

# GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "STREAMS IN THE DESERT" E-MAIL ADDRESS: GLORYTOTHETRINITY@GMAIL.COM

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They shall see the glory of the Lord,
And the excellency of our God.
Strengthen ye the weak hands,
And confirm the feeble knees

And confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart,

Be strong, fear not:

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, Even God with a recompence;

He will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, And the tongue of the dumb sing:

for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and

"Streams in the Desert"

Isaiah 35:2-6



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May the Lord richly bless them for what they have done on the account of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for eternity.

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"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

#### A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

It was such an indescribable joy as the Lord led me to begin writing "STREAMS IN THE DESERT" messages. I would like to share the wonderful work of the Lord with you and how this name "STREAMS IN THE DESERT" came about.

Every year, the Lord has instructed me to witness for him to **the Isles of the East** (read Isaiah 24:15) which I finally discovered as Indonesia, my own birth place. Last year, the work of the Lord took place between Mid Dec 2014 to early January 2015. As I was about to embark this missionary trip to Indonesia, I was given His voice of prophecy as follows:

- "They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."
- "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees."
- "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you."
- "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."
- "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and <u>STREAMS IN THE DESERT</u>."

  (ISAIAH 35:2-6)

As I began to preach and witness from churches to churches, the work of the Holy Spirit is amazing! Many stood up in different churches for repentance. In one church, literally almost the whole church including their spiritual leader stood up to repent. In another church, where their members rarely responded to the calling of repentance in the past, pretty much most of them stood up in repentance at the end of my preaching. I was truly caught by surprise as the Holy Spirit began to sweep across churches after churches, bringing salvation and precious souls into the kingdom of God.

Personal works were beyond description. I had never seen so many people thirsting and hungering for the words of God. One sister and her daughter got saved late at the night before I left the city of Surabaya to Jakarta to return to America, as I had finished God's work in Surabaya. As I arrived in Jakarta for 1 day transit, I had to continue laboring in my sister Mega's home up to 11.30 p.m., prior to leaving the next morning to America via Tokyo. Praise God, it was at

11.30 p.m. that a man was saved at the last minute. His sister was saved 2 weeks ago when I first arrived in Jakarta. As she got saved, I told her to bring her brother to be saved at the last day before flying to America. I was struggling with time, as I was still laboring with another family when I had to be called back to my sister's home, as they were waiting for me to share the truth with them. Praise God for His marvelous work of salvation of my fellow countrymen. Even though I was physically exhausted, I felt the joy in my heart to witness the fulfillment of God's final prophecy as follows:

"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

(Isaiah 35:10)

May the voice of the Lord continues to ring through "streams in the desert" messages, bringing excellency majesty and splendor to the glory of our God! Amen.

#### LETTER TO THE SAINTS

Dearly beloved brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus,

Greeting you peace in the name of our Lord Jesus, I pray that all is well with everyone of you. It was such a joy to meet everyone of you and words could not describe what the Lord had done amazingly and wondrously as many churches are revived spiritually and many of you became born again of the spirit of God for the first time. I shall share some of these testimonies a little at a time in my writing for the future.

I have a burden in my heart to begin writing a brief spiritual truth messages, which will feed babes in Christ and growing Christians in the ways of the Lord. You will receive it monthly. They are both available in English and translated Indonesian language. You will receive it through e-mail and you may forward it to whomsoever the Lord has touched your heart upon. I will return once again at the end of the year as usual to do God's work among the churches both in Jakarta and Surabaya.

May your first love of Jesus continues to fill your heart, never to forget "in all things to always give thanks", whether they may temporarily be difficult trials or blessings. As we uplift our hearts of thanksgiving unto the Lord, we have uplifted the presence of the Holy Spirit and to allow him to be Lord in our life. Never to forget as the Apostle Paul tells us.

"WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH.

"FOR THE FLESH LUSTETH AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE FLESH: AND THESE ARE CONTRARY THE ONE TO THE OTHER: SO THAT YE CANNOT DO THE THINGS THAT YE WOULD."

"BUT YE IF BE LED OF THE SPIRIT, YE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW."

(Galatians 5:16,17,18)

Let us continue to encourage and remind one another to crucify our flesh daily and obey the Holy Spirit, who will grow within "our carnal and yet sanctified body", who will someday transform us to the image of His son Jesus.

Do not neglect to spend your daily quiet time with the Lord, reading His words and praying the first thing in the morning when you are awake. For first time born again Christians, you may start reading God's words beginning from the New Testament the book of Matthew to Revelation and then continue with the Old Testament.

May the Lord richly fill you and uplift you with the presence of the Holy Spirit, in your daily walk of obedience unto Him. Always remembering that we are all His precious "workmanship in Christ Jesus unto good works (Ephesians 2:10); and that "being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phillipians 1:6).

#### MY BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ISAIAH 40:31)

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

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

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

(MATTHEW 10:37)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ISAIAH 24:15)

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

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

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

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

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



The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

> Yea, though I walk through The valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil

For thou art with me
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
In the presence of mine enemies
Thou anointest my head with oil
Wy cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life And I will dwell in the house of The Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

### LETTER 1

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. How are you physically and spiritually? I pray all is well with you. I have enclosed message 1 in this e-mail, please do read it. You may forward it to whosoever the Lord has touched your heart upon.

As God's children, we are given the privilege to pray to our Heavenly Father. For prayers to be answered, be sure to abide in Him continuously and petition unceasingly with undaunted faith. You may also mail me your prayer request to the PO Box address in this web. Together with you, I would petition before the throne of grace on your behalf. Let us remember the words of our Lord Jesus when He says:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

(Matthew 7:7,8)

Prayerfully Yours, Rosy Chao Sacramento, California USA

## MESSAGE 1

## "THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH."

(Psalm 119:105)

Have you ever walked or driven in a road that is totally "pit black dark" without any form of light whatsoever? Personally, I love driving the American freeway as they are easy to drive with speed and plenty of light in many areas. However, there are some areas especially around the hilly mountainous sections, that are very dangerous and extremely difficult to drive as the roads are very narrow and do not have any street light whatsoever. Driving in such a condition depends totally on the "power light" of your car. Without any form of light, it is extremely dangerous as one can fall over a cliff in an accident.

Likewise, God's words are our source of light for our perilous spiritual life journey. King David, who wrote the book of Psalm, had experienced and realized that God's words were indeed a lamp unto his feet and a light unto his dangerous perilous life-long pathway, that he had battle victoriously with the presence of the Lord.

You would agree with me, that King David's experiences in his difficult troubled life, was not an exception to the rule. In fact, most if not all of us have experienced some sort of problem whether physically, maritally, financially, emotionally, and of course spiritually. Life is a constant battle of problems. However, the huge difference lies in the fact that as God's children, we have our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the words of God as our supernatural help to aid us in times of needs. As we are constantly reminded by the Holy Spirit to resort to "the throne of grace" (Hebrew 4:16) for prayers in these moments of trouble; God is able ultimately to turn every spiritual warfare for our spiritual benefit to His glory, so long as we abide in Him. Hallelujah for this!!

## Our Lord Jesus tells us through His words that:

# "IN THE WORLD YE SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION: BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

(John 16:33)

It is an absolute certainty that we all would face difficulties, as our Lord has already warned us through His words. The question is not whether we will face difficulties but rather it is a matter of when we are going to encounter these difficulties. Furthermore, what is our attitude whenever we are faced with problems in relation to God's words, the throne of Grace and our Lord?

Whenever you encounter a problem, what is your first reaction and line of thought that cross through your mind? Is it anger, frustration, complaining from your mouth, resorting to your own "carnal intelligence" or resorting to the Holy Spirit and remembering God's words?

You see, without spending daily quiet time reading and remembering God's words and spending time in "the throne of Grace" in prayers with our Lord, we would not have our first line of defense in place during our spiritual warfare. It is not surprising that many Christians who do not practice godliness (in terms of spending quiet time with the Lord and leading the crucified life of Jesus), could not remember God's words during such an attack and would resort to their flesh and fall flat into the trap of satan, our destructive enemy.

