms, transgressions represent the breach of divine laws, and David's plea resonates with the universal need for repentance and forgiveness. Ezekiel 18:30 emphasizes the importance of turning away from transgressions to avoid ruin, highlighting the transformative power of genuine repentance. As believers, we find assurance in Psalm 32:5, knowing that confessing our transgressions to the Lord leads to forgiveness and the covering of our sins. Ephesians 2:4-5 reminds us of God's abundant mercy, demonstrating His love by offering salvation even when we were dead in sins. Proverbs 28:13 underscores the principle that acknowledging and forsaking sins bring about divine mercy, contrasting it with the peril of concealing wrongdoing.

To acknowledge means to admit that something is real or true. Spiritually transgression means to violate one or more of God's laws or commands. In Psalm 51:4 David acknowledges that Against you God, and you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou might be justified when you speak, and be clear when thou judge. David did what all Holy Ghost filled saints must do: Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

- **Ezekiel 18:30b** Repent, and turn *yourselves* from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.
- **Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin unto you, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- **Psalm 32:1** Blessed *is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved.)
- **Proverbs 28:13** He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes *them* shall have mercy.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Hebrews 9:15** And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Why is David acknowledging his sin specifically against God? What does this reveal about our responsibility to God when we acknowledge our transgressions?
2. In what ways can turning away from sin bring about positive change in our lives?
3. Why is the acknowledgment and confession of transgressions essential for receiving forgiveness? How does this contribute to the blessedness described in Psalm 32:1?
4. Reflect on the richness of God's mercy and the grace offered through Christ. How does this perspective influence our understanding of salvation and our relationship with God?



## THERE IS NO FAILURE IN GOD

**LESSON TEXT: Deuteronomy 31:6,8** Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. And the Lord, he [it is] that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Lord we are trusting in your Holy word because we know that the word of God will never fail. Not one of the good promises the Lord gave you has failed you. Do not fall of the path God has set for you. Pray, have faith, and believe because Jesus is real. For all the promises of God are yea, and Amen, unto the glory of God the Father by Jesus Christ. God has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that you may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said and shall he not do it? Or has he spoken and shall he not make it good? *Numbers 23:19*

## Promises of God That Will Never End

- **Ephesians 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.
- **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.
- **Psalms 73:6** My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: all things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- **Psalms 55:22** Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
- **Romans 5:8** God commanded his love toward us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Proverbs 24:16** For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

## (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Read Deuteronomy 31:6,8. How do these verses emphasize God's promise to never fail or forsake His people?
2. As you explore the promises listed in the lesson (Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 73:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 55:22, Romans 5:8), which promise resonates with you the most? Explain why.
3. How does the concept of a just person falling but rising again align with the theme of the lesson? In what ways can the assurance of God's promises encourage perseverance in the face of setbacks?



**STAY IN THE RACE, KEEP THE FAITH  
LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE**

**LESSON TEXT: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

If I want to live so God can use me, I have got to stay in the race I've got to keep the faith I've got to lay hold on eternal life. They that stay in the race we'll learn how to wait on the Lord and renew their strength. They will learn how to mount up with wings as Eagles; they will learn how to run and not be weary, how to walk and not faint.

If you stay in the race, when you come to the end of life's journey, you will be able to say as Paul said, I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. *2 Timothy 4:6-8*

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:1-2*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Ecclesiastes 9:11** I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. *Stay in the race.*

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How can staying in the race, keeping the faith, and laying hold on eternal life influence our daily decisions?
2. How does maintaining self-discipline contribute to running a successful race? Share 2 ways believers can exercise temperance in various aspects of life.
3. Why is patience important in the Christian journey? How can we cultivate patience and endurance, especially when waiting on the Lord?
4. What is the significance of laying aside every weight and sin in the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1)?
5. What are some common "weights" or hindrances that believers might face? How can this group of believers support one another in letting go of the burdens that hinder our spiritual race?



