

Revival and Restoration

This Manual has been compiled with shorthand notes from each publicly taught session of the SHILOH International Training School, January 2024.

These notes can help as an aid with the CD, DVD, USB, You Tube or Spreaker sessions or they can be used as a guide to study the topics and verses mentioned.

This manual is also invaluable as a teaching aid for you to teach directly from the Scriptures, with the help of these notes. All the sessions from the school are available on You Tube and Spreaker and can be accessed from RMA website.

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Our mandate:

- Making disciples, Matt. 28:18-20,
- Training & equipping workers for the harvest,
Matt.9:37–10:40, Lu.10:1-20
- Bringing the church to maturity by fathering sons, Gal.4:10
& 1Cor.4:14-17

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Contents

	Page
Repairer of the Breach – Nehemiah Chapter One – Nick Jackson	5
Nehemiah Chapter Two – Nick Jackson	8
The Apostolic Mandate – Paul Galligan	12
The Feast of Passover – Nick Jackson	15
The Feast of Pentecost – Nick Jackson	19
The Feast of Tabernacles – Nick Jackson	22
Sonship – Paul Galligan	27
Three Levels of Prayer – Paul Galligan	30
The Gifts of Romans 12:4-8 – Janet Galligan	34
God’s Order – 1 Corinthians 12:28 – Paul Galligan	37
Seeing Beyond the Veil – Nick Jackson	40
The Rain and the Harvest – David Truss	43
The Vision – Nick Jackson	46

REPAIRING THE BREACH

NEHEMIAH Chapter One

Nehemiah was a repairer of the breach

- God's people had been in exile.
- The walls of the city of Jerusalem were still broken down, they needed repairing.
- Nehemiah knew what he needed to do
- His heart was to see the walls rebuilt

We can be 'wall builders'

- We are to build a wall – in the Spirit. A wall is to keep the enemy out and protect what is within.

What made Nehemiah successful?

1. He had a concern for the people of God

- **1:2** – Nehemiah had a genuine concern for the people of God and the city of God.
- Do we have a concern for the people of God?
- The apostle Paul had this burden for the people of God: "***What comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches***" **2Cor.11:28**.
- Are the people of God actually becoming disciples and learning to grow together or are they just going through religious traditions?

2. Nehemiah listened to the report

- **1:3** – Nehemiah got a horrible report of the people of God and the walls of the city.
- It seemed that there was a lot of work to do.
- There is a lot of work for us to do locally and in the nations.
- It is a work of breaking down the mindsets in the leaders of God's people to see what God's word actually says about the church.
- Sometimes there has to be a '**rooting out**' and a '**pulling down**' before we can '**build and plant**' (**Jeremiah 1:10**)
- A lot of what is happening in the nations is breaking down walls and barriers, and they are seeing that true apostles and prophets are among the people, not 'above' or separate from the people.
- The work that is being done through apostles in the nations is repair work. They have a gospel of power.
- **The survivors were in distress and reproach.**
- There has been a lot of reproach on the people of God.
- this is the battle that we are being sent in to.

3. Nehemiah took his distress at the report he heard, to God

- **1:4** – Nehemiah was moved deeply when he heard the report of what was happening.
- He was in a state of shock over the state of the people of God in that time.
- The report caused him to **'weep and mourn'** – do we 'weep and mourn' over the state of the church today?

- **He turned his grief into prayer and fasting.**
- He decided to bring it all to God – he talked to God about it.
- We need to spend time before God in prayer and fasting – this is the place to be empowered.
- **Ezekiel 22:30** God was looking for 'a man' who would stand in the gap.
- The question is *'Will you be that man?'* - it can be a corporate man who will stand in the gap.

Nehemiah's Prayer

- **From verse 5 to the end of chapter there is a wonderful pattern of prayer.**

He begins with acknowledging who God is

- **1:5** – **"YAHWEH God of heaven, O great and awesome God"**
- He addresses God – he hallows the name.
- He **begins in worship, adoration** and **confession of who God is.**
- He even reminds God that He is a God who keeps His covenants and shows mercy to those who love Him.

Confession of sin and the need for repentance

- **1:6-7** – A humble plea for God to hear.
- He identifies with the sins of the people – both of himself and of the people of God
- He is coming on behalf of the people who have been corrupt and out of order.
- He names the 'sin' for what it is – **'acted very corruptly', 'not kept the commandments'**

4. Nehemiah knew the place of Prayer!

- He had an altar where he came to – day and night.
- God loves us to come to him day and night!
- Nehemiah was successful in the mission because he was a man of the word and of prayer (**Acts 6:4**).
- We need to be those who confess the state of the church today and repent of the wrong focus of the church today – asking for the breakthrough.

Nehemiah reminds God of His promises to His people

- **1:8-9** – now there is **confession of the promises of God.**
- Reminding God of His word to the people.
- He knows what the word of God says.
- He recognises that they are now in the time of fulfillment.

- **1:10** Nehemiah reminds God that these are His people ***"whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand"***.

Nehemiah pleads for mercy!

- **1:11** – **praying that he will find mercy** in the eyes of the one he is currently serving.
- He is putting his hand up, and saying he wants to be part of this restoration.
- **Being willing to be sent.**

- We know what the promises of God say for His church,
- these are the things that we need to be confessing.
- Speaking out the word of God that we know, about what the church looks like and what God's plan is for his church according to His word.

There is a pattern of prayer we can learn from Chapter One of Nehemiah.

God has to open the door. He has set before us an open door.

If God opens the door, no man can shut it.

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER TWO

Nehemiah a type of the apostle

- In Chapter One we saw how Nehemiah turned the situation he had heard about, into prayer – he sought God about the situation.
- He is a type of the apostle – a wall builder.
- Nehemiah had an important position in the kingdom as the king's cupbearer.
- He was willing to 'go'; to be part of the answer to his prayer.

Be willing to be led by the Spirit of God

- God grant us mercy for restoration to happen through us, even as Nehemiah did.
- May the doors remain open for the building of the house of God in the earth.
- May we recognise the door that is open and may we have the boldness to go through it, being led by the Spirit of God.

Know the three 'harbour lights' of guidance.

- According to the word of God
- The peace of the Holy Spirit
- The door opens.
- These three 'harbour lights' need to all line up, so that we can be in the perfect will of God.
- Nehemiah had to wait for the right time – God's time.

It is God who opens the Door

- **2:1-2** – it was a dangerous thing for a cupbearer to show his own emotions.
- Nehemiah became afraid.
- **v.3** – When we have been in times of prayer and fasting, God opens the door.
- We will know what to say – God helps us (**Luke 21:15**)
- Nehemiah knew what to say to the king.
- He knew the state of the situation, so he had reason to be sad.

Wait for God to open the door.

- **v.4** – The king opens the door by asking 'What do you request?'
- The religious answer will not come out, when you have been with Jesus, the truth comes out!

Nehemiah prayed to God and asked for His help.

- He had a walking, living relationship with the God of heaven.
- He was able to pray right there in that situation. It happens in the Spirit; he knew the presence of God.
- Even as the King was asking him, he was praying in his heart about how to answer.
- Bathe everything we do in prayer, ask God for what to do; what to say

Nehemiah asks to be sent

- **v.5** – Nehemiah is clear about the mission; he knows what he is to do. "***That I may rebuild it***". Be clear about what you want to do.
- Nehemiah knew that the '**city of my fathers**' was in ruins.
- This is a picture of the city of God.
- We are in a period of time where the city of God needs to be rebuilt.
- God is looking for those like Nehemiah who are willing to be part of the building of the house of God in our generation.

It pleased the king to send Nehemiah

- **v.6** – There will come a time when it pleases the king to **send us**.
- The sending is the apostleship. We need to be sent by the King.
- It brings a governmental anointing to the one being sent.
- this is the apostolic part, **to be sent is to have authority**, all of heaven is backing us. If people are sent you can trust what they are sent with.

Nehemiah was granted safe passage

- **v.7** – this is getting into the area of principalities and powers.
- When you are sent you have spiritual authority. Nothing can stop you from going where you are sent.
- Authority has been given to fulfill the mission you have been sent to do.
- Apostolic authority comes from the King and nothing can hinder the mission. Letters were given from the king – principalities and powers need to get out of the way.

Nehemiah was to be supplied with all the resources needed

- **v.8** – all the resources that are needed for the mission will be made available to us.
- Letters were given so he could access all the resources needed to rebuild the city.
- the good hand of God was upon them.
- There is no lack, **we will be supplied with all that is needed to do the apostolic work that we have been sent to do**.

The King provides protection

- **v.9** – there is an army of heaven that is with us.
- The King sends His army of hosts to be with those who are sent to do His apostolic mission.
- When we go out, the King sends 'captains of the army and horsemen' with us.
- if you are sent out to do the work of the ministry you can expect this covering to be with you.

The enemy will be disturbed

- **v.10** – the enemy will be disturbed, when God's people are sent.
- Nehemiah became a target for the enemy, but because he had been sent, he knew he had authority.
- when the apostolic ministry goes in to do the work it disturbs the enemy
- the people of the land were under the control of the enemy

- the church of today has been 'messed up' by the enemy in many ways: denominationalism, false doctrine, traditional practice.
- The enemy has put the church to sleep, and so the enemy gets upset if anyone comes to change or challenge that.
- It is time to wake the church out of religious sleep.

There is a work to be done.

