

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY
"SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"



JOHN 15: 5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

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"TO GOD BE THE GLORY GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE"

BY FANNY CROSBY

" ONLY ONE LIFE, 'TWILL SOON BE PAST ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST"

BY C.T. STUD

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The **Holy Spirit** has touched my heart to write these messages, since I last left my trip and God's work among the churches in Jakarta and Surabaya, Indonesia in January 2012. These messages will help born again believers to grow in the knowledge of the truths from God's words. Since, we are living in the end times where there are so much "confused gospel", it is essential to stick closely to God's words. May "THE SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT" messages be used to the glory of God.

I would like to thank sister Paoline Tjuradi from Surabaya and Anroo my niece, for their work of translation from English into the Indonesian language. Their commitment and effort in the work of translation are deeply appreciated and eternally remembered by the Lord.

I would like to also thank my own sister Mega Melati and my brother in law brother Long Long in Jakarta, for their love of Jesus in contacting all the churches and coordinating the preaching schedule. Lastly, I want to thank my mom Ellyanna in Surabaya for her love of the Lord in assisting me to find the churches and coordinating the work of translation with sister Paoline for the work of this ministry. May the Lord richly bless them as they labor for the Lord for eternity.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

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"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 8:28

LETTER 1

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus,

The Lord has touched my heart to write briefly to inform all saints of the beginning of "Spiritual Food for Thought" Ministry which will equip new born believers and all saints with the truth of the words of God so essential as we are living in the very end times before our Lord comes again; and there appear many false gospels & false teachings so as to confuse many fellow believers. It is very important to do our daily reading of the scripture and to equip us with the truth from the words of God against the spiritual battle of satan. We must equip ourselves with the truth from the word of God.

A brief report of my journey to Jakarta this time that the Lord has saved quite a few people and set many free from the traps of satan. The Lord has marvelously open the doors of churches in both Jakarta and Surabaya as he instructed me to do the work of the Apostle Paul and to tend the sheep which is my responsibility in the isles of the east that in Indonesia, my own countrymen.

You may also forward "Food For Thought" messages to be e-mail to whosoever you wish as the Lord leads. And for all information, you may call Ibu Ellyanna (in Surabaya office).

I will be back in Indonesia at the end of this year to share & witness for the Lord. Please contact Mdm Ellyanna (Surabaya tel:3820-458) for my preaching schedule.

May the Lord continues to use each and everyone of us as we labor with one heart and one mind together for the salvation of our countrymen for the kingdom of God in Jesus name. Amen.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

MY BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I was born in Surabaya, in the island of Java, Indonesia in 1963. For generations, my family had been idol worshippers and practiced Buddhism. Like the Apostle Paul, it is God's grace that I was chosen, separated and sanctified by the Lord who trains me in the ways of truths through His words. Later, He revealed His plan for me to return to my own people to minister to their spiritual needs.

At the age of eleven, I was sent to Singapore for my English and Chinese education. When I was seventeen, I was born again of the spirit of God, and my life was drastically changed. Despite strong disapproval and persecution from my parents, I chose to follow Jesus my Lord and saviour. When I was nineteen, I had a near death experience and an instant miracle healing from the Lord that led me to vow to serve Him, if He would give me a chance to live. Despite my vow to serve the Lord, I was not "a cheerful giver" of myself unto Him, as I wanted to pursue my career as a successful business woman in the world.

Nonetheless, the Lord led me to America to pursue my education and finally graduated from the University of San Francisco. In the mean time, the Lord had marvelously arranged myself to meet two of the most powerful servants of the Lord. These two servants of the Lord, were both imprisoned in China for 20 years for their faith in Christ Jesus. It was through their help and their faithfulness in teaching me the truths from God's words for more than thirteen years, that I became acquainted with the truths from the words of God as a growing Christian. Their lifestyle of absolute faith and charity and their life of prayers have deeply left a permanent impression in my life. All of these are God's plan to prepare me for the ministry that was to be revealed unto me later.

At the age of forty three, the Lord had once again called me to serve Him instead of laboring for the "meat which perishes" (John 6:27). Despite His material blessings on my business, I felt the absolute emptiness of serving "mammon" and responded willingly unto the Lord.

As I willingly submitted and fulfilled my vow as being His servant, the Lord led me to the reality of the spiritual world. I had to go through the powerful attack of satan and experienced "the terror of Gethsemane" and His death on the cross and the presence of hell. I was to

be put to the test of death twice in 3 years with His vision and His words as my warning from the Holy Spirit prior to satan's major attack on my body. As I fell very ill to the point of death, where the doctors could not figure out either what illness I had, my only hope was to remember God's word. His words of prophecy came to me as I was praying at 2 o'clock in the morning about God's work:

"BUT THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES; THEY SHALL RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY; AND THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT FAINT."

(ISAIAH 40:31)

As I was pondering about what strength I was going to lose, the first thing that came to my mind was probably to lose my spiritual strength. Hence after a couple months, I lost all physical strength as the doctor overdosed me with antibiotics and messed up my whole body. I could not get up and lost my energy for 9 months. My hormone and the functions of my organs were all messed up and I was swollen in my whole body. Finally, after my own research, I discovered that the illness that I contracted is called Chronic Fatigue Syndrome that conventional doctors do not know how to explain or heal.

As I lost all my energy, my only hope was the words of God. As I went through this illness, my faith was to be put to test and praise God my only strength was trusting in His words of prophecy. To cut the story short, 9 months later I regained my strength. However, because I did not overcome victoriously this test of death, I was given another vision where I had to be put to another test of death 6 months later. By this time, I had finally overcame the test of death and submitted to the Lord my little son who was barely 3.5 years old, to go to be with the Lord. My heaviest weight in my heart was to leave my son without a mother since he was so young. Hence, I finally trusted him into God's hand as I overcame the fear of death victoriously when the Holy Spirit spoke to me that:

" HE THAT LOVETH SON OR DAUGHTER MORE THAN ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME."

(MATTHEW 10:37)

As the Holy Spirit spoke these words to me, I wept and surrendered my all to Jesus my Lord and Savior. Little did I realize, that these tests of death not only did not kill me but instead, I was filled by the full presence of the Holy Spirit and marked me as His servant as He healed me. This heavy pruning was the most powerful tool of the Lord to

bloom me spiritually closer to God as "THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES" as the words of God prophecy. Thereafter, I am given the gift of a prophet and the spirit of discernment where I am able to detect the presence of satan instantly. Hallelujah, praise be the name of our Lord, for He is always victorious that promise!!

The book of Job and his experiences became mine and Ezekiel chapter 1 where the Cherubs came out of fire that represent the victory of the test of faith as God's servant has been endorsed upon me.

Finally, the visions of the Lord came to me, as I was praying asking Him if He approved of me going to downtown Sacramento to share the gospel of Jesus Christ among the Blacks and Hispanic or Caucasian Americans homeless people. At night, I saw a vision of myself in a church among men of Asian origin where I was told to stand up and said in my mouth: "like the Apostle Paul, I was born again of the spirit of God..."

Later, my Caucasian American neighbor invited me to his church where I told him that the Lord does not lead me to do the spiritual work among the westerners but the easterners. Nonetheless, at his request, I would petition before the Lord. As I went to pray about this matter, the word of the Lord came to me that said:

"WHEREFORE GLORIFY YE THE LORD IN THE EAST AND FIRES, EVEN THE NAME OF THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL IN THE ISLES OF THE SEA."

(ISAIAH 24:15)

Having received this answer to my prayer, I am again confirmed by the Lord to do God's work among the easterners rather than the westerners. What puzzled my mind was: "where are the isles of sea in the East?"

After being healed from these major illnesses, the Lord told me to return to the land of my father since I have not been home for 10 years. It was at this time, that I prayed to the Lord God to save my mother from the power of darkness of her Buddhism, which she had devoted to all her life. To this the Lord had agreed and my mother was saved and became a born again Christian after 28 years of my prayers. My father was also saved after 20 years of prayers. Once again, praise God for His grace and mercy. Finally, my eyes were opened by the Holy Spirit that the isles of

the sea in the East is none other than my own birth place Indonesia, which is the largest archipelago in the whole world that refers to country that made up of islands located in the East. How amazing and accurate are the words of our Lord God!

Later, I recalled that when I just barely graduated from school in America, I had spent time praying for my country Indonesia; since there are millions of precious souls that needed the gospel of Jesus Christ. Little did I realize that God has answered this prayer by sending me back to labor among my own people.

There are so many prayers and testimonies in my life that God had answered. God is always faithful to His words of promise. Indeed, I can only claim as the Apostle Paul says: "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21), "the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

MESSAGE 1

THE 9 FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our Lord tells us in John 15:16

"YE HAVE NOT CHOSEN ME, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU AND ORDAINED YOU, THAT YE SHOULD GO AND BRING FORTH FRUIT, AND THAT YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN: THAT WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK OF THE FATHER IN MY NAME, HE MAY GIVE IT YOU."

It is very important for all saints to realize that the Lord has chosen us for one very important mission, it is called fruit bearing. What then are the fruits of the Holy Spirit that the Lord commanded us to bear and continue to maintain the fruit bearing process?

In Galatians 5:22,23 it tells us clearly that the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit include:

"BUT THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW."

Why is this fruit bearing process so crucial to all the saints?

No.1: Having born much fruit will glorify our heavenly Father. (JOHN 15:8)

No.2: The presence of much fruit will distinguish and mark the characteristics of a Saint or the sheep of the Lord (JOHN 15:8).

No.3 At the same time, this will also reveal the presence of a false prophet who claim to be the followers of Christ when in actual fact they do not show or manifest any fruit of the Holy spirit. Hence our Lord tells us to beware of wolves in the sheep clothing and how do we distinguish them? It is through the presence of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Even if they can do miracles and heals sicknesses etc; but the Lord warns us:

"BY THE FRUIT YE SHALL KNOW THE TREE.A GOOD TREE CAN ONLY BRING GOOD FRUITS AND A CORRUPT TREE BRING FORTH EVIL FRUIT." (MATTHEW 7:15-20)

No.4 As we bear these fruits of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us the authority & privilege to be heard through our prayers.

"IF YE ABIDE IN ME AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU." (JOHN 15:7)

No.5 In the process of fruit bearing, the pruning knives in John 15 will result in many testimonies. Many testimonies are essential in order to battle victoriously against satan.

" AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY; AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH." (REVELATION 12:11)

Finally, it is essential these fruits' bearing processes will ultimately conform us to His image. As this is our Lord's main goal to get us ready as His bride looking like Him so that we can enter into the feast of the marriage of the lamb which is a glorious & blessed event that no carnal mind can even come to comprehend.

"LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE, AND GIVE HONOUR TO HIM: FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB IS COME, AND HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY. AND TO HER WAS GRANTED THAT SHE SHOULD BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN, CLEAN AND WHITE: FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF SAINTS." (REVELATION 19:7-8)

My final words for the saints:

"EYES HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM" (1CORINTHIANS 2:9)

May the Lord richly bless you as you meditate upon his instructions through his words.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 2

THE RULES FOR SUCCESS IN CHRIST JESUS

In this world, everyone aspires to be successful. Whether it is in their work place, in school or wherever they are. Likewise, God's children are given instructions by our Lord as how to be successful in Christ Jesus.

The bible is the words of God, full of promises and directions of life. So that God's children can successfully walk through the journey and the battle of life and finish our life course as destine by our Lord waiting for a crown of life at the end of our "earth little while."