**LET NOTHING SEPARATE YOU  
FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

**LESSON TEXT: ROMANS 8:31** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

I am happy with Jesus I am happy serving my Lord. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Therefore, I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. I will let nothing separate me from the love of God. *Psalms 27:4-6*

It is Written: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Nothing can separate me from God. *Psalms 84:10-12*

- *Isaiah 59:2* Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
- Being a friend of the world will cause you to be the enemy of God. *James 4:4* Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
- *John 3:3* Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** Your thoughts and your ways can also separate you from God. *Isaiah 55:8-9* For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does this promise in Romans 8:31 impact your life, decisions and relationship with God?
2. Have you ever faced challenges or situations that made you question God's love? How did you overcome such doubts or fears?
3. How can believers address and overcome spiritual hindrances?
4. How does seeking God's perspective and wisdom contribute to maintaining a strong relationship with Him?



**IF YOU ARE WILLING AND OBEDIENT  
YOU SHALL EAT THE GOOD OF THE LAND**

**LESSON TEXT: Isaiah 1:19-20** If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Come now and let us reason together: God has already promised to bless those who follow him and keep his commandments. However, if we refuse to listen and obey his statutes and we continue in total disobedience to him, God promise multiple curses.

*There are Blessings for Obeying God Deuteronomy 28:1-13*

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

4 Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out.

7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*.

*There are Curses for Disobeying God Deuteronomy 28:15-68*



15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

17 Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

18 Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

20 The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

21 The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

25 The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

- **1 Samuel 15:22c** Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.
- **John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.
- **Luke 11:28** Blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it.
- **Acts 5:29** We ought to obey God rather than men.
- **Psalms 143:10** Teach me to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: thy spirit *is* good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Deuteronomy 11:26-28** Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

#### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

##### **(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. What does "willingness" and "obedience" look like in your daily walk with God
2. Examine the blessings listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-13 (for those who diligently obey God's commandments). How have you experienced God's blessings in your life through obedience? Share examples.
3. The following scriptures (1 Samuel 15:22c, John 14:15, Luke 11:28, Acts 5:29, Psalm 143:10) emphasize the importance of obedience. In what ways do these verses shape your understanding of obedience, and how can they be practically applied in your life?



### DON'T LET FORNICATION BE NAMED ONCE AMONG YOU AS BECOMETH SAINTS

**LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 5:3-4** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Don't let the Devil use you. You belong to God. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. *Ephesians 6:10-20*

- **James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- **Acts 15:29** That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.
- **Ephesians 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23** Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

##### (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. As we reflect on Ephesians 5:3-4, which instructs believers to avoid fornication, uncleanness, and covetousness, how can we apply these instructions in our daily lives?
2. In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul talks about putting on the whole armor of God to resist the devil's schemes. How does this armor protect us, and what role does prayer play in standing firm against the enemy's attacks?
3. How does abstaining from fornication help emphasize the importance of maintaining purity and holiness in our relationships?



## A STREET CALLED STRAIGHT

**LESSON TEXT: Acts 9:10-11** And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord. And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.

*Acts 9:1-20*

Saul, yet breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. As he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias.

And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord. And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he is praying, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he has authority from the chief priests to arrest all that call on your name. But the Lord said to Ananias, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.



- **Isaiah 35:8** And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.
- **Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **Matthew 7:14** Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
- **Jeremiah 6:16** Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Isaiah 45:2** I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

#### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

##### **(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Today's lessons tells the testimony of Saul's transformation on the road to Damascus. How does this story illustrate the power of God's grace and the possibility of redemption even for people deeply entrenched in wrongdoing?
2. Isaiah 35:8 describes a highway called the way of holiness. How does this Old Testament prophecy align with the message conveyed in Saul's conversion, and what relevance does it hold for us today?
3. Ananias initially expressed concern about Saul's past actions against the believers. Discuss how Ananias' obedience (despite his reservations) teaches us to trust God's plans and His ability to transform lives.



## THE HELMET OF SALVATION

**LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 6:17-18** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Our concentration for this lesson is on the Helmet of Salvation, however, we must put on the full armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand; Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. While every part of your spiritual armor is important, the helmet of salvation stands out as most critical.