- Restoration of the Lord's Table is part of the rebuilding of the city, learning to partake of the body and blood of Jesus regularly. We are proclaiming the Lord's death to the principalities and powers. The devil works through religion to try to stop the wall from being built.
- Through the word of God coming in truth, restoration taking place, inroads in spiritual warfare happen. The authority of the enemy is wounded, and the enemy will be exposed.
- As the walls get rebuilt the enemy can't get in; God is wanting to rebuild Jerusalem so that there is no way for the enemy to get back in again.

There is a mission that we are being sent into and we need to be ready.

- In the rest of Chapter two, we see Nehemiah did not rush into anything.
- He knew that it was not going to happen overnight. This is a long-term project.
- Rejoice in the little things that take place for they are a sign.
- Be willing for the long road!

Look for the 'few' who will stand with us

- **v.12** – Nehemiah had 'a few' with him.
- God wants to raise up teams, those who will be with us, even if there are only a few who stand with us.
- Jesus said, "where two or three gather in my name, I AM there in the midst of them" (**Matt.18:20**)
- Nehemiah was wise, he didn't proclaim what he was wanting to do. He did not want to draw attention to himself and what he was going to do.
- He was waiting on God's time, not being rash. He had self-control.

Checking foundations

- **v.13** – Nehemiah got a perspective of what was going to be needed to repair the walls.
- he was '*viewing*' – he examined what needed to take place.
- we need to do ask the question 'why are these people not going on to maturity?'
- 'Have they had foundations laid properly?'
- In **Acts 19:1-6** Paul was doing this, he was '*viewing*' the situation.

'Come and let us build'

- **v.17** – after he had assessed the situation, then Nehemiah spoke to the others.
- With the knowledge of what needed to be done, he now spoke to the people – 'who is with me'. Who will be part of this mission?
- He is looking for those who will support the vision.
- Let us build together; let us consider our destiny.

Share your testimony to encourage others

- **v.18** – Nehemiah shared his testimony of how God was with him, and the people were encouraged and 'put their hands up' to help with the work.
- They wanted to be part of what God was doing with Nehemiah.
- Nehemiah has some converts, others wanted to join when they heard his testimony.

Recognise that there is an enemy!

- **v.19** – the enemy was even more stirred up – a mocking spirit
- The enemy was trying to usurp, and put doubt into the people, the ones who were helping Nehemiah.
- The enemy will always try to hinder or stop the work of God.

Know who is with us!

- **v.20** – Nehemiah knew who was backing him. ***"The God of heaven Himself will prosper us."***
 - If we are going to go forward in what God has given us to do, we need to know who is with us.
 - Do not listen to voice of the enemy. Enter through the narrow gate.
 - This word helps us to overcome, there is an enemy, but we are to be committed to the mission.
 - Do not be afraid to face the enemy head on. Know your position in Christ.
- **Arise and build together,**
 - **to find our place on the wall,**
 - **and to repair the breach,**
 - **knowing that we go in the authority of the King who is with us.**

THE APOSTOLIC MANDATE

The Commission in Genesis

- **Genesis 1:28** – "*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion*"
- 'being fruitful and having dominion' is not primarily speaking about having natural children but having spiritual children,
- Spiritual children in the image and likeness of God

Discipleship is the key

- The Church needs to know how to bring to birth the new believers - have spiritual children,
- disciple them,
- bring them to maturity,
- send them out to multiply and fill the earth.
- The goal is **Habakkuk 2:14!**

Spiritual Warfare is involved

- '**Subdue**' & '**dominion**' are military terms
- Once we start to multiply and fill the earth it is then the job of the church to take spiritual authority over the enemy – **subdue it** – this is spiritual warfare
- Then when we walk in spiritual authority over the enemy, we are to have **dominion** – this means **government**
- sons of God governing the earth in the kingdom of God

The Great Commission - Matthew 28:18-20

- Jesus said we are to **make disciples of all the nations**
- this is to ethnic groups – not speaking about political nations being disciplined.
- we have all authority to be sent to do this work
- **Baptising into the name** - the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit – which Peter showed us was the **name of Jesus Christ - Acts 2:38**
- The baptism is for the remission of sins so that we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – we are to be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit
- **Teaching them to observe all things that Jesus commanded...**

This is the great **apostleship – the commission, the mandate!**

The Creation Mandate [Gen.1:28] & the five-fold ministry [Eph.4:11]

1. Be fruitful → the Evangelist

- the evangelist is released to go out with the message,
- bringing lost souls to Jesus, new birth,
- the Evangelist is fruitful in bringing new souls to Jesus

2. Multiply → the Pastor

- The Pastor is to nurture the new disciples,
- making sure the foundations are set in their life
- being the 'shepherd' looking after the sheep.
- Feeding the milk of the word (**1 Pet.2:2**)

3. Fill the earth → the Teacher

- The teacher disciples the believers so that they can be sent.
- Teachers lay the word line upon line, showing how to read the Old Testament prophetically and the fulfillment in Christ
- Disciple and send – Paul in Acts 19 is an example of this (**Acts 19:9-10**)
- Disciples can go out into the community and begin to share what they have learnt

4. Subdue the earth/enemy → the Prophet

- The prophet brings the revelation of the Word, the revelation of the mystery prophetically.
- The prophet explains the mysteries, giving prophetic understanding of the Old Testament - rightly dividing the Word (**2Tim.2:15**)
- This empowers the saints to know their authority in Christ so they can have victory over the enemy (**Luke 10:19**)
- The prophet works with apostles; but also functions in prophetic teams like **Agabus in Acts 21:9-10**

5. Take Dominion → the Apostle

- The apostle brings the authority and governmental power of Christ
- apostles carry the 'Prince' anointing of Christ
- setting the body in order so it can function in authority (**Eph.4:12**)
- we are learning to exercise this authority

Apostolic succession

- **2 Timothy 2:2** – Paul gives the key to fulfilling the great commission
- ***"the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."***
 - The apostolic word that Paul has received
 - He imparts to Timothy – among 'many witnesses'
 - Timothy is to commit to faithful men
 - The 'faithful men' will be able to teach this word to 'others'.

Growing up in Christ

- the apostle John speaks of three levels of maturity in **1 John 2:12-14**
- Little Children, Young Men, Fathers

- **Little children** – know their sins are forgiven, they know the Father

- **Young Men** – are strong because they have the word abiding in them, overcoming the wicked one (they have a testimony of victory over the devil)

- **Fathers** – know Him who is from the beginning – they are mature ones, they walk in an open revelation of the eternal One, I AM, Jesus

The Apostolic Mandate is to obey the Great Commission

Fulfilling the Creation mandate

So that the "earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YAHWEH as the waters cover the sea" Habakkuk 2:14

FEAST OF PASSOVER

Appointed times to meet with God

- The word for 'feasts' is '*moed*' – which means 'an appointed meeting'.
- God wants to meet with His people.
- He meets with us to cause a change in our lives, to know Him in a deeper manner.

THE FIRST PASSOVER

- **In Exodus 12** we read about the first Passover
- The **Passover became an annual Feast** to be celebrated by the people of Israel.
- Reminding them of their deliverance from Egypt: being saved from slavery
- Passover was to be an 'appointed meeting time with God'

What does 'Passover' mean for us?

→ Read Exodus 12:1-5

Saved out of the world

Exodus 12:1 – Passover happened in Egypt.

- The Feast had its origin in Egypt.
- It was the place of slavery, a place of hard labour, a place of great difficulty.
- for us this is a picture of God finding us in the world – where we are a slave to sin, to our flesh, to the things of the world.

v.2 – "***this shall be your beginning of months***" - this was to be a new beginning for the children of Israel.

- this is the beginning of our journey, our pilgrimage.
When did your journey begin? When did new life begin for you?
- **Passover represents the time when you were born again.**
It signifies the beginning of the journey.

Jesus is the Lamb

v.3-4 – the children of Israel were instructed to **take for yourself a lamb.**

- John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus coming towards him: "***behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world***" (**John 1:29**).
The 'lamb' had to be slain. Only the blood could bring deliverance.
- **Revelation 13:8** – Jesus is the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. The foundation for God's creation was the Lamb who was slain – He would die for His creation.
- "***For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us***" (**1Cor.5:7b**) – Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Passover for us!

There was to be 'a lamb for every household'

- There was to be **a lamb for every household**. Jesus is the Passover Lamb for every household.
- Salvation is for every household; for every person in that household – in the **book of Acts** it often says that someone was saved and **all their household (Acts 16:31-33)**
- Passover is about a Lamb for a sacrifice.

Exodus 12:5 – the lamb to be sacrificed was to be without blemish

- Jesus was the Lamb without blemish (**1 Peter 1:19**); He offered Himself **'without spot** [blemish] **to God'** (**Hebrews 9:14b**)

→ **Read Exodus 12:11-15**

Be Ready!

v.11 – **"So you shall eat it in haste"** - there is haste involved,

- The Passover meal had to be eaten in readiness.
- Be ready to go – to leave Egypt.
- The Lamb is getting you ready to get out of Egypt – leave the things of the world behind!

Saved by the Blood

v.12 – Yahweh's Passover is that He is coming into the land, and he is executing judgement.

- God said when He saw the blood He would 'pass over' them, and they would not be judged (**v.13**).
- If you have the Lamb, you will be saved and delivered.

