

# Only Speak The Word!

*Jesus said, "For I have given them  
the words which You have given  
Me; and they have received them,  
and have known surely that I came  
forth from You....."*

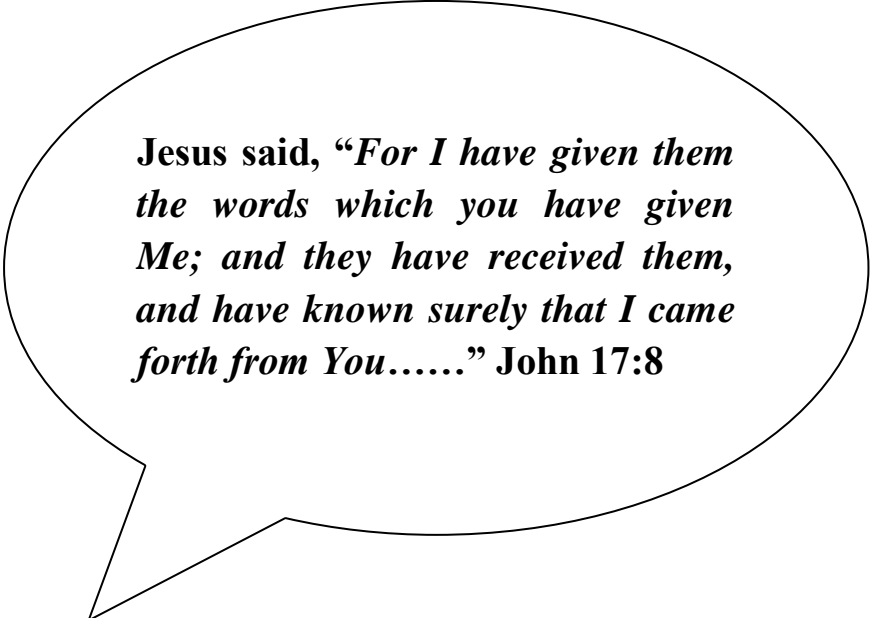
**John 17:8**

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [God breathed],  
and is profitable for doctrine [teaching], for reproof, for  
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may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"*

**2 Tim.3:16-17.**

**REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA**

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May 2012.

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# ONLY SPEAK THE WORD!

## What is the Bible?

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [God breathed], and is profitable for doctrine [teaching], for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”*  
**2 Tim.3:16-17.**

All Scripture refers to the Canon of Scripture that we have received, that is, 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. The Bible is the Canon of Scripture which we have received.

Only speak the word! Preach and teach that which is written. There is a famine for the pure word of God in the church worldwide.

## Who wrote the Bible?

Peter refers to the Scripture as the **prophetic word**. *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as to a light that shines in a dark [murky] place, until the day dawns and the morning star [Daystar] rises in your hearts; knowing this that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke (as they were) moved by the Holy Spirit”* **2Pet.1:19-21**. Holy men of God wrote as they were moved or borne along by the Holy Spirit. These holy men did not write their own interpretation of what the Spirit was saying but they wrote as the Spirit inspired them.

## False teachers

To this day the most serious problem in the church worldwide is the interpretation of the word of God that men teach and preach. Teachers come with doctrines based on Scriptures but not actually teaching the Scriptures. Peter warned us, *“there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction”* (**2Pet.2:1**).

These false teachers and preachers are generally characterised by their expectation and even their demand of monetary reward for their speaking. *“By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words”* (**2Pet.2:3a**).

In so many places that we have been in recent years and especially in South American nations, we have come in the wake of false apostles and teachers, preachers demanding money and misrepresenting the five-fold ministries. This has born bad fruit and confusion and many genuine leaders are reticent to receive the apostolic teaching because of past experiences.

We need to abide by **Isaiah’s** warning, *“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”* **8:20**.

## Do not go beyond what is written

In the first letter to the **Corinthians**, Paul is warning the believers against following a particular apostolic leader – *“Each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas’”* (**1Cor.1:12**). Paul shows the distinctive roles that each minister has: *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase”* (**1Cor.3:6**).

Every minister must be judged by the word that is written: *“Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other”* **1Cor.4:6**.

## THE WORD DOES THE WORK

We have already learnt from **2Timothy 3:16** that the Scriptures are profitable for teaching, rebuke, correction and instruction in righteousness. By teaching and preaching the word of God as it is written we witness the word working. The hearers are convicted; the hearers receive wisdom and revelation by the Spirit (**Eph.1:17**); the Spirit brings understanding to the hearts of the hearers (**Eph.1:18**).

- We are not to add to the Scripture, nor take away from it.
- We are not to take Scriptures to validate a non-Scriptural doctrine,
- We are not to take Scriptures and use them out of context,
- We are not to make Scriptures say something even opposite to what they say in the context.

In **Hebrews chapters 3-4**, the writer is speaking about recognising Jesus the Christ as both Apostle and High Priest (**3:1**) and of us being built into His house (**3:3-6**). He then equates this to entering the rest of God. We need to be obedient to Jesus as Apostle and High Priest and be properly built into His house, the church. The writer continues to talk strongly about entering the rest, about hearing His voice, about not hardening our hearts (**3:7-19**).

### When we believe the word of God, we enter the rest

Then the writer gives us the key to entering the rest of God:

***“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” Heb.4:12.*** In this verse the word is applied to the spirit of man, distinguishing the spirit from the soul; the word is applied to the soul of man, discerning the very thoughts and intents of the heart; and the word is applied to the physical body, even able to bring healing into the secret parts of the body.

The word of God is the only thing in the universe that can penetrate and distinguish between the soul and the spirit of man. Religious thought and philosophy across the spectrum of world religions, including traditional Christian religion, only knows man as a dualistic being, that is, consisting of ‘soul’, referring to the invisible part of man, and the body, being the visible man. Sometimes the division is referred to as mind and matter or the spiritual realm and the physical realm. But it is only through the word of God working in us as we hear and receive the word that comes from above, but is written in the Scripture, that we are moved and changed, even transformed!

In the context of **Hebrews 3-4**, entering the rest is coming to the throne of grace by faith in the word of God, and receiving that word gladly so that it can change us. Then we are able to receive mercy and grace in time of need (**4:16**).

### It is written

When Jesus faced the temptations in **Matthew 4** and **Luke 4**, He overcame the devil by knowing what was written in the Scriptures and to be able to bring those Scriptures to mind in the crisis of the moment. The devil tempted Jesus by misquoting the Scripture. Jesus overcame the devil by clearly quoting what is written.

This ability to speak the word in a time of challenge, in a time of crisis is the work of the Holy Spirit and it is the manifestation of the *rhema* word. The *rhema* word as distinct from the *logos* word is the word that is quickened to our understanding by the Holy Spirit. Jesus actually said, ***“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matt.4:4).***

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### What is revelation?

In answering Jesus' question in **Matthew 16:16**, Peter said, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* Jesus answered and said to him, *"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven"* (v.17). The revelation came to Peter from the Father in heaven, but the word that Peter applied to Jesus was written in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. Peter would have been taught these Scriptures and like many other Jews, was expecting Messiah to come. The revelation that Peter received was to know that Jesus was the one.

There is no revelation outside of what is written. If someone comes to you speaking a 'revelation' and it is not clearly seen in the Scriptures, then that revelation is not from God. Revelation is heavenly inspiration upon the word of God that is written.

### Continuing in the word

Jesus said, *"If you continue in My word [logos], you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"* (Jn.8:31-32). Jesus said, *"Your word is truth"* (Jn.17:17). Jesus equates the truth to the word of the Father which is the written word, the Scriptures. Therefore disciples are to continue in the word, being taught how to understand the word, how to study the word, and how to share the word with others.

### Pray according to the word

Jesus said, *"If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you"* (Jn.15:7). This is the *rhema* word in this verse, but the *rhema* is not different to the *logos* word; it is the *logos* word quickened.

Therefore as disciples of the *logos* word, our prayers that are expressing the word (*logos*) that has been quickened to us (*rhema*), will be answered. Such prayers are in the perfect will of God as they are the fruit of God's word being in us.

## JESUS IS THE WORD

*"In the beginning was the Word [Logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* Jn.1:1. The Word or the communication of God was with God in the beginning and was God. God and His word are inseparable; this is not a reference to two persons, but contains a deep revelation of who God is and therefore, of who Jesus is. Literally this verse says *"and God was the Word"*. In the original manuscript there is the clear statement that God is the Word! They are one and the same.

### God reveals Himself through His word

God is known no other way. Jesus is the Word; the Word is God; and the Word of God is written for us so that we can know God through His word.

There is no other source by which we can personally know the eternally living God who created all things. Our only authority for faith and practice is the word of God, which is written. When preachers and teachers teach concerning God in theological terms that are not clearly Scriptural, then we must question their teaching. The knowledge of God is not based on our intellect or our training [no matter how many higher degrees we may have], but the knowledge of God is based on what is written in His word.

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"* Jn.1:14. The Eternal God who created all things, became a man. He lived on this earth and He revealed His glory. Jesus said at the end of His life on the earth as a man, *"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was"* Jn.17:5.

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## Time to return to the word

We are to faithfully preach and teach that which is written, and that means that we faithfully teach and preach Jesus the Christ (**Acts 5:42**). Bible Colleges and Seminaries teach various doctrines, theologies, eschatology, church history and other things, but Jesus taught the word and He commissioned the apostles to teach the word. The first church was devoted to the apostles doctrine, and that was the teachings of Christ. It is time for us to all return to the Bible, that which is written.

As someone said: *In the beginning was the word, not an interpretation!*

## An Example of taking a verse out of context

An example of taking a verse out of context and making it say the exact opposite of what it says in the context. **Matthew 24:40** says, *“Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.”* In the context Jesus is referring to His coming in terms of the days of Noah, *“For as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be”* (v.37). He talks about the unbelievers in Noah’s day *“eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be ”* (v.38-39).