The helmet of Salvation represents righteousness. Spiritually wearing it symbolizes that we are saved through the blood of Jesus Christ. Putting on the helmet is symbolic of putting on Christ.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.  
*Romans 13:14*

- **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- **Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Isaiah 59:17** For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance *for* clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Ephesians 6:17-18 discusses the Helmet of Salvation. How does it represent righteousness and the assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ?
2. Read the analogy of putting on Christ, as mentioned in Romans 13:14 and Galatians 3:27. How should those verses influence the way believers approach their daily lives and challenges?
3. Read Ephesians 4:24, which encourages putting on the new man created in righteousness and true holiness. How does this relate to the Helmet of Salvation?



**GOD IS NOT A MAN. HE WILL NOT LIE**

**LESSON TEXT: Numbers 23:19** God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

*Hebrews 6:18* That by two immutable things, (unchanging or unable to be changed) *it* is impossible for God to lie. Every word of God is true. God always keeps his word and his promises. *Psalms 119:160* Thy word *is* true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endures* for ever. *Psalms 138:2* I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

If we keep his commandments his word declares that we know him. But if we say, I know him, and keep not his commandments, we lie and the truth is not in us. Our God is a mighty God. His kingdom *is* everlasting, and his rule *endures* throughout all generations. He is a strong tower. The LORD upholds all that fall, you can trust and depend on him. Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. *Proverbs 30:5-6*

- *A promise from God:* Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. *Romans 10:13*
- *A promise from God:* My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19*
- *A promise from God:* If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** *Psalms 37:25* I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Read Numbers 23:19 and Hebrews 6:18, emphasizing that God is not a man that He should lie. How does this truth impact your trust and confidence in God's promises for your life?
2. As we explore the concept of the immutability of God's promises, as mentioned in Hebrews 6:18, how does understanding the unchanging nature of God's word affect your perspective on His faithfulness?
3. What are 3 ways believers can apply the reliability of God's word in their daily lives and decision-making?
4. How does obedience strengthen our relationship with God and build a foundation of trust?



## MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

**LESSON TEXT: Genesis 1:26-27** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God made man from the dust of the earth on the sixth day of the creation, and he called the man Adam. Unlike the rest of the animals, God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

To be made in the Image of God meant that Adam was made in the likeness of him. He reflected what God looked like, and he also mirrored God's nature and character: meek, lowly, humble, holy, and compassionate. God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: *Colossians 1:14-15*

- **Genesis 5:1-2** This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.
- **Psalms 8:4-6** What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:
- **Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Psalm 139:13-15** For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Discuss the characteristics mentioned in the lesson that reflect God's nature and character: meek, lowly, humble, holy, and compassionate. How can believers strive to mirror these attributes in their lives?
2. What is the significance of being made in the image of God in terms of purpose and dominion over creation, as stated in Genesis 1:26-27?
3. Ephesians 4:24, emphasizes the need to "put on the new man" created in righteousness and true holiness. How should embracing this new identity impact the way believers live and interact with others?



## IT IS TIME TO CALL FOR PRAYER

**LESSON TEXT: 1 Timothy 2:8** I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

It is written, *Isaiah 65:24* It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. It is time to call for prayer. Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. *James 5:14-15*

I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. *1 Timothy 2:1-2* Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. *Isaiah 56:7*

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

- **Mark 11:17** And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.
- **Mark 11:24** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.
- **Matthew 6:7-8** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How can prayer influence a spiritual atmosphere?
2. How does the assurance that God answers before we call impact your approach to prayer?
3. How does the prayer of faith contribute to healing, and what role does repentance play?
4. How can believers maintain and grow a lifestyle of unceasing prayer, and what does it mean to approach God's throne with boldness?



## GOD SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM

**LESSON TEXT: Psalm 107:18-21** Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions. Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

God's word has the power to heal you. For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. *Hebrews 4:12* Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou *art* my praise. *Jeremiah 17:14* There is healing in the air.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved, healed, and delivered. *John 3:17* And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, and *from* Jerusalem, and *from* Judaea, and *from* beyond Jordan. *Matthew 4:23-25*

- **John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- **Psalm 6:2** Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I *am* weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.
- **Psalm 27:14** Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Luke 17:14-17** And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine?