It is sad to see many God's children missing the clear understanding of not emphasizing in reading his instructions contain in the words of God. No wonder, many Christians today in many parts of the world, even though attending churches fail to grow spiritually, becomes a target of satan's attack due to their lack of truths from the words of God because they do not spend time thoroughly reading the words of God.

In Joshua chapter 1,the Lord tells us in order to be successful we must: No.1: meditate the words of God day & night.

"THIS BOOK OF THE LAW SHALL NOT DEPART OUT OF YOUR MOUTH; BUT THOU SHALL MEDITATE THEREIN DAY AND NIGHT, THAT THOU MAYEST OBSERVE TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN THEREIN: FOR THEN THOU SHALT MAKE THY WAY PROSPEROUS, AND THEN THOU SHALT HAVE GOOD SUCCESS." (JOSHUA 1:8)

To meditate means one has first to read the instructions in the bible and then began to think more profoundly of its meaning and then remember them in their hearts. Hence this is the first step to success.

It is not sufficient to just read the bible and understand the meaning of it. For if we merely read and memorize the bible verses and not do them, we will become a group of people in the bible call the Pharisees, who know by the head but never ever attempt to follow & do God's instructions. Hence Jesus calls them hypocrites.

"EVEN SO YE ALSO OUTWARDLY APPEAR RIGHTEOUS UNTO MEN, BUT WITHIN YE ARE FULL OF HYPOCRISY AND INIQUITY" (MATTHEW 23:28)

In today's churches, there are quite a few of these groups of Pharisees.

No.2 What the Lord wants us to do is not just to observe but to act it out and do them. It is when we do them, that the secrets of success and truths become open to our spiritual understanding and we will experience the reality of the presence of God whenever we face difficulties as problems arise in our life.

When we do or act out the words of God, Jesus defines us as No.3 A wise man that builds his house upon the Rock.

"THEREFORE WHOSOEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM, I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK" (MATTHEW 7:24)

Spiritually, we have unconsciously build our faith upon the Rock that represents Jesus.

"AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST" (1CORINTHIANS 10:4)

This is very important because the reason being when the temptation of the world comes, you will not fall. The temptations of the world include:

"THE CARES OF THIS WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULLNESS OF RICHES, AND THE LUSTS OF OTHER THINGS ENTERING IN, CHOKE THE WORD, AND IT BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL."

(MARK 4:19)

No.4 He will manifest himself whenever we need him in times of tribulations.

"HE THAT HATH MY COMMANDMENTS, AND KEEPETH THEM, HE IT IS THAT LOVE ME: AND HE THAT LOVETH ME SHALL BE LOVED OF MY FATHER AND I WILL LOVE HIM, AND WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM" (JOHN 14:21)

In the critical moments of crisis when we cried to our heavenly father in our prayers, the Lord will immediately response to our prayers & open "the Red Sea" if it needs be. Every single prayer will be heard by our heavenly father as long as it falls within his will. In turn, we will experience many testimonies and began to grow in our faith & receive his abundant life. As a result, we will begin to recognize our shepherd more & more.

No.5 Jesus defines those who love him as those who keep his words. Keeping His words means remembering and walking in obedience to his instructions. As a result, the Lord will make a special dwelling place in our hearts.

" IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS: AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM." (JOHN 14:23)

Imagine if the Lord God be with us, the Apostle Paul writes: "IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US" (ROMANS 8:31)

My dearly beloved in Christ Jesus, our final and most important factor to success is our attitude of staying focus unto the Lord. The Lord tells us in Joshua chapter 1 to be strong & very courageous three times. When we walk with the Lord, we must walk by absolute faith in the words of God and his promises. We must not turn to the left or to the right so that we will prosper wherever we go. The moment we off focus from the word of God onto our environment or our human intelligence etc, we have faltered into satan's hand and we will lose sight of the words of God and His promises and falter in our faith and sin. For anything that is not of faith is sin, the Apostle Paul writes (Romans 14:23). On the contrary, the Lord also tells us that if you believe, all things are possible (Mark 9:23). Hence, to prosper we must walk by faith and not by sight.

Finally my brethren, may you observe, meditate and do according to the words of God courageously. Constantly coming before the throne of grace in prayers, checking out our hearts from the presence of sins and confessing them by the blood of Jesus, so that our prayers would be accepted by our heavenly father and not be hindered.

May the Lord richly bless you as you walk in obedience to His rule of success that is to stay focus in: THE WORDS OF GOD

"MANY ARE THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS: BUT THE LORD DELIVERETH HIM OUT OF THEM ALL." (PSALM 34:19)

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 3

THE HOLY SPIRIT

In today's churches, there is so much confusion about the Holy Spirit. Many churches claim that in order to be filled by the Holy Spirit, one must speak in tongue. Others claim that they do miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit. Who exactly is the Holy Spirit? Why does Jesus sends the Holy Spirit and tells his Disciples to wait upon the coming of the Holy Spirit prior to His ascension to heaven witness by many people recorded in the books of Acts Chapter 1.

"BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: AND YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDAEA, AND IN SAMARIA AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH" (Act 1:8)

The bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity being: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father being the highest that controls everything and God the Son being our Saviour and right now our High Priest sitting at the right hand of our Heavenly Father to petition on the behalf of the saints (Hebrew 4:14) and the third person of the trinity: The Holy Spirit is sent by our Lord to fill our hearts as saints and to glorify and uplift our lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father.

Lets take a look at the functions of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the words of God. Our Lord Jesus mentions that the Holy Spirit is sent to us for:

- 1) To reprove the world of sins
- 2) To teach us of righteousness
- 3) Of judgement
- 4) He will guide the saints into all truths
- 5) He will tells us of the things to come in the future
- 6) He will glorify the Lord Jesus

"AND WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OF JUDGEMENT" (JOHN 16:8)

"HOWBEIT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH IS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: FOR HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF; BUT WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK: AND HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME "(JOHN 16:13)

- " HE SHALL GLORIFY ME: FOR HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE, AND SHALL SHEW IT UNTO YOU" (JOHN 16:14)
- 1) To reprove the world of sins refers to when we first are born again by the Spirit of God, it requires the Holy Spirit to do the process of sins purging. He has to remind us and instruct us how to confess our sins with genuine repentance by the blood of our Lord Jesus as atonement for our sins. Hence, we then receive the Holy Spirit, a new life as a born again believer.
- 2) He has to teach us the ways of righteousness according to our Lord's teachings recorded in the bible.
- 3) Of judgment because satan is judged and condemned. This refers to the Holy Spirit giving us his power to overcome sins and satan. The power of satan lies in our sins and our flesh. If we crucify our flesh daily by denying ourselves against our sinful nature, the Holy Spirit is uplifted and will have his free will power to help us overcome our sinful habits. As a result, we begin to grow spiritually and begin to understand the things of the Holy Spirit and our Lord more and more.
- 4) The Holy Spirit's job is to guide us into the truth according to the words of God. Many people try to study the scripture using their own intelligence or their head knowledge which leads to a lot of confusion and errors in their beliefs. However, we are told to resort to asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the truths from the words of God. If you do not understand the bible, please ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and sometimes it does require waiting before the Holy Spirit reveals the truths to us.
- 5) As saints, we may have to go through difficult temptations or tribulations. Prior to going through a super hardship trials, saints are given "a head up" alert by the Holy Spirit what is going to happen in the future in order for us to be able to bear through and victoriously overcome our tribulations.

6) He will always glorify our Lord: The Holy Spirit cannot perform things opposite to the words of the Bible or our Lord's commands. He cannot degrade the image of our Lord. Hence when we see someone claiming using the power of the Holy spirit to perform an act of miracle or speaks in an unknown tongue, please check for the presence of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit in that person's life. The presence of the Holy Spirit must be marked by His characters of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self control. Anything contrary to the characteristics of the Holy Spirit does not belong to the Lord.

Finally and most important of all, the Holy Spirit is our comforter (John 16:7), our advocate or advisor, our intercessor (Romans 8:26-27), our teacher and last but not least our Lord since He is the third person of the Trinity. We must choose to walk with Him and obey Him every moment. The Apostle Paul tells us not to grief or quench the Holy Spirit that indwells us. We must revere the Holy Spirit at all times to stay in our heart by constantly obeying Him. Do not ever allow sin to dwell in our heart, it will grieve the Holy Spirit and continuous sinning without repentance will cause the Holy Spirit to leave and allowing satan to come into one's heart. This caused many believers to fall into satan's trap.

The mark of the presence of the Holy Spirit is experiencing super peace in one's heart. The moment we falter into sin, our heart will feel confuse, fearful, unpeaceful or a heavy burden. These emotions belong to satan and the presence of sins. When the Holy Spirit indicate to you these emotions, He tells you that you have been defiled spiritually and require to check deep in your heart and repent immediately of our sins. When peace is restored into one's heart, we know once again that the Holy Spirit is Lord of our heart. The Apostle Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is not a spirit of Fear but of power, of love and a sound mind (which the Amplified Bible writes as a calm and well balanced mind, and discipline and self control).

"FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND." (2 TIMOTHY 1:7)

May we choose to crucify our flesh daily and choose to obey and be in union with the Holy Spirit. We must present our body, heart and mind to be blameless and pure and sanctified through the truths from the words of God as our Lord says:

"SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH" (JOHN 17 VERSE 17)

May the precious blood of Jesus constantly wash us from all our unrighteousness as we grow in the spirit and be receptive to our Lord and master the Holy Spirit who is our mark of redemption and proof of our eternal life.

May the Lord richly bless you as you walk with the Lord, in the light of His word daily with a heart of thanksgiving at all times.

"THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT." (ROMANS 8:1)

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 4

A HEART OF THANKSGIVING

One of the most important tools of the Holy Spirit, to protect and grow the saints in his or her spiritual journey, is to have a heart of thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul mentions frequently in his epistles to always equip our hearts with thanksgiving no matter where we are or what our circumstances may be. The Apostle Paul writes:

"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU"

(I THESSALONIANS 5:18)

When we have a heart of thanksgiving, we have encouraged ourselves in the Lord and began to count our blessings. As a result, we experience a heart of gratitude and deep appreciation of what the Lord has done for us. Not only we rejoice because we have received the most precious gift of eternal life as well as being blessed because of His presence as we journey through life on earth. As our Heavenly Father, He promises to constantly protect us and guide us on our earth's little while. Besides, our Lord predestinates us to conform to His image by being in union with Him through the abundance of fruit bearing in our daily living as we walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, we receive spiritual protection against our spiritual enemy satan who frequently uses his most powerful tool of discouragement. Many times, God's children falter in their spiritual journey through the discouraging voices of satan. For example, satan would say to you, it is just too hard to get a job or your problems are just too big and nobody can solve them etc. All these negative voices of satan will be overcome when a Saint has a heart of thanksgiving to the Lord God and by focussing on the Lord, all difficulties will be overturned as nothing is impossible with the Lord.

"IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD"

(GENESIS 18 : 14)

Thirdly, a heart of thanksgiving will protect us against the sins of covetousness. Our Lord encourages us to ask and keep on asking when we made our prayers. However, it is an absolute disaster when our asking has been twisted into a heart of greed or covetousness. Many times, God's children falter into the sins of greed. The Apostle Paul tells us that the sin of covetousness or greed is equal to idolatry:

"MORTIFY THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON THE EARTH; FORNICATION, UNCLEANESS, INORDINATE AFFECTION, EVIL CONCUPISCENSE AND COVETOUSNESS, WHICH IS IDOLTARY" (COLOSSIANS 3:5)

For example, if we greed after money or mammon, we will falter into all kinds of sins as we began to worship money instead of the Lord. Our focus on mammon will result in off focusing from the Lord onto mammon and just as our Lord mentions that no man can serve 2 masters and hence the result of idolatry when one began to worship mammon instead of Jesus.

"NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS: FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE, AND LOVE THE OTHER; OR ELSE HE WILL HOLD TO THE ONE, AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YE CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON." (MATTHEW 6:24)

Fourthly and most important, our hearts of thanksgiving are essential to the fruit bearing process that is required for spiritual growth and maturity of all saints. Under the pruning knives (John 15), mentions by our Lord, in order to bear every fruit and for the wise virgins to receive each drop of oil (Matthew 25) to fill her flask of oil, all Saints must have a heart of thanksgiving; even though circumstances may prove to be the opposite momentarily. Without a heart of thanksgiving, we will all falter into our flesh. We tend to complain, grumble and feel dissatisfied. This will prevent us from maturing spiritually.

Finally, our hearts of thanksgiving will lead to a heart of contentment and peace. Just as the Apostle Paul reminds us:

"BUT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN.
FOR WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD AND IT IS
CERTAIN WE CAN CARRY NOTHING OUT. HAVING FOOD AND
RAIMENT LET US BE THEREWITH CONTENT."

(1 TIMOTHY 6:6,7,8)

Our highest spiritual maturity is reflected by our hearts of thanksgiving and contentment as the Apostle Paul writes:

"NOT THAT I SPEAK IN RESPECT OF WANT: FOR I HAVE LEARNED, IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT." (PHILIPPIANS 4:11)

Let us learn to be like King David who praises God seven times a day (Psalm 119:164) and magnifies the Lord with thanksgiving (Psalm 69:30)

May the Lord richly bless you as you praise him with a heart of thanksgiving at all times.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 5

CHARITY OR GOD'S LOVE

In this world and even in many churches today, what is truly missing is Charity. What is Charity and why are we missing this quality in life and many places today? Charity is God's love. It cannot be produced by the flesh or human effort. It is in fact the highest gift or fruit of the Holy Spirit. For a Christian babe in Christ to climb the ladder of spiritual growth to final maturity in Christ Jesus, one must finally receive the gift of Charity from the Lord through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul describes Charity or God's love as a character that includes enduring for long and is patient and kind.

"CHARITY SUFFERETH LONG, AND IS KIND" (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4)

All of us, from the very day we are born, are naturally impatient. For example, some people get angry easily when they are hungry while others get angry easily and lose their patience when they waited for too long etc. It is not in our nature to have patience as patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is also one of the character that make up Charity. Without patience, there is no charity. In fact, Charity requires the highest level of patience.

Secondly, Charity is kindness towards others. Kindness includes a heart of mercy towards others. In this world, it is generally full of unkindness towards others and hence the lack of quality of kindness. But the Lord gives us a gift of kindness as part of Charity. If we failed to manifest kindness towards others, we have not attained Charity.

Thirdly, Charity does not consist any form of pride that include boastfulness or vain glorious action. For example, buying a very expensive car to show to others in order to prove that they are richer than others is a vain glorious action. Such thought or attitude is a form of pride and does not exist in Charity. Fourthly, Charity does not contain any form of jealousy nor envy towards others in any circumstances.

" CHARITY ENVIETH NOT; CHARITY VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP" (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4)

FIFTHLY, Charity is not rude towards others but rather fill with wisdom neither "act unbecomingly " which refers to actions that reveal foolishness and impurely motivated or evil. Charity also means that one is not easily provoked or irritated or riled to anger.

" DOTH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY, SEEKETH NOT HER OWN, IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED, THINKETH NO EVIL " (1 CORINTHIANS 13: 5)

Charity is never selfish or self centered. This character of fallen sinful man has resulted in so many sinful and painful consequences both in society and at home. For example, when one is selfish and only thinks for one self, they tend to steal or robbed others as they have no care or concern for others. Hence the rise in the crime rate in society. Likewise, divorce rate in society has been increasing at an alarming rate as one of the spouse does not care or think profoundly the consequences for his or her action towards his spouse and the destruction of their marriage relationship and merely focuses in his or her selfish action. These include actions such as extra marital affairs etc. that resulted in the broken homes or families. When one behaves in this selfish way, one has not attained Charity.

Finally, the Apostle Paul reminds us that Charity never rejoices over iniquities or sins but rather rejoices in truth. Many people feels happy when some evil befalls to those they do not like or hate. However, the Apostle Paul tells us to only rejoice in truths.

" REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH;" (1 CORINTHIANS 13:6)

The highest and most important quality of Charity is that it "beareth" all things no matter how difficult or painful the circumstances may be. "Believeth" in the Lord in everything that befalls on them. Having positive hope in every single situation and enduring the sufferings of Christ in every trials and temptations that the Lord wants us to go through. Hence Charity will never fail us.

"BEARETH ALL THINGS, BELIEVETH ALL THINGS, HOPETH ALL THINGS, ENDURETH ALL THINGS. CHARITY NEVER FAILETH" (1 CORINTHIANS 13:7,8)

It is this amazing quality of the Holy Spirit of Charity that the Lord wants to endow or gift us to all of His sheep as they grow from babes to maturity in Christ Jesus. Why? It is because God is love and to be in total union in Him, we must dwell in love.

" GOD IS LOVE; AND HE THAT DWELLETH IN LOVE DWELLETH IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM" (1 JOHN 4:16)

Secondly, perfect love cast away any form of fear (1 John 4:18) which comes from the devil since he is the father of fear. When one has fear, one has not attained spiritual maturity or Charity as fear produces torment. Hence in order for a sheep to grow into his perfect love or Charity like the Apostle Paul, the Lord has to send into our lives constant pruning knives to prune us to attain His fullness or image of maturity in Christ Jesus in order to receive Charity. It is of no wonder that the Apostle Paul remarks that:

" WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. FOR WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON" (ROMANS 8:28,29)

May the Lord richly bless you as you strife towards Charity in your daily living as you walk in obedience to the words of God in constant union with the Holy Spirit who indwell within our hearts.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 6

OUR ETERNAL IDENTITY & THE LAW OF GRACE

Who are we in Christ Jesus? And what is our identity? Many Christians are confused today and many preachers and churches are relaying confused gospels that do not feed the children of God with truths or spiritual food. It is of no wonder, that God's children do not have the power or strength to resist our spiritual enemy the devil which uses our flesh and the world to capture us and prevent many from growing spiritually and life filled with victory in Christ Jesus.

Many churches emphasize in carnal laws and legalistic attitude written in the Old Testament, while others confuse and mix the carnal laws of the Old Testament with the Law of Grace from the New Testament. Some Churches practice laws that do not permit women from preaching, while others observe sabbatical worship on Saturday or abstaining certain food such as pork or practicing circumcision or tithing etc.

Paul writes clearly that the Old Testament laws end in Christ Jesus and the New Testament is a new contract or covenant that operates in a much higher laws call as the "law of Grace" led by the Holy Spirit and operated through love by faith.

"FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERYONE THAT BELIEVETH"

(ROMANS 10:4)

"FOR IN CHRIST JESUS NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANYTHING NOR UNCIRCUMCISION; BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE"

(GALATIANS 5:6)

The Apostle Paul emphasizes further in the epistle to the Galatians about this confusion and the Galatians Christians are just as confuse as they try to operate in the carnal laws of the Old Testament. Hence Paul was trying to explain to them that operating under the Old Testament laws cannot save them neither can they receive life through keeping the laws. In the Old Testament, there are more than 600 laws, if anyone fail

in keeping one of the laws, they have transgressed or broken all laws. The words of God tell us that God's laws are spiritual and we cannot fulfil them at all times since we are carnal.

" BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD: FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE"

"SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD." (ROMANS 8:7,8)

Further Paul mentions the impossibility to fulfil all the Old Testament laws through our self effort or our flesh as we cannot but produce evil due to our sinful nature.

- "FOR I KNOW THAT IN ME (THAT IS IN MY FLESH) DWELLETH NO GOOD THING: FOR TO WILL IS PRESENT WITH ME; BUT HOW TO PERFORM THAT WHICH IS GOOD I FIND NOT."
- " FOR THE GOOD THAT I WOULD I DO NOT: BUT THE EVIL WHICH I WOULD NOT, THAT I DO.
- " NOW IF I DO THAT I WOULD NOT, IT IS NO MORE I THAT DO IT, BUT SIN THAT DWELLETH IN ME."
 (ROMANS 7:18,19,20)

Hence, our Lord God has to replace the carnal laws with the laws of the Holy Spirit that operates in a much higher laws than carnal laws. By receiving the Holy Spirit as our intercessor or our "middle man", we are linked back in our relationship with our heavenly father. In the meantime, it is through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our heart that the Lord restores what mankind has lost in the Garden of Eden and gives us back our eternal life. Therefore, when we accept Jesus Christ as our personal savior and are born again of the Spirit of God, He gives us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts in order to help us fulfill the spiritual laws of God.

"...BUT THE SPIRIT ITSELF MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED."
(ROMANS 8:26)

Once we are born again of the Spirit of God, we now need to live or operate under the "New Laws of Grace" led by the Holy Spirit according to His touch in everything that we do, on the basis of faith. In other words, if you do certain things and do not feel peaceful, then the Holy Spirit indicates clearly not to do it. Hence, we must obey the Holy Spirit and walk by the touch of the Holy Spirit by Faith.

The Apostle Paul tells us that we must operate under the 4 laws of the Holy Spirit written in the New Testament. The 4 laws include:

- 1. I can do all things as long as it glorifies God'
- " WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."
 (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31)
- 2. I can do everything as long as it edifies or benefit myself physically, mentally and spiritually.
- " ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME, BUT ALL THINGS ARE NOT EXPEDIENT: ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME, BUT ALL THINGS EDIFY NOT"

(1 CORINTHIANS 10:23)

- 3. I can do everything as long as it benefits or edifies others physically, mentally and spiritually.
- " LET NO ONE THEN SEEK HIS OWN GOOD AND ADVANTAGE AND PROFIT, BUT(RATHER) EACH ONE OF THE OTHER (LET HIM SEEK THE WELFARE OF HIS NEIGHBOR)

(1 CORINTHIANS 10:24)

- 4. I can do everything as long as I am not enslaved or under the control of it
- "ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL UNTO ME BUT ALL THINGS ARE NOT EXPEDIENT: ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME BUT I WILL NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER THE POWER OF ANY.

(1 CORINTHIANS 6:12)

The Laws of Grace in the New Testament that operate on these 4 laws must be accompanied in obedience to the touch and guidance of the Holy Spirit by Faith. For anything that is not of faith becomes sin.

"THIS I SAY THEN, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFIL THE LUST OF THE FLESH"

(GALATIANS 5:16)

"THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH"

(ROMANS 1:17)

"FOR WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN."
(ROMANS 14:23)

Therefore the apostle Paul tells us that if we were to operate in the laws of Grace and be led by the Holy Spirit, then we are no longer under the laws of the Old Testament which are strictly for those who operate in their carnal or sinful nature. Hence, these carnal laws does not apply to the saints that walk according to the Holy Spirit as they bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit which are beyond the carnal laws.

"BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERINGS, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW."

(GALATIANS 5:22,23)

Finally, the Lord looks at His children according to their eternal identity. We are not looked upon at our physical appearance, marital status or our sexes or our nationality, races or our denominations etc. As these do not exist in heaven and they are but our temporal identity that will go away when we leave this temporal earth's little while. We are looked upon as a new creation in Christ Jesus, a child of a living God, a saint, a good and faithful servant and finally a bride of Christ ready for the Feast of the Lamb prepare for eternity.

- " FOR YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."
- "THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER BOND NOR FREE, THERE IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS"

(GALATIANS 3: 26,28)

Finally, let us beware of the false gospel in churches that confuses believers with lies of legalistic laws that prevent God's children from receiving spiritual food that are essential for spiritual growth. Let us focus on our eternal identity as a faithful servant of the Lord and may we uplift and put on Christ Jesus our Lord at all times. Amen

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 7

WHAT IS A TRUE WORSHIP?

One day, a Samaritan women met our Lord who argued about the right place to worship. Hence, our Lord's reply is that true worship is not a matter of physical location but more importantly, the time has come where genuine worshippers must worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. As God is a spirit and it requires the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts in order to worship the Lord.

"BUT THE HOUR COMETH, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH: FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM."

"GOD IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH." (JOHN 4:23,24)

Many Christians today, do not comprehend the genuine meaning of worshipping the Lord. Many attended churches weeks after weeks routinely thinking that they have done their duties of worshipping the Lord. At the same time, many churches have become a place of socialization, money making club and even a place of activities offering many worldly services such as playing sports, dancing and cookery classes and has become job opportunity place in order to attract others into the church. It is of no wonder our Lord Jesus has to cast out all of them that sold and bought in the temple, overthrew the tables of money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves.

" IT IS WRITTEN, MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED THE HOUSE OF PRAYER; BUT YE HAVE MADE IT A DEN OF THIEVES" (MATTHEW 21:13)

Indeed, it is sad to see many churches repeat what the Jewish temple has done in the past despite the Lord's absolute disapproval as written clearly in the words of God.

So then, how do we truly worship in the Lord? Our Lord Jesus tells us:

1) We must worship in the spirit:

What is the meaning of worshipping in the spirit? As genuine children of God, we must all be born again of the Spirit of God. Once we have thoroughly confessed our sins and acknowledge the Lord's death on the cross as our payment of sins, we would then receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts by faith.

- " BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, EVEN TO THEM THAT BELIEVE ON HIS NAME."
- " WHICH WERE BORN, NOT OF BLOOD, NOR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH, NOR OF THE WILL OF MAN, BUT OF GOD."

(JOHN 1:12,13)

Once we have received the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we must walk according to the touch of the Holy Spirit and carefully maintain the presence of the Holy Spirit at all times by being sanctified through the words of God.

- "I PRAY NOT THAT THOU SHOULDEST TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT THOU SHOULDEST KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL.
- "THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD."
- "SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH. THY WORD IS TRUTH." (JOHN 17:15,16,17)

The Lord tells us, that even though we are in the world, we truly do not belong to the world. In order to keep us holy, we must constantly resort to the words of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit to remind us, guide us, guard us and counsel us according to God's words, whenever we are face with the daily trials.

In our daily battle, our spiritual enemies, the devil will use his tools to constantly attempt to defile us. The devil will find every opportunity to "choke out" the Holy Spirit and the words of God from our hearts by causing God's children to walk in disobedience and sins. The devil's tools include:

- 1) The cares of this world which include excessive worries about things such as how to look good, what others might think, one's health, education etc.
- 2) The deceitfulness of riches: how to make lots of money and idolizing it etc.
- 3) The lust of other things including the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh etc.
- 4) Pleasure of the world that becomes an idol and competes with the Holy Spirit.

"AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES AND THE LUSTS OF OTHER THINGS, ENTERING IN, CHOKE THE WORD, AND IT BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL.

(MARK 4: 19)

"AND THAT WHICH FELL AMONG THORNS ARE THEY, WHICH, WHEN THEY HAVE HEARD, GO FORTH, AND ARE CHOKED WITH CARES AND RICHES AND PLEASURES OF THIS LIFE AND BRING NO FRUIT TO PERFECTION."

(LUKE 8: 14)

Once, God's children become defile, they will not be able to abide in Christ and become unfruitful failing to bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit that include:

" LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE ..."

(GALATIANS 5: 22, 23)

Until and unless God's children repent immediately, the Holy Spirit will be grieved and quenched in time. Refusal to repent of continuos sinning not only will "choke" the word of God from our hearts and mind, it will ultimately cause the Holy Spirit to leave since He is holy and cannot dwell in a filthy heart or body which is the temple of God.

"WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN?"

(1 CORINTHIANS 6:19)

When God's children has fallen into this state, He is also unable to worship the Lord any longer. He can be in a church or prayer meeting or

in a fellowship. Yet, he is unable to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. He becomes totally disconnected from worshipping the Lord since he is void of the Holy Spirit and is filled with sins and has fallen into satan's trap.

Hence in order to restore genuine worship, one must repent thoroughly of one's sins and be restored through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Genuine repentance would require disconnecting from repeated sins and walking in the opposite direction away from sins according to the words of God.

Let us all worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let us all walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit and constantly protecting the Holy Spirit within our hearts and not allow the evil one to touch Him.

" WE KNOW THAT WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD SINNETH NOT; BUT HE THAT IS BEGOTTEN OF GOD KEEPETH HIMSELF, AND THAT THE WICKED ONE TOUCHETH HIM NOT."

(1 JOHN 5:18)

Let us continue to fill our hearts and our mind with his words and be constantly sanctified with the truth as we worship the Lord with a pure heart and mind. This is pleasing in His sight for God seeks such to worship. Amen.

- "BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART: FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD" (MATTHEW 5:8)
- "O WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS: FEAR BEFORE HIM, ALL THE EARTH." (PSALM 96: 9)
- " LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS... BE YE THANKFUL."
- "LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY IN ALL WISDOM: TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD."

(COLOSSIANS 3:15,16)

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

MESSAGE 8

THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND GOD'S ARMOUR

For generations countries have been gearing up and preparing their armies to face their enemies in case of a war. Likewise, God's children must be prepared as the armies of God to face their spiritual enemies everyday.

The Apostle Paul tells us that our main enemies are not physical beings, rather they are spiritual by nature that include the master spirits and spirit of wickedness referring to satan that control this present world where we live in.

"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." (EPHESIANS 6:12)

Satan many times can use physical beings such as our friends, our customers, our family members or our supervisors to attack us spiritually by presenting to us problems that become a spiritual warfare for God's children. For example, some unbelieving parents or spouse may persecute their children or spouse for believing in Jesus. In communist China during the Chinese revolution, many preachers or God's servants were sent to jail for not bowing down to the picture of Mao Tze Tung their communist leader. While others have been fired or lost their jobs because they maintain their faith in refusing to do things that are dishonest or unethical or against the words of God.

Secondly, if satan fails to knock down God's children using his weapon of direct attack by others, then he will began to use another tool to prevent us from journeying further up in the path of the cross. One of the most powerful tools that satan would use that is within ourselves include "the world". The Bible defines "the world" not as the physical or material world surroundings where we live; rather it is define in 3 categories:

- 1) the lust of the flesh
- 2) the lust of the eyes
- 3) the pride of life

"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"

(1 JOHN 2:16)

The lust of the flesh is described by the Amplified Bible as anything that includes all cravings for sensual gratification that are not needed. For example eating food daily 2 to 3 times a day is essential for our physical health. Gluttony, however is an action of nonstop excess eating beyond control that becomes unhealthy and resulted in overweight individuals. Many people resort to gluttony or non-stop eating when they are stressed and nervous. This action of gluttony is damaging to the body and it is a sin as it has fallen into the category of the lust of the flesh. Other examples of the lust of the flesh include excessive sleeping due to laziness or sexual lust in extramarital affairs etc.

The lust of the eyes is described by the Amplified Bible as the greedy longings of the mind. Some would shop for things that are not needed continuously on the daily basis without control while others would long to read unhealthy novels, non-stop watching of videos or playing video games and even seeing pornography etc.

These 2 categories indwell in our physical fallen nature of man. When Adam and Eve sin in the Garden of Eden, the law of sins overtake our body and our physical appetites have now fallen into sin and become tools to satan as he now has the power to control us even in our physical being. It is of no wonder, the solution to walking with Jesus is to kill or crucify our sinful nature which is an enemy to God's nature.

"THEN SAID JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES, IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME." (MATTHEW 16:24)

It is this ferocious battle against our own sinful nature that prevents God's children from growing in the Lord and reaching the ultimate destination of conforming to the image of Christ and finishing the path of the cross victoriously. Many Christians have fallen into satan's hand in these areas and left their faith as satan attack them ferociously.

The pride of life is described by the Amplified Bible as the assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things. In other words, if a Christian is blessed financially or materially and is able to utilize God's financial blessings to the glory of God, it is considered a wonderful deed. Since he is transferring his treasures up to his eternal

"bank" in heaven whenever he does it from his heart out of love as unto the Lord. Remember the story of Mary who genuinely loves the Lord and pours her precious and expensive ointment on the Lord's head prior to the Lord's death? This ointment was supposed to be used for her wedding as a Jewish culture and it takes her lifetime of savings to be used for this grand day of her wedding. Yet she chooses to pour her all unto Jesus. In return, Jesus gives her eternal praise and remark for what she has done. Someday when we meet her in eternity, we will know her by her wonderful deed which is recorded forever.

The problem today, many Christians fail to utilize God's financial blessings for God's kingdom. Instead, when the Lord bless them, they have fallen into the sins of worshipping "mammon". They have depended totally on their financial security instead of the Lord God. Their faith stands in the presence of their financial gain instead of the Lord. They forget that these financial and material gain are temporal by nature and does not last for eternity. By worshipping money, they have fallen into the sins of idolatry and are no longer able to continue their spiritual growth and journey along the path of the cross. The enemy satan has now trapped them into the "financial pit" and captures them through his lies for financial security. Remember that all idolaters cannot enter the kingdom of God but be burned in the lake of fire for eternity.

"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 BURNETH WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE: WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH.

(REVELATION 21: 8)

To counteract all of these attacks of satan, let us therefore put on the whole armour of God.

" WHEREFORE TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, AND THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.

(EPHESIANS 6:13)

The Apostle Paul reminds and teaches us how to put this armour completely in order to protect us while journeying in this path of the cross.

1) We must put on the belt of truth around our loins. Truth means that we must understand and read the words of God daily and

keeping God's words of truth in our heart at all times. So that when satan's lies come, we will be able to detect instantly. Hence keeping us sanctify through his words and preventing us to falter into satan's trap of lies.