**Who was taken away by the flood?** Answer: those who did not believe and had refused to enter the ark. They were taken away by the flood. Jesus said that the coming of the Son of Man would be the same. Therefore who is taken? Who is left behind? In the context it is perfectly clear that the wicked are taken by judgement; that the righteous are preserved in the earth through salvation. And yet all over the church world, it has been taught that **Matthew 24:40** is referring to a rapture of the righteous. This is an example of taking a Scripture out of context and making it say the exact opposite to its meaning as it is written in the Scripture.

## GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

**Jesus made disciples**, many of them, and out of His disciples He chose twelve to be trained to be apostles. *“And when it was day, He called His disciples and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles” (Lu.6:13).*

**Peter and the apostles of Jesus made disciples**, many of them, and even a great number of priests became obedient to the faith. *“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).*

By the time the persecution came and Stephen was killed, many of the disciples were expelled from Jerusalem. *“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4).* *“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word ...” (Acts 11:19).* The disciples who had been raised up in the word by the apostles of Jesus, were able to go out everywhere preaching the word. Such is the fruit of discipleship. The disciples, once they have been taught, are able to go out and preach.

**Paul and Barnabas made disciples.** On their first missionary journey and as they returned through the cities where they had preached the gospel, *“and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples” (Acts 14:21-22).*

### Local churches made disciples

The local churches that Paul and Barnabas planted made disciples. Timothy is the proof of that. *“And he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold a certain disciple was there named Timothy ... He was well spoken of by the brethren” (Acts 16:1-2).* Paul also followed Jesus’ example in choosing certain disciples to be trained for specific ministry. *“Paul wanted to have him go on with him” (Acts 16:3a).* This was the beginning of Timothy’s training to be an apostle.

### Let us obey the Great Commission and make disciples

The Great Commission was given by Jesus: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt.28:19a).* The historic and contemporary church has largely been consumed with the task of building and defending ‘churches’ and has ignored the Great Commission. Even the tremendous evangelism of the second half of the twentieth century failed generally because they stopped short of making disciples, and multiplied greatly the number of denominations to divide the church even more.

The great need everywhere in every nation that I have been to, and that is 28 nations now, is for the church to become obedient to Jesus’ command to make disciples.

### Word study

**Disciple:** the Greek word *mathetes* means literally *a learner*; it denotes *one who follows one’s teaching*. Scripturally disciples are those who manifest that they are disciples of Jesus by abiding in His word. A disciple was not only a pupil, but an adherent; they are spoken of as imitators of their teacher.

[Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary]

## **Disciples abide in the word**

*“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’” Jn.8:31-32.*

## **Disciples abide in the Lord**

*“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” Jn.15:7-8.*

## **Some disciples turn back from following the Lord**

*“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard, said ‘this is a hard saying; who can understand it’” Jn.6:60. “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” Jn.6:66.*

# **DISCIPLESHIP IS FOR ALL BELIEVERS**

## **Preach the gospel**

Jesus told the apostles to make disciples, *“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matt.28:20a)*. Making disciples is much more than evangelism, that is, preaching the gospel. This is the first step in making disciples: to preach the gospel.

## **Baptise those who believe**

Even baptising those who believe does not make those believers into disciples. Many new believers are baptised and then left alone, never being taught the word of God. Baptism is the second step in making disciples and is a very important foundational doctrine that needs to be instilled into the new believers and outworked experientially through the actual experience of baptism into the body of Christ. Baptism is not an end in itself but a transitioning process whereby we are made fully new through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are baptised into His resurrection (**Rom.6:4-6; 1Pet.3:21-22**).

## **Teach those who are baptised**

We make disciples by preaching and baptising and then thoroughly teaching the newly baptised believers the word of God – all the teachings of Jesus Christ. This is not done by Sunday sermons and maybe a mid-week Bible study. Remember a disciple is an adherent; a disciple is one who adheres to the teachings of the one teaching. As disciplers we are to teach the word of God line upon line, starting with the foundations (**Heb.6:1-2**).

## **Teaching Christ**

We are to teach and preach Jesus the Christ, the Son of God (**1Cor.3:11**). The teaching of who Jesus is needs to be taught at a foundational level (**Acts 5:42; Acts 9:20-22**); it needs to be taught at a secondary level and it needs to be unfolded as a great revelational mystery (**Eph.3:8-11**).

## **Abiding with the teacher**

Disciples are to abide with their teacher and imitate their teacher; *“That they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach” (Mk.3:14)*. Finally the teacher is Christ Himself, but we need the ministries that He has set in the body to do the work of discipleship and bring the believers up to a mature understanding of Christ and relationship with Him.

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Paul called the church at Corinth, *“My beloved children”* and told them, *“Imitate me”* (1Cor.4:14&16). The relationship of a disciple with the teacher is to be of a family relationship, even as a father with his children; not a scholastic relationship as in school and university.

### Ready to be sent

When a disciple has been fully trained, they are able to be sent out in the work of the ministry (Lu.10:1). The Lord’s vision for His church is that every local fellowship is making disciples of the brethren who come to the church. Every local fellowship is meant to be linked to other fellowships through a mutual submission and adherence to an apostle or a number of apostles. *“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church”* 1Cor.4:17.

### The church is apostolic

Every local fellowship is meant to be apostolic:

- in that the local church is linked to an apostle through the elders;
- fulfilling the role of the local church in making disciples
- in that once the disciples are trained they are sent out in the work of the ministry

Paul’s teaching was the accepted doctrine in a number of churches. The church of a locality was not divided into different denominations, but rather received the same teaching of the word through the apostle they received. Even Peter admonished the believers to accept the teachings of Paul (2Pet.3:15-16).

### The church at Thessalonica had a reputation

The church of the Thessalonians was strong in the word; that means they were doing the work of discipleship, *“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit”* 1Thess.1:6. Because they had been well disciplined in the word, the apostle Paul was able to say to them, *“From you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place”* (v.8). What is the reputation of your church?

For too long, church as it functions draws people to itself and never prepares them to be sent out. The church always wants people to come to the church and to be absorbed in the life of the church, whereas the vision of God for His church is that the church disciples, trains and equips every baptised believer to be sent out as an able representative of the Lord Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.

**The world is waiting for trained disciples  
to make known the glory of the eternal God in the earth!**

# A BAND OF DISCIPLES

From the Call, to the Sending, to living in Christian community

## The Call

***“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matt.4:18-22.*** We each need to personally hear the call of God coming from Jesus. When we receive the call it will affect everything in our lives. For James and John it meant that they left their boat and they left their family [father], ***“and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him” (v.22).*** For Peter it meant leaving his fishing business (v.20); his livelihood by which he would have provided for his wife and extended family.

To receive and respond to the call to follow Jesus as a disciple involves leaving everything that may have given us security and comfort in the past. Many are called but few are actually willing to pay the price and to leave all to follow Jesus. Because of this many believers lead a frustrated and unfulfilled life.

Do you remember when you were called? What was your response to the call? Did you have any idea of where the call of God might lead you? Most of us do not, but we do recognise that God has called and we need to respond.

## Baptism

Baptism is the first step of obedience to the call of God. We are baptised into the body and become part of Christ (1Cor.12:13; Gal.3:27). We are no longer our own, but have been bought with a price (1Cor.6:20). From that time on we are to learn to discern the body (1Cor.11:29), and practice a Christian lifestyle of love and sacrificial service to others.

## Serving in the kingdom

The true church has the keys of the kingdom of heaven. The call of God is to come into His kingdom; it means a change of citizenship. Unfortunately for many who accept the call of God and are born again and baptised, they accept church membership as the alternative to living in the kingdom and experiencing the glory of the King.

## The Sending

***“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’” Matt.28:18-20.***

This is the sending: to go and make disciples. We need to be sent.

Jesus is sending us as trained disciples:

- We are sent in His authority
- Sent to make disciples
- To preach and baptise
- To teach
- He will be with us

In Acts 1:8 Jesus promised the power to be witnesses, ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”***

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God's goal is for the whole earth to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Eternal One, ***"as the waters cover the sea"*** (Hab.2:14).

The call was never to sit in a local church, waiting for Jesus to come. The call is to ***"go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*** (Mk.16:15).

### **Are you willing and available?**

There is a cost to discipleship. It involves a total reorientation of one's lifestyle. In **Matthew 8:19-20** ***"A certain scribe came [to Jesus] and said to Him, 'Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.'"*** The cost of discipleship may be a call to a tough lifestyle; an itinerant lifestyle in which you have to learn to be happy in a strange bed every other night [and some of those beds may be much more firm than one is used to].

Another of Jesus' disciples came to Him and said, ***"Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead'"*** (v.22). The cost of discipleship involves changing our priorities.

In **Matthew 22:1-10** Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast, where many who were invited to come, made excuses, being busy about their own affairs and even being resentful that they were invited. They mistreated and even killed those who came to them with the invitation!

Are you prepared to make yourself available to respond to the call even though it may involve ridicule and persecution? Are you willing to sacrifice your own desires and priorities to follow the call? This will involve turning away from the old ways; not getting way-laid by traditions or cultural issues and practices.

### **Are you willing to be changed?**

***"Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day'"*** John 6:53-54. This is speaking of a totally different lifestyle, from a totally different life-source.

In **verse 55** Jesus says, ***"For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed."*** The flesh of Jesus speaks of the Word and the blood speaks of life [the life is in the blood]. We are to partake of Him; of His word and of His life. This is how we will be changed.

**Verses 56-57** speak of abiding in Him, and He in us. Our life is in Him, ***"He who feeds on Me will live because of Me."*** We need to ask ourselves the question: Who am I feeding on? Do you have a real and living relationship with Jesus and His word?

Even for His own disciples this was a challenging saying, ***"This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"*** v.60. Anything that requires us to change from what we have known or what is familiar to us can be challenging.

When Jesus heard what His disciples were saying, He said, ***"Does this offend you?"*** v61. We can become so involved in what we are doing that we become offended by any call to change, but we need to come to the place where we realise that true life and release can only be found in Jesus. ***"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"*** (v.63).

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## Only Speak the Word

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Because the call to discipleship can be so challenging to every area of one's life, some choose not to follow the call, saying 'it is too hard'. ***“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” (v.66).***

Where will you go? ***“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v.68).*** The band of disciples stood firm. They were not shaken by others walking away. They were not offended by what Jesus said to them.

