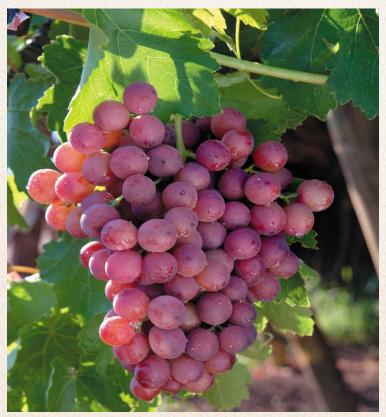
VOLUME 3 GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT" "TESTIMONIES FOR THOUGHT"



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.

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

BY FANNY CROSBY

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

BY C.T. STUD

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

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

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

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

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

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"IF YE ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU. HEREIN IS MY FATHER GLORIFIED, THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT; SO SHALL YE MY DISCIPLES."

JOHN 15:7, 8

Letter 3

TO THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus,

Greeting you once again in the name of our Lord Jesus, I realize how quickly precious time has gone by before us. The Lord has touched my heart to remind all of us to be ready to meet our master. As "the bride of Christ", are you "clothe in the white raiment" and do you wait as the wise virgins for the groom?

Be watchful, be alert and prayerful at all times. Reading God's word daily and keeping them in our heart as our spiritual sword, always walking hand in hand with the Lord. Remember, "be sober be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

In the past years that have gone by before us, have we labored and truly live for Jesus? Have we purchased the flask of oil of the wise virgins? May our first love for Jesus continues to burn in our heart, ready at all times to give the very best account unto our master.

As usual, I will be back at the end of this year between Dec 2014 to January 2015 to labor for the Lord and preaching in churches in Jakarta and Surabaya. Please contact Mdm. Ellyanna (Surabaya tel: 3820-458) for my preaching schedule.

May we all be ready, dress in our "spotless white garment", abundantly laboring unto the Lord according to His will, as we walk through our brief journey, along the path of the cross towards our heavenly home.

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 meantime, 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 that 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 20'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 OF 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 comes 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 submit 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 is 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 OF 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 receive 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 of 2013 has gone by much faster than I thought. It was a year of continued God's grace as I labored for the Lord among my own people. I was not in the best physical condition and without proper physical rest, I contracted both the stomach flu and throat infection as I preached and witness for the Lord from churches to churches. What was amazing was the fact that the power of darkness would attack me prior to every preaching. Then, as I prayed the Holy Spirit would take over my body and all my stomach flu and super ticklish throat disappeared and I was able to preach smoothly to the end of every preaching session. The battle between the light and the dark in my body was obvious. As satan tried to obstruct me from preaching, the Holy Spirit would come to my aid and help me to finish preaching and finalized His own work. Nonetheless, God's grace will always be sufficient for me, as the Lord accompanied me throughout "my preaching journey".

As the Holy Spirit began to work in every church, where I was sent to preach and witness for Jesus, many precious souls were saved. Tears of repentance among those who stood up in prayers as I called upon their repentance, mark the work of the Holy Spirit, as the seeds of the gospel of Jesus Christ were sown in their hearts. Amidst my physical exhaustion as I labor to witness for Jesus, comes the absolute sweetness of seeing precious souls, being snatch from the hand of satan to be translated from darkness into light, as they enter the kingdom of God through their repentance.

Indeed, it is a blessing and a privilege to labor for Jesus, and to witness many desperately needing Christ, where our Lord mentions that "the harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). May we all be willing to labor for Jesus "into His harvest". Amen.

FELLOWSHIP IN MY SISTER MEGA'S HOUSE

The gathering in my sister Mega's house was smaller in numbers, but the Holy Spirit was equally working to save precious souls. In the first meeting, there was a young man, a taoist priest who argued continuously without any desire to accept Jesus. It is sad to see anyone rejecting Jesus Christ as their saviour. However, amidst his argument, there was a young lady who was listening intently beside him that the Holy Spirit was working upon. She came very humbly to me and requested how to be saved. As I offered to pray with her, she accepted the Lord with tears of repentance. I am amazed at such a contrast of attitude and yet it was a blessing to see even 1 precious soul being saved in this meeting. Indeed, the humble attitude of this young lady reminds me of the beatitudes that says "blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

In another meeting, among the Chinese speaking fellowship, many stood up as I called for their repentance and prayers for accepting Christ as their personal saviour. One young man prayed with me personally to accept Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue to labor upon the seed that were sewn within their hearts.

THE WORK OF GOD IN JAKARTA CHURCHES

There were two services in "loving family church". This is a big church and praise God, as I called for repentance and acceptance of Christ at the end of the sermon, many stood up with tears of repentance as the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts.

Likewise, in the "Palem Church" at the evening service, even though it was a smaller church, many stood up with tears of repentance as the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as I called upon them to accept Jesus as their savior.

THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CITY OF SURABAYA

In my mother's house, there were quite a few brothers and sisters that came and at the end of the sermon, some stood up to accept Christ or request for prayers.

In another sister in Christ Ibu Yani's home, we had fellowship with less than 20 people. Nonetheless, the Holy Spirit continued His own work among the few, as they all individually would like to pray with me for their personal problems.

DULOS MENTAL HOSPITAL IN SURABAYA

I had always had the touch to labor among the young men and women in the mental hospital in Surabaya. Both our brother Pak

Fredrick and Ibu July are wonderful servants of the Lord. They have dedicated themselves with charity to serve the Lord. Some of their patients that are currently

living within the mental hospital, had been abandoned by their families. Yet, they continue to keep them at the mental hospital free of charge. May the Lord remember their work of charity and continue to bless them for their labor.

As I preached and sing Hymns together with them, many came forward to accept Christ. One young man by the name of Nuh came to pray with me, as he had issues of anger and unforgiving heart over his emotional entanglement in the past. May the Lord continue to set him free and bless him spiritually. Please continue to pray for these young men and women to be set free spiritually and mentally from the work of satan. Last year, we have the privilege of taking some photos with us.

JKI KUASA MUJIZAT CHURCH

Pastor Sumber, my nephew and Susi his wife are a wonderful couple that shepherd this church and are genuinely serving the Lord. They have shared with me many of their wonderful testimonies. On the day of the Christmas, as I preached in their church, satan was attacking my throat with super itchy bug and prevented me from preaching. It was totally the grace of God, that as I preached in the first few minutes, I had to resort to a cup of water in order to preach. However after about 10 minutes, the ticklish feeling on my throat disappeared as the Holy Spirit overtook my body and the whole place of worship. Praise God, many stood up and responded with tears of repentance, as the Holy Spirit worked in their heart, as I called them to accept Christ. May the Lord continue to bless His own work.

GPPS KUNTISARI CHURCH

It took my mom and myself sometime to locate this church, as we were lost quite a few times. Finally, thanks to God, we found this precious Church. Praise God, at the end of my sermon as I called for repentance and acceptance of Christ, many stood up to accept the Lord. Brothers and sisters and their pastors were very sincere and offered to serve dinner for us all. May the Lord continue to bless the seeds of truths sewn in the believers' hearts and remember their work of charity and kindness.

REHOBOT CHURCH

Ibu Maria is the sister in charge for this church. When I first was invited to preach in her church 3 years ago, she was not aware of the fact that I was Ibu Ellyanna's daughter. It was later on, at the end of the sermon, as I shared how my mother came to Christ after 28 years of prayers that she was delivered from her Buddhism that Ibu Maria nodded in agreement. To my surprise, she told me that she used to see my mother when she did her fortune telling years ago. How amazing that both my mother and Ibu Maria came to know Christ ever since. Indeed, it is the grace of God that brought all of us unto His salvation. The Holy Spirit continued to work among fellow believers, as some stood up in response to the calling of repentance at the end of the sermon.

GIBEON CHURCH

Dr. Daniel and his wife Ibu Meity, were both shepherding this church. This year Dr. Daniel our brother in Christ, had gone to be with the Lord. However, I would like to thank the Lord God as the Holy Spirit had led me into his church, preaching 3 times a day on Sunday for the past 3 years. At every preaching, many people including Dr. Daniel with a heart of humility stood up for prayer request at the end of each sermon. May the Lord continue to bless His own work and Dr Daniel's church.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

GIBEON CHURCH IN SURABAYA



Photo after preaching at Dr. Daniel's church: Pak Bram, Cik Suan, Ibu Meity, Dr. Daniel, Rosy Chao, Ibu Ellyanna, Iwen Chao and Sister Paoline our translator.



DULOS MENTAL HOSPITAL IN SURABAYA

Photos of singing hymns at the Dulos mental Hospital.

JKI KUASA MUJIZAT CHURCH IN SURABAYA



Pastor Sumber, Ibu Ellyanna, Rosy Chao and Sister Susi.

REHOBOT CHURCH IN SURABAYA



Ibu Maria, Rosy Chao, Iwen Chao, Ibu Ellyanna and Sister Paoline.

Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonged to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him, and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You, You'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed You most, You would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you, and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Mary Stevenson

MESSAGE 1

THE SECRET OF JOYFULLNESS IN CHRIST JESUS

In this world, everyone aspires to be happy. Many people strive for success in their business in order to gain financial stability so as to achieve happiness. Others would spend their time touring from place to place in order to obtain excitement and happiness. Children, teenagers and even young adults find their happiness and excitement as they enter their "video games fantasy world." What exactly is this happiness that the world so desperately seeks out and tries to fulfill at the expense of even sacrificing their life?

A recent report of a newspaper from China relayed the story of a young woman who spent 3 days playing video games and was finally found dead being obviously, over excited, over stressed and over exhausted of playing the video games. What was this lady trying to achieve? Obviously, she wanted to find excitement in order to achieve happiness. Unfortunately, she could not achieve and maintain her happiness even at the expense of sacrificing her life.