In order to battle victoriously the ferocious battle during our trials and tribulations, we must remember God's words and petition for assistance and grace before "the throne of Grace" unto our Lord through prayers. Secondly, we must cling to God's promises through His words and seek wisdom and direction from the Holy Spirit, who is left on earth to indwell us and assist us. Finally, we must always at all times remember God's words as written in the scripture and our God's commandments to act upon, whenever the Holy Spirit brings it to minds. Anything short of these and the failure to remember God's words, would land us in "a pit black dark road" that spells a spiritual trouble ahead and a defeat in our spiritual battle.

Finally, the word of God is a lamp and a light that will shine deep into our spiritual life and our heart. When a child of a living God is born again of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit will use God's words to unveil and surface our sinful habits and carnal nature. We must always humble ourselves and submit to the Holy Spirit by confessing and repent ing of our sins until we felt for certainty the presence of the divine peace deep in our heart.

Last but not least, God's words are our divine map and instructions that will light our way to the end of our spiritual journey. The words of God are God's most powerful lights of truths. They will shine into the lies of satan and the deeds of false prophets, and those that do not belong to Him. God's words are such powerful lights of truths, that they can sanctify God's children (John 17:17) and they are alive, sharper than any two edge sword, exposing the deepest intents of our hearts and mind (Hebrew 4:12).

Hand in hand, with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our heart, the words of God are such powerful lights that will transform a sinner into a saint. It is absolutely the grace of God, through the precious blood of Jesus in the light of the truths of God's words and the work of the Holy Spirit that the final imprint of the Image of Christ is marked upon his sheep.

May we apply the light of the words of God richly in our hearts as our weapon, lest we falter into darkness!!

### LETTER 2

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

It is a joy to be able to meet you once more. I have enclosed the message 2. Please read it carefully and pass it on to whomsoever the Lord has touched your heart upon. May the Lord fills you with His presence, never to forget to always "abide in Him". Be watchful and alert as our spiritual enemy "the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

I have also enclosed the website address for you to listen to "In Touch" with Dr. Charles Stanley. He is a very previous servant of the Lord, please take your time to listen to his messages. He will help you to grow in your understanding of the scripture.

www.intouch.org

## MESSAGE 2

# "VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT YE BE CONVERTED, AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN, YE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

(Matthew 18:3)

Do you know many church goers who claim to be Christians, attend Sunday services week after week in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven and be saved? Do you know that many theologians and religious leaders studied the scripture much more than others thinking for certainty that they will enter in heaven, since they acquire much of their head knowledge of the scripture? Are you aware of the fact that, it is not the possession of money or education or fame that get you into the kingdom of Heaven? It is amazing that the criteria to enter the kingdom of Heaven, is so simple and yet difficult for many to enter in.

Our Lord Jesus tells us that until and unless we repent, change and turn about as written by the Amplified Bible and become little children, we can never enter the kingdom of Heaven at all.

Have you ever been around children and around so-called adults? Can you see the differences between these 2 groups of people? Children are lovely and simple by nature with nothing to hide, pure and harmless as they are. Adults are so full of complexities, craftiness, vices, pretentiousness, hypocrisy and often times could be dangerous to be around as they can do harm to others. It is sad as the law of sin enters humanity, a simple child has now been turned many times to an ugly adult. He or she has learned the vices of the sinful habits and nature of mankind that land them to be hardcore criminals, robbers, child molesters, prostitutes, murderers etcetera. Thank God for the Holy words of God that have been written to instruct all of us the ways of the truth and to reveal the secret of the destroyer the devil, that has enslaved us in sin, ever since mankind has fallen.

The Amplified Bible tells us to be converted like a little child, one must possess the 4 characteristics of a little child:

1) Trusting 2) Lowly 3) Loving 4) Forgiving

Many Christians fell into the sin of doubt or unbelief towards God offered by the ugly enemy the devil. However, the Bible tells us to trust the Lord in everything, not just something but everything! The word of God tells us:

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

( Proverbs 3:5,6)

You see, without trusting Jesus as your personal Savior, who died on the cross in order to pay for your sin debt in full, you cannot be saved or enter the kingdom of God. Trusting Jesus is resting upon Him, whether you are going through pain or difficulties or when things seem to be bright and good. To trust Jesus is to have faith that God will always meant all things to work well for our spiritual growth to His glory. Remember what the Apostle Paul has written:

# "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)

The second characteristic of a little child is to be lowly. How many Christians as well as so-called church leaders fell in this law of humility. Our Lord tells us in His word:

# " BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

(Matthew 5:3)

The Amplified Bible defines the poor in spirit as the humble who rate themselves insignificant. My spiritual teacher Miss Esther Wang always said that to have a humble spirit is to have a teachable heart. A heart that would take genuine corrections from others with appreciation and the ears that would be opened to listen instead of rejection with pride. It is interesting to note:

# " AND BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY: FOR GOD RESISTEH THE PROUD AND GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

(1 Peter 5:5)

One can have a lot of head knowledge of the Bible and yet fell into the sin of spiritual pride like the devil. Likewise, one can have the pride of success in the worldly achievement and fall into the pride of life (1 John 2:16) etceteras. But until and unless, we humble ourselves and be lowly like little children towards the Lord, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven

Finally, there are the 2 equally important if not most crucial characters of a child that we must attain, these are to be loving and forgiving. These 2 characters are intertwined with each other. A loving heart is a forgiving heart. We must always remember that the 2 greatest commandments that our Lord has given us above all laws are:

"THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND."

"AND THE SECOND IS LIKE UNTO IT, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF."

(Matthew 22:37,39)

On the top of that, we must always forgive others on the basis that God has forgiven us much more of our sins (read the parable in Mathew 18:23-35). If we genuinely trust and love our Lord with all our heart, mind and soul; we will automatically forgive others on His account.

Do you have these 4 characteristics of a little child. Are you lowly, trusting, loving and forgiving? Can you claim in your heart that the Holy Spirit has been uplifted in your daily living to witness these 4 characters to be yours today? Or are you still struggling to be a little child and refuse to surrender to our Lord's command?

### LETTER 3

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

Greeting peace and mercy once again in the name of our Lord. I am amazed how our time has gone before us so quickly. I pray that all is well with you and your family. I have enclosed message 3 in this e-mail, please read it and forward it to whomsoever the Lord has touched your heart upon.

For the time that has gone before us so quickly, how did we live it before the Lord? Have we live it truly for Jesus? Or we are just too busy doing the things of the temporal? Let us encourage one another through His words. Let us labor for the Lord!

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

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

## MESSAGE 3

"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)

There are so many commandments in the Bible to be obeyed upon. However, one of my favorite commandments that I could memorize and always deeply imprinted in my heart is the commandment written above. This particular commandment unravels 2 issues that define what it is to love God and in return His promises as a result of our loving Him.

Many Christians and so-called believers worship the Lord God from the standpoint of a duty, a religious obligation without personal feelings towards the Lord. They merely go to church, read the Bible, attend prayer meetings and are not interested in their personal relationship with the Lord. In their mind, they are only in church in order to get into Heaven. Yet, ironically their failure to obey God's commandments from their heart, only prevent them from entering God's kingdom.

When God created us, He had one thing in mind. That is to have an intimate close relationship with us His children. God is love the Bible writes.

# "HE THAT LOVETH NOT KNOWETH NOT GOD; FOR GOD IS LOVE"

(1 John 4:8)

When God created us in His image, He has given us the free will to choose to love Him in return. He created us in order to glorify Him, to obey Him, to act out His commandments on the basis of loving Him. He is our Heavenly Father and we are His children. He is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. He is our Saviour and we are His saints. He is our Bridegroom and we are His brides. Finally, He is our Lord and we are His servants. All of these relationships reflect the closeness of our relationship basing on God's love. Without the presence of love, we do not have the basis of our relationship with our Lord. Yet, many Christians miss "this point of love" when coming before our Heavenly Father. They come cold heartedly before "the throne of Grace" in

their prayers and they have lost their first love for Jesus. Their zeal and love for Jesus has now been replaced by a mere religious act of mundane duty of religiosity of attending weekly Sunday services. Our destructive enemy satan, has gained his ground of injecting his spiritual venom of "the world"(1John 2:15,16) into their spiritual system. Sad to say, they are too busy and preoccupied by the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, lust of other things, pleasures of this life (read Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:19, Luke 8:14), that the word of God and His commandments are all choked out and forgotten!

Obviously, as we falter in our flesh through the presence of these sins from "the world", before long we have lost the love and the zeal for Jesus, and the shield of faith. As spiritual blindness sets and creeps in our carnal flesh laden with sins, unconsciously we have grief and quench the Holy Spirit that indwelled us. The 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit of "Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance" (Galatians 5:22,23) begin to disappear and you would wonder why?

