



Kingsword

KINGSWORD MINISTERIAL ACADEMY

BASIC MINISTERIAL STUDIES

CERTIFICATE
IN CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE
P R O G R A M

KINGWORD MINISTERIAL ACADEMY

BASIC MINISTERIAL STUDIES

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

1. **CL- 101 [WORD BASICS]**

This module covers foundational teachings on new creation realities.

2. **CL- 102 [FAITH]**

This module covers the biblical principles of faith.

3. **CL- 103 [HOLY SPIRIT]**

This module covers the ministry of the Holy Spirit on earth, especially in the life of New Testament saints.

4. **CL- 104 [PRAYER]**

This module covers Prayer as a lifestyle and the different kinds of prayer.

5. **CL- 105 [KINGDOM FINANCES]**

This module covers the kingdom perspective on finances and the principles of financial increase.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Word Basics: New Creation Realities by E.W Kenyon

Faith: Bible Faith Study Series by Kenneth E. Hagin & What Faith is by Kenneth E. Hagin

Holy Spirit: Good Morning Holy Spirit by Benny Hinn & How to be led by the Spirit by Kenneth E. Hagin

Prayer: Bible Prayer Study Course by Kenneth E. Hagin, The Art of Prayer by Kenneth E. Hagin & Prayer your foundation for success by Kenneth Copeland

Kingdom Finances: Kingdom Principles of Financial Increase by Dr. Nasir K. Siddiki

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CL 101 - WORD BASICS

CLASS 1 - NEW BIRTH

Objective: To help you understand the concept of new birth.

Outline:

- The Old Man
- The New Man
- The Three Fold Nature Of Man And The New Birth
- Remission And Forgiveness
- Keeping the body in subjection
- Walking in the spirit

The Old Man

The Bible constantly refers to the old man as the state of a man's being before receiving Christ. The *old man* is the dead, and has the sin producing **nature** of an unregenerate man i.e. a man that is not born-again. It is a partaker of the nature of the devil passed on to Adam at the fall, which was passed down to all the descendants of Adam.

Relevant Scriptures: Romans. 6:6, Ephesians 4:22, John 8:44, Romans 5:12, Ephesians 1:1-3

The New Man

Jesus in John 3:3-6 emphatically declared the condition by which a man can become a part of God's kingdom - by being born again. Being born again implies being born anew which means being born "entirely afresh", a point of departure from the old life.

Being born-again is a spiritual birth, not physical as Nicodemus thought. A man who is thus reborn is called 'saved'. This is attained by doing what Romans 10:9 says to do, confessing the Lord Jesus with the mouth and believing in the heart that God has raised him from the dead.

There is no substitute for receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Not even church membership, church activities, baptism, indulgences, self-punishment or other religious practices can take its place.

The word 'new' in II Corinthians 5:17 is '*Kainos*' in Greek and it speaks of a specie that has never existed before. The new birth is a work of recreation not reparation or conversion. It implies that the saved man starts off as a spiritual infant without any past.

Relevant Scriptures: John 3:3-6, Romans 10:9, II Corinthians 5:17, Ezekiel 36:26, Galatians 6:15, Jeremiah 13:23

The Three-Fold Nature of Man & The New Birth

I Thessalonians 5:23 establishes the fact that there are three parts to a man: spirit, soul and body. John 4:24 tells us that God is a spirit and since man is in the image of God, he is also a spirit. The soul speaks of what man possesses while the body speaks of his container. So man is a spirit; he has a soul and lives in a body. Man is not a soul neither is he a body but the real man is a spirit being.

The new birth takes place in your spirit. It is an inward experience that changes the nature of man from that of the devil to the very nature of God. This real man or spirit man is referred to in different places in scripture as the hidden man (I Peter 3:4), the inner man (Eph 3:16), heart (Matthew 5:8), and inward man (Romans 7:22).

At new birth, the body is not recreated (that will happen when rapture occur) neither is the soul (which is made up of the mind, will and emotion) recreated.

Ezekiel 36:26 refers to the stony; hardened heart or spirit being removed and heart of flesh being given. The stony heart is the nature of the devil in the old man. The heart of flesh is the new creation. This change can never happen naturally. It is a supernatural, instantaneous act of God's power (Jeremiah 13:23)

Relevant Scriptures: Ezekiel 36:26, II Corinthians 4:16, I Peter 3:4, Romans 2:29, Job 10:10, 11, Gen1:26, John 4; 24. I Corinthians 9:27

Remission & Forgiveness

When a sinner comes to Jesus, his sins are remitted. They are simply blotted out. To blot out means to completely wipe off or remove out of existence. Under the Old Testament God's covenant people had their sins covered but not blotted out. This was all the blood of animals that were being offered could achieve (Hebrews 10:14).

However, a New Testament saint starts a new life because the blood of Jesus has completely removed his sinful past. All that man was (spiritually speaking) in the sight of God before he was born again is blotted out. He receives remission (a blotting away) and not just forgiveness. When a man realizes that he is a sinner and acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the shed blood of Jesus cleanses him from his past life of sin and he becomes a new man. He becomes a man without a past! As God looks at you, he doesn't remember your past. You are as innocent as a little baby. You don't look at a baby and say, "I wonder what awful sin he has committed". Your past is all gone. He is not remembering anything against you. A new life has just begun for you!

The word 'forgiveness' is one connected to fellowship. While remission takes care of your past sins before new birth, forgiveness takes care of sins committed after new birth.

I John 2:1. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

We have not received the new birth experience to live in sin. Sin will affect your fellowship with God and the consciousness of it will make you live in condemnation (Romans 8:1). Never allow a sin to go unconfessed before God. According to *I John 1:9*, an unconfessed sin leads to a state of broken fellowship and not relationship with God i.e. you are still his child but you are cut off from fellowship with Him and hence all its benefits.

Relevant Scriptures: *II Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 43:25, Hebrews 8:12, I John 2:1, I John 1:9*

Keeping the body in subjection

(1 Corinthians 9:27 KJV) But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Every believer must realize the fact that the human body will not be redeemed completely until the rapture of the saints (I Corinthians 15:4). This simply means we will have to contend with the effects of the sin that Adam committed in the beginning while on earth. Your body will naturally desire things that are ungodly if left unattended. I John 2:16 refers to this as the lust of the flesh. Lust means an uncontrolled appetite. This can be in the area of food, sex outside marriage, anger – *outburst of emotion* etc.

Apostle Paul understood this very well and he was able to put his body under the control of his spirit. This is what it means to crucify the flesh – *denying the flesh* (Galatians 5:24). This process involves discipline and consistency. You don't just do it once but all the time. A believer puts his body under by feeding his spirit with the word of God and also renewing his mind by the Word. The degree to which your spirit man is developed will determine the degree of the subjection of your flesh. A well developed spirit will be able to take control at will, thereby putting the appetites of the body in check. A believer ruled by his flesh will not be able to walk in the fullness of the life of God. Although he has the title '*Christian*' but his lifestyle is not different from the unsaved. This kind of believer is known as a *carnal believer* which means flesh ruled (I Corinthians 3:3).

Walking in the Spirit

(Galatians 5:16 KJV) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Walking in the Spirit is a concept that is misunderstood by so many Christians. It is a joint effort between a recreated human spirit and the Holy Spirit that resides within. It is about the strengthening of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of dominion over flesh.

Flesh in this context is more of a *carnal mind set* more than any other thing. A believer given to the flesh does not see things from God's perspective. Rather, he sees and judges from the natural perspective. According to Romans 8:8, such a person will not be able to please God. *(Romans 8:5 KJV) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

The above scripture clearly reveals that walking after the flesh is simply putting more attention on carnal things more than spiritual things. On the other hand, walking in the Spirit is about putting more attention on spiritual things.

How do you put attention on spiritual things? You don't have to become deep in some strange ways to be spiritual. Just follow the teachings of Jesus. John 6:63 says the words of Jesus are spirit and life. So if you can get those words on your mind you will start thinking spiritually – *mind the things of the spirit*. The resultant effect will be walking in the spirit.

CLASS 2 - Our Redemption In Christ

Objective: To help you know and appreciate your redemption and thereby enjoying its total benefits.

Outline:

- What is Redemption?
- Why Redemption?
- The mystery of substitution
- Identification
- Discovering yourself in God's Word
- Creating Realities by our confession
- Facts of our redemption in Christ

What is Redemption?

Hebrews 9:12, I Corinthians 6:20, I Peter 1:18-20, Revelation 5:9, Ephesians. 1:6,7

The word '*redeem*' from the Greek means to 'buy out', like slaves are bought from the slave market. It also means to '*set free, to gain possession of*'.

This implies that a spiritual transaction took place between God and the devil that eternally bought us out of the ownership of the devil, made us free and made us eternal possessions of God: spirit, soul and body.

I Corinthians 6:20 says we are bought with a price. I Peter 1:18-20 says the price paid was the precious blood of Christ.

Why Redemption?

Man is in need of redemption because of the events that took place in the Garden of Eden – Adam having control over his own destiny and that of the earth (Genesis 1:26)

willingly gave it to the devil through disobedience, thereby becoming the devil's legal slave (Luke 4:5-7, Romans 5:12-14,21). Adam's disobedience/sin resulted in his separation from God. He experienced spiritually death which is a separation from the life of God. Sin stripped him of God's glory (Romans 3:23). Man became subject to the authority of Satan and as a result sin, sickness, death etc became man's consistent experience. Man had a death sentence hanging over him. (Genesis 2:17).

God because of His love had to find a way to redeem his beloved man **legally** from the authority of Satan. John 3:16, Colossians 1:12.

The Mystery of Substitution

Substitution or exchange is seen all through the scriptures. God used the death of a living thing (goats, calves etc.) to substitute for the deserved death of His people.

Genesis 3:21 – God killed an animal as a substitute for Adam & Eve and clothed them with the skin.

Genesis 22:13 – God provided a ram to offered in exchange for Isaac's life (in the place of his son)

Exodus 12:21-30 – A Passover lamb was killed in exchange for each family in Israel.

Leviticus 4:13-21 – A bullock is offered as substitute for the whole nation of Israel.

John 1:29 – Jesus was to be offered as a substitute for the sin of the whole world.

Hebrews 9:12 – Speaks of the inadequacies of the sacrifices of bulls and goats in obtaining permanent and complete redemption for us. Christ stood as our substitute on the cross. He took upon himself our sins and iniquities on the cross and took the death sentence that was hanging upon man.

Identification

This is the legal side of our redemption. It unveils to us **what God did in Christ for us**, from the time he went to the cross, until he sat down on the right hand of the father. Jesus went through all as our substitute. It was a divine exchange that took place.

The law of identification refers to how Jesus became one with us in our fallen state so that we can become one with Him in life.

There was a two- fold oneness: First His oneness with our sin on the cross, second our oneness with him in His glory on the throne. Ephesians 2:6, Galatians 2:20.

Our Identification with Christ can be broken down into the following:

a) Crucified with Christ

Romans 6:6, Galatians 2:20

Our old man who was filled with spiritual death, satanic nature was nailed to the cross in Christ. Jesus wasn't a martyr on the cross but our substitute. In the mind of God it meant his identification with us in our fallen state. This was what happened on the cross.

He became a curse so that we can be blessed. Galatians 3:13-14, Ephesians 1-3.

He became sickness (bore our sicknesses) so that we can have his health and wholeness. Isaiah 53:3-5, 10, Matthew 8:17, I Peter 2:24.

He bore our shame so we share in His glory. Hebrews 12:2.

He bore our rejection and we became accepted before God. Ephesians 1:6, Matthew 27:46.

b) We died with Him

Romans 6:8, II Timothy 2:21, Hebrews 2:14-15.

He died spiritually and physically. Through his death we are made alive. His body was broken for us so ours won't be broken.

c) We were buried with Him. He went to hell for us. So we don't have to go to hell. Romans 6:4, 5 Acts 2:23-36

d) We were made alive with Him. The life of God is now available for us. We have passed from death to life. Colossians 2:13, Ephesians 2:5, Psalm 2:7.

e) We conquered Satan in Him. Colossians 2:15. This was our victory, not His. He did not need to fight that battle but he fought the battle for us. We are now the righteous victors. We have stripped Satan of his authority. We now reign as kings in the realm of life.

f) We were raised with Him. Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1. We are now above the devil and his hosts. We have been raised above all principalities and power. Therefore the devil no longer has authority over us!

g) We are seated with Him. Ephesians 2:6. God has conferred the highest honor ever conferred on man on us. This is the crowning event of redemption. We are seated at the highest position of authority far above the devil!

Discovering yourself in God's Word

A lack of understanding of our place in Him and His place in our lives hinders us from success. There is a need to diligently study God's word to discover His will for our lives. You cannot be a successful Christian by living only on the Old Testament or the four gospels. It is only in the epistle that we see the revelation of what Jesus did for us when he died and rose from the dead. The Word of God is a reflection of the way God sees us. Spend most of your time in the epistles in search of your rights and privileges in Christ. There are over 170 scriptures in the epistles that state the benefits or privileges a new creation has in Christ. Most of them have such expression as "in Christ", "By Christ", "In Whom, and "In Him" while others are inferred indirectly. In Christ, God has done everything that needs to be done for you to enjoy all His promises now. God has made the provisions for you already.

Below are examples of scriptures that state our benefits and privileges.

Rom. 3:24, Rom. 10:9, Acts 17:38, John 15:5,7, II Cor. 5:17, Eph. 2:10, II Cor. 5:21, Rom. 8:1, I Cor. 1:30, James 4:7, Col. 1:13-14, Eph. 1:7, I Peter 2:24, Matt. 8:17, Rom.8:2, I John 4:4, Rom. 8:37, Phil 4:13,19 Gal. 2:20, Eph1:3 Rom3:24, II Cor 1:21,II Cor2:14, Gal5:6, Gal 6:15, Phil 6, John1:4, Col2:10, Eph1:11,13, ICor6:11, II Cor13:4

Creating Realities by Our Confession

Psalms 107:1 - 2 encourages the redeemed to boldly declare what God promised in His word with an attitude of thanksgiving.

You don't need to pray for faith. If you keep hearing the Word consistently you will have faith and create the realities of those words in your life. Faith doesn't come by what you've heard but it comes by what you keep hearing (Romans 10:17).

Hebrews 4:12-14 shows us that your confession of God's Word creates realities and brings possession (Romans 10:9, 10). It turns the legal side of redemption into a vital experience

Meditate on the scriptures above, begin to confess them daily. In order words begin to say them with your mouth. "This is who I am in Christ, this is what I am, and this is what I have in Christ".

As you read the "In Christ", "In whom", and "In Him" scriptures, they may not seem real to you at the beginning. It may not seem like you really have what these scriptures say you have. But if you will begin to confess "This is mine", they will become real to you. All that God says you have is already real in the spiritual realm, but your confessions make them real in the natural realm.

Facts of Our Redemption in Christ

- 1) Before the foundation of the world, God predestinated us for salvation in Christ Jesus. (I Peter 1:2, Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11.)
- 2) For this purpose Christ became our substitute on the cross for sin, poverty, sickness and death. II Corinthian 5:9, 21; Galatians 3:13; I Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-5.
- 3) Therefore we are redeemed. Revelation 5:9; I Peter 1:18
- 4) We are new creations. II Corinthian 5:17; John 1:12, 13; John 3:7; I Peter 1:23.
- 5) We have a new nature. Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10.
- 6) Our redemption is a fact. Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:12.