Let's take a look at the definition of happiness. We know that happiness is a state of an emotion or feeling that is totally dependent on our circumstances. For example, I feel good and happy when my business is successful and I do not feel good and become unhappy when my business is down. I feel excited and happy when I am about to embark on my touring trip to Japan or Europe and when I am back from my trip, I have lost my excitement and happiness as I have to now come back to my "down to earth" mundane duties again.

Hence, we conclude that happiness is temporary in nature and it is the emotional result that is totally stimulated and dependent on our circumstances. The word of God tells us that happiness is carnal make-up of the soul being that is present in both animals and human. It is not eternal by nature and will vanish when we leave this temporal world.

One of the most precious fruits of the Holy Spirit that God has imparted to His children is "joyfulness". Both joyfulness and happiness sound similar and yet

they are profoundly different and surprisingly right the opposite as we analyze many of their characteristics.

Joyfulness is a gift from God through the presence of the Holy Spirit, the moment we choose to repent and become a born again child of a living God. As God's children, we are given the privilege to experience the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit as we become one with the Lord, through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our body.

"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)

It is for this reason that all the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit which include joyfulness are not dependent on our flesh or our circumstances. On the contrary, the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit are totally dependent on the presence of the Holy Spirit. For that reason, the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit are eternal by nature since they reflect the characters of our Lord who is eternal and lives forever.

In order to experience these 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit which include joyfulness, one must be truly born again of the spirit of God. One can claim to be a Christian and be baptized in a church and attended a church service regularly. But until and unless you genuinely repent of your sins and be washed by the blood of Jesus and be born again of the Spirit of God, you will not experience the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, which include joyfulness.

Perhaps, you may say that for some reason, I know I have been born again of the Spirit of God, but now I have lost joyfulness in my heart.

Keep in mind, that joyfulness is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It will be lost when you walk in disobedience to the Holy Spirit and become spiritually defiled as you walk in your flesh. In order to restore joyfulness in one's heart, one must thoroughly and genuinely repent of one's sins.

Another spiritual enemy that stifles joyfulness is written in the word of the Lord recorded in the book of Matthew as follows:

"AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, CHOKE THE WORD, AND HE BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL." (Matthew 13:22)

The inability to retain God's word in our hearts, only reveal the failure to maintain Lordship of the Holy Spirit that indwell within our hearts.

A servant of the Lord put it this way. There are 3 secrets or formula to joyfulness. The word **JOY** can be broken into 3 letters in English:

- 1) J : means Jesus first
- 2) **O:** means **others second**
- 3) Y: means yourself last

1) J: means Jesus first

Joy cannot and will not be accomplished without the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our hearts and life. Our Lord tells us that:

"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME."

(Luke 9:23)

Following Jesus requires our surrender of all that we are. Sinful habits such as the lust of our eyes, the lust of our flesh or the pride of life, which include dependency on mammon instead of the Lord etc., all in all will jeopardize the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives. A true believer, who is born again of the spirit of God, must strive to continue their daily crucifixion of their flesh and sanctification in terms of godly living, in order to maintain their lordship of Jesus Christ. It is for this reason, the Lord tells us in His words, written in His commandment as follows:

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

1) O: means others second

Our carnal nature is incapable of putting others before ourselves. It is only natural for our sinful nature to reveal our selfishness and self-centeredness. Yet, the second greatest commandment the Lord tells us is as follows:

"THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF." (Matthew 22:39) Likewise, it takes the presence of the Holy Spirit to assist us to accomplish this commandment, as we walk in obedience to our Lord. This is the work of charity towards others as the Holy Spirit bears the fruit of love through us when dealing with others.

1) Y: means yourself last

Last but not least, the Lord tells us that self-sacrifice in the service of others in the name of our Lord is the work of humility through the presence of the Holy Spirit that bears through us as we walk with the Lord. In fact, our Lord tells us that as we serve others and put ourselves to the last, we became the first in the kingdom of heaven.

"IF ANY MAN DESIRE TO BE FIRST, THE SAME SHALL BE LAST OF ALL, AND SERVANT OF ALL."

(Mark 9:35)

As we follow the "JOY" rule by putting "JESUS FIRST, OTHERS SECOND AND YOURSELF LAST", you will discover the precious gift of joyfulness in Christ Jesus overflowing from the Holy Spirit that is constantly abiding in our hearts.

Beaming with overflowing joyfulness whether amidst tribulation or in our daily living, mark the characteristics of a saint as we journey towards our heavenly home. We hope with joy, we walk by faith, we march hand in hand with our Lord with victory as we face the ferocious battle against our spiritual enemy. Let us follow that which is good as the Apostle Paul writes, and discover the secret of joyfulness in Christ Jesus as we walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit in the light of God's words. Amen.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

MESSAGE 2

THE PARABLE OF A CORN OF WHEAT

There are many parables that are recorded in the Bible. Amidst these parables are truths and instructions that are essential guidelines for the spiritual growth of God's children, in order to victoriously battle and finish the narrow path of the cross.

Our Lord Jesus loves to relay his truth to His children in the form of parables. The reason is as follows:

"BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN UNTO YOU TO KNOW THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT TO THEM IT IS NOT GIVEN" (Matthew 12:11)

(Matthew 13:11)

The parables of our Lord are "the hidden manna". They can only be unveiled and revealed by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that continue to guide God's children in the light of God's words. For the unbelievers, the parables of Jesus are difficult if not impossible to understand. Yet, for the sheep of the Lord, they are "solid meat" that are unraveled and digested as they grow in spiritual maturity, to the final imprint of the image of Christ.

One of the most profound truths of the discipleship of Jesus Christ is found in the parables of a corn of wheat. Let us put our hearts and mind as we meditate and unravel this parable.

Our Lord says in the first verse:

"VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT A CORN OF WHEAT FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE, IT ABIDETH ALONE: BUT IF IT DIE, IT BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT"

(JOHN 12:24)

There are many Christians in many churches today that have been acquainted with the Lord. They have undoubtedly been "born again" of the spirit of God. Once born again of the spirit of God, they are not fed or given the proper instructions of how to grow in the Lord. As a result, even though they have attended a church for many years, their spiritual life remains stunted and unable to bloom.

The first instruction for "a born again believer" is what our Lord calls it as the "self-death" process of a grain of wheat. We all know that a corn of wheat unless falls and is buried into the ground, it will remain the same as "a corn of wheat". This corn of wheat refers to "our carnal sinful flesh" which the word of God refers as the "old man" or "old self". This "old man" has many habits, thinking or lifestyle that are sinful by nature, such as smoking, drinking, gossiping, covetousness etc. As the Apostle Paul writes:

"THAT YE PUT OFF CONCERNING THE FORMER CONVERSATION THE OLD MAN, WHICH IS CORRUPT ACCORDING TO THE DECEITFUL LUSTS; "AND BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND" (Ephesians 4:22, 23)

Once we become "a born again" Christian, we must deny these habits and not give in unto them. This process of "self-denial or self-death" as mentioned by our Lord, must be led with a heart of humility and obedience to the Holy Spirit. The "falling down" process of a corn of wheat signifies and symbolizes our heart of humility before the death process can take place. If we genuinely humble ourselves and obeyed the Holy Spirit, in return the Holy Spirit will begin to bloom in our heart. As a result, we will experience spiritual growth and the fruits of the Holy Spirit which include as follows:

"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)

Hence, the Apostle Paul instructed us to put on "our new man" that is created in God's image of true righteousness and holiness.

"AND THAT YE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS."

(Ephesians 4:24)

Being "born again" of the spirit of God, we must now constantly obey the Holy Spirit and remove our sinful habits that will counteract the Holy Spirit. This "self-death" decision making must be done on a daily basis, in order for the Holy Spirit to grow within us and bears fruit. If we falter in sin and refuse to confess and repent of our sins in the self-denial or self-death process, the Holy Spirit will be grieved and

Ultimately stifled, hence the spiritual growth will stop. The danger of refusing to repent, even though one is born again of the spirit of God, will lead to fruitlessness and "a drying branch" process that will lead to spiritual death in the Long run.

"EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH NOT FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY" (JOHN 15: 1)

The second part of the discipleship of Jesus Christ refers to the "trading issue".

"HE THAT LOVETH HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT, AND HE THAT HATETH HIS LIFE IN THIS WORLD SHALL KEEP IT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL" (JOHN 12:25)

Many Christians even though born again of the spirit of God would not be willing to "trade" their flesh with the Holy Spirit. Our Lord defines these Christians as loving their life. Many Christians are so comfortable with their life style of carnality that they are not willing to give up. The Amplified version defines "hateth his life" as absolutely has no love for, no concern for, no regard for his life here on earth, but despises it in order to preserve one's eternal life forever and ever.

This may sound difficult and complicated. In actual fact, it is very simple. The moment the Holy Spirit reveals it as a "no no", we must immediately discard that carnal sinful habit or activity. By trading our carnal habits or activities with obedience to the Holy Spirit, we will maintain continuos relationship and growth of the indwelling Holy Spirit by abiding in Christ as we follow His words of instruction.

"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)

Secondly, as we choose to trade "our carnal flesh" with the obedience to the Holy Spirit, we shall also purchase the drops of oil that are needed to make up the flask of oil of the wise virgins.

"BUT THE WISE TOOK OIL IN THEIR VESSELS WITH THEIR LAMPS." (Matthew 25: 4)

Finally, the third part of the parable, our Lord tells us if we were to be his disciples and serve him, we must follow His footsteps.

