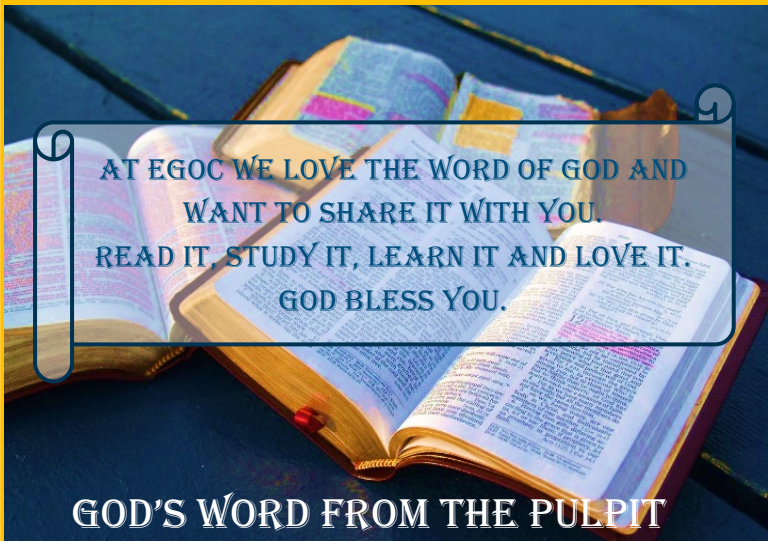


# Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC)

*House of Wonders*

A  
Compilation  
of  
2021  
Summarised  
EGOC  
Messages



**GOD'S WORD FROM THE PULPIT**

REV. DR. GIDEON BAKARE  
SENIOR PASTOR

REV. ADEBOLA ONI  
RESIDENT PASTOR

**2021 WATCHWORD**

**My year of *Restoration* and divine *Compensation***

So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust  
has eaten, the crawling locust,  
the consuming locust, and the chewing locust,  
My great army which I sent among you.

Joel 2:25

**JESUS  
SAVES**



## Evangelical Global Outreach Church (House of Wonders)

At EGO we value a caring environment, community involvement, discipleship, every member ministry, Christ-centred homes, Biblical leadership, God pleasing worship, small group fellowships, Biblically based communication and stewardship of resources.

You are invited to worship with us at

198, Ripple Road, Barking, Essex,  
London IG11 7PR

Tel: +44 (0) 20 74766437

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E-mail: [pastor@egoc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@egoc.org.uk)

**Sunday Worship Service:**  
8am - 9:30am

**(Zoom Meeting ID: 969 1846 6301; Passcode: 451530)**

**Night of Wonders Prayer Meeting**

**(Zoom Meeting ID: 939 8822 4578; Passcode: 617026)**

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month

7pm - 8pm



**Revd. Dr. Gideon O. Bakare**  
Senior Pastor

God's Word  
our Final  
Authority



**Revd. Adebola Oni**  
Resident Pastor

**2021 WATCHWORD**  
My year of *Restoration* and divine *Compensation*



## 2020 Crossover Watchnight Service

**Date:** 31 December 2021

**Topic:** The covenant of recovery and compensation

**Text:** Joel 2:25

**A. What is a covenant?** "covenant" is of Latin origin (con venire), meaning a coming together. It presupposes two or more parties coming together to make a contract, agreement on promises, privileges, and responsibilities. From a biblical perspective, a covenant is essentially about relationship. This relationship when formalised has sanctions attached to it. Therefore, there are blessings if the relationship is kept, and penalties if the relationship is broken.

**B. Summary of the year 2020:** 2020 was a year of massive loss of lives, money, investments, jobs, businesses, opportunities and relationship breakdowns. It defined our lives in many areas through national lockdowns, restricted travels, virtual church services, unusual graduation ceremonies, restricted weddings and funeral services.

**C. The prophetic message for 2021:** The prophetic message that God gave to us this coming year is that it is our year of RECOVERY and DIVINE COMPENSATION. Joel 2:25 says: 'So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you'. We should reflect on the capacity of the promiser. He is the superior Person in the covenant. He is the I Am that I Am, the omnipotent God, the El-Shaddai, the unchanging changer and a faithful promiser. There are two important things about this prophetic message. The Lord has promised us recovery and divine compensation.

**Conclusion:** Decree what you do not want to experience in 2021 and what you want God to do for you in 2021.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Theme for the year (2021): Joel 2:25**

My year of restoration is here

My year of Divine compensation

God is faithful and He will restore all lost years.

**(Repeat)**

The years the swarming, crawling,  
consuming and chewing locust has eaten.

God will restore to me.

**(Repeat)**

God will restore to you. God will restore to us.



**Date:** 03 January 2021

**Topic:** Recovery and Divine Compensation (Part 1)

**Our year of recovery and divine compensation**

**Text:** Joel 2:25

**Introduction:** Recovery means ‘a return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength.’ It means to recuperate, get better, heal, improve, to upturn or stage a comeback. Compensation means ‘to award something to someone in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury.’ It means to be recompensed, to be repaid or reimbursed and to get a redress. There are five important revelations in this verse:

1. **The restorer and compensator (verse 25a).** Let us reflect carefully on ‘I will restore’. ‘The Hebrew word ‘We-Shimlati’ in the Hebrew Masoretic text drives home the point. This implies that God is willing to do the action right away and continue to do it. The ‘I’ that is talking here is Yahweh. Therefore, God is our restorer, compensator and rewarder of those who seek him diligently (Hebrews 11:6).

2. **The candidate of recovery and divine compensation (verse 25a).** This phrase ‘to you’ is very powerful, who is God talking to in this verse? In the original context, this prophetic message refers to the people of Judah. This message is also for us today as the ultimate recipients of this prophetic message. It is for every child of God who has surrendered his/her life to Jesus and is willing to hold tenaciously to the words of this prophecy.

3. **The devastation caused by the locusts (verse 25a-b).** The summary of the devastations caused by the locusts to Judah can be found in Joel 1:4 - ‘what the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten’.

4. **The speed of the recovery (verse 25a).** Let us look at ‘the years’ from a positive perspective. Of course, the exact number of years that God’s people had suffered devastation was not mentioned. Nonetheless, there is an implied promise that the time of recovery will be quicker than the time of devastation. It is only the creator of time and seasons that can restore the time with speed.

5. **The removal of the devastating locusts (verse 25c).** Let us reflect on ‘my great army which I sent among you.’ God wants the people of Judah to know that He has the capacity to stop the plague. God can overrule in every situation. The locusts must be removed for the recovery to begin.

**Conclusion:** The mouth of the Lord has spoken. We now have a responsibility to run with the message and ensure that this prophetic message comes to past in our lives. God is willing to fulfil his own part of the covenant as He did throughout the Bible if we are willing to fulfil our own part.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

*So, I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust...*

*Joel 2:25*



**Date:** 10 January 2021

**Topic:** Recovery and Divine Compensation (Part 2)

**Understanding the book of Joel**

**Text:** Joel 1:1-2:11

**Introduction:** Joel is an interesting book, but there is need for us to understand the subtle use of words in this book. This message has been divided into four parts.

1. **The historical background of prophet Joel (Joel 1:1).** Joel in Hebrew means 'Jehovah is God.' He was the 'son of Pethuel' and a prophet to the people of Judah, but he also prophesied to other nations towards the end of his book. Many scholars suggested that he prophesied around 835 BC. Joel probably lived around Jerusalem and Judah because of his concern and assessment of the situation at that time.

2. **The socio-economic situation of the book of Joel (Joel 1:2-12, 16-20).** Some scholars have suggested that the locusts mentioned in Joel chapter 1 is a reference to real plague in the land of Judah. The socio-economic situation of the people of Judah was terrible at that time because there were four different waves of locusts' invasion (Joel 1:4). The land and the agricultural products of the people laid wasted and it will take them many years to recover what they lost in one year (Joel 1:6-7). They concentrated on their own survival and could not bring grain and drink offerings to the temple - no entitlements for priests. The vines dried up and the fig trees withered. The joy of the people withered away (Joel 1:8-12). The surviving herds of cattle moaned, and the flocks of sheep suffered severe starvation (Joel 1:16-20).

3. **The spiritual situation of the book of Joel (Joel 1:13-14).** The spiritual situation of the people was terrible. There was darkness over the land of Judah. Some false prophets were profiting from the situation. Some priests who were meant to stand in the gap and intercede for the people and the land were only pursuing their own interest/survival. This attitude increased the level of transgressions in the land.

4. **The main message of the book of Joel (Joel 1:15, 2:1-11).** 'The day of the Lord'; Prophet Joel saw the invasion of the locusts as a precursor to the coming day of the Lord. Joel went further to say more things about the day of the Lord: (i) It is near (Joel 1:15a). (ii) It will come like destruction from the Almighty' (Joel 1:15b). (iii) It is close at hand (Joel 2:1). (iv) It is a day of darkness and gloom (Joel 2:2a). (v) It is a day of clouds and blackness (Joel 2:2a). (vi) It is the day that no one will escape (Joel 2:2b-11a). (vii) It is great and dreadful (Joel 2:11b). (viii) It is a terrible day that no one can endure (Joel 2:11b). In this context, the day of the Lord is a day of judgement, accountability and reward.

**Conclusion:** The God in Joel is the same God yesterday, today and forever. His requirements and principles have not changed. The message in Joel is also for us today.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

*So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust....*

*Joel 2:25*



**Date:** 17 January 2021

**Topic:** Recovery and Divine Compensation (Part 3)

**Redeeming your wasted years**

**Text:** Joel 2:12-17

**Introduction:** To redeem wasted years means to be compensated for the loss that one has suffered. It also means to recover very quickly (with speed) after a long period of devastation and losses. Prophet Joel informed the people of Judah on how they can redeem their wasted years in this passage. It is necessary for us to apply the following six important principles in this passage to our lives if we want to recover our wasted years this year.

**1. Return to the Lord (verse 12a and 15a).** What Joel is saying here is that the devastations that you experienced happened when you turned your back against God. God is asking for your return.

**2. Rend your heart (verse 12b, 13a and 17a).** This is a call for brokenness and genuine repentance. The message of prophet Joel to the people of Judah is that they are in that terrible situation because of their sins. There are three types of repentance implied here - (i) individual repentance. (ii) ecclesiastical repentance. (iii) corporate repentance.

**3. Reflect on the righteousness and attributes of God (verse 13b-14).** Prophet Joel mentioned that God is gracious (13b), compassionate (13b), slow to anger (13b), abounding in love (13b), able to stop the plague (13b), able to change the situation (14a), able to restore (14a) and able to bless (14b).

**4. Call a solemn assembly (verse 15).** Prophet Joel told the people that God wanted them to take a moment and reflect on their past, present and future. Calling a solemn assembly will help us to recognise where things went wrong, identify all the changes and adjustments that we need to make and courageously take the next step towards the future.

**5. Express the willingness to recover (verse 16).** Prophet Joel instructed the nation of Judah to gather the people, but only those who really wanted to redeem their wasted years responded to that invitation.

**6. Pray earnestly for recovery and divine compensation (verse 17b).** There are two types of prayer here – (i) personal prayer. The people should pray for themselves. (ii) ecclesiastical prayer. They should call on the priests and spiritual leaders to pray for them. They should pray to God to spare their lives, that they will not become an object of scorn, a byword among the nations, that the people of the world will not have any reason to question their God.

**Conclusion:** There are many other principles for redeeming your wasted years in other passages of Scripture. Nevertheless, our lives and situations will definitely not remain the same again if we can follow the six principles in this passage.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 24 January 2021

**Topic:** Recovery and Divine Compensation (Part 4)

**Evidence of recovery and divine compensation**

**Text:** Joel 2:18-27



**Introduction:** Prophet Joel reassured the people of Judah that God will visit His people. There will be recovery and divine compensation because the mouth of the Lord has spoken so. He also mentioned that Yahweh will back His promise with verifiable proofs and confirmation. Let us examine eight among the many things that will serve as your evidence of recovery and divine compensation this year.

1. **Evidence of mercy (verse 18).** God's mercy is about His pity, compassion and kindness towards us. Forgiveness and mercy go together. Forgiveness involves the overcoming of anger and resentment. Mercy involves withholding harsh treatment that God has the right to inflict on the offender.
2. **Evidence of abundance (verses 19a, 24 and 26a).** God promised to send grain and new wine to satisfy them. God promised that they will have plenty to eat until they are full.
3. **Evidence of removal of reproach (verses 19b, 26c, 27c).** A reproach is what people see in your life that causes resentment or what you see in your own life that causes you bitterness or indignation. God promised to remove the reproach of the people of Judah.
4. **Evidence of removal of plague (verse 20).** God promised to drive away the plague far away from them. Our God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. Therefore, everything must answer to Him. God promised to remove His instrument of judgement on Judah.
5. **Evidence of unspeakable joy (verses 22-23).** God promised that the starving animals will enjoy again, things will come back to normal. The trees will bear their fruits; the fig tree and the vine will yield their riches. God promised that the people will rejoice again because God will send them autumn rains and there shall be showers of blessings.
6. **Evidence of restoration (verse 25).** This is about recovery and divine compensation. God promised to restore the years that the locusts have eaten. God promised that there will be change of fortune.
7. **Evidence of signs and wonders (verse 26b).** Prophet Joel mentioned that the people of Judah and others around them will see the signs and wonders in their lives.
8. **Evidence of increase knowledge about God (verse 27a-b).** Prophet Joel told the people of Judah that they will gain additional experiential knowledge of God. There will be a new revelation and a better understanding about God.

**Conclusion:** An evidence it is something that people cannot disprove. Your recovery and divine compensation shall be evident for people from far and near to see. It will not be hidden because all eyes will see your recovery.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 31 January 2021

**Topic:** The Need of the Dead

**Text:** John 11:17-25

JESUS SAID TO HER,  
*I am* THE RESURRECTION  
 AND **THE LIFE.**  
 HE WHO **BELIEVES**  
**IN ME,** THOUGH HE MAY DIE,  
*he shall live.*  
 JOHN 11 TWENTY-FIVE

**Introduction:** When asked what the dead need, people will normally answer that the dead need to be buried. Some others will say cremation or given other rites and rituals that pertains to death, throwing into the sea or feeding the dead to scavengers. Some will even say the dead need nothing because they are dead. What the dead actually need is life.

The passage gives us an example of the principle of changing death into life. In this case Lazarus had died and needed the resurrection life of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are two types of death - we have physical death and spiritual death.

**The need of the spiritually dead.** Ephesians 2:1-4; Luke 15:24, 5:23

Sin causes humans to die spiritually because it separates them from relationships with God, their creator. The spiritually dead need **Regeneration** life. This is when the spiritually dead is made alive. The human body can be physically alive, but dead in spirit. God does not merely heal the physically sick; He also gives life to the spiritually dead. The prodigal son was dead and came to life again. The paralytic man was dead, his sins were forgiven by Jesus to give him life. First is the regeneration, then the healing.

**The need of the physical dead.** Luke 11:14, 43

The physically dead need **Resurrection** life. This is when the physically dead is brought back to life. Lazarus was already dead; he did not need healing but resurrecting. Just before commanding Lazarus to “Come out!” of the tomb, Jesus had a conversation with Martha. He told her that her brother will live. Jesus wanted Martha, and all of us, to understand that when we place our lives in His hands, He will raise us up again to live a fulfilled life in the present. He will also do it in the future.