Judgement on sin

- When we get born again, God begins to 'clean us up' – our language, our behaviour.
- God disarmed principalities and powers (**Col.2:15**); he brought judgement on all 'the gods of Egypt'. God begins to break us out of strongholds; of those things that have been in our life, e.g. idols; bad behaviour etc. This is to be an ongoing experience in our lives.

Passover is our 'born again' experience

- Passover is the born-again experience, but it is also an ongoing experience, as there are still things in our lives that we need to be delivered of.
- God wants to set us free so that we are no longer under any bondage.
- **John 12:31-32** – Jesus is talking about being lifted up on the cross, the ruler of this world would be judged and cast out.

The Table of the Lord is a perpetual reminder

Exodus 12:13 – the blood is a sign to you; the blood is over you!

- The blood is not a religious thing.
- The blood has cleansed our conscience (**Hebrews 9:14**)

- As we come to the Table of the Lord, it is a perpetual reminder of Passover, and enables us to stay under the covering of the blood, and in the covenant of the blood.
- The destroyer will 'pass over' us; death no longer has any power over us (**1Cor.15:55**).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Exodus 12:14-15 – a memorial for all generations.

- **"Remove leaven from your houses"** - on the first day you shall remove leaven
- this is speaking of sin in our lives.
- To get born again, we change our mind to believe in Jesus, put our faith in Him and receive Him into our life (John 1:12). But once we are born again, God wants to start removing the 'leaven' in our lives.
- We need to repent of sins and sinful habits as they come up in our lives.
- Baptism is part of the means to come out of Egypt – going through the Red Sea. There is a cutting off in baptism, that enables us to overcome. The enemy is drowned in the sea, we are no longer under the control of the devil. This is what sets us free.

Jesus is the Bread of Life

- The Feast of Unleavened Bread speaks of feasting on the One who is unleavened.
- Jesus is the Bread of life! (**John 6:35**); He is the 'unleavened Bread'.
- Jesus said this in the context of the Feast of Passover (**John 6:4**) – and also in the context of feeding the people with bread.
- We need to feast on the true bread; Jesus is the true bread who came down from heaven (**Jn.6:51**);
- Jesus said, **'I AM the Bread of Life'** (**Jn.6:48**) – He is the unleavened bread.
- Begin to feed on Jesus, no longer from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- As you feed on the unleavened bread, the leaven [sin] gets pushed out of your life.

Beware of partaking of the 'wrong' leaven

- **"Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees"** **Matthew 16:6**
- This is speaking of religion; religious Christianity, rather than realising we are part of the body,
- we can get caught in legalistic religious rules.
- We need to say 'what does the Bible say about this?' We are not meant to conform to man's traditions, but to feed on the Bread of Life, the pure Word.
- **Mark 8:15** speaks of **'the leaven of Herod'** – this speaks of 'political leaven', [**Mark 7:13** – makes the word of God on no effect]
- we are to be ambassadors of the King; we are to represent Jesus, not political parties or ideologies.

The Feast of Firstfruits

→ Read **Leviticus 23:9-11** – the Feast of Firstfruits

- The children of Israel were to **"Bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest"**
v.10
- It was to be on the 'day after the Sabbath' that is connected with Passover
- Firstfruits is part of Passover – it is the promise of more to come.
- At the culmination of Passover is this Feast of Firstfruits

Jesus fulfilled the Feast of Firstfruits

- the day after the Sabbath, Jesus rose from the dead, on the first day of the week (**Matthew 28:1**)
- Jesus was the first to rise from the dead! This is the promise of more to come.
- **1 Cor.15:20** – **Christ has become the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.
- **v.23** – Firstfruits is the promise of a great harvest to follow, there will be many more who will be resurrected, a harvest of resurrection.

Passover has to do with the cleansing of the 'house'

→ Read **John 2:13-21**

- **v.13** - in the context of the '**Passover of the Jews**'
- **v.14-15** – Jesus was cleansing the temple – He was getting the leaven out of the temple - fulfilling Passover.
- Getting rid of everything that was making the house of God defiled.
- **v.16-17** – Passover has to do with cleaning out the house. Jesus said, **"Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise"**.
- **v.18** – Jews wanted to know what right Jesus had to do this?
- **v.19** – Jesus answered them saying **"destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up"**.

Jesus' Body was the Temple

- **v.20-21** – Jesus was **"speaking of the temple of His body"**.
- Jesus was raising up a body, His own body.
- There is a shift from the old to the new. Through faith and baptism – the experience of Passover – we become a member of that Body.

The body of Christ is to be 'unleavened'

- The body of Christ is to be unleavened – it is to be a house for the Father.
- The fulfilment of Passover is a new people, a new house for the Father, a new temple, an unleavened people.

The Feast of Passover has been fulfilled in Jesus!

The Feast of Passover is to be fulfilled in our lives!

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

Pentecost was the second major feast of the children of Israel.

Called the Feast of Weeks in the Old Testament

➤ **Leviticus 23:15-17** – The Feast of Weeks

Lev.23:15-16 – "**Count 50 days to the day after the seventh Sabbath**"; then offer a new grain offering. [seven weeks plus one day = 50 days].

- The feast of weeks happened at the end of the barley and wheat harvest.
- It is the feast to celebrate the bringing in of the harvest.
- The day after the Sabbath was the day of firstfruits. Prophetically speaking of the day Jesus rose from the dead.

There is Leaven at Pentecost

v.17 – loaves were to be "**baked with leaven**".

- At **Passover we are to eat of the Unleavened Bread** who is Christ. We are to get the leaven – sin out of our lives.
- But in Pentecost there is mixture – **there is still leaven in Pentecost.**
- when the Holy spirit is poured out there is power & manifestation, but there is a danger that sin can easily take over, as there is still a 'sorting out' happening in our lives.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment

- **Acts 2:1** - we get the fulfillment of what the Feast of Pentecost is talking about
 - "**When the Day of Pentecost had fully come**" – the Holy Spirit was poured out
 - The 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues – there was manifestation.
- **Passover had been fulfilled by Jesus dying and rising from the dead.**
- **Pentecost has been fulfilled by the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

Looking at the First Pentecost - Exodus 19

➤ After God delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, He continued to lead them.

Led into the Wilderness

Ex.19:1-2 – in the 3rd month they came to the Wilderness of Sinai, where they camped before the mountain. The 3rd month is the time frame for the Feast of Pentecost.

YAHWEH spoke from the mountain

v. 3 - YAHWEH called to Moses from the mountain, and told him what to speak to the children of Israel

v.4 – "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself"

- This is the born-again experience – brought/saved out of Egypt [the world]

v.5-6 – now God is speaking the destiny over them. They will be to God a "**special treasure**" and "**a holy nation**".

God made a Covenant with His people

- They came to Sinai to get the covenant and to receive the Law word of God.
Pentecost has to do with coming into the covenant.

On the mountain there were manifestations

Exodus 19:16 – there were "**thunderings and lightnings and a thick cloud; and the sound of the trumpet**" – these were manifestations of the presence of God

- On the Day of Pentecost there were powerful manifestations of the presence of God (**Acts 2:1-4**).

17-18 – on the mountain there was 'smoke and fire'.

- On the day of Pentecost there were 'tongues of fire'.

Exodus chapter 20 – when Moses went up to God on the mountain, he received the law written on tablets of stone.

The first Pentecost is to do with Covenant and with Law.

Ex.24:9-10 – Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy elders went up the mountain

- "**They saw the God of Israel**" and they "**ate and drank**" with Him
- They were entering into covenant with God – they ate and drank with God in the heavenly realm, after being sprinkled with the blood of the covenant.

- **Pentecost is to bring us into the heavenly realm by the Spirit. We are now in the new covenant, and the word of God is written on our hearts.**

The Illustration of the book of Ruth

- The book of Ruth is read at Pentecost!
- It begins with Ruth, as a Gentile, joining herself to Naomi.
- The return to Jerusalem is at the time of the barley harvest – this is Passover.
- Ruth gets saved! – she joins the people of God.
- Ruth goes out to glean in the field of Boaz.
- There is a feast – it is the feast of Pentecost, at the end of the harvest.
- Boaz began the process of entering into marriage with Ruth.
- God married His people at Sinai [made a covenant with them].
- The marriage has begun, but the fullness of that is yet to fully manifest.
- Pentecost is the beginning of the marriage (**1Cor.6:17**)

- **When the Holy Spirit comes, issues come up so there is another layer of things to deal with. There is sanctification taking place in us.**

The 'leaven' at Pentecost, represents 'sin'

- In **Exodus 32:2-4** the people began to commit spiritual adultery.
- They made a moulded calf and said this is the god that brought you out of Egypt. They called that God 'Yahweh'.
- Worshiping Yahweh in their own way – moulding God to their own image.
- There is a desire in us to have something of our own making to worship.

v.25 – Moses comes down from the mountain with the tablets of the covenant.

- Moses saw that the people were 'unrestrained', they had given themselves to the 'lusts of the flesh' and been seduced by worshiping an idol.

Sin has to be dealt with

v. 26-28 – "**Whoever is on Yahweh's side**" – the sin had to be purged from the midst

- God says, '*are you on My side*'.
- It is a time of testing, are we prepared to get rid of the 'leaven' in our lives.
- We are to cut off the ties, bondages, spiritual ties, family ties etc., to follow Jesus.
- It is a deeper level, dealing with the 'thoughts and intents of the heart' (**Heb.4:12**)

Law brought death; but the Holy Spirit brought life!