### Will you be trained?

Once you have responded to the call and accepted the challenge, there is a need to be trained. Many are willing to go, but they go untrained so they do not know how to conduct themselves. Paul in his letter to Timothy wrote, ***“I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” 1Tim.3:15.***

In **Matthew 10:1-10** we read of the sending out of the twelve disciples. They had been called and empowered by Jesus to cast out demons and to heal the sick (**v.1**).

Jesus gave them specific instructions about where they were to go (**v.6**), and what they were to do (**v.7-8**). Jesus also gave them strict instructions about how they were to conduct themselves as they went (**v.9-10**). These were hard instructions.

To be sent out as disciples we need to be clear about who is sending us; what we are called to do, and how we should conduct ourselves.

In **verses 11-14** Jesus told them to find a house of peace.

In **verses 16-18** He warned them that there would be opposition and even persecution.

They would have opportunities to testify (**v.19-20**).

Jesus told them not to fear what people would say or do, as eventually everything that is hidden will be revealed (**v.26**).

He also warned them that family problems may arise and division would come in families.

Then He challenged them and said, ***“He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life [soul] will lose it, and he who loses his life [soul] for My sake will find it” v.38-39.*** If you are prepared to lose your life for Jesus, you will find real life.

In **Luke 10:1-12** seventy more have been trained and are sent out. Jesus again gave them specific instructions on how to conduct themselves. In **verse 17** ***“the seventy returned with joy”*** and reported back to Jesus on what they had experienced.

### The fruit of discipleship: functioning in Christian community

***“Then those who gladly received his word were baptised, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” Acts 2:41.*** Those who heard, and received the word, were baptised – disciples were made! **Verse 42** gives us the characteristics of these disciples:

1. They continued steadfastly – they were devoted
2. To the apostles' doctrine – the word of God
3. To fellowship (**v.44-45**: being together; sharing practical needs; providing for one another)
4. To the breaking of bread
5. To prayer

The result of this was an increased presence of God in the midst (**v.43**).

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**Verses 46-47** They continued:

- Daily
- In one accord
- In the public meeting place [temple]; and from house to house
- Breaking bread together
- Sharing meals in humble fellowship
- Praising God
- Having favour with all the people
- The Lord added to them daily those who were being saved.

### **A band of disciples**

In our day God is raising a band of disciples; those who are willing to forsake all to follow Jesus and to serve wholeheartedly in the Great Commission. The fruit of true discipleship is functioning Christian communities, where the gospel is ‘fleshed out’; where new converts are able to join a body of disciples who are living the life and doing the work of the ministry.

We must guard against growing weary; we must not settle for some fruit and some additions made to us by God. We need to press on in the work of discipleship until we see multiplication, that is, where those whom we have discipled are making disciples, and Christian communities are beginning to function in every locality as a light and a visible demonstration of the kingdom of God.

### **Going to all nations!**

Jesus commissioned us in Matthew 28:18-20, to go to all nations to make disciples. This commission has never changed. It is time for ministers and believers everywhere to take stock of what we are actually doing. Jesus told us to go and make disciples of all nations, but most people are just ‘doing church’, with little or no thought as to how to make disciples and how to send trained disciples out to reach nations. We at SHILOH have proved that when we decide to be obedient, Jesus enables us to do the work. Last year there were 10 international mission trips, plus one of our sisters was based in Zambia for 11 months. Altogether we preached the word of God in 19 nations. 18 missionaries went out from SHILOH. You can do it too!!

## SONS TO GLORY!

***“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” Heb. 2:10.***

### **To have dominion in the world to come**

For what purpose is God bringing sons to glory? Verse 5 gives us the answer in the context of the passage: ***“For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.”*** Rather, God created man to have dominion, and in the restoration that God is bringing to pass through Jesus Christ, God is restoring man [male and female] to again have dominion in the age [world] to come.

In **verse 5**, the Lord is speaking of a new world. This is the ***“new heavens and new earth”*** that Peter refers to in **2Peter 3:13**, ***“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*** The new age is not given to angels but it is given to man. Peter says that we are to be ***“looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God” (v.12)*** in which a great change will take place and the new age will appear.

The writer to the **Hebrews** quotes from **Psalm 8:4-6**.

***“What is man that You are mindful of Him,  
Or the son of man that You take care of him?  
You have made him a little lower than the angels;  
You have crowned him with glory and honour,  
And set Him over the works of Your hands.  
You have put all things in subjection under His feet.”***

### **Man’s place in God’s creation**

These verses speak about the exalted place that God has given to man in His creation, and in His creational purposes. God is speaking about man’s role in governing God’s creation. This role is not for angels but for men. For God’s creational purpose, He created man, ***“a little lower than the angels”***, but He has ***“crowned man with glory and honour and set him over the works of Your hands.”*** The Psalmist said, ***“You put all things in subjection under his feet.”***

This was God’s intention when He first created man. God said, ***“Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” Gen.1:26.***

### **Man’s fall brought forth the sin nature**

Man fell into sin; man turned away from the one who created him; man ate of a different tree – he no longer ate from the tree of life. Man received something from the devil that changed him and he was no longer ***‘in the image and likeness of God’***. Instead man took on the attributes of his new master, even his new father.

Jesus told the Jews who opposed Him and sought to kill Him, ***“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he***

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*speaks a lie, he speaks from his own, for he is a liar and the father of it” Jn.8:44.* When man disobeyed God and obeyed the devil, little did he realise how much change that would bring in his and her personalities.

### Jesus came:

#### So we could become sons

Because of man’s fall, *“we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus” (Heb.2:8c-9a).* God’s promise is that He will restore all things (**Acts 3:21**), and He is doing this through Jesus the Christ. God came to earth in Jesus – *“God manifested in the flesh” (1Tim.3:16).* Jesus came to the earth to redeem the earth and all of its inhabitants back to God. To do this God is *“bringing many sons to glory” (Heb.2:10).* We are to become like *“the Captain of our salvation” (v.10).* Jesus was perfected through suffering. We can only come to the glory through suffering (**Rom.8:17**).

**God manifested as a son in the earth.** He was not only the son of God, but He became the Son of Man. Now through Him we are being sanctified, that is, made holy and set apart for God, being separated unto Him (**Heb.2:11; Eph.5:26**).

Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren *“I will declare Your name to My brethren: in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You” Heb.2:12.* Jesus is the first among many brethren (**Rom.8:29**). Jesus redeemed us *“who were under the law [the law of sin and death], that we might receive the adoption [placement] as sons” Gal.4:5.*

#### To reveal the Father

Jesus is also *“the Everlasting Father” (Isa.9:6).* He calls us His children: *“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me” (Heb.2:13).* God’s purpose can only be fulfilled through Jesus; who through His coming in the flesh and through suffering, was perfected, and through His sacrifice *“has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (Heb.10:14).*

Jesus is found in the midst of His church. The word *assembly* is the Greek word for *church*. **Jesus is leading many sons to glory**, that is, sons to God, and He is doing that in the midst of the church. The church is meant to be the children of God growing up, becoming servants and then coming to **that placement in maturity** which the Bible calls *adoption*.

Jesus is our Father; we are His children; we are His seed: the seed of Abraham. *“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” Gal.3:29.* The Scripture then tells us that while we are still children, even though we are heirs, we cannot inherit but must pass through a time of tutelage and training and then to receive fully *“the Spirit of His Son” (Gal.4:1-6).* We are destined to be sons, not to remain as servants only (v.7).

### JESUS IS SEATED FAR ABOVE

When Jesus was raised from the dead, God *“seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. He has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church” Eph. 1:20-22.* The church is *“His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Eph.1:23).* God has also raised the church and *“made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”*

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(Eph.2:6). God intends for the church to grow up into this realm of government, *far above all principality and power*.

There is a purpose in God saving us. We are to *“grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ”* (Eph.4:15). This is so *“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”* (Eph.2:7). God is preparing us for the world to come.

### The first sons

Adam and Eve were created as sons to God; created in maturity, not as babies. They were meant to reflect and manifest the very image and likeness of God (Gen.1:26-27 & Gen.5:1-2). They were meant to exercise dominion over the creation that God had made (Gen.1:26&28). Adam is called the son of God (Lu.3:38), and he was created as a son. As sons Adam and Eve were to rule and reign in God’s creation, filling it with the blessing of the glory of God manifest in Godly offspring growing up to maturity in the image and likeness of their Father, their Creator (Gen.1:28).

The rest of us - and even Jesus in the days of His flesh - have to grow to maturity: from babyhood, through childhood to adolescence and then full maturity, to walk as sons in the earth doing our Father’s will and making known His glory.

### Jesus grew to the age of maturity

At the age of twelve Jesus was taken to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. He spent more than three days with some of the teachers and when His mother found Him and complained to Him about His absence, He said, *“Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business”* (Lu.2:46-49). However at that time He was still only a lad and He went back with His parents, *“and was subject to them”* (v.51). Jesus had to grow to the age of maturity, even being trained and working as a carpenter (Mk.6:3), so that He could come to the age of inheritance. This was the age of thirty (Lu.3:23).

### Jesus manifested as the Son

Jesus came for baptism at the age of thirty and at His baptism He manifested as the Son of God, by receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit. From that time Jesus was known as the Son of God. The voice from heaven declared Him to be so (Lu.3:22). From that time Jesus acted like God, His Father, in word and deed.

### Believers receive the Spirit of sonship/adoption

Believers receive the spirit of sonship or spirit of adoption (Rom.8:15) from the time of the new birth and baptism into Christ (Gal.3:26-28). But like Jesus in the days of His flesh, the believer is to grow from being a child of God (Rom.8:16). As a child the believer is an heir; but the heir must grow up to be able to inherit.

### Trained to serve

A necessary part of growing to maturity is to be trained and equipped to be a servant: to be able to serve in the Father’s house. But the goal is not to be a servant. The goal is to come to the age of maturity, receiving the full measure of the adoption which is spoken of as *“the Spirit of His Son”* (Gal.4:6). We know as children that God is our Father. But as we grow to maturity the Spirit of adoption works in our hearts bringing us into the fullness of

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relationship with God as a Father to a son. This relationship is much more intimate than that of a servant/master relationship.

