

# “The Year of God’s Divine Favour.” cells

**Out of the darkness of your past experience- God’s Divine Favour now comes upon you!**

**You certainly went through it last year.** It seems like everything that could go wrong did go wrong. You wouldn’t want another year like that, and even if you had the opportunity you wouldn’t wish it on your worst enemies. **Is there any prophetic significance through what you went through?** Certainly there is. A time such as this it is important to remember that God loves us with the same love that he loves his own son. (Jn 17:23b) And yet in the midst of this love he permitted Jesus to be led / thrust into a wilderness experience.

For the H.S. to permit such a thing to happen to you - a fresh revelation comes through - the power of His love towards us in the wilderness period is of such a calibre, that He allows these things to happen to those whom He intimately loves that He may be glorified in the positive faith manner in which He knows we will respond. Amazing! (Rom 8:28)

Dr Luke tells us that Jesus was **“led”** into a period of wilderness, while the passionate Mark tells us he was **“thrust”** by the Spirit into a time of great testing. In applying this axiom to you, you may have gone through a gradual period of difficulty rising into a negative crescendo - or it may have so happened that you felt it wasn’t so much being led, but of being thrust into a period of darkness. **Both Luke and Mark however tell us that the Holy Spirit is the one who is in charge of our lives.** When we go through a period of trial and temptation the apostle Paul tells us, we work together with the Holy Spirit, the trial making us become more Christ like (Rom.8:28). Jesus himself experienced such tribulation on various occasions, and on one such occasion he nearly died through great suffering, what brought Him through was His attitude, fervent prayer, and active obedience pulling him through premature death.

Heb 2:18 For since **He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.**

Heb 5:7-9 **“In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of piety.8Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.9And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,**

Heb 4:15-16 **“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.16Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

**Amazingly - following a period of darkness the examples the scriptures give us, is the delight of a period of divine favour following great trials and tribulations.** We see this in the life of Jesus, in having gone through the temptation period or season a promise of divine favour comes upon him as he breaks through into a highly effective life of ministry.

Jesus was in a time of great trial and temptation and during that period the Spirit of God was upon him, he also used the word of God as an instrument of warfare to bring him through successfully accomplishing God’s desire in overcoming Satan’s period of darkness.

- **Jesus is “led about” in the wilderness by the Spirit....**

Lk. 4:1... 1 Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was **led around by the Spirit in the wilderness 2**for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

- **Mark tells us that Jesus was “impelled” or “thrust” by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness....**

Mk 1:12,13 **Immediately the Spirit impelled Him** to go out into the wilderness. **13**And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and **the angels were ministering to Him.**

- **While in the wilderness period Jesus relied emphatically on the word of God... It is written**

Lk 4:4And Jesus answered him, **"It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'"**

Lk 4:8Jesus answered him, **"It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"**

Lk4:12And Jesus answered and said to him, **"It is said, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"**

- **An additional source help during a period of trial and tribulation is that one is also strengthened by an invisible angelic support team...!**

Mk1: 13And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and **the angels were ministering to Him.**

**Jesus' begins his life ministry in the power of the Spirit after having come through a period of great trial and testing the favour of God comes to rest on his life..So too in your life..**

Lk4:14-19 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

15And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

16And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue and began to read. 17And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." 20And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

***In having gone through all that you went through last year now the year of God's divine favour comes upon you .His invisible grace which carried you through your wilderness period, now becomes visible in His divine favour!***

### **What is divine favour?.. Various definitions of favour..**

...A person promoted, elevated, and raised to a higher position..

...To endue with special honour...

...an act of gracious kindness - a kind act [good turn](#), [turn](#) - a favor for someone; "he did me a good turn"

...an advantage to the benefit of someone or something; "the outcome was in his favor" [advantage](#), [vantage](#) - the quality of having a superior or more favorable position...

...promote over another; "he favors his second daughter"

...prefer [elevate](#), [promote](#), [upgrade](#), [advance](#), [raise](#) - give a promotion to or assign to a higher position;

...[advantage](#) - give an advantage to; "This system advantages the rich"

...bestow a privilege upon [favour](#)

...To look upon fondly; to prefer.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, **thou that art highly favored**, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. —Luke 1:28, King James version, 1611

...To do a favor for; to show beneficence toward...

### **Favour is also a synonym for grace..**

**Strong**s on favour=charitō=From G5485;

...to grace, that is, indue with special honor: - make accepted, be highly favoured....

...treated or regarded with partiality...

### **favour =Charis**

...graciousness; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace, joy liberality, pleasure..

Eph 1:5-6.. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his **grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 2:8-10.. For by **grace** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

## **WHAT THE DIVINE FAVOR OF GOD DOES IN THE LIVES OF GODS PEOPLE..**

**Examples of people upon whom God's divine favour was resting.**

### ➤ ***Divine favour was on Abraham...***(Gn 12:1)

Notice from the text that God's favour upon Abraham brought blessings into his life and in the lives of others. He came from a demonic background and by God's divine favour it became a divine foreground!

### ➤ ***Divine favour was on Joseph***...( Gn 37:2-11,18-21)

Notice how God gave him a dream by his divine favour. If you tell a person to dream a dream it s impossible for them to do that. Hence this dream was an act of God's favour.

**Note the following :**

- God's divine favour was upon him by giving him a dream.
- His brothers were jealous of him because of God's favour upon his life and this happens today as well. (Gn 37:18-21)
- Even when he was in captivity the blessings of God were surrounding him. (39:5)
- The Pharaoh's wife made advances to him and he was falsely accused and put in jail. (39:1-19)
- Once again he gained favour in jail, (39:20-23) once the favour of God is on your life, it stays with you. The gifts and the calling of God once given are not taken away.

After all Joseph had gone through plus prophetically interpreting the dreams of unbelievers the divine favour of God raised him up to become a great leader benefitting both his family and friends and their historical enemies. (41:39-44; Act 7:9-16)

### ➤ ***Divine favour was on Israel*** (Ex 3:21-22; 11:3; Eze 16:1-13)

- Israel's enemies gave them their wealth (3:21-22)
- God's divine favour brought them protection in the pass over. (12:12-14,23)
- Once again they inherited the wealth of the enemies. (12:35-36)
- When they eventually entered into the land they inherited houses, cities, and vineyards which they had not built, and all this because of God's divine favour. (Deut 6:10-12; Ps 105:37, 42-44)

### ➤ ***Divine favour was on Esther raising her to queenship*** (Est 2:15,17,52)

### ➤ ***Divine favour was on Mordeca*** (Est 6:1-9)

### ➤ ***Divine favour was upon Daniel*** (Dan 1:1f)

- **Divine favour was on Shadrach and friends**
- **Divine favour was on Mary** (Lk 1:28,30)
- **Divine favour kept increasing on Jesus** (Lk 2:52)

**B. ALREADY THE FAVOUR OF GOD IS IN YOUR LIFE!**

**1. GOD'S DIVINE FAVOUR IN CHOOSING TO GIVE YOU 2 FORMS OF LIFE...**

**You are of more importance than the universe!**

...What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world if he loses his own soul?...

**The principle of sufficient reason;** The principle of sufficient reason states that anything that happens does so for a definite reason.

Have you ever asked yourself the question "why is there something rather than nothing?" Have you ever asked the question "why you were given life, why were you born rather than not born?"

**1.1 God's divine favour is seen in giving you physical life...**

**God's love for you predates the day of your physical birth...He cant love you more than He does He cant love you any less than He does..!**

It doesn't take too much intelligence to know that a baby can't give itself life. So it is with you. You did not choose to be born, it was BECAUSE of God's favour on your life that you were given birth.

I was having a discussion with somebody last week who made the point that Mugabe had said he had been birthed by God to rule Zimbabwe and therefore only God could remove him.

- **Is abortion** anti-God because babies are in the image of God?
- **Is murder** anti-God because it destroys the image of God in man?

**Pre-existence-were you a subject of God's conversation before you were born?**

**F. Delitzsch...** "The history of the soul, like all temporal history, has its beginning and ending in eternity."

**What does pre-existence mean?**

**Pre-existence, before life, or pre-mortal existence** refers to the belief that each individual human spirit existed before conception, and at conception this pre-existent spirit enters, or is placed by God, in the body.

**Question : Is the Spirit of man "prior" to the creation of his/her body? →Yes!** (see "The Divine Image" :Prevenient Grace")

**Allow various cell members to read the following scriptures:**

Acts 17:26-27..and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,<sup>27</sup>that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us..

- **Adam and Eve** couldn't generate their own lives, it was God's favour that gave them life...
- **Josiah** was named 300yrs before he was born!... (1 Kgs 13:1-2)
- **Cyrus** was named over 200yrs before he was born! (Isa 44:28-45:5)
- **Mary** was named over 700yrs before she was born! (Isa 7:14-15; Mth 1:23)
- **Baptist** was named over 700yrs before he was born! (Isa 40:3; Jn 1:23)
- **Jesus was named over 1000'S yrs before he was born!** (Jn 17:5; 8:58; 17:24; Phil 1:26)

**You yourself were specially chosen by God before you were conceived in your mother's womb to be given birth! There is sufficient reason for you being born!** You are one in a million. Your parents were chosen, your gender was chosen, your pigment was chosen, the place you were born was chosen, the period was chosen consummating in that you were chosen for the divine purpose. (See "The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren" ( Mth 25:34; Jn 15:16; Rom 8:28-30,33; 9:11; Gal 1:15; Eph 1:4-5,10-11; 2:10;3:11; 2Thess 2:13; 1 Thess 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9; Tit 1:1; 1Pet 1:2; Rev 13:8)

**Perhaps an objection arises in the mind: "With all the trouble that I have been through I would rather have not been born"** Apparently the same thing happened in Paul's day, and this is God's response;

Rom 9:19-21 **19You will say to me then, Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"20On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?21Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?23-26..And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup>even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.<sup>25</sup>As He says also in Hosea,I'll call nobodies and make them somebodies; I'll call the unloved and make them beloved.In the place where they yelled out, "You're nobody!" they're calling you "God's living children."**

**Discuss:** What do you think God's idea on abortion is?

**Discuss:** The following text to see how Satan wants to abort people that are objects of God's divine favour.

**Biblical patterns and archetypes reveal that when a new leader is born that is going to take the people into a new age, satanic forces will do their best to kill the child at birth, trying to abort the new world about to be born..**

➤ ***This happened in the Garden of Eden – the Law of 1<sup>st</sup> mention..***

Gen 3:1-4... "1Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman,

"Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

➤ ***This happened in the age Moses was born..***

Ex 1:15,16,22... "15Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; 16and he said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 22Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive

."Ex 2:24,25... "24So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

➤ ***This happened in the age Jesus was born..***

Mth 2:13,16... "13Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." 16Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

***This principle / archetype / axiom repeats itself in history both in your individual life, family life, church life, and the life of a nation.. Satan wants to abort people that are objects of God's divine favour...***

Rv,12.1-5..A **great sign** appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. 3Then **another sign** appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.4And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. **And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.** 5And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

***If we look at the prophets main message concerning God's chosenness of Israel to be a light to the nations you will see how they were recipients of his divine favour.*** The prophets consistently wanted his people to know for certain that his love for them is an enduring love.