- about 3000 men died at the first Pentecost (**Ex.32:28**).
- but at the fulfilment of the feast of Pentecost, 3000 souls were saved (**Acts 2:41**).

The Coming of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4 – "**When the Day of Pentecost had fully come**".

- they were all "**filled with the Holy Spirit**"
- a new covenant/marriage is taking place.
- 3000 were saved (**Acts 2:41**) – now the new grain offering is coming in.
- It began to grow and multiply quickly (**Acts 2:47**).

➤ **The Holy Spirit opens us up to the spirit realm, gifts begin to operate.**

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 lists nine gifts

v.7 – these gifts are to be used "**for the profit of all**"

These gifts are:

- Word of Wisdom – wisdom from God
- Knowledge – often linked with healing
- Faith – supernatural faith for a particular situation
- Gifts of Healings – in the plural, there are many gifts of healings, there are many diseases.
- Miracles – works of power
- Prophecy - speaking out the word of God
- Discerning of spirits – having spiritual insight
- Different kinds of Tongues – speaking out a message in an unknown tongue
- Interpretation of tongues – giving meaning or understanding of the tongue spoken

**Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!
This is the fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost!**

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

We are on a journey: Passover → Pentecost → Tabernacles

- Most of the church has not recognised that **there is a third feast**.
- **God has us on a journey** from glory to glory; we are to live in the glory, to 'tabernacle' in it.

The Feast of Tabernacles in the context of Nehemiah

- **Summarising Nehemiah chapters three to seven:**

Chapter three – everyone begins to function in the rebuilding of the wall.

Chapter four – the enemy gets disturbed, the people pray and resist; the enemy wants to discourage and stop them, but the people keep in the work.

Chapter five – the problem was within. The elders begin to oppress the people wrongly. Nehemiah helps them to get back on track.

- Nehemiah as an apostolic leader recognised the enemies without and the enemies within, and he knew what to do.

Chapter six – the enemy without tries to come in again. But the wall gets built.

Chapter seven – we come to the last verse: **Nehemiah 7:73b** "*When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities*" – this is the seventh month when the feast of tabernacles was to be celebrated.

- The number 7 has to do with perfection, completion, coming to maturity.

Nehemiah Chapter Eight

Coming together in Unity

Neh.8:1 –The people of God "*gathered together as one man*", they were in one accord, in one place [**Acts 2:1**]; coming into Unity [**Eph.4:13**].

- In front of the Water Gate – the Feast of Tabernacles has to do with 'water' and releasing the water.
- **1 Corinthians 1:10** – "*all speak the same thing*", all have a uniform testimony. Every member of the body of Christ, speaking the same word. That there be 'no divisions/dissensions, be perfectly joined together'.
- 'Perfect' means 'mature', not always doing everything right, but being mature enough to deal with things, repent and change.
- **The body of Christ is to have one mind** – the mind of Christ.
- Make the same decisions, same judgement. This is the plan of God

The Word was to be read at the Water Gate (Neh.8:1)

- They were coming together to hear from **'the book of the Law'**
- the book of the Law is the book of the instruction/teaching of Moses. How we should live for God according to His ways.
- The word is released at the Water Gate!
- **Ephesians 5:26** – we are washed with the water of the word.

The Day of the Blowing of Trumpets

Nehemiah 8:2 – the first day of the 7th Month [**Lev.23:24** – Memorial Blowing of Trumpets – the word of God being proclaimed]

- This is the day of the trumpet blowing.
- it was for men and women – all were to hear!

Everyone is to hear the Word of God

v.3 – Ezra read in the 'open square' – it was an open gathering, everyone could hear.

- In front of the Water Gate – the river was flowing.
- They read from morning until midday; everyone was attentive to the reading for at least three hours.
- there has been a famine for the word of God. Not many have learned what the word of God actually says. Many have learned about the word of God but have not actually learnt the word.
- **the word is to be released into the nations**, the word is flowing and it is working energetically and effectively (**1Thess.2:13**). People are learning the teaching of the word.
- God is doing an awesome thing. The Lord is making known His word in a fresh way. The revelation of the mysteries of Christ are being made known.
- People are coming into maturity, coming to know His plans and purposes for His people in the earth. We are coming to the Feast of Tabernacles.

Reading the word in the sight of everyone

v.4 – Ezra stood on the platform with others on his right hand and on his left.

- Ezra was part of a 'company', he was not on his own, he had teachers and helpers with him.

v.5 – **"Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people"** - don't be afraid of opening the book in front of everybody.

- We are living in the days where the book is open, and it is in the hands of the people. People must be convinced by the word, not men.

The people showed respect and reverence for God and His word

- The people 'stood up' and honoured God, showing respect for the word of God.

v. 6 – **"Ezra blessed YAHWEH the great God"**,

- The people lifted up their hands and **"bowed their heads and worshiped YAHWEH"**. There was reverence and awe of God in this place.
- They worshiped in truth – His word is truth (**John.17:17**)

Ezra was helped by a team

Nehemiah 8:7 – Ezra had a team, who *"helped the people to understand"* what they were hearing.

- this is discipleship taking place - helping people to understand the teaching.
- God is raising teams out of this ministry to help people understand the teaching.

Three points about Discipleship

v.8 – this is discipleship:

1. They read distinctly from the Book [the Bible], not a commentary.

They went to the only source. Read clearly from the book, so that everyone can hear what the book says. Read it as it is written.

1 Tim.4:13 – give attention to public reading of the Scriptures. People need to hear the word, not just someone's opinion about the word.

2. Gave the sense of it – they gave the context.

It is so important to help people understand the context of what is written.

2 Tim.2:15 – rightly dividing the word of truth. Showing how it all fits together. Compare Scripture with Scripture.

3. Helped them to understand the reading.

We need spiritual understanding, which means to perceive, grasp, consider, regard, have insight.

- The word of God is being proclaimed in ways that it has not been proclaimed before. Every person can become a disciple of the word of God. We are to pray for the saints to have wisdom and spiritual understanding (**Col.1:9-10**)

The Word brings Repentance

v.9 – *"this day is holy to YAHWEH"*.

- As the word of God was being proclaimed people began to mourn, to weep.
- They could suddenly see that they had been led astray, they had believed error.
- There are many who have been teaching false doctrine because they have believed lies; making members of denominations instead of being members of the body of Christ.
- A sign of Tabernacles is the coming to the 'unity of the faith' (**Eph.4:13**)
- This leads into the place of affliction – **the Day of Atonement** [**Lev.23:27**]
- the people were broken by the word of God.
- The word of God endures forever, it does not change. Let the word do its work in you. Let the word of God pierce us (**Heb.4:12**).

v.10-12 – Don't get stuck in condemnation, rejoice that the word of God is coming.

- The word of God is for the simple. The word of God brings light (**Psalm 119:130**).
- It is a good day because if you let the word of God work in you, we can go forward rejoicing.

The Feast of Tabernacles - [Lev.23:34]

v.14-15 – they rediscovered the Feast of Tabernacles. Pentecost is not the destination!

- We are in the days of rediscovering the third feast, a place of 'dwelling' in the land
- There is anointing, righteousness, fruit bearing trees – bringing healing.

A place of fruitfulness

Nehemiah 8:16 – the people were to make 'booths' at the Water Gate, but also at the Gate of Ephraim.

- Ephraim means a place of fruitfulness.
- Spiritual sons are to come forth. Discipleship produces spiritual sons; growing up to maturity, coming into sonship.

v.17 – such a celebration had not happened like this for a long time, and there was "great gladness".

v.18 – Day by day they "**read from the Book**"

- the hallmark of the feast was the word of God.
- **In Tabernacles the emphasis is on the Word being declared and made known; the mysteries of Christ being revealed.**

Jesus fulfilled Tabernacles.

John 1:14 – "**the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**" – literally tabernacled.

- Jesus is a picture of the feast of Tabernacles fulfilled; He was full of 'grace and truth'; The Word, who was God, became flesh.
- The goal of discipleship is for the word of God to tabernacle in the disciples, so the glory of God will be revealed.
- When the word is flesh in people it should look like 'grace and truth'

We need to let the word of God work in us

Hebrews 4:12 – this is what the word of God is like.

- God is going after the motivations of our heart. Why do we do things?
- The word does a work of affliction in us.

The Feast of Tabernacles in John chapter seven

John 7:2 – "**The Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand**".

- This chapter is in the context of the feast of Tabernacles.

v.5-9 - There was division in the family – even Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him.

v.10-13 – Jesus did not go up to the feast openly; he came in 'under the radar'. Not with big fanfare, the religious leaders were looking for some big thing.

- There was a lot of conjecture about who Jesus was?
- The current message of today that God has given is '**Who Jesus is**'. Making known the mystery of Christ (**Eph.3:2**); the mystery of Godliness (**1 Tim.3:16**).

Jesus began to teach

v.14 – about the middle of the feast Jesus went into the temple and taught.

- the fulfillment of Tabernacles is about the word being brought back into prominence; it is about the teaching of the pure word as it is written.
- The Jews 'marvelled' at His words. He had not gone to 'Bible School'.
- The word of God flows out of disciples who have been trained by apostolic ministries. The word of God gets into people, and it begins to flow.
- there is an army rising and the word of God is beginning to flow.
- The releasing of the flow of the word is the fulfillment of Tabernacles.