### **Walking as sons**

Many ministers and believers are caught in a servant mentality and do not know the joy and fulfilment of **walking with God as a son to a father**. This is a son who is mature. Sonship is outworked much more effectively in that the Father is now intimately involved in our lives, directing our footsteps and revealing Himself to us as the Everlasting Father.

As sons we begin to walk by revelation (**Eph.1:17**), led by the Spirit of God (**Rom.8:14**). As Jesus said, we only need to do what we see our Father doing (**Jn.5:19**).

### **There is a future!**

There is a new world coming! *“Things will not always continue as they were from the beginning of creation” 2Pet.3:4.*

There is a *“new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2Pet.3:13)*. Therefore we need to consider *“what manner of persons we ought to be in holy conduct and godliness” (2Pet.3:11)*.

*“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless” 2Pet.3:14.*

It is the sons who are planted in the present world by Jesus to demonstrate and show forth His righteousness (**Matt.13:37-38**). In the fullness of the age they will *“shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt.13:43)*. Then the new age will have fully come!

# THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS

***“Receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your soul” 1Pet.1:9***

Peter says that the end [goal or destination] of our faith is the salvation of our souls. It is timely to remind you that God loves you and that you are a soul whom God created in His image and likeness. When God created Adam, ***“The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [soul]” Gen.2:7.***

*Word Wealth: **Soul** Heb. **Nephesh** - a breathing creature; the basic meaning refers to the essence of life, the act of breathing.*

***Translated as:-** soul (475x), life (117x), person (29x), mind (15x), heart (15x), creature (9x), body (8x), himself (8x), yourselves (6x), and others.*

***Refers to:** a living being, self, personality, inner desires and feelings.*

*The best Biblical definition is found in Ps. 103:1 where nephesh is defined as **‘All that is within’ a person: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name”.***

*The Hebrew system of thought does not divide man up into spirit, soul and body, but simply understands that man is a living being, a soul.*

## **Jesus died for our souls**

Jesus went to the cross because He loved us as living beings [souls] He had created in His own image and likeness. Unfortunately in our growth and in the teaching that we receive, many of us have become somewhat confused about the soul. The teaching on ‘death to soul’, ‘death to self’ etc., has given many the impression that the soul is evil and is to be killed! Put to death! And that somehow we are becoming spirit beings.

The issue is not to kill off the soul but to be delivered from ***“the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2Pet.1:4b).*** The way of deliverance is for ***“grace and peace (to) be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2Pet.1:2).*** God wants us as human beings to grow in the knowledge of Him because ***“His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue” (v.3).***

The apostles in the Scripture predominantly preached Jesus Christ. They brought to the people of that age the knowledge of God through the gospel. It is time to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God again, to not only get people saved [initial salvation through the new birth], but to bring all the believers to maturity in Christ. This is to bring us all to the full salvation of our souls.

It is not a battle to die to self so much as a challenge and a delight to grow in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. As we focus more and more on Jesus, who is the One we are going to marry, then the things of the flesh nature will ‘grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace’.

## **Coming to the Day of Atonement**

In the season that we are in, that is, coming through the Day of Atonement, God is making His people aware that He loves us as human beings [souls] that He has created and in

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fact He loves us so much that He is bringing us to the place and time of being married to Jesus. Jesus Himself, ***“is sanctifying and cleansing her [the church] with the washing of water by the word”*** (Eph.5:26). The church is the many-membered body, made up of souls that have been saved; that are being saved and will be fully saved. The way of growing in salvation is by being sanctified and cleansed, and that happens by positioning ourselves to be washed by the water of the word.

The Day of Atonement was the necessary coming together of God’s people for the affliction of their souls and to ***“offer an offering made by fire to the LORD”*** (Lev.23:27). It was on that day that atonement was made by the high priest on behalf of all of Israel. This was the day the priest went into the Holy of Holies and placed blood upon the Mercy Seat. [Read Leviticus 16 for more understanding of the Day of Atonement].

If the people did not come to the Day of Atonement they could not enter into the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles was really the greatest feast. It could only be celebrated in the land of inheritance and it speaks of the fulfillment of all things in Christ; it speaks of the Godhead fully indwelling His people.

There is much to share concerning this end-time feast, but not now. It is the Day of Atonement that God wants to bring to our attention, because it is through understanding the season that we are in that we will understand more fully and be able to receive ***“the end of our faith – the salvation of our soul”***.

### Repentance is the key

God declares, ***“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die”*** Eke.18:4. Ezekiel then goes on to speak of moral behavior. God expects human beings to behave morally, according to His law. The son ***“who sees all the sins which his father has done, and considers but does not do likewise (v.14), he shall not die for the iniquity of his father; he shall live”*** (v.17b). God desires for all souls [human beings] to come to repentance and to live! ***“For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies, says the Lord YAHWEH. Therefore turn and live”*** (Eze.18:32).

The basic foundational principle of the oracles of God is repentance from dead works (Heb.5:12 & 6:1). The principle is not ‘death to self’ but changing your mind about yourself and your behavior, in the light of God’s word. This then leads to faith: faith in God, which is the second foundational principle of receiving and understanding the oracles [the pure spoken word] of God.

### An inheritance – 1Peter 1:3-9

**v.3** God ***“has begotten us again”*** – the born again experience

***“to a living hope”*** – the hope of being eternally saved. We are the ***“heirs of promise”*** and we are ***“to lay hold of the hope that is set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the presence behind the veil”*** (Heb.6:17-19). The one who has entered for us is Jesus, the ***“High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”*** (v.20). Jesus fulfilled the Day of Atonement for us and has made the way for us to come into that fulfillment. It is to do with our souls!

***“through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”*** – the operative factor is the resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah, from the dead. Because He rose, we rise and that was confirmed at our baptism (Rom.6:3-11). It is His divine power that keeps us.

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**v.4 “to an inheritance”** – there is an inheritance; and who receives the inheritance? Sons receive the inheritance and this is the season we are in: growing up into maturity to receive the inheritance. There is an age of inheritance, **“appointed by the Father” (Gal.4:2)**. It is not for children, until the children grow to the age of maturity.

**“incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away” – 1Corinthians 15** speaks of a day, even a *moment* in which **“the body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption” (v.42)**. There is a future! An awesome glorious future for the souls that are saved. There is an end to our faith – the salvation of our souls.

**“reserved in heaven for you”** – the inheritance comes from heaven; it is reserved in heaven until the time of inheritance, which is the last time.

**v.5 “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation”** – we the believers are kept by the power of God. Many of us can acknowledge that even before we knew personal salvation, the power of God kept us until the day we were saved. Since that day we now believe and through faith receive God’s power, being kept by it. The goal is our full salvation.

**“ready to be revealed in the last time”** – this is the *kairos* time: an opportune time, the due time, appointed time, set time, a seasonable time. It is the season of the Day of Atonement, bringing us into the final great feast, the Feast of Tabernacles. The inheritance is to be revealed in this time.

**v.6 “In this you greatly rejoice”** – as we come to understand the hope of the inheritance that is to be revealed in us, we rejoice.

**“though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials”** – it seems we all *need* to go through the trials. James says, **“Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience [endurance or perseverance]” (Jam.1:2-3)**.

Patience is the desired fruit or result of trials. Read **Romans 5:3-5**, and **“Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (Jam.1:4)**. We are not going to receive the inheritance just because we got saved. We need to grow up and growing up means that we pass through trials and tribulations so that we can be qualified to enter the glory.

Jesus spoke of patience as being the operative way to **“possess our souls” (Lu.21:19)**. This reference to patience by Jesus is in the context of Him prophesying trials and tribulations. Patience is a very important fruit that God expects to see in our life. We must strive to discover and develop this all important fruit in our lives.

**v.7 “that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire”** – this is the refiner’s fire. Do not try to avoid the fire. In fact, this is the season to ask Jesus for the baptism of fire (**Lu.3:16**).

In terms of the three feasts, we can say that there are three baptisms:

- baptism in **water** brings us into the fulfillment of Passover;
- baptism in the **Holy Spirit** is the outworking of the feast of Pentecost
- baptism in **fire** is the baptism we need now to come through this season of the Day of Atonement and enter into the final feast. The baptism is as a doorway!

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Paul speaks of the refiner's fire in **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**. He says everyone's work will be tested by fire, *"for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is"* (v.13). The *Day* could well be referring to the Day of Atonement.

*"may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* – our faith is to be refined and become fully mature: genuine, real, effective!

The *revelation of Jesus Christ* 'depicts the progressive and immediate unveiling of the otherwise unknown and unknowable God to His church' [Vines as quoted in Strongs Concordance, Red Letter Edition, page 36 Gr. Dict.]. The revelation of Jesus Christ does not just refer to His coming but refers to the unfolding **disclosure** of who He is as His saints grow in the mature knowledge of who He is.

**v.8** *"whom having not seen you love"* – Jesus said to Thomas, *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"* (Jn.20:29). Even though we can never see Jesus in the flesh, we can see Him after the Spirit, *"But we see Jesus!"* (Heb.2:9). As our hearts are purified, we will see Jesus (Matt.5:8).

*"yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory"* – for some years now we have been preaching **Jesus Christ**; we have been coming to *"the knowledge of the Son of God"* (Eph.4:13). This has caused much rejoicing in our midst and we have witnessed *"the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, giving [to the brethren] the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him [Jesus Christ]"* (Eph.1:17).

**v.9** *"receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls"* – salvation is the Greek word *soteria*; it literally means *rescue, safety*; it refers to the deliverance, preservation, and salvation of the human person [soul].

### God's salvation

- is spiritual and **eternal** deliverance through faith in the Lord Jesus;
- this faith comes through **believing** the gospel;
- through faith we are **delivered from the bondage of sin**
- through faith we are able to **walk in peace and harmony** with God, ourselves and all people.
- Salvation is a **past, present and ongoing** experience (2Cor.1:10) which has an end, a goal, that is the salvation of our souls.
- We are to become *"wise for salvation which is in Christ Jesus, having known the holy Scriptures"* (2Tim.3:15).
- We are warned not to *"neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken of by the Lord [Jesus], and was confirmed to us by those [the apostles of the Lamb] who heard Him"* (Heb.2:3).
- was received by 3000 souls who received *"the word gladly"* (Acts 2:41). Salvation comes by receiving the word!
- We are to work out *"our own salvation with fear and trembling"* (Phil.2:12); but it is God *"who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure"* (v.13).

