

**WAXING  
STRONG  
IN**  
*Spirit*



**FEIKOAB PARIMAH**

Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are from the World English Bible (WEB). All emphasis are mine.

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## **DEDICATION**

To Rev. K. A. Prempeh and Rev. Albert Awuku for helping me take the first step in my Christian walk. I say I am grateful

## **INTRODUCTION**

When a people are backslidden and rebellious to the commandments of God, they do not want to have anything to do with the truth. For this reason, they normally hate the carriers of the truth. Thus, the bearers of God's word always stand in jeopardy. This is normally likely to inject fear into the lives of those who are supposed to speak the word of God faithfully.

"The Prophet is God's detective seeking for a lost treasure. The degree of his effectiveness is determined by his measure of unpopularity. Compromise is not known to him. He has no price tags. He is totally "otherworldly." He is unquestionably controversial and unpardonably hostile. He marches to another drummer! He breathes the rarefied air of inspiration. He is a "seer" who comes to lead the blind. He lives in the heights of God and comes into the valley with a

"thus saith the Lord." He shares some of the foreknowledge of God and so is aware of impending judgment. He lives in "splendid isolation." He is forthright and outright, but he claims no birthright. His message is "repent, be reconciled to God or else..." His prophecies are parried. His truth brings torment, but his voice is never void. He is the villain of today and the hero of tomorrow. He is excommunicated while alive and exalted when dead! He is dishonored with epithets when breathing and honored with epitaphs when dead. He is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, but few "make the grade" in his class. He is friendless while living and famous when dead. He is against the establishment in ministry; then he is established as a saint by posterity. He eats daily the bread of affliction while he ministers, but he feeds the Bread of Life to those who listen. He walks before men for days but has walked before God for years. He is a scourge to the

nation before he is scourged by the nation. He announces, pronounces, and denounces! He has a heart like a volcano and his words are as fire. He talks to men about God. He carries the lamp of truth amongst heretics while he is lampooned by men. He faces God before he faces men, but he is self-effacing. He hides with God in the secret place, but he has nothing to hide in the marketplace. He is naturally sensitive but supernaturally spiritual. He has passion, purpose and pugnacity. He is ordained of God but disdained by men. The Prophet is violated during his ministry, but he is vindicated by history". This is the assessment of Leonard Ravenhill of a true Prophet of the most high God.

The intimidating nature of man in the period of gross darkness and terrible perversion of the ways of God is the reason for which God labels man with some animal instincts.

Since the Prophets of God were not going to have it easy in delivering their mandate from God, they therefore needed the strength and assurance of God to be able to confront the backslidden people of God.

If these Prophets faced strict opposition from the people they were sent to, then we are not an exception to the rule in this end-time. We are however forewarned as end-time pilgrims that the devil, knowing his time is short, is doing all things possible to take many to hell. If one therefore endeavors to speak and fight falsehood, then he is heading towards a coalition with the powers of darkness. In the light of the above premise, I bring to our knowledge the need for us in this perverse generation to wax strong in spirit. This book is second in the *Spiritual Awakening Series*.



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# Chapter one

## **WAX STRONG IN SPIRIT**

There is a time when falsehood and deception escalates to a point where men lose their nature and take on that of animals in the sight of God. This is because man has allowed himself to be reduced to that state by the devil. When God wants to send someone to such a group of people, He needs to forewarn him of the kind of people he is expected to encounter. To underscore this fact, I will like us to briefly look at the call of some men of God in the Scriptures;

## EZEKIEL

When God was sending Ezekiel to the house of Israel in the time of spiritual darkness and decay, He made him aware, the category of people he was surrounded with could be described as thorns. That is to say, they were not going to make life comfortable for him at all. These men were so rebellious that God had to say they were even scorpions, meaning their words were going to be venomous. Ezekiel was therefore not supposed to focus on that, but rather to declare the word of God unto them;

*"He said to me, Son of man, I send you to the children of Israel, to nations that are rebellious, which have rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me even to this very day. The children are impudent and stiff-hearted: I am sending you to them; and you shall tell them, Thus says the Lord Yahweh They, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious*

*house), yet shall know that there has been a prophet among them. You, son of man, don't be afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you, and you do dwell among scorpions: don't be afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house." Ezekiel 2:3-6*

From the above scripture we get to know the testimony of God concerning the house of Israel to be rebellious, transgressors and stiff hearted people. God however charged him not to be afraid of them.

## **JEREMIAH**

He was also a youth God called to carry His message to a people who had backslidden and lost their spiritual compass and consequently that of their bearing;

*"But Yahweh said to me, don't say, I am a child; for to whoever I shall send you, you shall go, and*

*whatever I shall command you, you shall speak,  
Don't be afraid because of them; for I am with you to  
deliver you, says Yahweh. "Jeremiah 1:7-8*

Understand also from the instructions given to Jeremiah that, since these people were capable of intimidating him, he was not supposed to be afraid of them. He was to speak out what was given to him. The fact of the matter is, when God's people are backslidden and rebellious to His commandments, they do not want to have anything to do with the truth. For this reason, they normally hate the carriers of the truth. That is, the bearers of God's word always stand in jeopardy. This is normally likely to inject fear into the lives of those who are supposed to speak the word of God faithfully. Owing to fear, the watchmen in Israel failed to rise up to the task of warning the backslidden people of God. In effect, it became necessary for God to rebuke the watchmen in the days of Isaiah;

*"His watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all mute dogs, they can't bark; dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber."  
Isaiah 56:10*

The intimidating nature of man in the period of gross darkness and terrible perversion of the ways of God is the reason for which God labels man with some animal instincts. During the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar, who had no regard for God, God turned him into a beast and sent him into the forest to be humbled within a space of time;

*"While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from the sky, [saying], O king Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom is departed from you: and you shall be driven from men; and thy dwelling shall be with the animals of the field; you shall be made to eat grass as oxen; and seven times*