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

## (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How have you personally experienced the healing power of God's Word?
2. How does the act of crying out to the Lord play a role in receiving healing, and what does it signify about our reliance on God?
3. Hebrews 4:12 describes the Word of God as sharper than a two-edged sword. In what ways can the Word discern our thoughts and intents, leading to inner healing and transformation?



**SATAN WAS CAST OUT INTO THE EARTH  
AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST OUT WITH HIM**

**LESSON TEXT: Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. *Revelation 12:7-8* And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. *Revelation 12:4* And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. *Revelation 9:1*

The Devil is full of tricks. He is very crafty. His ministers *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. Do not be stunned; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

Satan was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. *John 8:44* Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. *1 Peter 5:8*

- **Luke 10:18** And he said unto them, I saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven.
- **John 12:31** Now is the judgment of this world: the prince of this world shall be cast out.
- **Romans 16:20** And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Isaiah 14:12-15** How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How can believers guard against false teachings and deceitful influences in the world?
2. John 8:44 portrays Satan as a liar and a murderer from the beginning. In what ways does understanding Satan's nature help believers resist his schemes and stand firm in the truth?
3. If a fellow believer was being attacked, discouraged or deceived by Satan, what are 3 ways you could help that person?



## ASK YOURSELF: AM I GOING TO HEAVEN

**LESSON TEXT: John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Jesus said, many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works? *Matthew 7:22* But ask yourself, are you born again? Are you going to Heaven? In *John 14:6* Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. And no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven. *John 3:13*

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walks uprightly and works righteousness and speaks the truth in his heart. *He that* backbites not with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor. *Psalms 15:1-3* For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. *1 Thessalonians 4:15-17*

Are you going to Heaven? Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. *Proverbs 3:5* Jesus has already promised, in my Father's house are many mansions. I go, to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. *John 14:2-3* But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. *Revelation 21:8*

- **John 3:3** Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- **John 3:5** Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- **John 3:16** God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- **Matthew 7:21** Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.



**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Revelation 21:3-4** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. What role does faith play in your journey to Heaven? Share examples.
2. What is necessary to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (answer individually)?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, describing the future return of Christ. How does this scripture inspire hope, and how does the anticipation of being with the Lord impact your perspective on life?



**ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS  
HOLINESS IS THE WAY**

**LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 6:16** Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. Will we reach the promise land? When “the road gets rough and the going gets tough and the hills are too hard to climb,” Rejoice evermore! Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

There is a war going on between right and wrong; good and bad; evil and corrupt. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. It is a trying time, but we must pass through stages of frustration and confusion on our way to heaven. *Romans 7:21-23*

If we want to see Jesus, if we want to go with him when he returns, we must get back on track. We must be as the children of Issachar, which were *men* that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do. *1 Chronicles 12:32* So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by our spoken word, or our epistle. *2 Thessalonians 2:15*

- **Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
- **Romans 10:9-10** If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- **The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:1-17** Many professed Christians claim that Christ changed, abolished or took away the Law and replaced **The Ten Commandments** with the Gospel. Nevertheless, in this church, ‘we believe and do firmly teach that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ abolished a long list of sacrificial and ritual laws, all which had their fulfillment or completion in Him, but all moral laws, as we know, are eternal.’ It is written: ‘Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven’ *Psalms 119:89*.



**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How can understanding the wisdom of previous generations and adhering to timeless truths bring rest to your soul in today's challenging times?
2. According to Isaiah 35:8, how does the way of holiness offer a refuge from the unclean, and how can one navigate this way in a world filled with moral challenges?
3. Consider the struggles described in Romans 7:21-23, where the law of sin conflicts with the desire to do good. How does this resonate with your own experiences (please explain)?



## WHO IS JESUS

**LESSON TEXT: Matthew 16:13** When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

There is proof throughout the Holy Bible that Jesus is our Savior and our redeemer. *Matthew 1:21* And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. *Matthew 21:11* And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And yes, He is the Messiah. *John 4:25-26* The Samaritan woman said unto Jesus, I know that the Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus said unto her, I that speak unto you am *he*.