- 2) We must put on the breastplate of righteousness. In other words, we must at all times be holy and cleanse of any sins in our hearts and be in the right relationship with God. The presence of sins will render us powerless against the enemy and create a loophole for satan to come into our heart and began his work of destruction. Hence, God's children must daily checkout and repent of sins through the blood of Jesus whenever they falter in sin.
- 3) We must put on the shoes of the gospel of peace. Whenever we go, we must carry with us the imprint of the foot of Christ. We must be victorious and be filled by the Holy Spirit at all times. As a faithful servant, we continue to shine forth as a salt and a light wherever we go. Always carrying with us the good news of the gospel of Jesus wherever the Holy Spirit lead us to go.
- 4) We must put on faith as our shield. As anything that is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23) The moment we lost our faith, we have dangerously fallen into the hand of our spiritual enemy and we need to immediately restore our faith through repentance.
- 5) We must put on the helmet of Salvation. This refers to our constant linking with the Holy Spirit after we are born again of the spirit of God.
- 6) Finally, we must have the sword of the spirit. This refers to the rich knowledge of the words of God. Hence, God's children must daily spent time studying the words of God and remember them.
- 7) To provide our alertness and watchfulness towards our goal with perseverance, we must spend time in spiritual prayers. All God's children must pray daily and frequently. Also, we must spent time in spiritual prayers and meditations of the words of God in "the wilderness" whenever the Holy Spirit leads us to do so. Praying in "the wilderness" means spending time in prayers alone with the Lord. It is a pair of wings of the eagle that will protect us and nourish us spiritually whenever satan

attacks us through the floods of the world. Whenever we feel spiritually weaken, we must resort to our pair of eagle's wings which spiritually means praying and reading His words alone in the wee hours before the sun rises. Such habitual spiritual quiet time and prayers are essential for the spiritual growth of God's children.

"TO THE WOMAN WERE GIVEN **TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE**, THAT SHE MIGHT FLY INTO **THE WILDERNESS**, INTO HER PLACE, WHERE SHE IS NOURISHED FOR A TIME, AND TIMES, AND HALF A TIME, FROM THE FACE OF A SERPENT.

"AND THE SERPENT CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH WATER AS A **FLOOD** AFTER THE WOMAN, THAT HE MIGHT CAUSE HER TO BE CARRIED AWAY OF THE FLOOD."

(REVELATION 12: 14,15)

Let us all put on the whole armour of God, so that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Let us run the race along the path of the cross with patience looking at all times unto our Lord as the author and the finisher of our faith (Hebrew 12:2).

May the Lord richly bless you with the knowledge and the truth from His words and prayers, never to forget His armour at all times

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

MESSAGE 9

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF A RISEN SAVIOUR

One of the most important characteristics of a good and faithful servant of the Lord is following the footsteps of our Risen Savior. The book of Ezekiel chapter 1 found in the Old Testament is written for this purpose. Many Christians and even many preachers fail to see the truth of this chapter as it is written in a symbolical format merely describing in details the characteristics of the Cherubims. In reality, this chapter holds one of the richest guidelines for a victorious servanthood of Jesus Christ. In order to understand this chapter, one must read it in the context of its spiritual meanings in the light of the understanding of the whole scripture.

The Cherubims are the angels of the Lord that are ministering spirit and represent the image of the servant of the Lord. The book of Hebrew tells us that angels are servants of the Lord sent forth to serve God's children.

"ARE THEY NOT ALL MINISTERING SPIRITS, SENT FORTH TO MINISTER FOR THEM WHO SHALL BE HEIRS OF SALVATION?" (HEBREWS 1:14)

Hence, the Cherubims spiritually represent God's servants or God's children. Each Cherub has four faces that include:

- 1) the face of a man in front
- 2) the face of a lion to the right side
- 3) the face of an ox to the left side
- 4) the face of an eagle at the back of the head

The face of a man spiritually represents the face of the son of man referring to Jesus. Hence as God's servant or God's children, we must face others with the face of a man. In other words, when dealing with others, we must deal as our Lord Jesus deals with others. Our Lord gives us an example of kindness, compassionate towards others and humility. Hence, we do not face our wives, husbands, children, parents or others with ferociousness or anger or unkindness but rather the opposite as given the examples by our Lord. We are not allowed to harm or do evil towards

others. As our Lord instructed us to be as meek as a dove or harmless, guileless and without falsity as described in the Amplified Bible.

However, we must put on the face of an eagle behind the face of the man. All eagles are known to fly up high in the sky and they have very sharp eyes to see clearly from far their enemies or their morsels. Hence, as God's children, apart from having the face of a man in front, we must also have the face and the eyes of an eagle when facing our spiritual enemies. We must be filled with wisdom when facing others who are being used by satan to harm us. As God's children, we need to be harmless and kind towards others but at the same time we need wisdom from the Holy Spirit when satan who are using others are about to harm us. Whenever we are faced with false prophets, we must immediately be able to detect them. Many times, the Holy Spirit will alert us when we are faced with the false prophets or when danger arises as satan is about to harm us. Hence, our Lord's advice through his words:

"BEHOLD. I SEND YOU FORTH AS SHEEP IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES: BE YE THEREFORE WISE AS SERPENTS, AND HARMLESS AS DOVES." (MATTHEW 10:16)

The third face that God's children must put on is the face of a lion to the right side. Lion is known as a ferocious animal and the king of a jungle. Spiritually, the symbol lion refers to our Lord's victory over satan, sins and death as written in revelation 5:

" THE LION TRIBE OF JUDA, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HATH PREVAILED TO OPEN THE BOOK, AND TO LOOSE THE SEVEN SEALS THEREOF." (REVELATION 5:5)

Hence, towards satan and things that belong to satan such as sins and the fear of death etc, we must put on the face of a lion, ferocious and no compromise against satan and its tools whether it is the false prophets, false gospels or any kinds of sins. We must put on Christ and His victorious power whenever we are faced with trials and temptations from our spiritual enemy.

The fourth face that God's children must put on is the face of an ox to the left side. An ox is always known for faithfully ploughing a farm and to assist a farmer. Hence, spiritually an ox represents the attitude of a faithful servant towards the things of the Lord. He must be faithful and diligent towards God's work and always stands as a servant and never to steal God's glory or be in God's position.

It is very important, for God's children to have these four faces in the right order at all times. Rotating these faces in the wrong order would be a disaster. Many Christians are very confused about the truths from God's words and many times would rotate these four faces in the wrong order resulting their inability to grow spiritually and are unable to continue in their spiritual journey as they have fallen into satan's trap as a result.

Apart from having the four faces and the hands of a man, the Cherubims' bodies are covered with 4 wings. These wings are given for their protections. In a ferocious battle, God's children must act like the Cherubs and resorted to their "eagle's wings" to fly into the wilderness to receive spiritual food and strength from the throne of Grace through spending time in prayers and meditating on the words of God alone with the Lord.

"AND TO THE WOMAN WERE GIVEN TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE, THAT SHE MIGHT FLY INTO THE WILDERNESS, INTO HER PLACE, WHERE SHE IS NOURISHED FOR A TIME, AND TIMES, AND HALF A TIME, FROM THE FACE OF THE SERPENT."

(REVELATION 12:14)

It is through these four wings that covered the body of a saint through the power of prayers and nourishing and healing power from the words of God which refers spiritually to ingesting "Manna".

" HE THAT EATETH MY FLESH, AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, DWELLETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM"

(JOHN 6:56)

By ingesting "spiritual Manna", we are now in union with our Lord Jesus himself so that we will receive strength to fight and be victorious in the battle against our spiritual enemy.

"LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED."

(HEBREWS 4:16)

The cherubims' feet were straight and their soles were calf-like but sparkle like the color of the burnished brass.

"AND THEIR FEET WERE STRAIGHT FEET; AND THE SOLE OF THEIR FEET WAS LIKE THE SOLE OF A CALF'S FOOT: AND THEY SPARKLED LIKE THE COLOUR OF BURNISHED BRASS."

(EZEKIEL 1:7)

Unlike in the world that is filled with wicked deeds and craftiness, God's children must walk absolutely honest and honourable in the sight of the Lord when dealing with others. Just like the Cherubs, not only our feet are straight, referring to our righteous conduct towards others, we must also follow the footstep of Jesus as His servant, which is represented by the soles of the calf. It is not sufficient to be just a servant of Jesus, but more importantly the footstep of a servant of Christ must be marked with the sparkle of the burnished brass which refer to the victorious step of Christ. Many Christians try to serve the Lord in their own footsteps. Sad to say, these so call "servants" of the Lord fail to manifest the "sparkle footsteps of Christ" as they falter into all kinds of sinful deeds such as committing fornication or worshipping mammon by becoming rich using the church's money etc.

At the same time, the path of the Cherubs is "straight forward". They do not turn to the left or right whenever they move. In Joshua chapter 1, the Lord commands His children that when we journey, we must be of a good courage and focusing on His words, meditating on them without turning to the right or to the left.

"ONLY BE THOU STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS, THAT THOU MAYEST OBSERVE TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THE LAW, WHICH MOSES MY SERVANT COMMANDED THEE: TURN NOT FROM IT TO THE RIGHT HAND OR TO THE LEFT, THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER WHITHERSOEVER THOU GOEST."

(JOSHUA 1:7)

Hence, we must follow the path of the Cherubs, as God has instructed us not to look upon our environment or difficulties on the left or the right of us. Also, the Cherub would only go when the Holy Spirit instructed them to go. Likewise, God's children must be led and guided by the Holy Spirit in all the things that we do. We must never walk outside of the instructions of the Holy Spirit as we will falter into satan's trap when we walk in disobedience to the Lord.

Finally, the life of the Cherub lies in the living wheels where the rings are filled with eyes. The living wheels refer to the words of God which refer to Christ Himself and only the Holy Spirit and the Lord could see with perfect eyesight. You see, every human being is given but a pair of eyes. What we could see are very limited. Yet our Lord God could see perfectly as it is symbolized in the rings of the wheels that are filled with eyes.

" AS FOR THEIR RINGS, THEY WERE SO HIGH THAT THEY WERE DREADFUL; AND THEIR RINGS WERE FULL OF EYES ROUND ABOUT THEM FOUR." (EZEKIEL 1:18)

Also, the work of the Holy Spirit must go hand in hand with the words of God. They cannot go in opposite direction of each other as the spirit of the living creature is in the wheel. They are closely knit together and operate in the same direction. God's children must learn to recognize that the Holy Spirit can only uplift God's words and act according to the words of God.

" WHITHERSOEVER THE SPIRIT WAS TO GO, THEY WENT, THITHER WAS THEIR SPIRIT TO GO; AND THE WHEELS WERE LIFTED UP OVER AGAINST THEM: FOR THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING CREATURE WAS IN THE WHEELS."

(EZEKIEL 1:20)

Last but not least, a servant of the Lord must come out of fire before being mark as a victorious servant of the Lord. They have to go through the test of faith by coming out of the fire victoriously. It is only then, that they carry the mark of Christ, the power of the Risen Saviour in their pairs of wings as the voice of the Almighty.

- "...OUT OF THE MIDST OF THE FIRE. ALSO OUT OF THE MIDST THEREOF CAME THE LIKENESS OF FOUR LIVING CREATURES. AND THIS WAS THEIR APPEARANCE; THEY HAD THE LIKENESS OF A MAN." (EZEKIEL 1:4,5)
- " AND WHEN THEY WENT, I HEARD THE NOISE OF THEIR WINGS, LIKE THE NOISE OF GREAT WATERS, AS THE VOICE OF THE ALMIGHTY" (EZEKIEL 1:24)

May we all follow the footsteps of our Risen Saviour. May we carry with us the four faces of the cherubs and their powerful wings of prayers and meditating of God's words, until the day we see our Lord God face to face. Amen.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

MESSAGE 10

ARE YOU BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD?