Nonetheless, let us look into the criteria of what is to genuinely love God as written from this commandment. Our Lord Jesus puts it in a simple term of what is "the meaning of loving Him". To love Him is to do 2 things:

- 1) To have his commandments
- 2) To keep His commandments

To have His commandments at heart, one must devote time to study His Holy instructions written in the Holy words of God the Bible. If a person claims that he or she is a Christian and does not have time to thoroughly read His words, it tells you instantly that he or she does not love the Lord. As it is obvious, that one who does not spend enough time in knowing the detail instructions of the Lord is obviously not interested in the author who is our Lord Himself. Secondly, if a believer does not even have the time to invest his quiet time reading God's words, how is he or she going to be acquainted with His commandments?

The second commandment of our Lord will finally nail down the genuine believers that have the genuine love for Jesus. There are thousands of so-called believers that spend thousands of hours, days and nights studying the scriptures and even dissecting them in detail trying to extract the original meaning of the words in the context of the words in Greek or Hebrew languages. These groups are called the scribes and the Pharisees. The only problem with these readers who spent thousands of hours analyzing God's

words are not interested in obeying or acting out God's commandment. They do not have God as their interest at heart. Our Lord Jesus calls them hypocrites or "pretenders" as they pretend in their religiosity to show and mislead others that they are godly, when in actual fact they are the opposite.

My dear friend, do you truly love Jesus? Do you care to study in detail His commandments because you want to love Him and not because you have to do it? When the Holy Spirit reveals to you His commandment, do you obey it and act it out or do you merely brush it aside?

Finally, may I encourage you to genuinely love Him from your heart. Read His words daily, mark His commandments and keep it deep in your heart and act it out in your obedience to the Holy Spirit. I can guarantee you, that our Lord will never fail you. By keeping His commandments, He promises through His words that He will manifest Himself and walk with us through life's "thick and thin", trials and tribulations. Above all, He will guide us, answer our prayers and direct our footsteps amidst danger. Secondly, He promises to abode with us (John 14:23) until eternity, until we meet Him face to face. What a joy, what a comfort for those who genuinely keep His commandments and love Him!

"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."

(1 Corinthians 2:9)

## LETTER 4

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

Shallom once again in the name of Jesus. As I ponder upon our day to day busy life, my mind was captured upon what the Apostle Paul has said and written, telling us to always capture our thought process "to the obedience of Christ Jesus" (2 Corinthians 10:5). As I write and enclose this message 4 "the victorious faith in Christ Jesus", my heart is moved to enclose and share this precious hymn with you. The Apostle Paul tells us to always sing hymns so as to teach and admonish one another as well as "singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). May you listen, learn and sing along this precious hymn so as to encourage your heart in your daily walk with Jesus. May this message 4 and this precious hymn uplifts your spirit

as "you turn your eyes upon Jesus".

#### **HYMN:**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of his glory and grace

## MESSAGE 4

# "FOR WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH."

(1 John 5:4)

Are you aware of the fact that fish that are alive swim against the onset of the current flow, while the dead fish merely float along and with the current? Have you ever wondered why this is the case or did you already discover the answer to this fact about the dead and the alive fish? The presence of the law of life has given the fish that are alive the power and the drive to swim against the onset of the current flow. While the absence of life in the dead fish, has resulted in the absolute control, total mercy yielding and surrendering to the onset of the current flow.

May I ask you today the profound honest truth from your heart: as a Christian, are you struggling and battling against the onset of the current flow of the world like the fish that are alive or are you merely surrendering according to the onset flow of the world?

The Bible tells us that "the whole world lieth in wickedness". (1 John 5:19). It is not surprising "the dead"(Luke 9:60) as mentioned by our Lord Jesus, referring to the unbelievers as well as many so-called Christians that are not born again of the Spirit of God, behave like the dead fish.

It is amazing to discover that "born again Christians", those who have genuinely repented of their sins and accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour are behaving like the fish that are alive. As babes in Christ and growing Christians, you will begin to experience the struggle against sins and the wiles of the devil and the power of the world. The word of God tells us very clearly:

"LOVE NOT THE WORLD, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM."

(1John 2:15)

Many of you would agree with me and nod your head in acceptance of this verse. Yet simultaneously, many believers are frustrated of the defeat in their spiritual warfare; a warfare against the onset of the power of the world. It is not uncommon that many church leaders have fallen in sins that do not glorify God, as they succumb to satan's trap and falter in their faith.

The word of God continues to tell us and define what the world is like:

## "FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD, THE LUST OF THE FLESH, AND THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE, IS NOT OF THE FATHER, BUT IS OF THE WORLD."

(1John 2:16)

Do you feel discouraged of this battle against "the world". Do you feel despondent and about to quit on your faith since you could not overcome the very sin you have committed over and over again ever since you became a born again Christian?

Praise God for the Holy word of God that reveals the truth, the infallible instructions of how to overcome the power of sin and darkness from our spiritual enemy!! Let us look in detail what God's word says:

# " FOR WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD"

(1John 5:4)

You see, the battle against the power of sins and darkness cannot be overcome by mere religious theories. No human effort or intellectual theories, religious institutions or religious leaders can set you free against the power of sins and the power of darkness. It takes the truth of the word of God, Jesus' own words, the absolute truth and the presence of the Holy Spirit that are all "born of God" to overcome the world. Our Lord tells us in His words:

# " IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED; AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

(John 8:31,32)

The first step to overcome the power of sins and darkness would require:

- 1) the absolute presence of the Holy Spirit
- 2) to comprehend and remember God's words
- 3) to continuously act upon God's words of instructions

Ever since the downfall of mankind from the Garden of Eden, all of us were born in sins, that literally means we are not born of God any longer. It is not in our nature to overcome sins or the power of darkness, since the devil fathered us all (John 8:44). It is for this reason, that God had to send the Holy Spirit who is born of God to come to indwell the believers to aid us to overcome the world. The Holy Spirit will begin to live in our heart, the moment we choose to believe in Jesus as our Saviour upon our repentance and confession of our sins. Next, we must comprehend and remember His instructions and act upon them continuously. You will discover that as you act upon His words, not only you will maintain abiding in Him (John 15:5), the law of spiritual life will concurrently begin to grow in you as you uplift the Holy Spirit by walking in the newness of the life of Christ. Before long, you will have the strength to break the power of sins, see through the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11) and overcome the power of darkness.

Finally, it takes our absolute faith to overcome the world. Faith means our choice to believe in the victorious Saviour and accepted His death on the calvary as our payment of our sin debt in full. Faith means trusting in the infallible power of the word of God that will transform us to the image of Jesus someday. Faith means trusting and uplifting the Holy Spirit to be the Lord of our life in our day to day godly lifestyle. Last but not least, faith means trusting in the fact that "I am not able" but "He is able".

Let us all remember the words of the Apostle Paul that says: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life". (1 Timothy 6:12) Let us choose to refuse the lies of satan, "never!! to the voice of discouragement" or surrender to the defeated battle of the devil. Trusting always that "Faith is the victory!!" and "whatsoever is not of faith is sin!" (Romans 14:23).

### LETTER 5

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

It is such a joy and a privilege to share God's words with you. It is also such a joy to hear your voice and what is in your heart and mind as you write and share with me. This is what we call a fellowship in Christ Jesus. As God's children, we are blessed to be able to fellowship with one another as a body of believers, as we are filled and accompanied by His spirit of love. As we fellowship, we will also receive spiritual edification and spiritual growth at the same time. Ultimately, as the Apostle Paul wrote:

- "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"
- "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12,13)

May I encourage you to write to me whether it is regarding your spiritual life, a need for prayers or a question or any notes and comments. May the Lord richly bless you with His wisdom and love as you read message 5 "the source of wisdom".

## MESSAGE 5

## "THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM: A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS: HIS PRAISE ENDURETH FOR EVER." (Psalm 111:10)

In many countries, traffic lights are installed for one main purpose: that is to control the smooth flowing of the traffic and obviously to prevent any kind of accident. All of us are aware that green light means go, orange light means prepare to slow down and red light means stop. As law-abiding citizens, we all obey and have understood this concept. However, if we fail to obey this rule, we are running into the dangerous zone of having accidents. It is not surprising that many fatal accidents have happened and will happen if we continue to trespass and disobey the traffic rules. Imagine if many drivers drive when it is red light and stop when it is green light! A massive confusion and major disaster will occur and tragic deaths will take place as accidents mount up left and right, right?