True Doctrine comes from God

v.16 – the doctrine is the doctrine of God. If you have a heart to do the will of God, this word will ring true with you.

- men seek their own glory, so the doctrine does not come with purity.
- the true doctrine comes with seeking the glory of the One who sends you.

The word will cause contention

v.25-31 – contention about the Christ; people questioning & arguing about the Christ.

- God has been restoring this message of Jesus the King.
- The pure word challenges the religious system and the religious leaders.
- The pure word is a living word that brings life, and sets you free, so you can't be controlled by religion anymore.

Fulfillment of Tabernacles – the release of the river!

v.37 – the 8th day of the feast – the last day

- Jesus stood and cried out **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink"**.
- The feast of Tabernacles is to do with water.
- The 'thirsty' can come to Jesus and be saved!
- They can have their thirst quenched!

v.38 – **"He who believes in Me ... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water"**

- As we drink of the living water, out of the belly of believers will flow rivers of living water, that will give life to others (**Ex.17:6; 1 Cor.10:4; Col.1:27**).
- We are the tabernacle (**Ps.46:4**), through which the streams of the river flow.
- As the Scripture says, there is a river (**Isaiah 12:3**) – you will draw water from the wells of salvation, to release to others (**John 4:10-14**).
- **Ezek.47** – the river flowing out of the temple, of which we are; the river flows out of us, His temple (**1Cor.3:16**).
- **Joel 3:18** – a fountain shall flow from the house of Yahweh.
- **Revelation 22** – it is a pure river of life; crystal clear flowing; bringing healing; coming out of His people.

**Let us begin to release the flow of the word
that will give life to others!
God is Tabernacling with His people!**

SONSHIP

God's purpose is to bring forth sons.

- **Hebrews 2:10** – *"bringing many sons to glory"*
- Christ suffered so that through Him, God could bring forth many sons

We are to receive the 'Spirit of Adoption/Sonship'

Romans 8:14 – them that are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God

v.15 – we *"did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear"*

- We are to no longer be bound by fear.
- But we have received the 'Spirit of Sonship' – Adoption, giving us a future to grow up to be sons of God
- sons of God are those who look like God, who act like Him, the Father can be seen in them; we can exercise ourselves spiritually in this sonship
- in sonship there is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (**Eph.1:17**)

We are legitimate children of God

v.16 – we are legitimately born of God,

- we are children of God, having received the Spirit of God by faith in Jesus Christ

v.17-18 – in basic salvation we should be teaching the new souls that they are heirs, they have an inheritance in Christ

- this inheritance is ready to be revealed in the last time (**1 Peter 1:4-5**) - not in heaven when we die.
- we are predestined to be placed as sons who inherit all that belongs to Christ (**Eph.1:5**)
- There is a glory to be revealed in us the saints.

Suffering leads to glory

- there is some suffering involved – through this suffering we obtain the glory
- the glory to be revealed in us is *"Christ in us, the hope of glory"* (**Col.1:27**)
- the sufferings of growing up in Christ cannot be compared with the glory that we can and will walk in on the earth
- we belong to a supernatural Father, our God.

Creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God

Romans 8:19 – all of creation is crying for the sons of God to be revealed – to grow up into the glory of Christ

- creation is waiting for us to grow up
- it is not God's desire to populate heaven, but for us to experience heaven on the earth and bring heaven on the earth – the holy city is coming down (**Rev.21:2-3**).

Romans 8:20-21 – the animals are not happy; the creation is looking for the glorious liberty of the children of God

- the children of God will be showing forth the glorious liberty we have in Jesus Christ

There is an intercession

Romans 8:22 – creation is in birth pangs, groaning in labour – this is intercession

- **Acts 2:24** – Jesus was in birth pangs bringing forth a new creation, "**loosed the pangs of death**", when He went down into the lower regions of the earth, hell.

Romans 8:23 – even we having "**the first-fruits of the Spirit groan within ourselves**" (like Jesus in **John 11:35-38**), "**eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies**"

**Jesus has interceded and continues to intercede for us
to become the sons of God!**

God's glory will be revealed through mature sons

- **Hebrews 12:1** – there is a cloud of witnesses cheering us on to grow up in the earth to bring deliverance – even to creation!
- Jesus is returning to the earth, not to rapture a church out of tribulation, but to give the church in tribulation rest when He comes (**2 Thessalonians 1:4-10**)
- the glory is to be revealed in the saints – we are to suffer for the kingdom of God, for the glory promised to the church
- the gospel reveals that we are to receive that glory and the fruit of that will be awesome!

Passing through the valley of weeping

- **Psalms 84:6-7** – the only way to the glory is through the valley of Weeping ('Baca'), we go from strength to strength, going to Zion to be with God
- the place of weeping gets covered with pools of fresh water,
- **each one** appears before God in Zion
- the church is to release the knowledge of the mystery of Christ in a way that even the principalities and powers will acknowledge that Jesus Christ really is the Christ, the Son of God (**Eph.3:8-11**)

Hebrews 2:12 - Tapping the inheritance that we have in God through Christ

- this is a Messianic quote that Jesus will be found in the midst of the Assembly leading worship and prayer and intercession

Promises made to Abraham and his Seed - Galatians 3:15-16

- To Abraham and to his Seed were the promises made
- This corrects our understanding of God's purpose in the church
- The Seed of Abraham is not plural – not the Jewish people of that time – but it is 'singular', Christ
- The important son of Abraham was Isaac – the son of promise.

There is the promise of an Inheritance

Galatians 3:26 – we are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ

- Faith needs to come, then we are born again in the twinkling of an eye
- We hear and we believe, and the reality enters us

Galatians 3:27-28 – for we are all one in Jesus Christ

- through baptism we are clothed with Christ
- through faith and baptism we are brought in under a new covering, Christ.

v.29 – if we are of Christ we are **"Abraham's Seed and heirs according to the promise"**.

The blessing comes through Abraham

Galatians 3:8-9 – In you all the nations/families of the earth will be blessed

- Those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham
- Through Abraham's Seed, who is Christ, all the peoples of the earth will be blessed
- **v.14** – the main blessing, is the giving of the Holy Spirit who opens up the inheritance to us

Sons receive the Inheritance

Galatians 4:4-7 – growing up to inherit as sons

- God wants to give us the **"Spirit of His Son"**, to no longer be slaves, but sons and heirs of God

Three main Feasts given to Israel

- 1. Passover** – we remember every time we come to the Table of the Lord, remembering the Lamb, it is where we get saved (**Ex.12**)
- 2. Pentecost – Weeks** – 7 weeks and one day after the Passover finished, they received the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:1-4**), fulfilling when God gave the law to Moses, now the Law is written in our hearts
- 3. Tabernacles** – this is feast that is looming before us now, where we come to really know we are the people of God, not named by other groups, this feast was only to be celebrated when they entered the land, the inheritance

Compartments of the Tabernacle that Moses built

- 1. Outer Court** – salvation, blood is shed, water in the laver for washing
- 2. Holy Place** – in the Tabernacle, we learn to worship in Spirit and Truth
- 3. Holiest** – into the glory as sons, knowing the Father, knowing who we are as sons

As sons we are heirs, to walk in the glory

3 LEVELS OF PRAYER

Individual prayer → Corporate prayer → The Church in maturity

Individual prayer – primary level

Have a place where you can meet with the Father

- Jesus instructed his disciples in **Matthew 6:6** – we are to go into our room and pray to our Father who is in secret
- It is good to pray anywhere, but Jesus also expects us to have a place, a room, a quiet place to meet with the Father
- This is the place of individual prayer – a place where we can commune with our Father.
- This is the place where we can bring our individual burdens in prayer, our concerns for our family etc.

The Disciple's Prayer

- **Luke 11:1-4** – the prayer Jesus taught his disciples gives important fundamentals in prayer.
- These are the basics to teach every believer
- Jesus tells us the important things we need to know in prayer.
- We learn to pray according to His will.
[for a full teaching on the 'The Lord's Prayer' see Prayer a Way of Life manual.]

Receive His peace

- **Philippians 4:6-7** – the main way we know that God has heard us is that we experience His peace coming into our hearts
- We do not need to live in anxiety, worry or doubt
- **This is the realm of Repentance and Faith** – putting our trust in the One who has saved us by His blood.

Feeding on the milk of the word

- **1 Peter 2:2** - we all need the milk of the word to help us become grounded
- We need to be disciplined in the word, so we can pray the word of God.

The first ministry we meet is an evangelist – a messenger with the gospel

- A successful evangelist brings to pass a new generation of Christians who then need the milk of the word
- We meet an **evangelist** in **Acts 8:5-12** – Philip who was baptising those who believed the gospel through him

- **Through Baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit, we enter into the corporate level of Prayer.**

Baptised into the Body

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** "*For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body*".
- We are baptised into Christ (**Rom.6:3**), and Christ is a 'many membered' body (**1 Cor.12:12**)

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

- "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" **Acts 2:38**
- In **Acts 8:14-17** after Philip had preached Christ, men and women were baptised, but the Holy Spirit had not fallen on them yet, so the **apostles** came and laid the foundation of laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit
- When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, they realise they are members of the Body of Christ

- **The ministry of pastors and teachers lay foundations of baptism and laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit in the believers.**

Corporate Prayer – praying with the Body; the secondary level

Learning to be ones who 'overcome'

- Young men who have learned some authority in Christ "*overcome the wicked one*", and who are strong because "*the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one*" (**1John2:13-14**)

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- When we come to corporate gatherings, there are gifts of the Holy Spirit functioning, and we get answers to our prayers through the Body
- This is the realm of gifts of the Spirit manifesting – **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**
- These gifts are for the profit all - the anointing can flow through us and touch other people's lives.