*shall pass over you; until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled on Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and ate grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of the sky, until his hair was grown like eagles' [feathers], and his nails like birds' [claws]."*  
*Dan 4:31-33*

When men become proud and no longer have regard for God, they are viewed in the eyes of God to be beast. These 'beasts' were normally humbled by the sending forth of God's servants to rebuke and to call them (those clothed in spiritual pride) to repentance. When Jesus was sending forth His disciples, He assured them He had given them power over such individuals who would have such animalistic tendencies;



*"Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you." Luke 10:19*

God in His own wisdom and providence always makes a way for His servants, knowing the nature of the task He is giving them. God in every generation has a way He chooses His men and empowers them to confront such entities in question. Right from the Old Testament, God has always charged His servants not to be afraid of such individuals, but to be courageous;

*"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage; for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, to observe to do*

*according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded you. Don't turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go... Haven't I commanded you? Be strong and of good courage. Don't be afraid, neither be dismayed: for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:5-7, 9*

*"For, behold, I have made you this day a fortified city, and an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes of it, against the priests of it, and against the people of the land. They shall fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you: for I am with you, says Yahweh, to deliver you." Jeremiah 1:18-19*

*"Behold, I have made your face hard against their faces, and your forehead hard against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I*

*made your forehead: don't be afraid of them, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house." Ezekiel 3:8-9*

All these prophets were not going to have it easy in delivering their mandate from God. They therefore needed the strength and assurance of God to be able to confront the backslidden people of God. Amos and Micah likewise faced a lot of opposition from the house of Israel as they made up their mind to speak the word of God faithfully. Scriptures have already made us aware, there is nothing new under the sun as in line with Ecclesiastes 1:9.

If these Prophets faced strict opposition from the people they were sent to, then we are not an exception to the rule in this end-time. Dr. Gregory Mantle once said, "No man can be fully accepted until he is totally rejected." The Prophet of the Lord is aware of these experiences. They are his "brand name." We are

however forewarned as end-time pilgrims that, the devil knowing his time is short, is doing all things possible to take many to hell. If one therefore endeavors to speak and fight falsehood, then he is heading towards a coalition with the powers of darkness.

Before Christ came to this earth, God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for His coming. God, knowing the nature and difficulty of this task, had to cause John to wax strong in spirit even as he grew in stature;

*"The child was growing, and becoming strong in spirit, and was in the desert until the day of his public appearance to Israel." Luke 1:80*

The nature of John's message was directed to the intimidating Pharisees and Sadducees, who were labeled in the eyes of God as brood of vipers (KJV);

*"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, {or, immersion} he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Matthew 3:7*

There was therefore the need for John to wax strong in Spirit or else he wouldn't have been able to call backslidden Israel to repentance. No wonder he was able to fulfill his mandate.

When Jesus was born and began to grow, scripture records that He also waxed strong in spirit;

*"The child was growing, and was becoming strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40*

The wisdom of God in causing Christ to wax strong in spirit is evident in the kind of message Christ preached in His days. The situation was not different in His case

just as it was with the prophets and John the Baptist. He himself had to label Herod as a fox;

*"He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I complete my mission.' " Luke 13:32*

Through the Prophets, God promised He was going to pour out His spirit upon all flesh with consequent manifestations such as prophecy;

*"It will happen afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions." Joel 2:28*

Jesus stood on this promise of God and promised the disciples that He will send the promise of the father and as such they had to wait in Jerusalem. He knew, there

was no way His disciples could carry out the great commission without the energizing power of the Holy Spirit;

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts 1:8*

When these Apostles started their ministry, they were faced with stiff opposition, which shouldn't surprise us at all. Why? Because the same spirit the Prophets of Old, John the Baptist and Christ operated with, was the same spirit which operated in them. Therefore it stands to reason that, they will also suffer persecution just as Christ promised them;

*"Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:12*

*"Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' {John 13:16} If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also." John 15:20*

These scriptures were clearly fulfilled in the lives of the Apostles as they received the strictest opposition from the Sadducees and Pharisees. Remember, they were the same people who were earlier labeled as brood of vipers by John the Baptist. To be able to continue in the ministry, the disciples got to the point where they had to ask for strength from above;

*"Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness,"  
Acts 4:29*

This petition for strength was to enable them to do the will of God and not to quit in the face of adversity. They



learned this from the Savior Himself. History however has it that most of these disciples were later martyred for their faith. Paul in his days also faced a lot of opposition in ministry propelling him to call some of his opposers as beast;

*"If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die."  
1 Corinthians 15:32 KJV*

He was however not overcome by these oppositions. We have learned from the scriptures that there were times Paul was beaten to the point of death and dragged to the outskirts of the city just because of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the face of all these, he rather boldly declared in his letter to the church in Rome;

*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39*

Even though his outward man was being afflicted, yet he received renewal in the inner man day by day.

Now it is time for you and I to stand and boldly declare the truth in an era when a lot of people are living in rebellion. Paul is calling the believers of today just as he did to the Philippian Church, to live holy in this crooked and perverse generation;

*"that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you are seen as lights in the world," Philippians 2:15*

There is no way we can preach the gospel effectively if we ourselves do not live up to its standards. Men these days are selective in what they want to hear and not the whole counsel of God. We need to be awakened as a church to the truth that, we need to engage in spiritual warfare with false Prophets and false brethren whom Paul called wolves;

*"For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock,"*  
*Acts 20:29*

For the deliverance and consolidation of the lost, we need to preach the truth without fear or favor. Let us bear in mind as presented earlier, we will incur the wrath of hell (persecuted). We are therefore not to fear or be in despair. The Good Lord is ready to make available what it takes for us to overcome in the face of adversity. Inspiration and direction should however be

derived from the lives of the Prophets, Christ and His Apostles. As we take a Look at the life of the Prophets, you will understand they always prayed to God thereby deriving strength and faith from Him. John the Baptist was a man of prayer as scripture suggest;

*"It happened, that when he finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."*  
*Luke 11:1*