Likewise, the words of God tell us that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". The Amplified Bible defines "the fear of the Lord" as "the reverent fear and worship of the Lord". Unlike the negative fear that comes from satan, "the reverent fear" refers to our positive attitude of absolute respect to our Heavenly Father, as the Lord God is Holy. It is our deepest sense of loyalty as His servant, giving the most honor to our master, who is truly awesome. It is filled with our genuine love and gratitude towards our Saviour, who deserve our adoration and worship, as we give Him our all. It is for all of these reasons that we choose to "worship the Lord" with "the reverent fear".

As a result of our "reverent fear and worship of the Lord" comes the promise of "the beginning of wisdom and skill" as written in the Amplified Bible. In other words, the Amplified Bible mentions that this law of "reverent fear and worship of the Lord" is "the preceding and first essential, the prerequisite" of all wisdom. It is guaranteed that if you do not have "the reverent fear and worship of the Lord" from your heart, you will not have any wisdom from the Lord.

Wisdom is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul tells us in his words:

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

( 2 TIMOTHY 1:7)

The Amplified Bible further describes wisdom as a sound mind that consist of "a calm and well balanced mind and discipline and self control." It is obvious that our carnal minds are far from having these characteristics.

Secondly, an intelligent mind is not necessarily a wise mind. One can be born intelligent and yet behave unwisely. Wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit is pure by nature, full of mercy, good fruits without partiality and does not contain any form of craftiness, dishonesty or lies etcetera (read James 3:17). It is a peaceful mind set that can gage and face any trials and tribulation and traps of the enemies with faith and courage victoriously resorting to the power of the Holy Spirit. While human intelligence is carnal, wisdom is spiritual by nature.

There was the real story of 9 men who were multi-millionaires in the United States of America, and were considered the most successful financially and extremely intelligent. They all held the highest position of being the C.E.O. or the leader of their companies and met each other in the same conference. Yet at the end of their lives, most of them died of suicide, while others became mentally insane etc. Despite their financial success and extreme intelligence, they all faced the tragic death at the end of their lives. It is crystal clear that they have learned the art of making a living for the temporal and yet they failed to acquire the art of living in wisdom for the eternal. It is undeniable that all of these 9 men were super-intelligent and financially successful at one point of their life, yet it is a pity to discover the element of their tragic deaths were all attributed to their lack of wisdom.

The words of God continue to write:

# " A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS".

Just like the traffic light rules, if we merely read these rules and fail to believe in the traffic light rules and drive contra to the rules, we will end up acting foolishly and suffer the consequence of an accident which could be fatal. Consequently, wisdom cannot be acquired acting out contra to God's laws and commandments. If we genuinely revere the Lord and love Him, we will remember His words and act out according to God's instructions.

Sad to say, many Christians are not living in absolute reverent of the Lord and refuse to read or act out God's commandments. As a result, they miss the very best of blessings and wisdom from the Lord.

Finally, let us put to mind what Kind David had written and experienced throughout his life:

"THOU THROUGH THY COMMANDMENTS HAST MADE ME WISER THAN MINE ENEMIES: FOR THEY ARE EVER WITH ME."
"I HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN ALL MY TEACHERS: FOR THY TESTIMONIES ARE MY MEDITATION."
"I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN THE ANCIENTS, BECAUSE I KEEP THY PRECEPTS"

(Psalm 119:98,99,100)

As we obey God's commandment and revere Him, the Holy Spirit that indwell us will equip us with His wisdom in all that we do. Just like prophet Daniel or Joseph who genuinely love and revere the Lord and were filled with the spirit of wisdom; let us follow their footsteps of wisdom and praising Him forever. Have you ever wondered why you lack wisdom?

### LETTER 6

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

As Christians, we have the blessings and the privilege to share this good news of our risen Saviour to others.

When Jesus rose from the dead, Mary Magdalene was the first person to witness our risen Saviour. She was given the first and the foremost important task of declaring this good news to the Apostles and other disciples. Why Mary Magdalene? I asked. I was deeply moved to tears to discover that our Lord is not interested in our outer appearances, our intellectual capabilities or our status quo.

In actual fact, Mary Magdalene was a female by gender, a former prostitute by occupation, very poor by status quo and unworthy to be looked upon by society. Yet our Lord transformed her to be a saint and she was totally delivered from many demons out of her body. She was totally forgiven of her sins and she could not repay Jesus for what He had done. All she could offer was her absolute genuine love for Jesus.

Do you realize that what God is interested is our "core being", our "deepest part" of our heart, soul and mind? God is not interested in our "surface religiosity" or our "cover up"! Where is our heart today? Do we follow the footstep of Mary Magdalene who follow Jesus to the cross, to His burial and resurrection? Or do we leave our hearts to where they should not belong?

May this message 6 be a blessing to you as you "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness".

# GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "STREAMS IN THE DESERT"

### MESSAGE 6

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

( Matthew 6: 33 )

Have you ever paused to think how long is eternity and eternal life? It is not just millions and billions of years, it is forever and ever! Have you ever tried to compare your life on earth of say 100 years to eternal life? You would agree with me that it is hardly a drop of water in the vast ocean of water, right? Ironically, most people spend their time laboring for the temporal versus the eternal. On the other hand, our Lord God is only interested for His children eternal well being, since our temporal amount to nothing when compared to eternity. It is for this reason that our Lord's advice is:

# "SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUNESS".

Meanwhile, are you aware that Almighty and all powerful God, amidst all of His magnificent creations of the whole universe, choose to love us as His children above all things? Does it surprise you that as "minute" as our physical presence in the whole universe, that Almighty God has chosen to pour all of His love and revealed His very best plan for us all for eternity. Many times, I am overwhelmed with wonders and awed that such magnificent all-powerful God chose to send his son to become flesh and died on the cross, in order to save sinners from eternal damnation. His purpose was crystal clear: in order to bring us back into His loving arms and restored our broken relationship with Him.

His plan was unfathomable and incomprehensible by the carnal mind of the fallen mankind, His creations. Yet, the wonderful news of God's love and plan was finally unveiled through the scripture and through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Many Christians today comprehend the first part of the purpose of salvation that is: Christ died on the cross in order to pay our sin debt in full so as to avoid eternal damnation or hell. However, they fail to understand the other part of salvation that is: **He gave us His life in order to live in us and through us so as to conform us to the image of Jesus** as our final destination,

before entering the kingdom of Heaven. Furthermore, God's ultimate plan is to prepare us as His bride in order to enter the feast of the marriage of Lamb (read Revelation 19:7,8).

It is for the latter part of salvation that the Holy Spirit was sent down in order to aid us, teach us, counsel us, comfort us and grow us up spiritually. Ultimately, it is the Holy Spirit that will seal us unto the day of redemption (read Ephesians 1:13,14) and transform us to the image of Jesus, before bringing us into eternity to meet our Lord.

Let us now focus in unraveling the meaning of: "SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS".

To "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" literally means living for Jesus in my everyday life. It is "Christ centered life" basing on loving Him with all my soul, my mind and my heart as we live out His first commandment into our lives (read Matthew 22:37,38). It is a lifestyle that is guided with a clear sense of purpose and direction as our master has instructed us. It is a life that is filled with a clear understanding and wisdom of God's will in our lives, as the Apostle Paul writes to remind us through his words:

# " WHEREFORE BE YE NOT UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS."

(Ephesians 5:17)

It is a lifestyle that is filled with humility, controlled and guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit, in order to walk according to God's commandment. It is a lifestyle of absolute "Sabbatical rest" in God (read Hebrew 4: 9,10,11) as we yield him all of our control, struggles and self-effort. It is a lifestyle filled with gratitude and a heart of thanksgiving unto the Lord for giving us His eternal life (read Luke 10:20). It is a life that is filled with joy and peace as we rejoice in the Lord daily (read Philippians 4:4,5,6,7) giving Him our very best. Finally, it is a lifestyle of absolute faith and positivity that God is able "to work out all things for the good to them that love God" (read Romans 8:28)

It is for these reasons that "SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD" would entail:

- 1) absolute obedience to the Holy Spirit
- 2) acting out according to the word of God
- 3) living the crucified life for Jesus

As we genuinely accept Jesus as our Saviour and repent of our sins, the Holy Spirit will begin to indwell within our body. We must never forget to feed our new life in Christ by reading His words and acting out according to God's instruction as written in the scripture. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit must be obeyed upon at all times and any act of sins must be confessed and repented immediately, in order to maintain spiritual growth and lordship of the Holy Spirit. Apart from the daily quiet time spend in prayers and His words, continuous fellowship with the saints, we must also practice godliness. Habits and thought process that negate the words of God must be crucified, dealt with and sacrificed in order to live for Jesus.