**The frustrations to receiving the gift of life.** Luke 11:39

The greatest frustrations to receiving gift of life are human opinions. Our frustrating opinions must be subdued. The Lord Jesus Christ has the regeneration life power, and the resurrection life power. We can obtain both of these gifts but He needs our cooperation, submission and obedience to His instructions. God will not force anyone to receive His free gift of life. When He instructs us to, “Move the stone,” we should simply move it. Human religions are opinions that create frustrations to the resurrection power/life and the regeneration power/life of Christ. No human religion will make anyone good or attain righteousness no matter how fervent it is practise. We know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

**Conclusion:** We can positively cooperate with Jesus to receive the regeneration life and the resurrection life.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni





**Date:** 7 February 2021

**Topic:** Recovery and Divine Compensation (Part 5)

**The eschatological promises of divine compensation in the book of Joel**

**Text:** Joel 2:28-3:21

**Introduction:** The word 'eschatological' relates to death, judgement, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind. This passage focuses on the events that will take place after the first advent of Christ and ultimately during His second advent. Let us examine the five eschatological promises in this passage and apply them to our lives:

1. **The promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29).** After the recovery from the devastation of the locusts. God said, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people.' God is willing to show His power again. Peter recognised this in Acts 2:14-21. God is working within the Church today.
2. **The promise of wonders in heaven and earth (Joel 2:30-31).** God promised to show wonders in the heavens and on the earth before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. We are now in the end-time and our blessed home is closer than before. God's wonders are on its way!
3. **The promise of salvation (Joel 2:32).** 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' God promised to rescue and deliver His people if they call on Him. Salvation here is both physical and spiritual. If 'whoever' calls out to God to save them, the Lord will surely deliver them.
4. **The promise of judgement over God's enemies (Joel 3:1-16).** God promised to restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem. He also promised to judge the nations for the things they did to His people. The summary of their evil activities (verses 2-6); (i) They scattered God's people and divided their land. (ii) They casted lots on God's people and sold their children to slavery. (iii) They attacked the temple and took treasures. (iv) They sold the people far from their homeland. God promised pay back for all their atrocities (verses 7-8). The enemies of God will face God's judgement here on earth and in hell fire (verses 9-16).
5. **The promise of eternal blessings for God's people (Joel 3:17-21).** God promised eternal blessings; (i) The people will know their God. (ii) Jerusalem will be holy. (iii) Foreigners will never be able to invade their land. (iv) The mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk. (v) A fountain will flow out of the Lord's house. (vi) The place of the ungodly will become desolate. (vii) Judah will be inhabited forever. (viii) God will avenge for His people. (ix) The Lord will dwell in Zion. This is our blessed hope.

**Conclusion:** There are two types of divine compensation in the book of Joel.

(i) Divine compensation for the righteous. (ii) Divine compensation for the wicked. This is about the coming judgement of God on the ungodly. God's divine compensation is not a matter of 'if', it is a matter of when.

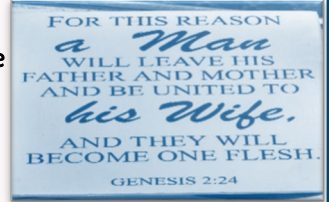
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 14 February 2021

**Topic:** Understanding Radical Commitment in Marriage

**Text:** Genesis 2:24



**Introduction:** Radical commitment in marriage was God's expectation from the beginning. There are three stages in this biblical text; Leaving, cleaving and becoming one flesh.

Let us consider seven biblical radical commitment in marriage.

1. **Radical commitment to take a step of faith in marriage after conviction (Genesis 24:57-59, 62-67).** Rebekah is an example of a young woman who decided to leave her parents and travel with Abraham's servant to entrust her life to Isaac. Isaac on the other hand embraced Rebekah.

2. **Radical commitment to wait for your fiancé or fiancée on wedding arrangements (Genesis 29:16-30).** The story of Jacob and Rachael are examples of two single people who waited patiently for each other because they were genuinely in love. Jacob was committed to Rachel that he was willing to serve Laban for seven years before he married her. Rachel was committed to Jacob that she willingly waited for him.

3. **Radical commitment to your wife who is going through a personal challenge (Genesis 25:21; Matthew 1:18-25).** Isaac and Joseph are examples of radical commitment of loving husbands. Isaac exhibited commitment when Rebekah went through a season of childlessness. Joseph exhibited radical commitment to Mary after the appearance of the angel.

4. **Radical commitment to your husband despite his weaknesses (1 Samuel 25:14-35).** Abigail was an epitome of a wife who was radically committed to her husband and marriage. Abigail was a woman of virtue. She was beautiful, intelligent, wise, resourceful, loyal and hardworking. Nabal on the other hand was arrogant, foolish and violent.

5. **Radical commitment to your godly parents even when you don't understand (Genesis 22:1-19, 2 Timothy 1:5).** Isaac and Timothy are examples of obedient children. Isaac was committed to his father. Timothy was a dynamic child who followed the precepts of his mother and grandmother.

6. **Radical commitment to your in-laws (Ruth 1:14-18; 2:2; 3:1).** Naomi and Ruth are examples of radical commitment of in-laws. Ruth was radically committed to her late husband and mother-in-law. Naomi on the other hand was radically committed to the happiness of her daughter-in-law.

7. **Radical commitment of a couple serving the Lord together (Acts 18:2-3, 18-26; Romans 16:3-4).** Pricilla and Aquilla exhibited radical commitment to God and their Christian service. They worked together to make a remarkable impact in the life and ministry of apostle Paul. They also mentored Apollos who later became a great teacher in the church.

**Conclusion:** Radical commitment in marriage for singles and married begins with radical commitment to the triune God.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 21 February 2021

**Topic:** Recovery and Divine Compensation (Part 6)

**Power to say 'NO' to enemies of recovery and divine compensation**

**Text:** Nehemiah 6:1-19

**Introduction:** Judah was exiled to Babylon for 70 years because of their sins. God raised Zerubbabel to return and rebuild the temple, Ezra to revive the people by teaching the law and Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem's wall. God planned for Judah's recovery and compensation, but the enemies opposed. We need divine power to say 'NO' to enemies in such seasons. Nehemiah said 'no' in seven situations.

1. **Say 'NO' to satanic negotiations (verses 1-3).** Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and other enemies of Judah were unhappy when Nehemiah rebuilt the wall. Their message to Nehemiah was 'come and negotiate with us. His response was 'Why should the work stop ... and I go down to you?'

2. **Say 'NO' to distractions and temptations (verse 4).** The enemies persisted and sent the same message to Nehemiah with the intention to distract him. Nehemiah and the people of Judah would have missed their recovery and divine compensation if he had fallen for that temptation.

3. **Say 'NO' to fake news and evil gossips (verses 5-8).** Sanballat sent his aide to Nehemiah the fifth time with the same message with an unsealed letter containing lies and fake news. He threatened to report the situation to the king unless Nehemiah was willing to meet them and negotiate. Nehemiah replied in boldness that the story was made-up.

4. **Say 'NO' to fear (verse 9).** Nehemiah discovered that the enemies were trying to frighten him and Judah's people. They wanted to plant the seed of fear to weaken their hands. Nehemiah exercised faith in Yahweh and prayed to God.

5. **Say 'NO' to fake prophets and fake prophecies (verses 10-14).** The enemies changed their strategies and bought over Judah's prophets to give false prophecy. Shemaiah, Noadiah and other prophets were hired to intimidate Nehemiah. Nehemiah realised through discerning spirit that God did not send them and refused to surrender.

6. **Say 'NO' to the frustrations from betrayers and enemies within (verses 15-18).** Nehemiah eventually discovered that many people in Judah, including nobles were under oath to Tobiah. Nonetheless, Nehemiah said 'no' to the frustrations from these betrayers and enemies within.

7. **Say 'NO' to every form of intimidation (verse 19).** The mixed messages and pressure from Tobiah and some people in Judah continued to give Nehemiah mental torture. However, he said 'no' to every form of intimidation.

**Conclusion:** Nehemiah courageously said 'NO' when it mattered. We must say 'no' in above situations if we want to enter our season of recovery and divine compensation.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

And it happened, when all our enemies **HEARD** of it, and all the nations around us **SAW** these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that **THIS WORK WAS DONE BY OUR GOD.**

**NEHEMIAH 6:19**

**Date:** 28 February 2021

**Title:** The Obligations of God's Children and Servants

**Text:** Malachi 1:6a

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear?  
Malachi 1:6a

**Introduction:** Our relationship with God whether as children or as servants is regulated by a covenant (Amos 3:3). Landlords/tenants have tenancy agreements, games have rules, marriages have oaths and employers/employees have contracts. Our covenant governs both God's and our duties and responsibilities. Our covenant keeping God dialogues with His people in Malachi's book. God cites the breaches in the covenant. We are children and servants of God's household. There are eight things God deserves from us.

**The greatest honour.** Proverbs 3:9; 1 Cor 6:19, 20; Exo 20:12

Our God deserves our greatest honour. The very best of our substance, increase, wealth and lives. We must glorify God in our body, and in our spirit, which are God's.

**The greatest respect.** Malachi 1:8

Our God deserves our greatest respect. What we cannot do or say to a governor, prime minister, president we should not say or do to Almighty God.

**The greatest reverence.** Matthew 6:9

Our heavenly Father is not only greatest to us, but greatest to the universe, therefore, reverence and hallow His Name.

**The greatest gratitude.** 1 Corinthians 4:7

We owe everything to God, every good thing and perfect gift and blessings. Therefore, to Him our profoundest and incessant thanks are due for life, breath, health, wealth, protection, grace, mercies, kindness, faithfulness.

**The greatest esteem.** Matthew 22:38

Our God is the supreme Being, the Fountain of life, the Standard of righteousness, the Totality of holiness. Therefore, He should be loved with all our soul and strength.

**The greatest confidence.** Proverbs 3:5; Jeremiah 32:27

We must yield to God our trust and reliance. We must trust in Him now and forever. God does not fail, sleep, slumber, change, lie, abandon, discard, abdicate or make mistakes. There is nothing impossible or hard for God to do.

**The greatest attention.** Philippians 2:5

We must cooperate with God in everything. God should occupy more of our thoughts than any other being. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

**Total obedience.** Luke 6:36; Ephesians 6:5

God deserves our total obedience. Whatever God wants, He should get. God's will must be done in our life.

**Conclusion:** God expects His children and servants to perform their obligations to Him. He is Lord, Master and Father. God is not pleased when we take Him for granted. He will repay those who dishonour and disregard Him.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 7 March 2021

**Topic:** Setting Our Hearts Right

**Text:** Psalm 39:5&6



We are inundated with adverts of get rich techniques and methods to make money. Publications and books abound written by money and wealth experts. The world is proclaiming riches, pleasure and living the good life as the sole purpose. Sadly, some churches have bought into it. Emanating from prosperity preachers are 'Speak it and claim it by faith' and, 'See the invisible and God will do the impossible'. It is not wrong to have wealth or be hard working or enterprising. God fearing people like Abraham, Isaac, Joseph of Arimathea, Mordecai, Philemon, Lydia had riches. In Luke 12:16-21, Jesus by the fool's parable admonished that wealth must not be humans' main preoccupation. The rich man's primary focus was how to live large but he cared not for how to live right with God. He lost everything, his soul and possessions. We must guard against loose morals, sexual scandals, covetousness or fraud, unlawful gains and lust of the flesh. Peter (1 Peter 1:24) reminds us that our years on earth is transient. We must focus on eternal life and follow our goals of faith in Jesus. We must examine our live styles, motives and walk with God. The price to pay is an idea we may not like, but disciples follow and obey their master. Letters of Peter and Jude contain warning to Christian's past, present and future.

**Who we are:** (1 Peter 2:9) We are reminded of who we are - a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

**What to do:** (2 Corinthians 13:5) Examine yourself. (2 Peter 1:12, 13) Do not be negligent. (1 Peter 3: 1, 2) Be mindful of God's word. (2 Corinthians 13:5) Separate yourselves from the world. (1 Peter 1:15) Be holy. (1 Peter 2:11) Abstain from fleshly lust.

**Dangers of disobedience:** (Jude 1:5), Warning about going back in times of trials, tribulations and challenges. We are more than conquerors. Press forward to the promised land.

**Goals as Christians:** (1 Peter 1:3-9) Inheritance incorruptible, salvation of our souls. (Colossians 3:1-4) Seek the things that are above, set affection on things above, appearing with Christ

**Return of Jesus Christ:** (Jude 14) Assurance of Christ's return. (Romans 13:11) Salvation nearer than when we believe. (2 Peter 1:19) More sure word of prophesy. (Hebrews 10:27) He cometh.

**God's promises:** (Titus 1:2) Hope of eternal life, God that cannot lie promised. (John 14:3) A place prepared for you. (Ecclesiastes 3:1) A time for everything, and scripture will be fulfilled.

**God's Judgement:** (Jude 1:14, 15) God shall come with His holy ones to judge and convict. (Revelation 21:8) Their part shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

**God's love:** (Revelation 21:3) The tabernacle of God is with men. (Galatians 4:4-7) Christ our Saviour. (John 1:12) Power to be God's children. (John 3:16, 6:7) God's love. You can enjoy the hope of heaven.

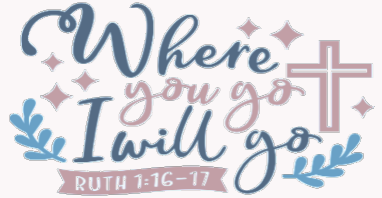
Preacher: Brother Edwin Ojemen



**Date:** 14 March 2021

**Topic:** The Qualities of the Empowered Woman

**Text:** Ruth 1 – 4



Mother's Day is celebrated to commend, encourage, to pray and to challenge our women. Using Ruth as a case study, we can see seven qualities of the empowered woman.

**1. Noble character.** Ruth 1:21, 22

Character is who you are when nobody is looking. Ruth's noble character kept her steadfast through crisis of famine, death, poverty and grief. She honoured bitter and hurting Naomi, put in long, physically demanding work to provide food for them. A noble character woman always offers help, considers others' view points and gives unconditional love.

**2. Full of unwavering faith in God.** Ruth 1:16b, Hebrews 10:23;11:1

Ruth displayed unwavering faith that there is a purpose ahead for her. She had faith that God would provide for her and her mother-in-law. Unwavering faith means that you trust God with your life more than you trust yourself.

**3. Able to deal with the past.** Ruth 1:16; Isaiah 43:18

Ruth left behind the Moabites God, her culture and accepted Naomi's God. She did not allow her past to hold her back. Her pain was immense. She has so many reasons to shrink into a shell, but she didn't allow for this to happen. How you respond to these challenges matters a great deal.

**4. Loyal to her commitment.** Ruth 1:16b; 1 Cor 15:58

Ruth and Orpah were faced with a decision. Ruth honoured her commitment to Naomi; she neglected her remarriage needs and chances. She took her commitment beyond "until death do us part" choosing to stay with Naomi. Stay loyal to your commitment, be it in Church, career, or marriage.

**5. Able to demonstrate true kindness.** Ruth 2:12; 3:10, 11

Ruth's true kindness followed her to Bethlehem. Her story reached the wealthy landowner, Boaz and he remarked positively. Ruth proved that kindness is never wasted.

**6. Obedient to fulfil God's purpose.** Ruth 3:1-5

Naomi coached Ruth on how she should find more favour with Boaz (their close kinsman). She gave Ruth instructions on how to get close with Boaz and Ruth obediently followed Naomi's directives in pursuing Boaz as a spouse. The Lord blessed their obedience and gave them a son. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

**7. Can make wise decisions.** Ruth 2:2; Matthew 6:33

Ruth made wise decisions to find something doing that brought food for them on arrival at Bethlehem. Ruth's decisions many years ago influenced the lives of millions. Decisions made today can impact generations. The greatest decision to start with is to accept Jesus as Lord and personal saviour. You will be empowered to fulfil God's purpose.

**Conclusion:** These seven qualities of the empowered woman will not elude you.

Preacher: Pastor Faith Bakare



**Date:** 21 March 2021

**Topic:** The Lack of One Thing

**Text:** Luke 18: 18-23

**Introduction:** A young ruler who came to Jesus and asked for eternal life. His reason for this conditional request is unknown. The young rich ruler was having a wonderful life but was conscious of an afterlife. From whatever he knew or heard or thought about Jesus Christ, he concluded that Jesus could grant his request if he could meet His requirement or condition. The Lord first listed five of the 'Ten Commandments' to inherit eternal life and then a sixth condition, and then followership.

**Condition 1:** "Do not commit adultery" Exodus 20:14

It would be almost impossible for a young ruler not to commit adultery or fornication. As people ran after the young, rich and famous today so it was also in the old days.

**Condition 2:** "Do not murder" Exodus 20:13; Deut. 5:17

It would very difficult for a young ruler not to kill his opponents to sustain or retain his power and dominance.

**Condition 3:** "Do not steal" Exodus 20:15; 1 King 12:10

To enjoy his tenure, he would have needed to exact taxes, increase levies and charges, manipulate accounts and mismanage funds to fund a lavish life style with his friends.

**Condition 4:** "Do not bear false witness" Exodus 20:17

Not to bear false witness would have been a difficult thing. To acquire more wealth, he would need to dispossess others, confiscate properties by falsification and deceit.

**Condition 5:** "Honour your father and mother" Exodus 20:12

He was young, wealthy and powerful. How would he honour his parents who were his subjects? Yet this young man said to Jesus Christ, "All these things I have kept from my youth".

**Condition 6:** Sell and distribute to the poor. James 2:10

The Lord Jesus then told him that he still lacked one thing and that he could not get by without having that one thing. Jesus did not 'move the goal post' the young ruler's self-righteous works were insufficient for eternal life salvation.