Jesus was also a man who dedicated Himself to prayer. When the time of His crucifixion was at hand, He had to pray earnestly, so He could be strengthened to do the will of the father;

*"He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.*

*Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. An angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground." Luke 22:41-44*

If even Christ for the sake of obeying the father had to agonize in prayer, then let us also take a cue from it to always give ourselves unto prayer. The disciples knew the secret of Christ's success and that is why they asked Him to teach them to pray;

*"It happened, that when he finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." Luke 11:1*

From the scripture we notice they asked Him to teach them to pray and not how to pray. Many people know

how prayer is done, the various theories on prayer and so on, but only a few actually do it. The latter is what the scripture seeks to drive home. No wonder Christ warned His disciples to watch and pray;

*"Watch and pray, that you don't enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak," Matthew 26:41*

In the early church prayer was an integral part of their fellowship life, as identified in some accounts in Acts. Why was this so? I believe it was the source from which they could receive strength in the inner man. Paul could not have gone through persecutions if he was not a man of prayer;

*"I thank God, whom I serve as my forefathers did, with a pure conscience. How unceasing is my memory of you in my petitions, night and day" 2 Timothy 1:3*

*"I thank my God, I speak with other languages more than you all." 1 Corinthians 14:18*

By setting these examples, he was qualified to also carry the command to us in this generation to pray without ceasing;

*"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

And to build ourselves on our most holy faith through praying in the Holy Spirit;

*"But you, beloved, keep building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit."  
Jude 20*

We are already in the days Christ prophesied that, iniquity will abound resulting in the love of many men growing cold;

*"Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold." Matthew 24:12*

It is the father's will that we be strengthened in the spirit to be able to stand the trials and temptations in these perilous times. With our hearts committed to the Lord, there is no way God will not cause us to continue to wax strong in spirit in the midst of this thick cloud of falsehood.

*"For the eyes of Yahweh run back and forth throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." 2 Chronicles 16:9*



# Chapter two

## **THE PERVERSE GENERATION**

Before God ever lays spiritual charges on a particular generation, then He might have first of all laid down some rules and regulations they are supposed to follow (to which they rebel).

In Israel there were times the people of God would rebel against His word. In spite of this, God endeavored to send Prophets to them to warn them of their backslidden state and to call them to repentance. When mankind continues in their perilous and wicked ways, then He allows their heart to harden such that they no

longer heed His voice. This is in fact a terrible state man should not get to. When the Lord gave Moses His commands to be given to the people of Israel (to be obeyed accordingly), they refused and went their own way thereby rebelling against His laws. This same kind of heart was also exhibited by subsequent generations to the effect that, God had to commission Isaiah the Prophet to prophesy;

*"He said, "Go, and tell this people, 'You hear indeed, but don't understand; and you see indeed, but don't perceive. Make the heart of this people fat. Make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn again, and be healed.'"*  
*Isaiah 6:9-10*

Though they would not listen nor understand him, yet he was expected to speak the word of God unto them.

People may claim these days to be following the word of God whereas they do not approach it with a heart of sincerity. They choose not to follow the word holistically and for this reason hand pick what they want to hear. This accounts for the reason why many are not able to rightly divide the word of Truth. We as believers are called to rightly divide the word of Truth, as our salvation depends on the way we interpret it;

*"Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth." 2 Timothy 2:15*

*"Pay attention to yourself, and to your teaching. Continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." 1 Timothy 4:16*

When truth is not rightly discerned and divided (and is only used as a tool for material gain), it leads to the

grave consequence of hardening the heart of him who is not instructed in sound doctrine (teaching). Paul could boldly declare that, he did not cease to make known unto those whom he preached, the whole counsel of God;

*"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am clean from the blood of all men for I didn't shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God"*  
*Acts 20:26-27*

It therefore stands to reason that, the writings of Paul to the churches carried the whole counsel of God. This is sound doctrine which helps man to live a life pleasing in the sight of God.

Why do so many people only hand pick scriptures which will make them gain financial rewards, neglecting the weightier teachings of the scriptures, which will make one carry the very nature of God. To me, such

people are not truly saved. They are only living in self-deception. Every truly saved person will always long to look like Christ who is our perfect example. Please take note, many of those who have turned the Bible into a money making tool are in danger of hell fire.

Why should the Church of Christ neglect the clear teachings of Christ to follow His example? And why give ourselves to the love and pursuit of things which God promises to add to us (our basic needs and not unreasonable luxury)? The spiritual diagnosis is that of spiritual slumber and sleep. Someone once asked Christ this question;

*"One said to him, "Lord, are they few who are saved?"  
He said to them, strive to enter in by the narrow door,  
for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in, and will not  
be able." Luke 13:23-24*

From the above scripture it is clear that, a lot of professing believers these days are nowhere near heaven. It does not matter who assures them of a place with Christ. They will still not gain access so far as they refuse to follow the commands of Christ;

*"Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples." John 8:31*

At this point, I bring to your knowledge that, what guarantees one a place in heaven is obedience to the commands of God and not the claiming of promises. When you look around, you will see so many people who are chasing after the promises rather than living in obedience. If the former is true in a person's life, then the fellow is in danger of hell fire. Therefore, a lot in some assemblies are just candidates of hell. Our fathers did not chase promises (though there is the

element of miracles). They obeyed the commands of God in faith and waited for the promises of God.

The reason a lot of people are moving from one Prophet to another in search of a word from God is simply because they are not in a position to hear God for themselves. When they read the Bible, they do not receive any fresh revelation from the word. I am not suggesting we do not need the Prophets (true ones of course) but that we should not spiritually 'fornicate' with them. The Prophet is not supposed to take the place of one's relationship with Christ. He is a constituted means to an end, but not an end in himself.