"IF ANY MAN SERVE ME, LET HIM FOLLOW ME, AND WHERE I AM, THERE SHALL ALSO MY SERVANT BE"

(John 12:26)

As we follow the instruction of the Lord, The Holy Spirit will began to grow and mature in us. Hence, the image of Christ is imprinted in our Life, so that our Lord describes it as **"where I am, there shall also my servant be."** To know whether one is a servant of the Lord is to see the image and the character of Christ in that person's life. If Christ is uplifted in his or her daily life with the fruitfulness of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, we can now rejoice and acknowledge the presence of the servant of God.

Last but not least, the most precious promise that our Lord has given us is contained in this last verse:

"IF ANY MAN SERVE ME, HIM WILL MY FATHER HONOUR" (JOHN 12:26)

As we walk in obedience to the voice of the Lord, through His commandment in the word of God and the guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father not only will abide with us but also manifest themselves to us in times of need. Most of all, our Heavenly Father, the Kings of King and Lord of Lords will honour us! Can you imagine being honoured by our Heavenly Father in all that we petition before the throne of grace? May the blessings of the parable of a corn of wheat be yours today as you follow the footsteps of our saviour, a servanthood of Jesus Christ in your life, worthy of His eternal remembrance ! Amen.

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

MESSAGE 3

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE GARDEN OF EDEN?

THE FALL OF MAN AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

Crime rates have been increasing at alarming rates in many parts of the world. Stories of murder, rapes, physical violence, extortion of money or robberies and thefts are becoming our daily occurrence reported at the daily news. Wars are taking place in the Middle East and other countries while domestic violence and divorces escalated to only reflect the breaking down of our societies. There are no more peace in the world and our societies and even at home. The degradation of the moral value in our troubled world accompanied by the daily conflicts of our society, all in all can be nailed down at one simple event at the Garden of Eden.

What happened at the Garden of Eden? Many people have heard the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Yet, the tragedy of the downfall of mankind began as Adam and Eve "chose" to belief in the voice of satan instead of the commandments of God.

It all began in the simple test and instruction of obedience to God's commandment as God said:

"OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN THOU MAYEST FREELY EAT: BUT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE."

(GENESIS 2:16, 17)

To begin with, satan was the father of sin and the Bible recorded explicitly when God created Adam and Eve that satan had lost his battle in heaven and obviously was cast down to the Earth.

"AND THERE WAS WAR IN HEAVEN: MICHAEL AND HIS ANGELS FOUGHT AGAINST THE DRAGON; AND THE DRAGON FOUGHT AND HIS ANGELS,"

"AND PREVAILED NOT; NEITHER WAS THEIR PLACE FOUND ANYMORE IN HEAVEN."

"AND THE DRAGON WAS CAST OUT, THAT OLD SERPENT, CALLED THE DEVIL, AND SATAN, WHICH DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD: HE WAS CAST OUT INTO THE EARTH, AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST OUT WITH HIM."

(Revelation 12:7, 8, 9)

Amidst God's perfect creations, satan's presence on earth, even in the Garden of Eden, was God's permissive will to test Adam and Eve of their obedience to the word of God. Obviously, they failed the test and chose to disobey God and faltered in sin as they ate the forbidden fruit.

Let us analyze in detail what satan had to offer, and how Adam and Eve reacted and the consequences of sin.

The word of God tells us, in the book of Genesis that the serpent was more subtle and was crafty of all the creatures and was being used by satan (Genesis 3:1). As satan by his sinful nature **<u>subtle</u>** and **<u>crafty</u>**, he began to converse with Eve with an indirect question.

Being subtle, satan did not approach the question of the forbidden fruit directly, instead he provoked Eve with a question as follows.

"YEA, HATH GOD SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN?" (Genesis 3: 1)

Then, obviously Eve gave satan the answer and satan continued with his <u>lie</u>, which is the second tactic of satan by saying:

"YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE"

(Genesis 3:4)

Thirdly, satan began to pose <u>a doubt</u> to eve by saying:

"FOR GOD DOTH KNOW IN THE DAY YE EAT THEREOF, THEN YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED"

(Genesis 3: 5)

Fourthly, satan injected his **<u>prideful position</u>** of "being equal to God" to Eve by offering as follow:

"AND YE SHALL BE AS GODS, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." (Genesis 3: 5)

We can therefore summarize and conclude satan's tactic as follows:

- 1) Indirect question or line of thought against God's command
- 2) Creating a doubt or question against God's words
- 3) Offering his lies as an excuse negating God's will and His instructions.
- 4) Offering prideful position of being equal to God and self-decision making, void of the Spirit of God.

Up to today, Satan's 4 tactics have not been changed or

transformed. They may have different coatings on the outside but within are the substances of lies, doubt, craftiness and pride that run within our society and our world. A world that dictate their day to day operations and decision making and actions void of God, void of Christ, and void of the Holy Spirit. Our world merely manifest the characteristics of satan that "fathered the Fallen man" as written by the Apostle John as follows:

"AND THE WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS" (1 John 5:19)

Let us now look at how we falter in sin and the consequences of sin to mankind overall. Little did we realized that one simple act of disobedience on the part of Adam and Eve have resulted in the myriad of problems that we have suffered today as a result of the "law of sin". To begin with, Eve had faltered in sins in 4 ways:

- 1) opening a door of conversation with satan
- 2) resorting to the lust of her mind through curiosity:As she saw "that the tree was good for food" (Genesis 3:6)

3) resorting to the lust of her eyes:"and pleasant to the eyes"(Genesis 3:6)

4)resorting to her pride: "a tree to be desired to make one wise" (Genesis 3:6)

Up to today, the causes of man's sinful practice and habits have followed the pattern of Eve's

sinful downfall.

The first consequence of sin is death

Subsequently, the first consequences of sin is death. As commanded by our Heavenly Father in the garden of Eden that says:

"AND THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN, SAYING, OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN THOU MAYEST FREELY EAT: "BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE."

(Genesis 2:17)

There are 2 kinds of death that we suffered as mankind. First of all, the physical death that everyone has to face whether young or old. The curse of death also include the presence of illnesses, diseases and consequently the aging process etc. The curse of death also affects our surrounding and whether it is the present of thorns, deaths of the animals and plants etc. As the law of sin entered into the world, everyone and everything suffer its consequences.

What is most tragic is the consequence of the second death, which is spiritual by nature. Not only are we all to face the lake of fire for the second death, but what is more tragic is the eternal nature of our spiritual death.

"AND DEATH AND HELL WERE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH."

(Revelation 20:14)

When God created mankind, he blew his spirit that is eternal and cannot die into us, and we became a living being.

"AND THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND, AND BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH OF LIFE; AND MAN BECAME A LIVING SOUL."

(Genesis 2:7)

Unlike animals, human beings have eternal spirit from the Lord and are fully accountable for all our actions, since we are created in God's image.

The second consequence of sin is total separation from God

Secondly, apart from the immediate expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, the law of sin has totally disconnected us from God's presence. We have lost our intimate relationship with our Lord and mankind became "a lost human race". As lost sheep that have gone astray, as one hymn puts it, we have lost His image. Our glorified body has now been degraded into carnal sinful flesh that would return to dust upon death as the curse of God's word always prevail.

"FOR DUST THOU ART, UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN" (Genesis 3:19)

Our darkened sinful mind that resulted in the proliferation of different kinds of religion and degradation of moral values further manifest the total separation between man and God.

The 3rd consequence of sin is inheriting satan's characters

Consequently, the law of sin also marred our positive emotional being and the characters of God. God's characters manifested by the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith and temperance (Galatians 5:22,23) are now being replaced by negative emotions and characters of satan such as fear, depression, confusion, hatred, doubt, cruelty, impatient, dishonesty, fornication etc. The list of sins goes on and on, as we have now inherited from satan his characters as mentioned by our Lord Jesus.

"YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE LUSTS OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE SPEAKETH A LIE, HE SPEAKETH ON HIS OWN: FOR HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT."

(John 8:44)

As the law of sin entered the Garden of Eden, the first negative emotional response from Adam was the word "fear".

"AND HE SAID, I HEARD THY VOICE IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID, BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; AND I HID MYSELF."

(Genesis 3:10)

There is not one person in this world that do not experience fear which include nervousness, cowardice and stress etc.

The next result of sin that all of us do not need to learn, is what we call "the blaming business". "Pushing the buck" from one person to another by "pointing finger", whether at home in a small matter or a bigger case in society are "parts and parcel" of this sin. When God asked Adam what exactly happened, he blamed it on Eve and Eve subsequently, blamed it on the serpent. Does this sound familiar to you?

The 4th consequence of sin is resorting to man's solution

As sin enters into the world, unconsciously man began to resort to human's intelligence or their own solution of "sewing fig leaves together" to cover their problem of nakedness (Genesis 3:7). Man had learned from the Garden of Eden how to solve their problems basing on their own intelligence like satan. Man has now "acted as gods, knowing good and evil and made their own decision void of God's approval, instead of resorting to God's wisdom or God's way.

The 5th consequence of sin is God's curses upon mankind

As Adam and Eve falter in sin, God's curse upon man include "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" (Genesis 3:19). Our society today revolves on "money making". There is not one person that does not suffer the hardship of just trying to survive. As for Eve, the curse of God has fallen to all women in their painful conception and "being rule by their husband" (Genesis 3:16). Stories of women physically abused or overruled by their husband etc., are all part of this curse.