When we focus our mind and thought process on God's plan and will in our life as our main goal by obeying the Holy Spirit through God's words, we become a vessel of honour.

# "IF A MAN THEREFORE PURGE HIMSELF FROM THESE, HE SHALL BE A VESSEL UNTO HONOUR, SANCTIFIED, AND MEET FOR THE MASTER'S USE, AND PREPARED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK."

(2 Timothy 2:21)

It is a pity to realize that many Christians do not walk according to this rule of thumb. They strife in their own strength to achieve financial success, as their main goal in their temporal life. While others struggle stress and worry over their job, health, welfare of their children, spouse, their future, their property or debt etceteras. Their lack of understanding of God's will in their lives and comprehension of the words of God lead them to falter into satan's trap. Our spiritual enemies could not wait to "entangle them" with the affairs of the temporal life (read 2 Timothy 2:4), as they lose sight of their eternal life. A life that is preoccupied and dictated solely on the basis of "the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things etceteras and become fruitless spiritually (read Mark 4:19). In the meantime, they have neglected the instructions from the words of God at the expense of their "spiritually drunken lifestyle" on earth (read Matthew 24:49). Does this sound familiar to you? What do you think will be missing in their lives?

Undoubtedly, it is a common wisdom that we must attend our worldly affairs for our temporal needs. However, we must always seek to glorify our Lord in whatever we do. We must never permit our spiritual enemies to utilize anything of the temporal to override and lose sight of our eternal destination at all cost!

Finally, let us now remember the Lord's word, that:

# "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD."

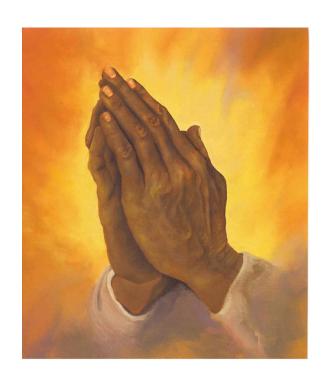
(Matthew 4:4)

Our heavenly Father knows our temporal needs. As His children, our Lord Jesus tells us not to worry what to eat, what to wear etceteras, as life is more than food and clothing (read Matthew 6:25). Without question as we prioritize in obeying God's commandment in our life, "all of these things will be added unto you". In other words, as we seek to glorify our Lord in our daily living for Jesus, God cannot but provide and bless those who genuinely love Him, whether it is financially, materially etceteras.

May we never forget the rule of thumb of "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" in our mind. May we love the Lord God above all things and cherish the lordship of the Holy Spirit in our heart. Always deeply imprinted in our heart this wonderful promise from our Lord, as written by the Apostle Paul:

"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)



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

MATTHEW 7:7

### LETTER 7

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

Do you know that believing in Jesus is not a religion but rather a relationship? It is an intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus and God the Father through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the moment we have chosen to believe and accepted Him as our personal saviour. Being born again of the spirit of God is such a blessing!

Unlike religion, it is totally man's effort to try to reach God in their own strength and their own "darkened understanding" and "ignorance", since they are "alienated from the life of God" (read Ephesians 4:18).

As God's children, our Lord Jesus described our intimate relationship with Him as the vine and the branches. It is a relationship that is totally dependent on Christ alone and none of us. Just like the branches, it can never bear any fruit without abiding in the vine. Likewise, as God's children, we cannot do anything apart from abiding in Him. Let us remember His words as He said:

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

(John 15:5)

May the Lord richly bless you in your understanding as you discover the truth and the power of "abiding in the vine".

### GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "STREAMS IN THE DESERT"

### MESSAGE 7

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

(John 15:5)

"Stop struggling! Relax! I heard the shout of my son's swimming instructor as he stretched my son's hands and legs parallel to the water level. I grinned in excitement as I saw my son floated in water for the first time. My son Isaac had not known how to swim and yet he was able to float amazingly. What boggles my mind was the fact that his body was able to float above water. "How can this happen?" I thought.

One of the most important truths in the whole gospel of Jesus Christ is **the power of "abiding in the vine"**. Many Christians and believers including pastors and preachers could not comprehend the truth of "abiding in **the vine"**. Ever since they came to believe in Jesus, even though they spend hours, days, weeks, months and years going to church and prayer meeting after meeting, nothing much has changed. On the contrary, many so-called believers felt very frustrated, exhausted if not burn out trying to live the Christian life on their own strength. Do you feel this way?

Have you ever tried to control your anger, impatience, worries, stress, smoking or gambling habits etc. and find it impossible! The more you try to control your anger, the more you will feel frustrated and before long, you will blurt out in anger against your child, spouse, employee etc. Perhaps, before you became a Christian, you were not aware of your anger issue in your life. Now that you become a Christian, you become more aware than before and felt even more frustrated, as you cannot live up to God's words and laws. You tried extremely hard and you wanted to live up to God's law but before the day was over, you had fallen in sin again. What do I do now? You might think.

There was a real story of a man in Shanghai, China who was addicted to gambling and playing mahjong. He was so addicted and lost a lot of time and money that he felt very depressed and worthless. He hated his gambling addiction so much, that he vowed to quit gambling and chopped off his little finger to prove to his family that he would not gamble ever again for

the rest of his life. The man was determined to "turn over a new leaf" in regards to his evil habit without question. However, his "chopped off little finger "had barely recovered and was still being bound by plasters around it, when he was found gambling again with his friend around the mahjong table! My dear friend, what is wrong with this gambling addict? Was he genuine in his attempt to quite gambling? Absolutely!

The Apostle Paul tells us that: **the law is spiritual but we are carnal sold under sin** (read Romans 7:14). Just like the man who is addicted to gambling, the Apostle Paul discovered that the whole humanity have fallen under the law of sin. The Apostle Paul described the behavior of mankind under sin this way:

# " FOR THE GOOD THAT I WOULD I DO NOT: BUT THE EVIL WHICH I WOULD NOT, THAT I DO." (Romans 7:19)

Next, the Apostle Paul continued to explain that:

# "FOR I KNOW THAT IN ME (THAT IS, IN MY FLESH,) DWELLETH NO GOOD THING" (Romans 7:18)

The Amplified Bible further explains: that we have the intention and urge to do what is right, but do not have the power to do it. Therefore the Apostle Paul concluded that as much as our mind desires to do what is right, the law of sin has overpowered and controlled our whole flesh and soul. As a result, we become a prisoner to the law of sin that indwell in "the appetites and wills of the flesh" as written in the Amplified Bible (Romans 7:23).

Are you aware that every single sin carries the power of darkness with it? For example: smoking has smoking devil, drinking has drinking devil, gambling has gambling devil and pride has pride devil etc. Does this explain to you as to why you cannot overcome your carnal flesh and your sinful habits? There was a young man that was filled with lots of demon. As I told him to confess his sins, he began to vomit out the demon out of his throat and mouth as he confessed each sin and wash it by the blood of Jesus.

My dearly beloved, in our flesh there is nothing good whether you are a Christian or not. It is for this reason when our Lord resurrected, He had to send the Holy Spirit to perform what no flesh or human can do!! Secondly, praise God for Jesus death on the cross. I want you to Listen Carefully! The power of the cross lies in the shedding of his divine blood. It is Jesus blood that is so powerful that it has the power to cleanse us from all of our sins and

unrighteousness (read 1 John 1: 7). The Bible says: "without the shedding of the blood, there is no remission of sins" (Hebrew 9:22). It is the blood of Jesus on the cross and His death that can forgive us of our sins and made us holy and righteous in the sight of God the Father. As he paid our sin debt in full, we are set free from the claws of satan and satan's power is totally broken and crush in the cross! Hallelujah and praise God for the cross!