- 7) We are identified with Christ in the following ways:
- a) In His death. Romans 6:8; II Tim 2:11
 - b) In His burial. Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12
 - c) In His resurrection. Ephesians 2:5, 6; Romans 6:5.
 - d) In His ascension. Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 1:3
 - 8) We are healed. Isaiah 53:4, 5; I Peter 2:24; Exodus 15:26.
 - 9) All our needs are supplied. Philippians 4:19; Psalms 84:11; II Corinthians 9:8, 10)
 - 10) We are not afraid. Joshua 1:9; Psalms 27:1,3; Psalm 56:11; 23:4; Psalm 91:1-7; Psalm 91:9-12
 - 11) Christ lives in us. II Corinthians 6:16; John 14:28; John 17:23; Galatians 2:28; Colossians 1:27
 - 12) He is our strength, provider, healer, and keeper. Philippians 4:13, Psalms 31:18; Exodus 15:26; II Tim. 1:12; II Thessalonians.3:3; Jude 24
 - 13) We are delivered out of Satan's power. Colossians 1:12-14; I Peter 2:9; I John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15
 - 14) We are partakers of new nature. II Peter 1:4; I Corinthians 10:16-17; Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 3:14
 - 15) We have the righteousness of Jesus. Romans 5:17; Philippians 3:9; I Corinthians 1:30
 - 16) We are no longer condemned. Romans 8:1; John 5:24
 - 17) We are justified. Romans 5:1, 18; Galatians 8:24
 - 18) We are more than conquerors. Romans 8:37; I John 5:4; I John 4:4; I Corinthians 15:57
 - 19) We are no longer under Satan's dominion. Luke 10:19
 - 20) Defeat and failure are now a thing of the past. Ephesians 2:1-6
 - 21) We are linked up with God. Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:9-16
 - 22) He is our partner and friend in life. Proverbs 18:24; John 15:13-16; John 17:21-23
 - 23) We are saved and have the good life. Ephesians 2:8; II Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5; John 10:10, II Peter 1:3-4.
 - 24) We have in Him a High Priest. Hebrews 4:15-16; Hebrews 7:24-25; I John 1:9; I John 2:1.

CLASS 3 - RIGHTEOUSNESS & GOD-KIND OF LIFE – ZOE

Objective: To establish a strong foundation of righteousness which is by faith.

Outline:

Righteousness defined
Two kinds of righteousness
Righteousness and Holiness
Misconceptions about Righteousness
Facts about Righteousness
Effects and Fruits of Righteousness
Doing Righteousness
The Name of Jesus
Righteousness as an armor
Zoe, the God-kind of life
Walking in the light of life
Confession of a New Creation

Righteousness Defined

‘Righteousness’ is from the Greek word ‘*dikaiosune*’. It means right-standing. It is the ability to stand before God without any sense of guilt, condemnation or inferiority. The blood of Jesus has been shed. The price has been paid. The claims of justice have been met. We have been declared righteous. There is no condemnation to us. God is no longer in the courthouse. He is now in the family house. We have been discharged and acquitted. He is no longer our judge but now our Father. (John 20:17). Righteousness speaks of possessing rights. As new creations, we have rights in the Father’s presence.

Two kinds of Righteousness

Self-righteousness

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 KJV)

This is acquired through efforts. It is making effort to live a holy life without consciously submitting to God’s help. It is being morally good. Self-righteous people are regarded as saints by men but disqualified by God. Self-righteousness is what is referred to in Isaiah 64:6 as filthy rags before God. The Hebrew bible actually calls it a menstrual garment. What a mess! But thank God there is a way out. There is another kind of righteousness.

God’s Righteousness

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

God’s righteousness is a free gift that is received at new birth. This gift is what gives a child of God the ability to relate to God freely without fear or any form of complex. Unlike Self-righteousness which is earned, this is given free of charge. It cannot be worked for. It has nothing to do with morals or activities. It is simply a gift. It makes you instantly a saint and faultless. What a tremendous gift!

The works of the law is the same as self righteous act (Galatians 2:16). To be just means

to be righteous. By self righteousness shall no man be justified. Let's quit trying to be righteous and receive with thanksgiving the gift of righteousness.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) (Romans 5:17 KJV)

Romans 5:17, talks about the gift of righteousness. Righteousness is a gift so it is not to be worked for and cannot be obtained by good works.

We were made righteous when we became new men in Christ Jesus. We are innocent as babies (I Peter 2:2). Every believer young or old; spiritual or carnal, has the same standing before God. We have the same righteousness as Jesus. Jesus is no more righteous than us, neither are we more righteous than him. Righteousness is a state and at the same time a nature. It doesn't grow or diminish. The same way we were born either male or female, we were born righteous at new birth

Righteousness is not right doing but right being. It is who you are! It is a nature not a conduct. It however aids right conducts, which is called holiness. So Righteousness is who you are and how you stand. *Romans 3:21-26, II Corinthians 5:21*

Righteousness and Holiness

One of the problems facing the church today is the inability to distinguish between righteousness and holiness.

Righteousness is **a nature** while Holiness speaks of conduct.

Righteousness speaks of one's standing but holiness is how you walk. Holiness speaks of one's **way of life**, attitudes and actions. Holiness springs from righteousness.

Misconceptions about Righteousness

These misconceptions are either outright lies or half truths based on not rightly dividing the word. (II Timothy 2:15). You will see the scriptures quoted to support these errors and the correct scriptures that apply to the context.

Misconception #1: There is no righteous person.

Supportive scripture: Romans 3:10,23

Corrective scripture: Romans 3:24, II Corinthians 5:21

Misconception #2: Our sins are covered

Supportive scripture: Psalm 32:1,2

Corrective scripture: Hebrews 8:6, the previous verse was talking about the Old Testament. We now have a better covenant where our sins were blotted away completely (II Corinthians 5:17, II Corinthians 5:1)

Misconception #3: God will not forgive deliberate and wilful sins.

Supportive scripture: Hebrews 10:26

Corrective scripture: Hebrews 6:4-6 describes the conditions one must attain before being able to commit the unpardonable sin. Jesus said all manner of sins will be forgiven (even wilful and deliberate ones) except this unpardonable sin against the Holy Ghost (Matthew 12:31-32).

Misconception #4: Sanctification before Infilling

Correction: Act 10:44-48

Misconception #5: The heart of man is evil

Supportive scripture: Jeremiah 17:9

Corrective scripture: Ezekiel 36:26

The heart of every born-again child of God has been purified by the blood of Jesus. His heart is no longer evil.

Misconception #6: The devil is powerful and omnipresent

Corrective scriptures: Matthew 28:18, Luke 20:22, Luke 10:19, Colossians 2:15

Misconception #7: My sins have hid God's face from me. My prayers can never be answered.

Supportive scripture: Isaiah 59:1, 2,3

Corrective scripture: I John 1:9, I John 2:1, I Peter 3:12, James 5:16

Misconception #8: I don't feel as if the word is true

Corrective scripture: Romans 4:19, II Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 11:1.

Misconception #9: Whatever will be will be. If God has redeemed me I don't need to confess my sins. He will do it in His own time.

Corrective scripture:

a) The time is now. Hebrews 4:7

b) Labour to enter his rest. Hebrews 4:1, 2,11. Mix the word with faith.

c) Salvation can be neglected. Hebrews 2:1-3

d) Jesus has died for all men, He's not willing that any perish but men have been perishing and will perish because they've not appropriated his work in their lives by doing Rom. 10:9,10.

Facts about Righteousness

- Every believer is righteous and we all have the same right standing before God but not all believers walk in holiness.

- It is the responsibility of the believer to present his/her body as a vessel unto honour i.e. walk in holiness (Romans 12:1)

- We have a new nature of righteousness and we have to regulate our conduct with that nature (Eph 4:22-24).

- Righteousness is a gift not an attainment (Romans 5:17, Galatians 2:16).

- Righteousness is a nature and not a conduct. You are born righteousness (Ephesians 4:22-24).

- Righteousness does not grow. Since you are God's righteousness, growing will mean you want to be above God. (II Corinthians 5:21).

All that is needed to walk in TRUE HOLINESS is to consistently renew your mind with God's Word and to walk in it and you will consistently produce the fruit – holiness.

False holiness speaks of concentrating on outward things like clothing, expressions etc.

Effects and Fruits of Righteousness

It is established that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, but there is a need to bear fruits of righteousness. These fruits speak of what the righteous nature of God in us produces – Philippians 1:19. Paul told the Philippians that they need to be filled with the fruits of righteousness. These fruits are meant to be displayed everyday. This brings glory to God. All the fruits of the spirit come under the fruits of righteousness – James 3:18.

However, fruits of righteousness also involves releasing the force of righteousness to produce result in the lives of others in taking authority over the works of Satan.

Develop righteousness consciousness and dissolve sin consciousness by consciously

reminding yourself of the truth of righteousness.

Righteousness produces fruits, it gives us rights and benefits and it has effects. Below are some of them.

- a) Righteousness brings dominion: Romans 5:17. We are kings on earth right now, not later. We have authority over Satan and all his cohorts! We rule over sin, sickness, diseases, demons and death.
- b) Righteousness imparts boldness. Proverbs 28:1
 - Boldness towards God in prayer Hebrews 4:16
 - Boldness towards the devil. We are fearless.
 - Boldness towards men without any sense of inferiority and able to do the works of Jesus.
- c) Righteousness brings peace, assurance and quietness. Romans 5:1.
- d) Righteousness produces the fruits of the spirit in our lives. Philippians 1:11, Galatians 5:22.

Our righteous nature gives us the ability to live right, which is what we call holiness.

Doers of Righteousness

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (1 John 2:9 KJV)

Righteousness is not just a standing with God but a standing that is superior to the devil and all his works. By virtue of the new nature, the new creation has been raised together with Christ into heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). Because of this the believer is automatically far above the devil (Ephesians 1:20, 21). Satan is under the believer's feet because he is seated far above in Christ.

Doing righteousness is operating from our seated position in Christ. We enforce and maintain what Jesus wrought for us. Laying hands on the sick, casting out devils are examples of doing righteousness.

The Name of Jesus

This is the tool for doing righteousness. Philippians 2:9 says everything that has a name bows to the name and is obedient to it. Being born into the family of God means obtaining the 'power of attorney' to use the name. Jesus obtained the name by inheritance, conquest and conferment.

There are two principal ways of using the name:

- i. In prayer to the father - John 16:24, John 15:16.
- ii. In demanding from the devil - John 14:13, Mark 16:17-19 Acts 3:1-6, Acts 16:18.

Let us begin to reign in life using the wonderful name of Jesus. For the earnest expectation of creation awaits the manifestation of the Sons of God.

Righteousness as an Armour

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, (2 Corinthians 6:7 KJV)

Ephesians 6:14, II Corinthians 6:7 - Righteousness is a weapon of our warfare. You need to be conscious of Righteousness in order to engage the armour of Righteousness in spiritual warfare. Satan attacks the believer's sense of righteousness with condemnation and as long as you walk in the consciousness of the fact that you are the righteousness of

God, the devil can't weigh down your heart with condemnation. Condemnation is an enemy of your spiritual health. It will clog and damage your fellowship channel with God.

Zoe, the God-Kind of life

What is ZOE?

- a. John 10:10 this is the main purpose for which Jesus came into this world for.
- b. Every other thing man needs are derived of this life (Zoe)
- c. From John 5:26, John 3:16, John 10:10, John 1:4. It is obvious that Jesus came to give us what was in the Father and Himself – this life.
- d. There are four Greek words translated life in the New Testament, one of them is Zoe which means divine life, eternal life or God kind of life. The others refer to natural life or behavior. We have majored on behavior rather than eternal life which determine in a very large way the manner of life. No matter what manner of life behavior you have, if you don't have eternal life, it won't amount to anything anyway.
- e. Eternal life or Zoe is not living forever (the devil will live forever but he doesn't have Zoe) but it refers to the nature of God, what makes God, God - His very essence.
- f. Romans 5:23 makes it clear that you received eternal life into your spirit when you got born again. This is what caused the new birth. It is the most miraculous incident in life. God implanted His very nature, substance and being to your human spirit.

Effects of Zoe

I John 1:4

Zoe produces certain changes in man after it is received. You can see the effects of that life almost at once in a person's habits. It changes speech, conducts, corrects habits and form new ones. It causes development (Light) in the spirit, soul and body of a man.

Zoe increases one's mentality and intelligence when it is rightly applied. It quickens the body (Romans 8:11) and enables it to live a very great age.

Walking In The Light Of Life

Enjoying the fullness and reality of Zoe is not automatic just like you can have something in the natural and not know or use it. It is also possible in spiritual things. ZOE is your possession but if you don't know it or use it, it will do you no good. Let ZOE dominate you, manifesting in your mind and body by walking in the light of life. You walk in the light of ZOE by acting on the word of God, confessing it regularly, meditating on it and practicing it in all areas of life. As you walk in the light of ZOE, health, prosperity, success and long life becomes yours in physical reality. II Corinthians 4:10-11 II Peter 1:4

Confessions of a new creation

I am a new creation, without any past but with a glorious and promising future. I am His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works. I have put off concerning the former manner of life, the old man that is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and have put on the new man who after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. I have received eternal life. What makes God, God is what makes me, me. I have the very

nature of God and it is enhancing my personality, mentality and intelligence. It flows in my body so I am healthy and can't die young.

Relevant Scriptures: *II Corinthians 5:17-21, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 5:23, John 10:10, John 1:4*

Quiz

**Provide scriptural references while answering these questions.*

1. What do you understand by the term 'the old man'?
2. Briefly explain what 'A new creation' is all about according to II Corinthians 5:17.
3. 'Man is a spirit'. Explain this statement.
4. Distinguish between remission of sin and forgiveness of sin?
5. What do you understand by 'The Mystery of Substitution'?
6. What does it mean to put the flesh under?
7. Highlight ten redemption facts.
8. Eternal life is living forever. Discuss this.
9. Distinguish between right standing and right living.
10. How do you walk in the light of life?
11. What are the benefits of Righteousness?

KINGSWORD MINISTERIAL ACADEMY
BASIC MINISTERIAL STUDIES
CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE PROGRAM
CL 102 - FAITH

CLASS 1- THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH

Objective: Since the Word is the basis of supernatural living, this is to introduce the Word, its origin, phase and effects; to create a consciousness of the integrity and ability of the Word.

Outline:

- Origin
- Phases of the Word
- Names of the Word
- Effects of the Word
- The Prevailing Word
- Acting on the Word
- Renewing the mind by the Word
- Guarding the heart
- The self-deluded

Origin of the Word

Words are the most common and powerful things on earth. They have been and forever will be. This is a word universe (Hebrews 11:3). God's Word stands out being the parent words.

God's Words are words that proceeded out of God's mouth and also words that were inspired by the Holy Spirit. *'Thus saith Jehovah'* is repeated over 2000 times from Exodus to Deuteronomy. The Word is a revelation of the heart of God to humanity. Matthew 4:4, Isaiah 55:11, I Timothy 3:16, John 1:1

Phases of the Word

1. The Spoken Word
2. The Written Word
3. The Living Word

There are two Greek words translated as the Word of God in the scriptures. They are **Rhema** and **Logos**. The Hebrew words, which represent them, are **Derba** and **Oma** respectively. Rhema/Derba refers to the Spoken Word of God while Logos/Oma refers to

the Written Word of God. Rhema/Derba speaks of a particular revelation of God for a particular situation at a particular time while Logos/Oma on the other hand speaks of the entire revelation of God found in scripture.

Rhema/Derba can be a product of Logos/Oma. For Rhema to come out of Logos it takes the Holy Spirit breathing on Logos to make it come alive. John 1:1 refers to Logos while Romans 10:17 refers to Rhema. It is the Rhema that produces faith in the believer. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that Logos itself is active and powerful but for it to be effective, Rhema has to come out of it. The Living Word refers to the person of Jesus.

Names Given to the Word

- The Sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17
- The More Sure Word of Prophecy. I Peter 1:9
- The Truth. John 17:17
- The Word of Faith. Romans 10:8
- The Perfect Law of Liberty. James 1:25
- The Scriptures. II Timothy 3:16
- The Law of the Spirit of Life. Romans 8:2
- Light. Psalm 119:105
- The Testimony/Commandment/Precept/Statutes of God. Psalm 19:7-9
- The Gospel. Romans 1:16
- The Voice of the Lord. Deuteronomy 28:1
- The Word of the Covenant. Psalm 82:34
- The Word of the Kingdom. Matthew 13:19
- The Book of the Law. Joshua 1:8
- The Mirror. II Corinthians 3:18
- Wisdom. Proverbs 4:4-5
- The Incorruptible Seed. I Peter 1:23
- The Implanted Word. James 1:21

The names given to the Word reflect its characteristics and inherent abilities.