Thanks be to God's grace and mercy. Our Lord had already preplanned "the lamb of God" before the foundation of the world to resolve this sin issue. Instead of "sewing fig leaves", God's way is to sacrifice a lamb, and blood have to be shed in order to atone for sin, to cover our shame and unrighteousness

"AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD; AND WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION" (Hebrew 9: 22)

God's salvation is the lamb of God that represent Jesus our Lord. His death on Calvary is God's solution for "the fallen mankind". Hence, Jesus Christ being "the seed of a woman", born of virgin Mary, will bruised satan's head, represented by the serpent. In the meantime, the serpent will bruise the heel of Jesus as He was put to death on the cross.

"AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL."

(Genesis 3:15)

My dear friend, may we praise and thank God for His wisdom, mercy and salvation to all of us who deserve death and hell, life without hope. May we genuinely repent of our sins and accept our Lord Jesus as our personal saviour. Let us rejoice and thank our Lord Jesus for his atoning death on Calvary on our behalf. Let us continue to praise God as we walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus, as He imparts the Holy Spirit, who will be with us, to guide us and transform us once again to the image of His son Jesus.

The prevailing lion tribe of Judah marks the gospel of Jesus Christ. What satan has destroyed from the garden of Eden, God is able to overturn and restore to mankind the hope of salvation, the triumphant battle over sin as we look up to the cross.

May the Lord richly bless you as you choose to walk in obedience to His voice, according to His words as we uplift the riches of His grace on the Calvary. Amen!

Prayerfully yours, His servant Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

MESSAGE 4

PROPHET DANIEL 1

The spiritual battle against godliness

There are many prophets that are recorded in the Old Testament. Whether they are called "the Major Prophets" such as Isaiah or Jeremiah or "the Minor Prophets" such as Joel or Obadiah. Amidst of all of these prophets, my most admirable prophet would be none other than Prophet Daniel. It is my deepest desire to follow his footsteps of godliness. His story reflects our spiritual journey and his responses set a remarkable example to God's children of a beautiful triumphant battle of godliness.

The words of God relay of a story that Prophet Daniel was made captive during the time when Judah fell into the hand of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar. As a result, even though Prophet Daniel was originally, the King's seed of royal descent, he was now made a captive, in fact a eunuch under the hand of Ashpenaz, the master of eunuch.

"AND THE KING SPAKE UNTO ASHPENAZ THE MASTER OF HIS EUNUCHS, THAT HE SHOULD BRING CERTAIN OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND OF THE KING'S SEED, AND OF THE PRINCES"

(Daniel 1: 3)

However, Prophet Daniel was chosen amidst others as "the cream of the crops", the best among the very best, whether physically or intellectually, in order to stand before the king and to be taught of the culture of the Chaldeans.

"CHILDREN IN WHOM WAS NO BLEMISH, BUT WELL FAVOURED, AND SKILFUL IN ALL WISDOM, AND CUNNING IN KNOWLEDGE, AND UNDERSTANDING SCIENCE, AND SUCH AS HAD ABILITY IN THEM TO STAND IN THE KING'S PALACE, AND WHOM THEY MIGHT TEACH THE LEARNING AND THE TONGUE OF THE CHALDEANS."

(Daniel 1:4)

As a result, Daniel was "specially pampered" daily as he was given the very best of food and wine from the king's table and the very best of education, so that they were to stand and served the king 3 years later (Daniel 1:5).

Amidst such luxurious provision, Prophet Daniel realized that he could not defiled himself. Prophet Daniel was a godly man, who spent time not only reading God's word, but remembering them and acting upon God's words and His commandments. Prophet Daniel was known to be a man of prayers. He spent time in prayers and habitually he was on his knees 3 times a day (Daniel 6:10).

"...HE KNEELED UPON HIS KNEES THREE TIMES A DAY, AND PRAYED, AND GAVE THANKS, BEFORE HIS GOD, AS HE DID AFORETIME." (Daniel 6:10)

Next, Prophet Daniel was given a chance to obey and act out on God's commandment or disobey and ignore God's commandment. Without a doubt, Prophet Daniel, upon remembering God's commandment, was determined not to defile himself with the portion of King's "food and wine".

"BUT DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULD NOT DEFILE HIMSELF WITH THE PORTION OF THE KING'S MEAT, NOR WITH THE WINE WHICH HE DRANK: THEREFORE HE REQUESTED OF THE PRINCE OF EUNUCHS THAT HE MIGHT NOT DEFILE HIMSELF." (Daniel 1: 8)

There are a couple of reasons why Prophet Daniel would not touch the kings "food and wine". First of all, king Nebuchadnezzar being a heathen, worship and uplifted his idols and so-called gods (Daniel 1:2). It would not be surprised that all of his foods are also offered to his gods first prior to consumption.

The word of God tells us that our God is a jealous God, meaning that our God is a righteous God that does not condone any forms of sins or falsehood or false gods or lies. Since idols are false gods, created by the hands of men, they are not God at all and do not deserve any form of adoration or worship. Satan and the devils our spiritual enemies, have blinded many heathen and unbelievers in their mind to think that these are gods. The Apostle Paul tells us to separate unto holiness.

"BUT I SAY, THAT THE THINGS WHICH THE GENTILES SACRIFICE, THEY SACRIFICE TO THE DEVILS, AND NOT TO GOD: AND I WOULD NOT THAT YE SHOULD HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE DEVILS." (1 CORINTHIANS 10:20)

It is for this reason, God's children must separate unto righteousness as Prophet Daniel did as he chose to obey God's words.

Secondly, Prophet Daniel had also chosen a path of righteousness, practicing the crucified life instead of uplifting his flesh or carnality amidst the luxury of rich foods and wine of the king. In the Old Testament, a Nazarite is a person who vow to separate and consecrate oneself unto holiness in order to serve God. And one of the laws of God is to avoid "strong drink and wine".

"HE SHALL SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM WINE AND STRONG DRINK, AND SHALL DRINK NO VINEGAR OF WINE, OR VINEGAR OF STRONG DRINK, NEITHER SHALL HE DRINK ANY LIQUOR OF GRAPES, NOR EAT MOIST GRAPES OR DRIED. "ALL THE DAYS OF HIS SEPARATION SHALL HE EAT NOTHING THAT IS MADE OF THE VINE TREE, FROM THE KERNELS EVEN TO THE HUSK. (NUMBERS 6:3, 4)

Hence, Prophet Daniel had determined in his heart to follow God's commandment, despite of the consequences he was to face. The first price to pay that Prophet Daniel was very much aware immediately, was the replacement of his meal. The rich, delicious foods and wine, were now being replaced by simple vegetable diet and water to drink. It is not just for a day, but over a long period of time. What was amazing was the fact that Daniel's determination and his faith in walking God's way, resulted in God's blessing him physically and his answer to his request. What bothered the head of the eunuch that "endanger his head to the king" (Daniel 1:10), if Daniel became physically thinner as he changed his diet; was overturned as Daniel became "a much fairer and fatter in the flesh" after 10 days trial of diet changed (Daniel 1:15).

King Nebuchadnezzar was notoriously known to be a ruthless, unreasonable king. It so happened that he had a dream and had totally forgotten about it. Yet he demanded that his wise men, whether astrologers, magician or soothsayers etc. explained his dream. Obviously, the wise men concluded that no human on earth could do such a thing. Out of the king's anger, he decided to execute all the wise men that included Prophet Daniel and his friends.

"AND THE DECREE WENT FORTH THAT THE WISE MEN SHOULD BE SLAIN; AND THEY SOUGHT DANIEL AND HIS FELLOWS TO BE SLAIN." (DANIEL 2:13)

My dear friends, if you are in the shoes of Prophet Daniel and you are facing such as danger, what would you have thought? Let's take a look further at Prophet Daniel responses.

It is obvious that the battle of light and darkness revolves directly or indirectly around the godly Prophet Daniel. What Satan planned to destroy, our living God was able to overturn and to bless. However, it takes Prophet Daniel, in his wisdom, humility and faith that God has given him, to stand firmly as a servant amidst tribulation and life crisis. His daily practice of godliness is now being put to full use, as he faces a ferocious battle from the spiritual enemies. Prophet Daniel's lifestyle of godliness has resulted in:

- 1) His spiritual strength to battle against the spiritual enemies
- 2) God's wisdom as to how to handle his situation (Daniel 2:14)
- 3) Having great faith and courage to face his crisis with absolute calmness and confidence in the Lord.
- 4) Maintaining humility and standing as a servant (Daniel 2:30)
- 5) The ability to give credit to the Lord and glorifying God's name (Daniel 2:28)

6) God's full presence, support and protection by answering his prayers immediately and being with him throughout the battle.

Last but not least, Prophet Daniel's heart in his absolute love for God reveals the fulfillment of the first commandment.

"THOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND." (Matthew 22:37)

Subsequently, as Prophet Daniel obeys the first commandment of the Lord, he also fulfill and receive the two promises of God as one who genuinely love the Lord. The two promises as spoken by our Lord Jesus are written as follow:

"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." (John 14:21)

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

(John 14:23)

In promise 1, our Lord promises to manifest himself, when a person genuinely loves him by doing his commandments. It is of no wonder, when Prophet Daniel petition before the God of heaven, that God answers his prayer immediately by revealing the dream of king Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation to him.

In the second promise, our Lord promises to stay and abode within our hearts and our body. Imagine if Almighty God is present with us, who can be against us?" As the Apostle Paul writes:

"IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?" (Roman 8:31)

Finally, not only Prophet Daniel was not executed, he was uplifted as the prime minister of the whole Babylonian kingdom, next to the king. Even king Nebuchadnezzar bowed down to worship Prophet Daniel, as he was able to reveal "his forgotten dream", such a secret that no human was capable of doing.

My dearly beloved in Christ Jesus, may this story of Prophet Daniel be imprinted in your heart to love our Lord to the fullest. May Prophet Daniel's life be an example for our footsteps to follow. Indeed, the price of walking in godliness will someday be exchanged for our crowns as we face our Lord into eternity.