One can almost them using words that contain the ultimate note. Israel I love you I am for you!

***What kind of love is this that Jesus has in giving you your physical birth?***

➤ ***It is the same love that God has for Jesus..*** Jhn 17:26... "

➤ ***It is the love that moved God to give you as a divine gift to Jesus as a gift of love..*** jn 6:37, 6:39,17:6... "

➤ ***It is the love that moved Jesus to give you back to the father as his gift of love...***

***The conclusion- your physical birth shows you are an object and recipient of God's divine favour. You are a specially chosen person. Does this not make your heart race with value and meaning?***

Jn 15:16... "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

➤ ***Edgars sale..***

➤ ***Engagement diamond..***

***1.2 God's divine favour is seen in giving you spiritual life...***

***Your spiritual rebirth shows you are an object of God's divine favour...***

Jn 1:14 message.. You.. are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.

***It doesn't take too much intelligence to know that a dead person can't organise their own resurrection.*** In the prisons in America when a man is being led away to the death sentence one of the guards shouts it out: "dead men walking". Before we came to know Christ we too were dead men and women walking. Jesus himself says that we are dead men walking and Paul echoes the same axiom truth!

➤ ***Jesus speaks of the living dead-zombies!...***

Mth.8.19-22..19Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."20Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."21Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 22But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

➤ ***Paul says we also were dead while alive!....***

***Allow a cell members to read the following scriptures:a portrait of our life while spiritually dead & how while yet in that state His Divine Favour came upon you..!***

Eph 2:1-10 **1And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,** 2in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.**3Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.****4But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,****5even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved,****6and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,****7so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.****8For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;****9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.****10For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

Rom.5:6-10.**6For while we were still helpless,** at the right time Christ died for the **ungodly.** **8But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners,** Christ died for us.**10For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,** much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

**Notice How God Himself stresses His Favour & Grace upon you – you were satans child, you were full of lust, disobedient, by nature drawing Gods anger, ungodly, an enemy of God, a habitual sinner – while in this state his divine Grace & Favour came upon you..!**

Eph 2:8 ... "By **grace** ("charis") you have been **saved** through **faith** and that **not of yourselves**; it is the **gift** ("dorea") of God, not as a result of works that no one should boast."

**Surely you don't congratulate a person for receiving a free gift!** If they had to work for it - blood, sweat and tears stuff – then you could give them credit. But to eulogize someone for simply taking something from your open hand is to put the congratulations in the wrong place.

Phil 2:13... "Remember it is **God** who in his kindness, **is at work within you, enabling** you both to **will** and to **work** for his good pleasure... **Constantly giving you energy** to do what he wants."

**God seems to enjoy anonymity.** He is constantly giving us the free gift of faith yet he remains hidden in the background. Does this not make you simply love God more? With Paul we shout:

"Thanks be to **God** for his **indescribable gift** (dorea)." (2 Cor 9:15)

**Notice, how when you acknowledge his grace and your total need of him, a tremendous release comes and all stress and tension in trying to please him melts away like snow before the blazing sun!**

**How did you recognize that this strange figure walking sandal-footed across the shores of Galilee was the Son of God?** How did you know that this abject figure hanging on a cross 2,000 years ago had any relevance to your life? Who is it that told you that He has ascended and is praying for you?

"**No one** can say 'Jesus is Lord' **except by the Holy Spirit.**" 1 Cor 12:3

**It is the Holy Spirit that has been working in the theatre of your heart.** Others have looked at the same things and yet not seen it. You looked and you saw. It was you, but it was not you. It is the Spirit in your life that has made you see that ancient figure as the Son of God. You could never, even in your best moments, have known Him to be that. Others put Him alongside Socrates, Buddha. You have Spirit revelation. All the time it was the anonymity of an unseen Presence following you, surrounding you, protecting you. It is He who is re-shaping and sculpting your spirit, your soul and your body. An invisible artist, an unseen potter forming you into an eternal image.

"**The thing moulded** will not say to the moulder, 'Why did you make me like this?' will it?... Rom 9:20

**Do you see it then? God has chosen you not because of any merit from your side.** He chose you because of His loveliness.

"**He separated you,** even from your mother's womb, **called you through His grace,** to reveal His son in you". Gal 1:15-16

"**Herein is love, not that you love God, but that he loves you.**" 1 Jn 4:10

**If you love him it is because he loved you first.** Loving God is letting God love you. Choose you. Beatify you. Mould you. Send you. Allowing him to do whatever he wants to do with you. Creating a clean heart within you. You are His workmanship. His poem. He is not your workmanship. You only offer yourself freely to Him when His power draws you.

"**In the day of Thy power, people offer themselves willingly**"... Ps 110:3

**How did you then recognise this strange figure?**

**God's divine favour and love for you is seen in the fact that he freely gave you divine revelation of whom the strange figure of Jesus is....** Jn 17:7-26, Mth 11:25, Mth 16:18, Jn 15:16. 1Cor 1:18... "

**I remember many years ago I read a phrase which all of a sudden emerged as I was preparing this message. The phrase "Manifest Destiny concerning Americas role in history.** One historian as he reflected on this encapsulated it into three levels.

1. *They believe they are a People divinely chosen...*
2. *They have a mission to make the world into the image of the U.S.A...*
3. *God himself will bring about this destiny...*

There are various reasons given for how America became a super power, and for a period of time the belief in "manifest destiny" was seen as one of those reasons. **What then of us chosen of God Himself, of being made Ambassadors of the kingdom, of covenant promises that it will be accomplished before Jesus' return!**

**Seals - tattoos - Show you are recipients of His divine favour & power...** Ezk 9:1-8, Rv 7:1-4, 9:4, 14:1, 2 Cor 1:22, 5:5, Eph 1:13, 4:30

**Kiel...** "The early Christians, according to a statement in Origen, looked upon the sign itself as significant and therein saw a prophetic allusion to the sign of the cross – distinctive mark of the Christians."

One of the fascinating ways God reveals His divine favour and love for you is by the fact that He has given you an "inner seal" or to put it in more contemporary language, and "inner tattoo". The prophet Ezekiel has a vision in which 6 angels appear in human form and one of them is told by the Lord to go to the city and put a mark on the foreheads on the men who are sighing and groaning at the state of the world. The word "mark" is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet written at that time in the form of a cross. This mark or tattoo was the mark of immunity when judgement would fall on the city. (Eze 9:4-8) The prophet Ezekiel apparently also had an inner tattoo on his forehead symbolized by a diamond (Eze 3:8-9) this sign was to remove all fear and distress and give the prophet determination in terms of the prophetic word he was proclaiming.

**The Seal and tattoo is a means of protection, immunity, divine favour & power..**

#### a) Paul's seal / tattoo: Holy Spirit

2 Cor 1:22... "Who hath also **sealed** us and given the **earnest** ("Arraban") of the Spirit in our hearts."

2 Cor 5:5... "God... who also hath given unto us the **earnest** of the Spirit."

Eph 1:13... "**Sealed** with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the **earnest** of our inheritance."

- The word "**earnest**" = "Arraban" = pledge, instalment, guarantee.

**W. Barclay...** "The advance payment is made, as a guarantee of full payment – the Holy Spirit here and now is an instalment, an advance foretaste of life in the presence of God."

- **Dress – deposit**
- **Car – deposit**
- **Engagement – ring**

**Vine...** "In modern Greek "Arraban" is an engagement ring."

- The word "**seal**" = "sphragis" (2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13, 4:30).
- Holy Spirit outpouring – write on hand. (Isa 44:3-5)
- Authenticates truth (Jn 3:33)
- Faith brings seal (Jn 6:27-29)
- Holy Spirit is the seal (2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13, 4:30)

b) John's seal / tattoo: ownership and protection / immunity from evil and judgment Ezk 9:1-8, Rv 7:1-4, 9:4, 14:1

- **Not visible – spiritual..**

**Ladd...** "This sealing is a spiritual fact and not a visible bodily phenomena – an inner spiritual fact which cannot be observed with outward eye."

- **Ownership / protection / immunity..**

**NTT3**, p500... "To protect them from judgment coming upon the world – a sign of ownership and also of the one that protects."

**Kittel...** "Marks off the people as God's possession and protects them through the terrible events of the end time."

**2. GOD'S DIVINE FAVOUR TOWARDS YOU IS SEEN IN HIM FREELY GIVING YOU THE BIBLE – THE HEAVENLY LOGOS.**

**2.1 To what do you give ultimate authority in your own spiritual world?**

- **Pope?../opinions/USA better/mega church.**
- **Ascension gift ministries – 5 fold?**
- **Experience/education/environment..**
- **KJ and culture..**
- **Totoms-"thought?"**

**The word of God ,the Bible =The Heavenly Logos?**

**OPEN GODS MOUTH !...The Heavenly Logos**

**As the sea belongs to all,**  
but one man swims in it,  
another trades,  
another fishes!  
**and as the earth is common to all,**  
but one travels over it,  
another cultivates it,  
another goes hunting!  
**so when we read scriptures**  
one draws simply faith  
another inspires conduct by it  
another draws from it GNOSIS.

**Fletcher...** "The word and the truth are so nearly related to our Saviour that to receive them is to receive Him. In the very nature of things, to receive the word of Christ is to receive Him – God's outgoing word is the express image of His immanent, essential word, which is His eternal mind. The genuine seed of the word is always good always full of divine energy."

**Every word/promise/oath/prophecy that the Holy Spirit gives you is a self imposed limitation. Showing that perfection has within itself restriction.**

- **Fletcher...** "If you will not credit God's word, pay at least some regard to his oath... "As I live says the Lord"" (pg 561).

Rom 10:17... " Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

- **H. Strong...** "God's truth will not be less of that than mortal man. God's veracity is the natural correlate to our faith". (pg 289)
- **A.M.Hunter on John 1.1..** 'What God was the Word was'.. turn from John 1.1 to 20.28 "my Lord and my God "The wheel of the gospel has come full circle ;the note struck at the beginning rings out again at its ending"(p69 "Gospel and Apostle")

**NEB...** "What God was the Word was" ..

**2.2 The wise give ultimate authority to Gods word of Grace..**

**Fletcher....** "If you will not credit God's word, pay at least some regard to his oath... "As I live says the Lord"" (pg 561).