Creational gifts

- In this realm the **seven gifts** from **Romans 12:4-8** also function in the Body
- these were gifts given in creation - but any believer can call on the grace when needed to operate in these gifts even if it is not your natural gift.

Pray the Father's will – Matthew 6:10

- we are praying as members of the Body, for the Body
- We can pray for '**His kingdom to come**' and '**His will to be done**' here on earth, as it is in heaven (**Matt.6:10**)
- We come to know His will through His word.

Pray for Governments and those in Authority

- Pray according to **1 Timothy 2:1-8** – starting to take authority for the lost, the town or district we live in.
- This is corporate prayer because we want to **"lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" v.2.**
- Praying with **"supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving thanks" (v.1)**

Aspects of this prayer:

- We are to pray for all men/women
 - Pray for kings, i.e. Prime Ministers, Governmental leaders
 - Pray for all in authority – any administrative leader: police, health officials etc.
 - Pray for all **"to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth"**
 - The corporate prayer begins to bring change.
 - The result will be that God will raise more ministries to make the truth known (**1 Corinthians 12:28**).
- **In the realm of the body, we start to recognize the five ministry gifts of Ephesians 4:11**

The Church in Maturity – tertiary level

Spiritual Warfare

- The church is now **ready to enter into the third level of prayer** – reaching out and pushing out into the realm of principalities and powers (**Ephesians 6:10-12**)
- This is the realm of Spiritual Warfare – standing and withstanding in the evil day.
- Putting on the **"whole armour of God" Eph.6:13.**

Praying the prayers of apostle Paul

- **Ephesians 1:17-19** – ask for **"wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him"**, and for the **"eyes of your understanding"** to be **"enlightened"**.
- **Colossians 2:2-3** – coming to the **"knowledge of the mystery of God"**.
- **Ephesians 3:16-21** – being **"strengthened with might"**; **"being rooted and grounded in love"**; and being **"filled with all the fullness of God"**.

Filling the all in all – knowing our position in Christ

- Christ has been raised up and seated far above **"all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named"** Ephesians 1:20-21.
- All things are now under His feet!
- Now the church 'which is His body' is to fill the all in all **v.23**
- This is the church that knows their position in Christ (**Ephesians 2:6**)
- Exercising the mandate first given to Adam and Eve in **Genesis 1:28** to **"subdue and have dominion"**.

The church making known the manifold wisdom of God – Ephesians 3:8-11

- Through the apostles and prophets, we come to know the mystery (**Eph.3:5**)
- We are to understand the "***unsearchable riches of Christ***" (**Eph3:8**)
- The church is to make known the "***manifold wisdom of God***" to the principalities and powers (**v.10**)!

Power over nations

- The church has received the promise in **Revelation 2:26-27** "***He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels***"
- **Apostles and Prophets bringing the deeper wisdom of the word of God, provide a firm foundation for praying at this level.**

The glorious church will manifest in the earth!

Ephesians 5:27

THE GIFTS OF ROMANS 12:4-8

- There are at least three major gifts lists mentioned in the New Testament, and probably more correctly four when we include **1 Corinthians 12:28**

The lists are:

- 1. Spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12:8-10** – given by the Holy Spirit
- 2. Ministry gifts from Ephesians 4:11** – given by Jesus, in His ascension
- 3. Creational gifts from Romans 12:4-8** – given by the Father

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

- **v.4** – diversities of gifts – same Spirit – **Spiritual gifts**
- **v.5** – differences of ministries, same Lord – **Ministry gifts**
- **v.6** – diversities of activities, same God – **Creational gifts**

Gifts given by the Father - Romans 12:4-8

- Many members in the Body – not everybody has the same function
- We are individually members of one another – we are one Body
- Whatever gift we have is useful, necessary and needed in the Body

- these gifts are different in function and expression to the gifts of the Spirit in **1Cor.12** and
- both lists are different in function and expression to the ministry gifts of **Eph.4:11**.

For example, *prophecy* is listed in **Rom.12** and **1Cor.12** and the *ministry of the prophet* is listed in **Eph.4**. Each of these expressions of prophetic gifting are very different, although it is possible for the same member of the body of Christ to have received all three gifts.

The gift of *teaching* is in **Rom.12** and the *ministry of the teacher* is in **Eph.4**. These teaching gifts are very different in function and expression.

The Seven Gifts of Romans 12:6-8

- these are gifts that are resident in the human race, given by God and also to be used in the Body. Every person, saved or unsaved, has one of these gifts!
- 1. Prophecy** – this is a natural gift of insight, discernment, the ability to see things coming (but not because of Holy Spirit giving it to them, it is a gift); someone who is able to speak wisdom and give good advice, because of their natural insight in a situation.
 - 2. Ministry/Service** – the gift to serve, be of service, like the role of the deacon – waiting on tables to serve the brethren – we are to use this gift; it is a natural desire to serve and minister to the needs of others.

3. **Teaching** – sharing your knowledge with others, a desire to share knowledge with others so they can understand, some people just have a natural gift of teaching that makes learning exciting – use the gift in proportion to your faith
 4. **Exhortation** – encouragement, building up another person; they see things worthy of mention and praise, to come alongside to bring comfort, to give consolation or encouragement – use the gift to build up others
 5. **Giving** – same word used in **Romans 1:11** ‘to *impart* a spiritual gift’; this word has the sense of giving, imparting and sharing something with others – use the gift with liberality. Some have a natural desire to want to ‘give’ to others.
Luke 6:38 “give and it will be given back to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap” – giving can be all sorts of things including finance.
 6. **Leadership** – some have a natural gift of leadership – knowing what to do; we need good leaders; without them people get confused as to what to do. A good leader will delegate. They know what needs to be done, and how to appoint others to various tasks to get the job done.
 7. **Mercy** – showing compassion, to come along side, caring, reaching out to needy people, seeing the needs of others and wanting to help. Nurses/carers very often get into that work because they have this gift. Mercy should be shown with cheerfulness.
- ➔ Think back over your own life, even to when you were a child and think about what motivated you in what you did. What was your motivation? Did you enjoy teaching others? Were you one who loved to serve others? Were you good at giving leadership? This was probably your ‘creational gift’!

Some Scriptural examples of these Gifts:

Prophecy: 1 Chronicles 12:32 (sons of Issachar), John 11:49-51 (Caiphaz)

- Sons of Issachar had understanding of the times and knew what Israel ought to do, this is a natural gift of prophecy/insight
- Caiphaz who was High Priest, not a believer in Jesus, knew that it was good for one man to die for the people, and he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation

Ministry/Service: Luke 10:40, John 12:2 (Martha)

- Martha had a natural gift of serving, she was ‘distracted with much serving’.
- Martha served in the setting of Jesus at the table in Lazarus’ house
- Peter’s mother-in-law also (**Matt.8:15**)

Teaching: Acts 9:20-22, Acts 11:26, Acts 22:3 (Paul & Gamaliel)

- Saul/Paul immediately after conversion he had to start sharing with others, and he preached and taught that Jesus was the Christ

- Paul taught many people for a long time – he was teaching others.
- Gamaliel was a teacher of the 'law'; Paul was taught by Gamaliel

Exhortation/Encouragement: Acts 4:36-37, Acts 9:27, Acts 11:26 (Barnabas)

- Barnabas was re-named by the apostles "son of encouragement" – he was obviously a great encourager
- Barnabas came alongside of Saul/Paul and took him under his wing, believed in him and helped others receive him
- Barnabas again helped encourage Paul to get into the work of the ministry

Giving: Acts 10:4, Acts 9:36, 39 (Cornelius & Dorcas)

- Cornelius gave alms regularly, charitable giving – God noticed!
- Dorcas (Tabitha) – full of good works and charitable deeds, tunics and garments being made by her for others.

Leadership: Acts 1:15, 2:14 (Peter)

- Among the apostles Peter stood out as a leader, "standing up in the midst of the disciples" – and he took the initiative to set things in order for the twelfth apostle
- Peter was the one who stood up and spoke on the day of Pentecost

Mercy: Luke 10:33 (a certain Samaritan), John 19:26-27

- The good Samaritan had compassion, not caring about race or ethnic enmity, but saw the need and cared for the person.
- Jesus saw the gift of mercy in John, and asked him to take care of His mother

- **Every person has at least one of these gifts that motivate behaviour**, often influencing the area of work or career that they embark upon.
Every family and every community of people and every fellowship of God's people need all of these gifts released and functioning.
- The good news is **when we are born again**, even if we do not have the gift needed, **we can draw on the grace and the anointing of the Holy Spirit to use a gift even if it is not natural to us**.
If we are not naturally a leader but the occasion arises where we have to lead, we can draw on the grace to do that. We can serve by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All these gifts are fruitful for the growth
and effectiveness of the body.**

GOD'S ORDER

1 Corinthians 12:28

"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."