May the Lord richly bless you, as you ponder on the triumphant story of Daniel the prophet. Amen.

MESSAGE 5

PROPHET DANIEL 2

The immovable faith

The famous story of Prophet Daniel revolves around the historical event of "a man and the lions' den". Even though many people have never heard of Prophet Daniel, without question, they have heard of the story of a man and the lions. All kinds of movies and modification were made about the story of a man and the lions. Nonetheless, in the Bible, this real event marks the true story of Prophet Daniel, as he encounters the treacherous traps of the enemies.

What seemingly to be a simple story of a man and the lions' den portrayed by some story books or movies, unveiled the greatest battle of faith of Prophet Daniel as recorded in the Bible.

The true story of Prophet Daniel and the lions' den has always been my favorite story. What makes this story so remarkable that deeply imprinted in my heart and mind was Prophet Daniel's "immovable and uncompromising faith" and godliness.

Let's take a look at this outstanding event that marks the story of **"Prophet Daniel and the lions' den"**.

The book of Daniel records that Prophet Daniel was made the chief minister in 3 kingdom, beginning from the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar, through the reign of king Darius and to the reign of king Cyrus. It was during the reign of king Darius, that this ferocious and spiteful trap occurred, targeting at Prophet Daniel's life. What started as a jealousy problem among his subordinate culminated to the plotting of Prophet Daniel's death at the lions' den

Since Prophet Daniel maintained his lifestyle of godliness, he was always filled with absolute wisdom, honesty and flawlessness in the areas of the worldly duties he had to perform daily. His practice of praying 3 times a day with open windows towards Jerusalem, became well known. Prophet Daniel absolute uncompromising faith in the Lord, acting according to God's commandments, soon became a target to the spiritual enemy the devil.

As the power of darkness began to fill and provoked Prophet Daniel's subordinate, they began to orchestrate evil plan to kill him.

"THEN THE PRESIDENTS AND PRINCES SOUGHT TO FIND OCCASION AGAINST DANIEL CONCERNING THE KINGDOM; BUT COULD FIND NONE OCCASION NOR FAULT; FORASMUCH AS HE WAS FAITHFUL, NEITHER WAS THERE ANY ERROR OR FAULT FOUND IN HIM." (Daniel 6:4)

Prophet Daniel was so perfect and flawless in his daily "worldly duties", that the enemies could not find "any error or fault" in him. Hence, Prophet Daniel subordinate decided to find fault and trap him in his practice of godliness, since he was known to pray 3 times a day. They decided to set a rule and persuaded the king to establish the following law written as follows:

" ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE KINGDOM, THE GOVERNORS, AND THE PRINCES, THE COUNSELLORS, AND THE CAPTAINS, HAVE CONSULTED TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A ROYAL STATUTE, AND TO MAKE A FIRM DECREE, THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL ASK A PETITION OF ANY GOD OR MAN FOR THIRTY DAYS, SAVE OF THEE, O KING, HE SHALL BE CAST INTO THE DEN OF LIONS."

(Daniel 6:7)

Daniel's spiritual practice of godliness was now being put to test, to battle against the powers of darkness. As Prophet Daniel was filled by the "excellent spirit" of the Lord, he knew exactly what the enemies were after in their shrewd, crafty and ugly plot and trap of killing Him.

My dear friend, if you are in Prophet Daniel's position, what would you have done? Indeed, it is not difficult to close the window, so that others cannot see what lies behind the closed windows, isn't it? However, Prophet Daniel lives before the Lord and not before men. He lives to please our God with a pure absolute love for Him. A heart that is filled with great reverence, genuineness, purity and perfection is revealed as Prophet Daniel faces this test with courage and faith.

Logically, closing the window would indeed prevent others from seeing and reporting to the king of his lifestyle of godliness, praying 3 times a day towards Jerusalem. This would solve the problem and that would prevent others from harming him right? Let's take a look at how Prophet Daniel responded when facing this battle of death.

" NOW WHEN DANIEL KNEW, THAT THE WRITING WAS SIGNED, HE WENT INTO HIS HOUSE; AND HIS WINDOWS BEING OPEN IN HIS CHAMBER TOWARD JERUSALEM, HE KNEELED UPON HIS KNEES THREE TIMES A DAY, AND PRAYED, AND GAVE THANKS BEFORE HIS GOD, AS HE DID AFORETIME." (Daniel 6:10)

Not only Prophet Daniel, did not close the window, he maintained the same position of faithfully praying to God 3 times a day "as he did aforetime". Prophet Daniel practice of godliness in his life, has undoubtedly resulted in the super natural strength of flawless and uncompromising, immovable faith. This beautiful manifestation of Prophet Daniel absolute faith in God, even at the expense of his life, earned him a title of "greatly beloved" from our Lord.

"AT THE BEGINNING OF THY SUPPLICATIONS, THE COMMANDMENT CAME FORTH, AND I AM COME TO SHEW THEE; FOR THOU ART GREATLY BELOVED"

(Daniel 9:23)

What Prophet Daniel saw was not the peril of his life, or the lions' den. What he saw was the face of our Lord. He was so overwhelmed by loving and pleasing our Heavenly Father, that his dangerous circumstances and tribulation did not waver his faith whatsoever. His triumphant immovable faith was obviously the result of his lifestyle of godliness and prayerfulness. Likewise, this test of faith once again manifested Daniel's absolute love for God as spoken by our Lord when he said:

"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." (John 14:21)

Prophet Daniel was very much aware that actions, such as closing the window or resorting to human intelligence of solving his problem, is an absolute sin and would come short of the perfect score as his faith was being put through the test of death.

Finally, king Darius realized that he made a major mistake of not being alert of their evil plot against Prophet Daniel. Regrettably, even though he was the King, and tried his best to set Daniel free from this trap; he had no choice but to put Prophet Daniel to the lions' den, according to "the decree of Medes and Persians" that cannot be altered (Daniel 6: 12).

My dear friend, as God's children, we will face trials and tribulation like Prophet Daniel that is beyond what human can do. Nonetheless, in the critical moment of helplessness, we have our super natural help from above. When man can do nothing, our God is able to do everything. The word of God tells us:

"WITH MEN THIS IS IMPOSIBLE, BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSIBLE" (Matthew 19:26)

Hallelujah, what a marvelous blessing to be God's children, to have his protection, his help in time of needs.

Let's take a look at the final result of Prophet Daniel's treacherous trap. Does Prophet Daniel face this dangerous encounter with peace and courage? Even the stressful king who felt so helpless for the first time, had to resort to believing that Prophet Daniel's God whom he served will deliver him.

"THEN THE KING COMMANDED, AND THEY BROUGHT DANIEL, AND CAST HIM INTO THE DEN OF LIONS. NOW THE KING SPAKE AND SAID UNTO DANIEL, THY GOD WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY, HE WILL DELIVER THEE."

(Daniel 6:16)

As a result, the Lord God had sent an angel to shut the mouth of the lions.

"MY GOD HATH SENT HIS ANGEL AND HATH SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTH, THAT THEY HAVE NOT HURT ME: FORASMUCH AS BEFORE HIM INNOCENCY WAS FOUND IN ME; AND ALSO BEFORE THEE, O KING, HAVE I DONE NO HURT." (Daniel 6:22)

God promises to everyone that if we truly love him by doing his commandment, he will definitely be present with us (John 14:23) to protect us and deliver us out of our tribulations.

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

(PSALM 34:19)

Not only Prophet Daniel was not harmed, he led the king to acknowledge and glorify the name of our Lord. In fact, the king not only grew in his faith in the Lord, but also testify to others by writing a decree to the whole nation as follows:

"I MAKE A DECREE, THAT IN EVERY DOMINION OF MY KINGDOM MEN TREMBLE AND FEAR BEFORE THE GOD OF DANIEL: FOR HE IS THE LIVING GOD, AND STEDFAST FOR EVER, AND HIS KINGDOM THAT WHICH SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED, AND HIS DOMINION SHALL BE EVEN UNTO THE END."

"HE DELIVERETH AND RESCUETH, AND HE WORKETH SIGNS AND WONDERS IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH, WHO HATH DELIVERED DANIEL FROM THE POWER OF THE LIONS"

(Daniel 6:26, 27)

What was originally, a dangerous battle of death for Prophet Daniel, has now been overturned to the glory of God. What seemed to be bad and evil occurrence, has now been turned to the best news that benefit Prophet Daniel spiritually and to the glory of God. Hence the word of God tells us:

"FOR 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)

Without a doubt, Prophet Daniel triumphant test of faith, not only pleased our Heavenly Father but also earned him "a crown of life" for eternity as written in the book of James.

"BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT ENDURETH TEMPTATION: FOR WHEN HE IS TRIED, HE SHALL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE, WHICH THE LORD HATH PROMISED TO THEM THAT LOVE HIM."

(James 1:12)

Most of all, the story of Prophet Daniel and the lions' den remains to be a story of immovable faith and absolute hope in the living God, recorded in the Holy Bible for God's children to follow. Daniel's love for the Lord, his practice of godliness and lifestyle of prayerfulness, his steadfast faith and selflessness mark and exemplified the triumphant path of the cross

My dearly beloved, are you going through trials and tribulation in your life right now? May you remember the story of Prophet Daniel and his lions' den and his responses. God is always faithful to His children. The Lord God who walk with Prophet Daniel amidst his trials and tribulation, will continue to walk with us today, so long as we practice to follow the footsteps of Daniel the Prophet.