- **God had to release Israel from Egypt because of His oath..**
- **Zedekiah's Rebellion and judgment for breaking an oath with God..**

Ezk.17.11-21..11Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 12"Say now to the rebellious house, 'Do you not know what these things mean?' Say, 'Behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, took its king and princes and brought them to him in Babylon. 13'He took one of the royal family and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath He also took away the mighty of the land, 14that the kingdom might be in subjection, not exalting itself, but keeping his covenant that it might continue.15'But he rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt that they might give him horses and many troops Will he succeed? Will he who does such things escape? Can he indeed break the covenant and escape? 16'As I live," declares the Lord GOD, 'Surely in the country of the king who put him on the throne, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke, in Babylon he shall

die.17'Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in the war, when they cast up ramps and build siege walls to cut off many lives.18'Now he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, and behold, he pledged his allegiance, yet did all these things; he shall not escape.'"19Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "As I live, surely My oath which he despised and My covenant which he broke, I will inflict on his head.20"I will spread My net over him, and he will be caught in My snare Then I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there regarding the **unfaithful act which he has committed against Me.** 21"All the choice men in all his troops will fall by the sword, and the survivors will be scattered to every wind; and you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken."

- **The evil Herod was unwilling to break an oath-how much more a Holy God!**

Mth.14.7-10.. 3For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip.4For John had been saying to him, " It is not lawful for you to have

her." 5Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet.6But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod, 7so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.8Having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."9Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests.10He sent and had John beheaded in the prison.

- **David knew the resurrection would take place because God had made an oath!**

Act.24-31..24"But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.25"For David says of Him, I saw the lord always in my presence; for he is at my right hand, so that i will not be shaken.26"therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will live in hope; 27because you will not abandon my soul to hades, nor allow your holy one to undergo decay.28'you have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.29"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.30"And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, 31he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE was neither abandoned to hades, nor did his flesh suffer decay.

- **Unbelieving Jews form a Conspiracy to Kill Paul & bound themselves under an oath to kill him..**

Act.23;12-15..12When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 13There were more than forty who formed this plot. 14They came to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have bound ourselves under a solemn oath to taste nothing until we have killed Paul. 15"Now therefore, you and the Council notify the commander to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case by a more thorough investigation; and we for our part are ready to slay him before he comes near the place."

Acts 23:21..21"So do not listen to them, for more than forty of them are lying in wait for him who have bound themselves under a curse not to eat or drink until they slay him; and now they are ready and waiting for the promise from you."

- **God Himself made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself..**

Heb.6.13-20..13For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14saying, " I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU."15And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.16For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute.17In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,18so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.19This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,20where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Heb 7-22...19for the Law made nothing perfect, and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a **better hope**, through which we <sup>(w)</sup>draw near to God. 20**And inasmuch as it was not without an oath**21(for they indeed became priests without an oath, **but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER'**"); 22so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

**Heb 8:6But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.**

**Hebrews 9:15** For this reason He is the **mediator of a new covenant**, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, **those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

**Hebrews 12:24**and to **Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant**, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks **better** than the blood of Abel

Ps 110:4**The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind**

**Prov 19:21** Many plans are in a man's heart, **But the counsel of the LORD will stand.**

Num 23:19 **God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent** Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

1 Sam 15:29**"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."**

**Isaiah 40:8**The grass withers, the flower fades, **But the word of our God stands forever.**

Isaiah 45:23 **I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness** And will not turn back, **That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.**

Isaiah 55:11 **So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.**

Mat 5:18**"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.**

Mat 24:35**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away**

Titus 1:2 **in the hope of eternal life, which God who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,**

Gal 3:15 **Brethren I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.**

**The veracity of God & HIS WORD is a pillar for faith to take hold of.**

### **2.3 Your own Fingerprint texts.**

As we read in the Old Testament it appears that some of the prophets quoted from other prophets and owned those scriptures as their own. For instance, scholars are not sure if Isaiah quoted from Micah (*Micah 4*) or Micah

quoted from Isaiah (*Isaiah 2*). However because the word of God is inspired both of them could see their fingerprint on those texts. Maybe we could call the first time a text is given a DNA text or a generic prophecy. This is when the text is used in its first instance and then is used various times again after that separated by intervals of time. A little bit later in this oracle I use a new word "entelechy" which also has similar connotations. The writer to Hebrews tells us that the prophets had a vision meaning "to gaze intently" at the future in which he saw intimate and various parts of one meaning of the word for the day in which he was living, but also contained something of the future. (*Heb 11:1 Amp*) So the word was relevant for his own historical situation but will also be something prophetic for the future. Jesus himself used this understanding when he said "As in the days of Noah so shall the days be in the Son of Man." From this we understand the first time a prophecy is mentioned i.e. the law of first mention it acts first like a doorway and then a repeating pattern compounding and leading up to a consummation.

**So perhaps this is a way to see the unfolding of Gods word throughout history..**

1. *The first time a passage is mentioned/ law of first mention/ it becomes a doorway and a pledge.*
2. *There are Multiplicities of fulfilment of that same text.*
3. *As the text gathers momentum in history it becomes like a snowball, it expands and compounds.*
4. *The final culmination and consummation of that text & all that has taken place in history from that one texts Multiplicities of fulfilment..*

To put it in another way there was the first mention of the promise of the prophets own day from that various fulfilments of the same oracle being seen in new circumstances relevant to their day but growing bigger, broader and wider until an ultimate fulfilment in the remote future. This kept a continuum and a continuity of the purposes of God throughout history. The inner meaning of history then, or the spiritual understanding of history is seeing the prophetic word unfolded in the here and now. The word becoming flesh.

This can also be seen incarnated and unfolded in an individual. E.g. if we look at the prophet Elijah . The prophet Elijah was first mentioned in 1 Kg 17 but then that same anointing of his reoccurs in history coming upon other men of God until his final appearing. So we have the Elijah anointing passed down to Elisha, appearing again on John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul and finally an end time witness encapsulated both in an individual person and as a symbol of the end time church. Elijah's name appears 30 times in the New Testament. Moses 80, Abraham 73, David 59 times. Just as the spirit of Moses of the mantle of Moses came on the 70 elders (*Num 11:25*) so the spirit of Elijah or his mantle is resurrected throughout history.

### **2.4 An example of some fingerprints texts.**

**We often think of an inheritance as something physical, a family heirloom, a sum of money, a piece of real estate etc.** There are however spiritual inheritance as well as material ones. The word inheritance is used in various places in the bible. There are certain scriptures that are your inheritance. They have your personal fingerprints all over them.

Whenever you see the Old Testament quoted by another author in the Old Testament that text was becoming his own scripture for his own day and age. Thus keeping a continuity and divine relay race throughout history.

- **No doubt Mary, mother of Jesus was well aware of Isaiah chapter 7 and 9-they became her text..**
- **Jesus seems to have had his fingerprints of just about every scripture in the Old Testament and is well aware that he is the consummation of a messianic figure that was to appear.** Lk 24.27....
- **Paul and other writers also recognised the prophetic significance of the Old Testament to his and our day .** (1 Cor 10:1-13, Rom 5:12-21, 1Pet 3:18-21, Heb 8:5,9:24, and all the O.T. quotes in the N.T.)

The apostle Paul knew that all the promises were yes and amen for all of us (2 Cor 1:20) but there were also some specific ones which he saw having his fingerprint on. (Dunn)

- **When one comes to the apostle of love John,** he, like Jesus claims hundreds of scriptures being fulfilled in his day and also then unfolding throughout history to a consummation.
- **So where does this leave us?**

**God's divine favour has been that he has given you personal fingerprint texts for our life.** It is up to you to converse with the Holy Spirit and ask him to highlight these texts. This is when a logos word i.e. some scripture written in the bible becomes a rhema word for you today or as Peter calls it "a present truth", sometimes known as a Kairos word.

**As mentioned above certain texts also have "seals" on them which the Holy Spirit will remove at the appropriate time.**

**Nike:** Seek the Holy Spirit and his divine favour this year for a text for you as an individual, your family, cell group, business, church, village, township, city, nation and continent.

- **Scripture and God's divine favour in helping you develop your self-consciousness.**

**Subjective** - Your self-consciousness is developed in your spirit by the Holy Spirit

**Objective** - Your self-consciousness is developed by your five senses in reading the objective bible. (See A,B,C,D,E)

**C.S. Lewis and the development of our self consciousness...Subjective / Objective.** . "There is no reason to suppose that self-consciousness, the recognition of a creature by itself as a "self", can exist except in contrast with an "other", a something which is not the self .It is against an environment ,and preferable a social environment, an environment of other selves ,that the awareness of Myself stands out" ('Problem of Pain"p.17)

Notes: Scripture finds you, you find Scripture..

**3. GOD'S DIVINE FAVOUR IS SEEN IN THE FACT THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU GIFTS AND TALENTS FOR YOUR BENEFIT AND THAT OF OTHERS.**

- **Read & discuss the Parable of the Talents& what latent potential is within you..**Mth.25.14-30

**Have you ever wondered why some of us sing like a canary and others like a gorilla?** Why some of us can do the splits while others look on in amazement. Why some people have more gifts and talents than others. This is because of God's common grace and favour, embedded within them, the scriptures see this embedded within "the image of God."

**3.1 The following word "entelechy" brings out the concept of the massive latent potential that lies within you!**

- **Embedded deep within you is a Subterranean river & underground! .**Pv.4.23,Jhn.7.38 etc

**Entelechy**(en-tel-uh-kee)The latent potential within you containing your Talents-gifts-calling ie the Image of God within you..

Phil.2.12-13..**So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;13for it is God who is at work in you,** both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

**Entelechy**..comes from 2 greek words; **en** (in), **telos** (end, or purpose) and **echein** (to have), Aristotle coined it to denote "**having one's end within**", something's or somebody's essential potential is being fully actualised,their Internal Spirit DNA is coming forth,reaching their full potential.

**What others say of Entelechy..**

**// An internal & vital force propelling one to self-fulfillment..**

// that which realizes or makes actual what is otherwise merely potential..

// It concerns our final end the purpose of our existence, where we are going to go & become..unto Christ.

// the condition in which a potentiality becomes an actuality..

// Perfect realization as opposed to a potentiality...