The Prevailing Word

When the Word is constantly introduced into a place it grows and shows superiority. The place might be the heart of a man, a situation or a location. It has an inherent ability to prevail. To prevail means to overcome, intensify, show superiority and power, to subdue and become greater than, to show effect. It prevails over unbelief, religion, tradition, flesh, world, attitudes etc. Acts 19:20

Effects of the Word

- Recreates the spirit. James 1:4, I Peter 1:23
- Renews the mind. I Peter 1:22, James 1:21
- Heals the body. Psalm 107:20, Proverbs 4:20-22
- Builds up. Acts 20:32
- Imparts direction. Psalm 119:105
- Food for the spirit. Matthew 4:4, Jeremiah 15:16, Job 23:12
- Sets free. John 8:32
- Releases creative power. Hebrew 11:3

- Upholding Power. Hebrew 1:3
- Imparts faith. Romans 10:17
- Strengthens. I John 2:14

Acting on the Word

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1: 21 -25 KJV)

The Word does not work automatically. It works wonders when it is worked by the believer. It is active and alive on the lips of a new creation. It is to be built consciously into the life of the believer until it becomes a part of him.

As the Word is continually acted upon and done willfully it prevails over the senses and shows the effects mentioned above in the life of a new creation. Psalm 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8. Acting includes: practicing its injunctions, meditating, obeying and confessing the word.

Renewing the Mind by the Word

When a man gets born-again, his spirit man is recreated and a new life begins. But his way of thinking or thought pattern doesn't change immediately like his spirit man does. Romans 12:2 says, "*And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*".

Our conforming to the world or the Word is as a result of what is in our minds. You are what you think! When a man gets born-again, his thoughts do not change automatically. He has to consciously submit to the authority of the word of God to change his old wrong thought pattern. Meditation is a major part of this process. This is about filling your mind and thoughts with God's Word and allowing the Word to change your pattern of thinking.

You renew your mind by:

- a. Studying God's word. I Peter 2:2, Colosians 3:16
- b. Meditation. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3
- c. Confession of God's word (on who you are in Him, who He is in you and what you can do in Him). Psalm 45:1
- d. Be a doer of the word. James 1:22

Guard your heart

Every believer has a responsibility to protect his spirit from the contamination of the world. The benefits that come through the word of God can only be enjoyed when we diligently guard our hearts from the impurities around us. *2Corinthians 7:1(Amplified)* *Therefore, since these [great] promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, and bring [our] consecration to completeness in the [reverential] fear of God.*

According to Proverbs 4:23 there are forces of life inside of our spirit which are meant to put us over in life.

Basically you protect your heart by being careful with what you let into the main gateways of your hearts.

The gateways are basically a) Your eyes b) Your ears c) Your mouth. You need to watch what you see, hear and say. Filter what goes through these gateways using the word of God. Make sure the standard of God's word is maintained as touching what you let through your gateways.

Philippians 4:8 'Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things'.

Self-Delusion

Self- delusion is hearing and not doing the Word (James 1:21). Luke 6: 46-48, Jesus likened a man that does the Word to a wise man who built his house upon the rock!

Tribulations, trials and challenges will come our way but the Word of God will empower you to stand undisturbed. It's not enough to hear the Word but we must go ahead to actually live the Word. The Word is to be acted upon until its effects are seen. The self-deluded man hears the Word but does not do it, so he sees no result and begins to propound devil-inspired theories. He has deceived himself.

CLASS 2 – FAITH, THE LIFESTYLE OF NEW CREATIONS

Purpose: To create an understanding of the new creation lifestyle, making it a working experience in the life of each student.

Outline:

- Faith, our lifestyle
- Fundamentals of faith
- Faith, mental assent and hope
- The process of faith formation and faith release
- The place of love in faith
- Different kinds of faith
- The law of corresponding action
- Faith and Confession
- Different kinds of confession
- Faith associates
- Faith balance

Faith Our Lifestyle

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. (Hebrews 10:38 KJV)

Lifestyle, as the word implies means the way one lives and the Bible states clearly how the new creation should live. In Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38, we see God saying the same thing and that is that we can't live apart from faith! If the Bible says that the just shall live by faith, that implies that the just will experience death outside the faith life. A lifestyle of faith is a lifestyle that pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). Every single part of our redemption package can only be made manifest by faith.

Fundamentals of Faith

Since our relationship with God is based on faith, there must be a clear understanding of the concept of faith.

What Faith Does?

- Overcomes the world - 1 John 5:4
- Quenches the fiery darts of the enemy -Ephesians 6:16
- Gives access to God's grace - Romans5:1,2
- Pleases God - Hebrews 11:6
- Subdues situations - Hebrews 11:32,33
- Gives you anything you desire according to God's will - Mark 11:22,23

Faith, Mental Assent and Hope

Faith is the product of your spirit. Fundamentally, faith is based on revelation knowledge of the Word given by the Spirit. Faith comes in your spirit by hearing the Word and the Word continually develops faith in your spirit. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)". The Word of God produces faith in your

heart. There is no other source of faith. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. When you put faith-filled words (God's Word) – in your heart, it is only natural for faith-filled words come out your mouth. The Word has to be put in for faith to come out. (Romans 10:17, Matthew 12:35)

Mental Assent is acknowledging the truthfulness of the Word, the integrity of the Word, but never acting upon it. Mental assent is standing outside the bakery and coveting the cake in the window. It is not possessing. Sense knowledge has given to the church mental assent, which looks so much like faith that many people cannot see the difference. It simply recognizes the truthfulness of this wonderful book (the bible); it does not act upon it. **But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:20 KJV).** James 2:20 calls such reactions to God's Word as dead faith. It's an unproductive faith because it cannot act out what it believes.

Hope is a very important partner to faith. Hope is the goal setter. There must be some direction of faith. Hope speaks of an inner image, which is actually the raw material faith works on, to produce manifestations in the physical realm. It's a supernatural force that is drawn from God's Word and it's called the blueprint of faith. Romans 4:18 tells us that Abraham believed in hope contrary to hope. This simply speaks of conflict between the natural and supernatural hope. The strength and clarity of this picture is what determines the manifestation desired. Hope has been misrepresented as 'just wishing' in time past but this is untrue based on the revelation of the New Testament. Rather, it's a strong anticipation and earnest expectation of something good. It's a living force that faith translates from the unseen realm to the seen realm. Ephesians 1:18, Philippians 1:20, Colossians 1:5,23, Hebrews 11:1.

Who Has Faith?

Every person that is born again has faith. When you got born again, faith was deposited in your heart in a seed form and the more time you spend in God's word, the more your faith grows. Romans 12:3, I John 5:1, 4.

The Process of Faith Formation and Faith Release

❖ Faith Formation- How does Faith Come?

Faith comes only by God's Word. Faith does come by having heard God's word, but it comes by hearing (a continuous action!) Romans 10:17. You must first get the word of God into your heart by constantly hearing, seeing and saying God's word. When your heart becomes full of the word, it is reflected in your words and action. Your words are reflections of what your heart is full of. Romans 10:8 says that faith comes by hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17) and not having heard. The word you heard yesterday is not enough. Every day you need to deposit the seed of God's Word in your heart. A lot of times, believers wait till they are in trouble or facing a difficult situation before they start putting God's Word into their hearts and as a result we put ourselves under unnecessary pressure. It is out of the reservoir of the Word that you have taken time to put in your heart that the Holy Spirit will draw out wisdom from in that situation. The more you hear the Word, the more your faith grows! So faith is formed by hearing, seeing and saying the Word of God. Faith formation process is not achieved until you become *totally convinced and assured* of the promise in question.

Faith Release - How is Faith Released?

Faith is released when the Word of God is acted upon. Acting includes speaking and doing what the Word says. The process of faith is never complete without a corresponding action. The proof of your faith is your acting on it. Romans 10:9,10 , II Corinthians 4:13 ,Mark 1:23, James 2:26. A lot of times the confession of the Word that believers are involved in is more of faith formation than faith release. Confession of the Word only becomes a major part of faith release if the process of faith formation has been completed.

❖ The place of Love in Faith

God is love - I John 4:8. Since we are born of God, we are born of love which means that love to a believer is **a nature** and not something he/she struggles with -I John 5:1. The love of God was poured into us when we got born again – Romans 5:5. Love also entails giving and forgiving. (Mark 11:25, John3:16, I John 3:17,18) . Galatians 5:6 - For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. This scripture clearly shows that faith as powerful as it is can only produce desired results if a believer's lovewalk is in place. The Amplified Bible actually says '*faith is activated and energized and expressed and working through love*'. A believer's lovewalk has nothing to do with feelings and emotions. It simply based on a decision to do what Christians have been commanded to do. This is possible because we have received the supernatural love of God into our hearts through new birth. Our ability to forgive others is a major part of our love life. Jesus revealed the principle of faith in Mark 11:23,24 and in Mark 11:25 He clearly showed that the principle only works when love is at work.

Different Kinds of Faith

Real Faith: This is the God-kind of faith. It is based on God's Word and it's a possession of every believing one (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 10:17). Its operation lies in the heart and lips of the believing one – Romans 10:8-10. Jesus taught it in Mark 11:22-25. God Himself employed this to effect recreation in Genesis 1:3-27. It's characterized by believing in the heart and confessing with your mouth. Mark 11:23, II Corinthians 4:13, Romans 10:10. This faith believes first and sees later.

Natural faith: This speaks of natural human faith, which is based on the physical senses. The Bible plainly discourages this kind of faith. *For we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV)*

Natural faith is a product of an impaired spirit man that was left it after Adam committed high treason. As a result of the impaired state of the spirit of man, the senses became predominant and believing with the heart became difficult. Jesus reprimanded Thomas for expressing this kind of faith - *John 20:27-29*. Natural faith waits for physical manifestation before it is ready to act. It is about seeing to believe. God has designed the office of an evangelist in a way to appeal to natural faith because he is primarily called to deal with non-christians. This is the reason why ministry of signs and wonders is vital in the operations of the office. Acts 8:6, John 4:48.

Perverved Faith: This is the exact opposite of the God-kind of faith. It is known for results (but on the negative side). After the fall in the Garden of Eden, the faith of the first Adam became inverted to produce fear. Genesis 3:10. Fear as it is called is a real force

which the devil employs to express himself. It's not natural to believing ones but can be produced when one's attention becomes drifted away from the word. It is faith in the ability of the devil. It comes by evil report and it's a destructive force. *For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. (Job 3:25 KJV)*

Fear was at the root of Job's calamity. The kind of information you get exposed to, is what determines whether it's real faith or fear that is being developed in you.

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. (Matthew 8:26 KJV)

Matthew 8:26 – your real faith level is inversely proportional to your fear level.

The Law of Corresponding Action

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (James 2:17 KJV)

According to James 2:17, faith requires action. The word 'works' is sometimes spoken of as 'corresponding actions' – in other words, acting out your faith. James 1:22 'But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves'. It's true that faith comes by hearing but the world overcoming ability will never be released until you begin to act out what you have heard. James 1:25b 'But a doer of the Word, this man shall be blessed – empowered to excel in his deed'. Until your actions line up with what you claim to believe, nothing will happen. When you act, you are giving God the opportunity to crown your natural effort with His supernatural influence. When you supply the natural seed, He will supply the multiplication factor. Your faith must call things that be not as though they are before your desired manifestation can be experienced. Romans 4:17.

Faith and Confession

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (Mark 11:23 KJV)

Mark 11:23 is a verse that teaches the basic principle of faith. In this verse, Jesus did make reference to the saying part of faith at three different instances while believing was mentioned once. Faith is not released until words are spoken (Proverbs 18:21). Jesus released His faith to terminate the life of the fig tree when He spoke (Mark 11:14). The woman with the issue of blood released her faith for healing when she spoke (Mark 5:28). Your faith can never rise beyond your level of confession. God released His faith for the work of recreation in the first chapter of Genesis through His Words. He was busy speaking (calling forth His world) and He later saw what He was saying. (Genesis 1:31). Confession must precede possession. Hebrews 11:3 tells us this world is a product of God's faith and Genesis 1 makes us to realize it was by His Words. So, our confession must be a main part of our faith walk.

Jesus has been anointed to oversee and enforce our words spoken in line with the covenant. (Hebrews 3:1). Before you can successfully do God's Word, you must start out with confession.

Different Kinds of Confession

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 KJV)

Most Christians only know about a kind of confession which is the confession of sin (I John 1:9). **Confession of sin** is essential for a believer to maintain a good fellowship with God. An unconfessed sin results in a broken fellowship with God (Psalm 66:18). It causes the devil to gain advantage in a believer's life. It results in a loss of sense of righteousness. Unconfessed sin steals the confidence of a believer where communion with God is concerned. However, it is not right to confess the same sin over and over again. This weakens your faith in God. Confess your sin once you realized what you did wrong and receive your forgiveness once and for all.

The second kind of confession is the **Confession of the lordship of Jesus Christ** (Romans 10:9). This is required before a person can become a member of God's family. This confession works hand in hand with repentance from evil works. A sinner can confess all his sins but until he confesses the lordship of Jesus Christ nothing changes. This confession changes the nature of the spirit of a man from death to life. It imparts the nature of God inside the heart of a man. It is inaccurate to require of an unbeliever to confess all his sins in order to become saved. It is practically impossible for him to remember all his sins. Remember, that man was conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5). So before a man commits any sin he is already a sinner. Confession of sin will not repair the nature of sin, however confession of the lordship of Jesus Christ changes the nature of man from the inside so that he can become a child of God.

The third kind of confession is actually our emphasis in this study. It is the **Confession of a believer's faith in God's word** (Hebrews 4:14). It simply means to affirm and acknowledge the truth of the Word of God. The Greek word – *Homologia* translated as *profession* in Hebrews 4:14, is the same word translated as *confession* in I Timothy 6:13. It literally means to acknowledge or say something over and over. Unlike the confession of sin which is done once and for all, you are expected to confess your faith in God's Word over and over again. This is how you become convinced and thoroughly assured in the Word of God. God expects you to put His promises in your mouth and keep on speaking it until you see the manifestations. This is how you form and release your faith.

Faith Associates

The law of faith is the principal law involved in our relationship with God (Hebrews 11:6, I John 4:4, Romans 14:23). But in addition to faith, there are a number of forces within the human spirit whose participation must be involved before victory can be certain. These forces are listed in Galatians 5:22. They are actually the inward parts of the recreated human spirit. Among these forces, there is a particular one that stands out – LOVE. Love is actually the force that provides the winning formula (I Corinthians 13:8). Galatians 5:6 tells us that it takes the God-kind of love for faith to work. Love is not an emotional thing but the very nature of God that is shed abroad in the heart of every believing one (Romans 5:5, I John 3:14).

Another important life force that must accompany faith before result can be achieved is patience (Hebrews 10:36, Hebrews 6:12). Patience is not just waiting until something happens but it's the very force that ensures consistency, which is necessary before faith can be materialized in the physical.

Joy is another life force that is essential. It is the source of strength needed for your faith

stability especially in times of tests and trials (Nehemiah 8:10, Isaiah 12:3, James 1:2). Other faith associates, which must be present to experience victory, are peace, meekness, temperance and gentleness. When all these life forces are put in place your victory will not know limit. (II Peter 1:5-9).

Faith Balance

There are a lot of practices in the name of faith that have resulted in chaos and misfortunes. A truth that must be established is that, life is in phases and faith in levels. Any attempt to operate in a level of faith that you don't have will lead to making a shipwreck of one's faith (Isaiah 28:10, Romans 1:17). It is true that every believing one has the measure of faith (Romans 12:3, Ephesians 2:6) at new birth but based on how we feed on God's Word and how often we exercise our faith, different believers are at varying faith levels. A number of times people operate on *excited faith* based on inspiring testimonies without any solid foundation of God's Word concerning the situation. In as much as action must follow our faith, it must be *corresponding*. Don't throw away your medications especially if you are diagnosed with a terminal condition just because you are acting in faith. Medical science is not unbelief; rather it can help you in the meantime while you spend time developing your faith for divine healing. But at the same time, you should never be dependent on medical science; it's never a substitute for your faith (I Timothy 5:23). Your faith walk must be free of foolish and presumptuous actions, if you don't want to be disappointed

Quiz

**Provide scriptural references while answering these questions.*

1. God's Word is equal to Faith. Explain.
2. Explain the concept of 'Renewing the mind'.
3. Compare and contrast, the Written Word with the Spoken Word.
4. Highlight 10 effects of the Word on human life.
5. How do you avoid self delusion where the Word of God is concerned?
6. Explain the process of faith formation?
7. 'The just shall live by faith'. Discuss.
8. What is the role of confession of God's word in establishing a lifestyle of faith?
9. Compare the three different kinds of confession.
10. What do you understand by '*Faith worketh by love*'.
11. Briefly discuss the roles of patience and joy in living by faith.