The spiritual dullness and deafness these days is because we have decided to hand pick from the scriptures, what we want to hear. As such, we refuse to live in total obedience to the word of God. Scriptures already forewarned that in the end-time men will be

selective in hearing;

*"For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside to fables." 2 Timothy 4:3-4*

Since they will heap for themselves teachers who will speak what they want to hear, they cannot live in obedience to God (to live a holy life). In the first place, God's commands which are to be obeyed are relegated to the background and chasing of promises have become the order of the day. If the truth is not first and foremost obeyed, then God leaves one to his fate to believe in lies;

*"and with all deception of wickedness for those who are being lost, because they didn't receive the love of the*



*truth, that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a working of error, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be judged who didn't believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*  
*2 Thessalonians 2:10-12*

When Christ came and preached repentance and showed God's way of salvation to Israel, most of Israel did not believe in Him, there by rejecting the testimony of God concerning Him.

In some previous paragraphs, the point was made that God normally presents His truth to man and when they continuously disobey, He finally abandons them such that they fall prey to falsehood. When Christ therefore came in His father's authority and they did not receive Him, He further prophesied that one will come in his own authority and he is the one they will choose to obey;

*"I have come in my Father's name, and you don't receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him." John 5:43*

The one Christ is talking about here is the anti-Christ. When men choose to reject the humble life of Christ and live according to the patterns of this world, they begin to fall prey to the deception of the anti-Christ spirit or the spirit of error;

*"We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn't listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." 1 John 4:6*

This is why a lot of people are embracing certain teachings which draw men into worldliness rather than godliness. When a message seeks to draw men to follow the example of Christ, then it is the Holy Spirit at work. If it draws men from God into worldliness, then it is motivated by the spirit of the world;

*"But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things."  
1 Corinthians 2:12-13*

The devil has succeeded in getting many busy about the things that only promote flesh and not the Spirit. There are so many denominations that are driven by ambition and thus engaging in unnecessary projects. No wonder these categories of people fall under those who missed the marriage feast in the parable of Jesus Christ;

*"... They all as one began to make excuses. "The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused. Another said, 'I have*

*bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go try them out.  
Please have me excused. Another said, 'I have  
married a wife, and therefore I can't come.'  
Luke 14:16-20*

It is time for some in the church to receive the word so they can become His sons. Do not marvel or raise eye brows when I say some have to receive Him. Remember the church of the Laodiceans, as Christ was standing at the door and was knocking;

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone  
hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in  
to him, and will dine with him, and he with me."  
Revelation 3:20*

Why was Christ at the door knocking? They had evicted Him from His temple and were now engaging in unnecessary (boastful) projects. Since He loved them,

He called them to repentance by rebuking them. Why then are so many who are living in sin in the church today not rebuked any longer? Let us be wary we do not get to the point where Christ will give up on us and leave us to be deceived. If people will become the sons of God (to carry the very nature of Christ), then they must receive the pure word from heaven;

*"He came to his own, and those who were his own didn't receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name:" John 1:11-12*

Mixing it with faith or else it will not profit them;

*"For indeed we have had good news preached to us, even as they also did, but the word they heard didn't profit them, because it wasn't mixed with faith by those who heard." Hebrews 4:2*

And this kind of faith is the one backed by action and not a mere profession which most people have these days. Why should we continue to live in disobedience and not possess the common faith the early disciples had which made them emulate Christ? If we continue to be selective in our hearing of the truth, then we are believing a lie (partial truth is a lie). As a consequence, God will stop speaking to us. Even if there is any word, then it will be our own, but not from Him;

*"and the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done to them."  
Jeremiah 5:13*

*The call then is; "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked. But now he commands that all people everywhere should repent," Acts 17:30*

May God help us to believe the Truth in these perverse times. Amen.

# Chapter three

## **BOTH SIDES OF THE GOSPEL**

The gospel as we all know, simply means good news. However, many have their own understanding as to what is really the good news. Paul's definition of the good news is;

*"Now I declare to you, brothers, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold firmly the word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain For I delivered to you first*

*of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," 1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

This reveals a certain important fact which many lose sight of these days. The formula which brought about salvation is interestingly the same principle which underlines the Christian faith. Some misconstrue this gospel (good news) to mean, the Christian is not supposed to suffer (in any form) in this life. It is against the backdrop of this that I bring to the fore, certain scriptures which will help us escape deception.

Right from the days of Noah, God loved man and in His bid to redeem him sent Noah, a preacher of righteousness, to call the people of his day back to order. Why did God call him a preacher of righteousness? Simply, he warned the people of the



impending catastrophe that was to befall the human race. As we are in the end-time, what message do you think should feature prominently in our preaching? Are we not supposed to call people to repentance and also to announce the impending judgment of God? Surprisingly this is not what many are focused on, but rather using the gospel as a money making tool. It is plain from the Savior that, the end-time and His coming will be like the days of Noah;

*"As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:37*

In an era where sin is increasing at an alarming rate, aren't we supposed to preach righteousness instead of twisting scriptures for monetary gain? You notice from the scripture above, the same way Noah was warning men of the imminent judgment of God to which they turned a deaf ear, is the same way it will be in our time.

Nevertheless in the face of this perverseness, we will not stop to preach repentance and to call many to a walk of holiness just as Noah did. One thing to be discerned in this end-time is the fact that many professing believers seek only to embrace scriptures that will help them gain but not to suffer for Christ's sake. While our fathers were counting themselves worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ, we are rather shying away from it. What an inversion of the faith of many. These days those who want to embrace the truth seek to, in one way or the other reduce the weight of the message. No wonder Christ forewarned us that in the end-time this will happen;

*"Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold." Matthew 24:12*

It is not a few whose love for God will grow cold, but many. We have been made aware, there will be some

servants who will not be watching for the savior's return, but will be overtaken by the events of His coming seeing they give themselves to the pursuit of earthly things;

*"But if that servant says in his heart, 'My lord delays his coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken," Luke 12:45*

Paul, knowing there is the tendency that, many will miss their focus, prayed a prayer for the believers at Thessalonica. He prayed that their hearts be directed into the love of God and to the patient waiting for Christ's second coming;