Every Sunday, we see crowds of people entering the sanctuary to worship the Lord. Among these "church goers", not all are Christians. The mix crowd will include: unbelievers who comes into a church for wrong motives, a nominal Christian who try to go to church to have a mere religious service and finally the children of God who are called as born again Christians.

Until and unless, one is born again of the Spirit of God, one cannot enter the kingdom of God or claim as a Christian.

"VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO THEE, EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

(JOHN 3: 3)

The Apostle Paul tells us, that the natural man cannot understand the things of the spirit and it is foolishness unto him, as he does not possess the spirit of the Lord. It is for this reason that one must be born of the spirit of God in order to receive the Holy Spirit into one's heart.

"BUT THE NATURAL MAN RECEIVETH NOT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD: FOR THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM: NEITHER CAN HE KNOW THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED."

(1 CORINTHIANS 2:14)

Believing in Jesus is not a religion. It is a relationship with our saviour through the presence of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Religion is defined as man's effort of reaching God, while Jesus Christ is God's salvation, His way of reaching and saving mankind.

A born again believer is a forgiven child of a living God. He or she is marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit, the moment a pardon of sins is received. "BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, EVEN TO THEM THAT BELIEVE ON HIS NAME:

WHICH WERE BORN, NOT OF BLOOD, NOR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH, NOR OF THE WILL OF MAN, BUT OF GOD."

(JOHN 1: 12,13)

The presence of the Holy Spirit in one's heart is the final proof of purchase redemption, a transaction by the blood of Jesus, which represent His life for our life.

"IN WHOM YE ALSO TRUSTED, AFTER THAT YE HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION: IN WHOM ALSO AFTER THAT YE BELIEVED, YE WERE SEALED WITH THAT HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISED,

WHICH IS THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION, UNTO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY." (EPHESIANS 1: 13, 14)

When our Lord Jesus died on the cross, He paid a very dear price with His own life in order to redeem His Sheep from the cost of sin, which is eternal death and damnation. In order to justify the law of God and maintain His righteousness, holiness and His love for us all, Jesus has to die on the cross. By paying our sin debt in full, He has made a transaction whereby His righteousness become ours when we confess and repent genuinely our sins by faith and believe that His death on Calvary as a full payment for our sins. It is on the cross that our Lord took upon himself the sinful curse of mankind and paid it in full through His death, fulfilling the mark of salvation made available freely to all man kind who chooses to believe. Hence the words of the Lord proclaim:

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

(JOHN 3:16)

Just as our Lord mentions to Nicodemus, a Pharisees and a religious leader of Israel who has not experienced spiritual rebirth, a born again experience is as real as physical birth.

" THAT WHICH BORN OF THE FLESH IS FLESH; AND THAT WHICH IS BORN OF SPIRIT IS SPIRIT.

MARVEL NOT THAT I SAID UNTO THEE, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN."

(JOHN 3: 6,7)

Being born again of the spirit of God, is a distinct experience when a sinner repents. It is marked many times with Godly sorrow and tears of repentance, as one begins to confess and agrees with the Lord of the condition of his sinful heart by faith and chooses to believe in the Lordship of Jesus in one's life ever since.

" FOR GODLY SORROW WORKETH REPENTANCE TO SALVATION NOT TO BE REPENTED OF: BUT THE SORROW OF THE WORLD WORKETH DEATH."

(2 CORINTHIANS 7: 10)

As he acknowledges his redemptive payment of his sins on the cross and sanctified by the blood of Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins to indwell in his heart as a born again believer. It is this transaction that allows the divine peace to enter one's heart that marks the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In order to be born again of the Spirit of God, one must confess thoroughly and repents of a list of sins. Since every one commit different kinds of sins that defile a person, as mention by our Lord. It is very important to confess individual sins so as to recognize the nature of sins they have committed and genuinely repent of it. The list of sins mention by our Lord Jesus to be confessed and repented of is written in the book of Mark as follow:

"FOR FROM WITHIN, OUT OF THE HEART OF MEN, PROCEED EVIL THOUGHTS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, MURDERS, THEFTS, COVETOUSNESS, WICKEDNESS, DECEIT,

LASCIVIOUSNESS, AN EVIL EYE, BLASPHEMY, PRIDE, FOOLISHNESS:

ALL THESE EVIL THINGS COME FROM WITHIN, AND DEFILE THE MAN"

(MARK 7:21,22,23)

Confessions in Greek original meaning of the word of God means "in agreement with". When you confess your sins to the Lord God, you are essentially agreeing in your mind with the Lord, that particular action is a mistake, an error, a sin committed against the holiness of God. Repenting also means changing of your mind on that particular action as you acknowledge it to be an error and sin against God. Repenting also includes walking in the opposite direction of the sinful action. For example, if one steals, then he needs not only to confess of it, but change his behaviour and no longer steals as he agrees in his mind that it is a sin

and a mistake. Obviously, the work of revelation, confession and repentance of sins are all of the Holy Spirit when a sinner repents.

"WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGEMENT"

(JOHN 16: 8)

When one repents thoroughly, it allows the presence of the Holy Spirit to lay a strong foundation to be built upon as a born again believer grows spiritually into a saint.

Once, one is born again of the spirit of God, one's life began to change drastically. A born again believer has now every right to be a child of a living God and name as a Christian. He or she has now the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit as his counselor, guide, comforter, teacher and protector and his Lord.

"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)

As a result of the presence of the Holy Spirit, a born again Christian will experience the following changes:

- 1) The ability to pray and be heard by the Lord
- 2) The presence of divine peace
- 3) The zeal to testify for the Lord
- 4) The desire to hear and read the words of God
- 5) The battle against sins and the power of darkness
- 6) The acute awareness of the presence of sins reminded by the Holy spirit
- 7) The chastisement from the Lord
- 8) The spiritual ingestion and the reality of the words of God that result in personal testimonies for the Lord.

The ability to pray is a wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. As a babe in Christ, one has begun to utter the words of God calling him "Abba" Father. A close intimate relationship with our heavenly father is now established. What is even more amazing to discover the fact that our Father begins to respond to our prayers and hence producing joyful testimonies.

As the Holy Spirit has now come to indwell in our heart, we will experience the sense of divine peace amidst trials and tribulations. We will also experience the opposite when we have faltered in sin or walking

in our ways in disobedience. He will tell us of upcoming events or when danger arises. As our teacher, the Holy Spirit will tell us what to do according to God's words etc.

In the meantime, our heart will burn with the desire to witness to others about Jesus and His love. Reading the words of God becomes an essential part of the daily spiritual intake of food. Hearing preaching from the servants of God is not a burden but a joy.

The awareness of sins becomes very obvious as the Holy Spirit will ring his bells to tell us that we have walked in disobedience that requires confessions and repentance of the presence of sins wash by the blood of Jesus. The battle against sins will begin to become an apparent struggle as a babe in Christ will falter from time to time trying to walk like a baby trying to learn how to walk physically.

As a babe in Christ drinks the sincere milk of the words of God, the Lord will begin "to prune" His children in order to accomplish spiritual growth and fruitfulness with the help of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

"EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH NOT FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY: AND EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARETH FRUIT, HE PURGETH IT, THAT IT MAY BRING FORTH MORE FRUIT."

(JOHN 15: 2)

When a born again believer falters in sin without intention, the Holy Spirit will remind him or her of repentance of sins. However, if a believer continues to sin intentionally and repeatedly after being reminded by the Holy Spirit, a chastisement from the Lord will come upon them. The Lord chastises his children on the basis of love so that we would be partakers of His holiness.

"FOR THEY VERILY FOR A FEW DAYS CHASTENED US AFTER THEIR OWN PLEASURE; BUT HE FOR OUR PROFIT, THAT WE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF HIS HOLINESS."

(HEBREWS 12:10)

As we grow in the Lord, a born again Christian will experience the reality of the words of God as the voice of the Holy Spirit, prior to the battle between the light and the dark. This "pruning application" of the words of God mention in John 15 will be made alive. When a Christian accepts the pruning knife of the Lord with a heart of thanks giving, he or she will begin to purchase the drops of oil that will make up the flask of oil of the wise virgin (Matthew 25). This allows the life of Jesus to grow

within and in time transforms a Christian to a Saint. He will begin to comprehend the things of the Spirit and recognize the voice of our master as a sheep to a shepherd (John 10). This spiritual ingestion of the words of God allows us to continue our fruitful relationship with the Lord by abiding in Him.

" HE THAT EATETH MY FLESH, AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, DWELLETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM"

(JOHN 6:56)

"I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.

(JOHN 15: 5)

Finally, it is very important to realize that a born again believer has merely begun to enter the narrow path of the cross. It is not the end of the path of the cross that so many Christians have misunderstood. Unless a Christian is taken immediately by the Lord like the thief on the Cross, to leave the temporal into the eternal presence of the Lord in heaven, we are all to labor to the finish line.

As a babe in Christ, we must continue to grow in the spirit and to reach a fully mature Christian call a Saint. A Saint is marked with the fullness of Christ, filled by the Holy Spirit as a wise virgin holding a flask of oil that is purchased along the journey of the path of the cross to the finish line of being ready as a bride of Christ. It is at this time that the characteristic of His abundant life is manifested.

"I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY."

(JOHN 10: 10)

The presence of the abundant life will distinguish between a sheep and a goat, the wise and the foolish virgins, a good and faithful servant versus the unprofitable evil servant as mention in Matthew 25.

The path of the cross is very narrow and contracted with pressure as defined by the Amplified Bible. And yet, this narrow path of the cross leads to eternity.

"BECAUSE STRAIT IS THE GATE AND NARROW IS THE WAY, WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT."

(MATTHEW 7:14)

Our Spiritual enemies would constantly lay his traps of all kinds of sins from the world (1John 2:15) in order to prevent us from growing spiritually or becoming fruitful. Many Christians have fallen asleep or drunken in their spiritual journey instead of reaching their final destination with victory.

"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"

(1JOHN 2:16)

The Apostle Paul constantly reminds us to walk in the spirit, so that we do not walk in our flesh and falter in sin. We must continue to obey the Holy Spirit and deny or crucify our flesh in our daily living and whenever we are faced with trials and tribulations.

"THIS I SAY THEN, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFIL THE LUST OF YOUR FLESH."

(GALATIANS 5:16)

With the help of the presence of the Holy Spirit, a born again believer who walks in the spirit will mature and become fruitful. It is indeed the grace of God that protects us to the finish line as the scripture says:

"BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS VERY THING, THAT HE WHICH HATH BEGUN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL PERFORM IT UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST"

(PHILLIPPIANS 1:6)

As a born again believer, we have the choice of walking in the spirit or walking in the flesh. If a born again believer chooses to walk in the flesh and continuously grieving the Holy Spirit of God and refuse to repent, he or she is in danger of becoming a branch that is fruitless and drying up (John 15:2). Continuous grieving of the Holy Spirit will result in a spiritual illness where the Holy Spirit leaves and the devil takes over. They are running a danger of losing their eternal life and thrown in the fire of hell as they fail to abide in Christ.

" IF A MAN ABIDE NOT IN ME, HE IS CAST FORTH AS A BRANCH, AND IS WITHERED; AND MEN GATHER THEM, AND CAST THEM INTO THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE BURNED."