**Condition 7:** Come and follow Me. 1 Samuel 15:22, 23

When he could not fulfil the Lord's conditions, he became sorrowful and left. Jesus God's Son instructed but the rich young ruler disobeyed. What a disappointment.

**Conclusion:** Only one thing is lacking to all mankind. To inherit eternal life, you have to accept God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is finished, believe and obey.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 28 March 2021

**Topic:** The Public Entry into Jerusalem

**Text:** Mark 11:1-11

**Introduction:** This event of Jesus' public entry into Jerusalem as King and High Priest is recorded in all four of the gospels (Matt 21:1-17; Luke 19: 29-48; John 12:12-19), a testimony of the great importance attached to it. The accounts are independent, historical, and exceedingly significant. We celebrate "Palm Sunday," the day of Jesus' public entry into Jerusalem as King and High Priest a week prior to his crucifixion and death (Zechariah 9:9). Christ's coming into Jerusalem shows that he was not afraid of the power and opposition of His enemies whose headquarters was at Jerusalem. This would encourage His disciples who were full of fear (Matt 23:37). There are five things we want you to observe or take notice of in this passage.

**The obedience of His disciples.** Mark 11:1-4, 7

They did as Jesus had commanded, they did not dispute the Lord's commands, neither did they raise objections. They were not afraid of the dangers of being misjudged, physically manhandled, assaulted or falsely accused as thieves. Whenever our call is clear, our obedience must be instantaneous; what and when Christ commands, we are not to dispute or make excuses but to obey.

**The compliance of the owners.** Mark 11:5, 6; Exodus 5:1-3

The owners consented to the Master. We can contrast the compliance of the colt's owners to Pharaoh's reaction when he received God's message to let His people go.

**The actions of the multitude.** Mark 11:8-10

With shouting they proclaimed Jesus as the coming King, confessing, applauding and blessing the Messiah. They cast their garments and palms on the ground for Him to ride upon, according to the custom, they paid Jesus Christ homage.

**The concerns of Jesus.** Mark 11:11a; Ps 110:4; Heb. 5:6-10

Jesus rode directly to the temple because of His great concern for the House of the living God. The Lord made a thorough visitation and search to correct what was amiss.

**The return to Bethany.** Mark 11:11

Jesus returned to Bethany "house of welcome" or "house of figs" with His disciples in the evening and lodged there.

**Conclusion:** God's gospel message of salvation from sin and death comes to you today – consent to it. There is only one way to heaven, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 4 April 2021

**Topic:** Jesus has rolled away the stone

**Text:** Mark 16:1-7

**Introduction:** Merriam-Webster's dictionary of English language defines stone as 'a hard substance that comes from the ground and is used for building, carving, etc.' On the other hand, a stone metaphorically represents the hard problems and challenges in our lives. Let us consider the four steps that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome took on the day that Jesus rolled away the stone during the first Easter.

1. **Rise up and take a step of faith (verses 1-2, 5-6).** The women bought along spices so that they could anoint Jesus' body if He was still in the grave. They left their homes knowing fully well that there was a big stone at the entrance of the tomb. Nonetheless, they took a bold step of faith believing that all things are possible. The women also exercised faith by entering the empty tomb. They did not stay outside gazing at the tomb. Easter is a season of rising up and taking a step of faith.

2. **Ask a reflective question (verse 3).** Who will roll the stone away? This was the realistic and reflective question that the women asked themselves during the first Easter. You also need to ask yourself realistic and reflective questions about the stones in your life. Easter is a season of asking yourself reflective questions.

3. **Look up to God (verse 4).** The biblical narrator did not mention that the women prayed, but it can be implied that they prayed within their hearts for a divine intervention. They looked up before they got to the tomb and discovered that the lion of the tribe of Judah has rolled away the stone. Who do you look up to when there is crisis in your life, marriage, career and finances? Easter is a season of looking up to God.

4. **Go and testify to others (verse 7).** The angel instructed the women to go and testify to the resurrection of Jesus Christ after the stone was rolled away. The good news that Jesus' resurrection offered to us is bigger, better and fuller than anyone can imagine. Easter is a season of going out to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

**Conclusion:** According to N.T. Wright, 'the only reason the death of Jesus was ever thought of as good news was because of what happened next.' Jesus rolled away the stone and rose from the dead. Are you being confronted with the stone of sickness, poverty, singleness, joblessness, homelessness, guilt, marital crisis, disobedient children and bereavement etc.? Jesus can roll away every stone in your life as He did during the first Easter.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

Mark 16:4

**Date:** 11 April 2021

**Topic:** The miracle of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

**Text:** Matthew 28:1-10

**Introduction:** The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines miracle as an ‘extraordinary and astonishing happening that is attributed to the presence and action of an ultimate or divine power.’ There is nothing in history that can be compared with the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The main point of this message is that the first Easter was miraculous. Let us examine five important things in this passage that made the first Easter miraculous.

**1. The miracle of rolling away the stone (verses 1-3).** Some biblical scholars have suggested that the weight of the stone that was used to cover the tomb of Jesus would depend on the type of the stone used for it. They suggested that it could weigh between 1-2 tons (approximately 2000-4000 pounds). It was a more difficult task to remove the stone. The rolling away of the stone was miraculous.

**2. The miracle of the powerless guards (verse 4).** Three things happened to the guards in this verse. First, they were afraid (verse 4a). Second, they shook (verse 4b). Third, they became like dead men (verse 4c). The mighty Roman soldiers who crucified Jesus Christ on the Good Friday and guarded the grave that weekend became powerless on the first day of the week.

**3. The miracle of the empty grave (verses 5-6).** The Jewish authorities facilitated the crucifixion of and burial of Jesus Christ. They rolled a big stone to cover the grave and hired the most experienced Roman soldiers to guard it in order to prevent Jesus’ resurrection. But on the third day, the tomb was empty. This was miraculous. Hallelujah, the tomb is empty.

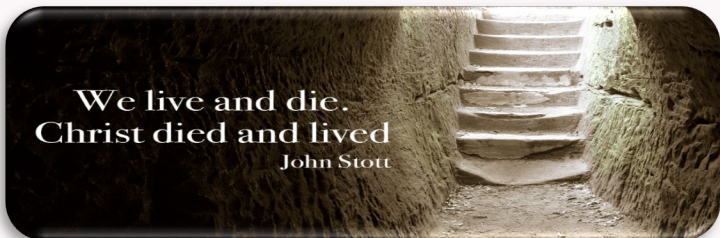
**4. The miracle of the resurrected body (verse 7).** There are three things about the bodily resurrection of Jesus in this verse. First, He has risen from the dead. Second, He is going ahead of the disciples to Galilee. Third, the disciples will see Him there. In my view, only the living can do these three things. As John Stott rightly notes, ‘we live and die; but Christ died and lived!’ Jesus lived and continues to live forever.

**5. The miracle of the appearance of Jesus Christ (verses 8-10).** The appearance of Jesus was miraculous. The women were going to inform the disciples about the good news of resurrection and to facilitate the arrangement to meet Jesus at Galilee. Jesus suddenly appeared to them and greeted them in a special way. The appearance of Jesus was significant. It turned everything around for the women.

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ’s resurrection was real and miraculous, implying that this is our/your season of unexpected miracles.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

We live and die.  
Christ died and lived  
John Stott

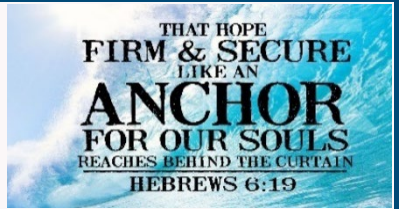




**Date:** 18 April 2021

**Topic:** Christ Jesus: The Anchor for Our Soul

**Text:** Hebrews 6:19-20



**Introduction:** An anchor is a heavy metal weight used to connect a boat or ship to the bed of a body of water for the purpose of preventing the vessel from drifting due to a wind, or a current or a storm. Used symbolically, an anchor reflects that which provides stability, confidence and certainty. In the storms of our unpredictable life, every Christian needs an anchor much greater than that required to hold sea ships.

**Historical background:** The anchor, a popular hope symbol before and during the early Christian church reminded Christians of the security of God's promised salvation and eternal life. God firmly holds us through the storms of life. Hebrews' author affirms that Jesus is our "anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Heb. 6:19). Many people anchor their lives and hope in money, job, success, fame, relationship. However, for Christians, Christ is the only anchor, He steadies our ship in the unexpected storms of life.

**Need for an Anchor:** Hebrews' author describes hope in Christ as the anchor of the soul. To serve any purpose, an anchor must hold and be "sure and steadfast." Sailors cast out anchors for ships to take hold on the bottom of the sea and prevent drifting or being driven upon rocks. The Christian's hope in Christ serves to give him/her stability in the midst of storms.

**The Power of Hope:** Christians look forward in hope with confidence to the fulfilment of things desired or promised. Christian hope is not the hope of possibility (it may be) but the hope of certainty (it will be). Rom 6:18 states that "Abraham contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be". The Bible says: 'The hope which is laid up for you in heaven, ...the truth of the gospel' (Colossians 1:5).

**Men whose Anchor Held:** In 1 Timothy 1:19 Paul mentioned those who having rejected faith and a good conscience have suffered shipwreck. The physical anchor of the ship Paul was travelling to Rome on could not hold, it ran aground and broke in pieces, however, his spiritual anchor remained very steadfast in Christ (Acts 27). **Job's** anchor held in the midst of his figurative storm. King **David's** anchor held in spite of the numerous storms that raged against him.

**The Christian's Hope:** Biblical hope does not mean doubtful longing like "I hope so." Biblically, hope is the combination of desire and expectation, a confident certainty (Heb. 6:11; Rom 5:5). Christian's hope is based on "two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie" - His Promise and His Oath.

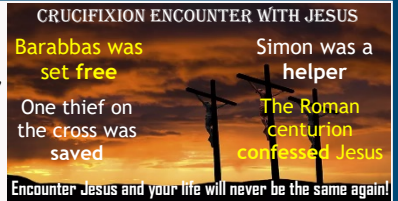
**Conclusion:** Christ Jesus is the Solid Rock that holds our anchor and makes us unshakeable and unmovable in the storms of life with His immense grace and limitless power.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Emmanuel Ofori

**Date:** 25 April 2021

**Title:** The Four Unique Crucifixion encounters

**Text:** Mark 15:1-39; Matt 27:1-54; Luke 23:13-47



**Introduction:** The most dramatic and unique encounters of people with Jesus Christ the Messiah, occurred during the event of His crucifixion. The encounter of Barabbas, a robber, murderer and leader of an insurrection. The encounter of Simon of Cyrene a stranger but sympathiser who carried the cross. The encounter of a criminal crucified next to Jesus who receives forgiveness at the last minute. The encounter of the centurion who supervised the execution.

**The Convict Exchange:** Mark 15:7-13

The first encounter was with Barabbas a robber, murderer and leader of insurrection against the Roman government. He was guilty of three crimes which carried death penalty. Barabbas was due to die for his sins and crimes yet without doing anything to merit mercy, he discovered that Jesus was going to die instead. He found liberty and life through the death of another, Jesus - an exchange by substitution.

**The Cross Bearer:** Mark 15:20-24

Simon was coming out of the countryside into Jerusalem, but Christ Jesus was going out of the city to a place without the camp, Golgotha. Simon's life is completely turned around meeting Christ who was about to be crucified. His experience of meeting the Lord would utterly change his life to walk in the opposite direction, following in the footsteps of Christ himself. Simon of Cyrene carried the cross, as Christ told his disciples they would. Simon is named as the father of Alexander and Rufus authenticate the story of salvation.

**The Crucified Petitioner:** Mark 15:27, 28; Luke 23:39-43

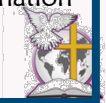
The criminal crucified next to Jesus received forgiveness at the last minute, a deathbed conversion. He admitted his sins and agreed that he justly deserved the death penalty. He confessed Jesus' Righteousness, Kingship and Power. He petitioned Jesus by faith for spiritual salvation and received the Saviour's promised eternal life after death. One crucified criminal went to paradise and the other to hell, eternal perdition.

**The Captain Executioner:** Mark 15:37-39

The centurion captained Jesus' execution by crucifixion. He received his instructions directly from the Governor. He was a ruthless man who had seen battles, killings, punishment, arrests, torture, the wounded, dying and dead. His point of view was Jesus' claim to be king of the Jews posed a threat to Caesar. The exchange also pointed to like for like, Jesus must be like Barabbas. The battle-hardened Roman centurion heard Jesus' loud cry, believed and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God.

**Conclusion:** Who are you? What encounter have you had or are you having with the crucified saviour? Your unique encounter determines your eternal destination - heaven or hell.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 2 May 2021

**Topic:** The marks of true friendship

**Text:** 1 Samuel 23:13-18

*A sweet  
friendship  
refreshes the soul*  
Proverbs 27:9

A FRIEND  
LOVES  
AT ALL TIMES  
PROVERBS 17:17

*Friends  
sharpen the minds  
of each other*  
Proverbs 27:17

THE HEARTFELT  
COUNSEL OF A  
FRIEND  
IS AS SWEET AS  
PERFUME & INCENSE  
PROVERBS 27:9

*A true  
friend  
sticks by you  
like family*  
Proverbs 18:24

ENCOURAGE  
ONE ANOTHER  
& BUILD  
ONE ANOTHER UP  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

**Introduction:** God created us as social beings so that we can relate with one another. Many scholars and preachers always talk about the achievements of David especially how he miraculously escaped the death traps of king Saul without reflecting on the contributions of his friends. Let us examine six marks of true friendship as we analyse this passage from the perspective of Jonathan and the six hundred men who stood with David during the most critical moments of his life.

1. **Durability and sacrifice (verse 13).** There are two things in this verse. (i) the mention of the 600 men who stood with David throughout the times of his adversity. (ii) the sacrifice of these men as they moved with David from one place to another. A true friend does not abandon you when the going gets tough.

2. **Divine connection (verse 14).** God protected David from the sword of king Saul. Yet, we can argue that God used Jonathan and the six hundred men as human agents to fulfil His purpose. A true friend is ordained from heaven and a blessing from God.

3. **Risk taking (verses 15-16a).** Jonathan means ‘the Lord has given.’ He was the son of king Saul and the next heir to the throne. Yet, he took the risk by coming out to the desert of Ziph as a shield for David and distraction to his father. He took the risk by sharing the surveillance and intelligence reports with David. This helped David and his men to escape. A true friend is able to take calculated risks.

4. **Spiritual enhancement (verse 16b).** David was downhearted in the wilderness. He was probably asking God different questions regarding his situation. Jonathan went in there to direct David’s attention to God and help him find strength in the Lord. A true friend enhances your spirituality and strengthens you in the things of God (Proverbs 27:9).

5. **Encouragement (verse 17).** Jonathan encouraged David not to be afraid. He insisted that his father (Saul) will not be able to capture him. He reassured David that he will eventually become the king of Israel. A true friend is an encourager and a reassurer (Proverbs 27:17).

6. **Loyalty (verse 18).** Jonathan and David made a covenant before the Lord. It was a lifetime commitment that cannot be altered. Jonathan was committed to David throughout his lifetime. A true friend is committed and loyal to the end. David reciprocated the same gesture when he showed kindness to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1).

**Conclusion:** Jesus is our true and closest friend. He does not fail or disappoint. His friendship is greater than the friendship of Jonathan and David’s six hundred men. Jesus died on the cross of Calvary for our sins. He is too faithful to fail us or leave us half-way. He has a track record of faithfulness.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 9 May 2021

**Topic:** Dealing with unexpected blows in life (Part 1)

**Text:** Psalm 34:19

Many are the afflictions of the  
righteous, but the Lord delivers him  
out of them all.  
Psalms 34:19

**Introduction:** Biblical stories of Joseph, David and Job remind us of the fact that life can throw unexpected blows at anyone irrespective of their status in the society, age, gender, and level of spirituality. Let us examine six among the many things that you can lean on when you get unexpected blows in life.

1. **Lean on the power of God (Psalm 20:7).** David understood what it means to rely on God's power when he was down. He fought the bear, lion, Goliath and other battles empowered by the power of God. David concluded that some may lean on their chariots and horses, but he would continue to lean on the power of God (cf. Psalm 118:8-9; 147:4-5).

2. **Lean on the plan and promises of God (Psalm 89:34-37).** This passage highlights God's plan and promise that the seed of David shall endure on the throne at Jerusalem. David leaned on this Davidic covenant of 'throne forever' throughout his lifetime. God also has a plan for us as Christians (cf. 2 Peter 1:4; Jeremiah 29:11).