*"May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patience of Christ." 2 Thessalonians 3:5*

Many only hope for what in their eyes they deem to be good. They however shun that which they think is undesirable, though it is part of the salvation package. In Christ's teachings, He always informed His disciples ahead of time that, they were going to suffer persecution as is consistent in been a believer;

*"Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' {John 13:16} If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also." John 15:20*

In the previous chapters, I made known the need to focus more on obeying the commands of God and afterwards to patiently wait for the fulfillment of His promises. In addition to these promises of meeting our needs is the suffering that will come our way as in the scripture above and in Mark 10:30;

*"but he will receive one hundred times more now in this time, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life."*

Let us look carefully at the teachings of Christ as it relates to us His disciples in this end-time. It will interest you to note that, He never gave anyone the promise of a problem free life. Why then are some professing believers twisting the scriptures to suit their way of life just to remain in their comfort zones. They are either willingly ignorant or ignorantly losing sight of the fact that they are to learn from our savior;

- To come and learn of Him; "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls."  
Matthew 11:29

- Follow Him and walk as He did; “he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked.” 1 John 2:6
- To show the same love He showed towards us to one another; “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another.” John 13:34

When at least these three points are carefully considered, one comes to the point where he becomes like his master (maturing until He returns), which in fact is Christ's desire;

*“until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”  
Ephesians 4:13*

Therefore when we make progress in order to be like our savior, then even though we may possess this world's goods, we will not live in opulence under the guise of showing the world how God has blessed us. Rather, we will bestow our goods to meet the needs of others, just as Christ gave the command to His disciples;

*"Don't be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Sell that which you have, and give gifts to the needy. Make for yourselves purses which don't grow old, a treasure in the heavens that doesn't fail, where no thief approaches, neither moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning." Luke 12:32-35*

This is why Jesus never had any good thing to say concerning the rich of the world. The reason being, they

do not release their wealth for the good of others but amass it to themselves;

*"But woe to you who are rich! For you have received your consolation. Woe to you, you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep." Luke 6:24-25*

None of the Apostles or the disciples amassed wealth to themselves. For scripture has it that they had all things in common;

*"The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Not one of them claimed that anything of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common." Acts 4:32*

This is also consistent with the life style and teachings of Paul. In his letter to Timothy, he warned him and



instructed him to shun the company of those who were using the word of God as a money making tool. Afterward he commanded believers who were rich in this world's goods to distribute them willingly and to do good;

*"that they do good, that they be rich in good works,  
that they be ready to distribute, willing to  
communicate;" 1 Timothy 6:18*

Brethren, if we follow the teachings of Christ and the examples laid down by the early disciples, we come to the conclusion that, no true disciple of Christ will be comfortable to live an unreasonably luxurious life. Rather we come to the point of understanding that sacrifice for the sake of others in love is the core of Christianity. God does prosper His people as and when He wills but not the way some view it these days. The 'prosperity' gospel [which in actual fact is money gospel

(meat and drink)] hinges on greed.

The main reason so many preachers cannot preach the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as Paul makes us to know in the following scriptures is simply because, they are the enemies of the cross;

*"Brothers, be imitators together of me, and note those who walk this way, even as you have us for an example. For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, as the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who think about earthly things." Philippians 3:17-19*

Brethren, if anyone teaches you only how to gain wealth with the gospel, then that fellow is doing your soul a great disservice. From the scripture, you realize these enemies of the cross will never help you fix your gaze on heaven but rather on the perishable things of

this earth. Simply, they are not preaching the kingdom of God, for the kingdom of God does not consist in those things;

*"for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit."  
Romans 14:17*

*"If I fought with animals at Ephesus for human purposes, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, then "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 1 Corinthians 15:32*

Scriptures have it that Christ is the son of God. By logical reasoning He is supposed to have all that pertains to royalty and luxury. He was rather born in a manger, suffered and this made Him to learn obedience strictly in the human sense;

*"though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered." Hebrews 5:8*

There are some who sight instances in scriptures such as the one below to justify why they have to live financially prosperous lives (selfishly);

*"seeing that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue;" 2 Peter 1:3*

They claim, the all things that pertain to life and godliness simply means living an affluent life. Though they are always quick to embrace the (a) part of the scripture, surprisingly they never want to have anything to do with the things which will help them to live pure lives (godliness). This shows the level of corruption in such hearts. Even if their interpretation of the (a) part is

anything to go by, let us remember, the way we live our lives should match Christ's and that of the early disciples. Anyway, financial wealth is not anything big that God cannot provide. Let us however be careful how we interpret the scriptures. Before we interpret any scripture, let us first of all ask ourselves, how the writer of the above scripture understood what he wrote? How did he live his life?

Brethren, never be deceived into thinking it is when you get physical wealth that you will be able to serve God better. I put it to you that, if you cannot serve God acceptably now, do not think you can do so when you begin to swim in wealth. Material things (the love for them) normally has the potential of pushing many out of the timing and plans of God. A clear example is the prodigal son.

Though Christ never turned stone into bread in the face of hunger, yet He lived. There is the need for patience

after we obey God, so we may obtain His promises. Miracles are however exceptions.