May the Lord richly fill you with wisdom, courage, faith and humility of Prophet Daniel as we walk in obedience to the word of God. Never forget to focus onto the Lord amidst our tribulation. May the God of grace and "**the peace of God which passeth all understanding**" (Philippians 4:7) be with you now and forever. Amen.

MESSAGE 6

12 PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD

Do you know that God has given hundreds and hundreds of promises to His children? Are you aware that His promises can be fully claimed as free gifts of blessings the moment we become born again Christians? God's promises are like pre-signed checkbooks, where you can write any amount you want and the funds are always available all the time. Can you imagine how rich you would be, if you can always write a check, at any amount of dollars pre-signed by our Heavenly Father, where the funds are always available? Wow, you may say I am rich!

Indeed, God's children are rich by nature. As God's promises are always honored by our Heavenly Father, who is faithful to His words of promise. Yet, many of God's children live a life below the poverty line spiritually. They are not aware that our Heavenly Father has given so much riches to His children. If only we are aware of them and claim them, as we sign our check of God's promises through God's promise bank.

There was a real story of a poor farmer that lived in Texas, USA. He is so poor that he lived a life of poverty, if not below the poverty line. He had a land sufficient to plant his crops for his survival and yet, he was not aware of the hidden treasure in the land that he owned. One day, the Oil Company discovered that there was a rich source of oil beneath his farmland. Having discovered this, the Oil Company offered a huge sum of dollars to purchase the land in order to drill the oil underneath it. In an overnight, the poor farmer became a multimillionaire. This story reflects many of God's children daily struggles with their spiritual life. Many Christians are not aware of God's wonderful, truthful and legitimate promises of God. The reason is simple, they do not read God's words diligently or remember God's promises. As a result, like this Texas farmer, they are not able to draw and utilize the rich hidden oil that is already there. God's promises are inscribed in the Bible, the holy words of God. There are multitudes of God's pre-written promises, I shall hereby share and impart 12 of the most precious promises that our Lord has given us.

PROMISE NO. 1: PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

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

(John 3:16)

This is the greatest gift and promise that God has imparted to His children. The gift of eternal life through His son Jesus, who died on the cross, in order to pay for our sin debt in full and restore our eternal life. Without Christ death on the cross, we would all face the wrath of God and eternal torment in Hell and lake of fire.

PROMISE NO.2: PROMISE OF SUCCESS

"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: AND THEN THOU SHALT HAVE GOOD SUCCESS."

(Joshua 1:7, 8)

There is not one person in this world that do not wish to be successful. This promise of success entails success in our spiritual life, success in our daily living, business or carrier or overcoming our problems etc.

PROMISE NO 3: PROMISE OF WISDOM

"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM: AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS UNDERSTANDING"

(Proverb 9: 10)

Wisdom is a precious gift of this promise, when we genuinely fear the Lord. Fearing the Lord includes understanding and following his words of instruction found in the whole scripture, so as to avoid the pitfalls of satan our ultimate enemy. Just like Prophet Daniel and Joseph, we will receive the wisdom from the Lord, to face any and every trial and tribulation.

PROMISE NO.4: PROMISE OF PROTECTION FROM EVIL

"THE FEAR OF THE LORD TENDETH TO LIFE: AND HE THAT HATH IT SHALL ABIDE SATIFIED; HE SHALL NOT BE VISITED WITH EVIL." (Proverbs 19:23)

This is a wonderful and best promise of absolute protection from the Lord against any kind of evil. If we genuinely walk in His ways and instructions by faith, we will not face any kind of evil. Perhaps you may encounter difficulties and problems in life, but ultimately the Lord will walk you through all of those trials and tribulations and overturn any or every evil occurrence from your way.

PROMISE NO 5: PROMISE OF SUPERNATURAL HELP

"FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD RUN THROUGH AND FRO THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH, TO SHEW HIMSELF STRONG IN THE BEHALF OF THEM WHOSE HEART IS PERFECT TOWARD HIM."

(2 Chronicles 16:9)

Are you aware that our Lord's eyes watch over all His children and the whole Earth 24 hours a day non-stop? Our Lord is omnipotent meaning all powerful God, omniscience meaning all-knowing God and omnipresent meaning He is present everywhere since our God is a Spirit.

He promises to help us with His mighty power whenever we face trouble or in danger, so long as our heart is perfect towards Him. The stories of Prophet Daniel facing the threat of death, whether being thrown to the Lions' den, or to be executed among the wise men; all in all reflect this promise as Prophet Daniel was delivered from the danger of death.

PROMISE NO. 6: PROMISE FINANCIAL SUCCESS

"THE LORD SHALL COMMAND THE BLESSINGS UPON THEE IN THY STORE HOUSES, AND IN ALL THAT THOU SETTEST THINE HAND UNTO; AND HE SHALL BLESS THEE IN THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE."

(Deuteronomy 28:8)

At the beginning chapter of Deuteronomy 28, it details the blessings upon God's children, when they hearken diligently unto the voice of our Lord. This precious blessing, not only include financial blessings on our store houses, but also the blessings on everything that we do, where our hand will set upon. How wonderful is this blessing.

PROMISE NO. 7: PROMISE OF BLESSING OF LEADERSHIP

"AND THE LORD SHALL MAKE THEE THE HEAD, AND NOT THE TAIL; AND THOU SHALT BE ABOVE ONLY, AND THOU SHALT NOT BE BENEATH; IF THAT THOU HEARKEN UNTO THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, TO OBSERVE AND TO DO THEM."

(Deuteronomy 28:13)

Another precious promise that continues in Deuteronomy 28 is the promise of leadership. When we truly obey diligently to God's voice, not only are we filled with wisdom and His presence, he continues to uplift us in the role of a leader wherever we are and whatever we do.

PROMISE NO.8: PROMISE OF HIS PROVISION ON EARTH

"SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU"

(Matthew 6:33)

How many people are always worried of not having enough all the time? However, this promise from the Lord tells us that we just need to focus on God's words and instructions of righteousness, and our needs are automatically taken care of. Many Christians did the opposite and obviously, they could not experience God's guaranteed provision for their temporal needs. If they repent and do as our Lord says,

there is always sufficiency for our earthly needs as promise by our Lord in promise number 8.

PROMISE NO.9: PROMISE OF ABSOLUTE SATISFACTION

"THE YOUNG LIONS DO LACK, AND SUFFER HUNGER: BUT THEY THAT SEEK THE LORD SHALL NOT WANT ANY GOOD THING." (Psalm 34:10)

In this world, people have done many things to achieve satisfaction. One may seek for job satisfaction while others seek financial satisfaction. A person may be dissatisfied when they obtain with earnings of \$10,000.00 and tried to earn \$100,000.00. When they obtain the desired amount, they will continue to feel dissatisfied as they try to obtain a million-dollar and so on. The treadmill of financial gain escalation will result in emptiness or dissatisfaction, since our Lord never made us to be filled by material gain, status quo etc. God made us with His spirit, and absolute satisfaction can only be experienced as His spirit is restored in us, through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Hence, King David wrote that when we seek the Lord and find Him, we would experience absolute peace and satisfaction.

PROMISE NO.10: PROMISE FOR OUR GOOD TO HIS GLORY

"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)

This precious promise is a win-win situation for God's children who genuinely love Him. God is able to turn all of our troubles, for our good and to His glory. Likewise, the Lord would turn the attack of satan as his pruning knives for our spiritual growth and maturity, as we purchase the oil of the wise virgins (Matthew 25:4). The main purpose is ultimately to conform us to the image of His son Jesus our Lord. Hallelujah!

PROMISE NO.11: PROMISE OF ANSWERED PRAYERS

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

(John 15:7)

This precious promise is one of the best promises that God has given to His children. Not only our Heavenly Father will hear our cry, He will also fulfill our petition as we abide in Him. Abiding in Christ means remembering his words in our heart and keeping His commandments at all times. By abiding in Christ, our Lord Jesus promises that whatsoever we petition, it will be done according to our requests. As the result of answered prayers, we will have abundance of testimonies. Abundance of testimonies is one of our essential weapons, needed to overcome our spiritual enemies, the devil (Revelation 12:11). It is through the abundance of testimonies, that God's children grow in their faith, into spiritual maturity; experiencing the triumphant and abundant life of Christ.

PROMISE NO.12: PROMISE OF THE BEST GIFT FROM THE LORD

"BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN, EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM." (1Corinthians 2:9)

Personally, I love to receive the best gift from our Heavenly Father, wouldn't you? It is guaranteed that the very best gifts given to us by our Heavenly Father are much more than what we ask and pray for. His best gifts will unveil the very best plan, things or houses etc. for our temporal needs; as well as eternal rewards as we labor towards His kingdom in accordance to the touch and obedience of the Holy Spirit. God in His supernatural wisdom will endow us gifts beyond our imagination, when we genuinely love Him. Apart from our earthly gifts from the Lord, our Lord Jesus has already prepared beautiful mansions in heaven, made from precious stones as surprise gifts when we see Him someday.

There are many more precious promises in the Bible. But until and unless you put these promises in your promise bank within your heart and mind, they will not be yours. Why not claim these free gifts of promises by faith to be yours today!

Finally, the Apostle Paul tells us that these promises, when kept in our spiritual bank, would be turned to the most powerful "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17). Having these promises are having the most powerful weapons to defend ourselves against our spiritual enemies, as we enter the ferocious battle along the path of the cross.

May the Lord richly bless you with His promises, claiming them at all times by faith as you stand on the promises of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. May you rejoice always as you remember His promises, promises that will never fail! Amen.

TESTIMONIES FOR THOUGHT

LETTER 2

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus,

As I continue to write "testimonies for thought" stories, and share my own personal testimonies as well as others to you, I can only recount the goodness of the Lord and His faithfulness, as he guides His children through every single trials and tribulations.