3. **Lean on the provision of God (1 Kings 17:1-16).** The story of Elijah reminds us that God can supply the needs of those who lean on Him for supernatural provision. There was drought and famine in Israel, but God provided what Elijah needed and when he needed it. In your season of drought and scarcity, lean on the supernatural provision of God.

4. **Lean on the protection of God (Deuteronomy 33:27).** This verse was part of the final admonition of Moses to the nation of Israel when he was about to die. The Israelites would have to face the future without Moses who took them out of bondage in Egypt. They have not reached the Promised Land and there were many battles to fight. Moses encouraged them to lean on the everlasting arms of God for protection.

5. **Lean on the pardon of God (2 Samuel 12:13-14; Psalm 32:1-2).** David was devastated after committing the sin of adultery with Bathsheba. He was ashamed when prophet Nathan confronted him about it. David decided to lean on the forgiveness of God, and he received pardon (2 Sam 12:13; cf. Psalm 32:1-2). God is also inviting sinners every day to lean on His forgiveness and receive compassion (Isaiah 55:6-7).

6. **Lean on the peace that comes from God (Job 1:20-22).** Job lost everything in one day. He lost his oxen, donkeys and servants (Job 1:13-15); his sheep and shepherds (Job 1:16); his camels (Job 1:17); his sons, daughters and properties (Job 1:18-19). Yet, Job experienced the peace that comes from God in the midst of the calamity (Job 1:20-22). You can also lean on the peace that comes from God like Job.

**Conclusion:** What are the unexpected blows in your life at the moment? God is more than able to rescue you.

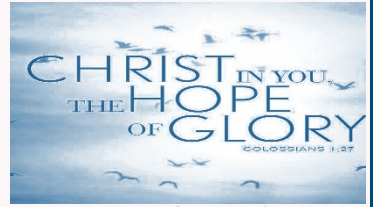
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 16 May 2021

**Topic:** The hope of restoration

**Text:** Joel 2:25



**Introduction:** Hope is defined as the feeling or expectation of something to happen. Such a hope may not last. The biblical definition of hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised to do which is backed up by God's faithfulness (Prov. 23:18). God has promised restoration this year, we are looking forward to it. It is a hope that cannot fail or be disappointed.

Based on three versions of the Bible (MSG, AV and NKJV), God has promised to: **i) Make up for, much greater than the original substance; ii) Compensate with a bigger and better for the years lost; iii) Restore in multiple folds for that which was taken away by the enemy.** God will give that which will cause a celebration. Biblical examples of people who were compensated are David (1 Samuel 30:8) and Job (Job 14:7-9), they received God's restoration and full recovery of whatever they had lost.

Job was a righteous man, testified about and boasted of by God. Job's good relationship with God and righteous standing did not insulate him from disaster. He lost everything in a single day when attacked by the enemy.

However, gradual or sudden sufferings and losses will not prevent or stop our compensation because our hope will not be cut short. There is hope because the tree has been cut but not uprooted. The root is still attached to the water source. My first visit to the United Kingdom was in the month of March. I observed that a lot of trees were leafless, they looked dried out. To one who had lived in the rural areas of Nigeria, I thought the trees were dead and would make good use for firewood. However, in April, just a month later, I was surprised to see the trees budding and bearing fresh leaves. They were not dead but in the dark winter months season they were dormant. The spring rains brought new life and new hope, they brought a rebirth, renewal and restoration.

**Hope that is alive:** Colossians 1:27

Job knew his God, that Christ in him is the hope of his glory. Job was God's friend. His relationship with God made him to have a hope that is alive. Because Jesus is alive, we have a living hope.

**Able to rise again:** Micah 7:8; Proverbs 24:16

Job understood that even though he had fallen, he would rise again because he is in Christ Jesus. His disastrous circumstances did not affect his root. He looked forward in hope to God's restoration and compensation.

Christians have the ability to remain strong in times of suffering. We build up our faith and strength at periods of adversity.

**Conclusion:** Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Romans 5:3-5).

Guest Preacher: Pastor Dr. Thomas Ola



**Date:** 23 May 2021

**Topic:** The empowerment in God's grace

**Text:** 2 Timothy 2:1-7



**Introduction:** The grace that is in Christ Jesus saves. It brings healing, deliverance, liberty and justification. The grace does not main, wound, injure or kill. If you have experienced it, then be strong in it, not confiding in your own sufficiency, but in the grace. God's grace is a foundation doctrine in the Bible, old and new testaments (Genesis 6:8). God's grace is at the core of the gospel (Acts 20:24). Every false religion on earth promotes salvation either totally by human works or by some mixture of God's grace with human works.

We are only saved by grace and also grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18). God's grace motivates us (2 Corinthians 9:8). God's grace sustains us (2 Corinthians 12:9). When in need, we come to God's throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). We fix our hope on the grace to be brought to us when Jesus Christ returns (1 Peter 1:13). We are blessed by the abiding presence of God's grace (Revelation 22:21). We are empowered in the grace that is in Christ Jesus to be teachers (verse 2), soldiers (verse 3,4), athletes (verse 5), farmers (verse 6).

**Empowered to be a teacher:** 2 Timothy 2:2

The grace of God empowers us to be teachers. The task is you must entrust the gospel to faithful men, who will teach others. Commit the living words that we have in dwelling to bearing fruits thereby vaccinating the Church against degradation, false teachings or heresies. Invest in others, disciple men in Jesus.

**Empowered to be a soldier:** 2 Timothy 2:3,4

The grace of God empowers us to be a soldier. We contend against Satan, the enemy of our soul and the Church. God has empowered us to save His enemies because God wants all men to be saved and not perish. Christians must give full attention to the task before them and must endure hardship.

**Empowered to be an athlete:** 2 Timothy 2:5

The grace of God empowers us to be an athlete.

The athlete is focused and committed to excellence for a greater goal. Christians desire the price of Christ's higher calling; the reward is not perishable silver or gold. Motivated by God's grace, optimistic because of God's promises which cannot fail. Confident and persuaded that they know whom they have believed – Jesus Christ the Messiah.

**Empowered to be a farmer:** 2 Timothy 2:6

The grace of God empowers us to be a farmer.

Unless the farmer labours first, he will reap no fruit. He must first till his ground and plant the crop before he can expect a harvest. He must work on the farm, fertilising, weeding, preventing pest, until the harvest is ready. He must be patient, teachable, knowledgeable, organised and a problem solver.

**Conclusion:** To be fruitful Christians, we must be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 30 May 2021

**Title:** Open your eyes



**Introduction:** Have you ever tried to walk around your house with your eyes closed trust me it's difficult but this is what some of us are doing in the spiritual realm.

Psalm146:8 ESV

"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous".

**1. Open your eyes and bow down to only the Lord**

Isaiah 42:8 KJV

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images".

**2. Open your eyes and be righteous**

Matthew 13:43 KJV

"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Do that which is right and have integrity.

**3. Open your eyes and see the people around you**

1 Corinthians 15:33 KJV

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

Somebody once said show me your friends and I'll show you your future

**4. Open your eyes and see why God closes those doors**

Revelation 3:7 ESV

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.'" If the path is not right for you, God closes the door and opens a new one.

**5. Open your eyes and see what God is telling you**

Isaiah 42:9 KJV

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth, I tell you of them."

God can speak to others through you when you pay attention to Him.

**6. Open your eyes and see that God is always faithful**

Most of our worries can be summed up in two words: "What if?"

'Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised.

Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave' (1 Kings 8:56 NIV).

You say, 'But I've failed God. Can I really expect Him to help me?' Yes, because even 'if we are faithless, he remains faithful' (2 Timothy 2:13 NIV).

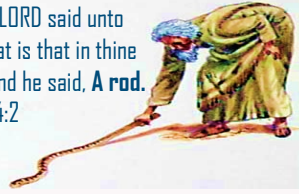
**Conclusion:** What are you refusing to see? What is God trying to show you? Open your eyes and see the path that God has set for you.

**Date:** 6 June 2021

**Topic:** A rod in my hand

**Text:** Exodus 4:1-5

And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. Exodus 4:2



**Introduction:** Moses was a fugitive from Egypt and tending the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law when God called him at the age of 80 years to deliver his brethren, the Israelites from Egypt and lead them into the Promised Land. Moses objects to God's call on his life; (i) I am not worthy. (ii) I do not know Your name. (iii) The people will not believe me. (iv) I am not good with words. (v) Send another. God gave Moses answers to all his excuses and Moses eventually obeyed God (Exodus 2, 3 & 4). God wants to use what is in your hands for His glory.

**What is the rod held in Moses hand?**

1. **His Identification (verse 2):** The rod in Moses hand was a stick about 180cm long used to guide, lead and protect the sheep. The rod identified Moses as a shepherd, it represented his life, his identity and his livelihood. What is the rod in your hand today? Is it the past, sin, hard feelings, talents, accomplishments, potentials, abilities ...? What we hold in our hands identify us, control our lives and control our spiritual destiny. God will use Moses to teach us that we can rise above the things that we hold in our hands.

2. **His Issue (verse 2):** God knew what Moses had in his hand. God was asking Moses for a time of reflection. The rod reminded him when his hand held a sceptre (the symbol of authority and power) and when he was being trained and educated to be a Pharaoh. The rod represented all the issues in his life - a prince now a servant, rich now poor, filled with vast potential at one time, but now a nobody on the back side of the desert. However, at the back side of the desert Moses met God and he was never the same again. We should not allow anything or anyone to control us but the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1-2).

3. **His Influence (verses 3-5):** When Moses objects to God's call on his life, God used the rod to teach Moses the truth that He will go with him into Egypt and that the people will believe him. The rod changed to a serpent and then became a rod again. When the rod was given over to the Lord, it became a living thing. It became a thing of power that God used to defeat Israel's enemies and to glorify God (Exo 7-10;14;17). Moses rod, his identification and his issue became his influence and power. God will use what is in our hands for our promotion and for His glory when we give our all to Him.

**Conclusion:** Moses carried a dead stick in his hand for forty years but when he yielded it to the Lord, the rod became God's rod. As believers we have power and authority in our hands (John 3:35). God will use what we have in our hands to lead us into our Promised Land, where we will enjoy God's restoration and divine compensation.

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni



**Date:** 13 June 2021

**Topic:** Dealing with the unexpected blows in your life (Part 2)

**Text:** Proverbs 24:16

THOUGH  
*a righteous man*  
**FALLS SEVEN TIMES,**  
*he rises again*  
 PROVERBS 24:16

**Introduction:** King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and took Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and other young men away from their families to serve in Babylon in 605 BCE. It was unexpected blows for them. Let us examine six among the steps they took in Daniel chapters 1-6 as a model for us today.

1. **Lean on the wisdom of God (Daniel 1:1-21).** King Nebuchadnezzar instructed his officials to teach all the trainees the culture, language, literature, wisdom, magic and other ways of the Babylonians. He made arrangements for them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. Daniel and his friends were more outstanding as they relied on the wisdom of God and resolved not to defile themselves with the royal meal.

2. **Lean on the revelation of God (Daniel 2:1-49; 4:1-47, 5:1-30).** Daniel was able to interpret the complex dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel also translated and interpreted the handwriting that King Belshazzar saw on the wall. God still reveals mysteries, if you are willing to lean on His revelation.

3. **Lean on the attributes of God (Daniel 3:1-30).** King Nebuchadnezzar insisted that everyone in Babylon should bow to his golden statue. He made a decree that those who disobey should be thrown into a blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the image. They were not afraid to stand up to the most powerful ruler in the world at that time because they leaned on the attributes of God.

4. **Lean on the encouragement of faithful and God-fearing brethren (Daniel 3:1-30).** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego relied on the encouragement of each other before and after they were thrown into the blazing furnace. You also need the support of faithful and God-fearing children of God when things are going well or when you face challenges of life.

5. **Lean on the power of prayer (Daniel 6:1-15).** The enemies of Daniel could only set him up through his prayer lifestyle. They deceived the king and he issued a decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being within thirty days (except the king) would be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel continued to lean on the power of prayer despite the conspiracy.

6. **Lean on the vindication of God (Daniel 6:16-27).** The enemies ensured that Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, but Daniel relied on the vindication of God. The lions could not hurt Daniel throughout the night. The king rescued Daniel and commanded the enemies with their families to be thrown into the lions' den. Then, the king issued another decree that everyone should fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

**Conclusion:** Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego experienced many unexpected blows in Babylon. They leaned on God, and they were not put to shame.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 20 June 2021

**Topic:** The joy of the saints when faced with persecution

**Text:** Luke 6:22-23

**Introduction:** Today's message is to encourage the saints of God and to let them know that God will never forget your labour in His vineyard.

Please note that no Christian in this world will escape persecution and that persecution is part of the evidence of being a true child of God. Yes, our God is mighty to deliver and He does deliver His children from ALL afflictions in this world but we do not live in an affliction or persecution free world.

So, today, I'm here to let you know that your suffering, as children of God, shall not be in vain. We are encouraged in 1 Corinthians 15:58, Psalm 34:19, 2 Timothy 3:10-12 and John 16:33.

**Seven points to encourage you as children of God when faced with persecutions in the work of God.**

1. Be rest assured that God will swallow up death in victory for you, wipe away tears from off your face and remove your disgrace whatever it might be (Isaiah 25:8).
2. Be rest assured again that God Himself will wipe away your tears (that's double assurance from our Lord), no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain of all sorts because the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4)
3. Be rest assured that God has graven you on the palms of His hands and not just once but continually. So, rise up and continue in God's work as a faithful saint. (Isaiah 49:16).
4. Be rest assured that Christ will return to reward you according to your work. So, remain faithful till the end (Revelation 22:12).
5. Be rest assured that when you call upon God, He will strengthen your weak hands and knees because He is your Author and the Finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:12).
6. Be rest assured that our Lord Jesus will not leave you comfortless because He is forever near you (John 14:18).
7. Be rest assured that your prayers, according to God's will, are before God and He will fight for you as His children in this world (Revelation 5:8 and 8:4).

**Conclusion:** Brethren, finally, your joy as saints of God is to count it all joy when ye fall into divers' temptations (James 1:2) or faced with intense persecution because our Lord Jesus will separate you as sheep from the goats at the last day. Not only that, but He will say to you, "... Come ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:32-34).

Preacher: Sister Adenike Ojemen

BEHOLD, I HAVE GRAVEN THEE UPON THE PALMS OF MY HANDS  
Isaiah 49:16a

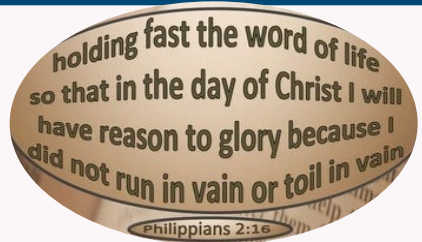




**Date:** 27 June 2021

**Topic:** Holding forth the word of life

**Text:** Philippians 2:14-16



**Introduction:** Christ is the pattern of our Christian life. We can manifest Christ by holding forth the word of life to shine as light in this world of darkness. As God's children, we possess the divine life and nature, and the function of this life is to shine by reflecting the light of Christ as our heavenly source. So "to hold forth the word of life" means that believers must apply, present and offer the living Christ to themselves and to those around them. (1 John 1:1; John 1:1-5) The word of life is different from the doctrine of dead letters and from any human doctrine.

**Applying the word of life:** 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Colossians 3:16

Christians are to apply the word of life or Christ to their lives in every way and in everything they do. Let the word of God dwell richly in all wisdom at home, at school, at work, at play and in friendships, marriage, partnership, dressing, business, crisis, resolutions and counselling. We keep on obeying God and applying the word of life at all times, not murmuring, grumbling or complaining. We are not to dispute, fight or contend for/about positions, or talents or gifts but do God's will and please Him. The Holy Spirit will enable us all necessary grace and power we need to do what God's perfect will.

**Presenting the word of life:** Acts 5:20; 1 Peter 3:15

Christ is that Word of Life that we exhibit fully by our life and our words, so that He may draw all men unto Himself. We present God's Gospel to sinners by telling them about the salvation by God's grace through Jesus Christ in our testimonies, evangelism and missions, through media, daily conversations. We study the Scriptures, interpret it correctly, and expound it systematically. We must also present Christ fully and accurately by diligently cultivating and expressing all Christ's virtues in our own lives – His love, His faith, His righteousness, His goodness, His meekness, His compassion, His holiness, His kindness.