Finally, one must be a genuine born again believer in order to be able to experience the power of "abiding in the vine". When we genuinely confessed our sins and accepted Jesus as our Lord and saviour, the Holy Spirit is sent to indwell in our heart as our seal of this redemption act of God (read Ephesians 1:13,14). The Holy Spirit is God the third person of the trinity, that is sent to teach us, help us, comfort us, counsel us and ultimately grow us in the image of Jesus. He is to be obeyed upon as our Lord, as he lives in our heart at all cost. We must prevent any act of sin that will grief the Holy Spirit within our Body. If we falter in sin, we must immediately confessed it and wash it by the blood of Jesus in order to be sanctified.

Ultimately, the power of "abiding in the vine" lies in the crucifixion of our flesh and uplifting of the Holy Spirit, by remembering Jesus words and commandment. Every pruning knife that is sent our way by the Lord (read John 15:2) is meant to bloom us and grow us up in order to bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, so long as we responded by walking in the spirit.

Every pruning knives such as problems or difficulties that satan hurled at us, we must quickly respond with a heart of thanksgiving to God. We must never ever response in our flesh by being angry, irritated or fearful etc. Pruning knives are spiritually defined as **problems**, **difficulties or hardship** that arise due to satan's attack on God's children and not problems that are caused by our own mistake or sins. Satan main purpose in attacking us is to **capture us**, when we responded in our ugly sinful nature of the flesh, as we falter in sin. His ultimate goal of the battle is to "kick out" the Holy Spirit from our heart and to destroy our relationship with the Lord!

On the other hand, God in His wisdom has utilized satan's attack as His pruning knives. God's intention was crystal clear: for our spiritual growth and benefit to His glory, so long as we maintain the right attitude of thanksgiving towards God.

Even though, these pruning knives can cause our flesh to be irritated angry, fearful etc., we must quickly crucify and deny our fleshly responses and uplift the Holy Spirit by thanking our Lord from our heart. By doing this, we

have just traded our flesh with buying the flask of oil of the 5 wise virgins (read Matthew 25:4) as mentioned by our Lord.

Therefore as satan hurled at us these knives, you must first:

- 1) recognize it as a knife
- 2) response with the heart of thanksgiving to the Lord
- 3) crucify our flesh i.e all negative thought and negative emotional responses immediately

As we learned the rule of crucifying the flesh and uplifting the Holy Spirit with a heart of thanksgiving, we have just traded our flesh with the Holy Spirit. By practicing this rule, we have just traded every single pruning knife with a drop of oil that ultimately make up the flask of oil of the 5 wise virgins.

As you continue this practice of crucifying your flesh and trading to purchase the oil of the 5 wise virgins, the life of Christ within your body begin to bloom and grow into maturity. In the meantime, as you practice godliness by spending time in prayers, reading God's words and acting them out, the Holy Spirit will begin to fill your heart and mind. Before long, you will experience and bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit that will include **love**, **joy**, **peace**, **longsuffering**, **gentleness**, **goodness**, **faith**, **meekness**, **self-control** (read Galatians 5:22,23).

Just like floating in the water, you must totally rest upon God's words by faith. You must not struggle in your own self-effort or intelligence or you will sink in the water just like the act of floating.

Last but not least, "abiding in the vine" for God's children is having the power to choose "walking in the Spirit" instead of "fulfilling the lust of the flesh" (read Galatians 5:16). It is simply trusting Jesus in the light of His words and resting upon His promises more than our circumstances and self effort.



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

JOHN 15:5

### LETTER 8

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

Are you aware that being born again as a child of the living God is the greatest gift and blessing one can received for eternity? The famous gifted hymn writer Fanny Crosby wrote in her hymn as follows:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine Oh what a fore-taste of glory divine Heir of salvation, purchase of God Born of His Spirit, wash in His blood

To have Jesus is to have everything! Not only are we being purchased by the precious blood of Jesus, we truly become the heir of God through the inheritance of **the mark of Christ in the Saints** (read Ephesians 1:18). It is for this reason that we are His masterpieces "under construction". Apart from being born again of His Spirit, God's main aim is to grow all of us to the mature image of His son Jesus. Do you think like Jesus? Do you talk like Jesus? Do you act like Jesus?

May we allow the Holy Spirit to aid us in the construction of these "earthen vessels" (read 2 Corinthians 4:7) into the glory of God, his masterpieces. May the power of the words of God transform our mind and our thought processes into a life style that radiate the victorious Saviour in our everyday living for Him!

May this message 8 be a blessing to you as you focus and unravel "the power of transformation in Christ Jesus", according to God's wonderful will in your life.

### GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "STREAMS IN THE DESERT"

### MESSAGE 8

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

( ROMANS 12: 2)

"To be born again of the spirit of God is not the most difficult thing," Dr John Sung a famous and a powerful evangelist commented. "However, to nurture them to conform to the image of Jesus, is another issue!" He continued. Indeed many Christians today came to Christ and are born again of the spirit of God and yet they remain spiritually stagnant for many years. Many believers are not aware that accepting Jesus Christ as their personal saviour is not the end of their spiritual journey. On the contrary, it is just the beginning of the path of the cross.

Imagine if you had just come to roll your bags of sins at the foot of the cross and barely accepted Jesus as your personal saviour. Without a doubt you were born again of His spirit and as a babe in Christ, you were instructed to come to the church every weekend to gather together to worship God. Depending on the church, let's assume that you were fed either with the doctrine of "social gospel" or "easy believism" or "partially false doctrine" which is far from the truths of the words of God. Instead of receiving the sincere milk of the words of God as mentioned by the Apostle Peter (read 1 Peter 2:2), you were fed with the husks of pigs of satan's lies. Do you think as babe in Christ, you will grow healthily and speedily? On the top of that, our spiritual enemy got you too busy with "the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things etceteras (read Matthew 13:22). As a result, you have neither the time to read God's words nor pray fervently before the Lord. Now do you realize why many Christians are not growing spiritually and transforming in their mind?

Let us analyze the first part of the words of the Apostle Paul:

"BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD"

Many Christians even though have been attending churches for years, do not manifest changes of their sinful lifestyle and habits. Many believers merely carry over their line of thought of the past, into their **new life in Christ**. Sinful habits that can vary from smoking, drinking, swearing, gossiping over the phone, watching videos or movies, reading unhealthy novels and video games, lying, craftiness, pretentiousness, watching even pornography etceteras are being practiced as Christians. These lists of **sinful carnal habits** are unconsciously embedded deep in their mind and heart. Little do they realize that the **Holy Spirit**, who barely indwelled in their heart as **born again Christians**, cannot withstand these sins as He is **God the third person of the Trinity** who is holy by nature. Many believers are living a lifestyle of "**drunkeness**" as mentioned by our Lord, "**conforming absolutely to this world**". The only slight difference in their lifestyle is to add "**church service**" every weekend. Hence as the Apostle Paul writes:

### "SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD".

(Romans 8:8)

Let us analyze the second part of the words of the Apostle Paul:

#### "BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND."

Do you know that the most ferocious daily battles between the enemy and the Holy Spirit take place in our mind? It is in our mind that the devil injected his fiery darts of lies, that trapped God's children as they falter in sin, by accepting the devil's gift. It is through our minds that God's children are enslaved and got defiled as they have fallen into his ugly destructive traps. Every single sinful action began from "the mind of men" as they succumb into satan's temptations. For this reason our Lord Jesus tells us through His words:

"THAT WHICH COMETH OUT OF THE MAN, THAT DEFILETH THE MAN."

"FOR FROM WITHIN, OUT OF THE HEART OF MEN, PROCEED EVIL THOUGHTS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, MURDERS,"
"THEFTS, COVETOUSNESS, WICKEDNESS, DECEIT, LASCIVIOUSNESS, AN EVIL EYE, BLASPHEMY, PRIDE, FOOLISHNESS"
"ALL THESE EVIL THINGS COME FROM WITHIN, AND DEFILE THE MAN"

(Mark 7:20-23)

There was a story of a brother who is financially poor in my church, when I was in Singapore years ago. He was so poor that the devil began to inject into his mind the thought of stealing things in the department store. Fortunately, he remembered God's words and resisted this temptation. If this brother did not remember God's words, he would have fallen into satan's trap and committed the sin of stealing.