In looking at Christ and His Apostles' teachings on the end-time, they never promised a problem free life for true disciples. They rather warned of impending catastrophe yet to hit the world and the persecution of the saints of God. Christ taught that, His disciples were going to pass through suffering for His sake. Nevertheless He encouraged them that, they should be of good cheer and not to be afraid for He had overcome. Since He had overcome, surely if they were in Him then they will likewise overcome;

*"I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have oppression; but cheer up! I have overcome the world." John 16:33*

This is why Paul had the assurance in himself to also encourage the believers in Rome that, they were more than conquerors through Christ in the face of adversity;

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. . . No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39*

Earlier I made a point to the effect that, most messages these days are only smooth words (in the name of 'good news'). They do not prepare the saints for

persecution and warn the impenitent sinner of the fearful wrath and judgment of God which is to come upon them (if they refuse to repent). I hereby continue to bring to your knowledge, never to believe in the false security many preachers are giving sinners in many assemblies these days. The gospel is to deliver us from sin and not to tolerate it. An interesting thing to note in the book of Revelation is, there was an angel who had the everlasting gospel to preach. What is this everlasting gospel (good news)?;

*"I saw an angel flying in mid heaven, having an eternal Good News to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people. He said with a loud voice, "Fear the Lord, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of waters!" Revelation 14:6-7*



It is evident, this gospel contains the warning of impending judgment. No wonder the writer of John had this to say concerning the manifestation of the son of God;

*"One who believes in the Son has eternal life, but one who disobeys the Son won't see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." John 3:36*

There are two sides of the gospel. For this reason, men need to beware and be serious about it.

- If you believe and live in obedience to God's word, you will have abundant life. This entails quality and longevity of life. Though you die, yet you will live in eternity with Christ. You will start to enjoy the joy of heaven in your heart right here on earth and continue in eternity.

- If you believe not and live in disobedience, you are in danger of hell fire.

One question then arises as to why some are only one sided in their preaching and receiving of the gospel. Why do we want the good packages but reject the seemingly 'bad' ones, which is the wisdom of God to warn men of impending judgment. Many these days never want to have anything to do with preaching about the avoidance of hell and the lake of fire.

Most importantly, Christ's teachings and warnings captured hell and the lake of fire. There is therefore the need for us to also warn men of this dreadful place so they will escape it by lovingly living in total obedience to God's word. At this moment may I ask you dear reader if you are living in total obedience? If your answer is positive then we praise God for your life. If negative, then it is clear Christ is not the Lord of your life. When

He thus appears, you will not be caught up to meet Him. Christ is coming for a church without spot or wrinkle;

*"that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the assembly to himself gloriously, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:26-27*

We need to be watchful in this end-time and to give ourselves to prayer just as Christ told His disciples;

*"Watch and pray, that you don't enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" Matthew 26:41*

*"Watch, keep alert, and pray; for you don't know when the time is." Mark 13:33*

It was in the face of impending persecution and trial of their faith that Christ advised them to watch and pray. It is only those professing believers who are not watching who will be fooled by a temporal peace. Paul said this in connection with end-time events in 1 Thessalonians 5:3

We are in effect to be prepared for whatever the future has in stock, be it favorable or not. The Hebrew boys having armed themselves for every eventuality, even hoped for the worse that could befall them for their faith in God;

*"If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up."*  
*Daniel 3:17-18*

Paul likewise having armed his mind against whatever would befall him in his missionary journey, had this to say;

*"... For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*

*Acts 21:12-13*

Why not embrace whatever comes your way as a result of you lovingly living in obedience to God's word. For He has said He will never leave us nor abandon us;

*"Be free from the love of money, content with such things as you have, for he has said, "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you."*

*Hebrews 13:5*

Whether you see suffering for the sake of Christ as being bad or not, is not really the problem. I wish you

will embrace the whole gospel and be ready to face the consequences that follow. They will be to our good in the end (blessings in disguise). Therefore we are to remember that, the gospel also has an element of judgment for the disobedient and persecution and suffering for the totally obedient.

May it interest all of us to see that, judgment is beginning in the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). It is because of this that God has made it known through Apostle Paul that, He is a consuming fire. Let us therefore serve Him with godly fear;

*"Therefore, receiving a Kingdom that can't be shaken, let us have grace, through which we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe for our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29*

Again, notice from the context in which consuming fire is being used. It is not being used for spiritual warfare (as in using it to bombard the kingdom of darkness in prayers), but to help us live in reverence to God. If you want to be part of those God will redeem from His wrath and judgment, then stop listening to those who only speak smooth words to you. They are not doing you any good, for they have hidden the weightier parts of the gospel from you. Thus, we are to take the gospel in its entirety and not to be selective in our obedience. Let us look at the gospel from both sides of the coin and we will find a true appreciation of the Christian faith. This will make us live at peace with God. Since the world will soon pass away, let us heed the call of the preacher in the following scripture;

*"This is the end of the matter. All has been heard.  
Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the*

*whole duty of man. For God will bring every work  
into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is  
good, or whether it is evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13*



# Chapter four

## **THE APPOINTED TIME**

The subject of time, I believe, is not new to most of us, as many have endeavored to write about it. There is the possibility that, a man may find himself lagging behind in the agenda of God, be abreast with His timing or lastly, one may be running ahead of God. The preacher made us to understand in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that, there is time for everything under this sun.

Therefore it is important to bear in mind, there is an appointed time for everything we set our minds and hearts to do. However, working within the time frame of

God is the most important thing, as working outside it can cause one to err from the agenda of God. It is because of this that I believe we need to journey through the scriptures to find out the grave consequences of not walking within the timing of God. We will also know the blessedness of working within the time frame of God. We, for a better understanding, will sample some few individuals from the scriptures who walked outside the timing of God and the calamity it brought upon their lives.

Beginning from the garden of Eden, God instructed man (Adam) to eat of any fruit in the garden, but of the tree of knowledge of good and of evil he was not supposed to eat of it. You and I know that, God never does anything for doing sake, but has reasons for them. I believe there was coming a time, God would tell Adam the reason why he was not supposed to eat the fruit of the tree. As we all recognize, Satan came around and

deceived them into eating the fruit of the tree contrary to the commands of God;

*"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:17*

*"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit of it, and ate; and she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate." Genesis 3:6*

Due to this act of disobedience, sin entered this world and has since been the major problem of Adams race. Instead of Adam waiting on God to reveal the mystery of the tree to him in due season, he rather went ahead of God. As we all perceive, the devastating consequence of death is ever before men.