(JOHN 15:6)

Instead of becoming a sheep, he or she becomes a goat. Instead of becoming the wise virgin, he or she becomes the foolish virgin with no flask of oil. The answer from the Lord to the foolish virgin is: "I know you not" (Mathew 25:12). As For the goat, the Lord's answer is:

" DEPART FROM ME, YE CURSED, INTO EVERLASTING FIRE, PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS"

(MATTHEW 25:41)

Can we afford as a Christian not to walk victoriously after we have received the Holy Spirit and be born again of The Spirit of God? Remember the final word of the Lord in the book of Revelation:

"HE THAT OVERCOMETH, THE SAME SHALL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE RAIMENT: AND I WILL NOT BLOT OUT HIS NAME OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE, BUT I WILL CONFESS HIS NAME BEFORE MY FATHER, AND BEFORE HIS ANGELS."

(REVELATION 3:5)

Can we run a chance to be blotted out our name from the lamb book of life? Why not strive for our victory, for a crown of life and eternal praise and rewards from our Lord when he says:

"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 us all fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. As a born again believer, let us continue our journey as a saint and claim victory to the finish line with the words of the Apostle Paul at the end of our journey in life, that is:

" 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: 7,8)

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy chao Sacramento, California USA

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

MESSAGE 11

A LIVING SACRIFICE UNTO THE LORD

In America, people are becoming super health conscious. Many have resorted to purchasing all kinds of vitamins and minerals in order to maintain a healthy body. Indeed, good balance diets that are rich in vitamins and minerals have been discovered to protect the body against diseases and pathogens.

Likewise, many Christians today attend churches every weekend to worship the Lord. Yet, they overlook the importance of maintaining their spiritual growth through the lack of knowledge about godliness. What is godliness? The Amplified Bible defines godliness as a spiritual training so as to keep oneself spiritually fit. Just like vitamins and minerals that are needed for a good healthy body, godliness is essential for the spiritual well being of God's children. It is "parts and parcels" of a living sacrifice, that is offered daily as a child of a living God begins to practice the ways to holiness. The Apostle Paul writes:

"I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE.

(ROMANS 12:1)

A Christian that does not practice godliness in his or her life style, is not able to present their bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and acceptable unto the Lord. Godliness is described as attaining God's character of holiness. It is looking like our Heavenly Father that is holy, not just in the aura of our physical being, but more importantly our thoughts, mind, character, habits that unconsciously have developed more and more like Jesus. You may probably say, how is this possible? With the help of the Holy Spirit and the instructions from the words of God, God's children are to practice godliness and ultimately we are predestined to conform to the image of Christ.

"FOR WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN." (ROMANS 8:29)

Just like the words of our Lord says:

"WITH MEN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE; BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE." (MATTHEW 19:26)

Let's take a look at the ways and means to godliness. By coming close to the Lord God, we have begun to practice godliness. To practice godliness, we must include:

- 1) Daily quiet time devoted to reading God's words and prayers
- 2) We must begin to apply God's words
- 3) The practice of self denial and self crucifixion
- 4) By transforming our minds according to His words
- 5) By separating unto Godliness

The words of God are road maps of our spiritual journey. Imagine if a traveler tries to drive to a foreign place with no guide of a road map. Likewise, God's children who do not spend time reading God's words would be absolutely lost like the traveler with no road map to guide. It is extremely important to devote time daily before the Lord God in reading his words and in prayers so as to allow the Holy Spirit through the scripture to begin teaching us the truth about the words of God. Many times, the Lord God would speak to us of what to happen in the coming future through the words of God. If we do not spend time in His words, we cannot know the instructions of our Heavenly Father and the secret of ways and means of our spiritual enemies and how to battle to defeat them. Neither do we know what is sin and what cannot be done versus what can be done and is right in the sight of the Lord etc. By coming close to the Lord God through our daily devotion, we have achieved the first part of practice to godliness.

Secondly, we must begin to practice God's words. For example, if the words of God tell us that we must not say foul words but only words that are useful to the hearers. Then, as a Christian, one must begin practicing this rule of the words of God. Another very important example of God's instructions is to be thankful for everything and avoid covetousness, which is equivalent to the sin of idolatry. If we began to change our habits of "grumpiness" to a heart of thanksgiving and to protect our heart from wanting more or be greedy, then we have practice godliness. The words of God are full of these wonderful instructions that must be followed by our actions on our parts, if we are to attain godliness. If we ignore these instructions, we have not practiced godliness and we run a danger of "building our house on the sand" as mention by our Lord in Matthew 7.

"AND EVERY ONE THAT HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM NOT, SHALL BE LIKENED UNTO A FOOLISH MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND:
AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE; AND IT FELL: AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT."

(MATTHEW 7:26,27)

Failing to practice godliness, will result in the inability to transform ourselves to the image of Christ. The branch that fails to bear any fruit ends up as a dried up branch ready to be burnt in the lake of Fire. Such branch represents one who claims as a born again Christian yet refuse to obey the Holy Spirit and the words of God neither bear any fruit of the Holy Spirit.

- " EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH NOT FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY" (JOHN 15:2)
- " IF A MAN ABIDE NOT IN ME, HE IS CAST FORTH AS A BRANCH, AND IS WITHERED AND MEN GATHERED THEM, AND CAST THEM INTO THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE BURNED."

 (JOHN 15:6)

Thirdly, when the words of God requires "self denial" or crucifixion in terms of avoiding committing sins, one must begin to deny oneself. For example, some would get angry easily, while the bible tells us that we must be slow to anger.

"WHEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH: FOR THE WRATH OF MAN WORKETH NOT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD" (JAMES 1:19,20)

If in the past, we do get angry easily, then we need to practice not to be easily angry no matter what we face. If our temper is about to flare up, we need to remember the words of God and begin to crucify and deny our temper. In this way, we have allowed the Holy Spirit to grow by putting our flesh to the cross. Hence, we have continued to practice godliness.

The opposite action of allowing our flesh or anger to surface will result in grieving the Holy Spirit as we falter in sin. The act of immediate repentance would be required, or we will jeopardize our relationship and our right standing with God allowing the enemy to enter to destroy our spiritual life on the continuing presence of disobedience and sins.

The Apostle Paul tells us further, that apart from offering our body as a living sacrifice, we must also be transformed in the way we think, according to the knowledge and instructions of God's words.

"AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD."

(ROMANS 12:2)

As a growing Christian who practice godliness, getting to know the truth from the habitual life style of spending time with God will result in transformation. As a babe in Christ begins to act on the words of God and change his ways of thinking according to God's words, the holy spirit will begin to "prune" and transform him into a fruitful vine that begins to bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. This marvelous transformation is the work of God, as a babe in Christ has now been transformed into a godly Saint. It is through the practice of godliness that one has been transformed from a stage of a carnal mind to a grown up Saint filled by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, practicing godliness would also include separating unto righteousness. Things, places and action that increase ungodliness should be avoided. Watching cinemas or unhealthy movies should be avoided completely as this habit will lead to sin and ungodliness. Actions such as making too much unhealthy jokes or gossips that lead to ungodliness must be removed from our life style and be replaced with a heart of thanksgiving. In this way, we have continued to maintain godliness in the sight of our Lord.

There are **many benefits** to the practice of godliness in our life. The Apostle Paul tells us that having godliness and contentment is great gain.

"BUT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN." (1TIMOTHY 6:6)

As we practice godliness, we will receive the strength and the power and the alertness from the Holy Spirit to counteract our spiritual enemies. The moment satan comes with his trap or tricks, we will be aware immediately of his presence and we will be able to detect and move away quickly from his trap. Spiritual power comes from holiness and sanctification that derive from the daily practice of godliness.

Secondly, we will have the strength to put our flesh to the cross as the "pruning knives" of the Lord are sent in our way. As we practice godliness, we will allow the full presence of the Holy Spirit that will help us to remember God's words amidst trials and tribulations. Hence, we will experience God's presence through the divine peace and the wisdom to counteract our spiritual enemies amidst the spiritual battle.

Another spiritual benefit of godliness is the ability to abide in Christ as we remember His words. We would then resort to prayers from the Holy Spirit and the Lord begins to answer our prayers according to His promise.

"IF YE ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU."

(JOHN 15:7)

As God began to answer our prayers, we have turned our ferocious battle into victorious testimonies. This in turn will result in our spiritual maturity and more fruit bearing yields that begin to imprint and transform us to the image of Christ. The abundant result of our answered prayers as testimonies will now equip us with one of the crucial weapons to overcome the devil.

"AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY, AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH"

(REVELATION 12:11)

Lastly, the practice of godliness will give us the strength to act out the words of God. As our Lord Jesus tells us according to his instructions in his word:

"THEREFORE WHOSOEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM, I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK.

AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE; AND IT FELL NOT: FOR IT WAS FOUNDED UPON A ROCK."

(MATTHEW 7:24, 25)

As we act out His words, we have now become "the wise man that built his house upon the rock". We have now anchored ourselves on the Rock which spiritually represents Christ.

"AND DID ALL DRINK THE SAME SPIRITUAL DRINK: FOR THEY DRANK OF THAT SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT FOLLOWED THEM: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST." (1 CORINTHIANS 10:4)

The wonderful promise of anchoring on Christ is the power to overcome the floods which spiritually refer to the world.

"AND HE SAITH UNTO ME, THE WATERS WHICH THOU SAWEST, WHERE THE WHORE SITTETH, ARE PEOPLES AND MULTITUDES, AND NATIONS AND TONGUES."

(REVELATION 17:15)

The floods spiritually represent the world that include as follows:

"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."

(1 JOHN 2:16)

Satan's most powerful weapon against God's children is using the "flood" which spiritually refers to the world.

"AND THE SERPENT CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH WATER AS A FLOOD AFTER THE WOMAN, THAT HE MIGHT CAUSE HER TO BE CARRIED AWAY OF THE FLOOD."

(REVELATION 12:15)

Hence, by practicing godliness and acting upon God's words, we will experience ultimately the victorious battle against the weapon of satan through the "flood" which is the world. As the truths of the words of God are being revealed, we will begin to comprehend and experience the reality of the power from the words of God. As a result, we will receive the strength to overcome sins of the world as mention by our Lord in His words.

"JESUS ANSWERED THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, WHOSOEVER COMMITTETH SIN IS THE SERVANT OF SIN."
"IF THE SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED"

(JOHN 8:34,36)

By remembering his words and doing his commandments, the Lord promises to love us and manifest himself to us whenever we need him.

"HE THAT HATH MY COMMANDMENTS, AND KEEPETH THEM, HE IT IS THAT LOVETH ME: AND HE THAT LOVETH ME SHALL BE LOVED OF MY FATHER AND I WILL LOVE HIM, AND WILL

(JOHN 14:21)

The second promise of remembering and keeping his commandments, is the presence of the Lord God with us who will make our hearts His special dwelling place.

"IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS: AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM."

(JOHN 14:23)

What a wonderful and powerful promises from our Lord Jesus for those who genuinely practice godliness and keeping his words. Just as the Apostle Paul writes:

"IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US."

(ROMANS 8:31)

As we journey to the end of the path of the cross, the practice of godliness has now been exchanged with a white garment of the saint, spotless and radiant as the bride of Christ. We have now been made ready by trading our flesh to purchasing the bottle of oil of the wise virgins as recorded in Matthew 25. The carnal conduct and attitude of our past has now been exchanged and transformed without knowingly into the habitual godly conduct, actions, the upright, just and godly living of the Saints.

As we continue to obey the Holy Spirit and walk in godliness, we have finally been granted by the Lord God to put on our wedding garment, ready to meet our bridegroom and enter the marriage of the Lamb.

"LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE, AND GIVE HONOUR TO HIM: FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB IS COME, AND HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY.

AND TO HER WAS GRANTED THAT SHE SHOULD BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN, CLEAN AND WHITE: FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SAINTS."

(REVELATION 19:7,8)

May the Lord richly bless you as you walk in godliness and presenting your body as a living sacrifice worthy of his eternal remembrance.

Prayerfully yours, His servant

Rosy Chao

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

MESSAGE 12

A LIFE OF PRAYERS

In the business world today, success of a company's performance is very much related to organize effective forms of communication. Failure to communicate effectively, whether at home or in the workplace will result in a broken problematic relationship. Likewise, for God's children, prayers are communication with our heavenly father. Christians who do not spend time in a life of prayers are obviously bringing themselves to a poor relationship with our heavenly father. Their refusal in spending time in prayers, merely indicate that they are not interested in growing their relationship with our heavenly father.

Our Lord Jesus tells us to pray constantly and unceasingly.

"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)

The Amplified Bible writes in detail the word "Ask" " seek" and "knock" means keep on asking, and keep on seeking and keep on knocking. Hence, our Lord tells us when we pray and petition, we must continue praying until our prayers have been answered.

Many Christians claim that their prayers have not been answered. There are reasons why prayers have been hindered from being answered. The book of James tells us, prayers that are impurely motivated for the gratification of our flesh will definitely not be answered by our heavenly father.

"YE ASK, AND RECEIVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ASK AMISS, THAT YE MAY CONSUME IT UPON YOUR LUSTS."

(JAMES 4:3)

Let us focus on the main purpose of prayers. The words of God give us the instructions and the guidelines as to what to pray, how to

pray and **under what circumstances**. Effective prayers must be spiritual in nature, guided and performed by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. One that is not born again of the Spirit of God, cannot utter a spiritual prayers and no communication with our Heavenly Father will be made possible.

"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."

(ROMANS 8: 26)

There are several reasons when a child of a living God needs to pray.

- 1) In times of need
- 2) To maintain a right relationship with our heavenly father
- 3) To know God's plan for us
- 4) To offer praises unto our Lord
- 5) To grow in the Spirit and receive spiritual strength
- 6) To practice godliness
- 7) To experience the reality of the words of God

Apart from the habitual life of prayers, a Christian must spend time before the Throne of Grace **in prayers in time of need.** When we face trials and tribulations, a child of a living God must turn to communicating his or her needs with the help of our Heavenly Father through prayers. As we go through the spiritual battle with our spiritual enemies, we must resort to prayers to receive spiritual strength from the Holy Spirit and find grace and mercy before our heavenly Father.

" LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED."

(HEBREWS 4: 16)

Secondly, to maintain our right relationship with our Heavenly Father, we must spend time checking out our sins before the Lord, so that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit and that our prayers and relationship be not hindered due to the presence of our sins within our hearts. The Apostle James tells us:

"THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH"

(JAMES 5: 16)

Our Lord God has his unique plan for his children. The book of Isaiah tells us that:

"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"

(ISAIAH 55:8,9)

Therefore, in order to discover God's plan for us, we must spend time asking about every move that we make in prayers. If we do not spend time asking the Lord in prayers, He is unable to reveal and relay His thoughts to us, since we refuse to spend time in prayers.

As God's children, we must **joyfully praise** our Lord and at all times **giving thanks** unto him, as he is worthy of **our love and adoration**. This is made possible, when we come in prayers and in turn our prayers have been mingled with the smoke of the incense as an offering of a sweet smelling savour unto the Lord.

"THE SMOKE OF THE INCENSE, WHICH CAME WITH THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS, ASCENDED UP BEFORE GOD OUT OF THE ANGEL'S HAND"

(REVELATION 8:4)

A life of habitual prayers is crucial for the spiritual growth of God's children. As the pruning knives of the Lord cut across God's children, we must resort to prayers to receive spiritual strength and recognize the coming of his pruning knives.

" EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH NOT FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY: AND EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARETH FRUIT, HE PURGETH IT, THAT IT MAY BRING FORTH MORE FRUIT."

(JOHN 15: 2)

In return, we would petition the drops of oil of the wise virgins (Matthew 25:4) with a heart of **thanksgiving** as we receive his spiritual strength to crucify our flesh through much prayer. As we abide in Christ through the pruning knives, our answered prayers will now be turned to powerful testimonies that will grow and bloom us spiritually as we began to recognize the voice of our shepherd more and more.

As we spend time in prayers, the "small still voice" of the Holy Spirit will become more prominent. Prayers allow the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit to be uplifted. It is a practice of godly living that gives the Saint the strength to recognize, crucify and counteract his or her spiritual enemies along the path of the cross to the finish line.

Finally, it is through prayers, many times that the words of God of what is to come in the future will be revealed a head of times by the help of the Holy Spirit. As a Saint experiences the reality of the words of God, he or she will also receive the abundant life of Christ through the presence of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The next question you will probably ponder upon would be; how do we pray effectively? In the Old Testament, Prophet Daniel spends 3 times a day praying towards Jerusalem. At one time, he spends 3 weeks fasting and praying before the Lord answers him. He is definitely known as a man of much prayer and the Lord bestows him a title of:

"FOR THOU ART GREATLY BELOVED"

(DANIEL 9:23)

Not only, Daniel's prayers are all answered but more importantly he was given the revelation of visions for the future that are recorded in the Book of Daniel. Prophet Daniel sets up an example of a godly man with effective prayers. It is through the book of Daniel, that we can conclude what effective prayers would entail. In order to have effective prayers, the followings are required:

- 1) The presence of no sin or holiness
- 2) Purely motivated with the approval of the Holy Spirit
- 3) Falls within the laws of Grace
- 4) Urgencies and persistence in prayers
- 5) Awaiting for God's timing with faith and patience
- 6) A life of obedience to the Lord
- 7) Wise and genuine prayers

The presence of no sin or holiness will be required before the Lord can answer our prayers. If our hearts are filled with sins, our prayers become an abomination unto the Lord.

"THE THOUGHTS OF THE WICKED ARE AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD: BUT THE WORDS OF THE PURE ARE PLEASANT WORDS."

"THE LORD IS FAR FROM THE WICKED: BUT HE HEARETH THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS."

(PROVERBS 15:26,29)

Hence, we always come before the Lord with a pure heart and any sins that are present in our heart must be confessed and repented of before the Lord can hear our prayers.

An effective prayer would also require the approval of the Holy Spirit. Prayers that does not result in a peaceful heart must not be continued, as it is not approved by the Holy Spirit and cannot be brought before our Heavenly Father. Such prayers many times are against the words of God or are impurely motivated. For example, a prayer of winning a million- dollar lottery cannot be accepted to begin with, as it is a sinful prayer. It is motivated on the basis of covetousness, which is equivalent to the sin of idolatry. Such impurely motivated prayer would not be heard by the Lord, since our Lord God is Holy and cannot be utilized to fulfill the lust of the flesh.

In order for the Lord to hear our prayers, our prayers must be made on the basis of falling within the boundaries of the 4 Laws of Grace. The Laws of Grace requires that all prayers and petitions to:

- 1) Glorify God (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31)
- 2) Benefit us spiritually and physically (1CORINTHIANS 10:23)
- 3) Benefit others spiritually and physically (1CORINTHIANS 10:24)
- 4) Not be enslaved or under the control of any(1CORINTHIANS 6:12)

Prayers and petitions that are contrary to **the 4 Laws of Grace**, would not be heard, as it is outside of the will of God and are against His commandments. He will only approve our prayers if it is according to His words, to our spiritual and physical benefits to the glory of God.

Our Lord Jesus reminds us that when we pray, we ought to pray with persistence and consistencies of the widow and the unjust judge story, recorded in Luke 18:1-8. Our attitude towards our prayers will determine the urgency of the answer to our prayers. If we do not put our hearts in our prayers, it is obvious to our Heavenly Father that it is not important after all. Such attitude cannot result in effective prayers. On the contrary, Prophet Daniel who fasted and prayed for 3 weeks, resulted even in a spiritual war and obstruction between our Lord's messengers Michael the chief angel and satan. Even though the Lord has heard Daniel's prayer from the very first day of his prayer, it takes 21 days before the angel is able to appear to answer his prayers.

Hence, when a child of a Living God is praying, it is very important to wait patiently by faith before the Lord. Never at any time, would we lose our faith towards our Heavenly Father for a delayed answer to prayers. Our Heavenly Father in His wisdom, many times would require us to wait before a prayer can be answered. For example, Abraham has to wait for 25 years before his son Isaac was born. It is because the Lord wants him to learn to have a perfect faith, as after that he was to be tested to offer his son Isaac on the altar as a sacrifice.

Thereafter, Abraham was able to accomplish a perfect test of faith in obedience to the command of the Lord. As a result of his obedience, Abraham was awarded the title of the "Father of Faith" and he receives the eternal blessing whereby our Saviour Jesus Christ was born a Jew as his descendant, to bless the whole world.

Finally, a life of absolute obedience on our part would be essential for our prayers to be answered. The Apostle John writes that:

"AND WHATSOEVER WE ASK, WE RECEIVE OF HIM, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, AND DO THOSE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT."

(I JOHN 3:22)

If we do not obey our Lord and do His commandment, our prayers will not likely be heard. Prophet Zechariah writes in the book of Zechariah:

"THEREFORE IT IS COME TO PASS, THAT AS HE CRIED, AND THEY WOULD NOT HEAR; SO THEY CRIED, AND I WOULD NOT HEAR, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS"

(ZECHARIAH 7:13)

A wise prayer is a prayer that is very specific that makes clear sense to ourselves, and our Heavenly Father. A prayer that is vague and unclear even to ourselves will not amount to anything other than a nonsensical request in prayers. Our Lord tells us, that nonsensical repetitive prayers are not acceptable.

"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."

(MATTHEW 6: 7,8)

Lastly, genuine prayer requests from our heart with absolute honesty and not hypocrisy are what make up effective answered prayers. Our Lord's advice is to pray privately and secretly on our own intimate prayers, instead of praying to show of to others.

- "AND WHEN THOU PRAYEST, THOU SHALT NOT BE AS THE HYPOCRITES ARE: FOR THEY LOVE TO PRAY STANDING IN THE SYNAGOGUES AND IN THE CORNERS OF THE STREETS, THAT THEY MAY BE SEEN OF MEN. VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THEY HAVE THEIR REWARD."
- "BUT THOU, WHEN THOU PRAYEST, ENTER INTO THY CLOSET, AND WHEN THOU HAST SHUT THY DOOR, PRAY TO THY FATHER WHICH IS IN SECRET; AND THY FATHER WHICH SEETH IN SECRET SHALL REWARD THEE OPENLY."

(MATTHEW 6:5,6)

Last but not least, prayers must go hand in hand with the words of God. It is a pair of wings of the eagles mention in the Book of Revelation 12:14 and the Book of Isaiah 40:31. It is one of the vehicles to bring us to our final destination of the fullness of Christ. A life of prayer is a life that is filled with victory in Christ Jesus. It is being watchful at all times and ready to give account to our master at the end of our life journey; as a good and faithful servant, awaiting for a crown of life to be received as a saint.

May the Lord bless you with a life of prayers. May you experience the fullness of joy as you come before the throne of grace with the effective prayers of a Saint.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA