

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY
"SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"
"TESTIMONIES 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.

All rights reserved, including translation. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

"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

Contents

FOREWORD

1.	LETTER 2 TO THE SAINTS	1
2.	MY BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY	2
3.	MY JOURNEY FOR GOD'S WORK IN INDONESIA	6
4.	MESSAGE 1: THE HIDDEN MANNA- THE WORD OF GOD	14
5.	MESSAGE 2: DAVID & GOLIATH	20
6.	MESSAGE 3: THE FAITH OFFERING OF ABRAHAM	23
7.	MESSAGE 4: LIVING THE CRUCIFIED LIFE	27
8.	MESSAGE 5: ARE YOU THE SHEEP OF THE LORD	32
9.	MESSAGE 6: THE PARABLE OF A SOWER	38
10). MESSAGE 7: GOD'S WILL IN GOD'S TIMING	43
11	. TESTIMONIES FOR THOUGHT LETTER	48
12	2. THE TESTIMONIES OF ROSY CHAO "MY BEARS & LIONS"	50
13	3. THE TESTIMONY OF TATIN KAYA "THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT"	58
14	I. THE TESTIMONIES OF ESTHER WANG "MY SPIRITUAL TEACHER"	64

"THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN,
BE YE STEDFAST, UNMOVEABLE,
ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE
WORK OF THE LORD,
FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW
THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT
IN VAIN IN THE LORD

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

LETTER 2

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus,

Greeting you in the name of our Lord, the Holy Spirit continues to give me the vision of opening the door of Noah's Arc, to prepare God's children from the East to the West of Indonesia to enter the Arc. The coming of our Lord Jesus is at hand and we must continue to herald the truths of God's words against the false doctrine, false prophets and the power of darkness.

May we stick closely to God's words and prayers in our daily quiet time. In this issue of the "Spiritual Food For Thought", I have incorporated "The Testimonies For Thought" which will uplift you in your spiritual walk as we share the spiritual journey of other saints and my own personal testimonies.

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

May we continue with one heart and one mind to serve our Lord to His glory as we labor abundantly in Christ Jesus for our eternity.

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

MY JOURNEY FOR GOD'S WORK IN INDONESIA

The year 2012 was the year of God's grace and His mighty hand. When I left Sacramento to go to "the isles of the East" referring to Indonesia, my own country to do God's work, I was physically ill. I was not able to rest in San Francisco and had insomnia and bladder infection prior to flying to Tokyo. I knew I was physically in trouble as I experienced "severe electrolyte imbalances" that resulted in "the fainting feeling" on and off in my body. As I cried before the Lord for mercy and grace in my prayer, the word of God came to me in one simple sentence:

"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU AND MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS" (2 CORINTHIANS 12:9)

The power of darkness began to attack me even prior to leaving the United States and yet Jesus is always victorious. Amidst my physically ill body, come the powerful work of the Holy Spirit and His provision of grace.

Indeed, God's grace continues to company my ill body as I labored among the churches from the city of Medan, to Jakarta and Surabaya.

GOD'S PROPHECY THROUGH THE LIPS OF MY SON

Two weeks prior to leaving Sacramento for God's work, the Holy Spirit began to speak through the voice of my own son Isaac. He said: "Mommy and I will sit in the first class in the airplane, while Daddy can sit in the regular class." I did not pay attention to His words as the first class air flight is extremely expensive and obviously it was out of my thought.

However, the very morning after being ill in San Francisco plus the inability to sleep with pain & infection, the Lord did exactly what my son had said. All of a sudden, the front desk Japan air flight

representative offered 2 seats left at the first class and were offered to us at an extremely inexpensive price. Only 2 seats were available and my husband indeed had to sit behind in a business class. How amazing, that God in His grace and mercy gave me "a first class seat" in my life for me to rest.

Upon arriving Jakarta, I had to continue to fly to Medan to preach in a Methodist Church of brother Lin. A vision was given to me about preaching in Sumatra church a few months prior to meeting brother Lin. I had no connection whatsoever of anyone or any churches in Sumatra. However, the Lord gave me a vision of the Sumatra Church and told me to go to the Sumatra Church.

GOD'S SPIRITUAL WORK IN JAKARTA

It all started 2 years ago, when the Holy Spirit instructed me to go to Nineveh which He refers to as Jakarta. I had never been to Jakarta for the past 30 years and my sister Mega & her husband and their children live in Jakarta. Indeed, Jakarta like Nineveh, is a large city with millions of precious souls that are still totally lost without salvation.

A VISION OF CROCODILES IN TAIPEI

As I finally agreed and decided to fly to Jakarta, I made one major mistake of not obeying the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit instructed me very clearly to go through Tokyo and then fly straight to Jakarta. Yet my husband who was from Taipei decided that we should go to Tokyo and Taipei to visit his relatives and then fly to Jakarta. At first, I told him that I did not have the touch to go through Taipei. To this my husband was very upset and I decided to give in to his decision, thinking that it was only about a couple hours of extra journey. Little did I realize that we all fell into satan's trap that almost jeopardized the work of God in Jakarta. After consenting to my husband about going through Taipei to Jakarta, the Holy Spirit instantly gave me another vision the next night. I told my husband and my son about my vision in Taipei. In the vision, I saw in Taipei that there were many crocodiles every where but we were not harmed or bitten. Little did I know about this vision until the day we were about to fly from Taipei to Jakarta.

FEROCIOUS BATTLE AGAINST STRONGHOLDS FOR JAKARTA

My sister Mega had schedule 2 church preachings on Sunday morning at approximately 10 AM and in the afternoon at another church.

It was our first time to Jakarta and my first time to preach and witness for the Lord in these 2 churches. As we arrived at the airport in Taipei to check in our luggage to fly to Jakarta on time, we were stopped by the counter representative that would not allow me to fly to Jakarta since my passport pages had only ³/₄ of an empty page left. According to Taipei immigration, I was not allowed to fly to Indonesia which require a minimum of 1 empty page in my passport. Their best suggestion was to extend the pages of my passport before flying to Jakarta. It was Saturday morning and the American embassy was closed. The fastest time to extend my passport was next Tuesday. In other words, I had to cancel my preaching schedule in the 2 churches and fly on Tuesday. Would this glorify God? As I called my sister to explain, she merely advised me to take "Garuda Indonesian Airways" or other airlines. The idea sounded credible, but by the time we approached all the other airlines, we were told the same thing. My passport was the problem and I was not allow to fly by all the other airlines.

STRANDED IN TAIPEI ACCORDING TO GOD'S VISION

Indeed, the power of darkness that control the city of Jakarta became obviously powerful. The "vision of the crocodiles" in Taipei became a reality as I met unfriendly Taiwanese representatives from the different airlines who rejected me as I tried to purchase the ticket to fly to Jakarta, as I had the passport issue. My husband was discouraged and wanted to stay in Taipei and leave on Tuesday. However canceling the preaching schedule on these 2 churches did not glorify God and I began to ask my son to pray as I prayed fervently in my heart for a way to escape from this "Crocodiles holes"

The airplane finally left us behind and we were stranded in Taipei Airport. We had a choice either to cancel our trip to Jakarta and leave on Tuesday, which means canceling my preaching schedule on Sunday; which obviously did not glorify God, or pray for the Holy Spirit to open the door to flee from "the crocodiles dungeon in Taipei". The battle became ferocious, as we were running out of time and less and less air flights were available to fly to Jakarta. However, I had every faith that the Lord is always victorious and I knew in my heart that I would stand before the pulpit to preach in time. As we run up and down from airlines to airlines with 3 luggage in our hands we became physically exhausted.

My husband "heart problem" began to appear and I prayed with him to trust the Lord and told him to rest. What made the matter worse was the fact that Taipei Airport was under construction. To go from one airline from one end to the other end was almost incredibly difficult. It was a long journey that required climbing up the stairs, elevators, taking the train from one end of the airport to the other end. We were all exhausted as Satan tried to put us on a physical marathon. My son was left alone to look after the three luggage while I try to get the ticket to fly out from Taipei.

GOD'S ULTIMATE SOLUTION

At about 3.15PM, all of a sudden as I prayed to the Lord, the Holy Spirit brought the thought of the closest city to Jakarta being Singapore. I had lived in Singapore for 10 years and I remembered vividly that Singapore immigration stamp was small and did not require a page. As I turned to one of the supervisor in the airline to check the immigration requirement, she mentioned that I could fly to Singapore with no problem. Immediately, the door to escape was obvious. The last flight to Singapore was 4 PM and I had to run quickly to purchase the 3 tickets at the front desk of the China Airlines at the full price. In the meantime, I prayed that the Holy Spirit would prepare for us 3 tickets and a way to escape. Amazingly, there was the last minute cancellation of 3 passengers, which allowed us to purchase the last minute air ticket to Singapore. This was obviously God's provision. We had no time left but ran through all the gates and were escorted by the airline manager as we ran pass all gates as fast as we could as the airplane was about to fly. This was the last flight to Singapore on Saturday and praised be to Lord for His faithfulness. As the Red Sea was opened right in front of the Israelites, we ran in time to sit in the last airplane to fly to Singapore.

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION IN SINGAPORE

By the time, we had arrived in Singapore. We were exhausted beyond measure. To get to another airline from Singapore to Jakarta require a supernatural help from the Lord as we were beyond our physical strength. What was amazing was the fact that God had prepared two information ladies to help us out beyond their calls of duty. God had touched their heart to help us purchased the airlines ticket from Singapore to Jakarta, reserved our hotel for the night to rest and the direction to our hotel, so that we did not have to do anything on our own. Hallelujah, praise the Lord! We left the next morning from Singapore to Jakarta in time for my first preaching in the morning as well as in the afternoon.

The moment we arrived at the Jakarta Airport, we drove straight to the first church to preach. I knew that Jesus is always victorious, amidst the turbulent of life and obstruction of Satan, God is always prevailing! I knew that I would stand up in front of the pulpit at the exact timing. Never too late, always in time and on time as our Lord" the Lion tribe of Judah is always prevailing" Amen.

MEETING WITH BROTHER LIN

It was at the second church preaching in the afternoon on that same Sunday, that I realized why satan was blocking me this hard to come to Jakarta. As I came down from the pulpit, brother Lin came to meet me in tears requesting my immediate prayers. Later, I discovered that he was trapped by satan and under severe distress physically, mentally and spiritually as satan attack his church in the city of Medan, in Sumatra.

Brother Lin had to flee from the city of Medan to Jakarta, as he was harassed by the gangsters in Medan. The gangsters threatened to demolish his church and school property unless brother Lin issued a personal check as a guarantor and gave it to the gangster as a payment in order to protect their Church from being demolished. Even though, they own the church building and the school and had proper certificate of ownership, the gangsters who had already demolished all the surrounding areas, threatened to demolish his church, unless brother Lin gave them a huge sum of money in exchanged. Under the pressure of the gangsters, brother Lin had no choice but issued his personal check for a huge sum of money in order to protect his church from being destroyed.

Our brother Lin was spiritually distressed and lost his faith in the Lord at this critical moment. The pastor of his church was equally discouraged, distressed and lost his faith as he wept over this ferocious attack of satan on their church. It was brother Lin's wife that suggested for him to fly to Jakarta to escape the mounting pressures as he was mentally affected and needed to flee Medan.

How amazing that our Lord knew what was going through with His child. As I met brother Lin in the second church on the same Sunday that I flew via Singapore from Taipei, brother Lin also just arrived from Medan and attended the afternoon service in the church where I was preaching and witnessing what our Lord had done in my past. As we met

and prayed together, I knew instantly as to why satan had to block me this hard in Taipei from coming down to Jakarta. If only I fail to fly to Jakarta from Taipei on Saturday, I would never have met brother Lin who truly and desperately was in the need of spiritual help.

BROTHER LIN FAITH RESTORED

As I prayed together with brother Lin and explained that the Lord would take care of His own Church and that he is to rest upon Him by faith & prayers. Our brother Lin's faith was restored. His heart was once again filled with peace & joy and I reassured him that Jesus is always victorious. Praise God, brother Lin finally found help from the proper authority in Jakarta and went to Court and presented their case against the gangsters. With much prayers, a miracle took place and their church had won the case against the gangsters while all other neighboring lands and their court cases had lost. Indeed, our Lord is always victorious and miraculously protected their church that stands as a testimony for Jesus as we petition before the throne of Grace to overthrow the gangsters in court.

THE VISION OF SUMATRA'S CHURCH FULFILLED

Last year, after having known brother Lin, the Lord led me to a Sumatra church that is his church in Medan for the first time in my life. The vision of the Lord was fulfilled and the Holy Spirit worked marvelously in the heart of fellow believers in his church.

Many came forward and repented in tears. A relative of brother Lin who was dying of liver cancer was finally saved before the Lord took him home.

BRIEF REPORT OF CHURCH MEETINGS IN JAKARTA

I praised God for "the Palem Church fellowship. Many came forward to repent as the Holy Spirit was working in their hearts.

The Holy Spirit was also working in a small Batak church of Pastor Pribangun, where I preached and witness for Jesus. It may be a small church but the heart of fellow believers were equally touched by the Holy Spirit as they came forward for prayers.

In my sister Mega's house we had home fellowship and prayers to strengthen fellow believers and what was most precious was to meet my young cousin whom I had never met for the past 30 years ever since she was born. She was from a Buddhist background and as I shared about Jesus to her, she was not willing to accept at first. However, by the grace of God, the Holy Spirit began to work in her heart and she finally accepted the Lord and repented in tears. May the seeds that were sown in the hearts of fellow believers in the city of Jakarta continue to bloom as the Holy Spirit continues to work in their hearts.

REPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE LORD IN SURABAYA

In my parents' house, fellow believers gather together and as I preached, finally three stood up at the touch of the Holy spirit to accept the Lord and repented.

In Dr Daniel's church meetings, the Holy Spirit was also working effectively as many stood up to repent and confess their sins. As satan continued to attack myself and my husband physically with illnesses, the Holy Spirit was also working in all the churches where ever I preached and witness for the Lord. As my husband was ill with fever, I had to leave my husband in Jakarta to finish preaching in the city of Surabaya. Indeed, I had a slight foretaste of what the Apostle Paul had gone through as he carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the gentiles.

THE MENTAL HOSPITAL IN SURABAYA

Last but not least, the Lord had touched my heart to preach in the mental hospital in Surabaya. What touch my heart most was the fact that these so-called mental patients are mostly young teenagers and young adults. Satan have captured and destroyed their mind and their spiritual being. Much prayers are required for them. Praise the Lord, as I preached and shared God's love with them, many came forward to accept the Lord. One of my precious testimonies was for a man who came to Christ and prayed with myself openly to confess his sins. His name is Edwin and he is in the mental hospital and confessed his attempt of suicide by cutting his wrist and was filled with hatred and many other sins. He came to pray with me individually and got saved. It was such a joy to see even one person coming to Christ. Our Lord loves them equally. May we continue to pray for these precious souls.

GOD'S GRACE WAS INDEED SUFFICIENT FOR ME

Indeed, God's grace was sufficient for me. Even though at every preaching, I was not physically well, however as I began to preach, the

amazing power of the Holy Spirit began to overtake my body and preached smoothly to the end of my journey.

May the Lord continue to bless his own work as we joyfully serve Him and labor in Jesus name. Amen

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 1

THE HIDDEN MANNA-THE WORDS OF GOD

The Bible is the holy words of God. For the world, the Bible is a mere religious book or a historical record for the Jews. For the Pharisees or the Scribes, it is a collection of God's laws, head knowledge of what year of which prophet to be born in what era etc. However, for God's children, it is the voice of the Lord, intricately link to their spiritual life from day to day through the presence of the Holy Spirit, when one is born again of the spirit of God.

There are many ways of reading God's words. However, the word of God will only be revealed and made alive by the presence of the Holy Spirit to God's children the moment one genuinely and thoroughly repents of one's sin and become God's children. It is at this time that "the hidden manna" of God's words will be unveiled and tasted and ingested, when one begins the spiritual journey with the Holy Spirit as our guide, our councilor along the path of the cross towards our heavenly home.

It is of no wonder that our Lord commented to God's children as being blessed.

"BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES, FOR THEY SEE: AND YOUR EARS, FOR THEY HEAR." (MATTHEW 13:16)

As God's children, we must spend time reading God's words daily and stay closely to God's words. As we meditate upon His words and began to walk in obedience to God's word according to the touch of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to experience the "hidden Manna". Merely reading God's words and refusing to act out according to God's words will not unveil the "hidden manna". On the contrary, studying the words of God for purely head knowledge, whether in a Bible seminary or Bible classes will only produce a group of people such as the Pharisees and Scribes.

There are many important benefits and promises that come As we ingest God's words.

God's words are for:

- 1) Our truth
- 2) Our protection and our guide
- 3) Our success
- 4) Our spiritual food
- 5) Our spiritual weapon
- 6) Our spiritual strength
- 7) Our authority in prayers
- 8) Our sanctification
- 9) Our constant union with Christ
- 10) Our ingredient to the Final imprint of the image of Christ
- 11) Our Lord's voice

The word of God is our truth: Without God's words as our guideline of the truth, we cannot differentiate to what is a false doctrine or error. As our Lord Jesus tells us:

"IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED:

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE" (JOHN 8:31,32)

The word of God is for our protection and our guide: Kind David wrote in the book of psalm:

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH." (PALM 119:105)

Imagine if one is to walk in absolute darkness where there are dangerous traps and holes along our path. Without the light, we are bound to falter into these traps. Hence, the God's words are that light that will guide us and protect us from the dangerous traps of our spiritual enemies, the devils.

The word of God is for our success:

In Joshua Chapter 1,the Lord tells us that in order to be successful, we must meditate on God's words day and night and act upon it. So that the Lord will constantly be with us and we will succeed in all that we do.

"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."

"THIS BOOK OF THE LAW SHALL NOT DEPART OUT OF THY MOUTH; BUT THOU SHALT 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 CHAPTER 1:7,8)

The Lord knows that the moment we forget His words, we are bound to falter in our flesh and Satan's trap.

The word of God is our spiritual food:

It is important for God's children to meditate and ingest God's word on a daily basis. Just as our physical body needs food daily for strength and proper nutrition and health, likewise our spiritual body cannot be deprived of God's words since they are our spiritual food. Without daily ingestion of God's words in our hearts and mind, we would not grow spiritually nor have the strength to accomplish our spiritual journey and battle against our spiritual enemies along the way. The Apostle Peter reminds us through his word:

"AS NEW BORN BABES, DESIRE THE SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD, THAT YE MAY GROW THEREBY" (1 PETER 2:2)

The word of God is our spiritual weapon:

The Apostle Paul tells us in the book of Ephesians that we are in a constant war against our spiritual enemies. We must be alert at all times and put on our complete armor of God. Apart from having the shield of Faith and the gospel of peace as our shoes, the breastplates of righteousness and the helmet of salvation and our loins girt with truth, we must also have the sword of the words of God to counteract and quench the fiery darts of satan. Without the words of God constantly reminding us on a daily basis, we are bound to lose the spiritual battle and fall into satan's trap.

"ABOVE ALL, TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH, WHEREWITH YE SHALL BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED"

"AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD"

(EPHESIANS 6:16,17)

The word of God is our spiritual strength:

As God's children journey along the path of the cross, they will encounter many trials and tribulations. Many times, they will feel discourage or dismay as they look upon their environment instead of God's words. On the top of that, satan would add and pose more threats in their mind and weaken their faith. It is at this time, that the Holy Spirit would remind us of God's words. It is through God's words that we would receive comfort, courage, faith and spiritual strength as we recount our blessings and God's mercy. The words of God is one of the pair of the eagle wings given to God's children to nourish and strengthen them when facing the ferocious battle against our spiritual enemy, satan.

"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."

(REVELATIONS 12:14)

The word of God is our authority in prayers:

It is through the word of God & His promises that God's children receive our authority in prayers. During Difficult times in our spiritual journey, the Holy Spirit would remind us to resort to prayers and petition boldly before our Heavenly Father for help. Being God's children, we are given the right and the authority to be heard by our heavenly father through our prayers as we obey and cling to the promises of God's words. For example, our Lord tells us in John 15:

" 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)

By remembering this promise, we can petition by faith for God to answer our prayers, so long as it falls within His will and according to His timing.

The word of God is our sanctification:

Our Lord Jesus tells in John 17:

"THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD"

"SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH." (JOHN 17:16,17)

Our Lord Jesus knows that even though we are in the world, we do not belong to this world. It is very important for us to complete our perilous spiritual journey as the bride of Christ successfully, at the end of the path of the cross. Without God's word in our mind daily protecting us, we will definitely falter in sin and satan's trap. It is through remembering God's words that we are kept sanctified and in constant union with the Holy Spirit, so that we will be continuously protected by Him to the end of our Journey.

The word of God is our constant union with Christ:

When we remember and act out God's words, we are in constant union with Christ. In John 14, our Lord tells us:

"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 MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM"

" 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 14:21,23)

The word of God is our ingredient to the final imprint of Christ:

By constantly ingesting God's words, God's children will also experience the pruning knives of the Lord, which will lead to the abundance of fruit bearing. It is through experiencing the word of God that powerful testimonies are formed and babes in Christ will mature into the "Bride of Christ". The "abundant life" as mentioned by our Lord will now be imprinted in the sheep's life as they bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit in their life. A mature saint is marked always richly by the indwelling words of God in their lips, heart and mind at all times.

"I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY." (JOHN 10: 10)

The word of God is our Lord's voice:

It is the "Urim & Thummin" (exodus 28:30) of the New Testament. Many times the Holy Spirit will speak to us through God's words. Our future path and what is to happen will be prophesied through God's words. As God's children, we must pay a close attention to the voice of the Lord which is the word of God. The word of God is no other than our Lord Jesus himself.

"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD" (JOHN 1:1)

"AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH." (JOHN 1:14)

May we treasure and uplift the word of God in our hearts and mind daily. May you discover the riches of "hidden manna" as you journey hand in hand with our Lord through the wilderness of this world towards our heavenly home. May the "hidden manna" be yours today as Dr John Sung, a servant of the Lord put it in his hymn: "the hidden manna truly taste sweet, it is in Christ that we truly receives our sabbatical rest".

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 2

DAVID & GOLIATH

One of the most powerful stories ever recorded in the Bible is the battle between David and Goliath recorded in 1 Samuel Chapter 17. This story does not only reflect between the battle of Israel and their enemies the Philistine, but for God's children today, it reflects the story and the battle between the light and the dark.

The Bible recorded that the fame of king David originated from the victorious battle of a shepherd boy who overcame an experience powerful warrior called Goliath, with a mere sling shot and a stone. How could such an incredible thing of a simple weapon knock down such a powerful experience enemy called Goliath? Goliath was an incredible huge giant 9 feet 9 inches tall (1 Samuel 17:4). He had a helmet of brass and armed with a coat made of brass that weigh 166 pounds. His shoulder and feet were covered with brass and his spear head alone weighs 600 shekels of iron. His mere physical appearance alone and his challenges to fight had caused king Saul and the Israelites to tremble in great fear and dismayed (1 Samuel 17:11). His daily appearance and threat of challenging a fight against a man that represent the Israelites had resulted in the men of Israel to fled in extreme fear (1 Samuel 17: 24)

Amidst such a threat from the enemy, the Lord God prepared a shepherd boy called David to be filled with His spirit recorded in 1 Samuel chapter 16, prior to the appearance of Goliath. Our Lord God knew of what is to come in the future for the Israelites.

As king Saul was consistently disobedient and refused to repent, the Lord had rejected him and chosen David, a man after His own heart, to be king over his people the Israelites. As the prophet Samuel anointed David with the horn of oil, the spirit of the Lord began to fill young David.

"THEN SAMUEL TOOK THE HORN OF OIL, AND ANOINTED HIM IN THE MIDST OF HIS BRETHEN: AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON HIM FROM THAT DAY FORWARD"

(1 SAMUEL 16: 13)

It was the presence of the Lord that made young David a wise, courageous boy full of faith and victoriously won the battle against Goliath and killed him with Goliath's own sword. How amazing that a young David had so much faith and boldness that he knew that the Lord would deliver him from his enemy before the battle even started.

My dear brothers and sisters, the word of the Lord tells us that there are 4 things that accompany king David's success in his wars, whether it was against Goliath or against other enemies. First of all, King David has received the spirit of God that is characterized by faith, boldness and wisdom.

"FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND."

(1 TIMOTHY 1:7)

He had so much faith in the Lord, that he had foreseen the result before the battle even started.

Secondly, he succeeded in his wars because the Lord was with him wherever he went.

- " I TOOK THEE FROM THE SHEEPCOTE, FROM FOLLOWING THE SHEEP, TO BE RULER OVER ISRAEL:"
- " AND I WAS WITH THEE WHITHERSOEVER THOU WENTEST, AND HAVE CUT OFF ALL THINE ENEMIES OUT OF THY SIGHT, AND HAVE MADE THEE A GREAT NAME, LIKE UNTO THE NAME OF GREAT MEN THAT ARE IN THE EARTH."

(2 SAMUEL 7:9)

Thirdly, he realized that the battle belong to the Lord and not himself. Hence he gave credit to the Lord and testified before the Israelites and king Saul of what the Lord had done in the past.

"AND ALL THESE ASSEMBLY SHALL KNOW THAT THE LORD SAVETH NOT WITH SWORD AND SPEAR: FOR THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU INTO OUR HANDS."

(1 SAMUEL 17:47)

Fourthly, young David joyfully and courageously faced his daily challenges and smaller difficulties as a shepherd boy, when he faces the lion and the bear as they snatch his sheep. His practice of faith and dependence on the Lord God as a shepherd boy to overcome his smaller problems of "lion & bears" had now prepared him for the biggest challenge of his life, that was his war against Goliath.

.

Dear brothers and sisters, are you facing "the Goliath" of your life right now? Is it your job, your finances, your relationship or your illnesses perhaps? Are you focussing on the environment or your problems with fear and dismay just as the Israelites and king Saul felt against Goliath's threat? Or are you like young David who claimed victory against Goliath by faith in the Lord. Do you accept your encounter of "bears and lions" with joy and courage? So that someday you can glorify the Lord like young David does, when he overcame the battle against Goliath victoriously. As the Bible says FAITH IS THE VICTORY:

"WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH." (1 JOHN 5:4)

Lastly, if our spiritual enemy has discouraged you or cause you to be dismayed in your walk, let us turn and repent and confessed our sins before the Lord. Let us come before the throne of grace and petition for help and mercy in times of need (Hebrew 4:16). Let us not focus on our problems but rather, let us look up unto the Lord our redeemer, our comforter and our strength, for nothing shall be impossible unto the Lord.

"IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD" (GENESIS 18:14)

May the Lord richly bless you in the simple faith like young David. May you claim victory of your "Goliath" just as king David does. May we all remember what king David wrote in the book of Psalm:

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

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 3

THE FAITH OFFERING OF ABRAHAM

The Jewish nation is well known not because it is the largest country in the world, but rather it is a nation that had been lost for almost 2000 years and was reborn in 1948, when all the Israelites gather together to return to their promise land. This remarkable historical event happened due to the fulfillment of the prophecy of the word of God that the Jews must return to their own land prior to the second coming of our Lord Jesus.

Constant conflicts between the Jewish nation and the Arabs become our daily news. It all originated from a family's problem that all started from a man called Abraham. Abraham had a wife who was barren and could not have any children until both Abraham and his wife were very old. However, the Lord had promised to them a son named Isaac. When Abraham was 100 years old, Isaac was born according to the promise of the words of God. It was through Isaac and his son Jacob that the Jewish nation was formed. On the other hand, the Arabs are also the descendants of Abraham through marriage with Hagar, Sarah's maid. It was Sarah's idea that Abraham should marry her maid and "obtain children" by her (Genesis 16:2) since she could not have any children. However, conflicts between Sarah and Hagar arose once Hagar conceived and gave birth to Ishmael who was the forefather of all the Arab nations. Hence, what started as a family affair continue up to date to the conflict and crisis of the middle eastern nations that resulted in the constant wars between the Jewish and the Arabs nations today.

It all started when Abraham made a mistake of listening to Sarah's advice of marrying Hagar her maid in order to "obtain children". Instead of seeking God's advice clearly, Abraham resorted to human's wisdom that resulted in disastrous and painful consequences. Nonetheless, having suffered the consequences of his mistake for resorting to the "advice in the flesh", Abraham truly learned his lesson. Later, as the Lord tested Abraham to offer his only son Isaac as an offering, he no longer consulted Sarah and passed the test of faith and made the best offerings whereby Abraham was known as "the father of faith".

Let us take a look at Abraham test of faith and his offering of his own precious son Isaac. The book of Genesis recorded that Abraham was 75 years old when the Lord told him to leave his own home and relatives towards God's promise land by faith. It took him 25 years of going through difficulties and waiting before Isaac was born.

"THEN ABRAHAM FELL UPON HIS FACE, AND LAUGHED, AND SAID IN HIS HEART, SHALL A CHILD BE BORN UNTO HIM THAT IS AN HUNDRED YEARS OLD? AND SHALL SARAH, THAT IS NINETY YEARS OLD, BEAR?" (GENESIS 17:17)

When Abraham and Sarah were very old and no longer able to conceive, the Lord reappeared to Abraham to confirm the birth of Isaac his son. The message was crystal clear. In actual fact, Abraham had intentionally double check with the Lord that perhaps God's covenant would be established with Ishmael his son (Genesis 17:18). However, the Lord God clearly reiterated that his covenant was with Isaac that was to be born through Sarah the very next year.

" BUT MY COVENANT WILL I ESTABLISH IT WITH ISAAC, WHICH SARAH SHALL BEAR UNTO THEE AT THIS SET TIME NEXT YEAR". (GENESIS 17:21)

One of the most important reason that the Lord had permitted for Abraham to wait for 25 years, until it was impossible physically to give birth by the natural means, was to built Abraham's faith in the Lord. To pass the test of faith with perfect score for the offerings of Isaac was next in line. It was very crucial for Abraham to have absolute faith in the Lord, when it comes to the offering of Isaac his only son. Any form of doubt or with holding of the offering of Isaac would prevent God from blessing Abraham to the maximum.

After the birth of Isaac, The Lord called Abraham to offer his son Isaac very specifically.

" AND HE SAID, TAKE NOW THY SON, THINE ONLY SON ISAAC, WHOM THOU LOVEST, AND GET THEE INTO THE LAND OF MORIAH; AND OFFER HIM THERE FOR A BURNT OFFERING UPON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS WHICH I WILL TELL THEE OF." (GENESIS 22: 2)

The instructions from the Lord was very specific; that is "to offer his only son Isaac" in the "mountain of Moriah" which was 3 days journey, enough time for Abraham to reconsider what he was about to do. At this time, Abraham had learned his lesson of not consulting with any human wisdom, especially with Sarah his own wife. Can you imagine if he were to consult with Sarah? Isaac, being his own precious son, Abraham would undoubtedly love him more than his own life. Yet, Abraham had absolute faith in our heavenly father. He had every faith

that God is able to bring him from death to life. Secondly, Abraham also made sure that his servants would not interfere with his offerings of Isaac. Finally, it was Isaac's own words that prove his absolute faith in our heavenly father. When Isaac asked Abraham his father where about was the lamb to be sacrificed, to this Abraham replied:

" MY SON, GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERINGS." (GENESIS 22:8)

What a heart wrenching question for Abraham who genuinely loved his son more than his own life. Yet amidst all of these temptations, Abraham truly "offered Isaac" with absolute obedience and faith to God's commands. As a result, not only Abraham did not harm his son instead the angel of the Lord stopped him and remarked as follow:

" AND HE SAID, LAY NOT THINE HAND UPON THE LAD, NEITHER DO THOU ANYTHING: FOR NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD, SEEING THOU HAST NOT WITHHELD THY SON, THINE ONLY SON FROM ME." (GENESIS 22:12)

Abraham's obedience in his offering of Isaac, have resulted in 4 major blessings where:

- 1) His descendants will be God's people and God will multiply his descendants as the sands of the sea (spiritually refers to the Jews today) and the stars in heaven (spiritually refers to the Christians who walk by faith).
- 2) Our saviour the Lord Jesus was born a Jew a descendant of Abraham as recorded in Matthew chapter 1.
- "THE BOOK OF THE GENERATION OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID, THE SON OF ABRAHAM." (MATTHEW 1:1)
 - 3) It is through our Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the Calvary that the whole earth receives the blessings of eternal life, God's salvation to mankind.
- "IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED" (GENESIS 22:18)
- "THAT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH."

(GALATIANS 3:14)

"BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE THE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, EVEN TO THEM THAT BELIEVE ON HIS NAME" (JOHN 1:12)

4) It is through our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made a descendant of Abraham, that our Lord's death on the cross and his resurrections mark the victorious battle against our spiritual enemies which refers to satan and his followers the fallen angels.

"AND THY SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES" (GENESIS 22:17)

Dear brothers and sisters, have you offered your "Isaac" before the Lord by faith as Abraham does? Or are you struggling in your offerings of your best unto the Lord? You see, if the Lord ever ask you your all unto the Lord, it is because God wants to bless you to the highest degree for God's children for eternity. Abraham's absolute obedience and faith in his offering will be eternally rewarded with his title of "the father of faith" apart from his eternal reward and his earthly blessings.

May Abraham's offerings of Isaac be deeply imprinted in our hearts and minds. May we give our master our very best while we are on this brief journey towards our heavenly home. May the Lord's most important commandments be remembered deep in our hearts forever! That is:

"THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND" (MATTHEW 22:37)

May the Lord richly bless you as you recount Abraham's faith offerings to be yours today!

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 4

LIVING THE CRUCIFIED LIFE

In today's world, there are so many kinds of churches and denominations apart from other religions. Obviously, among these churches, they relay all kinds of gospels to the point that it becomes difficult to know what is the true gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not surprising that even God's children are no longer able to distinguish what is right and wrong and what is the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank God for his holy words written in the Bible! And thank God for sending us the Holy Spirit that will teach us the truth in the light of God's words. One of the most important crux of the whole gospel of our Lord Jesus is written in 2 simple statements recorded in Matthew chapter 16.

"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME."
"FOR WHOSOEVER WILL SAVE HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT: AND WHOSOEVER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE SHALL FIND IT."

(MATTHEW 16: 24)

Let us analyze in detail these words of our Lord as they contain so much truths and yet they are very profound in their spiritual meanings and applications to the Christian walk along the narrow path of the cross.

First of all, whether you are a Christian that has just been born again of the spirit of God or a growing Christian or a fully grown saint in the Lord, these statements are equally essential that "fueled us" to the finish line. Just like a car without gas would not run on the road, any discount on these 2 statements would not get you running on the "spiritual road" whether you like it or not. It is of no wonder, many Christians are stranded like a car with no gas whether it is in the beginning of the journey or midway. A Christian can also backslide along the path of the cross just like a car that roll backward along the slope on a hill as it gets to be progressively difficult to journey towards the finish line. On the top of that, our spiritual enemies using "our flesh" and "the world" will make sure that God's children would be so tired and so discouraged that they give up battling in this spiritual journey.

Nonetheless, praise be to our Lord Jesus the "prevailed lion tribe of Judah" who is always marked with victory that will accompany us throughout the journey. Without the presence of our Lord and His words constantly reminding us, we will not be able to overcome our spiritual enemies and finish our journey with victory.

There are 3 instructions to the first statement of our Lord's words. If any man were to follow Jesus, our Lord tells us that we must:

- 1) Deny himself
- 2) Take up the cross
- 3) Follow me

Self-denial is one of the most difficult things to do for God's children. You may say, what exactly does this mean? It literally means "disregard, lose sight of and forget himself and his own interest" as explained in the Amplified Bible. In other words, if you live a life style of sin such as smoking, drinking, gambling and doing other vices such as watching pornography or unhealthy movies, you need to repent of it and begin to change your life style to a godly lifestyle without these sinful habits. Well, perhaps you would say, that's easy as I do not commit these vices. Let's go to the next level of self denial. How about saying bad words or hating someone or gossiping and losing your temper whenever you feel like doing it? "Ouch!" you may say, that is getting to be impossible or difficult. Indeed our Lord's requirements cannot be performed without self-denial. As you grow in the Lord, the Holy Spirit would even require us to walk closer to the Lord and even narrower as our flesh such as the lust of our mouth/flesh, the lust of our eyes and the pride of life are being dealt with. All of these "pruning" will be sent on our way so that we can bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit and still require the same "rule of thumb" from our Lord words; that is self-denial. If a Christian refuses to deny oneself, then he or she is not able to grow spiritually as the next step or requirement is even more difficult.

2) Take up the cross:

If a Christian fail to perform the first commandment of our Lord that is self-denial on the daily basis, he or she is certainly unable to carry this mission of carrying the cross. It is like a child who is still trying to learn how to walk. If a toddler has not even learn how to walk, do you think the toddler can run? Of course not! Likewise, Christians that refuse to practice self-denial in obedience to the Holy Spirit and God's words, will not be able to carry their crosses. What is the meaning of carrying the cross? It simply means paying a price or consequence of being a Christian. For example, in communist China or former Russia, many Christians are put to jail for their faith and life endangerment. The word of our Lord is straight forward:

" WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL CONFESS ME BEFORE MEN, HIM WILL I CONFESS ALSO BEFORE MY FATHER WHICH IS HEAVEN."

"BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL DENY ME BEFORE MEN, HIM WILL I ALSO DENY BEFORE MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN."

(MATTHEW 10:32,33)

The line is drawn very clearly. Either you deny Jesus and become a non-believer and get out of jail or get in the jail because you maintain to believe in Jesus. My dear brothers and sisters, the requirement of our Lord is not "wishy-washy" or unclear. It is an absolute clarity that all the followers of Christ would have to pay for. Perhaps you would say that I am free to worship in my own country How about being persecuted at home or at work where you would be ostracized because you would not participate their practice of sins which is against God's words etc.

4) Follow me:

As the path of the cross gets narrower, the third requirement of our Lord Jesus is called "mission impossible". To follow Jesus is to be like Jesus. No carnal mind or effort or human strength could do this third step. If you fail to do your first step of self-denial and obviously the second step, you will be far from being able to perform this last step. However, praise God for giving us the Holy Spirit. If you have obeyed the Holy Spirit and God's words and practice self-denial and taking up of your cross daily, You will discover that the 3rd step is light and easy to perform as you are now equally yoked with Our Lord Jesus. Just as our Lord Jesus says:

"TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS."

"FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT"
(MATTHEW 11:29,30)

At this time, the one that performs this 3rd step is the Holy Spirit, who will fill you and overwhelm you to perform the 3rd step of following Jesus. Indeed, it is the grace of God and it is fully relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to perform and bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit as you will experience: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22,23) when you walk in obedience to his commandments.

Perhaps you may say, when will I experience these fruits of the Holy Spirit? My dear brothers and sisters, the answer is simple: the moment we choose to obey God's words of daily simple denial and crucifixion so as to follow our Lord's footstep as instructed by the Holy Spirit and His word. God has given us the words of God and the Holy Spirit to be obeyed upon and revered. On our part we must practice "daily death" as mention by the apostle Paul:

"I DIE DAILY"

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:31)

"FOR IF YE LIVE AFTER THE FLESH, YE SHALL DIE: BUT IF YE THROUGH THE SPIRIT DO MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YE SHALL LIVE." (ROMANS 8:13)

The reason for self-denial is simple. Either your flesh live and the Holy Spirit is to be put to death or the Holy Spirit is will be uplifted whenever we put our flesh and our old selves to death. Our flesh and the Holy Spirit cannot be both alive and growing at the same time since our carnal mind is an enemy to God as our fallen sinful nature and our flesh cannot be subjected to the law of God.

" FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH; BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE"

"BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD: FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE." (ROMANS 8:6,7)

In other words, the character and the nature of the Holy Spirit and our sinful flesh is right the opposite of each other. Like a see saw, either the Holy Spirit is up and our flesh is down or our flesh is up and the Holy Spirit is down. No wonder, our Lord who is our creator requires us to deny ourselves in order to follow Him.

Finally, the Lord sums up the Christian walk as "whosoever will save his temporal life shall lose his eternal life" and vice versa. Simply, the Lord plainly put it this way: if you want to walk your old sinful nature and refuse to deny your sinful way, habits and temper, then you will definitely lose your eternal life. The reason is obvious, since you would not be able to do the next 2 steps of carrying the cross and following Jesus to the finish line.

Dear brothers and sisters, if you have not known this truth about living the crucified life for Jesus, please repent immediately and confessed your sins of your ignorance of this truth. May you now begin this journey with these 3 most important instructions from our Lord

in mind. You can have the power to choose on a day to day basis a crucified life in obedience to the word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Last but not least, you will discover the joy and the sweetness within your heart as you journey hand in hand with the Lord and discover the truth of God's word as mention in His word:

- " IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED;"
- "AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE." (JOHN 8:31,32)

May the Lord fills your heart with joy and peace as you walk the crucified life. Someday, at the end of our journey, our crosses will be exchanged for our crowns. The narrow path of the cross may be difficult to journey, however "God's grace is always sufficient for us as his strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

May the Lord richly bless you as you remember his words of promise:

"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" (PHILLIPIANS 1:6)

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 5

ARE YOU THE SHEEP OF THE LORD?

One of the most important parables recorded in the New Testament is the parable of the sheep. In Mathew chapter 25,Our Lord Jesus tells us very specifically the parable of the sheep versus the goat, also the parable of the lost sheep and finally the description of the sheep recorded in John chapter 10. Who are the sheep of the Lord? What are the characteristics of the sheep and their works?

First and foremost, the sheep of the Lord are the chosen brides of Christ that are given to our Lord Jesus by our heavenly Father as a gift to be his disciples. The sheep are chosen before the foundation of the world, by our Lord to be his followers. They are also drawn by the Father and are appointed to bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit and mark with the abundant life of Christ.

"AND THIS IS THE FATHER'S WILL WHICH HATH SENT ME, THAT OF ALL WHICH HE HATH GIVEN ME I SHOULD LOSE NOTHING, BUT SHOULD RAISE IT UP AGAIN AT THE LAST DAY." (JOHN 6:39)

"NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY." (JOHN 6:44)

In many churches today, not all of the worshippers belong to the Lord. Furthermore, not all that claims to be Christians are the sheep of the Lord. However, the sheep of the Lord are manifested with certain characteristics. Let us lay to our hearts to these characteristics of the sheep.

The sheep of the Lord are marked with:

- 1) Genuine repentance & the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
- 2) The ability to obey and follow the instructions of our Lord with humility, clarity & wisdom
 - 3) The strong desire to love our Lord above all things.
 - 4) Given the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - 5) The ability to hear the voice of our Lord.

6) The abundant life that includes:

- A) a life style mark with godliness
- B) a life style mark with testimonies
- C) a life style mark richly with God's word
- D) a life being filled by the Holy spirit

1) Genuine repentance:

One of the most important characteristics of the sheep of the Lord is genuine repentance and the presence of the indwelling Christ in their life. Their born again experiences are not "wishy washy" or unclear but rather with absolute clarity. As they thoroughly repented of their sins, their lifestyle are distinctly opposite of what were before in their past. Just like the Apostle Paul who use to persecute the Christians, he had now been changed to be a servant of Christ who finally laid down his life for the Lord.

2) The ability to obey and follow our Lord:

Some Christians, even though they have been born again of the spirit of God are not living a life of absolute obedience to the Holy Spirit. However, the sheep of the Lord are able to walk in absolute obedience to the Holy Spirit and finally follow our Lord to the finish line. As a growing sheep, they may falter into satan's trap, however, with the Lord's help, they are able to come out of satan's trap and learn their lessons. They are able to grow spiritually and mature in Christ Jesus.

3) The strong desire to love the Lord above all:

The presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the sheep's hearts marks the manifestations of the strong desire to love the Lord. Their ability to love the Lord above the world and their flesh, allows them to live a life of victory for Christ. The sheep's life and thought center on the Lord and their love for Jesus is manifested by their willingness to obey and keep God's commandment from their heart.

"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 MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM." (JOHN 14:21)

4) Given the gift of the Holy Spirit:

All sheep are always mark by the gift of the Holy Spirit since they are filled by the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit include the highest gift of apostleship, secondly the gift of preaching and the gift of teaching etc.

"AND GOD HATH SET SOME IN THE CHURCH, FIRST APOSTLES, SECONDARILY PROPHETS, THIRDLY TEACHERS, AFTER THAT MIRACLES, THEN GIFTS OF HEALING, HELPS, GOVERNMENTS, DIVERSITIES OF TONGUES."

(1 CORINTHIAN 12: 28)

5) The ability to hear the voice of our Lord:

One of the most important marks of a grown sheep is the ability to hear the voice of the Lord and the ability to discern the voice of our master and the enemy the devil. Many Christians are not able to discern the voice of the Lord or the voice of satan. However, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that fills the sheep's hearts are constantly and instantaneously assisting the sheep to detect the presence of false prophets, false doctrine, false visions and false voices of satan etc.

"BUT STRONG MEAT BELONGETH TO THEM THAT ARE OF FULL AGE, EVEN THOSE WHO BY REASON OF USE HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL. (HEBREW 5:14)

6A) The abundant life: A life style mark with godliness

The ability for the sheep to grow into full maturity is marked by their life style of godliness. Their daily devotions to reading and acting according to God's word and a lifestyle of prayers allows them to have spiritual strength to overcome "the world". They are able to live victoriously for Christ and are able to overcome "the power of mammon" and only serve the Lord.

"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)

They are able to overcome their lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes as they constantly live the crucified life and a lifestyle of godliness.

6B) The abundant life mark with testimonies:

One of the most important characteristics of the sheep is the presence of their abundant testimonies. The sheep constant battles with the power of darkness and the victorious presence of the Holy Spirit result in the abundance of wonderful testimonies for the Lord. Christians that do not have testimonies are not the sheep of the Lord since one of the tools of the Lord to overcome satan is the presence of their powerful testimonies.

"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)

6C) The abundant life mark richly with God's words:

Christians who refuse to spend time in God's words and a life of prayers will not be the sheep of the Lord. The sheep of the Lord are manifested in their minds and hearts richly with God's words. The words of God represent Jesus himself. The words of God are spiritual food and must be ingested in order to maintain our spiritual life and constant union with Christ.

"THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE." (JOHN 6:63)

"HE THAT EATETH MY FLESH, AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, DWELLETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM." (JOHN 6:56)

Many times, the Holy Spirit will speak to us in our hearts through God's words that become our warnings, reminder etc. One of the sign of the maturity in the sheep's life is marked with the rich knowledge of the words of God and their proper spiritual meanings.

"FOR EVERYONE THAT USETH MILK IS UNSKILFUL IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR HE IS A BABE"

(HEBREW 5:13)

6D) The abundant life mark with being filled by the Holy Spirit:

One of the most precious promises of our Lord is being fulfilled in the lifestyle of the sheep. He came to give the sheep the abundant life.

"I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY." (JOHN 10:10)

The sheep of the Lord are constantly pruned to bear richer and much more excellent fruit so as to glorify our Heavenly Father as his followers.

" EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARETH FRUIT, HE PURGETH IT, THAT IT MAY BRING FORTH MORE FRUIT." (JOHN 15:2)

"HEREIN IS MY FATHER GLORIFIED, THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT; SO SHALL YE BE MY DISCIPLES." (JOHN 15:8)

The absolute presence of the Holy Spirit is finally formed in the sheep's life when their characters are mark by the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit

which include, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility, faith and self control.

"BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH,

"MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW." (GALATIANS 5:22,23)

The presence of the divine peace from the Holy Spirit and the power of godliness would radiate from the fully-grown sheep as they carry with them the mark of Christ. The imprint of the bride of Christ has now been formed as the sheep of the Lord prepare themselves to meet our Lord at the end of our spiritual journey, ready to meet our master.

Let us now turn to the work of the sheep. In Matthew 25, the Lord very clearly instructed to separate the sheep from the goat. Both the sheep and the goat look very similar. The only difference is that the sheep obey the voice of the Holy Spirit and live the crucified life and do the works of the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit fills them. The goat however, walks in the flesh and did not do the works of the Holy Spirit as they failed to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The work of the sheep include the work of the Holy Spirit as God's love or charity for others in:

- 1) Spiritual feeding & sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ
- 2) Teaching the truth in the light of God's word
- 3) The works of prayers for others.

As the Holy Spirit fills the sheep's heart, they are automatically led to the work of the Holy Spirit. They have a strong desire to speak the truth of the word of God to others, whether to teach them or to witness to them. They would be led to the work of "soul savings" as the Holy Spirit will assign them the job to do so.

"FOR I WAS AN HUNGERED, AND YE GAVE ME MEAT: I WAS THIRSTY, AND YE GAVE ME DRINK: I WAS STRANGER, AND YE TOOK ME IN:" (MATTHEW 25:35)

Secondly, they would also have the charity and the boldness to speak the truth of the word of God to the body of Christ; whether they have fallen in sin or are spiritually ill.

"NAKED, AND YE CLOTHED ME: I WAS SICK, AND YE VISITED ME: " (MATTHEW 25:36)

Thirdly, the Lord will give them the power of prayers in setting free the body of Christ who are trapped by Satan.

"I WAS IN PRISON, AND YE CAME UNTO ME."
(MATTHEW 25:36)

Are you the sheep of the Lord? Do all of these characters belong to you? Do you know Jesus died and lay down his life to save only the sheep of the Lord.

"AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP."

(JOHN 10:15)

May I petition that if you have not manifested these characteristics that you would genuinely repent before the Lord of your sins and cry for mercy before "the throne of Grace".

May the Lord richly bless you as you mark these characteristics of the sheep of the Lord. May you truly be the sheep of the Lord who willingly and joyfully serve our Master in all things that you do in His name. For all our labor in Christ Jesus will never be in vain.

"THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE YE STEDFAST, UNMOVEABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, FOR AS MUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YOUR LABOUR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD."

(1CORINTHIAN 15:58)

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 6

THE PARABLE OF A SOWER

Throughout history, there are many famous men that have impacted our world today. Yet amidst all of these men, our Lord Jesus has surpasses all of them within the 3 years of his ministry on earth. Our Lord Jesus had lived approximately 33 years of his life on earth before his resurrection and ascension witness by his apostles and multitude of his followers. What is your response to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Who do you believe him to be? Is he merely a good philosopher, a good religious leader or is he indeed the son of God that has come down to save mankind from eternal damnation?

The Lord captures all of our responses towards him in the "parable of the sower" recorded in the book of Matthew chapter 13, Mark chapter 4 and Luke chapter 8. There are basically 4 kinds of responses that have resulted from the gospel of Jesus Christ. The 4 responses are written as follows:

- 1) The seeds that are sown and fell by the way side
- 2) The seeds that are sown and fell on the stony ground
- 3) The seeds that are sown and fell **among thorns**
- 4) The seeds that are sown and fell among the good ground

Let us first analyze the first response of mankind towards our Lord.

- "A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW HIS SEED: AND AS HE SOWED, SOME FELL BY THE WAY SIDE; AND IT WAS TRODDEN DOWN, AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR DEVOURED IT." (LUKE 8:5)
- "THOSE BY THE WAY SIDE ARE THEY THAT HEAR; THEN COMETH THE DEVIL, AND TAKETH AWAY THE WORD OUT OF THEIR HEARTS, LEST THEY SHOULD BE SAVED." (LUKE 8:12)

The seeds that are sown and **fell by the way side** make up the largest response from the world. It is a group of unbelievers whose hearts are totally control by the power of darkness. As our Lord mentions that as the seeds fell on the way side, it was trodden down which means the gospel of Jesus Christ was looked down upon or made insignificant; and finally the fowls which represent the devil takes away the word of God from their hearts.

The second group of people that response to the gospel of Jesus Christ are called the "temporizers".

"AND SOME FELL UPON A ROCK; AND AS SOON AS IT WAS SPRUNG UP, IT WITHERED AWAY, BECAUSE IT LACKED MOISTURE." (LUKE 8:6)

This group of so-called believers is also called "nominal Christians" or "superficial Christians" who do not have the genuine life of Jesus Christ and are not born again of the spirit of God. Our Lord defines these as having no root and obviously "no moisture" since they do not have any root. Any plants that do not have root are definitely not alive.

"THEY ON THE ROCK ARE THEY WHICH, WHEN THEY HEAR, RECEIVE THE WORD WITH JOY; AND THESE HAVE NO ROOT, WHICH FOR A WHILE BELIEVE, AND IN TIME OF TEMPTATION FALL AWAY." (LUKE 8:13)

For this reason, we can easily conclude that these are "spiritually dead Christians" or "not born again" of the spirit of God. They may be baptized in a church and become a group of churchgoers, however they are not in anyway related to our Lord and when persecutions arise, they will reveal their real identity by becoming unbelievers. Such revelations are very obvious in places such as communist China or former communist Russia where a Christian will face an imprisonment for their faith.

Finally, the third and the fourth group of responders are referred to as **born again believers**. How do we know that they are born again of the spirit of God? The reason is simple. The **parable of the sower** tells us that they both fell into the ground and grow up and bear fruits. The difference is the amount of fruits the plants from the third and the fourth ground have born.

Let us look in detail the third type of ground.

"AND SOME FELL AMONG THORNS; AND THE THORNS SPRANG UP WITH IT, AND CHOKED IT." (LUKE 8:7)

Our Lord explains that this sort of plant do grow up and bear fruits. The only problem is that the fruit is not ripened or sometimes unable to bear fruit because of the presence of the thorns that suck away and compete with the absorption of the minerals from the ground. Hence, instead of

nourishing the plants with direct minerals, the thorns suck up the nutrition from the plants.

Hence, the problem of the third type of ground where the plant fails to yield fruit or unable to have ripen fruit lies in the presence of thorns. What do these thorns refer to spiritually?

"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 WORLD, AND BRING NO FRUIT TO PERFECTION." (LUKE 8:14)

"AND THESE ARE THEY WHICH ARE SOWN AMONG THE THORNS; SUCH AS HEAR THE WORD,
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 4:18-19)

Our Lord tells us that these thorns refer to 4 spiritual enemies that prevent God's children from growing up spiritually and becoming fruitful. These 4 spiritual enemies are:

- 1) The cares of this world
- 2) The deceitfulness of riches
- 3) The lusts of other things
- 4) The pleasure of this life

Once born again of the spirit of God, satan our spiritual enemy has many ways and means to side track, trap God's children from smoothly running along the path of the cross into maturity. Satan would put **the cares of this present world**, whether in our preoccupation of our daily work and to the worries for our children's education or spending excessive time in the pleasure of this world ranging from excessive shopping to touring etc. All in all are aimed to snatch away our time and attention from the quiet time we spend with the Lord in prayers or reading God's words etc. It is not that we cannot attend our daily affairs of this life, but rather we need to constantly ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with wisdom what ought to be done in what amount of time frame, so that they do not compete with our spiritual growth. The moment we go beyond what is instructed by the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we have fallen into satan's trap of being too busy in the world and these become thorns to our spiritual life.

Secondly, many God's children even though born again of the spirit of God are not able to grow spiritually because satan would trap them in **the lust of the flesh** and **the lust of the eyes** and **the pride of life**. These lusts of the eyes or the flesh can range from watching movies to reading novels, or excessive playing video games to even watching sinful act of pornography or smoking, gambling etc, that act as a thorn to spiritual life to God's children. Finally, the "temptation of mammon" described by the Lord as **the deceitfulness of riches** is a common "thorn" to God's children. Many Christian would put their "lust of mammon" and their work above our Lord. Their life revolves on their "lust of mammon" rather than the simple faith of trusting Jesus for their need. Such "thorn" can only deplete spiritual nourishment from their ultimate fruition of growth, an image of Christ, filled by the Holy Spirit.

However, let us turn to the fourth type of ground. The Lord calls this "a good ground". The ground is good because it has been softened; where all rocks are removed and tilled ready for the seed to grow and bloom without obstruction.

The ground represents the heart of a man. The tilling & softening of the soil with the rocks being removed represent the work of the Holy Spirit that has resulted in a genuine thorough repentance of a child of a living God, when they are born again experience are solidly grounded on the rock of Christ. Hence they have earned themselves the title of a "an honest and a good heart". They have seriously obeyed the word of God and act it out according to the touch of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit has given them the strength to keep God's words in their heart as their weapons against the spiritual enemy, the devil. They are willing to live a crucified life and follow our Lord as His sheep. They are willing to buy the flask of oil as the wise virgin (Matthew 25) and they bloom under the pruning knives of the Lord (John 15) with "patience". Finally, they are able to finish the narrow path of the Lord victoriously. Their willingness to lay their life for Jesus at all costs have led them to be the bride of Christ, the disciples of Christ known for their fruitfulness bearing the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Their fruitfulness have now been turned to the final imprint of the image of Christ ready to meet our master at the end of the their spiritual journey.

My dear friends, which types of ground do you belong to? If you have yet to believe in the Lord, may I invite you to repent thoroughly of your sins like the seed sown in the fourth ground and be truly the sheep of the Lord. If you are the plant that grows in the third type of ground that are choked with "thorns" of this world and live a life walking in your flesh as a goat, may you also repent of your sins and be fruitful for the Lord. As a fruitless plant runs a danger of being cut off and thrown into fire and burn (John 15:6).

May the Lord richly bless you as you walk fruitful before him, worthy of His remembrance for eternity.

"TAKE HEED THEREFORE HOW YE HEAR: FOR WHOSOEVER HATH, TO HIM SHALL BE GIVEN; AND WHOSOEVER HATH NOT, FROM HIM SHALL BE TAKEN EVEN THAT WHICH HE SEEMETH TO HAVE." (LUKE 8:18)

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

MESSAGE 7

GOD'S WILL IN GOD'S TIMING

What is your purpose in life? What is God's will in your life? Many people live a life without any sense of purpose in their lives. They live a life void of God and void of Christ without no sense of direction. Sad to say, many Christians, even though they claim to be born again of the spirit of God, are living a life style with no sense of purpose or direction either. They merely live a life of a "churchgoer" week after week failing to recognize that Almighty God has a very special plan for every one of His children.

Being born again of the spirit of God is the most important relationship one has ever achieved with our Lord. It is a relationship whereby one is "adopted" and links back to our heavenly Father as we become God's children.

"BUT YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, WHEREBY WE CRY ABBA, FATHER."
"THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD:" (ROMANS 8: 15,16)

It is at this point of time, we have been translated from the position of being a child of satan into a child of a living God, translated from the power of darkness into a citizen of the kingdom of God.

"AMONG WHOM ALSO WE ALL HAD OUR CONVERSATION IN TIMES PAST IN THE LUST OF OUR FLESH, FULFILLING THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND OF THE MIND; AND WERE BY NATURE THE CHILDREN OF WRATH, EVEN AS OTHERS." (EPHESIANS 2:3)

"WHO HAVE DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HATH TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON." (COLOSSIANS 1:13)

The word of God tells us, once we become God's children, every one of us become God's masterpiece in Christ Jesus created unto good work for His glory.

" FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM."

(EPHESIANS 2:10)

Yet, many Christians today are living a life not knowing what God's will in their life is all about. They live a life walking in their flesh versus walking in the spirit. Many Christians refuse to spend time before the "throne of Grace" to pray and spend time asking the Lord God for His decisions. It is much easier to make their decisions versus patiently asking God in prayers for God's will. Such Christians are living a life under "the permissive will of God" instead of "the very best will of God". Perhaps you would say then: How do I know God's will? Let us go back into the word of God to discover God's will for His children.

In the Old Testament, one of the most powerful stories was the story of the battle of the city of Jericho. It is through this miraculous act of God, that we will learn what God's will is all about. For God's will to be revealed and accomplished, we must have 4 elements:

- 1) Faith and revelations before the throne of Grace
- 2) Uplifting God's word at all times
- 3) Obedience to act upon God's word
- 4) Waiting for God's timing to act upon

1) Faith and revelations before the throne of Grace:

Our heavenly Father love to guide His children but a step at a time. He will never reveal His entire plan but a step at a time. Every act of faith & every act of obedience will reveal the next step of His plan. God in His wisdom would never reveal all of His plan to His children at one shot. The reason is simple, if we would have seen it all at a time, we probably would not have the wisdom nor the faith nor the courage nor the willingness to complete it. It is for this reason, we must come by faith before "the throne of Grace" for His revelation; every time we are in a position to make a decision whether facing a difficult time or looking for a sense of direction from our heavenly father. Never override God's decision while waiting for God's answer. Our Lord Jesus tells us that we are to constantly ask, seek and knock and it is guaranteed to be answered in His time.

" ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU."

"FOR EVERYONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVETH; AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED." (MATTEW 7:7-8)

In the story of Jericho, The Israelites face a huge impossible task of battling against the city of Jericho. The city of Jericho was a big city totally shut against all outsiders and had very high walls. The task looks difficult if not impossible to win. However, the Lord spoke to Joshua and revealed God's plan of delivering Jericho into Joshua's hand.

2) Uplifting God's word at all times:

The Lord instructed Joshua of the first requirement in order to win the battle of Jericho. The first condition is:

"AND SEVEN PRIESTS SHALL BEAR BEFORE THE ARK SEVEN TRUMPETS OF RAM'S HORN: AND THE SEVENTH DAY YE SHALL COMPASS THE CITY SEVEN TIMES, AND THE PRIESTS SHALL BLOW WITH TRUMPETS." (JOSHUA 6:4)

Spiritually, this refers to all God's children and his servant we must always uplift "the ram's horn" and "the arc of God" when going through "Jericho" or difficulties of Life. We must always walk according to God's words and not resort to our own "carnal intelligence"

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART; AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING."
"IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS."

(PROVERB 3:5,6)

We must also constantly check out for the presence of sins in our heart. If we were to resort to our human intelligence, what God is asking many times may not be logical or making any human sense for the time being until we see the whole picture. For example, how could going around Jericho causes the wall to collapse? However, as a child of a living God, we must obey the voice of the Lord to do certain things. The criteria is the voice of the Holy Spirit must always uplift God's word & glorify our Lord ultimately. The instructions of the Holy Spirit cannot and will not go against or "contra" the word of God. For this reason, it is very important for God's children to read and comprehend God's word thoroughly.

3) Obedience to act upon God's word:

Going around the city of Jericho requires going through 7 times and 7 days in the right order where the 7 priest would blow the 7 trumpets with the ram's horn before the ark of the Lord. The instruction of the Lord to Joshua is extremely specific and clear. Any discount or disobedience on the part of Joshua to follow God's exact instruction is sin and disastrous. Many God's children fail to follow God's orders and the voice of the Holy Spirit exactly as instructed. They either fail to do one thing or short cut another. It is a sin and an act of disobedience on the part of God's children that prevented "God best will" to be fulfilled and reveal in their lives.

4) Waiting for God's timing to act upon:

As Joshua walk in absolute obedience to God's instruction going through the city of Jericho 7 times in 7 days; at the final shout of exact 7 times and 7 days, Jericho walls finally collapsed. It is not only very important for God's children to obey God's instruction exactly as requested by the Holy Spirit; but more importantly, waiting for God's timing in answering our prayers is very crucial. Failure to wait exactly in God's timing will not unveil God's very best plan and will for our lives. Secondly, failing to wait patiently and act out a decision out of our own flesh and human intelligence will always land us into painful consequences that could be destructive.

Hence, it is very important while waiting for God's will to be revealed, to walk in obedience to God's words and the Holy Spirit at all times, patiently waiting for God's timing before "the throne of Grace" in unceasing prayers.

Our Lord God always has the best plan and will for all of His children. As we go through our "temporal journey" on this earth, our Lord always accompanies us through our trials and tribulation. He will guide us, direct our footstep and bless us to go through His very best plan for us so long as we submit to His will by faith. Finally, God's ultimate will is to conform us to the image of His son Jesus; to present us holy and blameless before Him as "the bride of Christ" as predestinated before the foundation of the world.

"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)

"ACCORDING AS HE HATH CHOSEN US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE:"

"HAVING PREDESTINATED US UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL," (EPHESIAN 1:4-5)

May the Lord richly bless you as you walk according to His will by faith to the glory of God for the very best that he has planned for us in his timing.

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

TESTIMONIES FOR THOUGHT

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS,

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus

The Holy Spirit has touched my heart to begin "TESTIMONIES FOR THOUGHT" writing from now onwards. As born again believers and God's children, we all must experience testimonies in our life. Many servants of the Lord and other precious saints have many wonderful testimonies. Personally, I have many difficulties in my life that have become wonderful testimonies for the Lord as the Lord delivers me out of them all. Just like king David writes:

"MANY ARE THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS BUT THE LORD DELIVERETH HIM OUT OF THEM ALL."

(PSALM 34: 19)

One of the most important reasons to read these testimonies is to strengthen God's children in their faith as they journey along the path of the cross. God is always faithful to His children and our Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our Lord is very much alive even in today's world and it is through reading these testimonies that our faith is uplifted, the word of God made alive so as to grow in the Lord, in the image of His son Jesus.

Secondly, all of God's children that have been born again of the spirit of God must experience "the battle against satan" as mentioned by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 6. It is through these battles of trials and tribulations, that God has turned it into real life testimonies as the pruning knives of the Lord turn them into the abundance of fruit bearing of the Holy Spirit in one's life. Every difficulties, trials and tribulations in God's children will always be accompanied by the victorious presence of Jesus as God's children battle courageously in their prayer's life and marvelously become powerful testimonies for the Lord.

Finally, all God's children that are growing spiritually must bear continuous testimonies for the Lord as the book of Revelation tells us that testimonies are one of the 3 factors that is needed in order to overcame our spiritual enemies, 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 THE DEATH."

(REVELATION 12:11)

May the Lord spiritually bless you as you read these "TESTIMONIES FOR THOUGHT", to realize that God is always faithful to His promises and His own words. May the name of our Lord Jesus be uplifted and may we give glory to the Trinity:

GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT as we ponder on these testimonies of His mighty hands. Amen.

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

THE TESTIMONIES OF ROSY CHAO

"MY BEARS & LIONS"

When King David was a young shepherd boy, the Lord began His spiritual training by fighting against a bear or a lion in order to save his lamb.

"AND THY SERVANT KEPT HIS FATHER'S SHEEP, AND THERE CAME A LION AND A BEAR, AND TOOK A LAMB OUT OF THE FLOCK"

"AND I WENT OUT AFTER HIM, AND SMOTE HIM, AND DELIVERED IT OUT OF HIS MOUTH: AND WHEN HE AROSE AGAINST ME, I CAUGHT HIM BY THE BEARD, AND SMOTE AND SLEW HIM." (1 SAMUEL 17:34,35)

Likewise, in my life, in my younger days, I faced many "bears" and "lions" that was sent my way by the Lord in order for me to battle them depending on the Lord moment by moment, trials by trials, through constant prayers and His words.

I shall share a few of these stories at a time with you as I recall these difficulties. May the name of our Lord once again be uplifted as I share my testimonies with you.

GOD'S PROVISION FOR MY OLD CAR

When I first came to America to study in the University of San Francisco, I had to depend on my small business of selling special occasion dresses to the bridal shops since my parents are in the business. The Lord has been extremely faithful unto me and prior to every business trip, I always read God's word and pray first before I petition for sales in my business. Since our Lord's rule of thumb is:

"BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU." (MATTHEW 6:33)

Since I became a born again Christian and my parents had yet to believe in Jesus, I could only cling to the Lord for all of my financial needs. I remembered vividly that I was facing my last semester in the university and my personal saving was depleted. I could not pay my final semester school fees and my monthly apartment rent and food etc with what I had. On the top of that, my old used car had an engine sign problem and I needed a new car to be able to travel safely from San Francisco to Los Angeles and San Diego and many parts of California in order to do my sales. Hence, my first priority is to get a new car; and yet I do not have enough money neither to buy a new car or continue my school.

School was about to start in a month and I needed to quickly sell some dresses to be able to get enough money to pay all of my school expenses which is about \$3500.00 per semester plus food and lodging. I only have approximately \$1500.00 in my saving, not enough to pay my final semester school fees. Given all of these pressures, I asked my husband whom I just got married, whether we could get a loan from the bank to purchase a new car. To this, he answered that as students we could not qualify for a loan since we did not have established credit. This answer from my husband was the final push that led me to "the throne of Grace" crying before the Lord for help in desperation.

The next thing I knew I was on my knees telling Jesus my needs in tears, crying desperately to God for help as I had no way out of my situations. However, as I prayed and cried to the Lord Jesus that I needed money to buy a car and it is a need and not "out of covetousness", to this the Lord answered me miraculously. As I turn to the Bible, my eyes fell into Matthew chapter 6 verse 25-34

"THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, TAKE NO THOUGHT FOR YOUR LIFE, WHAT YE SHALL EAT, OR WHAT YE SHALL DRINK; NOR YET FOR YOUR BODY, WHAT YE SHALL PUT ON. IS NOT LIFE MORE THAN MEAT, AND THE BODY THAN RAIMENT?

"BEHOLD THE FOWLS OF THE AIR: FOR THEY SOW NOT, NEITHER DO THEY REAP, NOR GATHER INTO BARNS; YET YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FEEDETH THEM. ARE YE NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THEY?"

"WHEREFORE IF GOD SO CLOTHE THE GRASS OF THE FIELD, WHICH TODAY IS AND TOMMORROW IS CAST INTO THE OVEN, SHALL HE NOT MUCH MORE CLOTHE YOU, O YE OF LITTLE FAITH?"

"TAKE NO THOUGHT, SAYING WHAT SHALL WE EAT, OR WHAT SHALL WE DRINK? OR, WHEREWITHAL SHALL WE BE CLOTHED"

(FOR AFTER ALL THESE THINGS DO THE GENTILES SEEK) FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWETH THAT YE HAVE NEED OF ALL THESE THINGS"

"BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU." (MATTHEW 6:25-33)

These words jumped out from the Bible. The Lord Jesus was clearly speaking to me of my problems and His solutions. Immediately, I asked the Lord to forgive my sins of having no faith. Upon confessions of my sins, I felt the "super peace" in my heart knowing that the Lord will take care of my car problem. Even though, after I made my prayers, my old car was still parked outside as it was with the car problem. Nonetheless, I pick up my bag joyfully and left for school trusting in the Lord for his provision.

By the time I arrived at school, my professor announced that it was our last marketing class and that we are "to drink, eat cookie and chit chat". As I sat down on my chair, I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit whispering in my ear saying: "Isn't that American friend kent, his father own the biggest car dealer in Burlingame (a city close to San francisco)? Go and talk to him about your car needs." All of a sudden, my eyes were open and I said: "that's right, I'll talk to him."

As I spoke to Kent about my car needs and my financial problems; he merely asked me what my husband did for a living. To this I honestly replied that we both were students and not working. Then, he told me to come to his office the next day. My friend Kent instructed his Hong Kong sales representative to take care of me and gave me what I wanted. Praise the Lord, all I did was to sign the paper and leave with a brand new car without even putting any money for a deposit. Little did I know that getting a new car was this easy. How amazing that our Lord Jesus is always faithful to His words once again answering my prayer in time of needs!!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this story of my small "bears" and "lions" are only the beginning of walking by faith in our Lord Jesus. Our Lord Jesus is always faithful to His children and he is very much alive through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who is constantly helping us, watching us and counseling us to go through every trials and temptations.

So I left with a brand new car to start my "salesrep" life of selling dresses in order to collect enough money to graduate for my last semester of school.

MY FINANCIAL NEEDS PROVIDED

Our Lord God is our "Jehovah Jireh" (Genesis 22:14) which spiritually means that he is our provider for all of our needs. As I travel from San Francisco to Los Angeles and San Diego with a brand new car for 3 weeks on the road and covering 3000 miles by myself, I was accompanied by the presence of the Lord all the way. I faced a life of a long distance travelling sales representative. Amidst this journey, the Lord was with me and I shall share with you some of my encounters in this journey. My other prayer partner was my other "spiritual teacher" who was the servant of the Lord by the name of Titus Dong and his wife. Uncle Titus Dong and his wife were elderly couple, who were both imprisoned in China for 20 years for their faith in Jesus. Uncle Titus Tung reassured me that all will be fine as they will continue to pray for me everyday.

BUSINESS ENCOUNTER IN PORTERVILLE

It was late at night, and I had driven many hours and miles from morning to night. I was trying to go into a small town where there was a bridal shop and it was located in a small town call Porterville. As I arrived in front of the door of the shop, it barely closed and I remembered it was 7 PM in the evening. The door of the store just closed but the owner Rita was still inside. As I approached the door and showed her by my hand signal to come and showed her my 2 fingers meaning just for "2 minutes please", she came forward towards the door.

At this point of time, I began to cry to Jesus my Lord for help and I said my prayers in my heart"

"Lord, please help me to sell these dresses as I have driven for hours and you know I truly need money. Please touch her heart to buy from me," I pleaded in my heart to the Lord.

As I made these prayers, the lady owner opened the door and I spoke to her requesting her just to take a look at what I had without any pressure of buying if she did not wish to do so. I merely ask her to give me a chance to show her since I came from a far away place. To my surprise, not only she bought everything that I showed her with all her cash for that day and she even told me to come back for more cash the next day. Praise the Lord! Once again the Lord had answered my prayers! How amazing that the Lord is always so merciful to me and touched her heart to provide my financial needs as His "Jehovah Jireh!"

Every single business trip in that 3 weeks was accompanied by His presence. Every morning, I would read God's words and pray prior to leaving the motels and began to do sales work. Every prayer of sales was accompanied by His blessings as the Lord was with me.

VISITING THE SERVANT OF THE LORD IN LOS ANGELES

One of my other precious "spiritual teacher" was miss Esther Wang. She was indeed the servant of the Lord who was imprisoned in Communist China for 20 years for her faith in Jesus. I had been touched by the Holy Spirit to visit her and gave her my offerings of \$40.00 as I passed through the city of Los Angeles where she lived. In return, she gave me a box of cookie and insisted that I should take with me for my trip. At first, I was reluctant but finally I took it only to realize that those cookies was the Lord's provision as I face the upcoming trouble heading my way back to San Francisco.

TROUBLE IN THE CITY OF LOMPOC

As I began to wrap up my business trip back to San Francisco, I had to go through a small town call Lompoc close to Santa Barbara about 6 hours drive from San Francisco. I had been travelling about 2 ½ weeks on the road and I was physically exhausted and I did not have enough rest as I slept from motel to motel to do my salesman trip. That morning, as I was doing my quiet time with the Lord in prayers and reading His words. The Holy Spirit "pre-warned" me of my upcoming trouble as I turned to the word of God and it said:

"GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE" (PSALMS 46:1)

These verses spoke to me and were made alive. Little did I know that I was to face a serious trouble coming up.

My physical exhaustion of more than 2 weeks of travelling on the road, plus my improper rest and watching a television program instead of resting, plus eating my left over "burger king burger", all in all created a problem for my digestive system. As I travel along these highways out of no where since it was my first time, I began to feel sick. At first, I had to stop my car and throw up in my burger king bag. By the time I had to stop my car for the second time to throw up in my burger king bag again, the bag had suddenly burst and made a big mess

all over my car. It was an awful sight in my car and what made it worst was the fact that I was left with no energy to drive any longer. I did not know neither where I was and nor where the closest motel would be for me to just collapsed and sleep. I began to pray to God for help and remembered the Bible verse that was given to me that morning. Finally I came to a motel and got the key to my room and fell asleep. The cold wind from the open window in my room had awakened me as I realized that I had fallen asleep out of exhaustion and it was late at night. I also discovered that I had no energy to even walk and felt extremely weak physically. On the top of that, I am at least 6 hours away from driving home in San Francisco. I could not tell anyone, least of all my husband who would be extremely worried.

It was at this critical juncture of helplessness that I fell on my knees once again in prayers to our heavenly Father for help. I had to first confess my sins of resorting to the "lust of my eyes" of watching television instead of praying and resting early. Nonetheless, the word of God came to me and the Holy Spirit reassured me and told me to take the hot water from the tap and Miss Esther Wang's cookies. Miraculously as I drank the hot water from the tap and put the cookies and dip it in the hot water and ate them, my physical strength recovered. How amazing that God knew what was to come of me. If I had not visited Miss Esther Wang who gave me the cookie in return, I do not know what will happen. However, because our Lord is real and knows what is needed to protect His children, He will always have a solution prepared whenever His children faces upcoming trouble.

The next day, I left Lompoc and was blessed with more sales and sweet customers who offered me teas and cakes which I declined since I had to be "super careful" not to be sick again. Finally, I arrived back in San Francisco peacefully. God had provided me \$10000.00 in cash plus orders with these funds as His "Jehovah Jireh". I graduated the University of San Francisco and manage to pay all of my school fees, lodging etc. God is very faithful in His words of promise. Little did I expect not only he provided me with a new car, my finances to graduate but more importantly his lessons of faith and testimonies to once again uplift the name of our Lord.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF PENG MY SCHOOLMATE

It is amazing how our Lord would use His children to speak to some one that Jesus equally loves. I had a friend a Malaysian young man named Peng. He had a very rough university life as he had to earn his living just like myself in order to graduate from school. His father was financially bankrupt and his parents were divorced leaving his 3 younger

brothers in Malaysia with his father, while Peng had his youngest sister with his mom in America. His mother had another boyfriend and left his little sister to his care. Peng would work as a truck driver for a fish company and made very minimal wages during the off school spare time. He had a life of misery and full of financial burden. It so happened that he was invited to our Bible study, which I started of in the campus among the Asian Christian community. One month prior to our final semester and graduation, the Lord had orchestrated me to meet Peng, prior to going for another class. Little did I know that the Holy Spirit would use me to have him repent for the last time. As I met him and began to testify to him about the Lord and his faithfulness and how my financial problem was solved. I told him that he needed Jesus and I persuaded him with all my heart to turn to the Lord for help. I had spent an hour and a half or so and insisted for him to turn to the Lord. His answer was: "if only I had a million dollar, then all my problems would be solved!" To this, I said that money could solve some problems but not every problem. Finally, we both parted and left for our classes.

When I graduated, I went back to Indonesia and returned to San Francisco to be picked up by my husband. It was through my husband's lips that I was very shocked to discover that Peng had died. It was a tragic death. As Peng graduated, he had planned to invite all of his good friends for a graduation luncheon party. Towards the end of that party, Peng who was filled with depression and obviously as the destructive work of satan took over, he put his gun underneath his chin and shot himself to death in front of everyone in the restaurant. What a tragedy!!

My dear brothers and sisters, this heartbreaking story of my friend Peng, only tells me that Jesus is very merciful and fair towards everyone. Little did I know that the Lord would use my mouth to try to give him a last chance of repentance before his tragic death that only the Lord knew was coming up soon.

May these testimonies of mine be a ringing bell to your ears. May you choose to walk in obedience to the Lord God and cast all of your burden upon him as our Lord is faithful and merciful. May you repent of your sins if you have not accepted Jesus as your personal saviour. Please do not continue to reject Jesus, as it will be too late like Peng who was destroyed by Satan and will face hell for eternity!

Remember! For God so loved you that he gave his only son Jesus to die on the cross on your behalf, in order for you to live for eternity and escape the penalty of hell and second death. Please value this moment as you read these testimonies to bring glory to our heavenly Father.

For those who are going through trials and tribulations, may you continue to depend on the Lord in your prayers and his words of promise and may these testimonies strengthen you in the walk with the Lord.

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

THE TESTIMONY OF TATIN KAYA

THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT

One of my most memorable testimony is the divine appointment set up by the Holy Spirit to meet sister Tatin Kaya, in Tokyo, Japan. The Lord God knows everyone of His children, whether they live in America, Japan or Indonesia or any other parts of the world. This story will encourage your heart to once again uplift the name of our Lord Jesus. The God that we worship is omnipotent which means all powerful, omniscience which is all knowing, and omnipresent which means that our Lord is present everywhere.

OUR DESTINATION PRIOR TO THE MEETING

It all started from my business plan trip to Soo Chow a city close to Shanghai, China. Personally, I had asked the Lord to open the door for me to do my side business and get a manufacturer for my bridal business in China. The reasons were simple: in order for me to focus God's work in "the Isles of the East" which is Indonesia for His spiritual work only. In addition, I did not wish to bother my parents for the business aspect as they are getting older and they needed time for their physical rest and retirements. I had decided to close the factory in Indonesia that supplies my business needs so that I can truly focus on "God's spiritual work" in my own country, as mixing business and God's work in Indonesia is not the wisest thing to do.

ANSWER TO PRAYERS OVER MY LAND

I shall also briefly described that at this point of time, God had finally given me a large land and completed the construction of a beautiful home beyond what I had expected or thought. I had prayed and waited for this land for 15 years and the Lord had promised to give me in His timing through his own words of promise in the book of psalm:

"WAIT UPON THE LORD, AND KEEP HIS WAY, AND HE SHALL EXALT THEE TO INHERIT THE LAND" (PSALM 37:34)

These words of promise were given to me 2 times in my prayers and finally after 15 years of waiting, the Lord fulfilled his own words of promise accordingly. I shall share this testimony with you in other times. The reason I briefly mention about my land is because later on in this story, it also involve a story of sister Tatin kaya's land. I am a witness of God's faithfulness in His promise of a land whether to me or to anyone of His children. Indeed, God is always faithful to His words and will fulfill his promise in His timing.

PETITION BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE

With these thought in mind and the final completion of His "promise land" and a beautiful home beyond my expectation, I brought all my thoughts and plan before "the throne of grace" asking God for approval and directions. As I come before the Lord in prayers in the "wee morning hours", where I could focus in "the wilderness" alone to receive his daily manna of reading God's words plus instructions from the Holy Spirit in prayers. All of a sudden, I heard the voice of the Lord in my ears. I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit instructing me what to do. The Holy Spirit said: "I AM GOING TO USE YOU TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN SPIRITUAL NEEDS, THERE IS THE CALL OF MACEDONIA"

What was truly amazing was the fact that our Lord would never be bothered with the "issue of the worldly affairs" as our Lord Jesus tells us in His words in one simple instruction:

"BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU." (MATTHEW 6:33)

I should have known this rule of thumb but nonetheless as I petitioned to ask all I got was His spiritual work, **the call of Macedonia** (**Acts 16:9)** and clearly spelled out "someone is in the need of help and I am going to use you to talk to that person." My first thought in my mind was perhaps someone in China since I am going to China.

FILLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

As my husband asked me about the destination and direction and the purchase of the air ticket, he suggested to fly directly to Shanghai, which was a common sense since our destination was to go to Soo Chow a city 2 hours from Shanghai. However, to this I said that we needed to go through Tokyo first. My husband is an engineer by occupation and he is always logical by his training. He began to be upset

and angry as to why I must go to Tokyo when logically our destination was Shanghai. Nonetheless, I persisted that we must fly first to Tokyo before going to Shanghai. Finally, my husband who was still very upset over my decision consented. By the time, we had arrived in Tokyo, my husband continued to be even more upset as we do not speak Japanese and getting around anywhere in Tokyo without Japanese is almost impossible.

MEETING WITH SISTER TATIN KAYA

At approximately 3PM in the afternoon, as we finished our lunch, I felt the need to eat fruits and decided to look for the closest grocery store. As we asked the restaurant manager and the front desk receptionist, we were told that there were 2 grocery stores near by and my husband said that he would lead the way to find them. The first grocery store was indeed very small and after visiting the store, we decided to go to the bigger grocery store.

As we arrived and entered the large grocery store, I saw "a tan skin colored" woman in her late forty's looking like a lady from the Philippine more than a Japanese lady, picking up a bunch of flowers right inside the entrance of the door as we come through. It was obvious that she barely came as we had just arrived, since we both met close to the entrance of the door. The first thought that crossed my mind, was perhaps she was a "Phillipino" lady that came to work in Japan. As we walked through different aisles to pick up our groceries, I heard the same lady speaking Indonesian over her hand phone.

As I was filled by the Holy Spirit, I began to open my mouth and asked her whether she was from Jakarta or Surabaya. To this she said that she is from the Batak tribe and from Medan. Later, she began to invite me to her church Christmas celebration and said that it was a pity that I could not join their Christmas celebration in her church. To this, I responded that I am a servant of the Lord, sent to Surabaya churches to witness for Jesus.

Immediately, sister Tatin Kaya took out her tiny hand held computer and recognized who I was. She began to type in my name, my US address & phone number and e-mail address in her hand held computer. Instantly, thereafter, she began to weep and told me that she needed to tell me about her problems.

TATIN KAYA PROBLEM OVER HER LAND

As I was standing trying to figure out as she wrote all of my information as I was still a total stranger to her, I thought. I was amazed that sister Tatin Kaya recognized that I was indeed sent by the Lord to answer her prayers.

Sister Tatin Kaya is a saint, grown in Christ and spent hours in prayers and fasting before the Lord. Many times, she was given visions by the Lord and this time, she fell into satan's trap over her piece of land in the Sumatra island.

She has 4 children by her Japanese husband and later got divorced. She had to raise 4 children on her own and live an extremely small apartment. In Japan, she was financially struggling and yet she own a big piece of land in Sumatra that she wanted to sell desperately in order to buy a bigger house in Japan. All her relative in Indonesia thought she was financially well off in Japan. However, her relatives were jealous of her land and wanted to kill her through the use of black magic to harm her physically.

Visions were given to her by the Holy Spirit, where she saw foxes greedily fighting over her land. Later, she understood that it was her brother in law that did the black magic in Sumatra and sent 2 demons to choke her in the afternoon as she took her nap. As she was being choked by the 2 demons and was unable to breath, she began to also pray and fast over her piece of land for 1 year time. As sister Tatin Kaya struggle spiritually and fell into satan's trap, she began to feel discouraged as to why the Lord God was not responding to her prayers. No body knew of her struggle of her problem except the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters, as she shared this story with me in tears, I knew instantly what the Holy Spirit was talking about in my prayers that was given to me when I was praying in the "wee morning hours" in Sacramento.

SET FREE FROM THE TRAP OF SATAN

I reassured sister Tatin Kaya that it was indeed the Holy Spirit that sent me her way as I was instructed by the Lord that someone indeed needed spiritual help. I reassured her that the Lord had heard her prayers and told her "to rest in the Lord by faith as God is faithful and will solve her land issue according to His timing"

The next question she told me was the fact that she was very poor and live in a very small apartment. To this, I asked her whether she remembered where the Lord lived while he was on earth. Praise God, she knew her scripture very well. She said: "homeless". Indeed the word of God tells us that:

" FOXES HAVE HOLES, AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR HAVE NESTS, BUT THE SON OF MAN HATH NOT WHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD"

(MATTHEW 8:20)

The next question, I asked her was:

"Did it ever occur to you that our Lord was never in the least bothered by his financial or material or homeless condition?"

"You have at least a home, even though it is small. Yet our Lord who is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord was homeless" I continued.

"Yet our Lord was not in the least bothered as our Lord tells us that life on earth is temporal, like a drop of water in a vast of ocean when compared to eternal life"

When she heard these replies that the Holy Spirit had put in my mouth. She wiped her tears away and began to rejoice. I began to hold her hands and led her to the corner of the grocery store to pray together.

How amazing! That in the midst of Tokyo suburb, out of the grocery store in the late afternoon two saints were praying together in the Indonesian language. Sister Tatin Kaya left on her bicycle joyfully and as we parted, my heart was equally joyfull and overwhelm of "His Mighty Hand" and "the Divine Appointment".

HIS MIGHTY HAND

How amazing that our Lord can move two of his children to meet together, one from Sacramento, California and another from Tokyo, Japan through the arrangement and the voice of the Holy Spirit that was "foretold" in my prayers. If I did not obey the Holy Spirit to go through Tokyo, I would never have met sister Tatin Kaya. If I did not feel the desire to eat fruit at 3PM and look out for the grocery shop, we would have never met. Yet the footsteps of the righteous man and our time frame are all guided and control by our Lord, as the word of God says:

" A MAN'S HEART DEVISETH HIS WAY: BUT THE LORD DIRECTETH HIS STEPS." (PROVERB 16:9)

Logically and mathematically speaking, this chance of meeting Sister Tatin Kaya is obviously the divine appointment set up by Almighty God in order to set His child free from satan's trap. It is an answer to her long time prayers. As our Lord tells us:

"ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU"

(MATTHEW 7:7)

Ever since our last meeting, this "land issue" has never bothered our sister Tatin kaya ever again. God has restored her faith in trusting everything into His hand.

LET US GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD GOD

Finally, my husband understood as to why we must go through Tokyo Japan as a family. Our Lord God once again reconfirm with me that I am to "shepherd" the "isles of the East" which is indonesia my own country. Sister Tatin Kaya was not a Japanese or a Chinese or an American. She is an Indonesian. I am led once again to His work among my own countrymen. Looking back at this story, in Japan, there are too few Indonesians, let alone a saint, a child of a living God, coming together to pray for the divine appointment led and guided by the Holy Spirit. Halleluyah, how amazing!!

May this story touches your heart to always listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and be receptive in your prayers!! May we once again give praise and uplift the name of our Lord Jesus, giving glory to the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Amen

"BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE"
(MATTHEW 19:26)

GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

THE TESTIMONIES OF ESTHER WANG

MY SPIRITUAL TEACHER

The thought of Aunt Esther Wang always brought to me memories of warmth and godliness, radiating and intermingled with charity, absolute faith and absolute reverent for Our Lord Jesus. Even though she was 50 years older than me, I had always called her "Wang ku ku" in mandarin meaning "Aunty wang", as every one addressed her. She could have been my grandmother as she was 50 years my senior but most of all she was my spiritual teacher. Someone that have deeply imprinted in my heart the image of Christ, filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, bearing the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, sent by the Lord to grow me and taught me the godly ways of the Lord.

HER LIFESTYLE OF PRAYERS AND GODLINESS

Every time I visited Los Angeles, I could not but visit Miss Esther Wang. The Holy Spirit that indwelled in my heart act like a magnet that drew me to her. I remembered when I was ill years ago, she invited me to stay with her and offered me her bedroom while she slept on the sofa outside in the living room. Very early in the morning, she would be on her knees praying and reading God's words and she would serve me with charity. What marked my heart most was her power of prayers in a very humble yet godly reverent voice and posture on her knees as she took me together to pray with her. Miss Esther Wang, was indeed a godly servant of the Lord, mightily used by the Lord as she spent 20 years in life imprisonment for her faith in Jesus. And yet through the mighty hand of God, she was finally set free and was sent by the Lord to America to witness for Jesus.

HER BRIEF BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION

She was a co-founder of a church call "Ling Liang Dang" or bread of life church that started in Shanghai China, which are now found in many parts of the world. She co-labored with Pastor Chao Se Kuang in Shanghai as a pianist. Later, the Lord called her to the full time ministry as a preacher and she was also the principal of an orphanage prior to the coming of the Communist regime. She had written 2 books in the Chinese language which were translated in English with the title of "How Amazing" and "His mighty power". She had very many testimonies which she shared with me. I shall hereby write and share some of these testimonies with you.

THE VOICE OF THE LORD PRIOR TO HER IMPRISONMENT

Our heavenly Father through the voice of the Holy Spirit will always warn His children prior to major tribulation. Likewise, Miss Esther Wang was about to face one of the most difficult trials in her life. A so-called young pastor betrayed Miss Esther Wang. He pretended to ask her to pray with him, when in actual fact what he did was the opposite. He came as a wolf in a sheep's clothing, recording all that Miss Esther Wang had prayed and reporting them to the Communist police. As a result, Miss Esther Wang was captured and sent to jail for 20 years for her faith in Jesus Christ. Obviously, no body knew this except the Lord and the betrayer and the Communist police. Nonetheless, Miss Ether Wang had no remorse of what the so-called young pastor had done. On the contrary, she had always done kindness to him and treated him as her own son, and many times gave him "the food coupon" that were needed to purchase food for the betrayer's children.

One day, Miss Esther Wang told me that the Lord spoke to her verbally through the air like to the Apostle Paul in "Shanghainese" language. The Lord told her that "she is to face great tribulations & chains awaiting for her". "Her case has been known to the Communist police", the Lord said. In return Miss Esther Wang replied and asked the Lord: "Who reported the case?" and the Lord responded by mentioning the name of her betrayer being that "young pastor" that pretended to pray with her.

Also, the Holy Spirit warned her about this so-called pastor being "a bad person" and "a Gibeonite" (Joshua 9:3) spiritually means a cheater. Yet, Miss Esther Wang did not pay a close attention to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Another vision was also given to her while she was in prayer, which was fulfilled when she saw the scene on the way to the jail upon her arrest. Indeed after hearing the Lord's voice, Miss Ester Wang was given a long term imprisonment for being "anti-revolutionary as she maintained her faith as a Christian and also for translating a book titled "a life of prayer" by Andrew Murray from English into the Chinese language.

HER LIFE IN PRISON

Miss Esther Wang was never physically healthy and she had many kinds of illnesses from the heart problem to arthritis etc. When she entered the jail, she was ready to die for Jesus. Her jail life was a horror as she was sleeping on the floor with a stack of hay underneath and enough space for her body next to a box of human feces. Food was very scarce and later she had to face hard labor in the labor camp. Before long she had developed ear infection and became partially deaf.

MOB ATTACK RESULTED IN THE MIRACULOUS HEALING

Apart from being labeled as "a criminal" for her faith in the Lord, she was also forced to participate the communist indoctrination class. At one of the meeting, one of the so-called "former Christian" who decided to denounce her faith in order to get credit from the Communist party so that she could be set free from the jail term early, decided to find fault with Miss Esther Wang.

She began to ask Miss Esther Wang a question and she said: "Esther Wang, the churches are closed and the Bibles are burnt, where is God?" to this question, Miss Esther Wang who was filled by the Holy Spirit stood up and contested to her question knowing her risk of being punished by the communist. She stood up boldly and replied:

"True, the churches are closed and the Bibles are burnt but God is still alive." Having said this answer, the whole communist criminals in the class turned to "mob attack her" and beat her up for approximately 2 hours. Finally, her jail mate who was a former prostitute which Miss Esther Wang did kindness by giving her things like empty bottles etc, gave her a hard punch on her ear. Because Miss Esther Wang led a life of godliness, practicing the crucified life and "purchased a flask of oil" of the wise virgins (Matthew 25:4), she was filled by the Holy Spirit when darkness and temptations arose. As the Holy Spirit filled her, not only she was able to stand up in boldness as a small stature woman, she was also able to glorify the name of our Lord and forgave them. After being beaten up to the ground for about 2 hours, she finally stood up and said:

"In the name of Jesus, I forgive everyone of you."

What was amazing, was the fact that our Lord Jesus who was always with her is always victorious. As she stood up and told them these words, something hard and large fell out of her ear and her hearing was restored and she could hear again. How amazing that God would allow temptations to come to His children that would ultimately be

replaced with His goodness and to His glory. Hence the book of Roman says:

"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)

HER OWN SONG TO ENCOURAGE HER

Miss Esther Wang was not only a gifted preacher, she was also a talented pianist and hymns writer. One of her famous hymn that was written by her, guided with the touch of the Holy Spirit, was the hymn that title "OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS FAITHFUL." I shall translate a few stanzas of this hymn from Chinese into English in order for us to receive spiritual edification of this testimony. In her song she wrote:

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS FAITHFUL,
HE WILL NEVER FAIL HIS PROMISES
HIS PROMISES ARE VERY DEPENDABLE
THE CROSS THAT I CARRY, WOULD NEVER BE TOO HEAVY
WHEN THE TIME COMES, MY CROSS WILL BE TURNED TO HIS GLORY

CHORUS:

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS FAITHFUL
DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED (2X)
SO LONG AS I AM FAITHFUL TILL THE END OF MY LIFE
DEPENDING ONTO THE LORD AND WOULD NOT BE MOVED
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I SHALL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD

The second stanza sings:

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS FAITHFUL, HE WILL NEVER FAIL HIS PROMISES WHEN I FACE DANGER, HE WILL ALWAYS OPEN A WAY OUT FOR ME The third stanza sings:

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS FAITHFUL, HE WILL NEVER FAIL HIS PROMISES HIS NAME IS JEHOVAH JIREH FOR ALL MY NEEDS HE WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE SO LONG AS I THANK AND PRAISE HIM

These 3 beautiful stanzas and chorus with beautiful spiritual meanings are my favorite hymn. But most of all, it is written by Miss Esther Wang and orchestrated by the Holy Spirit to encourage His children in times of need.

One day, as Miss Esther Wang felt very discouraged for her jail term was very long and difficult, she needed the extra strength from above. As she walked through a wall of bathrooms with her spirit of discouragement, she heard "one of the criminals" in the bathroom who was also a sister in Christ taking a shower. This sister in Christ began to sing the song that she had written above. Miss Esther Wang recognized the hymn as she was the author of that hymn. The Holy Spirit began to remind her that God is always faithful and all of a sudden, Miss Esther Wang was uplifted spiritually as she realized that her temporal temptation of being in jail will someday be exchanged for a crown and that our heavenly Father meant it well. What an amazing encouragement for His Children!

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE OTHER 2 PREACHERS

The power of darkness in the jail required the flask of oil of the 5 wise virgins to shine for Jesus. Miss Esther Wang was that wise virgin that purchased that flask of oil in her daily living and prior to the jail term. She was ready for the Lord with that flask of oil and could shine for Jesus in that temptation and darkness. However, there are 2 very famous lady preachers in China that were assistant to Watchman Nee, that were also captured and sentenced to a long-term jail term for their faith in Jesus. These 2 lady preachers did not buy the flask of oil in their daily living and obviously did not lead the crucified life. Even though they were famous preachers, because they did not obey the Lord in their daily living and did not purchase the flask of oil of the wise virgin, they were not able to withstand the long-term power of darkness. As their lamps have gone out and do not have the flask of oil to fall back on, they would not be able to bear the sufferings in their flesh in jail. Hence, they decided to give up their faith ultimately and began to look for problems with Miss Esther Wang and reported them to the communist in order to receive credit, hoping they would leave the jail early. Their inability to

follow Jesus to the end not only did not allow them to leave the jail early, on the contrary they both died tragically in jail. One of the lady preachers who had forsaken Jesus became mentally ill and died eating her own feces. What a tragic ending!!

As for Miss Esther Wang, not only the Communist set her free from her jail term but the Lord healed her from all her illnesses. The Lord sent her to America to witness for Jesus. Miss Esther Wang led a very healthy life spiritually and physically in America. She lived up to the age of 94 years and was probably the oldest preacher that preached with power and zeal, as I translated her preaching from Mandarin into English for the last time, 3 months prior to the Lord taking her home.

LET US GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD

There are so many more testimonies of Miss Esther Wang that have yet to be written. Nonetheless, let us give thanks unto the Lord for He is always merciful and faithful to His words. The final advice from Miss Esther Wang that I shall share with you is:

"Always come before the Lord by faith!!"

This voice from Miss Esther Wang will always ring in my ear. May this blessed spiritual truth be yours today. May her story and testimonies uplift your heart, mind and spirit as you recall the goodness of the Lord, once again reminding us as Miss Esther Wang writes in her first stanza of her hymn.

"God is faithful to His words of promise"
"Do not be discouraged"

"Let us fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life" as the Apostle Paul writes (1 Timothy 6:12)

May we once again give glory and thanks unto our Lord God for these wonderful testimonies, as you lay to your heart what the Lord has done for His Children. May these "testimonies for thought" be yours today!! Amen