My dearly beloved, the power of transformation lies in 2 things. The spiritual formula is written as follows:

#### TRANSFORMATION=CONFESSION OF SINS+TRUE REPENTANCE

#### **CONFESSIONS OF SINS:**

In the original Greek context, the word **Confession** literally means in agreement with. For instance, when one **confessed** one sin, one must totally agree with the Lord and acknowledge from one's heart and mind that it is an act of sin that needed to be forgiven. The more thorough one confessed his or her sins and washed them by the blood of Jesus, the clearer their spiritual eyesight would be. Obviously, the stronger the presence of the Holy Spirit in their heart.

#### TRUE REPENTANCE:

Genuine repentance involves 3 aspects as written in the Amplified Bible.

- 1) change your mind for the better
- 2) heartily amend your ways
- 3) with abhorrence of your past sins

The Apostle Paul instructed us to renew our minds according to God's words. It is not possible for a Christian to renew their mind without reading the word of God in detail. For this reason, God's children must not only read His words but also change their mind set about their sinful habits and act out according to God's words. Finally, one must choose to totally abhor his past sinful habits and seek assistance from the Holy Spirit before actual transformation can take place.

Finally are you aware that it is God's will that everyone of God's children become His masterpieces?

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

(Ephesians 2:10)

Until and unless, we are transformed to the image of Jesus Christ, we can never be His masterpieces.

Can you claim today that you have practiced living a life of godliness instead of conforming to this world? Do God's words transformed your mind set to those of Christ? Do you begin to experience "the abundant life of Christ" (read John 10:10) and bear the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit? Are "rivers of living water" flowing through in your daily living as you share the truth of the gospel of Christ to those surrounding you? Or are you just preoccupied with the things of the temporal that you got stranded along the side of the path of the cross, unable to journey to the finish line.

My dearly beloved, may we never lose sight of our eternal destination. An ultimate destination of being the **bride of Christ**, conformed to **the image of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ**. Let us deeply imprint in our heart and mind of what the Apostle John had written for that great day of the marriage of the Lamb. Are you ready as the bride of Christ adorned in the spotless white garment of the saints?

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

( **Revelation 19:7,8** )



### "FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH; BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ENTERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD"

ROMANS 6:23

### LETTER 9

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

As I survey the wondrous cross, I cannot inevitably but present my body as a living sacrifice. The wondrous cross represents God's love for me. It is a love that is so amazing and so divine. On the other hand, a living sacrifice, is my choice of loving Him as a cheerful giver of myself. My utmost to His glory!

As God's children today, we have the greatest blessing of being the "temple of God". Before the wondrous cross, we were all far away from God's presence. Trying to get close to God is trying to bring the "burnt offering" of the Israelites under the Old Testament. It requires the hassle and the inconvenience of presenting an animal to be sacrificed and coming into the temple of God, with the help of the priest. In the meantime, the Spirit of God is still a distant away in the Holy of the Holiest, within the temple, where no layman can even enter but the High priest alone.

As our Lord Jesus rose from His death, the curtain of the Holy of the Holiest was torn asunder from top to bottom. As a born again Christian today, the Holy of the Holiest has been transferred into our body, by the blood of Jesus (read Hebrew 10:19). Coming before the "throne of grace" is only a "prayer away" as we close our eyes. Isn't this amazing! As God's children, we have now been indwelled by the Holy Spirit, who is so divine and holy.

Having received this truth, it is of no wonder as a living sacrifice, it "demands my life, my soul and my all!" May this message 9 be a wonderful eye opener and blessings to you, as you present your body a living sacrifice unto Him who is worthy of our praise! Amen.

### GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "STREAMS IN THE DESERT"

### MESSAGE 9

"I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE." (Romans 12: 1)

Are you surprised to discover that being a born again Christian, is being a purchased possession of Christ? Do you realize that being a true Christian is to sign a life time commitment contract with the Almighty God? The moment we have decided to accept Jesus by Faith, the eternal transaction of our sin-debt payment is made. By the same token, it is a very serious transaction to be observed and an eternal contract to be remembered forever. Henceforth, the Apostle Paul has reminded us through his words:

# "FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD'S."

(1 Corinthians 6:20)

As a matter of fact, it took the shed blood of Jesus and His life on the Calvary, in order to purchase all of us from the eternal lake of fire. Yet, many believers today are totally ignorant of this truth. Sad to say, they treat their faith as a mere church going activities. In their mind, they would like to get the ticket to Heaven and yet they do not permit the Lord God to own them. They would like to have their own right and their own control of their life as they continue in their "self worship" of " me, myself and I!" For this reason, the Apostle Paul gravely warns us through his words:

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

(1 Corinthians 6:19)

The truth of the matter is, God's divine laws requires "a continual burnt offering to be made every morning" (read Ezekiel 46: 13-15).; whether it is under Moses laws of the Old Testament or under "the period of Grace" of the New Testament. The only difference is that under the law of Moses, one

must carry an animal such as a bullock or a goat to be made as "the burnt offering sacrifice", while "under Grace" we must present our body as the living sacrifice instead. The reason of this transition is simple, under "the period of Grace" our body has now become the temple of God, indwelled by the Holy Spirit!

To begin with, we must keep in mind that many of God's laws under the Old Testament, must be read and understood in the light of their spiritual meaning rather than the literal meaning. For example, the **Old Testament** versus the **New Testament** in modern day context, can be compared to having a copy of the "blue print of a house" verses "the real completed house" basing on the blue print. The essence of God's law has not been changed but rather completed in Christ Jesus. It is for this reason that our Lord Jesus came not to disannul the law but to fulfil it (read Matthew 5:17).

Now, let us look in detail as to how a burnt offering sacrifice is made. First of all, in the Old Testament, one must bring an animal such as a bullock or a goat without blemish to be sacrificed and killed as an offering. They must first lay their hands upon the animal, in order to symbolically transfer his sins upon the animal, as an acceptable atonement for him. Then the blood of the animal will be sprinkled upon the altar (read Leviticus1:3-5). The book of Hebrews tells us that the shed blood of the bullock or the goat is a foreshadow of the real sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the cross. It spiritually represents our Lord Jesus death on the Calvary as the ultimate atonement for the sin of the world. The book of Hebrews writes as follows:

"NEITHER BY THE BLOOD OF GOATS AND CALVES, BUT BY HIS OWN BLOOD HE ENTERED IN ONCE INTO THE HOLY PLACE, HAVING OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION FOR US."

"FOR IF THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND OF GOATS, AND THE ASHES OF AN HEIFER SPRINKLING THE UNCLEAN, SANCTIFIETH TO THE PURIFYING OF THE FLESH:"

"HOW MUCH MORE SHALL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD, PURGE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD?"

( Hebrews 9:12-14 )

The second part of this offering involves **removing the skin** of the animal as well as **cutting them to pieces**. Then the **inward part** of the animal is

to be washed with water. Finally, all the fat and the meat is to be burned in the fire which is upon the altar as a sweet savour unto the Lord (read Leviticus 1:12,13).

Perhaps you would ever wonder, how can such a complicated process of this burnt sacrifice be related to me as a Christian today? My dear friend, this illustration of a living sacrifice is so precise, that you will not and cannot misunderstand what a living sacrifice that the Apostle Paul was talking about (read Romans 12:1). This "burnt offering" is so holy that it is the only sacrifice that is acceptable by the Lord as "an acceptable sweet smelling savor" before Him.

Let us put our mind and attention to the detail spiritual meaning of this "burnt offering".

### 1) The skinning process:

Just like the animal, a living sacrifice must first be skinned and cut to pieces. Skinning of the animal spiritually means removing **all of our masks** before the Lord God as His children. Many Christians today are putting up their masks of pride, pretentiousness, guile and all kinds of cover up before our Lord and others. Our Lord Jesus instructed us that:

# "BE YE THEREFORE WISE AS SERPENTS, AND HARMLESS AS DOVES."

(Matthew 10:16)

The Amplified Bible further explains the word harmless means being innocent, guileless and without falsity. In other words, towards the traps of satan and the harmful attack of others, we must be as wary and as wise as the serpent, in order to protect and shield ourselves from falling into the harm of others. On the other hand, we must be harmless, approachable and genuine towards others. Any form of hypocrisy, ferociousness or guile or falsity etceteras towards God and others is not acceptable as a living sacrifice before the Lord.