**Offering the word of life:** Acts 10:38; Matt 25:40; 2 Cor 9

Christians are called to a life of the service of life. We are to offer the word of life in selfless love and faithful service to the people. Jesus went about doing good, healing, restoring, enabling, feeding and delivering, preaching and enacting the coming of God's Kingdom. We may encounter criticisms and persecutions but we must continue knowing fully well that Jesus Christ our Lord was despised, criticised and accused for it, we are to follow His example. Do you contribute to a charity? Please continue to do so. Do you feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty? Do you cater for the stranger and clothe the naked? Do you attend to the sick and the prisoners? Please continue in your labour of love. We shall reap, if we faint not.

**Conclusion:** Our God will make all grace abound to you, so that you may abound in every good work.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

**Date:** 4 July 2021

**Topic:** The signs of the end-times

**Text:** Matthew 24:1-26

But he that shall  
endure unto the end,  
the same shall be saved.

Matthew 24:13 KJV



**Introduction:** Jesus Christ did not leave us in darkness regarding the signs of the end-times. He gave His disciples eight important signs of the end-times in this passage:

1. **The sign of the destruction of the second temple (verses 1-3).** Jesus went to worship in the temple. Jesus looked at the beautiful building and said, ‘not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down’ very soon. This sign was fulfilled in 70CE when Titus destroyed the second temple.

2. **The sign of deceit, false doctrines, and false messiahs (verses 4-5, 11, 22-24).** Jesus warned that deceivers will multiply before His return. Many will come claiming that they are the Messiah and will use deceptive ways to perform great signs and wonders to deceive even the elect. This sign has been fulfilled.

3. **The sign of wars and rumours of wars (verses 6-7a).** Jesus mentioned that people will hear of wars and rumours of wars. This sign has been fulfilled. The world has survived so many wars including the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. There are currently pockets of national/local wars in many nations.

4. **The sign of famine and natural disasters (verses 7b-8).** Jesus predicted that there will be famines and earthquakes. This sign has been fulfilled. There are cases of hurricanes, tropical storms, landslides, thunderstorms and lightning, tornadoes, tsunamis, and wildfire worldwide.

5. **The sign of persecution of Christians (verse 9).** Jesus warned that some of His followers will be persecuted and put to death. There will be hatred for Christians in all nations. This sign has been fulfilled.

6. **The sign of falling away among the Christians (verses 10, 12-13).** Jesus warned that many believers will turn away from the faith and will betray each other. The love of many Christians for Jesus will grow cold, and they will follow the way of the world. This sign has been fulfilled.

7. **The sign of preaching the gospel to the nations (verse 14).** Jesus predicted that the ‘gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations’ before His appearance. In my view, this sign has been fulfilled. The power of social media has made it possible for us to connect many people around the world.

8. **The sign of distress for believers and non-believers (verse 15-21).** Jesus warned the disciples that ‘there will be great distress, ...’ Many Christians will be uncomfortable when they see several abominable situations within and outside the church. This sign has been fulfilled.

**Conclusion (verse 25).** We are getting closer to the end. The rapture can take place at any time. The world order and system can change at any time.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 11 July 2021

**Topic:** Divine assurances for believers about those who are dead in Christ

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Introduction:** Paul and Silas were involved with the planting of the church at Thessalonica during their second missionary journey in the first century (Acts 17:1-9). Paul wrote the book of 1 Thessalonians between 50-51CE to express his satisfaction with the healthy spiritual condition of the church (1:2-10) and encourage the brethren who were facing severe persecutions (2:14-16). He also wrote to answer some of their theological questions including the question of what will happen to those who are dead in Christ. He highlights five important assurances about the Christians who died before Jesus' return.

**1. The dead in Christ are sleeping (verse 13a).** Paul used the phrase 'sleep in death' to describe the situation of Christians who died before the return of Jesus. Sleep is the time frame between falling asleep (when your body is at rest) and waking up. It is a temporary condition. It is not permanent or eternal. Believers in Christ are not dead, they are sleeping in the Lord (Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:8).

**2. The dead in Christ don't require our pity (verse 13b).** Paul encouraged the believers not to be sorrowful like unbelievers. Those who are dead in the Lord don't require our pity. They are the ones pitying our conditions in this wicked and cruel world. What appears to be our loss on earth is a gain in heaven. Death is not the end but the beginning of a new journey.

**3. The dead in Christ will rise again (verse 14).** Paul mentioned that Jesus is our pacesetter. The fact that Jesus died and rose again guarantees the resurrection of the believers. There is an assurance that 'God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him' (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:13-19).

**4. The dead in Christ will rise first (verse 15-16).** Paul alluded to the teaching of Jesus Christ that we shall all meet up with Christ at the same time on the day of rapture. Christians who may be fortunate to be alive at that time will not have any advantage to go up before the dead in Christ. It is comforting to know that the King of kings and Lord of lords will show up one day. The dead in Christ will rise to reign with Christ.

**5. The dead in Christ will be with the Lord forever (verse 17).** Everyone who believed in Jesus (whether dead or alive) will have the privilege to be with the Lord forever. Some people have lost their godly spouses, children, parents, siblings, family members, friends, classmates, work colleagues, church members and neighbours. This loss is temporal. We shall meet again where we shall part no more.

**Conclusion:** (verse 18). Paul encouraged the church at Thessalonica and the entire body of Christ to encourage one another with this message of hope.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**KEEP ON**

TRUSTING, LOVING & HOPING

**Date:** 18 July 2021

**Topic:** Daring to be a Daniel: The challenges facing the Christian youth of today

**Text:** Daniel 1: 1-8

**Introduction:** Christian youths of today face a lot of challenges in their Christian walk and this is made worse with the prevalence of social media. Some of these challenges include personalizing and living out their faith; Living in an anti-Christian culture; Sexual purity in a society where pressure and temptation exists; Negative media influence and lack of discipline. There are challenges by the Media and in schools.

**Lessons from Daniel:** Christian youths can learn from Daniel in overcoming these challenges like Daniel's resolve in Dan 1:8. He refused to follow the crowd and go against God. The youths must learn to rely on God as when Daniel was faced with a number of very difficult situations, trials, and temptations (John 15:5). When faced with a dilemma, he prayed to God and asked God to show him His favour and compassion so the youths must learn to rely on God when in similar situations.

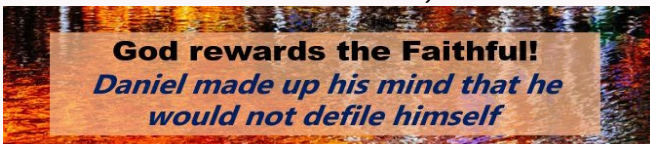
**Personal knowledge of God:** A preacher once said, "God has no grandchildren". The youths cannot ride on their parents' faith in God to be saved. Rev Cannon JI Packer said the best thing in life is the knowledge of God. "Indeed, we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it. The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God.

**Scriptural study:** Disregard the study of God's word, and the youths sentence themselves to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds them. This way one can waste one's life and lose one's soul." ...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." ...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ...Save yourselves from this untoward generation (Acts 16:31; 2:38, 40).

**Righteousness and Holiness:** Christian youth of today must not only be taught God's word, **they must be mentored in ways to apply the word to their lives.** They must be inspired to live more like Christ, remembering Jesus is the model (Luke 2:48-52). Christian youth must be taught **HOW** to be **DOERS OF THE WORD** (James 1:21-26); not just how to come and sit in Bible classes and training sessions. Youth need to be taught how to set and reach meaningful spiritual goals.

**Conclusion:** Elders of the church, parents, mentors, youth pastors, etc., need to live their lives as examples: In Philippians 4:9; Apostle Paul says, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Preacher: Bro Edwin Ojemen



**Date:** 25 July 2021

**Topic:** Sacrifice of praise

**Text:** 2 Chronicles 20:18-23

**Introduction:** The Hebrew word ‘hallel’ means to praise, cry out loud, sing song of joy, cheer or raise a cheer and to eulogize. In this context, it is God receiving the praise. The Cambridge English Dictionary defines sacrifice as ‘the act of giving up something that is valuable to you to someone else.’ We can see four things about the potency of sacrificial praise in this passage:

1. **Sacrifice of praise unites God’s people (verses 18-19).** The connection between Jehoshaphat, the people of Judah and Jerusalem, Kohathites and Korahites is powerful. They were united in praise. We must gather to celebrate God for the gift of life. We must gather to say, ‘magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together’ (Psalm 34:3).

2. **Sacrifice of praise enhances our faith in God (verses 20-21).** Jehoshaphat was able to motivate the people to have faith in God. He appointed men to sing sacrificial praise to the Lord. He also instructed the singers to go ahead of the army. This is an act of faith. The implication is that it was not the armies fighting the battle, it was Yahweh. As Terry Law rightly notes, ‘thanksgiving triggers faith for miracles.’


3. **Sacrifice of praise moves God to action (verse 22).** The Lord acted on behalf of Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah and handed to them the desired victory as they began to sing and praise. The Lord halted the invasion of Judah and defeated all their enemies as His people began to sing and praise Him. This shows that praise is one of the avenues by which we can move God to act on our behalf.

4. **Sacrifice of praise sets the enemies against each other (verse 23).** The Lord set confusion in the camp of the enemies of Judah. The Ammonites and Moabites slaughtered the men from Mount Seir. Then, they helped to destroy one another. Terry Law, in his book ‘The Power of Praise and Worship’ said, ‘When you praise God, you destroy the obstacles Satan puts in your way. Praise sets you up for a miracle!’

**Conclusion.** Praise is a sacrifice unto the Lord. There is nothing that praises cannot do. King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah gave sacrifice of praise to God and God wrought wonders over their situation. The greatest battles have been won through praise throughout history. Are you willing to approach the throne of grace with a sacrifice of praise?

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

2 Chronicles 20:22



“And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.”



**Date:** 1 August 2021

**Topic:** Abundant life

**Text:** John 10:9-10

**Introduction:** This phrase ‘abundant life’ emerged within the context of John 10:1-21 where Jesus presented Himself as the good shepherd relating well with His sheep. We can see three things about abundant life in this passage (John 10:9-10).

**1. The meaning of abundant life (verse 10c).** We can define abundant life from different perspectives. Abundant life ... (i) is knowing the only true God (John 17:3). (ii) is the abounding fullness of joy and strength that we receive in our spirit, soul and body. It is the exhibition of Christian character through the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). (iii) is eternal life. The journey begins at conversion (when we experience re-birth), and it goes on throughout all eternity. (iv) means allowing God to transform your personal desires in conformity with His will for your life (Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 12:1-2). It is the ability to express fulfilment in Christ in times of persecution and suffering. (v) may also include prosperity and good health because it addresses the total aspects of human beings.

**2. The giver of abundant life (verse 10).** Jesus highlights the sharp contrast between Himself (the good shepherd) and Satan (the thief). Satan was selfish, but Jesus was selfless. Satan came to take away the opportunities belonging to humans, but Jesus came to give us salvation and eternal life in abundance. Satan came to devalue humanity, but Jesus came to add value to our lives because He gave us a meaningful, purposeful, and joyful life. There is a difference between Satan’s mission statement, to steal, and to kill, and to destroy and Jesus’ mission statement, to give us life and for us to have it more abundantly. It is only Jesus that can give you joy, money, job, success, spouse, friendship, and ministry that would last forever.

**3. The invitation to receive abundant life (verse 9).** Jesus used the animal imagery to convey this powerful message to His audience. The sheep must go through the gate before they can get to the secured place that the shepherd has provided for them. Any sheep that is roaming outside the secured place is vulnerable to the attack of wolves. The implication is that there is no other door to abundant life apart from Jesus. There are three things about this invitation. First, this invitation is free because Jesus paid the price on the cross of Calvary. Second, this invitation is optional. You are either in or out (there is no middle ground). Third, this invitation requires a response. You have the will power to either accept or reject it.

**Conclusion:** Abundant life is available to those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal saviour. You must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and other things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33). Are you willing to respond positively to the invitation to receive abundant life?

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. **John 10:9**



**Date:** 8 August 2021

**Topic:** When your world falls apart

**Text:** Psalm 16:1-11



"I HAVE SET THE LORD  
ALWAYS BEFORE ME:  
BECAUSE HE IS AT MY RIGHT  
HAND I SHALL  
NOT BE MOVED."  
PSALM 16:8 (NKJV)

**Introduction:** An individual, organisation, system or relationship falls apart when 'it stops being effective or successful' (Longman Dictionary). It is a reference to a situation that is not working or something that is in a very bad condition. It may also refer to someone's sudden inability to deal with their personal, emotional, financial, career and relationship problems. Let us consider five among the many things that you should remember when your world falls apart.

**1. Remember to pray about the situation (verses 1-3).** God was David's first point of contact. He prayed to God to keep him safe in the time of crisis and declared that God is his refuge. Prayer was the first thing that David remembered when his world fell apart. You should also pray and read God's word for divine guidance through your situation.

**2. Remember to fix your eyes on God in the midst of that situation (verses 4-5, 8).** David refused to be confused or distracted by the things happening around him. He refused to follow other gods apart from Yahweh. He made a vow that he would not pour out blood to other gods or take up their names on his lips. He insisted that he would fix his eyes on the Lord with the conviction that he will not be shaken.

**3. Remember to speak positively to that situation (verse 6).** David spoke positively to the situation in his life. He recognised that God was bigger than the mountains of problems around him. Therefore, it is not a setback; it is a divine setup. It is not failure; it is an opportunity to learn. Thomas Edison said, 'I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.'

**4. Remember to praise God in that situation (verses 7 & 9).** David decided to praise God in time of crisis. He opted to praise his way out of the difficult situation to miracles, signs, and wonders. In other words, you must praise the Lord from your heart in time of crisis.

**5. Remember to testify about what God will do about that situation (verses 10-11).** David testified about what God would do for him in the future, his testimony has comforted many generations of people facing one life crisis or another. Marilyn Monroe: 'sometimes good things fall apart so better things could fall together.' God can use your present sufferings and emotional pain to comfort those who are hurting around you.

**Conclusion:** Life is full of many twists and turns, get used to it. Dr David Jeremiah in his book titled 'When your world falls apart' wrote: 'Your crisis is important to God. Whatever your struggle or setback, it is intended by God to empower and purify you.' Are you going through a season of life and asking, 'my God why have you forsaken me?' This Psalm is for you.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 15 August 2021

**Topic:** For these Reasons

**Text:** 2 Peter 1:3,4

His divine power has granted to us  
all things that pertain to life and godliness,  
through the knowledge of him who  
called us to his own glory and excellence ...

2 PETER 1:3

**Introduction:** God's divine power has given unto us the salvation experience we have through the knowledge of Jesus who has called us to glory and virtue. There are four reasons stated why we should be very grateful and appreciative.

1. **Given all things that pertain to life** John 10:10; 1 Cor 2:9.

Abundant life is eternal life. It is a life far better, qualitative, beyond measure, highly purposeful, exceedingly fulfilling, more than we could ever imagine, a concept no mind has conceived of. Our names are written in the book of life, we have access to God's throne of grace and life. We are joint heirs, brothers and friends of the Son. The Holy Spirit leads and directs us. Angels sing and rejoice for us. It is joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8).

2. **Given all things that pertain unto godliness** Luke 18:11

A lot of people measure themselves by human standards. Some even measure themselves against others and judge themselves better, these are the holier than thou. The truth is that God says you and I are not good (Rom 3:12). If you doubt God's declaration then let Him count your iniquities (Ps 130:3). Jesus Christ Himself is our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30).

3. **Made partakers of the divine nature** 2 Cor 5:17 Gal 5:22-23

Believers have died with Christ and no longer live for selves. Their lives are no longer worldly but spiritual. They are new creations. They manifest attributes or fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control because the Holy Spirit dwells within their hearts. The divine nature is produced by the Lord Jesus using God's Spirit in their lives. Are you a believer in Jesus Christ?

4. **Made escapees of the world's corruption** Gal 5:1; 2 Pet 2:22

Before anyone can escape, he/she must have been a captive or slave or prisoner. Christ has delivered believers from the world's corruption. He has translated us from darkness into light. We stand fast in the liberty that Christ has made us free. We may not see physical chains of brass or iron fetters on unbelievers. However, we will observe recurring falls, defeats, disobediences which indicates that sin has total dominion. Their vows, oaths, resolutions or promises are all in vain, they cannot keep them.