KINGSWORD MINISTERIAL ACADEMY
BASIC MINISTERIAL STUDIES
CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE
PROGRAM
CL 103 – HOLY SPIRIT

CLASS 1 - THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Purpose: To introduce the person of the Holy Spirit.

Outline:

- Holy Spirit as a person
- The Role of the Holy Spirit in creation
- Holy Spirit under the Old Covenant
- Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus
- The Promise of The Spirit
- The Characteristics of The Spirit
- The Holy Spirit in the Work Of Recreation
- The Attributes of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit as a Person

There is a need to understand and recognize the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not just a force that brings results neither is He some kind of emotional display. The Holy Spirit is a real person. It is not sufficient to just recognize the God as a father and acknowledge His Son– Jesus Christ, who brought salvation to all men. You also need to know the third person of the God-head. The Holy Spirit is not just the power of God. He is a real person that can be known and experienced.

(John 16:6-13 KJV) But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

We are living in a dispensation that is controlled and governed by the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Chief Executive Officer of the plan and program of God on earth. Before Jesus left this world He spent time talking about the person of the Holy Spirit. He informed His disciples that the Holy Spirit will be their guide and helper after His departure. This promise was not just for the twelve main disciples that followed His ministry closely. It did not pass away with the early Church. The promise is available for you. It is very real in our days. However, you will not be able to receive all that God has for you until you come to know the Holy Spirit as a person.

(Ephesians 4:30 KJV) And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

According to the above scripture, the Holy Spirit can be grieved. To grieve means to have a sense of loss. It is a form of emotion. Emotion is only present in people with real personality. So the Holy Spirit has a personality. You can actually develop a relationship with Him through communication. You can start by saying, Good morning Holy Spirit. Acknowledge Him on a daily basis. The scriptures inform us that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit. He literally lives in you.

You don't have to visit a Church sanctuary to experience Him. He lives within you. You are His sanctuary. Don't let Him be a guest in your life. Make Him to feel at home. He has been sent to lead you into greatness. Don't see Him as the errand boy of heaven. He is God. In fact, without Him, you cannot receive anything from the father. So treat Him with honor and great respect. Talk to Him consistently and learn to enjoy His presence. You will never know the depths of His power until you know His person.

The Role of the Holy Spirit at Creation

(Genesis 1:2 KJV) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. According to Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit was present at the beginning. He played a major role in the creation of everything in our planet today. Before the Word was released, the Spirit moved. Without the Holy Spirit, the Word of God would have lacked the power to create. It was actually a joint effort of the Word and Spirit that produced the whole universe.

(Job 33:4 KJV) The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. The above scripture shows that man was actually created by the Holy Spirit. Man's life is a product of the working of God's spirit. In Genesis 1:26, the Bible says *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness* Man was created through the joint effort of trinity. The Father, the Word which later became flesh and the Spirit came together to create man.

(John 3:6 KJV) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

From the above scripture the work of recreation which takes place before a man can be born again also involves the Holy Spirit. The recreated human spirit is not just a product of the incorruptible word (*I Peter 1:23*) but also of the Spirit. In summary, creation is always a product of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit under the Old Covenant

After man fell from grace in the Garden of Eden his communication with God changed. He could no longer live in the presence of God any longer. He literally lost his standing with God. Man's spirit became contaminated and polluted so much that all the forces of God within him were negatively affected. In as much as God wanted to be close to man He was limited by the death state of man's heart.

The spirit of man under the Old Testament could not hold the Spirit of God. The covenant God had with the nation of Israel would only allow the workings of the Holy Spirit upon the people of God and not within. The three classes of people that had the privilege of having the Spirit of God upon them were Kings, Priests and Prophets. It should be noted that the anointing upon these classes of people was not given to them to live by. Rather, they were anointed by the Spirit of God to serve/minister to the people.

Kings under the Old Testament were anointed to administer and rule over the people. Example: David was anointed as king over Judah – *II Samuel 2:4*. Priests under the Old Testament were anointed to represent the people before God. Example: God instructed Moses to anoint Aaron as priest over Israel – *Exodus 28:1*. Prophets under the Old Testament were anointed to present the voice of God to the people. Example: Samuel was anointed of God to minister in the office of a prophet over Israel – *I Samuel 3:20*.

The Holy Spirit in the Life and Ministry of Jesus

Before Jesus came to this planet, He was always in the presence of His father in the fullness of His glory. But He had to leave heaven in order to fulfill a divine assignment here on earth. (*Psalms 40:7 KJV*) *Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me.* Jesus, the Word of God was deposited in seed form in the womb of Mary. He had to let go of all His glory for this great feat to be achieved. He became like any other man.

He was called the son of man because He took up the human nature. There is no record of a single miracle that he worked before He was baptized by John, the Baptist. He had to wait for the presence of the Holy Ghost before he could begin His ministry.

(*Luke 3:21,22 KJV*) *Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

Jesus began His ministry after He experienced the Holy Ghost through the baptism of John. This experience brought supernatural power of God upon His life. The Holy Spirit

literally anointed Him to preach, teach and perform the signs and wonders that made His ministry on earth to be exceptional.

(Acts 10:38 KJV) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Jesus was only able to do what He did on earth because He depended on the Holy Spirit. According to John 3:34, Jesus was given the Holy Spirit without measure. This means He had an unlimited supply of the Holy Spirit.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in His life did not only play a vital role in His ministry but also in His life. His strong relationship with His father was a product of the working of the Holy Spirit in His life. The Holy Spirit made the voice of His father to be real to Him. This was so important since He literally followed the instructions of His father during His mission on earth. *(John 15:10 KJV) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

The Promise of the Spirit

(John 14:16 KJV) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; towards the end of Jesus' ministry on the earth, He promised the disciples to send the Holy Spirit. It was very important for the Spirit to come therefore Jesus had to leave for this to happen. Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit was going to be to them everything He was to them. Jesus called the Holy Spirit, another comforter in John 14:16. The Greek word for 'another comforter' in John 14:16 (ALLOS PARAKLETOS) means 'another comforter of the same kind'.

He even assured them that they will be in a position to do greater things than what they experienced in His ministry after the coming of the Holy Spirit. *(John 14:12 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

The promise was fulfilled when the Spirit came down at the upper room in Acts 2. Ever since, He has been on the earth. *For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2:39KJV)*

Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

The interpretation of the Greek word for comforter (PARAKLETOS) falls into six English words, which individually speaks of vital things He does for us and in us.

These words are: Advocate, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Strengtheners and Standby.

Other things the Holy Spirit does:

1. Empowers you to bear witness for Jesus - Act 1:8
2. Bears witness with you that you are a new creature – Romans 8:16
3. Brings things into your remembrance – John 14:26
4. Testifies of Jesus – John 15:26
5. Convicts sinners around you – John 16:8
6. Teaches you all things (spirit of revelation) – John 14:26, I Corinthians 2:12, 13
7. Glorifies God through signs and wonders – Exodus 8:19
8. Guides you into all truth of God's word and the realm of the supernatural – John 16:13.
9. Constantly generates life in your mortal body - Romans 8:11
10. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus and the things of God real to you – John 14:26
11. He lifts up the Word of God and the name of Jesus – John 15:26
12. He will give you direction in life – Romans 8:14

The Holy Spirit in the life of a Recreated Man

Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:18, Matthew 3:16, Acts 10:38 and Hebrews 9:14

The Holy Spirit was actively involved in the earth work of Jesus Christ from conception to crucifixion. This gives us a foundation that He was involved in redemption and recreation.

He convicts of sin and prepares the sinner to accept Jesus – John 16:8

He actually gives birth to a new you (spirit) - John 3:5

Therefore, He is the one who actually recreated you in Christ Jesus to do good works - Ephesians 2:10.

The Holy Spirit is the one that reveals the Word to us. (1 Corinthians 2:10 KJV) But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. There are deep things of God that God has prepared for you. However, it has to be revealed in the Word of God. This is where the Holy Spirit comes in. He translates the mind of God to the believers.

The Attributes of the Holy Spirit

A number of symbols and names are used in the scripture to explain the personality of the Holy Spirit. Each of these symbols and names gives us insight into the attributes of the Holy Spirit. Let us look at some of them.

Comforter – The Holy Spirit has been given to us to aid us in our lives. The word “comforter” in the Greek is the word “*parakletos*” which literally means someone that comes along to help. That is exactly what the Holy Spirit does in a believer's life – *John 14:26*.

[Holy] Spirit – As the name implies, He is holy. He works in your life more effectively when you make holiness your priority. Holiness is simply separating yourself from the contaminations of the world system – *II Corinthians 6:16 - 7:1*.

Dove – The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove when He was being baptized in River Jordan. Dove is a bird known for gentleness. The Holy Spirit has a gentle personality. He will never impose Himself on you. You must consciously submit to His leadership before you can enjoy what He has been sent to do in your life – *Luke 3:22*.

Fire – John the Baptist talked about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. This is the baptism that a believer experiences through the Holy Spirit. Fire here stands for the refining influence of the Holy Spirit that purifies. He also appeared as cloven tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost. This is needed to bring out the best in a believer – *Luke 3:16, Acts 2:2, Zechariah 13:9*.

Wind – The Holy Spirit invaded the upper room where 120 followers of Jesus were gathered on the day of Pentecost as *a rushing mighty wind*. Wind here represents a mighty force. After you have submitted yourself consciously to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, you will not only see His gentle side, you will also experience His forceful side. There is indeed a forceful side to the Holy Spirit. This forceful side will bring restoration to the saints that are obedient and judgment to the disobedient. Ananias and Sapphira experienced His forceful side in judgment when they lied to Him – *Acts 2:2, Acts 5:3-5*.

CLASS 2 - THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Purpose: To give a good understanding of what the Holy Spirit does in the life of a believer thereby creating appreciation for Him and invariably a co-operation with Him in life.

Outline:

- Introducing the Anointing
- The Purpose of the Anointing
- The Anointing Within
- The Anointing Upon
- How you can be led by the Spirit of God
- The Fruit of The Spirit
- Maintaining a Spirit-Filled Life
- Benefits of speaking in Tongues

Introducing the Anointing

(Acts 10:38 KJV) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

The above scripture talks about the anointing upon Jesus. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. To anoint means to rub or smear in. So God rubbed and smeared Jesus with the presence and the personality of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit is always followed by His personality. The personality of the Holy Spirit is what is often referred to as the Anointing. This personality is that of great power. It was this personality that produced great works of signs and wonders in the ministry of Jesus.

It literally resulted into the power of God for deliverance and healing. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is not restricted to the life and ministry of Jesus. The same Holy Spirit that came upon Jesus when He was lowered into River Jordan is available in our days. If any believer will open up his life to the ministry of the Holy Spirit just like Jesus did, the result will be the same – *Signs and Wonders*. Signs and Wonders in this context do not just apply to healing the sick and casting out devils. God expects every New Testament saint to experience signs and wonders in their daily living. The anointing of God is applicable to every aspect of life. You might not be a worldwide evangelist that God is using to work miracles on crusade ground, but you are qualified for the anointing of the Holy Spirit for your daily life. This covers everything about life: finances, marriage, family, career, health etc.

(2 Peter 1:3 KJV) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

The anointing of the Spirit is the divine power the above scripture is referring to. It has been given to every child of God so that victory can be obtained in all the different aspects of

life. It pertains to all where life is concerned. Another scripture that talks about the anointing for life is ... But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things – *1 John 2:20*. You have been given the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that you can excel in all things. You are simply anointed for a victorious life.

The Purpose of the Anointing

So many Christians are so misinformed about the purpose of the Anointing. What Christian people often refer to as the Anointing is simply emotional display. In as much as there can be some kind of emotional display while the anointing is present, we should know that the anointing is not about emotions.

It is the power of God that produces result. I want to point a very important phrase in *Acts 10:38 ... with the Holy Ghost and with power*. The Holy Spirit always brings power. Not emotions. So the primary thing about the Holy Spirit is power that changes situation. It is not enough to just shake and fall under the power of God. The focus should always be on power for result.

(Isaiah 10:27 KJV) And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

From this scripture it is made clear that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is the reason why burdens are removed and yokes are destroyed. The anointing can actually be defined as the burden removing, yoke destroying, and situation changing power of God. The anointing is released to change a situation and not for a show. We need to be established in the primary purpose of the anointing so that we will not be distracted by the things that accompany it. This is very important to avoid the abuse – *abnormal use* of the anointing.

The Anointing Within

(1 John 2:27 KJV) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The anointing being referred to in the above scripture is known as the anointing within. It resides within a new creature. A major redemptive reality where New Testament believers are concerned has to do with the fact that after God recreated us and made us His own very possession, He now lives inside of us by His Spirit.

Apostle Paul in *1 Corinthians 3:16* declared ... *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?* John also declared in *1 John 4:4* that ... *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

Holy Spirit, the greater one is within you. The presence of the Holy Spirit inside of you makes you several times bigger on the inside than on the outside. He is in there with divine power that is meant for you so that you can live a good and victorious life. This anointing is a major advantage that the New Testament saints have over the people under the Old Covenant.

It is the function of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit inside a believer's spirit. This anointing teaches/instructs the believer on what to do. This however, does not negate the place of teachers of the word for they are on a divine assignment – Eph. 4:11-14. It is the unction (enablement) a believer needs to fulfill any function or perform any role commanded by God on earth – I John 2:20, Phil 4:12, 2:13.

Note: The words unction and anointing were translated from the same Greek word - *Charisma*. The believer now has the ability to know the mind of God and always armed with a sense of direction – (I Corinthians 2:9-13). Remember, the Holy Spirit and His anointing is already within you.

The Anointing Upon

*(Luke 24:49 KJV) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father **upon you**: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

*(Acts 1:8 KJV) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is **come upon** you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* Both Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8 refer to the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The word of emphasis in the above scriptures is “upon”. The scriptures refer to the Holy Spirit coming upon believers to endue them with power.

The purpose of this anointing is different from the anointing within. Anointing upon is given to a believer so that He can do the works of God. Anointing within on the other hand has to do with power for effective Christian living (personal life). The starting point of Anointing upon in the New Testament is the initial infilling of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues.

This was experienced by the early Church as recorded in Acts 2. It did not just happen on the day of Pentecost. This was experienced by other believers that joined the Church later on. *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19:5,6 KJV)*

Apostle Peter declared that this promise is for all that believe – Acts 2:39. Jesus in Mark 16:17 also taught that the sign of speaking in tongues is for all believers. Old Testament saints that were privileged to experience the anointing upon were the few that stood in the offices of Prophet, Priest and Kings. Examples were David, Samuel and Aaron.

❖ **Steps to being filled with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.**

Step 1 - You must be born of the Spirit - John 3:5.

Step 2 - You must know that it's for you from scriptures - Acts 2:39, Mark 16:17.

Step 3 - You must have no doubts about it - Luke 11:11-13

Step 4 - Receive it by faith (embrace the scriptures that talk about the promise of being filled with the Holy Spirit) – Acts 19:1-6.

Step 5 - Begin to speak by faith and expect Him to give you utterance Act 2:4

**Note: It may sound meaningless to you but remembers it's an unknown tongue.*

The anointing upon provides the enablement for fruitful service. It actually comes from within and rises up-on the individual. The anointing upon supplies empowerment for effective ministry. *Luke 4:18.*

**Notes: The anointing within is primarily for the believer's private life while the anointing upon enables him to minister to other believers. Spending time to pray in tongues helps to increase (stir up) this anointing.*

How you can be led by the Spirit of God

(Proverbs 20:27 KJV) The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly. One of the greatest benefits of the New Testament saint is the ability to follow the direction of the Spirit of God. This benefit comes under the operation of the Holy Spirit within a believer – *Anointing within.*

INWARD WITNESS

(Romans 8:16 KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

God primarily leads His children through the inward witness/intuition. This involves *a go-ahead inward signal or a red signal*. God communicates His plan or warning from danger/disappointment to His children through this most of the time. The *go-ahead signal* is experienced in form of inward peace or agreement. The *red signal* is experienced in form of *uneasy inward feeling* which is a sign of divine disapproval.