God, in His bid to redeem man from the sin which was a result of the disobedience of Adam, gave Abraham a promise that in his seed all the nations of the earth was going to be blessed;

*"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you. In you will all of the families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:3*

This promise was for an appointed time but Sarah with her impatience managed to convince Abraham to go in for Hagar her maid. When Abraham succumbed to it, Ishmael came into the scene and from there the troubles of man worsened until now. If it had not been for the impatience of Abraham, there wouldn't have been a resultant Islamic religion. Scriptures make us to understand that, right from their youth there was a battle between Ishmael and Isaac;

*"The child grew, and was weaned. Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking." Genesis 21:8-9*

This battle has being transferred over the years unto us in like figure. That is, the flesh is always warring against the Spirit. We understand that Ishmael was a son of the flesh whereas Isaac was of the Spirit. This was the case because Ishmael was the product of human will and Isaac was of divine origin.

When we do not wait on God's time for His promises to be fulfilled, there is the tendency we will be running ahead of God (thereby producing works of the flesh). on the other hand, if we also wait on God for His appointed time, then we will produce works of the Spirit. Due to Abraham's impatience, the religion Islam is now battling fiercely with the Christian faith.

Then came the time of Aaron in the wilderness. When Moses the servant of the Lord had gone to the mountain to receive the commandments from the Lord (and had tarried for long), the Israelites began to put pressure on Aaron to make gods for them. They were not sure what had befallen Moses on the mount, whether he was coming back or not. Instead of waiting patiently for him to deliver the commands of God to them, they opted for idols;

*"When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what has become of him."  
Exodus 32:1*

Now when Aaron could not contain the pressure of these people, he made a golden calf for them to worship, which incurred the wrath of God;

*"Yahweh spoke to Moses, "Go, get down; for your people, who you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves! They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Yahweh said to Moses, "I have seen these people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked people. Now therefore leave me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them, and that I may consume them; and I will make of you a great nation."*

*Exodus 32:7-10*

When men are insecure about what the future holds, they normally tend to go ahead of God to rely on things which will in the long run lead to their destruction. Israel was to wait on the provision of God no matter how much time it took. God has always wanted to give us an understanding of this fact that, relying on His provisions is what will keep us within His timing for our lives. In the wilderness He provided the manna for them according to the times He had set and this we know helped them. When they began to look back at what they were enjoying in Egypt, they began to lust after the flesh which God granted them by sending the quails. While they were still eating it, God started to slay them since it was not His plan for them to eat the quails at that time;

*“There went forth a wind from Yahweh, and brought quails From the sea, and let them fall by the camp, about a day's journey on this side, and a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and about*



*two cubits above the surface of the earth. The people rose up all that day, and all the night, and all the next day, and gathered the quails: he who gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. While the flesh was yet between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of Yahweh was kindled against the people, and Yahweh struck the people with a very great plague. The name of that place was called Kibrothhattaavah, because there they buried the people who lusted." Numbers 11:31-34*

In the agenda of God, He wanted them to focus (only) on the manna at the time, but since they continued to mumber, He had to grant them their hearts desire though the time was not ripe for it. When we begin to lust after some things, God will give them to us. This will not keep us in His plan, but rather destroy us. God has designed that, supplying our needs per time, is the way

to keep us in His divine plan. In Christ's teachings, He taught the disciples to ask for their daily bread;

*"Give us day by day our daily bread." Luke 11:3*

He in His knowledge knows the possibility of man swaying from His commands if He continues to live in excesses. Therefore He taught the disciples to sell their goods and give it to charity in order to live on His provision;

*"Don't seek what you will eat or what you will drink; neither be anxious. For the nations of the world seek after all of these things, but your Father knows that you need these things. But seek God's Kingdom, and all these things will be added to you. Don't be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Sell that which you have, and give gifts to the needy. Make for yourselves purses which*

*don't grow old, a treasure in the heavens that doesn't fail, where no thief approaches, neither moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning." Luke 12:29-35*

You will realize that, what He promised to add to them is food, water and clothing with even shelter conspicuously missing. These are what men need for survival. There are people who are homeless yet they are still 'living whiles dead'. Others have big mansions and are 'dead whiles living'. These elementary teachings were grasped by the early disciples right from the upper room experience and throughout the book of Acts. Paul taught likewise, by even reducing the list to two. Whereas Christ talked about food, water and clothing, he limited it to only food and clothing;

*"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can't carry anything out. But having food and clothing, we will be content with that." 1 Timothy 6:6-8*

As a matter of principle, according to the teaching and life of the Apostles, it was best for one to keep enough for his family needs and the rest for other brethren. Let me sound it loud that a lot of people will not be watching and for this reason the coming of the Lord will take them unawares since they will be living in overindulgence;

*"But if that servant says in his heart, 'My lord delays his coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken," Luke 12:45*

Have you realized it is mostly through fasting and prayer, we are able to keep watch but not feasting and

playing as was the case of the Israelites;

*"They rose up early on the next day, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play." Exodus 32:6*

When we do not wait on God's provision, we will lust after things which in later years will become idols in our lives with the resultant visitation of the wrath of God upon our lives.

King Saul was another man in scripture who never had regard for God's timing and obedience to His word. God, through His Prophet Samuel, gave him a clear cut instruction to destroy all the Amalekites and their possessions;

*"Now go and strike Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and don't spare them; but kill both*

*man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep,  
camel and donkey." 1 Samuel 15:3*

He rather opted to spare their king and the fat cattle and sheep in the name of offering them as sacrifice to God. Lust caused him not to obey the commands of God. His belly was an idol to him;

*"Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice to Yahweh your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." 1 Samuel 15:15*

Eventually Saul lost his kingship due to disobedience. In the same way, so many ministries (in the name of doing the work of God) neglect total obedience to God and use every available means to achieve their ministry's ambitions. They do not care about the source of the money the people bring to them as offerings and

donations. They rather deceive themselves that they will sanctify the money, whereas the money is already accursed.