God has appointed

- This is one of four gift lists in the New Testament.
- Often we have only taken note of the first three ministry gifts of apostles, prophets and teachers
- But there are actually eight gifts mentioned in this list, and it could be 'open-ended'
- It is God who has appointed these in the body – not man.
- The Catholic Bishop, Anglican priest or Pentecostal Bishop cannot find themselves in that list

First Apostles

- God has set in the church **first apostles** – we need apostles in the church
- Apostles lay the apostolic foundation
- Jesus called and trained apostles
- Paul knew he was "***called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God***" **1 Corinthians 1:1**
- There is a specific calling to be an apostle – it is an office/function in the body
- Apostles bring the revelation of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God (**Matthew 16:16-18**)

Testimony of Paul Galligan:

- Paul had a personal experience of being appointed as a teacher and there was a tangible anointing that followed the teaching anointing
- In September, 1997, Jesus began to speak to Paul about the ministry gift of an apostle, saying out of **Ephesians 4:11** that there was a vacancy for the ministry of apostle

Second Prophets

- Prophets are placed second – **Agabus** is one of the clearly named prophets in the New Testament (**Acts 11:27-28**) – sent from Jerusalem, the apostolic base in Jerusalem, to go and minister to the church in Antioch
- Prophets are to exhort and strengthen the brethren (**Acts 15:32**)

New Testament prophets are different to Old Testament prophets

- The Old Testament prophets were in some ways equivalent to the New Testament apostles in that they carried the authority to bring the word of God in their day – for example Elijah, who had the authority to speak to King Ahab
- the word of God was spoken previously by the prophets but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son (**Hebrews 1:1**)
- **2 Peter 3:2** – Peter summarises the ministry of Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles – ***be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour***”.
- The ‘commandments’ [the word of God] now come through the apostles of our Lord and Saviour, bringing the revelation of the mystery (**Ephesians 3:5**)

Third Teachers

- This is also one of the gifts listed in **Ephesians 4:11**
 - Teachers open up the word ‘line upon line’ (**Isaiah 28:10&13**)
 - The teachers are to disciple believers to help them grow
 - Before Paul was appointed as an apostle, he was a teacher in the church in Antioch (**Acts 13:1**)
- ➔ **Apostles** are in place to bring the **revelation** of the word
- ➔ **Prophets** bring the **understanding** of the word
- ➔ **Teachers** bring the **knowledge** of the word

The fourth placement is miracle workers

- After the apostles, prophets and teachers then comes **miracles**
- This is a powerful ministry, but without being in the proper order under apostles, prophets and teachers, they will easily go astray as many people will follow them because of the miracles
- This is not only **a gift of the Holy Spirit**, but it is also **a ministry placed in the church**
- It seems Stephen, who was appointed as a deacon in **Acts 6:5**, had this gift, as he ***“did great wonders and signs among the people”***v.8.

The fifth placement is healings

- again, it is not only **a gift of the Holy Spirit for every believer** to tap into, but some exercise **healings as a ministry**
- It is **an appointment by God in the church**
- Some have a gift of healing for a particular illness/disease – for example we once met a man in Kenya, who had the gift of healing for AIDS, and he had many proven cases of people being healed from that disease.

The **sixth placement is helps**

- a ministry of helps – to come alongside and help the ministers, helping the Body
- It is an appointment in the Body
- There needs to be a lot of helpers in any ministry that is raised up by the Lord
- We need to encourage people in this ministry
- Possibly **helps** is very related to **deacons** and **ministry/service** from **Romans 12:6-8**

The **seventh placement is administrations/governments**

- The word 'administration' means: *pilotage, steering*
- the pilot is the one who takes over the wheel of the ship to bring it into safe harbour
- this is possibly linked to the **gift of leadership** from **Romans 12:6-8**
- it is an appointment and ministry of God – we need those who can administrate, or give direction and who are able to 'steer'
- this ministry operates in the context of a meeting to help '**steer**' the meeting into the anointing, **piloting** the meeting into the Presence of Jesus – this is also a manifestation of the ministry of administrations

The **eighth placement is varieties of tongues**

- this is an appointment and ministry placed in the body by God
- it brings breakthrough in the Spirit
- the tongue very often brings a release in the Spirit to bring us into another realm in the Spirit, to exercise warfare, or to bring comfort
- it does not always need interpretation but most often does come with interpretation
- it is out of the ordinary – something is released in the meeting that attracts attention and people can know that 'God is speaking'.

These gifts and appointments have been placed in the Body by God

This is God's order for His body the church

These gifts and ministries have not been taken away

SEEING BEYOND THE VEIL

In the Beginning ...

- In the beginning, before sin had entered the world, Adam and Eve were in a different realm.
 - They were on the earth, but it was not like it is now – it was a heavenly realm
 - God's presence was there, there was no sickness, no sorrow
 - It was the heavenly realm – it was Paradise – heaven on earth.
 - There was no separation between the spiritual and the natural
- **There were two trees in the garden –**
- the tree of life and
 - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

We were made to live in the heavenly realm on earth

- When we are born again, we enter another realm – we are conveyed out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light (**Col.1:13**).

Eating from the wrong tree brought separation from God

- When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their eyes were opened to a dark reality, to fear, to shame, to guilt.
- They could no longer see God properly, **there was a veil now**.
- They became separate from God.
- Their eyes were opened into a spiritual realm – but it was demonic.
- The same demonic spiritual realm is in the world today.
- Fear, anxiety, depression entered in;
- The human race from that point on got into 'witchcraft' – ***'rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft'*** **1 Sam.15:23**

The Shedding of Blood

- God sacrificed an animal, shed its blood and covered Adam and Eve
- Blood had to be shed to cover their sin

There was still a way to come to God

- God ***"placed cherubim at the east of the garden"*** **Gen.3:24**
- Cherubim guard the presence of God (**Exodus.36:35**); there was still a sanctuary to come to – God's presence was still there
- In the pattern of the Tabernacle, the way in is from the east gate.

God made a way for us to live in the spiritual realm

- We are on a journey, we are to have no attachments to the wrong spiritual realm, we are to live fully in God's Spiritual realm.
- We are destined to live in the heavenly realm.

The Lamb Sacrifice

- The lamb was the acceptable offering – brought by Abel
- Cain brought the work of his own hands – the work of the flesh

Cain departed from the presence of the LORD

- After Cain had murdered his brother, Cain went out from the presence of the Lord (**Gen.4:16**).
- He built a city and called it 'Enoch' which means 'dedicated' – it was dedicated to evil.
- From there all the evil in the world stems – occult practices, wrong spiritual realm.

Repent and do the first works

- **Revelation 2:4-7 – the letter to the church in Ephesus.**
- They have fallen from somewhere. They are caught in the realm of 'works'
- There are only two realms:
 - the kingdom of God and
 - the kingdom of darkness.Things can look good, but it is not God! Who are we representing?
- ***"repent and do the first works"*** – don't stay in the wrong realm

Continue in the first works – Acts 2:42:

- come back to the word [apostles' doctrine]
- to fellowship,
- to the Lord's Table as a devotion from your heart,
- to prayer – dialogue with God.

Overcomers can eat again at the Tree of Life – Rev.2:7

- Let us hear what the Spirit says.
- The Holy Spirit is speaking out of the realm of God.
- The promise is ***"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God"***
- if you overcome, you can eat at the tree of Life, and be in the Paradise of God – even now on this earth!

The Realm of the Spirit is open

- **Revelation 4:1** – the door opened in heaven, and the voice said ***'Come up here'***.
- This is a spiritual realm – **verse 2**
- The Spirit of God will lift us into that realm
- This is the realm of Tabernacles, a place where you can see beyond the veil.

The Veil has been torn

- When Jesus died, the veil was torn from top to bottom (**Matthew 27:51**)
- Jesus came to rip the veil, so the mystery of Christ is now available to be seen.
- This is the realm of the glory that we are to live in now.

- **Isaiah saw beyond the veil [Isaiah 6:1-3].**
- The story of Job shows the role that suffering plays to bring us into the realm of the glory. But after his suffering the veil was lifted, and Job was able to say, "***now my eyes have seen you***" **Job 42:5**. He knew the goodness of God.

We need to see beyond the Veil

- **2 Corinthians 3:7** - the glory of Moses' face was too much for the people even though it was fading.
- **v.8** - the ministry of the Spirit is more glorious.
- **v.9-10** – we can have a veil that stops us from seeing who God is.
- **v.11** – there is a boldness to say 'let go' of the mindsets that have kept us veiled from the truth. The veil blinds people from the truth.

The Veil is taken away in Christ

- **2 Corinthians 3:14** – the veil is only taken away in Christ, because He came to tear the veil. The veil that was 'His flesh' was torn (**Heb.10:20**).
- We now have to see everything through Christ.
- **v.15** – the **veil is in the mind and in the heart**
- **v.16** – **when one turns to the Lord the veils is taken away** – seek God
- **v.17** – the Lord is the Spirit – we meet Jesus in the Spirit – where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.
- **v.18** – the veil has now been lifted for us and **we are being transformed** – from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord.
- It is from 'glory to glory' – there is a process, there is always more.

The veil is removed so that we can see Him as He is.

THE RAIN AND THE HARVEST

Understanding the Feast of Tabernacles

- This is to help us understand the Feast of Tabernacles by the Spirit.
- Why is the Feast of Tabernacles so important in these days?

In previous sessions we were introduced to Nehemiah

- There are many things that Christians approve of that God does not approve of.
- Nehemiah wept when he heard Jerusalem was in ruins.
- He repented and confessed the sin of what had caused this to come to pass.

The Outer Court is the place of Passover

- the place where the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies.
- This is the place where we die
- Jesus is the 'firstfruits'.

The Holy Place: Pentecost – is the place of the sheaf; the grain harvest.

Holy of Holies: Tabernacles - is the place of the full harvest.

- We are on a journey from the cross to the place of glory, it is a spiritual journey.

The Feast of Tabernacles – Leviticus 23

Three parts:

1. Starts with the '*Blowing of Trumpets*' – the seventh month, the first day of the month (**Lev.23:24**)
2. Then the '*Day of Atonement*' – the tenth day of the seventh month (**Lev.23:27**)
3. Then the '*Feast of Tabernacles*' – the fifteenth day of the seventh month (**v.34**)

A look at the Day of Atonement

- A day of afflicting your souls (**Lev.23:27**)
- Many times in the Bible God brought affliction on His people
- ➔ **Word meaning:** SC. Greek. #6031 *affliction* – being bowed down, expressed harsh and painful treatment, be humbled, connected to the requirement of fasting.
- God wants His people to 'afflict' their souls. Come in a state of repentance, acknowledge their sinfulness.
- **Lev.23:32** – "*afflict your souls*" – it was a serious day, a day of getting right with God

Judgement begins in the house of God

- **1 Peter 4:17** – "*it is time for judgement to begin at the house of God*".

1 Pet.4:19 – "Let those who suffer according to the will of God ..."

- there is a suffering according to the will of God! It may end in martyrdom.
- In the midst of suffering, continue to do good. Don't water down or temper down the message but continue to do good.

Tabernacles is the place of the fully mature harvest

- The first month of the agricultural year, is the seventh month of the Sacred year
- We are to enter the realm of the Holy of Holies, which is the place of maturity/perfection
- This is the place of latter rain, the place of the fully ripe harvest.

There are appointed seasons in YAHWEH

Jeremiah 5:22-24

- **v.24** – "**Let us now fear YAHWEH our God, who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season.**"
- it is Yahweh who gives the former and latter rain – in its season.
- **Firstfruits** is an '*appointed season*' of Yahweh
- **Pentecost** is an '*appointed season*' of Yahweh
- We move into the Holy Place after we are born again and filled with the Spirit. This is the realm of growing.
- This is the place of rain to make us grow. The blade appears and begins to grow [**Mark 4:28**].
- This is the realm of the former rain
- The beginning of the outpouring of the Spirit

The Place of the Latter Rain

Hosea 6:1-3 "He will come to us like the rain, the latter and the former rain".

- He is the rain! The Holy of Holies is the place of the latter rain being poured out.
- It began at Pentecost, but it increases!

God promises to send the rain

In **Deuteronomy 11:8-9** – the people of God were instructed to '**go in and possess the land**'

- **v.10** – in the land of Egypt it was hard work growing something
- **v.11** – the land of inheritance is watered with the rain from heaven. The land of inheritance for us is 'the kingdom of God'.
- This began after Jesus died and rose again. The kingdom of heaven was opened.
- **v.12** – eyes of Yahweh always on it. Speaks of the growing season, this is speaking spiritually.
- **v.14** – "**I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain**" – both the early and latter rain promised.
- God has given us the 'feasts' – the appointed seasons.
- we need to understand what God is doing today.

This is the time of Growth

- **2 Corinthians 4:16** – don't lose heart, the inward man is being renewed day by day. There is a growing from 'glory to glory' (**2 Cor.3:18**).
- **v.17** - *'for our light affliction'* – the church of that day was facing serious persecution.
- The affliction is working in us *"a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"*. Affliction actually helps us grow – helps to bring us to maturity.
- **v.18** - Don't look at the things that are seen, look to the things that are not seen.

What is perfection/maturity?

- **Ephesians 4:13** – is the definition of perfection.
- Coming to the *'measure of the stature of the fullness Christ'*

The Tabernacle is the place of God's glory

- **Ezekiel 43** – the glory started to return; it comes from the gate that faces East.
- **v.7** – The glory will fill the tabernacle; it is the place of His throne and the place of the soles of His feet.

The River of God is flowing

- **Ezekiel 47** – there is water flowing from the house of God
- now flowing out from the East.
- **v.8-9** – this river gives life wherever it goes.
- we are in this river now; the trees are for food and healing.
- but there is coming a time of harvest.

- The river is seen again in **Revelation 22:1-2**.

THE VISION

We need to catch hold of the Vision

- **The vision is the vision of the glory of Yahweh** covering the earth as the waters cover the sea (**Habakkuk 2:14**).
- **Nehemiah had a vision of rebuilding the city.** From this school we are being sent out to be part of the rebuilding of the city of God in the earth today. God has an awesome vision for us to be involved in.
- **God's vision began in the garden.** It was in the heavenly realm; learning to live in that realm and seeing that realm cover the earth. It was in the heavenly realm where God gave the commission to Adam and Eve – (**Gen.1:28**). Bringing up spiritual sons in the image and likeness of God - ones will be able to subdue the enemy and have dominion.
- **The vision is the kingdom of God filling the earth. Isa.9:7** – of the increase of His government, this is the having dominion over the earth. Bringing true freedom, liberty.
The vision is the increase of His government filling the earth and having no end.

Twelve aspects of the Vision from Ephesians

1. Ephesians 1:5 – the vision is 'sonship'

- We are predestined by God – He has a predetermined plan for our life
- It pleases God to make us sons.
- Placed to receive the inheritance of this heavenly realm in the earth
- Jesus showed us how to do this in maturity and demonstrated the growth to maturity. At the age of 30 He was placed as the Son.
- He walked as a Son in the earth – only doing what His Father showed Him to do.
- We are to be a company of sons walking with the Father together, to do the Father's will in the earth.

2. Ephesians 1:17-18 – the vision is to walk in revelation of the knowledge of Christ, in understanding and in power.

- The vision is to have a people walking in the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him
- Having the eyes of our understanding enlightened to know:
 - a)** the hope is His calling
 - b)** the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
- To be a company of people who are seeing eternal realities.

3. Ephesians 1:22-23 – the vision is the church being the body of Him [the fullness of Christ], filling all things with His presence.

- Understanding where Christ is seated (v.20-21)
- All things are under His feet; He is the Head of His body – the church (v.22)
- Filling every place with the fullness of Him.
- Filling every workplace; every family area
- Wherever you go you bring the fullness of Christ.

4. Ephesians 2:5-6 – the vision is to be a people who are raised up and seated with Jesus in heavenly places.

- Learning to rule and reign with Him
- Knowing our placement as sons seated with Christ in heavenly places.
- Hearing from Him and releasing that on the earth.
- This is how we subdue the enemy.

5. Ephesians 2:10 – the vision is to realise that we are His workmanship.

- We are God's poem – His work of art [Greek '*poiema*' SC#4161]
- He has good works for us to do
- Each one of us has particular good works that he has planned for us to do. Love the gift/good works that he has given you to do.
- God has prepared these good works beforehand.

6. Ephesians 2:14-16 – the vision is one new man!

- No longer any divide, all walls broken down
- All together as one, what a witness to the world that will be
- This is a place of maturity!
- A people who are able to lay down their own desires and opinions, being reconciled to God in one body
- The enmity was put to death on the cross.

7. Ephesians 2:18 – the vision is a people who access the Father by the blood and by the Spirit.

- A people brought near by the blood of Christ, knowing their access to the Holy of Holies
- A people in the Spirit, caught up to the Father and the throne.

8. Ephesians 2:19-20 – the vision is a house built according to the pattern

- We are all 'fellow citizens' and 'members of the household of God'.
- A house is being built!
- The foundation is apostles and prophets -who bring the revelation of Christ
- Jesus Himself being the Chief cornerstone.
- We need endurance and patience.
- If we stay faithful to the King, we will always end up in victory

9. Ephesians 2:21-22 – the vision is coming together as living stones, being built together.

- the dwelling place of God can be where two or three brethren come together in the Spirit (**Matt.18:20**), in the name of Jesus.
- A Spiritual house fitted together in the Lord (**1Peter 2:5**)
- It is to be a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (**v.22**)
- That place there the saints come together in the spirit – this is the camp of God, where the presence of God can dwell. We can be involved in what God is doing.

10. Ephesians 3:5-6 – the vision is receiving true apostles and prophets so that we can receive the revelation of the mystery.

- Revelation is received by holy apostles and prophets.
- More and more places are opening up to receive this vision
- Receive the apostles and prophets and the grace they bring.
- Gifts are flowing.

11. Ephesians 3:8-11 – the vision is to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ among the nations

- have a big vision – we are called to nations
- the manifold wisdom of God is to be made known by the church to the principalities and powers.
- the land has been given – we are to go in and possess it
- God will show the way to take us into the land, so that we can occupy the land we have been given. Go in and possess that land.
- Do it God's way, then we will have victory
- This is how the heavenly realm gets released on the earth.

12. Ephesians 3:18-19 – the vision is to be a people together who are comprehending the love of Christ.

- Love and get on with all the saints.
- Learning to love like God
- The four-dimensional love of God: width, length, depth and height
- It has to be experienced; it can't just be head knowledge: "***comprehend with all the saints***".
- So that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Let us come to know and walk in God's vision!