You would agree with me, that as you read these testimonies of others and mine, you could not but acknowledge God's grace and His absolute presence in our daily living, as he walks us through our difficulties and tribulations. On my part, there are so more testimonies that have yet to be written, but the constraint and the limitation of time would only permit me to write one testimony at a time. Nonetheless, I will continue to write "the testimonies for thought" stories by His grace through faith, as the Holy Spirit continues His own work in my heart.

May these "testimonies for thought" stories continue to bless and uplift your spirit and minister grace to your heart, remembering always that our Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

THE TESTIMONY OF ROSY CHAO

"MY BEARS & LIONS" PART II

I have encountered many difficulties as I journey along the path of the cross in my younger days. Whether it is my financial difficulties prior to graduating my school, from the University of San Francisco or thereafter upon my graduation. I have shared some of my stories and testimonies in volume 2 as to how the Lord, who is always faithful to His words, continue to journey with me, from difficulties through difficulties and trials upon trials. I shall continue to relay my stories to you as the Lord turns every trial that I face into a wonderful testimony. May these testimonies encourage and uplift your heart as you go through your trials in life, remembering that God is able in every circumstances to turn things for our good and once again to His glory!

BUSINESS APPOINTMENT IN THE CITY OF TURLOCK

I had driven 3.5 hours from the city of San Francisco to the city of Turlock, in California. It was purely a business appointment, as I continued my life as a bridal sales representative, in order to make a living. The owner of the bridal shop was Betty and Mrs. Dunlop was her bookkeeper. As I entered her bridal shop, the first person that I met was Ramona, who was Betty's seamstress. The first few words that came out from her lips were:" You are not going to make a sale today because Mrs. Dunlop is here. To this I ask: "But, why?" She replied that Mrs. Dunlop was a very domineering bookkeeper that overrode Betty's decision. Obviously, Betty was afraid of her and would not go against her words. Having been warned by Ramona what was about to occur, I proceed to meet Betty. True enough, Betty was hesitant but manage to tell me that the appointment was canceled. When I heard this word "cancel", I was furious and told her a piece of my mind. "Don't tell me that I had to drive 3.5 hours and you would just say cancel without even looking at what I have!" I replied angrily. Mrs. Dunlop happened to be in the store and standing close her, overheard our conversation. Sarcastically, she replied by telling Betty and obviously myself by saying "oh well, you can take a look at what she has, Betty?" It was crystal clear that she had no intention of allowing Betty to buy anything!

"Ramona was right!" I thought, as obviously Mrs. Dunlop insincere voice and tone only reflected her determine will to obstruct any sales from any representative as mentioned by Ramona.

As I walked outside from the bridal shop to my car, to pick up my samples to show Betty, I knew that I would not make any sale. I felt the desperate need of money as my saving was depleting and I had to make some money in order to pay for my school fees. I was in my last year at the University of San Francisco and I had to sell some dresses for me to continue school. I did not understand as to why I had to encounter "a no sale "long drive from San Francisco. Nonetheless, as heavy as my heart was, I decided to look up to the sky and to the Lord and thanked Him. I said as I looked up to the Lord in the sky:

"Lord, I don't know why I had to face no sale today after a long drive. You know my need, but I just want to thank you anyway"

After I made this prayer, I took my sample bag and entered the store with the intention of merely courteously showing Betty my samples and zipped up my sample bag and left the store. I had prepared in my heart of the "no sale result", as it was crystal clear, plus warned by Ramona Earlier.

The word of God tells us that:

"THE KING'S HEART IS IN THE HAND OF THE LORD, AS THE RIVERS OF WATER: HE TURNETH IT WHITHERSOEVER HE WILL" (Proverb 21: 1)

As I zipped open my sample bag and put my samples on the rack, Mrs. Dunlop asked me the prices of the dresses and found them reasonable. Then she continued to ask me whether she could recommend a lady sales representative to help me. To this I say yes.

"Betty, write this down!" Mrs. Dunlop commanded.

"I want this dress in this color and this size, the other one in that color and that size and this one in this size and this color....." I could not believe these words were the words that Mrs. Dunlop had spoken. "What exactly had happened here!" I thought. It was obvious that someone had changed her heart all of a sudden! Instead of no sale, I had a big sale. I smiled in my heart knowing that it was my master that had instructed Mrs. Dunlop's heart to be changed one hundred and eighty degrees. I knew my heavenly Father is faithful and will always provide my needs according to His multitude of mercies. Our God is our "Jehovah Jireh!" Our needs He will always provide, so long as we praise Him and thank Him! This story and testimony has always been in my heart ever since. A story that I could never forget, a lesson of faith and total dependency of my heavenly Father who is always faithful and merciful. When our circumstances look impossible, God is able to turn things around once again for our benefit and to His glory!

THE UPS MIRACLE

As I graduated from the University of San Francisco, God had led me to continue in my bridal business as my source of living. As I journeyed with the Lord in my business, God had permitted many difficulties in the business as my spiritual training ground of walking by faith. The Holy Spirit calls my bridal business as "the wilderness of King David." It was in the wilderness, that King David experienced many difficulties as King Saul was seeking his life. Yet it was during these difficulties that King David experienced God's faithfulness and God's presence with him. As King David learned his spiritual lessons in the wilderness, he was able to write beautiful passages recorded in the book of Psalm. It is for this reason, that God's children would find comfort and learn many spiritual lessons, as we read through the book of Psalm.

It was past 6 o' clock in the evening and a customer had urgently ordered a dress that was supposed to be sent overnight through UPS, the largest shipping company in the United States. As I rushed with a package wrap with a red label on the outside, representing the "UPS next day air" shipment, I encountered a major difficulty. First of all, UPS would close at 6PM and all "next day air" packages cutting time was 6PM, obviously before the UPS office closed. Here I was, rushing a package and arriving in the UPS, facing a close door and "the see through" lines of wired fences in front of me. You would agree with me that I had face "an impossible mission" again. "The packaged was wrapped well, all right!" I thought, but I came too late to deliver the package. "Yet, my customer have got to receive this urgent dress by tomorrow by hook or by crook. What could I do now?" As I continued in my thought.

All of a sudden, I began to uplift my voice in prayer to Heaven. If I have no way out of this problem, I have a way up to my Heavenly Father to petition help in times of need.

Praise God, as I cried earnestly in my prayers to my Heavenly Father, all of a sudden He heard me loud and clear and sent me a solution. He touched "an

Afro-American employee" of the Ups to run my way. As I made my prayers, the Afro-American gentleman began to shout loudly as he saw from far myself standing on the other side of the fence holding a red-label package which he recognized to be urgent. "Hey! Throw that package over the fence quickly, there is no time left as the truck is leaving to the airport now!" I heard the UPS man shouting at me. As I threw the package over the UPS fence, the UPS man grabbed it in time and ran as fast as he could to the truck that was about to be leaving to the Airport. Praise God for His miraculous help once again, as Our Lord will always open the "Red Sea" in time and on time. What was an impossible obstruction is now made possible by our Heavenly Father as we cry unto Him in our prayers.

SENDING UPS GENERAL MANAGER MY WAY

When my son Isaac was born, I had to work in the evening and to take turn with my husband, in order to look after our son. Every evening when my husband came home from his work, I would then leave Isaac our baby into his hand and leave to the office to pack all dresses for the day's shipment.

One evening, I had packed a lot of dresses to the UPS and even though the main UPS Office was closed, I could always drop them with the UPS driver as they drove into the UPS main hub building. I would come as late as 8pm and dropping them with the drivers were no issue. However this time, I had finished packing my dresses and arrived at the UPS main hub at 9pm. By this time, all UPS drivers would have gone home and I realized that I was in trouble again. It was a cold winter night and as I parked my van with the packages to be delivered, all I faced was the "parked UPS trucks" in front of me. There was no body in the building except one security guard to guard the UPS door. I could not see any UPS drivers or any human being behind the closed wired fence of UPS. I began to cry to our Heavenly Father for help as I needed someone from UPS to collect these packages. As I cried unto the Lord, all of a sudden another car was parked next to my van. I thought to myself: "oh, oh, this guy will face the same problem like I do." I thought to myself, as no one was around to pick up our packages.

Our Lord Jesus tells us through his words:

"IF ANY MAN SERVE ME, HIM WILL MY FATHER HONOUR" (John 12:26)

I decided to ask the bodyguard, if there was any UPS employee that would come out at 9PM. To this the security guard said that he did not know anything, since he did not work for UPS. All of a sudden I heard the voice of a man that said:

"Yes, supposedly." As I turn my head, I saw that it was the man that parked his car next to me. He had both his wife and two children with him. Then, I asked whether he was delivering a package like myself. To this, he said that he was the general manager of the UPS hub that employed hundreds of people. Apparently, he was on his vacation but came in to check to make sure that all in the hub was fine. As I asked whether he could help me with the packages, he was more than happy to pick up all my packages. How amazing, that the Lord would once again honor my prayer by sending such a high position general manager of the UPS, instead of sending me a driver to solve my problem. What an honor!

My dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, what God had orchestrated in my life, he is more than able to provide His "Jehovah Jireh" for all of His children in times of needs. I have many more stories of God's faithfulness to share with you. Most of all, every single story reflects the wonderful testimony that only proves that God is faithful to His words of promise. He is not only the God of Abraham, Moses and Isaac, He is also our Heavenly Father who is constantly open to the cry of His children!

May these testimonies of thought be an encouragement to you today, as our Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, Amen.