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of one who walked according to the timing of God. It is therefore important for us to know His secret to walking in the timing of God. Whatever He did and wherever He went, was in fulfillment of prophecy;

*"All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying," Matthew 21:4*

Jesus knew the power of waiting upon His father. We know this because He used to pray a great while before day brake, to secure the day and to walk in the precepts of God;

*"It happened in these days, that he went out to the*

*mountain to pray, and he continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12*

We have also been made aware of His dependence on God through waiting on Him in prayer, by the content of what He prayed about. The contents are what He taught the disciples as in the model prayer He gave them. It is therefore important for us to understand that, before Christ's departure from the earth, He instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the father;

*"Behold, I send forth the promise of my Father on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49*

He knew, genuine converts could only be made by the power of the Holy Spirit. Without the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were not going to make any



head way in ministry. No wonder the outpouring of the Spirit was so timely, as it came on the day of Pentecost;

*"Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. . . They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak," Acts 2:1-4*

If the disciples had not paid heed to this directive from the master, they could have run ahead of God thereby operating outside His divine plan. For them to be guided in the timing of God, Christ instructed them to start preaching from Jerusalem;

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts 1:8*

It was only by waiting on the Lord that they were strengthened and empowered to do ministry. When men begin to sway from the plan of God, it is only by waiting on the Lord that will give us an upper hand in this end-time battle. When the Apostles were faced with stiff opposition, they cried to the Lord in prayer for strength, so they could continue to preach the unadulterated word of God;

*"Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness,..."*

*Acts 4:29-30*

Most of the Prophets of Old knew this little secret in remaining in the plan or timing of God. Isaiah has given us keys to remaining in the end-time race as the scripture below reveals;

*"He gives power to the weak, He increases the strength of him who has no might. Even the youths faint and get weary, and the young men utterly fall; But those who wait for Yahweh will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run, and not be weary. They will walk, and not faint."*  
*Isaiah 40:29-31*

Remember, in the beginning of this chapter, I established the point that, one can either be lagging behind in the timing of God, be abreast with Him or be running ahead of God. When God expects you to be walking and you are running, then you are simply moving ahead of Him. If when you ought to be mounting up with wings as that of the eagle and you are simply running, then you are lagging behind in God's timing.

In Isaiah's prophecy, you realise there is a time men are supposed to be running and they will be fainting simply

because they never waited on the Lord. In that of Habakkuk 2:1-2;

*"I will stand at my watch, and set myself on the ramparts, and will look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. Yahweh answered me, "Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."*

They are supposed to run (those who read it). In this case, if one is running with the vision then he is abreast with God. Lagging behind in the timing of God carries grave spiritual consequences. There are some examples in the Scriptures which teach us about this fact. A case in question is Lot's wife. Lot's wife was supposed to be running abreast with the entire family when God wanted to deliver them from Sodom and Gomorrah. Instead, she was lagging behind;

*"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Genesis 19:26*

Lagging behind could not help her, but rather caused her to look back. She did this in disobedience to the commandment of God. The command was for them to flee to the mountains and not to look back. If we do not move abreast with God and decide to lag behind in His divine timing or plan for our lives, it is possible we will live in disobedience to His word.

Christ gave this warning in connection with running the Christian race;

*"Remember Lot's wife!" Luke 17:32*

Another reason why so many will be lagging behind in God's timing for their lives is the sins and weights which weigh them down in the Christian race. When there are so many 'attachments' to our lives, we will not be able to

run the race as fast as we are expected to. This is likely to cause us to lag behind in God's timing for our lives;

*"Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1*

Christ, knowing there could be sins or associations which could affect our productivity as believers, made provision to prune those who make an effort at pleasing Him in the Christian race. This cutting off, of unwanted things in our lives helps us, so that we will not be weighed down;

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer. Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." John 15:1*

Walking in the timing of God therefore helps us to live in obedience to Him. As He has purposed that there should be a time for everything, if you decided to either lag behind or run ahead of Him, then you will be causing so many spiritual problems. Israel is having problems right now because they missed the timing of God for their visitation;

*"saying, 'If you, even you, had known today the things which belong to your peace! But now, they are hidden from your eyes.'" Luke 19:42*

In the same way if we are not able to discern the timing of God in this end-time, then we will be doing ourselves a great harm. Being in Christ or connected always to the word is the key to remaining and moving according to the heart beat of heaven. As we have already learned, Christ never missed God's timing for Him and if we are co-laborers with Him, then we will not be out of

God's plan. Waxing strong in spirit in these perilous times is a must for all true believers. The spiritual atmosphere is not favorable for spiritual babes and weaklings. "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:10-11. The next book in this series is '**broken vessels**'. Amen



## **ARE YOU PREPARED FOR** **CHRIST'S SECOND COMING?**

*Please note that...*

The first Adam disobeyed God and because of his disobedience sin entered the human race, resulting in the spiritual death and separation of man from God; “Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned...So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life.” Romans 5:12-13, 18.

The last Adam (Jesus Christ) obeyed God in order to take away sin from the human race; “But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8.

Your part of the arrangement is to receive the grace or free gift of God's salvation by faith (Romans 4:16-17).

You must understand that faith without works is dead, so God expects you to obey and receive this free (but costly) gift of salvation with your free will; “But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13.

The most important decision you have to make now is to be born again (John3:1-8). Being born again is to repent of your sins and to submit yourself to be baptized by immersion as well as receive the Holy Spirit; “Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38.

The grace of God is not a license for you to live in sin, but rather to receive strength to live in obedience to God's word (Titus 2:11-14).

You therefore have to (as a matter of necessity), live a holy life and walk as Christ did, and not to live in hypocrisy; "However God's firm foundation stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are his, and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness."2 Timothy 2:19. "Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure." 1John 3:3.

If you walk in the light of the above scriptures and make 2 Peter 1:2-10 your guiding principle, you will never live a defeated Christian life, thereby ensuring you are found in Christ even at His glorious appearing.

I caution that you be wary of people who preach Another Gospel, Another Jesus and Another Spirit as in line with 2 Corinthians 11:1-4.

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