**Conclusion:** For these reasons, if you desire abundant life, if you want godliness, if you wish for the divine nature and if you want true liberty or freedom. We bid you to come to Christ Jesus. It is only the Son of God that can set you free and you will be free indeed.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 22 August 2021

**Topic:** Is anything too hard for the LORD?

**Text:** Jeremiah 32:17, 27

**Introduction:** The Babylonians have destroyed the cities of Judah and have taken some Israelites into captivity as a result of their disobedience. A word came to Jeremiah from the LORD assuring both Jeremiah and the people of Judah that He will restore them to their land. The rhetorical question to believers “Is anything too hard for the LORD?”; our expected answer, “Of course not, nothing is too difficult for the LORD.”

**When Jesus of Nazareth shows up miracles happens:**

**Woman with a bent back healed** (Luke 13:10-17). As Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, He saw a woman who had suffered for 18 years in a debilitating state. Luke tells us that Jesus did three things to this kyphotic patient. (i) *He looked at her.* “Jesus saw her...”. Christ Jesus saw her just as the LORD saw His people buckled down under the weight of bondage in Egypt when He told Moses, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people” (Exod. 3:7). This was not a casual look, **but a compassionate look.** (ii) *He called her to Him.* Christ’s call was powerful and effectual in her life, John 10:27 tells us “My sheep hear my voice”. (iii) *He touched her.* “And he laid his hands on her”. Under His touch, the spirit of infirmity left, the devil gave way, and the woman was healed.

**Crippled man at Bethesda healed** (John 5:1–9). Jesus Christ encountered a man near the pool of Bethesda who had a crippling infirmity for 38 years and each day he positioned himself by the pool hoping for a miracle yet was continually disappointed. When Jesus of Nazareth saw him, He said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” Jesus told him, “Rise, take up your pallet, and walk.” Immediately the man was made well. Keep coming to the pool of hope as you continue your faith-journey and see how God’s blessings will overflow in your life—it may be when you least expect it.

**A Widow’s Son Restored to Life** (Luke 7:11-17). A large crowd was following Jesus as He was approaching the city of Nain and at the same time, a large funeral procession was leaving the city and heading for the cemetery. Jesus stood and faced our **worst enemy**, death and **exercised His power** over death by restoring the widow’s son. He soothed her sorrow and restored her chances of surviving within society. Jesus was motivated by compassion for a widow facing a future of jeopardy.

**God’s unlimited ability to meet our needs** (Eph. 3:20-21). The things that are impossible with men are possible with God (Matt 19:26, Mk 10:27, Lk 1:37;18:27). God’s can-do ability is “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.” When He promises, we should say like Jeremiah, “There is nothing too hard for You” and like Job “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.” (Job 42:2).

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

**“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”**

Jeremiah 32:27 (KJV)

**Date:** 29 August 2021

**Topic:** Understanding Jericho praise

**Text:** Joshua 6:16

**Introduction:** This verse highlights three among other things that we need to understand about Jericho praise.

1. **Jericho praise involves understanding divine timing (verse 16a).** The Israelites must follow the time set by the Lord for the wall of Jericho to fall flat. The implication is that your Jericho praise must be timely. Any action outside God's timing will be ineffective.

2. **Jericho praise involves blasting the trumpet and playing other musical instruments (verse 16b).** The blasting of the trumpet is significant because it builds anticipation and alertness. It is an announcement or warning that something is about to happen. The blasting of the trumpet and playing other musical instruments are also evidence of praise to Yahweh. You are a royal priest for the Lord and you qualify to blow the trumpet today.

3. **Jericho praise involves shouting a shout of victory (verse 16c).** Joshua commanded the army to shout aloud because the Lord has given them the city of Jericho. Jericho praise involves shouting for joy in the midst of battle. It is about shouting by faith for miracle even when you have not seen anything yet. Therefore, what kind of praise would you give God if you suddenly realise that you are just one shout away from a life-time breakthrough?

**Conclusion:** We can see from this passage that God is stronger than the walls of Jericho in our lives. You can make your Jericho praise effective by recognising God's timing, blowing the trumpet and shouting for joy.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Topic:** Jericho praise

**Text:** Joshua 6:16

Israel was to possess the land of Canaan or Palestine but Jericho stood in the way. With its high and strong walls, without taking Jericho the children of Israel cannot possess their possession.

A praise effect brought down the walls of Jericho. The height, width and foundation of the wall was strong but the praise of the people of God and their shout for joy brought down the obstacle to their possession, Praise and shout hallelujah to the Lord today and your obstacles will be removed by God's grace.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. A.A. Asubiaro

It's All About  
**PR**AISE!





**Date:** 5 September 2021

**Soaring like the eagles (Part 1)**

**Topic:** The characteristics of eagles

**Text:** Job 39:27-30

**Introduction:** The statements in this passage occurred in the context of God's questioning of Job when he insisted that he wanted to see God face to face for answers concerning his sufferings. This text highlights six among the personality traits and characteristics of eagles.

**1. Eagles fly high and mingle less on the land (verse 27).** Eagles are highfliers. They can soar without flapping their wings. They were not created to walk; they were created to fly. Eagles don't dwell with the chickens because they are not on the same level. Therefore, you should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14). Another thing we know about eagles is that they fly alone, and they travel without unnecessary baggage.

**2. Eagles are wise (verse 28a).** Eagles are conscious of their safety. They set their nests so high where there is less interference from other birds and animals. Eagles' level of intelligence is excellent. Children of God should also be wise, vigilant, and conscious of their spiritual safety.

**3. Eagles rule and dominate in their territory (verse 28b).** Eagles are the kings of the sky. They were created to rule and dominate. They are bold, courageous, powerful, and full of strength. They are fearless, persistent, resolute, and strong-willed. Therefore, Christians should be fearless like the eagles (Proverbs 24:10).

**4. Eagles have clear vision (verse 29).** Eagles have clear vision during the day and night. They can see many things from afar more than other birds. You too must have a clear vision for your life, family, career, and service for the Lord. You must be able to see possibilities when others see challenges and dead-end situations.

**5. Eagles are great hunters (verse 29).** Eagles are great hunters for food. They can hunt and catch their prey on the land, water and in the sky. Eagles have the capacity to engage with poisonous snakes in battle. We are the eagles in the spiritual sense. God has given us the ability to hunt down the powers of darkness operating in our environment.

**6. Eagles nurture their little ones (verse 30).** The mother eagles feed the eaglets and teach them how to rule in the sky through flying and hunting. We must teach our children passion for God, self-worth, self-confidence, resilience in times of adversity and a desire to help others etc.

**Conclusion:** It is the will of God for you to soar, rule and reign in life like the eagles. God is raising and releasing eagles in our generation. Are you one of them?

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**When a storm is coming, all other birds seek shelter. The Eagle alone, avoids the storm by flying above it. So, in the storms of life...May your heart soar like an Eagle.**



**Date:** 12 September 2021

**Soaring like the eagles (Part 2)**

**Topic:** The metaphor of eagle's wings for God's action in the Bible

**Text:** Deuteronomy 32:11-12

**Introduction:** Moses used the imagery of a mother eagle looking after the eaglets as evidence of Yahweh looking after Israel and ultimately those who put their trust in Him. Let us examine the metaphor of the eagle's wings and reflect on five among the many things that God is doing in our lives.

**1. Eagle's wings as metaphor for God in control of all things (verse 11a).** The mother eagle provides the nest for comfort and dismantles it at the appropriate time to unsettle the eaglets. This is to prepare them to fly and dominate in the sky. Similarly, God is in control of the things happening in your life, family, finances, and career. He may allow you to go through some challenges in order to prepare you for the next level.

**2. Eagle's wings as metaphor for God's protection (verse 11b).** The mother eagle covers the eaglets with the wings. The mother eagle must be killed, and the wings destroyed before anyone will be able to harm the eaglets. In the same way, anyone who wants to attack you will have to attack God first because you are secured in the hollow of His hand.

**3. Eagle's wings as metaphor for God's lifting (verse 11c).** The mother eagle physically lifts the eaglets up when they fall as they struggle to stand. She also lifts them out of danger zone to the safest place. This is about correction, restoration, and divine help when you are helpless. Let God be the supporter and lifter of your head.

**4. Eagle's wings as metaphor for God's speed (verse 11d).** The imagery of the mother eagle carrying the eaglets is significant. This is about divine favour and divine speed. It is about accomplishing what is beyond your human power and effort through the grace of God. Yahweh singlehandedly carried the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt (Exodus 19:4-6). God can carry you with a divine speed when you cannot carry yourself or release yourself.

**5. Eagle's wings as metaphor for God's guidance (verse 12).** The mother eagle models flying and hunting for the eaglets. The Bible confirmed that the Lord guided the Israelites through the wilderness with the pillar of cloud during the day and the pillar of fire at night (Exodus 13:21-22). This helped them to recognise when God wanted them to move forward in the journey and where they are to encamp. God is also willing to instruct and guide you if you submit to Him.

**Conclusion:** Moses used the imagery of the mother eagle's care for the eaglets as an analogy for God's care for Israel. Let us reflect and allow it to invoke something new in us about what God can do in our own lives.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**As an eagle stirreth up her nest,  
fluttereth over her young,  
spreadeth abroad her wings,  
taketh them, beareth them on her wings:  
So the LORD alone did lead him,  
and there was no strange god with him.**

Deuteronomy 32:11,12 (KJV)



**Date:** 19 September 2021

**Soaring like the eagles (Part 3)**

**Topic:** How to soar like the eagles

**Text:** Isaiah 40:27-31

**Introduction:** Prophet Isaiah delivered God's message to the people of Israel that God wants them to soar like the eagles. This passage highlights four among the many things that we need to do if we want to soar like the eagles.

1. **Stop complaining (verse 27).** The message of God to the people of Israel is that eagles don't complain or grumble. God was unhappy when the Israelites complained about food and water in the wilderness. Why are you complaining? Why do you think that God has forgotten you?

2. **Increase your knowledge and understanding of God (verses 28-29).** What you know about God and what you have heard about what He did in the past will stimulate something special in you. Then prophet Isaiah presented six powerful things that they should know about God in verse 28b and 29. Firstly, the Lord is the everlasting God. Secondly, the Lord is the creator of the heavens and earth. Thirdly, the Lord does not grow tired or weary. Fourthly, the Lord's understanding is unfathomable. Fifthly, the Lord gives strength to the weary. Sixthly, the Lord increases the power of the weak.

3. **Recognise your human frailties (verse 30).** The pride of the youths is their strength, but it is possible for them to be tired, weary, stumble and fall. This verse confirms that there is no superman or woman anywhere.

4. **Hope in the Lord (verse 31).** There are four things about those who hope in the Lord in this verse. First, they will renew their strength. Second, they will soar on wings like eagles. Third, they will run and not grow weary. Fourth, they will walk and not faint. It is only God that can transform your weakness into strength.

**Conclusion:** Are you a wounded eagle? There is hope of healing and renewal (Psalm 103:2-5; Jeremiah 30:17). If you should get back on your feet and rise from the ashes (Acts 14:19-20), then, you should wait for God's deliverance (Psalm 34:19). You are the eagles for Jesus. Stretch out your wings and fly so that the triune God can be proud of you.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

But they that  
*wait upon the LORD*  
 shall *renew* their *strength*;  
 they shall *mount up with wings as eagles*;  
 they shall *run*, and not be weary;  
 and they shall *walk*, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

**Date:** 26 September 2021

**Topic:** Enjoying the covenant of God

**Text:** 2 Samuel 7:1-21

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2 Corinthians 1:20, NKJV

**Introduction (verses 1-7).** David informed prophet Nathan about his intention to build a magnificent temple for the Lord. God was moved with David's attitude of gratitude. God appeared to Nathan the same night and gave him a prophetic message for David. God mentioned six important covenants that David would enjoy in this passage.

**1. The covenant of promotion (verse 8).** God promoted David from a shepherd boy to a slayer of giant Goliath; from a servant playing musical instrument in the palace of king Saul to king over the nation of Israel; from the last born of the sons of Jesse, to the number one citizen in Israel. God also positioned David where he could access additional promotion (Psalm 75:6-7).

**2. The covenant of protection (verse 9a).** God protected David from the hands of bears and lions in the bush. God protected him from the hands of Goliath, the Philistines and all his enemies. God promised to continue to protect him. As a child of God, you are also under God's covenant of protection, you should claim it!

**3. The covenant of greatness (verse 9b).** God promised to make David's name great like the names of the greatest men on earth. This is the reason why we are still talking about David up till today. Great people distinguish themselves and people remember them hundreds of years after their death. The implication is that you don't have to be rich, educated or come from the royal family in order to be great.

**4. The covenant of establishment (verses 10-11).** God promised to establish David's place in Israel and throughout history (verse 10a) and plant the nation of Israel because of David (verse 10b). The Israelites will have a homeland of their own and they will not be disturbed (verse 10c) and the wicked nations will not be able to oppress them anymore (verse 10d). God also promised to give David rest from all his enemies and establish a house for him (verse 11).

**5. The covenant of succession and continuity (verses 12-13, 16).** God promised that David and his descendants will be kings from one generation to another. There will be proper handover and takeover of the Davidic throne (Psalm 89:3-4).

**6. The covenant of sonship (verses 14-15).** God promised that David will enjoy the blessing of sonship (verse 14a); to punish him whenever he takes wrong steps (verse 14b); that His love for David will never be taken away (verse 15). We are now sons and daughters of the Most-High God through Christ (1 Peter 2:9).

**Conclusion (verses 17-21).** David was overwhelmed when he heard this message from the Lord through prophet Nathan. He was grateful about the great things that God has done and the wonderful promises concerning his future.

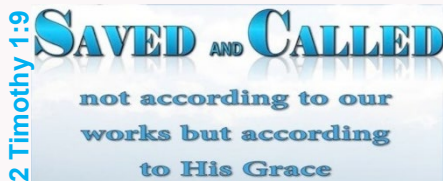
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 3 October 2021

**Topic:** Understanding your glorious call

**Text:** 2 Timothy 1:8-9



**Introduction:** The word call involves an interaction between the caller and the called. In the context of glorious call, God is the caller, and we are the ones being called. Let us examine the three glorious calls that you should not ignore:

1. **The glorious call to salvation (verse 9a).** This is a call to regeneration, conversion or new birth. This was the call that Saul experienced on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:4). Many of us are looking for miracles, but there is no miracle that is more important than your eternal salvation. Charles Spurgeon refers to it as the ‘miracle of miracles.’ Therefore, you must take it seriously (John 3:3, 16; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:18).

2. **The glorious call to spirituality (verse 9a).** This is a call to spiritual maturity in Christ. Christian spirituality is the ability to think, speak and act out your feelings under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is also about being an imitator of Jesus Christ and walking in his footsteps (Ephesians 5:1-2). This is when you move beyond the elementary milk and begin to eat solid spiritual food (Hebrews 5:14, Hebrews 6:1). Spiritual maturity is measured in terms of persevering faith, humility, patience, how you handle life frustrations, ability to postpone immediate pleasures for long-term values, capacity to endure in times of uncertainty, and becoming less self-conscious and more God-conscious. It is a lifelong learning and development.

3. **The glorious call to service (verse 8).** The call to Christian service is a call to a specific Christian ministry within or outside the church. This may be a call to full-time or part-time ministry as a pastor-teacher, evangelist, Sunday school teacher, usher, chorister, media crew, children or youth worker etc. Many people in the church have the erroneous belief that ministry is only for those who have devoted themselves to pastoral ministry or overseas missionary work that are called into the ministry. They did not understand that every Christian service is a ministry. God has called every Christian into some kind of ministry within and outside the church.

The call to Christian service has three dimensions; (i) the vertical call. This is the act of the triune God whereby an individual or a group of people are called into specific ministry. (ii) the inner call. This is when you have the inner conviction within you that God has called you into what you are doing in the kingdom of God. (iii) the horizontal call - when the people you have been called to serve are able to confirm your calling (Acts 13:1-2).

**Conclusion:** Apostle Paul conclude in verse 9b & c that our glorious call is not because of anything special that we have done. Jesus secured our glorious call by grace for His own purpose. Therefore, we must live a life worthy of that calling (Ephesians 4:1-3). How will you respond to God’s glorious call?

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare





**Date:** 10 October 2021

**Topic:** And besides these, add

**Text:** 2 Peter 1: 5-9, Galatians 5: 22, 23

**Introduction:** And besides four things that God's divine power hath given unto us by our new birth experience through the knowledge of Jesus – eternal life, godliness, divine nature and incorruptibleness. We are to carefully, conscientiously and prayerfully add the fruit of the Spirit, faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity.

**Faith:** Romans 10:17

Allow your faith grow or increase daily in your Christian walk with God. What does God's word say about the matter or issue? Accept or Take God's word for it. Follow God's instruction. Our daily confession of God's word and promises will strengthen our faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God.