THE TESTIMONY OF PASTOR PETER LING

During my school days at the University of San Francisco, the Lord had touched my heart to start the "Asian Christian Fellowship" Bible study. We would meet on every Friday and held our worship on campus on every Sunday. It was at this moment of time that I was acquainted with Pastor Peter Ling; as he was our Bible teacher on Friday and our preacher on Sunday morning service.

Pastor Peter Ling was a very gifted preacher. He had originally been a pastor in the "Bread of Life" church in Hang Chow, Mainland China. When the communist regime took over China, he was badly persecuted and was forced to the countryside to labor as a farmer. He had many testimonies and would eagerly share with me every time I picked him up for our Bible Study and Sunday Service. The trip between the city of Berkeley where he lived and San Francisco where we held our Bible study and Sunday service, was approximately 1 hour. It was at this "precious 1 hour" that he imparted his life story and wonderful testimonies to me. One of the most unforgettable testimonies that he shared with me was "his love for the 9 precious souls". I shall hereby share with you this touching story as we uplift and give all glory to our Lord.

It so happened that there were 9 young men, all university students that contracted "deadly disease" of tuberculosis. At that moment, these students were quarantine by the Chinese government and excommunicated from their own family and outsiders as this deadly disease was contagious; and once contracted could very well be fatal. On the other hand, Pastor Peter Ling was filled with the great love for Christ and was given the Spirit of boldness, zealousness as far as these precious 9 souls are concerned.

One day, he had a touch to share his faith to these 9 students. He knew of the danger of catching the "deadly disease" and was prepared to face the risk for his life.

Pastor Peter Ling would humorously share with me that he could not put on a mask on his face to share Jesus with them. It simply would not glorify the Lord, he added. At first, these 9 students ridiculed Pastor Peter ling of his faith and belief of Jesus when he came to share with them.

Week after week, he would visit them and they remained cold in their unbelief and refused to accept Jesus as their personal savior. It was not until later on, that they heard Pastor Ling also contracted their tuberculosis disease that broke their spiritual barrier down. When they heard that pastor Peter Ling became like one of them, they were touched to tears of his love for them. As a result, they began to open their heart to the gospel of Jesus Christ that Pastor Ling came to share.

Miraculously, 9 of them accepted Christ and were baptized in the name of Christ. During the day they were baptized, Pastor Ling added, they were physically so weak that the 9 students managed to only carry 1 chair at a time in order to witness the baptism of each student. Since, they do not have a family, they would make Pastor Ling their closest relative and their guardian.

Before long, these students became seriously ill and after accepting Christ as their personal savior, one by one they began to die.

In the meantime, as these students left to be with the Lord, Pastor Peter ling became gravely ill with the "TB" disease. One day, Pastor Peter Ling was so bothered by his illness that he began to walk up and down battling in his mind of the threat of death. He had quite a few children and the youngest was barely a newborn, which he could not touch or carry, as his illness was contagious. Amidst this struggle, Pastor Ling finally decided to lay his life for Jesus. As he made up his mind to die for Jesus, he overcame the fearful powerful threat of death from the spiritual enemy.

Later, as the "TB" disease progressed, Pastor Ling began to experience physical exhaustion. He recalled that at the end of each preaching session, he would be feeling extremely exhausted and out of breath. What was amazing was the fact that the Lord later on had indeed healed him. Not only he did not die of the disease, he was led to America to continue to preach and share his story with us and many others. Hallelujah!!

The story of Pastor Ling and his love for Christ and these 9 precious souls has always left a deep impression in my heart. His willingness to die for Jesus in order to save 9 precious souls is eternally remembered by our Lord. While our Lord miraculous healing of his body reveals His overflowing grace on His Children. What man cannot do, God is able; in order to uplift His name, to manifest His mighty power amidst Pastor Ling's faith, as he surrendered his life into the sovereign hand of our Savior.

May this testimony be an encouragement to you, as you lift your hearts unto prayers for precious souls. May the Lord richly bless you with your "first love for Christ" for the dying souls of men; as we recount the word of the Apostle Paul that says "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

THE BIRTH OF MY SON ISAAC

"MY GOLIATH"

In the previous story of "My bears & Lions" (volume 2) I have shared with you of how the Lord delivered me from my financial difficulties etc. In this story, I shall continue to share with you my spiritual battle of facing "My Goliath". Once Again, may the name of our Lord be uplifted as I recount this story to you.

The journey of my spiritual warfare continued in my marriage. What I had face in my younger days as "My Bears & Lions" had now turned into facing "My Goliath." As king David spiritually grew from his training of the physical battle against his lions & his bears, he was now made ready spiritually to battle against Goliath. Indeed the word of God tells us:

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

(PSALM 34:19)

MY PROBLEM OF CONCEPTION

Just as Abraham could not have any children, likewise I face a problem of conception. When I first lost our first child in miscarriage, I was overwhelmed with grief, as many others would have experienced when they went through their miscarriages. However, this problem became a real problem when I continued to miscarry 2 more times.

As I grew older past my mid-thirties, having children became apparently more difficult than ever. What aggravated this problem was the fact that My O.B.G.Y.N doctor had just told me the factual truth about my condition of having a child. According to the doctor, since I had a record of continue miscarriages 3 times in a row, my chance of having a child had now drop down to only 1%. This grievous news and the thought of childlessness led to the battle of facing "My Goliath" on my knees.

THE CHALLENGE OF GOLIATH FROM MY MOTHER'S LIPS

It was well past ten years in our marriage, yet we could not have any children. My mother was still deep into "her Buddhist religion" and continued to challenge my faith as a Christian. To begin with, she did not approve of my faith in Christ Jesus and even persecuted me in my belief of Christ in my younger days. One day, she turned around and asked me the question of "my childlessness". I recalled vividly her question and put it in this manner:

"In our home, we have no record of miscarriages" which implied that both my mother and my sister did not have any problem of having children, neither do they have a record of miscarriages whatsoever. Her next question had now culminated to the challenge of "my Goliath", she continued to say:

"If your God is true and real, why is it that you cannot have any children?"

This question entered into my mind like a dart that hit sore into my heart. The challenge was not just having a child, but rather her belief against my faith, her gods against my God. To this I reply confidently and yet unconsciously to my mom by saying:

"Mom, don't worry, God will give me a son".

To be real honest, I was not aware of how difficult if not impossible for me to conceive and gave birth to a child. It was later on, that I discovered what the doctor had said as I continued to miscarry for the third time.

HANNAH PRAYERS ON THE THRONE OF GRACE

The challenge from my mother's words on my faith in Christ Jesus against "my childlessness", plus my third miscarriage and the doctor's comments, all in all led me to Hannah's prayer before the throne of Grace.

The first book of Samuel chapter 1 recorded Hannah as Samuel the prophet's mother. She was barren and felt very sorrowful as her husband second wife constantly provoked her of her barrenness since she could not have any children. Even though Elkanah, her husband loved her more than others, she was deeply grief and "wept sore" and prayed earnestly before the Lord for a child. She vowed to give back the child that God had given her to serve the Lord as his servant. Hence, Prophet Samuel was born. Just like Hannah, I came before "the throne of Grace" with a sore grievous heart crying before the Lord in my earnest desperate prayers to request for a child, as I vowed to return my child as his servant. My reasons before "the throne of Grace" were simple. First and foremost, I asked the Lord to give me a child, just like Abraham, in order to have my descendants. Secondly and more important reason: I have got to have a child to prove to my mother that the Lord our God is the only true and living God. It is a challenge against my faith. If I did not have a child, how could I contest to her previous question and testify to her and brought her to come to the knowledge of Jesus? The "Goliath" question that my mother posed must be overturned with this prayer of faith. "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS

As I petitioned before the throne of grace earnestly, crying in tears for approximately four hours from past midnight into the wee hours; all of a sudden, the words of God came to me in the book of Isaiah.

"SHALL I BRING TO THE BIRTH, AND NOT CAUSE TO BRING FORTH, SAITH THE LORD: SHALL I CAUSE TO BRING FORTH AND SHUT THE WOMB? SAITH THY GOD."

"BEFORE SHE TRAVAILED, SHE BROUGHT FORTH: BEFORE HER PAIN CAME, SHE WAS DELIVERED OF A MAN CHILD."

(ISAIAH 66:7, 9)

These two verses became alive to me, that God will according to His promise honors my prayers. I shall have a son as written in the word of God as "a man child".

As I came down from my prayer's room, I told both my husband and uncle Dong, a servant of the Lord, these verses of God's promise of giving me a son.

PROPHECY FULFILLED ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORDS

Few months later, I conceived and Dr. Kamras my O.B.G.Y.N. took super cautious action and extra ultrasound screening in order to make sure that my conception was normal. What was amazing was the fulfillment of the prophecy according to God's words. The word of God says:

"BEFORE SHE TRAVAILED SHE BROUGHT FORTH; BEFORE HER PAIN CAME, SHE WAS DELIVERED OF A MAN CHILD"

Dr. Kamras needed to attend a wedding and decided to induce the birth of my baby. His reasons were as follows: he did not feel comfortable to put me into the hand of another doctor, and was not available on the due date, in case I went into labor.

Hence, 3 days before the due date of the baby's birth, I was induced into labor. Since, it was not the due date of the natural birth, the baby could not be born naturally and c-section had to be performed instead. Hence, my son Isaac was born according to God's words and promise. How amazing and accurate are the words of God that would even prophecy that my son would be born prior to my labor pain.

Indeed, God was gracious to honor my prayers that overturned "my Goliath". May this testimony continues to encourage those seeking to have children from the Lord and others who are facing their other "Goliath". For our God is a living God and He is a God of love, grace and compassion. He is a rewarder to those who diligently seek Him!! (Hebrew 11:6)

"BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM; FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM." (HEBREW 11:6)