THE INWARD VOICE

(Romans 9:1 KJV) I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

The second primary way the Holy Spirit uses to guide us is *the inward voice*. This voice is called *conscience*. It is a *still small voice*. It is actually the voice of your Recreated Human Spirit. God can speak through other means but these two are the major ways through which God communicates to a New Testament saint. God can also speak through:

1. The Bold Authoritative Voice of the Holy Spirit
2. Vision
3. Trance
4. Dream etc.

The first two – *inward witness and still small voice* are basically supernatural while the rest – *Bold voice of the Holy Spirit, Vision, Trance and Dream* are more of spectacular experiences. You should desire the supernatural and let God dictate when the spectacular experiences are needed.

(Romans 8:14 BBE) And all those who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons of God. As a child of God you have a right to be led of God. However, this privilege will only be enjoyed consistently by God's children that have matured in their spiritual senses. Romans 8:14 call this set of people – (matured) sons of God.

Note: Any message that God sends to a New Testament saint will always be in agreement with the Word. For example God will never tell you to marry an unbeliever or marry a second wife.

The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is as a result of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. This fruit is actually a product of the recreated human spirit by the help of the Holy Spirit. Hence, this fruit is seen in a believer's life as a result of the joint effort of the Holy Spirit and the Recreated Human Spirit.

The branch is the fruit bearing part of a tree (John 15:5) therefore you as a branch are expected to bear fruit. The fruit (not fruits) actually is the characteristics of the Holy Spirit expressed through a believer. It is the nature of the believer's human spirit.

(Galatians 5:22,23 KJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The above scripture shows a list of the different components that make up the fruit of the spirit. These are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. All these speak of the character of God. This is an aspect of the anointing of God that works within a believer – *Anointing within*.

Before the power of God that produces result can be experienced it is needful for a believer to develop himself in the fruit of the spirit. This fruit grows as a believer builds intimacy with the Father and the Word through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Maintaining a Spirit Filled Life

(Ephesians 5:18-20 KJV) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Despite the initial infilling of the Spirit, a believer ought to maintain a Spirit-filled life to function effectively. In other words, there is a need for constant refilling of the spirit. This can be achieved by dwelling on the Word and maintaining a consistent prayer life -

Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18, Matthew 9:17.

(Colossians 3:16 KJV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. When God's Word is in abundance in your heart, you will live a spirit filled life naturally.

Singing in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are expressions of the anointing of prophecy that is experienced when you are filled with the Spirit. It simply speaks of singing by inspiration. Believers that are not giving to music can also express this by speaking inspired utterances. Supernatural joy expressed in laughter and/or dancing is also an expression of a Spirit-filled life.

The early Church was committed to a Spirit filled lifestyle. No wonder, they had so much result. A spirit filled life is synonymous to being full/filled with the spirit.

New Testament Examples:

Act 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine – Disciples full of the Spirit

Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business – Deacons were appointed based on Spirit filled lifestyle.

Act 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people – Stephen worked miracles because He maintained a Spirit filled life.

Act 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, - Stephen maintained a Spirit filled life to the point of death.

Act 11:24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord – Barnabas maintained a Spirit filled life.

Rom 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord – Paul encouraged the Church in Rome to maintain a Spirit-filled life.

Note: You should spend enough time praying in tongues, meditating, studying the word, confessing the word, doing the word, praising and worshipping. Praying in tongues will help you to maintain a freshness of your spirit at all times.

Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

1. Tongues are for Spiritual Edification (I Corinthians 14:4)
2. Praying in Tongues is praying in line with God's perfect will. (Romans 8: 26-27)
3. Praying in Tongues stimulates faith (Jude 20)
4. Speaking in Tongues, is a means of keeping free from worldly contamination
5. Praying in Tongues enables us pray about the unknown. (Romans 8:26)
6. Praying in Tongues gives spiritual refreshment. (Isaiah 28:11-12)
7. Speaking in Tongues is the best way for giving thanks to God (I Corinthians 14:15-17)
8. Speaking in Tongues is the initial sign of being filled with Holy Spirit. (Act 2:4)
9. Speaking in Tongues is a means of supernatural communication between man and God. (I Corinthians 14:2)
10. Speaking in Tongues is the best way to intercede for someone (Romans 8:26)
11. Speaking in Tongues is a means of exercising the spirit. (I Corinthians 14:14)
12. Speaking in Tongues is a way of stirring up wisdom from within. (Proverbs 20:5; I Corinthians 2:10b)
13. Speaking in Tongues helps us pray out God's plans for our life. (I Corinthians 2:6-12)

Quiz

**Provide scriptural references while answering these questions.*

1. How relevant is the Holy Spirit in a believer's life?
2. Distinguish between Anointing within and Anointing without.
3. (John 14:16 KJV) *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.* Explain this scripture.
4. Explain the operation of the Holy Spirit under the Old Testament.
5. What is the purpose of the Anointing?
6. What are the primary ways by which a New Testament saint is led by God?
7. 'The Fruit of the Spirit'. Explain this phrase.
8. 'I have an unction from the holy one and I know all things'. Explain.
9. How do you maintain a Spirit-filled life?
10. What are the benefits of praying in tongues?

KINGWORD MINISTERIAL ACADEMY
BASIC MINISTERIAL STUDIES
CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE
PROGRAM
CL 104 - PRAYER

CLASS 1 - THE DYNAMICS OF PRAYER

Purpose: To provide basic foundation of prayer and its practical application in the daily living of a believer.

Outline:

- Introduction
- Why Prayer
- Foundational Truths on prayer
- Prevailing in Prayer
- Fasted Prayer
- Prayer and Love
- The place of the Holy Spirit in prayer
- Prayer and Revival
- Prayer on three levels
- Facts to note about prayer
- Ingredients of Effective Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is the foundation of a believers' life. The new life in Christ Jesus can only be maximized through an effective and consistent prayer habit. According to Matthew 6:10, prayer is establishing the will of God on earth. Every believer that will impart his world must be giving to the ministry of prayer.

Apostle Paul who wrote most of the New Testament was a man giving to much prayer. In Ephesians 1:15-16 he wrote: "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers".

In Colossians 1:3 he said: "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you". In I Thessalonians 5:17 he charged the Church to "pray without ceasing". Jesus Christ, the author of our faith says in Luke 18:1 that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

WHY PRAYER

Prayer is what gives God the authority on earth to intervene in or influence the lives and affairs of men (Acts 4:24-33, Ezekiel 22:30). When Adam committed high treason, he gave away every authority that God gave to man. The devil then became the “god” of this world (II Corinthians 4:4). It is as a result of this that God cannot intervene in the affairs of this world except a man allows Him by standing in the place of prayer submitting the circumstances to God, thereby giving God a legal route of action.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS ON PRAYER

1. Prayer is not a way out of trouble but a relationship – *Matthew 6:5, I Thessalonians 5:17, I Sam 12:33, Daniel 6:10.*
2. Prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue - *Isaiah 1:18, Jeremiah 33: 3.*
3. Prayer conducted in fear and anxiety is unacceptable to God. Faith is the only way to reach God - *Hebrews 11:6, Hebrews 4:16*
4. Prayer is speaking God’s Word back to Him. The only language God understands is His Word – *Hebrews 1:2, John 15:7, Acts 4:24, Psalm 2:2.*
5. It is a sure way of establishing Gods’ will - *Romans 8:2, Luke 11:2, John 14:13, 14*
6. God always answers prayers done according to His will - *II Corinthians 1:20, I John 15:7*
7. It takes the help of the Holy Spirit to pray right – *Romans 8:26.*

PREVAILING IN PRAYER

In *Acts 6:3-4*, the apostles made a profound statement, which is a timeless truth “..... *we will give ourselves continually to prayer*” This shows that this was one of the major keys to their success. If this is true then, it is also true that the amount of time we invest into this business will determine the level of success we enjoy and it will ensure a life devoid of stress and confusion. Everything about our lives and ministries has already been planned (*I Corinthians 2:9*). We only need to be diligent to search it out through prayer (*Proverbs 20:5*).

To effectively prevail in prayer, our prayers must be based on the Word of God. Faith which is the only way to connect to God begins with the knowledge of the Word. Daniel is an example of someone that prevailed in prayer. According to *Daniel 9:2*, Daniel set his face to seek God based on what he read in the Old Testament scroll.

Daniel 10:12 reveals that God answered his prayers the very day he prayed through an angel but his answers were delayed through the operations of demonic spirit. So God is never the one delaying the manifestations of our prayers. Do not allow religion to rob you of the manifestations of your prayers through wrong belief. God always responds to the prayers of the saints (*Psalms 34:15, 17*).

(Ephesians 6:12, 13 KJV) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Thank God for the armor of prayer! The New Testament saints have what it takes to overcome all the forces of hell that hinder prayers. So the devil does not have to hinder your prayer. You have been given the authority to prevail in prayer through the armor of God that you possess.

FASTED PRAYER

Fasted prayer is a major key to greater works. It stirs up your anointing for the extraordinary (*Isaiah 60, Mark 9:29, Matt. 17:21*). There is nothing that stirs up the miraculous like prayer does. When prayer is done with fasting, then the power released is greater. **FASTING AMPLIFIES THE POWER OF PRAYER.**

Fasting helps in breaking the power of the enemy over the lives of the people, and to forcefully establish the purpose of God (*Matthew 6:16, Matthew 4:2, Luke 5:35*). According to *Matthew 4* Jesus fasted for forty days and the Apostles continued in the same practice after observing Jesus' ministry and success. Paul said "...in fasting often..." (*2 Corinthians 6:5, 2 Corinthians 11:27, 1 Corinthians 7:5*).

Other referrals; *Luke 2:37, Acts 10:30, Acts 14:23, Acts 27:33, Acts 13:2-3*. Fasted prayer keeps our focus and our sensitivity sharp as our bodies are kept under so that our spirits can ascend thereby giving us clear cut direction for the next level.

PRAYER AND LOVE

Mark 11:24,25 Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

For prayer to work at all times, a believer must make sure that he is not harboring unforgiveness in his heart. According to the scripture above there is no point praying if you are not going to let go of the wrongdoings committed against you. Malice, unforgiveness or any act that is contrary to the unconditional God-kind of love will stop your prayers from reaching the throne of God.

(1 Peter 3:7 KJV) Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

The Bible according to the above scripture makes us to understand that failure to treat people right will lead to hindered prayers. So make sure every body in your life is treated the right way. This scripture does not only apply in husband-wife relationship but in all kinds of relationships.

THE PLACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAYER

(1 Corinthians 2:9, 10 KJV) But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For prayer to be effective, every believer must understand the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer. The Holy Spirit is the one that teaches us how to pray the will and the plan of God into manifestation. The human mind is very limited in knowledge and that is why it takes a man of the spirit to pray effectively. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the accurate state of things.

This doesn't necessarily mean praying in tongues, but rather praying from the inside out, i.e., prayer based on a revelation or divine information. The Holy Spirit takes hold alongside with us against our weaknesses such as ignorance, blindness, physical weakness, and inability to get results (*Romans 8:26*).

PRAYER AND REVIVAL

Revival is the spiritual awakening of a person or a place caused by the energized activities of the Holy Spirit to bring about a change (*Isaiah 66:7-9, Ezekiel 22:30, Isaiah 62:1, Zechariah 10:1*).

Without prayer, there is no revival! Prayer is what stirs up the fire of revival. In fact, it is what begins it and what keeps fanning the flames. When we learn how to travail in prayer, there will be revival (*Isaiah 66:8*) "... as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

(Galatians 4:19 KJV) My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Revival causes believers to come into spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is a product of travail in the place of prayer. It is not just enough to get people into the kingdom of God. The fruitfulness that should be part of a believer's life can only be achieved when spiritual maturity is attained.

Prayer releases the power that destroys the works of darkness and the flesh that distracts the children of God from living a productive life. *(1 Corinthians 13:11 KJV) When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.* Through prayer, spiritual babies are empowered to put away the childish things of the flesh.

Revival depends on us, and can be started anywhere, if we meet the conditions. When the need is greatest, that's when God pours His Spirit on the parched ground.

HOW DO I MEET THE CONDITIONS?

- a) Desire it
- b) Feel the need
- c) Understand there's a huge price to pay and pay it.

There must be a great intercession on behalf of the land and for the saints. This involves long hours of praying for there to be a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit. The style of revival may change from time to time, and place to place, but the principles remain the same. There can be no genuine revival except through the awakening of God's Spirit.

We will only see the outflow of His power in response to prayer, the earnest prayer of the righteous which is powerful and effective – James 5:16-18. Note that when revival breaks out, there's a great move of evangelism. He gives his children a great burden for the lost souls. That concern is expressed as much in prayer for the lost souls as in attempts to persuade them through the preaching of the gospel.

PRAYER ON THREE LEVELS

- 1. Prayer for me as a believer
- 2. Prayer for me as a minister
- 3. Prayer for me as a territory taker

A) PRAYER AS A BELIEVER

As believers, God gave us a commitment to always pray and not to faint (*Luke 18:1*). For without Him, we can do nothing meaningful on earth. (*John 15:4, Eph. 6:10, James 5:16, I Corinthians 2:9-12, John 15:4.*)

- a. It empowers you to overcome the power of hell (*Ephesians 6:10*)
- b. It gives you access into the plans of God (*I Corinthians 2:9-12*)
- c. It keeps you in the realm of the supernatural (*Mark 9:29*)
- d. It enables you to walk in peace and victory over sin, habit and the flesh on a daily basis (*Philippians 4:6-7*)
- e. It gives you strength to do the impossible (*Isaiah 40:29-31*)

B) PRAYER AS A MINISTER

As a minister, your primary purpose is the ministry of prayer and the word (Acts 6:4). Your life and ministry are limited to and by your prayer life! You cannot see beyond your prayer life and so cannot go beyond it. Prayer is your responsibility which no one can do for you. It is in the place of prayer that you see new visions for your lives and the work that God has committed into your hands.

That is where God speaks and enlarges your visions and capacities (*Jeremiah 33:3*). If you are committed to doing the impossible, then you have to be committed to prayer. From the days of old until present day, men that did extra ordinary things that cut across language barrier, age and generation, could all do what they did and are still doing because they spent quality time in prayer.

They saw the invisible and so were empowered to do the impossible- E.g. Abraham and the promised seed (*Genesis 12*), Noah and the ark (*Genesis 7*), Moses and the promise land (*Exodus 3*), Jesus and the cross (*Luke 22*) etc.

Philippians 4:13 paraphrased “I can do all things through the anointing that was on Jesus when He fulfilled His earthly ministry.”

This is what Jesus did to stir up the anointing on His life when He walked on the earth. He prayed (*Matthew 14:23, Matthew 26:36*).

He went from one place of prayer to another and in between He did miracles. It is your responsibility, not only to do it, but to teach and help people under you to pray. A *prayerless people will live powerless lives*.

C) PRAYER AS A TERRITORY TAKER

(*Psalms 2:8 KJV*) *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

Through prayer, we ought to yield ourselves unto God as instruments of righteousness to accomplish His dreams and counsels on earth (*Romans 6:13*). *Revelations 11:15* speaks of the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdom of our God, and the earth being the Lord’s including everything that can be seen (*Psalms 24:1*).

These scriptures reveal God’s ardent desire which is to take back what was lost in the Garden of Eden to the devil- His rulership on earth, and over the world’s system. God wants His influence to cut across every sphere of human existence, and not just the church (*Isaiah 2:2-3*). As members of God’s kingdom, heaven expects us to exercise our authority on earth as territory takers.