*"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who called you is faithful, who also will do it"* 1Thess.5:23-24.

# THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

## Meet with the LORD

There is a belief among us that the Feasts that the LORD gave to Israel are in fact a prophetic calendar showing the outworking of God's purposes in history. Under the Law the people of God were required to meet with the LORD at the appointed times of the Feasts. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has fulfilled the Passover Feast and all of its parts. Through the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus has fulfilled the Feast of Weeks [known as Pentecost in the New Testament].

## Passover & Pentecost

The Passover Feast is fulfilled in the life of the believer through saving faith in Jesus and being baptised into Him – His resurrection. The Feast of Pentecost is fulfilled in the life of the believer by receiving the Holy Spirit, especially in the dimension of His power.

We understand that the Feast of Passover was the remembrance of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and the story of the Passover lamb is told in **Exodus 12**. When the people of Israel were coming out of Egypt, it was necessary for them to pass through the Red Sea and this was a type of baptism (**1Cor.10:2**). Moses then led the people of God to the wilderness of Sinai (**Ex.19:1**), to meet with God at the mountain of God. This was for the giving of the law; this was the first Pentecost: the law written on tablets of stone.

## The Feast of Tabernacles

The third and perhaps greatest Feast was fulfilled in Christ, but is yet to be fulfilled in the life of the church. This feast is known as the feast of Tabernacles. It is the Feast of fulfilment! It is the Feast that heralds the dwelling of God with His people – even in them!

The Feast of Tabernacles has three parts: the Blowing of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days of dwelling in temporary booths. This was followed by an eighth day, called *“that Great Day”* by John in **John 7:37**. This was the day when *“Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let Him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” Jn.7:37-39.*

[Read **Leviticus 23:33-44** for detail of Feast of Tabernacles]

## Tabernacles has to do with Inheritance

The Feast of Tabernacles was not to be celebrated until the people came into the land of inheritance. This is very significant as it speaks of the church coming to the age of maturity in the last days of this age, and beginning to live in the inheritance that God has reserved for His people (**1Pet.1:4-5**). So we understand that the Feast of Tabernacles is fulfilled at the end of the age by the church coming to maturity and walking in the inheritance.

## DAY OF ATONEMENT

To enter the Feast of Tabernacles and dwell therein [a tabernacle is a dwelling place], we must first hear the Trumpets being blown [the proclamation of the prophetic word], calling us to the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement is the necessary entry place into the Feast of Tabernacles – into that time and place of dwelling with God and God dwelling with His people in a fully manifest way. If we do not come to the Day of Atonement in

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obedience to the Trumpets – the prophetic word – we will not be numbered among God's people to enter into the fulfilment of the final Feast.

In **Leviticus 23** the Feasts of Israel are set out in chronological order and some very important information is given concerning each feast. The Day of Atonement is spoken of in **verses 26-32**.

**Verses 27-28** tell us that this Day was:

- **“a holy convocation”**, that is, a day of gathering together unto the LORD, coming away from normal activity;
- a day when **“you shall afflict your souls”**. The word, *afflict*, means *to depress*. It is mostly translated *afflict* [x50] but also by the word *humble* [x11], *force* [x5] and *exercised* [x2]. To afflict one's soul is to humble down, to be meek, to acknowledge that we are poor and that we need to exercise discipline over our own soul.
- **“an offering made by fire to the LORD”**: this refers to the daily sacrifice of the lamb and is therefore a reference to the Lamb of God who took away our sins by the sacrifice of Himself. It was Jesus who fulfilled the Day of Atonement by offering His own life and taking His blood and placing it upon the Mercy Seat in heaven above. Jesus' sacrifice is central in understanding this Day and this Feast.
- a day when **“you shall do no work on that Day”**: a sabbath day; a day of rest; a day in which we cease from customary work, even religious works. We are to come aside from normal work, even religious endeavours, and present our souls to God without the covering of our own works.
- **“to make atonement for you before the LORD your God”**: it is God who has made the atonement for us through His blood. Under the law, if the high priest did everything according to the prescription that God had given, then God ‘covered’ the sins of the people for that year. Let us emphasis again, God makes the atonement; our responsibility is to present our souls to Him, covering nothing up.

### Affliction of the soul

In **verse 29** and in **verse 32**, the affliction of the soul is mentioned twice more and in **Leviticus 16:29 & 31**, the affliction of the soul is again listed as a key component of the people's participation in the Day of Atonement. The affliction of the soul could include fasting.

We are to humble ourselves and present ourselves [our souls] to the LORD, with no covering of past achievements and with no defilements of past failures. We are to fully trust the LORD that He has died to save our souls and now He wants to fully release us from any power or practice of sin.

### Do no customary work

In **verses 30, 31 & 32**, God again reemphasises that **“no person is to do any work”**, **“do no manner of work”**, it is **“a sabbath of solemn rest”**. Afflicting our souls and ceasing from normal work go together. Through normal work we often find our identity as a person, and we hide from deeper issues in our soul, by carrying out our normal work and giving all of our conscious attention to that. The Day of Atonement requires that we cease from normal work, that we change our focus, to be fully on the LORD [see Col.3:1-4]. In this position we can present our souls, facing up to whatever we need to face up to and coming before God in a disciplined way, allowing Him to totally cleanse and save our souls.

### Put on the holy linen tunic

**Leviticus 16** enlightens us further as to the practice of the Day of Atonement and therein we gain further insight as to how the Day of Atonement is fulfilled in Christ and now to be fulfilled in the life and experience of the church – those members of His body who are ready and willing to go on into the Feast of Tabernacles, who are ready and willing to be fully committed, fully submitting their souls into the hands of the One who made us for His purposes.

In **verse 2**, God makes it clear that there is a special day in which the high priest of Israel could enter the Holy of Holies. The priest was to come with the blood as a sin offering and as a burnt offering (**v.3**). Before he could enter behind the veil, the high priest took off his high priestly garments, those garments of *“glory and for beauty”* (**Ex.28:2-30**), and was clothed in a simple *“holy linen tunic ... girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban”* (**Lev.16:4**).

**The linen garment speaks of righteousness.** The taking off of the elaborate clothing with all of its inspired decorations which represent gifts and ministries and the putting on of the simple linen garment speaks to us of laying aside our giftedness in the spirit and even fruits of the spirit that we have been able to develop in our lives and to trust fully in the blood of Christ: He alone is our righteousness! This was the only way the priest could enter beyond the veil. This speaks of us putting on, being fully clothed in, Christ.

### The two goats

Then **Leviticus 16** teaches us about the two goats: **the sacrificial goat** and **the scapegoat** (**v.7**). The goat for sacrifice and the scapegoat were chosen by lot (**v.8**). The sacrificial goat was for a sin offering (**v.9**). Its blood was taken and offered and that blood was brought within the veil and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat (**v.15**). The offering of the blood within the Holy of Holies was to *“make atonement for himself, for his household and for all the assembly of Israel”* (**v.17**).

The scapegoat was brought to the high priest after he had *“made an end of atoning for the Holiest place”* (**Lev.16:20**). *“Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness, by the hand of a suitable man”* **Lev.16:21**. *“The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness”* **v.22**.

It required both the goats to complete the atonement. Jesus fully made atonement for our sins but to do this, it required Jesus to take His blood into the Holy of Holies (**Heb.9:11-12**). Before that, it was necessary for Jesus to go outside the camp to die for our sins; *“that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, to suffer outside the gate ... outside the camp”* (**Heb.13:12-13**). Jesus had to go to the cross bearing our sins and transgressions in His own body on the tree (**1Pet.2:24**), outside the camp; but then Jesus, when He rose from the dead had to take His own blood into the heavenly places, thus cleansing the heavenly Tabernacle (**Heb.9:23-26**).

Notice that the scapegoat was taken into the wilderness and released by *“a suitable man”*.

### The smoke of the incense

When the priest went in to the Holy of Holies, he was to take *“a censer full of burning coals ... with his hands full of sweet incense ... and bring it inside the veil”* (**v.12**).

***“And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the Mercy Seat that is on the Testimony” (v.13).*** The smoke of the incense fully covered the Mercy Seat, but it also fully covered the priest, so that his flesh was fully covered, so that he could enter into the Presence of the Almighty in the Holy of Holies.

It is important for us to understand that the affliction of our soul is to be complete in that we do not try to offer anything of ourselves to atone for ourselves, but that we trust fully in the blood of Christ, and that He has gone before us into the Holy of Holies as our great High Priest (**Heb.4:14**). In the New Covenant, the smoke of the incense can be understood to represent prayer (**Rev.5:8**). Our entering in to the Day of Atonement will be enabled by deep fervent prayer, through which we fully present our souls to the Lord for His sanctification and cleansing (**Eph.5:26**).

### **Christ has fulfilled the Day of Atonement**

***“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect Tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation ... with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” Heb.9:11-12.***

***“The blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God will cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” Heb.9:14.***

By fully redeeming us through His own blood and thus fulfilling the Day of Atonement, Jesus Christ is now able to give to us ***“the promise of the eternal inheritance” (Heb.9:15).*** ***“Christ has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (v.24).***

***“He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (v.26b).*** If Christ has put away all sin, then He has fulfilled the Day of Atonement, and now it is incumbent upon us to put off all sin and put on the Lord Christ.

### **Coming to the Day of Atonement**

Coming to the Day of Atonement was essential under the law, qualifying the people of God to then enter into the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles itself. For us to experience the fullness of Christ, the living God, dwelling within us, we need to come to the Day of Atonement spiritually.

We are to be set apart as His people and fully knitted and joined together in His body. We are not to be denominational in our thinking; nor are we to be cultural or ethnic in our value system; but fully partakers of, and members of, the one new man.

We are to afflict our souls, that is, to take full responsibility for our own personhood and seeking to hide nothing in our soul from God.