// a symbolic or archetypal expression. *Entelechy* is all about the possibilities encoded in each of us; the *entelechy* of an acorn to be an oak tree, of a baby to be a grown-up, of a popcorn kernel to be a fully popped entity.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin...*"it is inside of you, like the butterfly is inside of the caterpillar."* ..It means the dynamic purpose that is coded in you..."

An individual's life can in many ways be regarded as beholden to various simultaneous and overlapping *entelechy*s unfolding to becoming *telios*..

**Entelechy & Trinity...Felix culpa!** Latin phrase that literally translated means a "blessed fault" or "fortunate fall". "O happy fault that merited such and so great a Redeemer." In a literary context, the term "felix culpa" can be used to describe how a series of miserable events will eventually lead to a happier outcome...where sin abounded grace. .releasing the latent names&nature of God!

Think about it-if there had been no sin, the *Entelechy*, the latent potential within the Trinity would not have been realised! Hence Felix culpa! "O happy fault that merited such and so great a Redeemer."

**3.2 The following truths show the subterranean underground of gifts and talents within you. Lets call this the "pleroma layers" lying embedded deep within you.. Pv 4:23... "Jn 7:38..."**

1. You have Prevenient grace within you –the H.S. imparts faith to you to overcome the greatest negative in the world. (Mth 16:18, Eph 2:8-10, Jh 3:16)

2. You have "A priori" talents and gifts lying latent WITHIN you through Divine Favour & grace. (Ecc. 3:10; Eph 2:10; Acts 17:26-28; Jn 1:9; Rom 5:12; Heb 7:8-10)

**Encarta...** "a priori"... something known or made beforehand, conceived or formulated before investigation or experience."

A prior knowledge is "prior" to and independent of observation and experiment. An example of a "prior" knowledge would be 2+2=4. Although we may work out the answer by doing it on our fingers, the truth of it does not ultimately depend upon experience.

God has "set eternity in the heart". When God breathed into Adam the "breath of lives" (Hebrew is in the plural) certain

things appear to have been implanted. Created in the "image of God" (Gn 1:26-27, 2:7, 5:1, 1 Cor 11:7, Jam 3:9, cf Ps 82:6, Jn 10:34-35); gifts and talents were freely given (Ps 68:18, Ezk 18:23, Rom 11:29, Mt 5:45, 25:15). This knowledge does not depend on any particular experience but are waiting to be "uncovered". This is Plato's concept of "anamnesis" (recollection) in which truth are simply memories of the world of forms which resided before birth. (See Jn17:5, 1:1, 8:58, cf Eph 1:4, Jam 1:5, Ps 139:16, Gal 7:16, etc.)

3. The Holy Spirit recreates your Spirit – You have the authority of supernatural revelation and rebirth – 99% of flesh not 1% of Spirit. Zoe life and immortality. (Mth 1:20, Jhb 3:6 – see "21 grams")

➤ You have Immortality within you! – (Jn3:16,36, 4:14, 5:24, 6:40,47, / gal 6:8 immortality, Rom 2:7, 2 Tim 1:10)

**Discuss:** What does it mean "Your eternal life is still young in you"

➤ You have the authority of supernatural revelation & rebirth.. 99.99% of flesh not 1% of spirit (Mt 16:16-19, Jn 1:13, 3:3-8, Acts 9:4-6, 1 Cor 12:3, Eph 2:1-10, Heb 10:32)

4.. You have Ongoing H.S. power encounters/ "upon" (Act 1:8) / "in" (Jhn 7:38) / "with" "Jhn 14:17" / "abiding" (1 Jhn 2:20,27" / charismata / pneumatikos / speaking in tongues ...atoms of eternity in time residing within you!

What of Angelic appearances, visions, dreams, burdens, dark sayings, symbolic perception, body symptoms, theopathy, signs and wonders, slain in spirit, dumbness, shaking, ecstasies, numinous? ⇒ all these deposits have left something of the Spirit resident within you!

- Mo & wisdom... imparted...
- Mantle/apron carry anointing...
- Laying on hands imparts anointing...
- Bones anointed...
- Breath and anointing imparted...
- Shadow and anointing imparted...
- Words and anointing imparted of all that is in the word, healing, prosperity, deliverance, blessing...
- Speaking in tongues building up the column of your spirit! (see "21 grams" pg 9)

5.. You have the 6<sup>th</sup> sense Faith - the very faith "of" God !(Lk 17:5, 2 Thess 1:3KJ, Eph 2:8-10, Jn 3:16, Mk 6:6, Heb 11:1, Mk 11:22-24 Gal 2:20, Heb 11:32, 11:40)

6. You have The authority of obedience – sowing & reaping(Newtonianphysics-linear)-with layered,multidimensional & experiential increase from omnisphere / butterfly and 8 levels within you.(see "21 grams" pg 17)(Col 1:16-20, Eph 1:10, 22-23, 4:11-13, Jn 7:17, Lk 6:38, Pv11:17,24-25, Ecc11:1, Mth 13:23, Gal 6:8,

Dt 28:1-14 cf Rom5:12-21, 14:7, Jn 7:17, Lk 19:11-27, Mk20:1-16, Amos 9:13 "suddenlies")

❖ **Every act of Obedience ie Praise and worship - giving etc builds layers of truth and revelation enlarging the "column" of your Spirit!** (Ps 50:5,14,23, 22:3) (see "The sigh of God- Zeal")

7. **You have Anatomy of H.S. within your own spirit, the Fruit and virtues of uncreated life and energies lying inside you, you partake of the divine nature!..** (Gal 5:22-23, 2 Pet 1:4)

❖ **The 4 Gospels portray your inner world and life**  
❖ **You are the 5th Gospel!** (2 Cor 4:1-4)

**W.E. Vine...** "The use or absence of the article in the original where the H.S. is spoken of cannot always be decided by grammatical rules, nor can the presence or absence of the article alone determine whether the reference is the H.S.... In Gal 3:13 in the phrase "having begun in the spirit" it is difficult to say whether the reference is to the H.S. or to the quickened spirit of the believer".

**Swete...** "It is not easy to determine whether by "spirit" the Apostle means the Spirit of God in man, or the spirit of man under the influence of the Spirit of God" (G. Thomas pg 29)

8. **You have the authority of divine commission – "All" Authority in heaven (Spirit realm) and earth (nature, humanity, nations) has been given you..** Gen 1:26, Mt 10:1, 7-27, (Levels of penetration) 11:12, 12:28-29, 16:16-19, 28:18-20, Mk 16:15-20, Lk 4:18-19, 10:1-20, Acts 13:1-12 .)

**Augustine** – "Without him we cannot – without us He will not."

**You are God's legal entrance into the world! What you allow / disallow –God allows / disallows! .... Hence God's search for a man!**

9. **You have the authority of your personal testimony and experiences of God's nature.** (see "Metron")(Rev 12:10-11, 13:10, Jn 8:46, 2 Pet 1:4)

❖ **Hannah** – barrenness..  
❖ **David** – lion..  
❖ **"I am"s** for benefit of others..  
❖ **Metron** and anointing for others..

10. **You have your own Personal scriptures adding to your inner world..**(Is 40:3, 49:6, 61:1-2, Lk 4:18, Jhn 1:23, Acts 13:47, etc)

11. **You have Prophetic words over your life creating an alternative future.** (1 Tim 1:18, 4:14, Lk 1:46-55, 67-80, Acts 13:2, 2 Pet 1:4)

12. **You have Received the spoken living Word (The "Oracles") imparted into your spirit enlarging your**

**heart to fullness** ("pleroma").(Mt 13:23, Rom 1:11, 1 Thess 2:13, Jam 1:18, 21, 2 Pet 1:4, 1 Pet 1:23)

13. **You have Creative and positive attitudes to the problems of life enlarging the capacity of your spirit.** (Rom 5:3-5, 2 Cor 4:16-18, Rom 12:2, )

14. **You have The correct understanding and revelation of the covenant meal, an immunization against sickness and premature death** (Ecc 7:17, Job 22:16, All NT resurrections Acts 5:1-11, 1 Cor 11:30 (Jn 6:30-35, 48-58, Acts 2:42,46-47, 1 Cor 11:23-34)

15. **You have an Inheritance & The finished work of Christ – "I am"s" – "in whom" – "in Christ" – through Christ etc.**(Eph 1:3,4,6,7,11,13,18)

**James D.D. Dunn...** "It is important that we recognize the experiential dimensions and foundation of Paul's theology. Obviously central to Paul's religious experience is his experience of Christ, expressed particularly by his "in Christ", "in the Lord" language. ("J & S" pg 200)

**All of these layers of truth axioms are to raise your own faith and the faith of those who receive from you.**

- You are an **Apocalypse!**
- You are a **Parousia!**
- You are an **Epiphany!**
- You are the **Glory** manifest!
- You are **light** made visible!
- **You are fifth Gospel!** (2 Cor 4:1-4)  
**You are a palace of eternity in time!**

**You yourself are a deposit of God's divine favour into your family, the church, and the world. i.e. market place ministry.**

**4. GOD'S DIVINE FAVOUR IS SEEN IN THE FACT THAT HE HAS GIVEN SPIRITUAL LAWS THAT ENABLES US TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL...**

**Do not confuse your intimate relationship with God with spiritual laws-God through his divine grace & Favour has given spiritual laws that enables everybody to become successful, not just believers..**

**4.1 There are certain invisible laws working, given by Gods grace, whether we are aware of them or not..**

**Why do you think the following people have become wealthy whether they know God or not?**

- **Bill Gates...**
- **Donald Trump...**
- **Richard Branson...**
- **The success of the book "The Secret"...**

Hos 4:6... "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

## The law of sowing and reaping is an invisible law created by Christ...

Rom 1:20... "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Col 1:16-18... "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible (*spiritual laws and physical laws*), whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."

From the above scripture we see that Jesus creates both natural laws and laws in the spirit – or invisible realm. Without these laws the universe will fall to pieces. The universe and its laws are held together – or as one translation puts it – "*kept in tune*" by Christ.

### 4.2 The symphony of the universe is kept in tune by Jesus!

Col 1:15-20....." He is the **image** of the **invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For **by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also **head of the body, the church**; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that **He Himself will come to have first place in everything**. 19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to **reconcile all things to Himself**, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

Jn 1:1-4..." **In the beginning was the Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the **Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things came into being through Him**, and apart from Him **nothing came into being that has come into being**. 4 **In Him was life**, and the life was the Light of men."

Heb 1:1-4..." God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last **days has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world**. 3 **And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power**. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they."