**Virtue / Goodness:** Acts 10:38

Jesus was despised for doing good. We are to follow His example of doing good despite the possibility of persecution and being despised. We should be courageous to teach and preach our beliefs with love and respect to all. The servants of God should be perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good works.

**Knowledge:** 2 Peter 3:18

We must thirst and hunger for the Knowledge of God and of His will. As our vocation, we must continually add to our knowledge and grow in it. The Word of Christ must dwell in us richly if we want to be effective and productive individuals.

**Temperance / Self-control:** 1 Corinthians 9:25

We must be moderate in the indulgence of our appetites and passions, ensuring nothing is done in excess or vain glory.

**Patience:** Psalm 27:14

God is patient and long suffering. We must wait patiently like the husbandman to receive the reward of our labour of love. We must wait patiently for the Lord and be of good courage.

**Godliness:** Titus 2:11-14; Romans 6:14

We are to apply God's grace and faith, to experience a close relationship with God and consistent victory over sin. Godliness with contentment is great gain. We are admonished to live soberly, righteously and godly looking for Jesus Christ's return.

**Brotherly kindness:** Ephesians 4:32; James 2:14-16

We must be aware of each other's needs and try to help. Bearing one another's burdens means being supportive. There should be no schism (separation) in the body; the members of Christ's body should have the same care one for another.

**Charity / Love:** Romans 13:10; John 15:12; Romans 12:10

We are to love our neighbours. We are to be kindly affectioned one to another. Our love must be unfeigned.

**Conclusion:** We are to diligently add to what God's divine power hath given unto us by the salvation experience so that we are not barren nor unfruitful.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 17 October 2021

**Topic:** Remind you of these things

**Text:** 2 Peter 1:12-21

**Introduction:** Peter was certain about two things when he penned this to those who had obtained like precious faith with the apostles through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: These Christians know the truth he had been teaching and they were established. They were not like the Galatian Christians. Peter then emphasised four things he needed to remind them.

**Reminder about the truth:** 2 Peter 1:12,13; John 21:15–19

Peter knew that even Christians who are aware of the truth and living in the truth need to be reminded. Our physical bodies hunger and thirst and we attend to these. Our spirit must hunger and thirst for God's word. Peter as commanded fed the Christ's sheep. We also need to feed the flock to which we are overseers, reminding them that they have all things that pertain unto life, godliness and divine nature.

**Reminder to hold fast to the truth:** 2 Peter 1:15

Another of Peter's purpose was to remind the church to hold fast to these teachings and keep the faith. This was not meant to criticise believers but to encourage and strengthen them. They must put in some effort where required to make their calling and election sure.

**Reminder about his personal experiences** 2 Peter 1:16-18

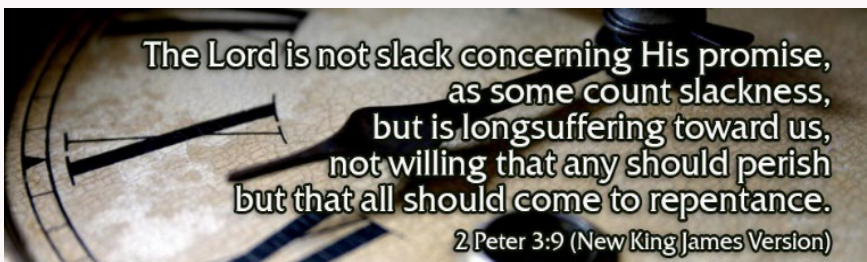
Peter testified about his experiences to assure them that Christianity and the Salvation message is not a fable. He gave his eyewitness transfiguration account (Matthew 17:4) to confirm that the scriptural prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus are true. He reiterated that Jesus is coming back in glory and power. There are unique/unforgettable times in our lives when the Lord stepped into our situations, to deliver, to heal, to provide, to preserve, to sort out and to teach. Our unique encounters are for believers' edification and assurance. They are for unbelievers to hear, see, be warned and repent.

**Reminder about the Holy Scriptures** 2 Peter 1:19-21

Peter declared truly that the Bible is God's word, holy men of God spoke and wrote being moved by God's Spirit. Believers must take heed, pay attention to it as lamp or touch light in this dark world. He stated that the Bible is a surer word of testimony than his personal testimony. We must also be assured that the Bible is God's word and remind others.

**Conclusion:** God does not want anyone to perish, 2 Peter 3:9.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 24 October 2021

**Topic:** Prayers – Remember me oh Lord

**Text:** Nehemiah 5:19

**Introduction:** Nehemiah was a builder and leader. He prayed for the Lord to remember him for his works. ‘Remember me’ is a prayer of relationship. There must have been a connection, God must have been seen and heard by him. How do we see God? Prayer is for a life time; Nehemiah was constantly asking God to remember him as he was working for the Lord. He was praying, dealing with oppositions and building the wall. Whatever Nehemiah was doing, he was connecting God to it. Pray that God will remember your good works.

Psalm 102 – **A prayer of an afflicted person:** Remember God’s prophesy, the time line, there is an appointed time.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – We must wake up our spirit, soul and body to pray. **The spirit man** must take the leadership when praying in order to get to the presence of God, Psalm 56:5.

**God remembers our tears:** When Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem were troubling the Jews (Nehemiah 2:10,19), Nehemiah called on God to remember his enemies and vindicate him (Nehemiah 6:14). God will remember your tears when you call on Him.

**Unusual prayers:** Nehemiah made seven unusual prayer requests to God: Nehemiah 1:8 God should not forget and turn away from His promise. Nehemiah 13:14 God should not wipe out his good deeds from His mind. Nehemiah 5:19, 6:14, 13:22b, 13: 29, 13:31 God should be certain to remember and sure not to forget.

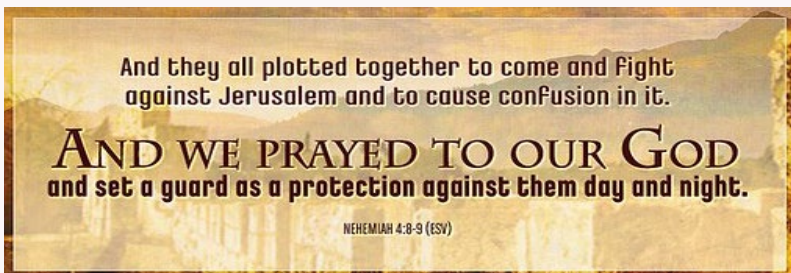
**Prayer of anticipation:** When we are not sure about something we must wake up and pray, that is we must meet our enemy at the gate and not let them in. Nehemiah was constantly praying.

He also asked the Lord to remember all his works and reforms. God should also take note of the negative and antagonistic works of the enemies of the Jews (Nehemiah 13:14,22,29,31).

**Urgent prayers:** Nehemiah was real with his emotions and pleaded with God seven times in the heat of the moments. We are to turn God’s word into swords. When we have battles, we look for partner(s) to join in the battle to decree God’s promise.

**Conclusion:** We must come to God’s presence prepared. Asking God to remember was Nehemiah’s number one prayer habit.

Guest Preacher: Sister Kemi Kehinde-Taiwo



**Date:** 31 October 2021

**Topic:** The testimony of a faithful Church

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 1

Remembering without ceasing  
your work of faith, and  
labour of love, and patience  
of hope in our Lord Jesus  
Christ, in the sight of God  
and our Father;

-1 Thessalonians 1:3 (KJV)-

**Introduction:** The church at Thessalonica is a good example of a faithful church. They had embraced Paul's ministry and teaching wholeheartedly (verses 5-7). Paul was grateful to God and mentions how the success of the gospel in their midst is evident at home and abroad. What can people see in our church today? What is our testimony? Let us stand side by side with this ancient church and look at three marks of their testimony;

1. **Faithful Work** (verses 3-7). Luke records the ministry of Paul and Silas in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9). (i) **Work of saving faith** (verses 3-5). Saving faith not only knows and comprehends the facts about the gospel of Jesus Christ but also trusts in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone for salvation. The sinner must believe that Jesus came to save sinners through His life, death, and resurrection (Romans 1:16-17; 10:9-10). (ii) **Work of serving faith** (verse 3). The church at Thessalonica were busy for the Lord. Jesus commended the faith of the friends of the paralytic man (Mark 2; Luke 5). We don't need saving faith alone, that gives us eternal life but also serving faith, which is used to bless those around us.

(iii) **Work of sustaining faith** (verses 3, 6-7; Psalm 1:3). Despite the hostile environment the believers experienced, they were holding fast to the word that was preached to them.

2. **Faithful Witness** (verse 8). Their faith was combined with works. (i) **What was their faithful witness message?** - 'the word of the Lord' was their testimony. The message of the gospel is a message of salvation and a message that we all need today, and forever. (ii) **What was their faithful witness method?** - 'sounded out' and 'spread abroad'. The readiness of their faith was very famous and well known. (iii) **What was their faithful witness ministry?** - Their witness was so effective that everywhere Paul went; he found their message had preceded him. Are we ready to saturate our world with the message of salvation?

3. **Faithful Walk** (verses 9-10). To walk with the Lord, you must be prepared and ready. (i) **Holy walk** (verse 9). They left their idolatry. They manifested a changed life. (ii) **Hopeful walk** (verse 10). They lived their lives in view of the coming of Jesus. Are you looking out for the coming of the Lord? (Acts 17:31; Matthew 25:41). As we wait for Him, we must be **active like Jesus** (John 9:4); **clean like Jesus** (1 John 3:3); and **joyful believers** (Titus 2:13).

**Be a spiritual leader and encourager** (verse 2). Do you want a faithful Church? Then, **pray** constantly for your church like Paul, Silas and Timothy did for the believers in Thessalonica. **Feed, nourish and remind** the brethren (2 Peter 1).

**Conclusion:** The church is made up of people who must have individual testimonies of being saved by grace, living a righteous life, joyful in the Lord and expectant of the coming of the Lord. These collective testimonies will make our church a faithful one.

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni

**Date:** 7 November 2021

**Topic:** Loving and serving God with all our minds

**Text:** Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind.  
*Matthew 22:37*

**Introduction:** ‘Diánoia’ the Greek word used for ‘mind’ in this passage means ‘understanding’ or ‘intelligence.’ It means loving and serving God with our intellectual capacity. We can do this becoming an intelligent voice for biblical Christianity in the public arena, questioning the unbelievers about their faith and demonstrating what makes the Christian faith unique, and by training other Christians how to defend Christian truth effectively through discipleship and rigorous teaching. Let us consider three biblical examples of loving and serving God with all our minds in the New Testament.

**1. Jesus laid the foundation for us on loving and serving God with all our minds (Luke 2:41-48, Matthew 22:34-40).** Jesus followed His parents (Joseph and Mary) to the temple in Jerusalem and sat among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions. Jesus had many encounters with the Sadducees, Pharisees, scribes, and other religious leaders who attempted to test His knowledge (Matthew 22:34-40). He ministered to a fragmented Jewish society with different ideologies and belief systems, yet He was able to match their sophisticated ideas by loving and serving God with His mind. He gave us the Great Commission before He ascended to heaven (Matthew 28:18-20).

**2. Apostle Paul lived most of his life loving and serving God with all his mind (Acts 8:1-3; 17:2; 18:4 & 19).** Saul of Tarsus began his journey of life as a Pharisee defending the Torah (Acts 8:1-3). He persecuted the church, supervised the killing of Stephen and went from house to house dragging non-followers of Judaism into prison. He considered it as his own way of loving and serving Yahweh with his mind. Saul encountered Jesus Christ on his way to Damascus, became Apostle Paul and served the Lord with his mind throughout his first, second, third missionary journeys and final trip to Rome. It was Paul’s custom to visit the synagogue regularly and debate with the Jews (Acts 17:2; 18:4 & 19).

**3. Apostle Peter encouraged us to love and serve God with our minds (1 Peter 3:15).** Apostle Peter encouraged the Christians at that time and ultimately all believers in Christ to be always ready to explain to everyone who asks them to give an account for the hope that is in them. He mentioned that they should do it with gentleness and respect. The implication is that you will meet many intellectuals and anti-Christians in your places of work and neighbourhood, you must be ready to defend your faith. You should be able to answer the tough questions that your children are asking you about basic Bible doctrines.

**Conclusion:** How do we love and serve God with our minds in this post-modern and post-Christian world? We must be like the Bereans searching the Scripture diligently and applying what we have learnt into our lives. We must also encourage others to love and serve God with their minds.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare





**Date:** 14 November 2021

**Topic:** How shall we escape?

**Text:** Hebrews 2:3, 4

**Introduction:** This is a logical and reasonable question to all humanity. How will you, I and the rest of humanity escape the consequences of such neglect?

The problem is great because you and I cannot answer it, nor can anyone else.

**What are we escaping from?** Hebrews 2:2; 9:27.

We need to escape from the just recompense of reward for our every transgression and disobedience. A judgement will come after death, the wrath of God against the sins of man.

**What is the great salvation message?** 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24

The gospel is the great salvation message. The first and most important fact is that Christ died for our sins. The death of Christ as our substitute is the heart of the gospel. Jesus died in our place, as our substitute, to atone for our sins and allow us to enter into a right relationship with a holy God

**Who is this Lord? What was first spoken by Him?** The same Jesus who died for the sins of mankind is the Lord. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Saviour, Emmanuel, King of kings Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 7:14. Jesus preached salvation and deliverance message Matthew 4:17; Acts: 10:38; 2:22; Luke 4:18; John 3:2

**Who confirmed it to us?** John 1:29

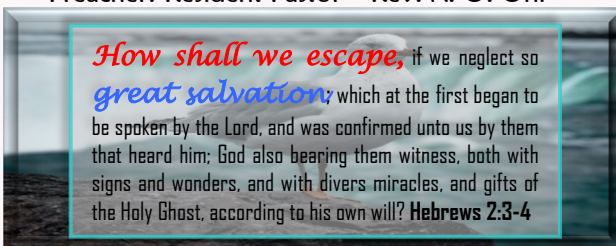
Those that heard him. John the Baptist, the disciples and apostles, Old and New Testament prophets, Christians.

**Who bore them witness?** Luke 9:35

God Almighty, creator of the heavens and earth with signs and wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. God spoke, His voice came out of the cloud, saying, this is my beloved Son: hear Him, this was in front of two Old Testament prophets and three New Testament witnesses. Pharaoh heard the salvation message and he witnessed God's signs and wonders but he perished because he neglected these. Governor Felix neglected the message for a more convenient season and King Agrippa did not want to be persuaded to be a Christian Acts 24:25; 26:28; 2 Corinthians 6:2. Today is the day of salvation. How long will you neglect or reject His message? Moses lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, even so Jesus was lifted up at Calvary, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:14,15).

**Conclusion:** Mankind is inexcusable and shall not escape God's judgement if His great salvation is neglected. Mercy and grace can only be found through Jesus the Messiah.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



**Date:** 21 November 2021

**Topic:** The God we serve will deliver us

**Text:** Daniel 3:1-30

Behold, our God Whom we worship is able to save us;  
He will rescue from the fiery, burning furnace and from your hand, O King.  
But if He does not, let it be known to you, O King, that we do not worship your god, and the golden statue that you have set up we shall not prostrate ourselves."

**Daniel**  
3:17-18

**Introduction:** Who made this statement and to whom? On what occasion was it said? What happened before and after this statement? What are the implications of this statement for us today? Let us examine five important things from this passage.

**1. The situation of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (verses 1-15).** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego found themselves in a serious situation in Babylon. They must choose between bowing down to Yahweh or the golden image put in place by king Nebuchadnezzar. They must choose between idolatry and the worship of Yahweh.

**2. The confession of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (verses 16-18).** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied king Nebuchadnezzar that there was no need to defend themselves on the matter. They have made up their minds to obey Yahweh rather than the king of Babylon. There are four things about their confession in this passage. (i) it was a confession of their relationship with God (verse 17a). (ii) it was a confession of faith (verse 17b). (iii) it was a confession of their spiritual maturity (verse 18a). (iv) it was a confession in defiance of king Nebuchadnezzar (verse 18b & c).

**3. The deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (verses 19-27).** Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He thought that no god will be able to rescue them from his hand. He ordered that the temperature of the furnace be increased seven times. The three men were firmly tied and thrown into the blazing furnace. Those who threw them in the fire even died in the process. Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement when he saw four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed. He confessed that the fourth man looked like 'a son of the gods.'

**4. The elevation of the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (verses 28-29).** King Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego for sending His angel to rescued the three young men. He made a decree that any nation or language under the Babylonian empire who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will face heavy sanctions. The implication of his decree is that Yahweh is more powerful than the gods of the Babylonians.