We are to cease from doing customary work, that is, we need to humble down and acknowledge that God in Christ has done everything for us. It is not our works or our giftedness, but it is His righteousness imputed to us.

Finally, it is understanding and acknowledging that the Day of Atonement is fulfilled by God declaring that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is complete: ***“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” Heb.10:14.***

## APOSTOLIC COMPANY

For a number of years now we have been led of the Lord to call ourselves and those who relate with us, an **Apostolic Company**. There is no human organisational structure to this, nor is it a new denomination. It simply describes those who walk together in committed relationships having all received from Jesus Christ *“grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name”* (Rom.1:5).

### Jesus had a company of disciples

When Jesus had risen from the dead He found two disciples, not of the twelve, walking on the road to Emmaus. When he asked them to explain what had been happening they said, *“Yes, and certain women of our company...”* astonished them when they had given the report that Jesus’ body was not in the tomb (Lu.24:22). The brethren who related with and followed Jesus saw themselves as a company - they were the ones who kept company with Jesus.

### Being in Company with Jesus the Apostle

Apostolic Company begins when we receive a revelation of Jesus *“the Apostle...of our confession”* (Heb.3:1). By receiving Jesus as the Apostle, we begin to see the reality of the Father in Jesus and that as His children, He wants to train us and form us to be His own special people in the earth, growing us up to be a company of sons. The company of disciples was not a group of people that only related with each other by being a part of the same synagogue meeting every Sabbath. Jesus became their Father and taught them daily how to live in His ways. Jesus the Apostle and His brethren are the apostolic company.

### We are for signs and wonders

We are meant to be such a company of **brethren** as is said in **Hebrews 2:11, 13b**, *“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call us brethren...Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”* The brethren of Jesus are one with Him and are His children. They are continually being *sanctified* and set apart to His will.

Verse 13b is a quote from **Isaiah** where he prophesies, *“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples...Here am I and the children whom Yehovah [the LORD] has given Me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel”* (Is.8:16, 18). The “law” means the “instruction” or the “teaching”. The disciples who have Jesus as their Father are the ones in whom the teaching and instruction is *sealed*. Disciples are made by *“teaching them to observe all that I [Jesus] commanded you”* (Mt.28:20). The real signs and wonders that we should be looking for are companies of brethren arising in the earth, in every nation, who are committed disciples and brethren of Jesus, the apostolic Father, and who have the teaching, *“the apostles’ doctrine”* (Acts2:42), sealed in their hearts and outworked in their lives.

### The Army of the LORD

God delivered us from the world to be an army that could inherit the promises of God in Christ (2Cor.1:20)! When God delivered the children of Israel from Egypt it says in **Exodus 6:26**, *“These are the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, ‘Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies.’”* Again in **chapter 7:4** it says, *“But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt”*

*and bring My armies My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgements.”*

God's army is His people. However, the generation of the children of Israel who came out of Egypt did not see themselves as such and did not inherit the land that God had chosen to give them. They were undisciplined and not willing to heed their Father's voice and be trained. Much of the church today is even unaware that God has an inheritance for them in the earth and are therefore also undisciplined in applying themselves to be trained in the ways of God. The word “discipleship” shares the same root as the word “discipline”. The Word of God is to discipline us.

### **David's Army – an example of apostolic company**

#### **David arising**

As David rose up as a mighty warrior in Israel under the leadership of Saul, it became obvious to all that God was with David and that he was the anointed (the Messiah) of God. Saul's kingdom was to be ripped away from him because his heart was not to wholly follow the LORD. Saul was more worried about the circumstances around him than the Word of God, *“When I saw the people scattered from me...and that the Philistines gathered together...Therefore I felt compelled, offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, ‘You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God...now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart...”* (1Sam.13:11-14).

Saul's kingdom typifies today the Church that still wants to do things their way and are not willing to fully submit to Jesus. They are God's people but they are more afraid of the people *scattering* than in trusting God's Word. God is looking for a company of disciples who will have His heart for the nations, to be *obedient to the faith*.

When the people began to sing of David, *“Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul”* (1Sam18:12). David however continued to *“behave more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed”* (1Sam.18:30).

#### **A company gathers around the Anointed One**

David had to eventually escape persecution from the church of his day, *“David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him”* (1Sam22:1-2).

This is the forming of apostolic company. David here typifies Jesus the Apostle and the apostles that Jesus is raising in these days. God is raising apostles again to lead the Church back to complete obedience to the Word Himself. Notice the ones who came out of Saul's kingdom:

##### **i. everyone who was in distress**

Many in the church today are distressed. Distress happens when there is not a good shepherd to lead. Jesus said of the people of His day, *“when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary [harassed] and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd”* (Matt.9:36). Jesus' answer was to raise up more workers

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for the harvest. This means to train and send apostles and disciples in to the harvest. God is raising apostolic companies to be places where those in distress can find reality in Christ and be a people who are sent into God's harvest.

### ii. everyone who was in debt

Religious church systems keep brethren in debt – they are not released to go out and live for the kingdom. We are not to be indebted to the “church” as an institution. The Church is meant to be a place of freedom. Only slaves are indebted but ***“if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (Jn8:36)***. In apostolic company there are no debts ***“except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Rom.13:8)***. In apostolic company we are called to build each other up for the purpose of all finding their gifts and full expression as a contributing member of the Body of Christ. ***“We are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ” (Gal.3:26)***. There is no hierarchy but orderly submission into the Body that releases all the Body to grow ***“with the increase that is from God” (Col.2:19b)***.

### iii. everyone who was discontented

Many today are finding apostolic companies because they are looking for more in their walk with God. Saul's kingdom was only going so far yet God was wanting to take His people further. He needed someone like David who would be after His heart and willing to change, be corrected and inquire of the Lord for direction.

To walk in apostolic company is a commitment to keep growing and be willing to change and press on. It is a people who are not content to stay in the status quo but will be after all God's purposes. David was a man who ***“served his own generation by the will of God” (Acts13:36a)***. The people who came to him wanted more.

The apostle Paul wanted to ***“press on, that I may hold of that for which Christ Jesus laid hold of me...” (Phil.3:12b)***. He then said, ***“Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind...” (Phil.3:15a)***. The mature mind is to not be contented with remaining the same. The mature mind is the one who is willing to press on in company with brethren who are also of this mind.

This is the sort of people that formed the army led by David under the guidance of the LORD. These men learned to live in community, learned to wait for the Word of the LORD and allowed themselves to be trained and taught by their apostolic father, David. It was to these men that God finally gave the kingdom.

## The Apostolic Company in the book of Acts

### One heart, one mind

***“All who believed were together, and had all things in common...continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house...the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts2:44,46a,47b)***. These disciples were ***“continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine” (Acts2:42a)*** and therefore the life of Messiah Jesus was filling all of them and teaching them how to love one another.

This was a sign and a wonder to all Israel and the Lord was able to add to them daily as they welcomed the new believers into the midst of daily fellowship with Jesus. The reality of Jesus in the midst is to be tangible. They were one just as Jesus promised in ***John17:20-21***. As long as they kept receiving the word of the apostles they remained one

and the Lord added others into this fellowship of oneness which is *“fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”* (1Jn.1:3).

### **Apostolic order in the company brought multiplication of fruit**

When trouble arose over the questions of widows the apostles did not try to take matters into their own hands but gave wise leadership calling on the whole Body to be involved in the solution, *“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business”* (Acts6:3). The apostles knew their role in the company was to facilitate growth, not to rule over the brethren for the sake of their own glory. The apostolic company agrees with God’s order in the church, *“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...”* (1Cor.12:28).

The apostles knew that their role in the company was *“to give ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word”* (Acts6:4). All the brethren were pleased and chose seven men and the apostles were able to ordain them by the laying on of hands with the agreement of all the church. The result was further revival, *“Then the word of God spread, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many priests were obedient to the faith”* (Acts6:7). Notice that the result was not “church growth” as such. It was multiplication of *disciples* and *obedience to the faith*. This is the result of *“grace and apostleship”* at work (Rom.1:5).

The emergence of apostolic companies: people coming out of “Saul’s kingdom” to be together in *“serving their generation by the will of God”*. These companies are committed, submitted and accountable in real Christ-centred relationships. They are active in doing the will of God and being obedient to the apostolic commission. When we are of one heart and mind to do this together the *“world will know that You [Father] have sent Me [Jesus], and have loved them as You have loved Me”* (Jn.17:23b).

You may not be an educated or worldly trained person but as you join with other brethren in true apostolic company, being in company with Jesus the Apostle, people will marvel, *“and realize that you have been with Jesus”* (Acts4:13).

Apostolic Company is simply disciples of Jesus relating together, wanting to follow all He commanded, believing the Bible as it is written and desiring to see the Word outworked in our lives corporately. There are no restrictions to obeying Jesus and there are no boundaries. As companies arise all around the earth, being led by apostles in apostolic order, there will be multiplication of disciples. There will be sending communities with grace and apostleship being released to the Body to bring nations to obedience to the faith. It is time for ministers and believers everywhere to step out of the old wineskin we have called “church” and step into the new, being members of His Body, receiving apostles and walking as brethren in Jesus the Apostle’s company!

# JESUS THE APOSTLE

## Considering the Apostle

In **Hebrews 3:1** we are exhorted to *“consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus...”*. We are to grow in our understanding of the apostolic work of Jesus the Messiah. It is *“through Him”* that we have *“received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name”* (**Rom:1:5**).

Very few people in the Christian world have really considered Jesus as the Apostle of God and yet this is vital for us to receive from Him grace and apostleship. The word *“apostle”* is the Greek Word *“apostolos”* which means *“one sent forth”* and the New Spirit Filled Life Bible gives the definition as *“one commissioned for a particular task or role”* [Word Wealth in **1Cor.12:28**]. Jesus is the One who was sent forth and commissioned by God for a particular task and role. The task was to build the House of God and the role was to represent the Father.

## The same Commission

We have received the same commission! The word *“apostleship”* actually can be translated as *“commission”*. Through Christ we have received grace and a commission! The commission is to bring nations to obedience to the faith for His name! How do we do this? It is by being set apart to build the House of God and represent the Father.