**Paul is sitting in a cell, his body imprisoned, but his spirit soaring!** Jesus, he says, is the superglue of the universe! All invisible laws and visible realities were created by Him, for Him and "unto" Him. Here enters a strange and amazing fact - Paul wrote such a sublime masterpiece to an unimportant town like Colossi. Paul says Jesus is the "image" of the invisible God. The word is "eikon" (does the program "*idols*" ring a *Melody bell*? "Idol" comes from the word "eikon"). Jesus is the "manifestation" of the invisible God, and **all the laws of the universe hold together in Him, personalizing what the Greek philosophers were amazed at**. It is Jesus the Logos who gives sense to the universe. He keeps the stars on their courses, he upholds

the fixed order of nature, the very laws of gravity gain meaning from Jesus.

**J.B. Lightfoot...** "*In Him*"... "*All the laws and purposes which guide the creation and government of the Universe reside in Him, the Eternal word as their meeting place.*"

**J.B. Lightfoot...** "*The action (law) of gravitation which keeps in their places things fixed- as an expression of His mind.*"

Not only that, **man was also made in the "image" of God**. Man was made that he might be nothing less than the "eikon" of God. God's image. A divine work of art, "godded" with God.

Gn 1:26-27..." Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God **created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**"

As we look at Jesus we see what God is like, and as we look at Jesus we see what we are to become like. Here is true humanity. The word "eikon" - sometimes in its diminutive form "eikonian" = was the word used for a "portrait" in Greek. **A believer is God's portrait in the gallery of the universe!** It is the nearest equivalent in Ancient Greek to our modern word "photograph".

Col 1:17..."He is **before** all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**"

**Vincent...**"*Holds the universe in time.*"

**William Barclay writes...** "*All the laws by which this world is on order and not a chaos are an expression of the mind of the Son. The law of gravity and all the so-called scientific laws; they are divine laws. They are laws which make sense out of the universe. They are laws which make this a reliable and dependable world. Every law of science and nature is, in fact, an expression of the thought of God. It is by these laws and therefore by the mind of God, that the universe hangs together and does not disintegrate in chaos.*"

**The prophet Jeremiah, living hundreds of years before the Greek philosophers**, had already pointed out that the seasons are held together by the word of God!

Jerm 31:35-36...

Jerm 33:20...

Moses the prophet, David the King, prophet, poet and singer knew before Heraclitis, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were born that the laws of genetics, season, the cosmological choir in the sky, the weather patterns and aqua nautical livestock were given birth by the logos! (*see "Eyes remade for wonder"*)

Ps 90:1-2...

Mth 12:34... "from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"

Ps 19:1-11...

Ps 83:37...

Ps 104:1-30...

Ps 147:7-9,15-20...

Ps 148:1-14...

There you have it. There are certain laws in the universe whether you are aware of it or not. They work for you or against you. **Take for example the "law of sowing and reaping".**

Gal 5:15..." But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another."

Gal 6:7-8..." Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.** 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

**If you** habitually criticise and complain, you will be devoured by your own criticism. **If you** live in hate and unforgiveness it will destroy you. You create your own climate and future by your attitudes and actions.

Mt 6:12, 14-15..." And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Mt 7:2..." For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."

Mt 18:21-35..." Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus \*said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26 "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' 27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' 29 "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' 30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 "Then summoning him, his lord \*said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' 34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

**Now what is astonishing about this "law of boomerang" is that it works not only upon individuals - but nations as well!**

Many examples are given in the bible of nations falling because they sowed what they would reap. This is seen in the days of Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah, Assyria, Babylon, Nineveh and even Israel itself. **Historically there is a classic example of the great city of Rome.**

**Q: What was it that caused the massive fall of the great city of Rome?**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**..."*The barbarians who broke up the Roman Empire did not arrive a day too soon.*"

The title of Edward Gibbon's classic "**Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**" has dominated literacy imagination for years. The publisher had originally planned to print only 500 copies of the first volume but doubled the number when he read the manuscript. The third volume concludes with "general observations as the Fall of the Roman Empire in the West."

*"The decline of Rome was the natural and inevitable effect of immoderate greatness. Prosperity ripened the principle of decay; the causes of destruction multiplied with the extent of conquest; and, as soon as time or accident had removed the artificial supports, the stupendous fabric yielded to the pressure of its own weight. The story of its ruin is simple and obvious; and, instead of inquiring why the Roman Empire was destroyed, we should rather be surprised that it had subsisted so long."*

**DISCUSS:** Whether or not Nelson Mandela knew of the "laws of justice" or the "laws of forgiveness" I don't know. But in the light of what has been said thus far - do you think he saved South Africa from a bloodbath? (*I am not of course leaving out the prayers and prophetic proclamations of the church!*).

Mth 5:23-26...

Mth 6:12,14-15...

Mth 7:1-2...

Mth 18:21-35...

**Having shown that all the invisible laws of the universe are held together in Jesus, the Divine Magnet as it were - does this mean that Jesus Himself is behind the whole system of the cosmos, including the elements of nature: earth, air, fire and water? Are all the irreducible components of basic principles upon which the whole realms of knowledge held together by Jesus? Yes! Yes! Yes!**

Col 1:17..."He is before all things and in Him all things hold together." **The words "hold together" (synestekon) are the words from which we get "systems".** All the systems of the universe are kept in tune by Jesus. Meditate on that! Put that in your head and let it smoke!

All things are held together in Him. Jesus keeps it all in working order. The universe continues and coheres together in Him. The world is not a chaos but a cosmos.

**J.B. Lightfoot**... "As all creation passed out of Him, so does it converge again towards him."

Isa 55:9-11...

**Isaiah the prophet says something amazing and astonishing.** He is implying that the universe with all of its galaxies and planets is like a **huge wheel**. Paul looking at the same universe says the "axle" is Jesus. Remove the axles and the wheel will collapse! Not only does the cosmos come "out of" Jesus, He "sustains it" and it is moving "unto" Him. Another translation says "with a view to Him". Jesus the Logos is the source, maintainer and god of the universe.

**DISCUSS:** This same Jesus dwells in the heart of the believer! Does this then mean that all of His words and commands are then actually part of our inner life and cosmos? The laws of the universe are resident within us? If this is so, are all his sayings simple Déjà vu for us?

Heb 8:10-11... "I will put **my laws** (nomas 3551) into **their minds** and I will write **them upon their hearts**...for all shall **know** me, from the **least** to the **greatest**"

Rom 7:14... "We know the **law is spiritual**"

Rom 7:22... I joyfully concur with the law (nomos) of God in the inner man"

Eph 2:10...

**Meditate on the following: Jesus, The Logos, holds nature, the alphabet, numbers, theories, music notes, the physical universe and laws in society together! Remove Jesus and the cosmos will collapse!**

#### **4.3 Jesus is the creator of the invisible laws in the spirit world and in the visible natural world..**

##### **1. The invisible laws and the visible laws are one**

- **Faith is the new law** .....(Rom 3: 27 – 31)
- **Holy Spirit is the new law** ....(Rom 8: 2 – 4)
- **Love is the fulfilment of the law** .... (Rom 13: 8 – 10, Gal 5: 15)
- **Law of Christ**.... (1 Cor 9:21)

**Jesus Christ is the creator of both the invisible world from which true reality is birthed and the visible world.**

Gn 1:1... "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (universe)."

Jn 1:1-3. "In the beginning was the Word (everything begins with a thought, a word an idea), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things came into being**

**through Him**, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

Jn 1:10... "He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him**, and the world did not know Him."

Rom 1:20... "For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes**, His eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made (visible world is a working model of invisible world), so that they are without excuse."

Rom 4:17... "(as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even **God**, who gives **life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist**."

Col 1:15-17... "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **For by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, **visible and invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things **have been created through Him and for Him**. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (United theory of everything)."

Heb 1:3... "And **He** is the radiance of His glory and the **exact representation of His nature**, and **upholds all things by the word of His power**. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"

Heb 11:3 AMP... "**By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed** (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) **by the word of God**, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible (invisible)."

**The fact that the invisible world undergirds, surrounds and interpenetrates the visible world in which we live is something the world and its business and economic systems have in a large measure refused to consider.**

Further – Jesus – the creator of all the scientific, spiritual and economic laws reveals to us that the invisible world controls the visible world. This ocean of abundance in the invisible world in unrestricted, unlimited in abundance and prosperity, not limited to the stock exchange or any circumstances and this kingdom is infinite.

**The laws of the invisible world are the same laws in the visible world because they both come from the hand of a single creator – Jesus Christ. The supernatural and the natural have the same maker. Nature is a working visible model of the spiritual.**

##### **2. Parables are really parallels – a visible working model of invisible spiritual laws..**

**It seems that Jesus had an absolute passion to unveil how the invisible Kingdom and its laws "work". Many scholars believe that Jesus' whole life and ministry was about the "Kingdom". He tried to show both his hearers then – and us today – that these laws work in the here and now, are divinely powerful and will bring abundance and prosperity.**

Mt 13:11... "And He replied to them, **To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven** (invisible world), but to them it has not been given."

If physical and scientific laws are immutable – how much more so the laws in the spiritual world of which they are a working model. Jesus - in removing our ignorance – says over and over (to make his point)...

**"The Kingdom is like....."** (Mt 13:24, 31, 33, 44-45, etc.)

**C.H. Dodd...** *"The realism of the parables of Jesus arises from the conviction that there is no mere analogy, but an inward affinity, between the natural order and the spiritual order... The Kingdom (an invisible world) is intrinsically like the process of nature (the visible world). Since nature and super-nature are one order, you can take any part of that order and find in it illumination for other parts. This sense of divineness of the natural order is the major premise of all the parables."* ("The parables of the Kingdom", p20f)

**Gerald F. Hawthorne...** *"In the spiritual as in the natural world there is a law which teaches that the same cause will, under the same conditions, produce the same consequence."* ("The presence and the power", p239)

**R.C. Trench...** *"The parable, or other analogy to spiritual truth appropriated from the world of nature or man, is not merely illustration, but, in the same sort proof. For the power of such analogies lies in the harmony unconsciously felt by all, and by deeper minds plainly perceived, between the natural and spiritual worlds; the world of nature being throughout a witness for the world of the spirit to lovers of truth the things on earth are copies of things in heaven... the entire moral and visible world, with its kings and its subjects, its sun and its moon, its sleeping and its waking, and all its variety of operations, is one mighty parable."*

➤ **The law of sowing and reaping is an invisible law created by Christ.**

Rom 1:20... "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Col 1:16-18... "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible (*spiritual laws and physical laws*), whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."