#### 2) Cut to pieces:

When the animal is cut to pieces, they no longer attain its original form. Hence, cutting to pieces spiritually means not looking like your former self. Many believers today refuse to transform their habitual sinful life to a lifestyle of godliness. The moment we become God's children, the Holy Spirit will begin dismantling our old self into our new life, while teaching and transforming us to the image of our Lord, according to God's words. It is a pity that many believers refuse to surrender their old lifestyle. They do not wish to be dealt with or go

through "the cut to pieces process" of the pruning knives (read John 15). As a result, they are unable to present their bodies as a living sacrifice before the Lord.

### 3) Inward parts are washed:

As God's children, we must offer our heart and mind thoroughly cleansed from sins and sanctified by the blood of Jesus. Any form of sins within us will not be acceptable as the living sacrifice of God.

### 4) Fat must be burned:

In general, animal fats when burnt produces a good smelling savour. This spiritually represents: that as God's children, we must glorify God in all that we do. Secondly, we must always attribute all praises and glory to our Lord only! We must always stand as a servant in all that we do. We must never steal God's glory by taking credit for oneself. Stealing God's glory cannot make up the "holy burnt offering" of the Lord.

My dearly beloved, have you genuinely offered yourself as a holy and acceptable living sacrifice unto the Lord? Does your living sacrifice matches with the characteristic of the "Leviticus burnt offering?" Last but not least, all of our burnt offering must be burned with the **fire of faith**, before it becomes a sweet smelling savour unto the Lord. Let us **put to mind forever** what the words of God says:

"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."

(Hebrews 11:6)



# "BEHOLD, I SEND YOU FORTH AS SHEEP IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES: BE YE THEREFORE WISE AS SERPENTS, AND HARMLESS AS DOVES"

**MATTHEW 10:16** 

### LETTER 10

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

As I turn to the last message of this book, my mind flashes back to the last scene of the life of the Apostle Paul. One of the most powerful and memorable voice that the Apostle Paul had left behind in the scripture writes:

" Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come," "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)

Indeed, someday our temporal life must come to an end. The question is what have we accomplished and left behind to our children, grandchildren or those surrounding us? Did we leave behind the imprint of **the voice of the Apostle Paul**? Or did we leave behind a life full of regrets and sorrows? One of my favorite poems read as follows:

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past Only what's done for Christ will last"

May the **mark of the love of Christ** of the Apostle Paul be ours today. May we face this ferocious battle against our spiritual enemy courageously to the very end of our life. As the Apostle Paul reminds us through his words: **"fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life"** (read 1 Timothy 6:12). Finally dearly beloved, someday when the roll of the kingdom of God is called up yonder, be sure to be there!

May the Lord showers you with His spiritual blessings, as you "wrap up your mind" for the final message for the year of "the victorious battle for eternal life in Christ Jesus". Amen.

### GLORY TO THE TRINITY MINISTRY "STREAMS IN THE DESERT"

### MESSAGE 10

# "I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH."

(2 Timothy 4:7)

In Mandarin, there is a saying: "All feasts must come to an end and be dispersed." Indeed, our temporal life is full of happy events that must come to an end. Without question, life is full of **beginnings** and **endings**. By the same token, life is also full of **arrivals** and **departures**. For example, to attend a wedding ceremony is to arrive at the party of a couple who "begin" their marriage relationship. On the other hand, to leave from a funeral ceremony is to say goodbye to someone who has **departed** from our presence forever and ever.

One of the most sentimental moments of time is to participate at the event of the departure of the Apostle Paul, written in the book of Timothy. By reading what the Apostle Paul had written for the last time prior to his departure from the earth, was a mix feeling I could not describe. I was torn emotionally between a feeling of sadness and a feeling of Joy. The Apostle Paul was about to be executed and to leave our temporal dwelling forever. In the shoes of Timothy his spiritual son, it was an indescribable grief that no words could utter. Amidst the **supposedly tragic death** of the Apostle Paul, comes the most powerful message of **joy and victory in Christ Jesus**. In the letter that Apostle Paul had written, relay the "resurrected power of the Risen Saviour", voiced by the Apostle himself that says:

# " O DEATH WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?"

(1 Corinthians 15:55)

It is through the Apostle Paul, that we have received this precious gospel of Jesus Christ. Being the Apostle for the gentiles, we are truly blessed to have endowed such a powerful message of truths that surpasses "the power of death" and the "enslaving power of darkness", that have destroyed the whole humanity beyond degree. It was through the Apostle Paul that "the divine peace of Christ Jesus" was proclaimed to the gentiles. For this reason, the Apostle Paul wrote:

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE LORD STOOD WITH ME, AND STRENGTHENED ME; THAT BY ME THE PREACHING MIGHT BE FULLY KNOWN, AND THAT ALL THE GENTILES MIGHT HEAR: AND I WAS DELIVERED OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LION."

(2 Timothy 4:17)

Without a doubt, the Apostle Paul who had written more than 50% of the New Testament was imprinting the victorious footsteps of our Risen Saviour for us to follow. He had gone through all kinds of hardship, hunger, shipwreck, cold and nakedness, beaten with rods, prison, persecutions etceteras (read 2 Corinthians 11:23-27); in order to relay "the baton of the spiritual race" into our hands. It was for the sake of the elect that he had labored (read 2 Timothy 2:10), even at the expense of sacrificing his life. What he was interested was to accomplish God's will and God's plan in his life, in order for the whole world to receive this precious truth of Jesus Christ.

To begin with, the Apostle Paul was the former Saul of Tarsus, who went to persecute the Christians vehemently. He was attempting to kill the Christians, when on the street of Damascus, the voice of the Lord Jesus had spoken to transform him forever as the follower of Christ (read Acts 9: 1-9). Ever since then, Saul of Tarsus was permanently changed to the Apostle Paul. The destructive work as Saul of Tarsus to the Christians in the past, had now been transformed to the magnificent labor in Christ Jesus to the glory of God. The Apostle Paul had now become a vessel of honour filled by the Holy Spirit, instead of a vessel of dishonor (read 2 Timothy 2:20).

Finally, prior to his last breath, the Apostle Paul had spoken for the last time. It was his words that melt my heart to tears, that deeply carved in my heart the driving power to the finish line, the narrow path of the cross! In his last words, the Apostle Paul confidently declared:

"I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH:"

"HENCEFORTH THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, SHALL GIVE ME AT THAT DAY: AND NOT TO ME ONLY, BUT UNTO ALL THEM ALSO THAT LOVE HIS APPEARING."

(2 Timothy 4:7,8)

It is obvious, the Apostle Paul was "a man of target". He knew exactly how to arrive at his target in his life. He did not "beat about the bush" but clearly marked his goal when he said:

# "I THEREFORE SO RUN, NOT AS UNCERTAINLY; SO FIGHT I, NOT AS ONE THAT BEATETH THE AIR"

(1Corinthians 9:26)

His aim was crystal clear: pleasing his master and Saviour Christ Jesus our Lord. To deliver the gospel of Christ to the world was his assignment, commanded by our Heavenly Father. Indeed, the Apostle Paul "have fought a good fight" against all kinds of attack of the power of darkness. He had overcome every single hurdle of trials and temptations and obstructions in his life. He had "kept the faith", that many so-called believers had given up when faced with trials and temptations. Finally, he had "finished his course" beautifully, awaiting for "his crown of life".

My dearly beloved, what is your goal towards life today? Do you target like the Apostle Paul to win the "crown of life" and "the supreme and heavenly prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?" (read Philippians 3:14). Or are you being twirled around by the power of darkness into the valley of spiritual darkness, losing sight of the awareness of life's departure someday?

May we value the time that God has given us and trade moment by moment to labor for the kingdom of God. One day on our dying bed, we will smile to recount what the Apostle Paul had said. As we are about to embark into eternity where time shall be no more, we must be ready to face our Lord confidently! A radiant joy beaming across our face as we hear our master say:

# " WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT: THOU HAST BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD."

( Matthew 25:21)

To such a departure will my heart rejoice. However for those who falter in their way not making into the eternity with the Lord, would my heart ache and sorrow. Eternity in the lake of fire without Jesus is pain, torment and sufferings unfathomable!

May I beseech you my brethren, to be sober and fully ready at all times for your departure into eternity. For those who have yet to genuinely believe and accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour, may you repent of your sins immediately while there is time. May you deeply consider the cost of losing your

eternal life as our Lord Jesus says:

# "FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?

(Matthew 16:26)