Mark 16:15 says “Go ye into all the world and TAKE OVER” No matter what sphere of life we find ourselves, we are meant to establish God’s kingdom there until His dominion extends over all. We are Christ’s ambassadors, extensions of heaven, representatives of God on earth (*2 Corinthians 5:20*). Our primary pursuit ought to be how to extend the influence of God over the territories of our assignments (*Acts 17:16*).

Our positions as territory takers is the position of prayer, we must intercede until we see a clear vision of our territories under the influence of God’s kingdom for God can do nothing except we pray. *Ezekiel 22:30*. Prayer brings men under the influence of God. It is the tool for revival. *Zechariah 10:1*.

FACTS TO NOTE ABOUT PRAYER

1. We must realize that we are in our places of assignment to establish God's dominion there. Isaiah 2:2-3
2. We must do the asking by interceding for the people and for the land. Psalm 2:8
3. We must keep at it until something happens. Galatians 6:9
4. We must keep at it to keep the fire of revival burning.
5. It makes power available. James 5:16 (Amp)
6. It gives us access into God's plans and purposes. 1Cor 2:9-10
7. It strengthens us. Jude 20
8. It is the entrance to the supernatural.
9. It equips us for our divine assignment. (Jeremiah 29: 11-13)
10. It charges up our spirit for the miraculous.

INGREDIENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

- * Faith – Prayer is basically fellowship with God. Since faith is the foundation of fellowship, then prayer has to be by faith for it to work – *Hebrews 11:6*.
- * Boldness – God expects us to approach Him with confidence and boldness. As sons and daughters of God we have the right to approach the throne of our father in prayer with confidence – *Hebrews 4:16*.
- * Compassion – Prayer, especially where intercession is concerned is a product of compassion. Compassion is an act of love that seeks solution to problem. Sympathy should not be confused with compassion. Compassion acts while sympathy only feels – *Mark 1:41*.
- * Patience – Patience is the force of God that helps you to remain consistent in your faith while waiting for the manifestation of your prayer – *Hebrews 10:36*.
- * Perseverance – Perseverance simply speaks of persistency. This force of the recreated human spirit keeps you going in the face of adversity and discouragement. *Ephesians 6:18* talks about *praying with all prayers and supplication and watching unto all perseverance*. It works alongside with patience.
- * Joy – Joy is the force of the recreated human spirit that keeps you strong while you are waiting for your manifestation. *Nehemiah 8:10* says the joy of the Lord is your strength.
- * Consciousness of Righteousness – Righteousness is your access into God's throne room. It gives you the ability to stand in God's presence without complex or guilt. Don't allow the enemy to rob you of your sense of righteousness. *Psalms 34:15, 17, 19* all talk about the righteous exercising the right to pray. Jesus gave you His righteousness so that you can come into God's presence at all times. Nothing including sin must stop you from enjoying your benefit of divine access. If you sin, apply I John 1:9 and get cleansed to have your sense of righteousness restored.

CLASS 2 – THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER

Purpose: To help students understand the different kinds of prayers and their application.

Outline:

- Introduction
- The Prayer of Faith
- The Prayer of Consecration
- The Prayer of Commitment
- The Prayer of Praise and Worship
- The Prayer of Agreement
- United Prayer
- The Prayer of Supplication
- Intercessory Prayer
- Praying in the Spirit
- The Prayer of Binding and loosing

INTRODUCTION

(Ephesians 6:18 AMP) Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

The above scripture shows us that there are different kinds (manners) of prayer. Church people have consistently lumped these different kinds of prayer together. God expects us to understand His will where prayer is concerned. We have been given different kinds of prayer because God wants us to approach Him the right way in every situation. There is a right way and a wrong way to pray in every situation. A classic example is the prayer that Jesus offered in *Luke 22:42 AMP - Saying, Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but [always] Yours be done.*

This kind of prayer is only appropriate when you are unclear or confused where the will of God is concerned. That is the only time when it is okay to use 'if' when praying. At this particular time Jesus was under an intense pressure to do the right thing. This prayer settled his troubled mind. It led him to a point of consecrating his will to the will of His master.

The different kinds of prayer can be compared to the different sporting events such as basketball, football, baseball, hockey, handball etc. Each of these has peculiar rules. You will be missed up if you try to use the rules of basketball in playing handball. Likewise you will be missed up if you try to use the rules of *the prayer of consecration* when you are trying to change a situation – *prayer of faith*. So be informed, there are different kinds of prayer and each one of them has specific rules and guidelines.

In this study we are going to be looking at nine different kinds of prayer. These are:

- The Prayer of Faith
- The Prayer of Consecration
- The Prayer of Commitment
- The Prayer of Praise and Worship
- The Prayer of Agreement
- United Prayer
- The Prayer of Supplication
- Intercessory Prayer
- Praying in the Spirit
- The Prayer of Binding and loosing

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

The prayer of faith is also known as the prayer of petition. This prayer basically changes things. It applies primarily to a person's own life – to his own situations and circumstances. This prayer is always to be based on God's revealed will in His Word, never contains an "if". (*Mark 11:24 KJV*) *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

There is no better scripture that explains the prayer of faith like *Mark 11:24*. This has to do with receiving the desires of your heart. This is applicable to receiving material things, healing and any other promise in the scriptures. Prayer of faith can not be prayed for someone else. It only works where personal needs are concerned.

❖ 10 Vital steps of the Prayer of Faith

1. Take your time to meditate on the promises in the Word of God that guarantee your desired result before you pray the prayer of faith. That is how you renew your mind and build the image of the desired result.
2. The Prayer of faith is prayed once.
3. You are expected to follow up the prayer of faith by consistent confession of the promises in the Word of God. Call the things that are not as though they were.
4. Get involved in corresponding actions that are consistent with what you believe God for.
5. You believe that you receive at the point you pray. Don't wait for the physical manifestation before you believe the Word of God.
6. Physical manifestation of your prayer of faith might take some time but you are expected to remain in faith until the desired result is seen.
7. Patience comes into play from the time you pray until the desired result is seen. Patience is a force of God and a fruit of the spirit that makes you to be consistently constant. It undergirds your faith.
8. Thanksgiving is also essential while you are waiting for the physical

manifestation. Thanksgiving is a major part of your corresponding action. It is a demonstration of your faith in God's Word.

9. The attitude of joy generally supports your prayer of faith. It keeps you fired up and keeps the image of the desired result alive.

10. Keep the gateways of your heart (eyes, ears and mouth) flooded with the promises in the Word that you started with while awaiting your desired result. This way you keep your hope and faith strong.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The Prayer of consecration is the only prayer that permits the use of "if". It is applied when the will of God is unknown or unclear. It involves a conscious submission to the will, purpose, agenda, plan and intent of God.

(Luke 22:42 AMP) Saying, Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but [always] Yours be done.

Jesus prayed this prayer when He was confronted with his crucifixion in the garden of Gethsemane. His flesh wanted to fight the journey before Him but He was brave to pray a prayer of consecration. Through this prayer He yielded his will to the will of His father. And that was how he was able to fulfill the will of God on earth.

Every child of God that is interested in carrying out God's will on earth must understand and practice the prayer of consecration. God requires this kind of submission and yieldedness in order to work with man. In spite of the fact that God prepared a purpose for you before the world began He still needs your co-operation before His plan can be actualized in your life. The prayer of consecration gives God the permission to execute His will in your life.

Unlike the prayer of faith, the prayer of consecration can be prayed as many times as necessary in a particular situation. Anytime you find yourself struggling with God's will just go ahead and pray this prayer. God will not break the will of man but He will walk with a will that is yielded to His will. The prayer of consecration aligns your will to God's will and positions you for His plans for your life. However, the prayer of consecration is not applicable in situations where the Bible is very clear about the mind of God.

An example is healing. Don't pray if it is your will where your healing is concerned. The Bible already says that by the stripes of Jesus you are already healed – *Isaiah 53:5*. Jesus told the leprous man that it is His will to heal the sick. He is still saying the same thing in our days – *Matthew 8:2, 3*. Another example is marriage or dating between a child of God and an unbeliever. The Bible clearly says that we should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers- *II Corinthians 6:14*. Don't pray a prayer of consecration where your redemptive rights and privileges are concerned. These include financial prosperity, protection, ministry of angels etc.

THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

The prayer of commitment is also known as the prayer of committal. It involves consciously casting your cares on God. Amplified version of *1 Peter 5:7* describes this kind of prayer effectively - *(1 Peter 5:7 AMP) Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. [Psalms 55:22]*

Nothing stops the flow of God's power like worry. God is vehemently against worry and anxiety. Worry causes stress, strain and death. It is a major tool that the devil uses to stop Christians from receiving from God. Your understanding of the prayer of casting of cares will help you to receive from God and enjoy your every day life. *John 16:33* clearly tells us that we will be faced with troubles in this world but we should also know that Jesus has overcome the world.

When you know how to cast your cares on God nothing will be able to trouble you effectively. You will become proficient in handling trouble.

❖ Seven Things You Must Know About Casting Your Cares

1. Worry is a sin and it hinders your prayer of faith. So praying a prayer of committal can be supportive to your prayer of faith.
2. Worry is a perversion of meditation. Real meditation dwells on the Word. Worry dwells on the problem.
3. Worries, cares and anxiety will never solve a problem. You receive victory by faith in God's Word and not by trying to figure things out with your limited mind.
4. You are expected to cast your cares once and for all. Once you pray a prayer of committal, walk away from the trouble and trust God for the wisdom that will lead you out of the problem.
5. You will always have an opportunity to worry in this world because there is a loose devil-*god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)*, that will always stir up trouble. Don't seize the opportunity to worry.
6. God wants you to cast ALL your cares. Not most of your cares. Do not leave out any thing. Trust God with every single aspect of your life.
7. Casting your cares is about being carefree and not being careless. God is not saying be irresponsible with your life. You should still do what you have the capacity for. Don't

become lazy in the name of casting your cares. Cast your cares and not your responsibility.

THE PRAYER OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

❖ Worship

(Acts 13:2 KJV) As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

The only kind of prayer that most Christian people are familiar with is the prayer of petition. The above scripture talks about ‘*ministering to the Lord*’. This is a form of prayer. Prayer should not just be about our needs. The same way we need to be ministered to, we should also realize that God wants us to minister to Him. In fact, when we commit ourselves to ministering to the Lord we will get our needs met in the process.

(John 4:24 KJV) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. God is in search of true worshippers. As New Testament saints we are in a position to give the true and sincere worship that God desires. Worship is primarily acknowledging God for who He is. We are created in His image so that we can connect to Him through deep fellowship. Worship affords us this awesome privilege. *(Philippians 3:3 KJV) For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

❖ Praise and Thanksgiving

We worship God for who He is and we praise God for His deeds in our lives. Our faith is incomplete without praise and thanksgiving. Abraham, our father of faith was strengthened in his faith by giving glory to [praising] God – *Romans 4:20*.

(Psalm 8:2 AMP) Out of the mouths of babes and unweaned infants You have established strength because of Your foes, that You might silence the enemy and the avenger. [Matthew 21:15, 16]

Divine strength is released in praise to silence the enemy. Your praise of God turns your test into testimony. In *Acts 16:25*, it was the combination of petition and praise of Paul and Silas that caused their deliverance. Every child of God must learn to praise God especially at difficult times. This is the way to experience breakthrough at midnight hour. *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed (Acts 16:25, 26 KJV).*

Thanksgiving is a major part of the Prayer of praise. It is an expression of our gratitude towards God for what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do. *Philippians 4:6* says in everything ... let your request be made known to God. *2 Thessalonians 5:18* says thanksgiving is the will of God. *Psalm 103:1-5* says we should not forget the benefits of God. These include all our redemptive rights and privileges. We should follow after the example of the author and the finisher of our faith. Jesus gave thanks

consistently during His earthly ministry. Jesus gave thanks before He fed the multitudes with seven loaves (*Matthew 15:36*), He thanked His father before He raised Lazarus from the dead (*John 11:41*). Prayer of thanksgiving will always birth the miraculous.

THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

(Matthew 18:18-20 KJV) Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

This kind of prayer involves two or more people. This prayer is based on the faith of all those standing together in agreement. The *unbelief* of one can affect their collective result.

Matthew 18:18-20 is the foundation for prayer of agreement. The starting point where the prayer of agreement is concerned is God's Word. In other words, agreement with the Word of God is the first agreement that must be established. For example, if the situation involved is financial in nature, scriptures like *Philippians 4:19* and *Psalms 23:1* should be the starting point.

Secondly, you must find somebody (a member of the Body of Christ) that is willing to agree with you in faith. For this prayer to work all the participant must be in faith during and after this prayer has been prayed. It is a lot similar to the prayer of faith. The major difference is the fact that more than one person is involved. The key thing in this kind of prayer is the word 'harmony'. There must be harmony between the people involved and the Word of God.

(Matthew 18:19 AMP) Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven. There is no point praying the prayer of agreement if doubt or unbelief will be introduced through any of the people involved. It is the responsibility of the entire participants to protect their hearts and minds from the wicked darts of fear, doubt, and unbelief so that their harmony together can produce the desired result.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9 AMP) Two are better than one, because they have a good [more satisfying] reward for their labor

(Deuteronomy 32:30 AMP) How could one have chased a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had delivered them up?

Ecclesiastes 4:9 and Deuteronomy 32:32 are two scriptures that emphasize the power of harmony among believers. We can achieve a lot more together if we understand how to join our faith to believe God for great things.

One of the reasons why the devil fights marriages is because he is afraid of the force of the harmony between a man and his wife. There is no greater harmony than this. Peter admonished husbands in *1 Peter 3:7* to keep this harmony so that their prayers will not be hindered.

UNITED PRAYER

This is the prayer of a group of people bound together with one purpose in mind, to see a common goal established on earth.

(Acts 4:23, 24 KJV) And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

There is a great potential of power in united prayer. The phrase ‘in one accord’ is one that describes the unity of the people of God in the Bible. In both Old and New testaments whenever God’s people unite in purpose and prayer something great did happen.

Let us look at some examples in the Bible

1. *(Acts 1:14 KJV) these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. (Acts 2:1 KJV) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

It took the united prayers of 120 followers of Jesus to release the Holy Ghost upon this planet on the day of Pentecost.

2. *(Acts 2:46,47 KJV) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

The early Christians experienced great increase through unity.

3. *1 Kings 8:5 And King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.*

1 Kings 8:11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

The glory of God showed up at the dedication of the temple of Solomon as the people in one accord prayed a united prayer. The glory of God was so strong that the priest could not stand to minister.

4. 2 Ch 20:18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

2 Ch 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.

God gave Judah a great deliverance in battle when the people united in prayer and purpose.

THE PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

The Prayer of supplication is a heartfelt, fervent, and earnest request. It speaks of an intense prayer. Apostle Paul encouraged the Church to engage in this kind of prayer in most of his epistles.

(Philippians 4:6 KJV) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. He talked about prayer of supplication where personal need is concerned.

(Ephesians 6:18 KJV) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Paul here talked about prayer of supplication for all believers.

(1 Timothy 2:1, 2 KJV) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

He talked about prayer of supplication for all men and people in who are in authority.

God expects us to be involved in prayer of supplication where the harvest of the endtime is involved. Simply put, the prayer of supplication is making heartfelt request with intensity. Supplication is an act of prayer that goes hand in hand with intercession, united prayer and praying in the spirit. This kind of prayer is what makes tremendous power that is dynamic in its working available according to *James 5:16 Amplified*.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Intercession is standing in the gap in prayer. This prayer is prayed on behalf of others. The Body of Christ on earth has been called to the ministry of intercession.

(Isaiah 59:16, 17 KJV) And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

The above scripture verses describe the ministry of Jesus as an intercessor. Jesus stood between man and God providing the necessary link man needed to be restored back to God. It is so interesting that the armor of prayer that is described in *Ephesians 6:13-17* is the same as what is in *Isaiah 59*. This simply means God has anointed the body of Christ to continue the ministry of intercession that Jesus began.

❖ God's Ambassador

(2 Corinthians 5:20 KJV) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

We have been called by God to restore the world back to God. We are the representative of heaven. Our authority as ambassadors can actually be executed in the place of prayer. We have been given the opportunity to be involved in the highest expression of love through intercessory prayer. This is the God-kind of love in demonstration.