**From the above scripture we see that Jesus creates both natural laws and laws in the spirit – or invisible realm. Without these laws the universe will fall to pieces. The universe and its laws are held together – or as one translation puts it – "kept in tune" by Christ.**

**What is the the function of laws?**

**Faith is birthed where the will of God is known!**

Mt 6:10 "Your kingdom come (*invisible realm*). Your will be done (*invisible realm*), on earth (*visible realm*) as it is in heaven (*invisible realm*)."

1 Jn 5:14-15... "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

Rom 10:17... "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

**1. Laws stabilize our lives..**

Jer 33:20-22... "Thus says the LORD, 'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, then My covenant may also be broken ((cycle of nature and its visibility a working model of God's promises) with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers. 'As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me."

Jer 33:25-26... "Thus says the LORD, 'If My covenant for day and night stand not, and the fixed patterns of heaven and earth I have not established, then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them."

**Perhaps one of the ways we can see the importance of laws is to try and conceive of a universe without them.** There used to be a children's book named "*The Chance World*". It described a world in which everything happened by chance!

- **Inorganic world:** Today the sand is on the ground, tomorrow it may be in the sky! Somebody is jumping on a trampoline on Monday and they come down. Tuesday they float off to the moon! Imagine the sun coming up today and refusing to do so tomorrow. Today there are 24 hours in a day, tomorrow 2, next day 5.
- **Vegetable world:** Today you plant an orange seed and get an orange. Tomorrow a banana! Today you eat an apple – tomorrow it eats you. A banana tree growing French poodles!
- **Animal world:** One day dog barks, next day it sings like a bird. The mouse chases the cat and the dog elopes with the noon. House gives birth to a baobab tree.
- **Human world:** Today mom is pregnant, tomorrow it's dad. Bones keep growing, but skin goes on strike. The law of stop disappears and you tongue, ears and nose keep growing and growing... One friend gives birth to a tomato tree and the other a dodo bird.

**DISCUSS:** If nothing comes from nothing – how is it possible for Mr Evolutionist Van Chance to explain spiritual and natural laws?

## 2. Laws give security...

**G.F. Hawthorne...** "In the spiritual as in the natural world there is a law which teaches that the same cause will, under the same conditions, produce the same consequence." (P+P, p239).

Day to day we take it simply for granted that laws will remain the same. Planes will be able to fly, boats to float and whatever country you may be in – you will stay on the correct side of the road.

## 3. Laws specify the way things work-helping both believers & unbelievers to become prosperous..

Because laws give us stability and security and specify the way the world "works" it is possible to live your life successfully and be prosperous and have abundance.

3 Jn 2... "Beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers."

**The law of gravity** was established by God for the purpose of maintaining order and to allow man to become secure and to move about the earth safely. Newton did not discover gravity – that is still in the process of being understood – he discovered its law, which is gravitation.

Regardless of whether man knows of a law's existence or not, violations of that law brings a penalty to the violator. Satan challenged Jesus to violate the law of gravity.

Mt 4:5-6... "Then the devil \*took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the **pinnacle of the temple**, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, **throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You'**"; and **'On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'**"

These laws are impersonal and violation of these laws will result in injury, sickness, poverty or untimely death – whether the violator is a Christian or not – whether he/she was aware these laws existed or not.

- The law of sin & death was/is working – whether people were/are aware of it or not. Everything is going south! Rom 5:12-14, 8:2, 2 Cor 4:16, Heb 9:27

**DISCUSS:** If a believer drinks excessively, smokes, swears, does not exercise, cheats in business, etc. will his relationship with the Lord immobilize the laws of nutrition and health? (Ps 32:1-6, 31:9-10, 38:3, Jn 5:4, 9:2, Ecc 7:17)

## 4. The word of God embodies spiritual and natural laws-when acted upon they create success and abundance..

### 1. Covenant blessings of prosperity are contingent upon obedience

- **David covenanted with Jonathan...** 1 Sam 18:1-4
- **Zulu tribe warriors with Xhosa tribe and blood covenant.**

**The Bible contains the Word of God, which unveils to us how the universe "works".** We can accommodate ourselves to working in agreement with it and thereby become successful and prosperous.

Josh 1:5-9... "**No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life (a promise).** Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. "Only be strong and very courageous; **be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you (promise is linked to obedience);** do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Ps 1:1-3... "**How blessed is the man (promise)** who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners (**condition**), nor sit in the seat of scoffers (**condition**)! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night (**condition**). He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers (**promise**)."

**All covenants are based upon contingencies and the Word of God is no different.** If you want healing you have covenant obligations (Ex 15:26, Dt 7:12-15), so it is with prosperity and anything else you may require from God.

Lv 26:3-20... "**If you (condition)** walk in My statutes and **keep (condition)** My commandments so as to carry them out, **then (promise)** I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. "Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land. 'I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making *you* tremble. I shall also eliminate harmful beasts from the land, and no sword will pass through your land. 'But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword. 'So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and **I will confirm My covenant with you.** 'You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new. **Moreover (promise),** I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. **'I will also walk among you and be your God (promise),** and you shall be My people. 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect. **But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments, if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant (condition),** I, in turn, will do this to you (**consequences**): I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up. 'I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you. 'If also after these things you do not obey

Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 'I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze. 'Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.'

## 2. God's Word is a law, and when acted upon it produces abundance..

Josh 22:5... "Only be very careful (*be careful means be careful*) to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Jn 14:15... "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

Jn 14:21... "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me (*obedience expresses love*); and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself (*obedience through revelation*) to him."

Jn 15:10... "If you keep My commandments (*condition*), you will abide in My love (*promise*); just as (*example*) I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

1 Jn 2:3-6... "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments (*intimacy produces obedience*). The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected (*perfecting perfection*). By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked (*example*)."'

1 Jn 3:22 24... "Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."

1 Jn 5:2-3... "By this we know (*there is a test for love*) that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."

2 Jn 6... "And this is love (*love expression is obedience*), that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it."

## 3. What does the word "commandments" mean?

Dt 28:1-2... "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey (*no bell and chain obedience!*) the LORD your God, being careful to do (*do it properly*) all His commandments (*prescriptions*) which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. "All these blessings will come upon you (*now*) and overtake you (*creating your future*) if you obey the LORD your God:"

**Commandments from God are laws.** Laws in the physical world and laws in the spirit world. The word "*commandment*" is the Hebrew word "*mitsvat*" (4687/6680). The root of the word means "*prescription*".

**When a doctor gives you a prescription it means a number of things.** You have something you don't want – sickness. You know it is not God's will that you are sick, hence you've come for advice on healing.

- You've tried other remedies and they have failed.

- You obey what the doctor has prescribed and it will hopefully heal you. It will change you today if it is quick and enables you to have a better tomorrow. That is your future.

**God's commandments are his prescriptions.** Whether your sickness is disease, doubt, poverty, problems in your family, business, with demons or people. Mary's problem was poverty. No wine left for the wedding. Solution?

Jn 2:5... "Whatever he says to you – do it." ("Nike")

Here is a man - sick for 38 years. "Stand up", Jesus says. Response to the prescription brings immediate healing. Unforgiveness – forgive. In need of finance – give some away!

Lk 6:38... "Give (*obedience*), and it will be given to you (*promise*). They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over (*snowball and compound interest!*). For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

**We can influence every area of our lives and that of others by finding a scripture / prescription to act on.** Each commandment is an opportunity. An opening for God to come in on the scene. There is a promise for every need we may have in life and every promise is a positive opportunity.

2 Cor 1:26... "For as many as may be the promises of God – in Him they are 'yes'." (*promises stimulate faith*)

2 Pet 1:3... "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness... He has granted to us his precious and magnificent promises in order that by them (*the promises*) you might become partakers of the divine nature."

As we act on God's word in obedience we have a promise for everything pertaining to life we are able – in a positive way – a 'yes' – to rectify whatever problems we face. The inner laws and life of God are participators in our lives.

*Just as in the words of the bible history became scripture so now in our life scripture becomes history!*

**When we act on God's word at that moment we have a commonality with the creator of the universe!** His word is our neighbourhood. Our inner life can correspond with the very life of God. The word becomes flesh in us as we are obedient to it. **We re-incarnate the word.** We now have an *inner analogy of being* in the rebirth, and an *analogy in acts* when we "walk" in the moccasins of his Word. We participate in the divine nature as we participate in his promises. Awesome!

2 Pet 1:4 AMP... "By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature." (*the word and you become one – "godded" with God*)

**When God gives us a command or a promise he is beckoning us to do something for which we were**

**created.** The initiative is given by God, our response is to fulfil what in the end is going to be for our good! The Word gives us continual opportunities to make our lives serve spiritual ends. We become “godded” with God!

***Do not let your faith remain silent!***

**4. Prophetic presence and overflow – open heavens go with believers** (see “Principle of Axis”)

***Look at the following people and see how their presence, gifts, and talents were used for the benefit for the society and age in which they were living. Their presence was “prophetic presence” a visible picture of Gods Divine Favour in the marketplace.***

Rom 10:17... “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

***Please feed your spirit on the following texts to raise your faith level to where God ordained it to be:***

Dt.8.18 “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Pr 11:11... “By the blessing of the upright (*prophetic presence*) a city is exalted (*one person can affect economics of the city*), but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.

Mt 5:14... “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

***You, the believer, are a vital ingredient and key to the prosperity and economics of the company where you work and its financial success. Not only that, the city is blessed because of your prophetic presence and through you the city’s economic climate will become prosperous!***

When Israel was obedient to God’s Word everybody, including the stranger who was within the gates benefited from their increase in external blessings. The world is blessed because of the church.

- ***During the days of Noah God extended the time to repent by an extra century giving unbelievers an opportunity to repent.***
- ***Sodom’s judgment would have been averted had there been at least 10 righteous people.***
- ***The Pharaoh of Joseph’s day was made wealthy because he believed and obeyed Joseph’s instructions. Egypt got wealthy because of a believer’s presence and eventually that wealth became Israel’s as well.***

Gn 41:40... “You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; **only in the throne I will be greater than you.**”

Gn 41:42-43... “Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, “Bow the knee!” And he **set him over all the land of Egypt**”

Gn 47:6... “The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.”

Ex 12:35-36... “Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.”

- **Even when Israel was wandering in the wilderness Canaan was growing richer and richer.** The Canaanites were building houses and planting vineyards – for the benefit of Israel. Even the wealth of the wicked is laid up for the righteous!

Deut 6:1-11... “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. “O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. “Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied,” (*Wealth of wicked stored up for righteous – if obedient to word*)

Deut 19:1... “When the Lord your God cuts off the nations, whose land the Lord your God gives you, and you dispossess them and settle in their cities and in their houses,”

Josh 24:13... “I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.”

Pr 13:22... “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.”

Pr 28:8 KJV... “He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.”