## Representing the Father

### The apostolic revelation – receiving the Sent One

It is as we receive the One who is sent that we receive the One who sent Him. Jesus said, *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent”* (**Jn.6:29**). Our work is to believe in Jesus the One Sent, that is, the Apostle. Jesus said to His apostles, *“He who receives you receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me”* (**Matt.10:40**).

### This mystery is being outworked

When we are sent and commissioned, having received grace and apostleship, the people who receive us will have their eyes opened to the reality of Jesus coming to them in the one who was sent to them.

This mystery being outworked is not for a select few that are called apostles. Jesus wants to manifest in every saint who is called by His name. However, God is restoring true apostles of Jesus Christ to the church today so that the church can partake of this grace and apostleship again, releasing all the saints to be commissioned to represent Him [to be His witnesses **Acts 1:8**] and be a part of the building of His house.

## Representing the Word

It is only as we speak the Word! *“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure”* (**Jn.3:34**). The apostle John had a revelation that the Word of God is God (**Jn1:1**) and that this Word became flesh! (**Jn1:14**) As we represent the Word of God faithfully, we are representing Him and He will manifest!

### Opening the Scriptures – revealing Jesus

We need the Scriptures opened to us if we are to see Jesus. **Luke** tells the story of two disciples who were part of the company that followed Jesus (**Lu.24:22**). They had known

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Jesus and walked with Jesus but to them Jesus had become dead – he had hung on the Cross. Jesus, alive from the dead, ***“drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him” (Lu.24:15b-16).***

Jesus asked them why they were sad and they explained that they thought Jesus was going to be the mighty Redeemer (Lu.24:21). They were talking to Jesus, who was alive, and who was there with them, as if He was dead. They had heard of His resurrection (Lu.24:23-24), but they were ***“foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” (Lu.24:25).***

Notice that Jesus did not say to them that He was Jesus, but ***“beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Lu.24:27).*** Then as Jesus broke bread with them in the house ***“their eyes were opened and they knew Him” (Lu.24:30-31).***

It is through the Scriptures being opened to us that our eyes are opened to see Jesus! This is the ***“apostles’ doctrine” (Acts2:42),*** expounding to the disciples in all the Scriptures the things concerning Jesus! Many in the church have a limited understanding of who Jesus really is. It is time for our eyes to open!

### Speaking the Doctrine of the One who sends us

Jesus said, ***“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me” (Jn7:16).*** While the Greek word for ***“sent”*** in this verse is not ***“apostello”*** it is still conveying the same idea that Jesus was not speaking His own message but was making known the doctrine of the One who sent Him. He says, ***“If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (Jn7:17).*** We only have authority to the degree that we represent accurately the Word of God.

### Manifesting His Glory

***“He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him” (Jn7:18).*** When we represent the Word of God we will manifest the glory of the One who sent us with the word.

If we speak our own message people may marvel at us and think we are wonderful but if we speak the words of the One who sends and commissions us, they will see Jesus who is ***“the brightness of His glory” (Heb1:3).***

The apostle John said that when the Word became flesh ***“we beheld His glory” (Jn.1:14).*** The glory is revealed as the Word of God is manifest in the flesh of anybody who seeks to speak His Word!

### Jesus the Apostle – fulfilling God’s purpose

The night before Jesus went to the Cross He gave a report to the Father of the work that He had done and He said, ***“I have finished the work which You gave Me to do” (Jn17:4).*** What was the work He was talking of? Jesus had not yet died for the sins of the world and yet He is speaking of a ***“finished work”***.

When Jesus gives this account of His work to the Father, He mentions being sent apostolically [***apostello***] six times. The work, He is talking of, is the apostolic work that He was commissioned and authorised to do. It was the work of raising up eleven out of twelve disciples to be sent and commissioned just as Jesus was (Jn.17:18). We would do well to heed the pattern that He gave us.

### The apostolic work is in the earth

There is work to do in the earth! We have a purpose to fulfil in the earth. Many people have only heard the gospel that gives a ticket to go to heaven when we die. Jesus said, ***“I have glorified You on the earth” (Jn.17:4)***. God is already glorified in heaven but His plan has always been that ***“all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD [Yehova]” (Num.14:21)***.

Jesus came to reveal the glory of the Eternal One in the earth, in flesh. To call Jesus the Son of God is to know that He is God, incarnate in a man. Jesus as the Apostle came to embody and reveal the Father in the earth! Knowing Jesus as the Sent One is the key to us receiving the revelation of what it means to call Him the Son of God.

### Appreciating the name

Jesus said, ***“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world” (Jn.17:6)***. Jesus also said, ***“I have come in My Father’s name” (Jn.5:43)*** and ***“the works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me (Jn.10:25)***. To come in another’s name is to fully represent that person.

The third commandment that God gave to us through Moses was, ***“You shall not take the name of the LORD [Yehova] your God in vain” (Ex.20:7)***. The Hebrew word for “take” is “nasa” and it literally means “to lift” and is translated over one hundred times as “bear” and thirty times as “carry”. Jesus fulfilled this command as He carried and manifested the name of the Father! Jesus manifested His name which means He carried the name with all that the name implies.

### Manifesting the name

In manifesting the name of the Father, Jesus was manifesting the whole person of God.

The word for “name” in Greek is “onoma” and the New Spirit Filled Life Bible defines this word by saying *‘In general, the word signifies the name or term by which a person or thing is called. However, it was quite common both in Hebrew and Hellenistic Greek to use ‘onoma’ for all that the name implies, such as rank or authority, character, reputation, representative. Occasionally ‘onoma’ is synonymous for an individual, a person’ [Word Wealth in Jn.12:13]*.

Jesus, as the Apostle, fully displayed the rank, authority, character and reputation of the Father and His name has now become synonymous [the same as] with the person of the Father! There is no distinction between Him and the Father; ***“I and My Father are one” (Jn.10:30)***.

### His name shall be one

Zechariah prophesied of a time when ***“the LORD [Yehova] shall be king over all the earth. In that day it shall be – ‘The LORD [Yehova] is one,’ and His name one” (Zech.14:9)***. Jesus said, ***“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matt.28:18)***. If Jesus has authority over all the earth then that makes Him the King over all the earth and the fulfilment of Zechariah’s prophecy!

Immediately after declaring His authority to the disciples He then tells them to ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing [immersing] them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matt.28:19)***. What name manifests the Father? What name manifests, reveals, explains and is synonymous with the person of God? It is **JESUS!** Zechariah said that in that day when Yehova is revealed as King, His name would be one!

## Only Speak the Word

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After sharing in a teaching session on this subject of Jesus manifesting the name of the Father, a pastor of a denominational church felt convicted that he must truly be immersed in the name of Jesus. He testified that he felt like he had not been “clothed with Christ” (Gal.3:27 NIV), he wanted to put on Christ! After being baptised he was so excited and declared that he now had put Jesus on, having been immersed in the name. He now knew the Person, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

### **Apostles are to bear the name**

When the Lord Jesus appeared to Saul he told a certain disciple named Ananias to tell him, ***“Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles...For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake”*** (Acts9:15-16). What name was Saul to bear?

When Saul was on the road and was struck by the light from heaven, his response was, ***“Who are you, Lord?”*** (Acts9:5a). He called the One who struck him with the light ***“Lord”***. To say ***“Lord”*** meant that Saul knew he was talking to God but he was confessing that he did not know who He was. He did not know His name.

Many people call on ***“God”*** without knowing who He is. Saul was asking God who He was. ***“Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus...’*** (Acts9:5b). Now God was revealed to Saul in the name, the person of Jesus!

Just as Jesus carried and manifested the name of the Father so apostles need to carry and manifest the name of Jesus, making known the revelation of ‘rock’ foundation, that is, who Jesus is (Matt.16:16-18).

Apostles can never come in the name of a denomination or group but only in the name and person of Jesus the Messiah who is the full expression of God!

**When we receive Jesus the Apostle,  
we receive the Father who sent Him!**

# THE GLORY OF GOD IS TO FILL THE EARTH!

This message was written after a short-term mission trip into South America in 2010.

## The Harvest is plentiful

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few’ (**Matt.9:37-38, Lu.10:2**). Everywhere we go, the ministers and brethren are wary of ‘apostles’ and anything to do with apostolic ministry. This is because others have been in the cities, claiming to be apostles and giving a very mixed and confusing message, demanding money and seeking to control the pastors.

### Marks of a true apostle

- speaking the pure word of God
- making no demands concerning finance
- not asking the pastors and churches to join ‘our’ ministry
- walking in humility,
- freely mixing with the host pastors and brethren, not putting ones-self above others

## True apostles are needed

We often surprised that in some nations there is much negativity about apostolic things; we see the need of true apostles and apostolic ministers going to every city and town, to every ministers’ fellowship, to share with them the true hope of the gospel. It needs to be made clear that becoming apostolic does not mean that we join some man and support his ministry financially. It is by receiving the pure word of God and walking in the inheritance that God has for all of His family world-wide.

## The labourers are few

There is a great need for apostles and apostolic teachers, for fathers, ministers who walk in the revelation of the word of God; ministers who are clear about God’s eternal purpose, which is **“already accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (**Eph.3:11**).

This revelation is the **“manifold wisdom of God”** and is to **“be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies”** (**Eph.3:10**). This will be accomplished by the grace given to apostles and apostolic ministers to **“preach among the Gentiles [and among Jews, including Messianics] the unsearchable riches of Messiah [Christ]”** (**Eph.3:8**). This is to **“make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ”** (**Eph.3:9**).

## The preaching of Christ

Generally, we are ignorant of Christ. We have combined the title ‘Christ’ with the name Jesus and as a result, refer to Jesus as Jesus Christ; in the Spanish the two words are combined into one ‘Jesucristo’.

This ignorance of Christ robs the people of God of knowing Jesus as the Christ and we have reduced the gospel of the kingdom of God to a gospel of salvation only. Salvation begins by accepting Jesus as Saviour and He truly is the Saviour of us, but His goal for the believer is not to go to heaven as such, but to grow up to maturity in Christ.