Through intercession a believer or a group of believers stands in the gap between a person or persons, who have provoked judgment upon themselves through their wrongdoings, and the actual execution of that judgment. Abraham's prayer for Sodom and Gomorrah is a clear example of the prayer of intercession – *Genesis 18:16-33*.

Moses on two different occasions stood in gap for the children of Israel who had provoked God by their idolatry and sin (*Numbers 14:11-19, Exodus 32:7-14*). However, the greatest example of an intercessor is our Lord Jesus Christ who stood in the gap for us when He took our place on the cross of calvary and who now intercedes for us at the right hand of His father (*Romans 8:34*). The act of intercession is an attribute of God's compassion – *the love of God*.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

(Romans 8:26 KJV) Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. One of the greatest privileges of a New Testament is the ability to communicate in unknown tongue. This is known as praying in the spirit or praying in other tongue.

❖ Holy Ghost Baptism

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest benefits that is available for every child of God (*Mark 1:8*). This experience is also referred to as being filled with the Spirit. It is an experience that is always accompanied by the ability to speak in a new tongue (*Acts 2:4*). This new tongue experience makes it possible for a believer to pray and worship God effectively. It also opens up a believer to a lifestyle of power (*Acts 1:8*). Being born again without the Holy Ghost baptism is living below the standard of power that God has for His children.

Unlike the natural words that we speak, speaking in a new or unknown tongue comes directly from the spirit without the involvement of the mind (*1 Corinthians 14:2, 14*). It is basically a working of the Holy Spirit in a recreated human spirit. This experience is only available for those who have embraced Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior - *Acts 19:2-7*. This is not just for a few selected believers but it is available for all the children of God (*Mark 16:17, Acts 2:39*).

❖ Praying Beyond Limitation

Praying in the spirit gives you the ability to pray beyond natural limitation. It allows a believer to pick up things that human mind does not know. This is the perfect prayer because it is the Holy Spirit praying through us the perfect will of God –*Romans 8:27*.

Praying in tongues increases our prayer power a thousand times, and more.

❖ Benefits

1. It builds us up. (*1 Corinthians 14:4*)
2. It increases our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
3. It helps us pray the perfect will of God (*Romans 8:26*)
4. It inspires our faith (it doesn't bring faith, but stirs up the faith already there by God's word. (*Jude 20*))
5. It makes power available. (*James 5:16*)
6. It gives us access into God's plans and purposes. (*1 Corinthians 2:9-10*)
7. It strengthens us. (*Jude 20*)
8. It gives us the entrance into the supernatural.
9. It equips us for our divine assignment.
10. It charges up our spirits for the miraculous.

❖ Misconceptions about praying in tongues

1. It is a gift for some special people.
2. It is not as we will but as the Spirit wills
3. We must 'tarry' in His presence before we are baptized.
4. It is praying in some other known language.
5. We must be in the mode of prayer to pray in tongues

THE PRAYER OF BINDING AND LOOSING

The plan and purpose of God for the Body of Christ is that we will live in dominion where the forces of hell are concerned. God expects us to use our authority in Christ Jesus. The name of Jesus has been given to us so that we can harass hell consistently. In fact, you have the power of attorney to use the name of Jesus. When you mention that name every devil in hell is reminded of what they went through when Jesus conquered death and hell.

(Colossians 2:15 AMP) [God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].

Jesus dealt with all the forces of hell in His death and resurrection and handed the baton to you and me. We are not called to struggle with the devil; rather we are called to arrest the works of darkness in our environment. That is why the Bible calls you the ‘*light of the world*’.

(Matthew 12:29 AMP) Or how can a person go into a strong man's house and carry off his goods (the entire equipment of his house) without first binding the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

According to the above scripture, God expects us to bind the devil at every opportunity. We exercise this authority through the prayer of binding and loosing. Whenever you notice the operation of the enemy around you, do not hesitate to bind the devil that is involved. You can discern the operation of the devil when you notice any of the manifestations of the evil that the Bible mentions in John 10:10. According to *John 10:10*; the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. When you see any of these manifestations, boldly use the name of Jesus to bind the demonic spirit behind the operation.

The other part of this prayer involves loosing the angels of God. Don’t just bind the devil; make sure you loose the angels of God. According to *Hebrews 1:14*; angels are sent to minister to the heirs of salvation –*Christians*. Your salvation package includes protection, deliverance from evil, prosperity, safety, soundness etc. You have the authority to loose your angels to bring all of these things into manifestation. A typical way of praying to loose your angels is this: “Ministering spirits, I loose you in the name of Jesus to minister on my behalf according to the will of God.”

(Matthew 18:18 AMP) Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.

Child of God, you have the authority to bind [forbid and disallow] and loose [permit and allow]. Because of your membership in the body of Christ, heaven will deliver what you

decree and hell will submit to your authority. Use your authority to enforce the will of your father on earth consistently. Be bold to bind and cast out devils; and loose the angels of God to administer the promises of God in your life. The revelation and the understanding you have where the name of Jesus is concerned determines your effectiveness in the prayer of binding and loosing.

Quiz

**Provide scriptural references while answering these questions.*

1. What do you understand by intercessory prayer?
2. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer?
3. 'God heal Florence if it is according to your will'. Explain this prayer.
4. How do patience and perseverance impart prevailing prayer?
5. In what way does fasting affects prayer?
6. Is praying in the spirit for every Christian? If yes, explain.
7. Briefly explain the prayer of faith using relevant scriptures.
8. What group of people does the Prayer of supplication apply to?
9. 'How can a person go into a strongman's house and carry off his goods (the entire equipment of his house) without first binding the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house' - Matthew 12:29 Amplified Version. Explain this
10. What is the connection between Righteousness and Effective prayer life?

KINGWORD MINISTERIAL ACADEMY

BASIC MINISTERIAL STUDIES

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

CL 105 – KINGDOM FINANCES

CLASS 1- GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR FINANCIAL PROSPERITY

Objective:

To reveal the intent and purpose of God where the financial prosperity of the saints is concerned.

Outline:

- Introduction
- Poverty: A Blessing or a Curse
- Why Finances are important
- Major misconceptions about wealth
- The foundation of kingdom wealth
- Believers’ authority in the area of finances

Introduction

Wealth, riches and abundance are divine concepts and not human creations. To be wealthy is Godly! *Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks - Job 22:24.* Poverty, lack and insufficiency are manifestations of the influence of Satan and the effects of man falling short of God’s glory. God is the creator of wealth and Satan the architect of poverty. Therefore man’s restoration and redemption is not complete without financial and material prosperity. God adequately provides (financially and materially) for every kingdom vision, ministry and minister.

We have a responsibility as ministers in the kingdom to discover these provisions and appropriately use them for the purpose of fulfilling God’s plans for our lives and ministries. Money is a tool that can be used to test a person’s moral fiber. It reveals the true character of a man. Money does not have any particular personality but it takes up the personality of the very one that has it. There are two sets of people on earth today.

People that own money and those that are owned by their money. God designed money to be used and not to be worshipped. A believer in Christ Jesus ought to be God’s distribution centre on earth whose money is primarily used to glorify God. Money is used to glorify

God by giving to course that expands the kingdom of God on earth and by giving to the poor and the needy. You are either a master of your money or you are enslaved by it. You master it when you are willing to use it no matter how much to please the father.

You are its slave if you hoard it and cannot obey God in using it to be a blessing to others. This is what it means to worship money. Christ has redeemed you from the curse of poverty. It is your responsibility to be conscious of this and go ahead to renew your mind that God wants you rich so that you can be a blessing to the needy world around you. We are living in the days when God is committed to putting His financial resource in the right hand.

Wealth will be literally transferred into the hands of the righteous so that God's kingdom and covenant can be established in our lives and world. God is covenant committed to your wealth but you must be able to see this clearly before you can have the reality of wealth. (*Galatians 3:13 KJV*) *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

Poverty: A Blessing or a Curse

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Man was created in the image and likeness of God. According to the scripture above, God also released His divine ability to prosper on man after he was created. Man was not hindered in any way until sin came into his life. He was not in want of any good thing. The Garden of Eden was a place of *more than enough*. Abundance of every good thing was present on earth. Man was simply blessed.

However, everything changed after man went against the instruction of God, his provider. He was instructed not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequence of man's disobedience was spiritual death – *Genesis 2:17*. Man died in his spirit! This spiritual death was the foundation of every other curse that came upon mankind. Poverty and sicknesses were other major curses that man received as a result of his disobedience.

Curse literally means an empowerment to fail. So man became empowered to fail financially. Sin damaged the capacity of man to excel financially. God introduced the blood covenant to Abraham so that the effects of the curse that came upon man can be reversed. This covenant relationship was designed to bring man back to the place of the blessing that God originally intended.

Genesis 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. The fullness of God's intent where Abrahamic covenant was not revealed until Jesus came into the earth. The covenant was not just with Abraham but also with the seed of Abraham.

The seed that God had in mind was not Isaac but Jesus. So Jesus is the ultimate seed of Abraham that released the fullness of the blessing of Abraham on whosoever believes in Him - *Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

Jesus had to go to the cross to fully meet the demand of justice where the restoration of man is concerned. In His death, the payment for the consequence of Adam's disobedience was made. His blood was the ransom that bought man out of slavery and brought him back to the place of the blessing. Jesus literally finished the process that God initiated with Abraham in Genesis 15.

Gal 3:13, 14 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Poverty is definitely a curse that came upon mankind through the disobedience of the first Adam while prosperity is a blessing that is on believers as a result of the finished work of redemption that Jesus Christ [*the last Adam*] did in His death and resurrection.

Why financial prosperity is important

1. It is Godly! Lack does not represent God. Ps.50:10-12; Ps.24:1; Hag.2:8; Gen.1:26-28

Haggai 2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

2. It is necessary for the work of ministry and kingdom proclamation and expansion. Lk.8:1-3;

Luke 22:35, Haggai.1:2-14; 2:4-9; Zech. 1:17

Zechariah 1:17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

3. It establishes and demonstrates our covenant with God – a vital part of our covenant privileges.

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

4. It aids in amplifying your voice, vision and message. Ecclesiastes 9:13-16

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

5. It enables you to function as God's distribution centre to the poor. Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-18.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

6. It is a major part of end-time manifestation of the sons of God. Hag.2:7-9; Is.60:1-9

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

7. It draws people around you to your God.

Deuteronomy 28:8-10 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD;

Major misconceptions about wealth

There are so many misconceptions that people have where financial prosperity is concerned. All of these misconceptions stem from ignorance of God's Word. For the purpose of this class we will look at some of them.

1. That money is the root of all evil. I Timothy 6:10 says it is the love of money, not money. This speaks of greed and covetousness.
2. That money corrupts holiness. Haggai 2:8 says the Holy God possesses all gold and silver That wealth brings worldliness. I John 2:15 – Worldliness refers to the world system i.e. lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. It is not referring to possessions.
3. That being wealthy is being materialistic. Matthew 6:33 says allowing wealth to be the controlling factor is being materialistic and not having wealth. Materialism attempts to solve a spiritual problem by using physical means.
4. The peace of God has nothing to do with prosperity. The word *peace* in the Hebrew is *Shalom* which speaks of wholeness and completeness. You are incomplete without your money. *Psalm 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity [Shalom in the original Hebrew] of his servant.*
5. The rich man in Luke 16 lost his soul because of his wealth. The rich man ended up in hell because he was a wicked man. Lazarus on the other hand was in Abraham's bosom because he had a covenant with God. It is possible to be rich in money and be a righteous man. In fact, your righteousness in Christ Jesus qualifies you for wealth.
6. The vow of poverty. This is not anywhere in the Bible. It is a practice in the Catholic Church among the priests which no scripture supports.
7. You suffer for Christ by being poor. Rather, the Bible says Jesus was made poor so that you can be rich. *2Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

The Foundation of Kingdom wealth

(Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV) But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Every believer must realize the fact that God is committed to his financial prosperity. When God called Abraham, the father of our faith out of Haran, God promised him that he will be blessed. The word *blessed* speaks of an empowerment for prosperity.

Gen 12:2,3 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Abraham was later described as wealthy after He obeyed the instruction God gave him. *Gen 13:2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.* As a result of his obedience the blessing of God came upon him that translated into wealth. This same blessing is available to every one that is connected to the covenant that God made with Abraham. His descendants in the natural show us a pattern of financial increase which is a product of Abrahamic covenant.

Isaac: *Gen 26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.*

Jacob: *Gen 30:27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.*

Joseph: *Gen 41:41-43 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.*

The same covenant that worked in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph is available to every born again believer. The death and resurrection of Jesus extended the Abrahamic covenant to whosoever is willing to accept the sacrifice of Jesus. When a decision is made to receive the Lordship of Jesus, the power to get wealth is released upon that child of God.

Jesus literally took every blessing blocker out of the way of your financial prosperity when he laid on the cross. A curse is basically a *blessing blocker*. *Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.*

Believers' Authority in the area of finances

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Man was created to have complete dominion on earth. God created everything in this planet for man to enjoy. God gave man dominion over all the works of His hands. So there should be no deprivation where man is concerned. Silver and gold are not made for the devil and his crowd. God placed them here for your enjoyment. When man sinned he lost his dominion over the planet.

Dominion was given to man so that he can effect his prosperity in the planet that God created for him. But thank God, Jesus the last Adam has restored man's dominion. Prosperity is now possible on earth. The epistles of the Apostles in the New Testament are loaded with scriptural verses that talk about a believer's authority in the area of prosperity. In Christ Jesus, you have a right to divine provision. Let us look at a couple of them:

1Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

- This talks about having confidence in God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

2Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

- This talks about God giving you His constantly overflowing grace so that you always have everything you need and you're ready for anything and everything.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- This talks about God being responsible for the supply of all your needs according to His riches (not your nation's economy or your job).

God expects you to understand your authority in Christ Jesus and be bold enough to exercise your faith in enforcing your financial prosperity.

Hebrews 1:13, 14 But God never said to any of the angels, "Sit in the highest position in heaven until I make your enemies your footstool." are all the angels? They are spirits sent to serve those who are going to receive salvation.

Every believer should know that they have a right to the use of Angels. The Bible calls Angels, ministering spirits. They are sent to serve you on earth. God has sent them to do

something for you. You have the authority to send your angels on assignment to bring finances to you.

If demons can influence people negatively then angels can influence people positively in your favor. You should say, “Satan, take your hands off my money in Jesus’ Name, Go ministering spirits, and cause the money to come.”

Stop putting pressure on people. Apply pressure on the word of God. Release your authority in the name of Jesus and expect your wealth to show up. The Word works!

CLASS 2 - PRECEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL INCREASE

Objective:

To instruct on the kingdom precepts and principles of financial increase.

Outline:

- Believer's Responsibility
- God's law of sowing and reaping
- Guidelines for sowing
- Precepts for financial prosperity
- The mystery of true riches
- Different kinds of giving
- God's word on Finances
- Prosperity enhancing habits

Believer's Responsibility

Deuteronomy 8:18 clearly shows us that God is committed to releasing the power that produces wealth while Galatians 3:13 shows that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of poverty. However, there are still so many believers struggling in poverty. Until believers come to an understanding that they have a part to play in enforcing their wealth the promise of financial prosperity will not become a reality.

❖ *Renew your mind*

Firstly, a child of God must win the battle of his soul where prosperity is concerned.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

This battle can only be won through a commitment to the renewing of the mind by the word of God. You must allow the word of God to condition your mind for increase. Stay in the word of God until God's plan for your financial prosperity is so real in your mind.

You must be willing to put the traditions and opinions that are contrary to the word of God aside and make the word of God your final authority where the subject of finances are concerned. You must not allow the economy of the nation, the media, your job situation and every other factor in the system of this world to rule in your mind above the word of God. Make the word of God your standard where finances are concerned. It will require your commitment and determination to work.