**DISCUSS:** Do you think the building of those huge soccer stadiums is God preparing the world for a end time holy revival and harvest?

- **Moses sees a time coming when the believer will be the head and not the tail. When nations will come to the church / believer for economic assistance and empowerment!**

Deut 28:1-2... "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth (promotion over nations because of obedience). 2 "All these blessings will come upon you (prosperity now) and overtake you (obedience creates your future's prosperity!) if you obey the LORD your God."

Deut 28:9-14... "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. 10 "So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you. 11 "The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 "The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 "The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath (promotion and success guaranteed), if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, 14 and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."

- **The great prophets of Israel prophetically see a period in history coming when the world will come to the church / believer for wisdom, economic empowerment and blessing because of Gods Divine Favor is resting upon them!**

Isa 2:1-4... "The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 Now it will come about that in the last days (our period in history) The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. 3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." (believers will teach business principles, art, etc.) For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war."

Isa 4:1... "For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!"

Isa 45:14... "Thus says the Lord, "The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush And the Sabaeans, men of stature, Will come over to you and will be yours (promotions!); They will walk behind you, they will come over in chains And will bow down to you; They will make supplication to you: 'Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, No other God.' "(divine favour!)

Isa 49:23... "Kings will be your guardians, And their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth And lick the dust of your feet; And you will know that I am the Lord; Those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame."

Isa 60:1-3... "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth

And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. 3 "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. "

Isa 60:5-17, 22... "Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you. 6 "A multitude of camels will cover you (economic prosperity!), The young camels of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba will come; They will bring gold and frankincense (economic prosperity!), And will bear good news of the praises of the Lord. 7 "All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you (farmers to prosper), The rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; They will go up with acceptance on My altar, And I shall glorify My glorious house. 8 "Who are these who fly like a cloud And like the doves to their lattices? 9 "Surely the coastlands will wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first (shipping trade to increase!). To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, For the name of the Lord your God, And for the Holy One of Israel because He has glorified you. 10 "Foreigners will build up your walls, And their kings will minister to you (new jobs available for refugees); For in My wrath I struck you, And in My favor I have had compassion on you. 11 "Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession. 12 "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined. 13 "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious (church to be finally blessed). 14 "The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. 15 "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated With no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, A joy from generation to generation. 16 "You will also suck the milk of nations And suck the breast of kings; Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. 17 "Instead of bronze I will bring gold (mining to increase), And instead of iron I will bring silver, And instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. And I will make peace your administrators And righteousness your overseers. "The smallest one will become a clan, And the least one a mighty nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time." (compasses will grow!)

Isa 62:8... "The LORD has sworn by His right hand and by His strong arm, "I will never again give your grain as food for your enemies; Nor will foreigners drink your new wine for which you have labored." (others want to be wrongly promoted for your labour and work)

Isa 66:18-20... "For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory. 19 "I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations (world travel): Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations. 20 "Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the Lord, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem (need to import more workers)," says the Lord, "just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord."

Ezk 34:26-30... "I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. 27 "Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land (security promised). Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 "They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid. 29 "I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore. 30 "Then they will know that I, the Lord their God,

am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people," declares the Lord God."

Joel 2:25-27..."Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten (*restoration because of devastation*). The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. 27 "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the Lord your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame. 28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

Amos 9:13..."Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved."

- **King Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon were blessed because of the prophet Daniel and his companions' superior presence and wisdom. Here we see God promotes & gives divine favour to his people over those of the world's system.**

Da 1:3-5..."Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, 4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years (*world system will finance our education*), at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service."

Da:1:17- 20..."As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams. 18 Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service. 20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm." (*kings and people will come to receive wisdom*)

Da 2:1-28..."Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream." 4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap. 6 "But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 8 The king replied, "I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm, 9 that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that

I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. 11 "Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh." 12 Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them. 14 Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; 15 he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?" (*believers will deliver unbelievers because of their wisdom*) Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. 16 So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king. 17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. 21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. 22 "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things (*God will promote you at the correct time*) He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. 23 "To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter." 24 Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king." 25 Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!" 26 The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?" 27 Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. 28 "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed."

Da 2:46-49..."Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel (*unbelievers will recognize believers' wisdom*), and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. 47 The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery." 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court." (*Holy Spirit will raise up teams in Babylonian system*)

Da 3:12..."There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

Da 3:28-30..."Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command (*unbelievers will acknowledge God is with you*)

**when you remain pure and steadfast**), and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 "Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." 30 **Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.**"

Rev 11:15.. "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Rev 18:20... "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

- **The prophetic presence and wisdom of the believer act as light, salt and leaven in the workplace and society.**

Mt 5:13-16... "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 **You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 **Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works (as people watch you in the work place they will glorify God on your behalf), and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**"

Mt 13:33... "He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened." (penetration of believers in all areas of society)

1 Cor 5:6... "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?"

Gal 5:9... 'A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

- **Even the crumbs of wisdom that fall from the believer's table bring healing to the unbelievers and society.**

Mt 15:21-27... "Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon (the abode of unbelievers). 22 And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." 23 But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." 24 But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27 But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." (people will draw from the smallest advice we give them).

- **The church, because of its prophetic presence and wisdom, acts as a restraint of the evil that is in the world. When the believer is removed total chaos will ensue.**

2 Thess 2:7-9... "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 **Then that lawless one will be revealed (when believer is removed lawlessness will break out)** whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is,

the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,"

**DISCUSS:** In what way are you a restraint of evil in your workplace and society?

**5. GOD'S DIVINE FAVOUR IS SEEN IN THE FACT THAT HE HAS FREELY GIVEN (DOREA) US THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR SIGNS, WONDERS, MIRACLES, AND HEALINGS.**

**Jesus was conscious that a supernatural power & Divine Grace was increasing & manifesting itself through him;**

J.D. Dunn... "This was no mere expertise of technique, a "way" with people; nor was it basically a sense of possessing a power of his own, a "strong personality". It was an awareness of "otherly" power working through him. When he spoke or stretched out his hand something happened- the sufferer was relieved, the prisoner freed, the evil departed, this could only be the power of God". (pg 47)

There you have it. When the Kingdom of God and the Spirit of God are present something happens! It is not passive power- but effective, active and manifest power! People in the O.T. had experienced this power, but now it is linked with the Kingdom of God-hence Jesus tells us to pursue this kingdom!

Mt 6:33... "But seek first His kingdom (invisible realm) and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

#### **5.1 An example of unmerited Grace..**

**An example of unmerited grace; ask your cell members 3 questions:**

- Q: Who had a good week?
- Q: Who had a middle of the road week?
- Q: Who had a bad week?

Now give all 3 a small gift ie packet of sweets. No matter what their feelings, they all receive the same. It is an act of grace freely bestowed on each person no matter what their condition.

Mt 5:45... "Your Father in heaven causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**Martin Luther...** "No one can be good and do good unless God's grace first makes him good; and no one becomes good by works, but good works are done only by him who is good. Just so the fruits do not make the tree, but the tree bears the fruit... therefore all works, no matter how good they are and how pretty they look, are in vain if they do not flow from grace."

Martin Luther should know. He tried the legalistic route and it almost killed him. Did you know that actions that do not spring from grace and love – even if they appear good in the eyes of men – are an abomination in the sight of God?

- Saul offers a sacrifice – which is biblical – but because he offers it in rebellion it is an abomination... 1 Sam 13:8-14
- Israel brings sacrifices by the thousands – but because of their heart attitudes it makes God sick... Isa 1:11-20, Amos 4:4-5 cf Mt 5:23-26
- Pharisees keep the Sabbath and other traditions, but are total hypocrites inciting the anger of Jesus... Mt 23:1-36 (hot reading!).
- Prayer, giving money, fasting are good spiritual exercises, but are an abomination to God if the attitude is incorrect... Mt 6:1-18
- Speaking in tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith, liberality, martyrdom – if not done from the well of love are absolutely profitless... 1 Cor 13:1-3 cf Mt 7:22-23

### Collins English Dictionary on Grace;

- *“The granting of a favour especially by a superior”*
- *“The free and unmerited favour of God shown towards men”*
- *“The Divine assistance and power given to men in spiritual rebirth”*
- *“An unmerited gift, favour, granted by God”*

**Bede Jarrett**... *“It is the gift of God which is only given to us to draw us onto God himself”*

**Martin Luther**... *“Grace I understand here properly as the favour of God as it should be understood, and not as a quality of soul”*

**Ronald A. Knox**... *“Grace does not replace nature, it perfects nature, transmits something that belongs to earth and makes it flow with the radiance of heaven”*

**New Bible Dictionary**... *“Grace- is used of the action of a superior, human or divine, to an inferior. It speaks of undeserved favour”*

**You and I are alive today simply because of God’s grace. We don’t deserve it- He simply gives it.** In the passage mentioned above various people are asked to come to a feast (Lk 14:16-24). They are invited by grace. God makes the “sun to rise on the evil and the good.” This is the open hand of God’s grace.

**John Wesley** ... *“There is no man, unless he has quenched the Spirit, that is wholly void of the grace of God ... it is more properly termed **prevenient grace** ... so that no man sins because he has not grace, but because he does not use the grace that he has”*

**Pope** ... *“The power by which man co-operates with grace is itself grace.”*

**Fletcher** ... *“Free grace removes (in part) the total blindness which Adam’s fall brought upon us.”*

### 5.2 Faith is a free gift of the Grace of the Holy Spirit..

**Paul constantly speaks of God “giving” us grace and faith. Notice the stress the Holy Spirit puts on the word “gives”:**

Paul speaks about God “giving” us “grace.” For Paul “grace” is equivalent to “power.” It is another supernatural power dynamically working in one’s life. It is not something passive. “Grace” for Paul is something supernatural that can clearly be seen manifesting itself and making itself visible in some miraculous way. This is “given” to us freely.

Rom 12:3... **“For through the grace given (Gk “dorea”) me... as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”**

Rom 12:6... **“We have gifts (“charismata”) that differ according to the grace given (“dorea”) to us... exercise them... according to the proportion of faith.”**

1 Cor 12:7-8... **“To each one (i.e. everybody) is given (“dorea”) the manifestation (something supernatural you could visibly see) of the Spirit for the common good. For one is given (“dorea”) faith, wisdom, knowledge, healings, miracles, prophecy, tongues.”**

Eph 2:8... **“For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourself. It is the gift (“dorea”) of God not as a result of works that no one should boast.”**

**Vincent Word Studies of the New Testament on “give”:**  
*“To give with the implied notion of giving freely – unforced.”*

**Kittel**... *“A gift with the multiplication of grace.”*

**Dict. of N.T. Theology**... *“A present, gift, bestowed and denotes especially a complimentary gift.”*

Doesn’t it feel great when someone freely gives you a ticket to a rugby match or a show? Hey man – it feels lekker! That’s how God gives us faith. Free!