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The total number of times the word ‘Saviour’ is used in the New Testament is 24, and 7 of those references are to God and not referring to Jesus specifically.

However the title ‘Christ’ is used over 550 times in the New Testament, always referring to Jesus. Jesus is the Christ.

### Preaching Jesus the Christ

The major preaching of the first apostles was proving that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. See **Acts 2:22-36**: Peter preached Christ, and when the men were convicted (v.37), he told them ***“Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ”*** (v.38).

In **Acts 5**, sometime after the coming of the Holy Spirit and after the third time that apostles had been arrested, they were continuing to preach Christ: ***“And daily in the temple and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ”*** Acts 5:42.

When Paul was healed, filled with the Holy Spirit and baptised, ***“Immediately he preached the Christ in the Synagogues, that He is the Son of God”*** (Acts 9:20), and ***“proving that this Jesus is the Christ”*** (v.22).

### The unsearchable riches of Christ

Paul said that he had received grace from God to ***“preach the unsearchable riches of Christ”*** (Eph.3:8). Such preaching would enable all the saints to ***“see what is the fellowship of the mystery”*** (v.9).

This would lead to the principalities and powers being subdued in the heavenly places and the eternal purpose of God being manifest in all the earth (v.10-11).

### Coming to know the mystery

Paul said that as an apostle, he experienced ***“a great conflict”*** for those in Colosse and those in Laodicea, that they may attain

***“to all riches of the full assurance of understanding,  
to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,  
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”*** (Col.2:1-3).

The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ and as we come to know and understand Christ, we come to know and understand the Father. This is the goal of our faith: to come to know the Father in and through Christ. It is the mystery of God (v.2). ***“Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”*** (1Jn.1:3).

This mystery is known by revelation. Paul prays for us that God would grant us, ***“the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him [Lord Jesus Christ]”*** (Eph.1:17).

When Elijah was being taken and Elisha desired a double portion of the spirit that was on Elijah, Elijah said, ***“If you see me taken from you, it shall be so for you”*** (2Kin.2:10). Elisha saw and was able to receive the inheritance.

When God called Jeremiah, commissioning him to be a prophet to the nations, He then asked him, ***“Jeremiah, what do you see?”*** (Jer.1:11&13). Both times Jeremiah was able to see the vision that God was showing him and because he saw, God gave him understanding.

### The fellowship of the mystery

Paul said that his preaching of Christ was ***“to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery”*** (Eph.3:9). Some versions use the word ‘stewardship’ and some the word ‘dispensation’, instead of fellowship. These alternative translations only add further dimension to the richness of the mystery as it is made known to us. The mystery is the hidden wisdom of God (1Cor.2:7), which is for ***“those who are mature”*** (v.6); it is ***“the wisdom of***

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*God in a mystery” (v.7), and this wisdom “God ordained before the ages for our glory” (v.7b).*

Those who are mature are referred to as sons in the New Testament. A New Testament son is specifically someone who has come to the age of maturity, to the age of inheritance, or is destined to come to the inheritance. Therefore the fellowship of the mystery is made known to, and experienced by those walking in maturity. The Spirit of adoption [sonship] works in us; and finally God fully releases in us *“the Spirit of His Son” (Gal.4:6).*

### **The glory of God filling the earth**

God’s purpose is for His glory to fill the earth (**Num.14:21, Isa.11:9, Hab.2:14**).

It is the glory of manifest sons. God is *“bringing many sons to glory”*; this will happen because Jesus *“the captain of their salvation”* has already been made *“perfect through sufferings” (Heb.2:10).*

The glory of God was seen when *“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn.1:14).* Jesus is the captain who is bringing many sons to glory. He is the Pattern Son and the brightness of God’s glory was seen in Him (**Heb.1:3**). Now it is the purpose of all ministry to bring every saint to be *“perfect in Christ Jesus” (Col.1:28);* for Christ to be fully formed in every saint (**Gal.4:19**).

God’s goal is for His people to walk fully covered by His glory. Adam and Eve originally were covered by the glory of God: *“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (Gen.2:25).*

God promises *“Then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering” Isa.4:5.*

### **Glory is different to power.**

In the Pentecostal and Charismatic revivals we have witnessed and experienced the power of God. That is the intended expression of the Feast of Pentecost in fulfilment: **power for witness (Lu.24:49, Acts 1:8).**

The expression and fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles is the indwelling of the Godhead in the believer (**Jn.14:23, Col.2:9-10**). This is, *“Christ in you the hope of glory” (Col.1:27).*

The goal is for every believer to be filled with the glory of Christ, the fullness of the Godhead, and functioning together in the earth as the body of Christ.

### **We are destined to live in the glory**

The glory is in Zion and Zion is our destiny (**Ps.102:16, Ps.84:7**). According to **Hebrews**, we have already *“come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (12:22).*

What is the fulfilment of this Scripture and the reality of God’s glory being seen in the earth? When God created the man and the woman in His own image and likeness (**Gen.1:27**), God *“blessed them and said: Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Gen.1:28).* There are five steps in this verse and we are to be guided by these steps as we seek to fulfil the Great Commission which Jesus gave to the apostolic church (**Matt.28:18-20**).

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1. **Be fruitful:** each of us is to be fruitful in the work of the ministry and the fruit is spiritual children who grow up to be mature sons.
2. **Multiply:** we multiply when the sons we have brought up in the ministry are fruitful and bring up their own spiritual children.
3. **Fill the earth:** as fruitfulness and multiplication continue, the earth is filled with many sons walking in the knowledge of the glory of God.
4. **Subdue the earth:** mature sons have come to know the fellowship of the mystery and the principalities and powers will have become subject to the name of Jesus.
5. **Have dominion over creation:** the sons of God are to rule in the earth and in the fullness of the times, creation will be restored as godliness and the glory of God are released.

### **PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST FOR WORKERS TO BE RAISED**

Jesus referred to the harvest in **Matthew 9:37-38** and immediately appointed the twelve apostles and sent them out to minister. Jesus referred to the harvest in **Luke 10:2** and sent out seventy others to prepare the way for His coming to various cities and places.

As we go to the nations we see the great need for workers in the harvest: for apostles and ministers. We are seeking to train ministers in many nations by providing discipleship courses and helping apostolic schools to function. We are witnessing the formation of apostolic companies in a number of nations and ministers are seeking to study the word together and work together to send out apostles and other workers into the harvest.

***The work is great; the need for workers is pressing.  
Pray with us to the Lord of the harvest that He will raise many workers***

## A MESSAGE OF HOPE!

Close to **6000 years ago** God made a promise to Mankind that a man would be born to a woman and this particular man would crush the authority of the Devil and evil in the world (**Genesis 3:15**).

**4000 years ago** God spoke to a man named **Abraham** and said, *“In your seed [descendant] all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”* (**Genesis 22:18**)

**3900 years ago** God spoke through a man named **Jacob** who prophetically declared over his son Judah saying, *“The sceptre [symbol of kingship] shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until SHILOH comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”* (**Genesis 49:10**)

**“SHILOH” means “Him whose right it is to rule as King”.**

**A king would arise from Judah and all peoples would become obedient to Him!**

**3500 years ago** God spoke through an unusual prophet named **Balaam** who was trying to speak a curse over God’s people but was arrested by God and spoke a prophecy declaring, *“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Sceptre [King] shall rise out of Israel...”* (**Numbers 24:17**).

**3000 years ago** a king named **David** arose from the tribe of Judah and God made a promise to him saying, *“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your descendant after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My name and I will establish the Throne of His kingdom forever. I will be His Father and He shall be My Son.”* (**2 Samuel 7:12-14a**).

**One would come from David’s family who would be a king forever and would be God’s Son!**

**2700 years ago** God spoke again through a prophet named **Micah** saying, *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from Eternity”* (**Micah 5:2**).  
**This Ruler would come from Eternity!**

**2700 years ago** God also spoke through a prophet named **Isaiah** saying, *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel [which means “God with us”]”* (**Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23**).

God also spoke through Isaiah declaring,  
*“Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the Government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* (**Isaiah 9:6**)

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**This Child would be the MIGHTY GOD with us [Emmanuel],  
administering His Government!**

**2600 years ago** God spoke through another prophet named **Jeremiah** and said,  
*“Behold the days are coming,” says the LORD,  
“That I will raise to David a Branch of Righteousness;  
A king shall reign and prosper...  
Now this is the name by which He will be called:  
The LORD our Righteousness”* (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

**This King would be the LORD – which means the eternal God  
who would make us righteous!**

**2000 years ago** the **apostle John** declared that  
*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* (John 1:14)  
**The Word that God had spoken to all these prophets  
became a reality 2000 years ago!  
The King arrived!**

**Luke** records the account of an angel named **Gabriel** meeting a virgin girl named **Mary**,

*“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son,  
and shall call His name JESUS.  
He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest;  
and the Lord God will give Him the Throne of His father David.  
And He will reign over the House of Jacob forever,  
and of His kingdom there will be no end”* (Luke 1:31-33).

### **How was this to happen?**

*“The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you,  
and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you;  
therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born  
will be called the Son of God”* (Luke 1:35)

**This was how God Himself entered into the world He created!**

Later on, the **apostle Paul**, wrote,  
*“Without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness;  
God was manifested in the flesh...”* (1 Timothy 3:16).

**The name JESUS means He is “God Saving us”.  
JESUS, the Son of God, is God in the flesh,  
coming to deliver us from our sins (Matthew 1:21).**

### **When JESUS was born, Heaven was excited!**

There were shepherds nearby who had an amazing heavenly encounter:  
*“And behold an angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.  
Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold,  
I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.  
For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Saviour,*

*who is Christ the Lord...*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:9-13)*

The message of hope is that the kingdom of God has come because the King has come.

His name is JESUS and He is God,  
the Creator and Maker of heaven and earth and of every living being including you!

He became like you, becoming a human being,  
so that you could get to know Him.

When you get to know Jesus – you will know God as the Everlasting Father!

He is God with human flesh and He came to bring you back  
into relationship with Himself.

Prepare room for Him in your heart and welcome the King in your life!

He will forgive you, accept you and change you when you receive Him!