**5. The promotion of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (verse 30).** King Nebuchadnezzar eventually promoted the three young men. What was meant to end up with destruction ended up with their elevation. What was meant to end up with their public shame ended up with positive popularity.

**Conclusion:** The Lord who delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is able to deliver us today from terrorism, poverty, household wickedness and all the challenges of the end-times.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G.O. Bakare



**Date:** 28 November 2021

**Title:** A new song in my mouth

**Text:** Psalm 40:1-3

HE PUT A NEW SONG IN MY  
MOUTH, A HYMN OF PRAISE TO  
OUR GOD. MANY WILL SEE AND  
FEAR AND PUT THEIR TRUST IN  
THE LORD.  
PSALMS 40:3

**Introduction:** 1 and 2 Samuel give an account of king David's coronation, reign and troubles. David was recounting his prolonged period of waiting for the Lord and the LORD's spectacular deliverance that followed. He shared his testimony so that everyone will acknowledge how great the LORD is.

**Horrible Pit and Miry Clay:** "horrible pit" figuratively refers to any calamity or trouble, or literally being in a pit or the grave. David describes his time of trouble as a "horrible pit" (KJV), "the slimy pit" (NIV), "the desolate pit" (NRSV), the "pit of tumult" (NRSV margin). "Out of the miry clay"; that is at the bottom of the pit where there is no solid ground, no rock on which to stand (Jeremiah 38:6; Psalm 69:2,14).

**He Set My feet upon a Rock:** The Lord answered David's cry for help and pulled him to safety. He gained stability and liberation when his feet were placed on a solid rock. Instead of the sad song he probably had been singing, the Lord gave him "a new song" filled with thanksgiving and praise.

**Jeremiah in the horrible pit (cistern):** Jeremiah chose to serve God unlike King Zedekiah. Jeremiah was imprisoned for preaching the Word of God in one of the cisterns dug to collect rainwater. He cried to God, God heard and rescued him from the miry pit (Jeremiah 20:11,13; 38:6; 39:15-18).

**Joseph in the horrible pit:** Joseph shared his dreams and his brothers plan to get rid of him. Reuben said, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit". With God's providence, Judah persuaded them to draw him out of the pit, he was sold to a caravan of Ishmaelites bound for Egypt (Genesis 37: 18-28).

**Potiphar's wife incident:** Joseph, a slave in Potiphar's house was promoted. Potiphar's wife made advances to him, he refused and landed in prison. Pharaoh had two dreams, and the chief cupbearer remembered Joseph in prison. Joseph testified to God's ability to provide interpretations. The LORD lifted him from the horrible pit of slavery and from the miry clay of prison and promoted him as the right-hand man of Pharaoh. Joseph's new song of praise was expressed in the names he gave to his two sons (Genesis 39:4,7,9; 41:16, 37-45, 51-52; Psalm 105:19-21).

**Song of Moses and the Israelites (Exodus 15):** Moses and the Israelites expressed amazement at God's outstretched right hand in rescuing them (Deuteronomy 33:26; Exodus 18:10-11).

**New Song in My Mouth:** David's deliverance was so spectacular, that a new expression of thanks was proper. It doesn't matter what horrible pit or miry clay we are in, the LORD will bring us out and give us a new song to sing (Psalm 149; 116: 12-13; 2 Samuel 22:1). This new song would be a song of victory, breakthrough, healing, redemption, deliverance and above all a song of praise to our GOD.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

**Date:** 5 December 2021

**Topic:** The art of strategic praise and worship

**Text:** Psalm 98:1-9

SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH  
BREAK OUT IN PRAISE AND SING FOR JOY!

*Psalm 98:4*

**Introduction:** This is one of seven psalms that the Israelites used during festivals to celebrate God as King. Some scholars have suggested that this psalm was probably written during the time of great national triumph in Israel thanking God for their restoration. In my view, this psalm highlights three important components of the art of strategic praise and worship that we can likewise embrace in our contemporary church and society.

1. **The art of singing a new song to the Lord (verses 1-3).** A new song has not been sang before. It is a song from the heart, only you understand the entire context (Ps 104:33). God loves songs, especially new songs. The Bible mentioned songs and singing hundreds of times. The book of Psalm is a song book.

2. **The art of shouting for joy to the Lord (verse 4).** Shouting for joy is an intentional expression of joy even in the midst of a hopeless situation. It is an expression of victory by faith before you see it (cf. James 5:13), you believe and wait in expectation.

3. **The art of making music to the Lord with assorted instruments (verses 5-9).** Music is the best and most beautiful way of expressing ourselves to God and others. God wants us to make music with assorted instruments to celebrate Him as king over our lives. The powerful imagery of the rivers, mountains and the natural world singing and making music to the Lord reminds us that there has been an ongoing praise and worship to the Lord since creation by the elements.

**Conclusion:** We should always remember that inspirational music comes from God. We are giving a gift back to God whenever we participate in Christian music whether through writing, performing, or just listening to it.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Topic:** The beauty of songs rendered onto the Lord

**Text:** 2 Chronicles 20: 18-21

**Introduction:** There are different types of songs, traditional, romantic, and inspirational that are directly from the throne of God. We must direct our songs and praises to the author and finisher of our faith. David knew how to praise / worship God.

**Power exists in singing praises to God.** We must only go to God when we are in need. When the three nations converge towards Israel, Jehoshaphat called upon the name the maker and creator of Israel. (i) The Lord revealed to him that the battle is not for him but for the Lord. (ii) God told him to sing praises to Him. Jehoshaphat organised his people to praise God. They depended on the power of God that is greater than any other power. (iii) God sent confusion into the camp of their enemies.

**Conclusion:** In difficult situations, sing praises to God. He will turn your situation around. Paul and Silas sang praises to God in prison, God acted, miracles happened and souls were saved.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Femi Adebola

Praise the Lord,  
for His mercy  
endures forever.  
2 Chronicles 20:21



**Date:** 12 December 2021

**Topic:** Christmas is a celebration of the fullest of time

**Text:** Galatians 4:4-5



**Introduction:** The Jews agonisingly waited for the coming of the Messiah, but Jesus did not come in the way that they expected. In my view, the first Christmas was a celebration of the fullest of time and apostle Paul captured it well in Galatians 4:4-5. There are four important things that call for celebration in this passage.

1. **God sent forth His Son at the fullest of time (verse 4a).** The coming of Jesus Christ was timely. The son of God stepped down into our darkness at the fullest of time. This fullest of time was God's time, the right time and the best time. Christmas reminds us that God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8).

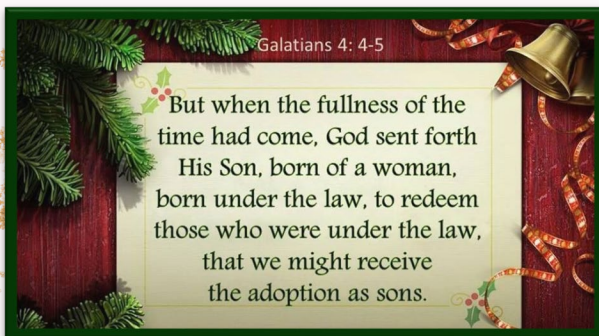
2. **God fulfilled His promise about the seed of the woman at the fullest of time (verse 4b).** The long-time promise of God about 'the seed of the woman' (Genesis 3:15) was fulfilled at the fullest of time. God has promised to fulfil His plan for your life. The only problem is that no one knows when that exact moment would come. God has put in place a plan for your life and it will come to past at the right time (2 Peter 3:8). There is an appointed time for your solution, miracle and breakthrough.

3. **God redeemed us through Christ at the fullest of time (verse 5a).** The primary reason why Jesus came to this world was for our redemption. Christmas is a celebration of God's destruction of the works of darkness. It was a reminder to the devil and his demons that the game is over. There is now an opportunity for the redemption of humans.

4. **God adopted us into His family at the fullest of time (verse 5b).** The Christmas was the beginning of the execution of God's eschatological plan. We that were once enemies of God are now sons and daughters of God. Our hope of eternity is guaranteed because we have been adopted into the family of God.

**Conclusion:** The celebration of Christmas should not be limited to December. We must continue to celebrate it in our hearts throughout our lifetime.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare





**Date:** 19 December 2021

**Topic:** Christmas is a celebration of the Messiah and His kingdom

**Text:** Isaiah 9:1-7



**Introduction:** Most biblical scholars agree that Isaiah 9 is Messianic. This chapter reveals so much about the Messiah and His future kingdom. Looking back to this prophecy, we can declare with confidence that the new day has come with the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Reading the prophecy of Isaiah in retrospection with the lenses of Christmas, there are seven important things about the Messiah in this passage that should motivate us to celebrate this season.

1. **The Messiah has come to lift us from gloom and distress (verse 1).** The coming of Jesus during the first Christmas lifted the gloomy and distressful situation that was looming over humanity.
2. **The Messiah has come to give us great light (verse 2).** The Messiah has come to shed light on our understanding of the Old Testament and God's eschatological plan through Christ. It has removed the darkness that took us captive. Jesus is the light of the world.
3. **The Messiah has come to give us joy (verse 3).** Isaiah predicted that the coming Messiah will bring joy. Those who have been expecting Him will rejoice.
4. **The Messiah has come to destroy our yokes and fetters (verses 4-5).** The good news is that the Messiah has come to give us victory. All the instruments and weapons of the enemies have been consumed with fire.
5. **The Messiah has come to us as a child at Christmas (verse 6a).** Humans saw and received the Messiah as a child with a humble beginning during the first Christmas. But God gave Him to us as His only begotten son. In other words, God came down to us at Christmas.
6. **The Messiah has come to rule (verse 6b & 7).** Isaiah mentioned that the kingdom of the Messiah shall be upheld with justice and righteousness. He will reign on David's throne forever.
7. **The Messiah has come to fulfil His covenant names (verse 6c).** Isaiah revealed the covenant names of Jesus long before He was born. He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. These significant names are connected with His assignment.

**Conclusion:** Christmas is about the Messiah and what He has come to accomplish in our lives. Let us celebrate the Messiah and His soon coming kingdom.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 25 December 2021

**Topic:** Christmas is a celebration of God's mercy

**Text:** Ephesians 2:1-5



**Introduction:** Divine mercy is the act of God whereby He shows pity, compassion, and kindness towards the people. The theologian Millard Erickson defines God's mercy as, 'His tender-hearted, loving compassion for His people.' Let us reflect on four important things about God's mercy in relation to Christmas.

**1. Christmas reminds us of God's mercy (1 Peter 1:3).** Every time we celebrate Christmas, it is a reminder of the mercy of God towards humanity some thousands of years ago. We cannot save ourselves without the great mercy of God that came down at Christmas.

**2. Christmas inspires us to testify about God's mercy (1 Timothy 1:12-16).** Apostle Paul testified that he was once a blasphemer, and a violent man persecuting Christians. He was acting in ignorance and unbelief until God showed him mercy. Therefore, every Christmas offers us the opportunity to think about our salvation experience and share the love of Jesus Christ with others around us.

**3. Christmas challenges us to show mercy to others (Jude 1:23-25; James 2:13).** Jude challenges us to save others by snatching them from the fire. We should show mercy unto others and hate what is evil. Similarly, James reminds us that those who refuse to show mercy will not receive mercy. Rick Warren says, 'God's mercy to us is the motivation for showing mercy to others.'

**4. Christmas invites us to celebrate God's mercy (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:4).** You can hardly see anyone who received huge mercy that did not celebrate it. We must celebrate because every mercy that we receive is a drop from the ocean of God's goodness. This is the time for us to celebrate the mercy that we received from God.

**Conclusion:** The first Christmas was a significant demonstration of God's mercy. This calls for celebration. The Gospel is good news of mercy to the world. The mercy of God is new every morning. Are you willing to receive it?

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his  
great love wherewith he loved us,  
Even when we were dead in sins, hath  
quickenus us together with Christ,  
(by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 2:4-5 (KJV)

**Date:** 26 December 2021

**Topic:** What troubles you? Blood neighbours

**Text:** 2 Samuel 14:4-8

WHO DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED  
AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE TRUTH. -1 Timothy 2:4

**Introduction:** A blood neighbour is a sibling who wants the blood/death of another sibling or any other member of the family. David's son Absalom planned and had his brother Amnon killed. Absalom then planned and executed a violent coup against king David his own father. Although, this attempted king's overthrow was not successful, the effect of Absalom's revolt was tragic, it led to division, death and destruction. Hence the question and the answer.

**Blood neighbours breed troubles:** 2 Samuel 14:6 ; Psalm 133:1

Enmity among brothers is bad and unpleasant. Wherever blood neighbours exist, we have trouble and confusion. Blood neighbours have blood relations, such irony. The household enemy within is more harmful than the enemy without. Where there should be brotherly love - enmity, unity - disunity, togetherness - schism, partnership - antagonism, cooperation - in fighting and build up - family disintegration/pull down.

**Blood neighbours lead to losses:** 2 Samuel 14:6; Genesis 4:8; Exodus 2:13

Enmity between brothers lead to losses - human, material, financial, emotional, bondage, downfall and death. If and when brothers fight to death., then strangers inherit their father's estate. Abel lost his life, Cain was marked and dispossessed. He lost his heritage and inheritance. Hatred for Joseph led to near calamity for Israel nation, enslavement and guilty consciences.

**Blood neighbours will not go unpunished:** 2 Samuel 14:9; Ezekiel 33:8

It will be inconsistent with God's righteous laws. God is not mocked or deceived, no matter what the wise or powerful may insinuate, a blood neighbour who commits murder will not go unpunished. It may seem that Cain who killed Abel received a reduced punishment. Cain was punished and Joseph's brothers too. Absalom also did not go unpunished. Am I my brother's keeper? Yes, and so are you, we all are our brethren's keepers.

**Blood neighbours can find salvation:** Acts 9; 1 Timothy 2:4

God's saving grace can be found by blood neighbours. God will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. David gave Absalom a second chance, but character is like smoke, it reveals itself. Is it valid to protect the last remaining son of the wise woman of Tekoa. Would her family not be damaged by killing her murderous son? May God grant us the wisdom from above (James 3:17).

**Conclusion:** Our prayer is that God will protect us from blood neighbours who are given to propensity to commit evil deeds.

Our hearts desire is that God almighty will save the souls of blood neighbours, may they have unique encounters with Jesus Christ just like Saul of Tarsus and also obtain like salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 31 December 2021

## 2021 Crossover Watchnight Service

### Rest in the Lord (Part 1)

Topic: The meaning of resting in the Lord

Text: Exodus 14:14

**Introduction:** The Cambridge English Dictionary defines rest as ‘to lie or lean on something, or to put something on something else so that its weight is supported.’ In this context, the one that is taking the weight is God. Let us consider some Scriptural examples to establish the meaning of resting in the Lord.

1. **Resting in the Lord means to wait patiently on the Lord (Psalm 27:14; Psalm 40:1; Psalm 37:37).** Resting in the Lord is about being patient until the Lord’s timing and season. It is about refusing to take the next step until God tells us to do so. It is a conviction that God’s time is the best.

2. **Resting in the Lord means to surrender everything to God (Exodus 14:14).** Resting in the Lord is a decision to take the backseat and let God take the front seat of your life, family, finances, career, and ministry etc. It means to stop struggling in every area of your life and raising your hands in surrender to God.

3. **Resting in the Lord means to refuse to be afraid (2 Chronicles 20:17).** Resting in the Lord is a refusal to be afraid in a turbulent situation because of the conviction that God is in control. Fear is one of the things that can deprive us from physical and spiritual rest.

4. **Resting in the Lord means to continue to hope in the Lord (Psalm 62:5; Psalm 130:5).** Resting in the Lord is finding hope in God and His words. It is about positive expectation that God will turn the situation around for your good and the outcome will glorify Him.

5. **Resting in the Lord means being quiet before the Lord (Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 30:15).** Resting in the Lord is a commitment to listen to God despite the noises around you. It is a conscious effort to avoid every form of distraction. It is a decision not to talk when God is speaking or after the Lord has spoken.

**Conclusion:** Resting in the Lord is about waiting patiently on the Lord, surrendering everything to God, refusing to be afraid, hoping in the Lord and being quiet before the Lord.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

The Lord shall fight for you,  
and you shall hold your  
peace.  
Exodus 14:14



# Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC)

## *House of Wonders*

198, Ripple Road, Barking, Essex,  
London IG11 7PR

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(Zoom Meeting ID:

**969 1846 6301;**

**Passcode: 451530)**

### Night of Wonders

#### Prayer Meeting

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