❖ *Engage your Faith*

In addition, you must consciously engage your faith for financial increase at all times. Just like every other covenant promise in the Bible your financial increase will require faith

to be actualized. Hab 2:4 says the just shall live by faith. Your faith for financial prosperity is measured by the revelation of the word of God you have on the subject. You must meditate and confess long enough until faith is formed and released in your spirit. Boldly declare what the word of God says about your financial prosperity. You must arm yourself with scriptures like:

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

❖ **Sow your seed**

Ecc 11:1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Luk 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

God expects you to look for every opportunity to sow financial seeds into the lives of others. It works just like the way a natural seed leads to harvest when planted. God is given the opportunity to multiply your finances when you consciously sow financial seeds into other lives or organizations that are involved in blessing people e.g churches, evangelistic ministries, orphanage etc.

It might take a while for your harvest to be seen but you can be sure that your seed is never lost. In fact, before your seed can bring forth harvest it has to die first - *John 12:24 GW - I can guarantee this truth: A single grain of wheat doesn't produce anything unless it is planted in the ground and dies. If it dies, it will produce a lot of grain.*

You must trust the system of God. Don't be in a hurry to reap. The Bible says that your seed will return as harvest after many days. The Lord of harvest knows the best time to bring your harvest. Your seed will go into your future to secure it for you and you will meet it there in a multiplied form. Jesus was sown as a seed over 2,000 years ago and harvest is still being reaped all over the world.

❖ **Protect your seed**

Gal 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

So many times the saints of God destroy the potential of their seeds by not obeying the instruction of our commander in chief. God gave us two major commandments in the

new testament. *Mat 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

The financial system of God just like any other system of God works by love. That is the only way to get God involved in your finances. Let God multiply your resources by committing yourself to love-way. Stay away from strife, unforgiveness, envy, malice, gossip, lasciviousness and every other work of darkness. This is how to protect your seed from the devil. Don't allow the devil to stop you. Let the love of God within you be expressed in your daily living. You cannot afford not to love because you have seed in the ground.

❖ ***Discover your purpose***

Proverbs 18:16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. Your financial prosperity is connected to your divine purpose in life. Your God given purpose comes with a package of peculiar gifts. This gift makes you to stand out in life. Developed gift is what people pay for and not your educational qualification. Your gift is about solving problems for people. Money flows in the direction where problem is being solved.

Focus on your purpose. Develop your gifts. Surround yourself with people that will aid your personal development. Your gift connects you to great men and great finances.

❖ ***Be diligent on your job***

Proverbs 6:10, 11 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

There is a place for diligence at work where your prosperity is concerned. Diligence speaks of application of a steady and consistent effort. When God created man in the beginning, He gave him work to do. God believes in work. *Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.* Contrary to what some people believe, work was mentioned before the curse came into this planet. You have been redeemed from the curse but not from work.

God can only bless what you are laying your hands on. If you are laying your hands on nothing God will bless nothing. His multiplying effect needs your supply of work before you can see financial increase. Your diligence makes something available for God to multiply. *Deuteronomy 28:12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand.*

However, make sure you are applying yourself in the place of your divine purpose. Diligence counts when it is applied rightly in purpose.

❖ ***Forget not His benefits***

Psalm 103:1,2 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Your financial increase is tied to your gratitude. Don't ever forget God's benefits in your life. Your gratitude where the present increase is concerned will set you up for the next level of increase. Your commitment to giving glory to God literally opens you up for unlimited prosperity. Ingratitude on the other hand will always stop the favour of God in your life. Learn to thank God at all times: when things look good and when it does not look good. Gratitude will not only impart your faith, it will also release the favor of God on you.

Psalm 67:5,6 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

Praising God will cause you to be fruitful beyond measure. Stop murmuring and start a praise party. When Jesus gave thanks over five loaves and two fishes it led to multiplication that fed five thousand people and twelve baskets left over. Gratitude multiplies your resources.

God's law of sowing and reaping

Mark 4:26-29 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

The kingdom of God which can be interpreted as the system of God runs by the principle of sowing and reaping. The blessing of God works by the multiplication of a seed sown. In other words, God needs your seed before He can birth your harvest. Harvest is about the multiplication of your seed. Below are a few scriptures that talk about the multiplying effect of God's power:

Gen 1:22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

2Corinth. 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

Heb 6:14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

God needs your financial seed in order to create a financial harvest for you. There is no way around it. You call the shot by your seed. A man with much seed will have a great harvest however less seed will get you a lesser harvest. *2 Corinth. 9:6 But this I say, He*

which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Sowing and reaping is not just a good idea. It is a law by which this planet and the kingdom of God work. A law is defined as a rule or system of rule recognized by the authority as governing the actions of its subject. A law is not a respecter of any one. It works for whosoever honors and respects it. The law of sowing and reaping can be used to your advantage by actively getting involved in sowing financial seeds to advance the kingdom, helping the poor or honouring your man of God. On the other hand, you can allow the law to work against you by refusing to obey God where giving your financial seed is concerned.

Gen 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

❖ Principles of Sowing and Reaping

- a. You always reap what you sow - *Gen 1:11 Amplified Bible - And God said, Let the earth put forth [tender] vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees yielding fruit whose seed is in itself, each according to its kind, upon the earth. And it was so.*
- b. You always reap more than you sow - *Matthew 13:8 Amplified Bible - Other seeds fell on good soil, and yielded grain--some a hundred times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some thirty.*
- c. You always reap in a different season - *Gal 6:9 Amplified Bible- And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.*

Guidelines for sowing financial seed

1. Your financial seed must be between you and God. Don't sow to impress anyone. Learn the secret of sowing in secret. *Mat 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*
2. Don't give a financial seed under pressure. Give willingly from your heart and not under pressure. *2Corinth. 9:7a Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity.*
3. Give cheerfully. God expects you to give with the right attitude of joy. *2Corinth. 9:7b so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver.*
4. Sow regularly. The frequency of your harvest is determined by your level of consistency in giving. You should develop a lifestyle of sowing. Make a profession out of giving, rather than sowing in a casual way. *Ecc 11:2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.*
5. Your image of harvest should not be connected to any natural source. Let God be the God of your harvest. *Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

6. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit while sowing your financial seed. Make it your responsibility to seek God's face before you decide on what to give. *Isaiah 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.*
7. When you have a need look for a seed. God used the same principle in restoring man back to Himself. He had a need where the redemption of the mankind is concerned, He responded by sowing the seed of Jesus into the earth.
Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Precepts for financial prosperity

1. God is the source. Our jobs, careers, businesses and relationships are only channels. Ps.23:1-2; Hag.2:8
2. Prosperity and abundance is available for all. It is God's plan for every covenant child. Prov.22:2; Gal.3:13-14
3. It is a function of grace and not of labour. 2Cor.8:9; Prov.23:4-5
4. The way to increase is by giving and not keeping. Acts 20:35; Prov.11:24-25
5. Faithfulness in what is committed to you is what qualifies you for increase. Matt. 25: 14-30.

Faithfulness here implies doing what God says one should do with money i.e. handling money by God's prescriptions in His Word and by His instructions.

6. The renewal of your mind and prosperity of your soul directly impacts financial prosperity. 3 John.2; Rom.12:2
7. There is a difference between Kingdom wealth and Worldly wealth (wealth of the wicked).

Kingdom Wealth	Worldly Wealth
Brings humility - 2Cor 8:9	Brings pride - Luke 12:16-21
Lasting - Eccl 3:14	Temporal - Prov 13:11
Secure - Matt 6:20	Insecure - Mat 6:19
Joyful - Prov.10:22	Sorrowful - I Tim 6:10
Peaceful - I Sam 25:6	Fearful - Pro 28:1

The Mystery of True Riches

There is a direct connection between finances and the anointing. Your stewardship where the handling of your finances is concerned imparts the flow of the anointing in your life.

Luke 16:10-13 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The account above clearly shows that money and material possessions do not define true riches. Money is described as unrighteous mammon which speaks of deceitful riches.

A whole lot of people including Christians have bought into the deception of money. It is deception of riches to think that money can fix any thing. Money is in fact so limited in what it can do. It is limited and uncertain. That is why it is not worth living for. It should be following you and not you following it. Money is not strong enough to take the lead in your life.

However, there is a way to use money to bring what is unlimited and certain – *the true riches*. The true riches speak of the anointing of God that does more than bring finances. It will answer any question in your life and solve any problem. It is the burden removing, yoke destroying power of God.

❖ ***How to connect to the anointing***

God expects you to understand how to use your finances in releasing the anointing. This is about obeying God in your finances. It works this way – when you let go of what is in your hand, God is mandated to release what is in His hands.

This is based on the covenant of exchange. Your demonstration of trust in God's system by becoming a distribution channel for God on earth mandates God to release His anointing upon your life. You can literally walk in the anointing on purpose by giving obediently to God. Your faithfulness in giving is what will ensure the availability of the anointing to live effectively and win in life.

Here are a few examples of saints that obtained their miracle anointing through giving:

- A) Elijah and the widow woman of Zarephath. *1 King 17:13-16 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.*
- B) Cornelius and household received the Holy Spirit outpouring through his aggressive sowing. *Act 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.*

Different Kinds of Giving

God prospers us financially through our giving. The world way of doing things is by keeping but God's way is by giving. Giving is living according to the kingdom of God standard.

Act 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

It takes the understanding of giving according to the kingdom of God to walk in financial prosperity. It is more blessed – *empowered to prosper* to give than to receive.

Let us look at five different kinds of giving in the kingdom

The Tithe

Free-will Offering

Kingdom enhancement Offering

Prophet Offering

Offering for the Poor

❖ The Tithe

Malachi 3:10,11 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

The Tithe is basically the tenth (10 % percent) of your income. According to Genesis 14:18-20 the principle of tithe is not a product of the law given to Moses. Rather, it was incorporated into the law but did not originate in it. Your tithe is your covenant obligation or duty. It should be your first fruit that must be carried out before any other bill or payment is made.

Below are 20 biblical facts on the subject of tithe.

❖ Biblical Facts on Tithe

1. Your tithe is holy and sacred.
2. Your tithe is not just a tenth (ten percent) of all your income but your first tenth (honor).
3. Your tithe is not your seed. It belongs to God.
4. Your tithe opens the windows of heaven.
5. Your tithe stops the devourer in your life. It is your divine insurance.
6. Your tithe affords God the opportunity to protect and multiply the remaining 90%.

7. Tithe is not just an Old Testament ordinance. It was given before the laws were given to Moses. If you want the blessing of Abraham you must follow the lifestyle of Abraham. He was a tither. Moreover, Jesus did not come to destroy the law but He came to fulfill it.
8. If you tithe the net, you will receive God's blessing upon the net. However, if you tithe the gross you will receive the blessing upon the gross.
9. You cannot give an offering until you have paid your tithe. It is tithes and then offering. Get the order right.
10. Your tithe just like every other thing in the kingdom works by faith. You must do it based on your understanding of the Word in order to receive the blessing that comes with it. Do not give in fear. Give in faith.
11. Your tithe is not a suggestion, it is a commandment. It is not just any percentage it is the ten percent.
12. Your tithe ensures that your basic needs are met (As you commit to supplying meat for God's house, God becomes committed to supplying meat for your house)
13. Your tithe is not meant to be distributed to different charity organizations. Rather, it is meant for the place where you receive spiritual meat constantly. Ideally, this should be your local assembly where God has planted you.
14. Jesus, your high priest is responsible for the delivery of your tithe before God.
15. Your tithe is your covenant connector. It ensures the delivery of all your covenant blessings.
16. Tithing is part of your worship to God.
17. Tithe is by choice and not by force. Your decision to tithe opens you up for life and blessing.
18. Your tithe is an exchange system that ensures the enforcement of all your redemptive rights (redemption from death, sicknesses and poverty).
19. Your tithe is a demonstration of your love of God and His kingdom. It is a tool to express our love for God. Tithing is a love issue – Matthew 22:37-40.
20. The system of tithing was not designed to put you in bondage; rather it was set up to maximize your destiny. So stop doing it in fear, rather do it in faith, love and joy.

❖ **General Freewill Offering**

- 2 Corinthians 8:12 *For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.*
- 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. Whatever is in your hand now is your seed for tomorrow.*

The scriptures above are talking about a free-will offering. The free-will offering is simply giving as you will. Free-will offering only count after you have paid your tithe. In Matthew 5:23 Jesus talked about bringing your gift to the altar. Deuteronomy 16:16-17

talks about bringing an offering before the Lord according to the manifestation of His blessing in your life.

Don't make a habit of showing up before the Lord empty handed. This is an anti-covenant practice. You should be willing to go beyond your tithe to express your gratitude to God. David, the King understood this and he said I will not give to the Lord the sacrifice that cost me nothing.

2 Samuel 24:24 *And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

❖ **Kingdom Enhancement Offering**

Haggai 1:5-10 *Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.*

One of the main reasons why God will bless His children is the building of His kingdom. God expects you to be sensitive to the building of His kingdom. This might be an on-going project in your local Church or a ministry that is blessing lives around the world.

God will make demand on you from time to time to support such ministries so that He can take your destiny to the next phase. You have the responsibility of maintaining sensitivity to God where this kind of giving is concerned. Projects in the church must be financed by the church. God told Moses that the Israelites should give towards the building of the tabernacle.

Haggai 1:5-9: Building God's kingdom is your responsibility. What you make happen for God, He makes happen for you. It is recommended that you should be involved in the projects of your local church and also support ministries that are blessing you and other people through their materials and media (*television, radio, and internet*) financially on a consistent basis. You should do this as a result of divine connection and not for emotional reasons. Apart from financial increase that comes through such partnership, you can also be sure that the anointing that those ministries represent will find expressions in your life.

❖ **Prophet's Offering**

Philippians 4:15-17 *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and*

receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

1Corinth 9:11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

Gal 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Giving into an anointed life gives you an opportunity to experience the anointing upon his life in addition to the multiplication of your finances.

1 Corinthians 9:7 clearly shows that it is a form of exchange. In other words, you can experience the anointing of God upon a man through your material gift.

Apostle Paul told the Church in Philippi that their giving will make their fruits to abound (overflow). In fact the popular prayer of *Philippians 4:19* was prayed over a people that gave into the life of Paul over and over again.

❖ ***Offering for the Poor***

Pro 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Psalms 41:1 -3 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him

upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

All the above scriptures talk about the relevance of giving to the poor. It has always been the desire of God to reach the poor. When you show compassion to the poor, God becomes personally involved in your life. Not just in terms of material wealth but *all round prosperity* that includes protection and preservation.

What you make happen for a poor person, God owes you that. He will make it happen for you. *Prov.3:22; Prov.28:8; Prov.22:22.*

Offering to the poor gives you an opportunity to demonstrate the love of God. You are afforded the privilege of showing the love of Christ to a needy world.

Prosperity Enhancing Habits

1. Give quality seeds. David would not give what didn't cost him - 2 Samuel 24:24.
2. Give in honor - Prov.3:9.
3. Give cheerfully - 2Corinthians 9:7.
4. Give willingly - 2Corinthians 9:5-7.
5. Don't give to impress man - Matthew 6:1-4.
6. Give in love. - 1Corinthians 13:3.
7. Give expectantly - Hebrews 11:1.
8. Give much - 2 Corinthians 9:6.
9. Be consistent and persistent - Hebrews 10:35.
10. Cultivate a savings culture. Endeavor to save at least 10 percent of your total income - Proverbs 21:20.
11. Be industrious, look for investment opportunities. However, make sure you are led by God before making up your mind – Proverbs 31:16.
12. Avoid unnecessary spending on non-income generation assets such as cars, furnitures and clothes. There is a right time for everything - Prov.21:17.
13. Embrace work and not idleness - Prov.13:23.
14. Own Real Estate - Ps.115:16; Prov.22:7.
15. Control your expenditure through proper budgeting - Prov.21:20.

Quiz

**Provide scriptural references while answering these questions.*

1. "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day". Explain the above scripture as it relates to kingdom wealth.
2. Explain in your own words how to engage your faith for financial breakthrough.
3. Explain with relevant scriptures the concept of seed-time and harvest.
4. Enumerate 10 prosperity enhancing habits.
5. 'The mystery of true riches'. Explain this phrase using relevant scriptures.
6. 'The love of money is the root of all evil'. Explain.
7. Briefly explain the principle of tithe using relevant scriptures.
8. What is the connection between your God given purpose and financial prosperity?
9. Distinguish between kingdom wealth and worldly wealthy.
10. What are the different kinds of giving?