Jesus Christ is the way to peace. Jesus said in, *John 14:27* Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Yes, Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and he heard a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. *Matthew 3:16-17*

*Jesus, who is He? The I Ams of Christ:*

- I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. *John 6:35*
- I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *John 8:12*
- I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter-in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. *John 10:7,8-9*
- I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. *John 10:11,14*
- I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. *John 11:25*
- I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *John 14:6*
- I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. *John 15:1*
- I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. *Revelation 1:8*
- I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star. *Revelation 22:13,16*



**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: John 1:1-5,14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Consider the significance of Peter's confession in recognizing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Who do you recognize Jesus as (in other words, Who is Jesus to you)?
2. One of the characteristics of Jesus' nature is that of "savior." How does this aspect of Jesus' nature resonate with your understanding of his other characteristics, such as healer, teacher, deliverer, etc?
3. Reflect on Jesus' role as the Prince of Peace, as mentioned in John 14:27. How does Jesus offer a peace that transcends the world's understanding, and how can believers experience this peace in their lives?



## THE BIBLE IS A BOOK ABOUT FAITH

**LESSON TEXT: Hebrews 11:1-2, 6** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

God's Holy Bible is a book about faith. We receive that faith by trusting, asking, believing and depending on God. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. Therefore we walk by faith, not by sight. *2 Corinthians 5:7* You may try to tear the Bible down just as, we try to tear each other down but God uses the Bible to let us know that we must love and treat our neighbor like we love and treat ourselves.

The Bible says, faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. How can they hear without a preacher and how can they preach except they be sent? For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me. *1 Corinthians 9:16-17*

## 1. Faith in Redemption:

- The Bible tells the story of redemption, proclaiming the good news of how Jesus, through faith, offered himself for our sins and triumphed over death. On the firm foundation of faith, I stand, for all other ground is sinking sand.

## 2. Faith in God's Anointing:

- The Bible illustrates how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and power, moving with unwavering faith, doing good, and healing the oppressed. Acts 10:38 reflects on this divine anointing.

## 3. Faith in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus:

- The Bible unveils the identity of Jesus—past, present, and future. It tells of His crucifixion, with nails in His hands and feet, a spear piercing His side. It's a call to repentance and a reminder not to harden our hearts.

## 4. Faith in Proclaiming the Gospel:

- Just as Romans 10:14-15 emphasizes the necessity of preaching, the Bible is a call to proclaim the message of faith. Woe is upon us if we don't share the gospel.



### 5. Faith in the Kingdom:

- The gospel of the Kingdom, as explained in the Bible, celebrates the birth, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It resonates with faith in the promise of a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

### 6. Faith in Repentance and Salvation:

- Through verses like Acts 3:19 and Acts 2:38, the Bible guides us to repentance and baptism, promising the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost

### 7. Faith in Salvation:

- Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, as urged in the Bible, leads to salvation. It's not just a confession but a deep, heartfelt belief in Jesus that transforms the sin-sick soul.

Is there anything too hard for the LORD? *Genesis 18:14* Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. *John 5:39-40* Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) *Hebrews 10:22-23*

What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. *James 2:14-17*

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. *Romans 8:24-28*

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. **Hebrews 11:3** 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 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **Hebrews 11:5** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**  
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does the concept of faith, as described in Hebrews 11, resonate with your personal spiritual journey (answer individually)?
2. In what ways does the Bible guide us to express faith through actions and works, as discussed in James 2:14-17? Share examples from your own life.
3. Reflect on the various aspects of faith mentioned in the lesson, such as faith in redemption, God's anointing, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Which aspect speaks to you the most, and why?
4. Discuss the role of hope and patience in the context of faith, as mentioned in Romans 8:24-28. How do these concepts relate to your understanding of faith in challenging times?



## LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS

**LESSON TEXT: Romans 13:1-2** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. *Romans 13:1-8*

Obeys them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you. *Hebrews 13:17* Jesus said, If ye love me, keep my commandments. *John 14:15* For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. *1 John 5:3* Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? *Romans 6:16*

- Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work. *Titus 3:1*
- We ought to obey God rather than men. *Acts 5:29*
- If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. *Isaiah 1:19*
- Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say? *Luke 6:46*
- If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. *John 8:51*

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Colossians 3:22-24** Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:****(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. Reflect on Romans 13:1-8. How does the passage emphasize the concept of submission to higher powers?
2. In Hebrews 13:17, it mentions obeying those who have the rule over you. How can this apply in various aspects of our lives, such as work, community, or family? Share personal experiences or examples.
3. Why is obedience important to God (answer individually)?
4. Reflect on the thought expressed in Colossians 3:22-24 regarding obedience in service. How does the idea of serving as unto the Lord impact our perspective on submitting to secular authority?



**PALM SUNDAY  
THE CHIEF SHEPHERD**

**LESSON TEXT: 1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

There is a difference between the Chief Overseer and the Chief Shepherd. Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd mentioned in the lesson text. The Chief Overseer is the highest-ranking officer in The House of God Church. In 1 Peter 5:4, we encounter the title "Chief Shepherd," referring to none other than Jesus Christ.

As the Chief Shepherd, God promises a crown of glory. He also promises to be bishop of your souls. 1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. We should often reflect on the life, sacrifices and power of Jesus. He said, I am the way, the truth and the life. Scriptures promise a mansion and a crown of glory when the Chief Shepherd appears. We must follow the Chief Shepherd's guidance. We must actively follow that guidance in our daily lives. This will impact the choices we make each day. Most importantly it will impact our eternal outcome, Heaven.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:**

On this Palm Sunday, as we end this season of fasting, and as we navigate the journey of life, may we continually look to the Chief Shepherd for guidance and find assurance in the promise of a crown of glory. May we be like David when he said, "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." *Psalm 23:1*

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:**

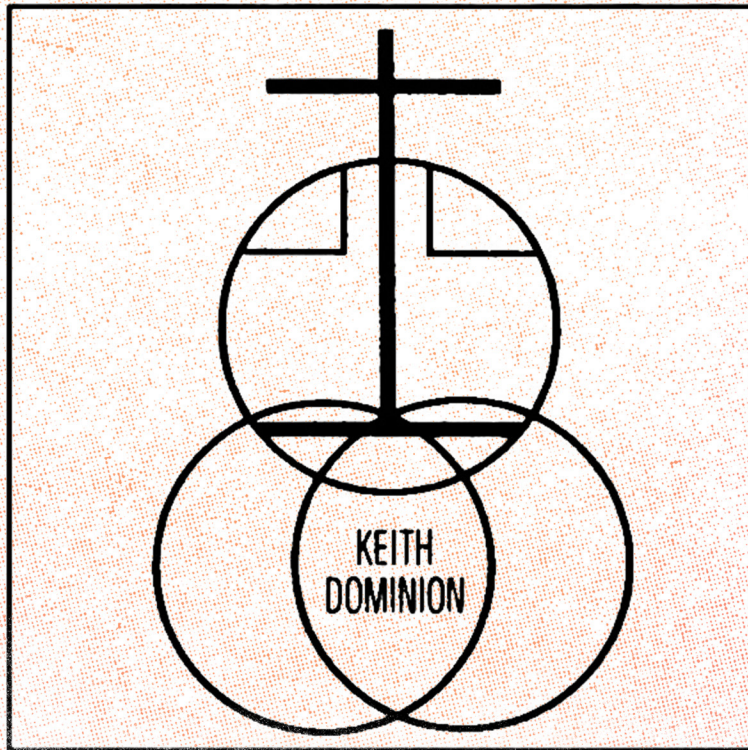
**(Discussion/Small Group Questions)**

1. How does the metaphor of Jesus as the Chief Shepherd resonate with your understanding of His role in your life and the lives of fellow believers?
2. In what ways can we actively prepare ourselves to receive the promised crown of glory, and how does this promise impact our perseverance in times of difficulty?
3. What are 3 ways we can follow the guidance of the Chief Shepherd in our daily decisions and interactions? Share personal experiences of relying on His leadership.
4. How does the concept of an everlasting crown of glory influence your perspective on success, achievements, and recognition in this world?



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