**DISCUSS:** Share the exhilaration of a time when someone gave you a free gift.

### 5.3 Grace is an “energy” and “empowerment” of the Holy Spirit (See “Hand” = “energy”)

**L. Berkhof**... *“Grace is not an **abstract** quality, but is an **active, working** principle... There are clear indications that is not a mere passive quality, but and **active force**, a **power**, something that **labours**. In this sense of the word it is something like a synonym for the Holy Spirit, so there is little difference between: “full of the Holy Spirit” and “full of grace and power”. (Acts 6:5, 8)*

**J.D. Dunn**... *“For Paul grace is not something merely believed in, but **something experienced**... the experience of God’s Spirit. For Paul grace does not mean an attitude or disposition of God. For Paul grace means power.”*

**There you have it. Grace is an anointing an “energy” and “empowerment” of the Holy Spirit** . Grace is a divine living energy and operation of the Holy Spirit in the spirit of both unbelievers and believers. This grace / power manifests itself in our internal life making itself real in our interiors.

Gn 6:3... "My **spirit** strives with man"  
 Gn 6:8... "Noah found grace (**energy**) in the eyes of the Lord."  
 Gn 20:6... "I kept you from sinning against **me**."  
 Jb 1:10... "Thou hast made a **hedge** about him." (immunity from evil)  
 Ps 78:40-41... "They **grieved** him in the desert... They **limited (vexed)** the Holy One."  
 Ps 106:33... "They **rebelled** against his Spirit."  
 Isa 63:10... "They **grieved** his Holy Spirit."  
 Mt 12:31... "They **blasphemed** the Spirit."  
 Acts 5:3... "... **lied** to the Holy Spirit."  
 Acts 5:9... "... put the Spirit to the **test**."  
 Acts 7:51... "...always **resisting** the Holy Spirit just as your fathers..."  
 Acts 16:30... "What must I do to be saved?" (**conviction**)  
 Acts 17:27... "You seek God and **grope** for him and find him."  
 Rom 1:18-19... "**suppress** the truth ... God made it **evident** to them"  
 Eph 4:30... "**grieve** the Holy Spirit."  
 1 Thess 5:19... "**quench** the Spirit."  
 Heb 6:4-6, 10:29... "**insulted** the Spirit of grace."

All of these activities on behalf of man towards the Holy Spirit or anointing reveal that we are dealing with the Holy Spirit as a person. He is striving, energizing, keeping, being grieved, lied to, insulted, grieved, quenched. These energies or powers of the anointing are manifestations of his activities. (See "Holy Spirit and dynamic or powers").

We know experientially the grace of Jesus ... 2 Cor 8:9

**Gods Grace is something dynamic-an existential event & a ongoing empowerment..**

**a) God's act in the present-** Dunn (p. 202)

"Charis". For Paul "grace" does not mean an attribute or disposition of God - grace is God's eschatological deed - an act of God **in the present**.

**b) A dynamic experience..**

For Paul grace is not something merely believed in but **something experienced**.

**c) Experience of power and Spirit...**

For Paul grace means "power" and "otherly" at work in and through the believers life, the **experience** of God's Spirit.

**d) A tangible and verifiable reality..**

Grace was for Paul a **tangible and verifiable reality** as much as its correlative "Spirit."

**e) Not a benediction of formality...**

Paul's greetings and benedictions at the opening and closing of his letters are no mere formality. Paul's most earnest and constant wish for his converts is that they may experience grace.

**MEDITATE on the following gifts of grace that you have never merited but are freely bestowed on you:**

▪ **Gift of life..**

- **Gift of children...**
- **Gift of laughter...**
- **Certain talents..**
- **The 5 senses...**
- **Friendship...**

- When the Holy Spirit or anointing gives us a hunger for the supernatural and divine encounters he will not secretly withhold the power to keep us in suspension!
- To suppose the Holy Spirit tells us of his diverse charismatic activities and then withholds us from experiencing them – is to insult him. Why marvel at unbelief for signs and wonders, if people are unable to believe for them?
- Faith to believe is present through the impartation of the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:8). The believe for the supernatural is there long before it is exercised. Otherwise how can God expect us to receive miracles, signs and wonders and withhold the power to do so?
- All the healing miracles – when people were commanded to do something – prove that up until that time they were not exercising the faith freely given (dorea) them by God to move in the supernatural.
- Faith for the supernatural is the gift of God, as sight is to eyes, hearing is to ears, smell is to the nose, feeling is to the touch and taste is to the tongue.
- If God commanded us to desire the Holy Spirit (Isa 55:1-2, Lk 11:10-13 Ho!!) – does that not mean he wants to give it to us?
- If Jesus says that it is as easy to forgive sins as to tell a lame man to walk, surely the Spirit is imparting the ability for both, for Jesus to say the person is enabled to do it shows that it is possible. If not, Jesus must be insincere.
- If we are told to "desire earnestly" the supernatural manifestations and activities of the Holy Spirit – is it not moral and spiritual insanity to desire less?
- If all the promises of the Holy Spirit outpourings are "yes and Amen" – is this not given by him to stimulate us to expect fulfilment?

## Workshop; Give H.S. an opportunity to move!

(See healing chart-Millennium promises)

***In the New Testament the word grace and favour are used interchangeably. Signs and wonders are a gift of God's divine favour.***

Act 4:33... “

Act 14:13... “

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS ARE GIFTS OF GRACE. YOU CANNOT “EARN” THEM IN ANY WAY..**

### **5.4 The Holy Spirit wants us to be free! Not bound by legalism..**

***Listen as Paul's heart cries out for people past freedom to be regained;***

Galatians 4:29-5:1 “But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. [30] Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman. [31] So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. [5:1] Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

The law was a teacher to lead us to grace and faith but people were going back to the teacher. (3:24-25). They were being led – bewitched – back into bondage. Freedom had become a memory and the law had once again chained the believers. Souls in bondage can create nothing free. God has now, for the Galatian believers, become an autocrat.

### **5.4 Miracles, signs & wonders are manifestations of grace and faith..**

Paul faces the grace-killers head on. It's in-your-face truth. If you think you can work miracles by the flesh – you are accused. Not only that you are bewitched. Strong stuff.

Galatians 1:6-10 ... “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: [7] Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. [8] But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. [9] As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. [10] For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Galatians 3:1... “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”

***To exercise faith is easy - it is a free gift of grace given to us by the Holy Spirit.***

### **1. To be born again is easy..simply ask!**

To suppose that God wants us to be born again (Jn 3:16), be filled continuously with the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk 11:10-13, Eph 5:18), and then withhold from us the ability to do so – is to directly insult him!

Heb 10:29... “insulted the Spirit of grace”.

### **2. To receive miracles is easy – Holy Spirit is attracted to faith..**

For Jesus to be utterly amazed and bewildered for people not to be receiving physical healing yet not giving them the ability to do so is to question his sincerity and honesty!

Mk 6:5-6... “He was not able to do one miracle there and he marvelled at their unbelief.”

Acts 14:8-10... “At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he leaped up and began to walk.”

Gal 3:2-5... “This is the only thing I want to find out from you: **did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? (Faith attracts the Holy Spirit)** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? So then, **does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles** among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by **hearing with faith?**” (*Faith attracts miracles*).

### **3. To experience and receive grace is easy..**

Everybody through absolute free grace has been freely given the ability to believe God for the supernatural. Faith for the supernatural is the gift of God. As *sight* is given to the eyes, as *hearing* is given to the ears, as *smell* is given to the nose – so *faith* is given for the supernatural.

Eph 2:8 ... “By **grace** (“charis”) you have been **saved** through **faith** and that **not of yourselves**; it is the **gift** (“dorea”) of God, not as a result of works that no one should boast.”

**Surely you don't congratulate a person for receiving a free gift!** If they had to work for it - blood, sweat and tears stuff – then you could give them credit. But to eulogize someone for simply taking something from your open hand is to put the congratulations in the wrong place.

Phil 2:13... “Remember it is **God** who in his kindness, **is at work within you, enabling** you both to **will** and to **work** for his good pleasure... **Constantly giving you energy** to do what he wants.”

### **4. It is as easy to receive spiritual healing as it is to receive physical healing. The Holy Spirit is attracted to faith.**

Lk 5:17-26... “One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and **the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing**. And *some* men *were* carrying on a

bed a man who was **paralyzed**; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. **Seeing their faith (Holy Spirit is attracted to faith)**, He said, "**Friend, your sins are forgiven you.**" The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this *man* who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? **Which is easier**, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?' "But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—**He said to the paralytic**—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." **Immediately** he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. They were all struck with astonishment and *began* glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

**DISCUSS:** What does it mean "He is as much my saviour as He is my healer?"

**DISCUSS:** If it takes the same amount of spiritual power to forgive one of my sins and to heal my body, why is the latter so infrequent?

### 5. It is as easy to receive the Holy Spirit as it is to receive miracles

Gal 3:2-5... "This is the only thing I want to find out from you: **did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law**, or by **hearing with faith (Holy Spirit is attracted to faith)**? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the **flesh**? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? So then, does He **who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles** among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by **hearing with faith?** (**Holy Spirit is attracted to faith**)."

**DISCUSS:** What does it mean "The Holy Spirit is attracted to faith." ?

### 6. Desire it is easy – it brings you immediately into the realm of the supernatural

1 Cor 12:31... "But **earnestly desire the greater gifts**. And I show you a still more excellent way."

1 Cor 14:1... "Pursue love, yet **desire earnestly spiritual gifts**, but **especially** that you may **prophecy**."

**DISCUSS:** If desire is the barometer for the Holy Spirit to perform miracles, does this reveal to us how little desire we really have?

### 7. Grace freely imparts the ability to receive spiritual gifts

Rom 12:3-8... "For through the **grace given to me** I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God **has allotted** to each a **measure of faith**. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ **according to the grace given to us**, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his **faith**; if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching;

or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness."

1 Cor 12:4-11... "Now **there are varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. There are **varieties of effects**, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. But to **each one is given** the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is **given the word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, and to another the **effecting of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."

1 Pet 4:10-11... "As **each one has received a special gift**, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever **speaks**, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever **serves** *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

### 8. Its easy to receive spiritual inheritances..

We often think of an inheritance as something physical, a family heirloom, a sum of money, a piece of real estate etc. There are however spiritual inheritance as well as material ones. The word inheritance is used in various places in the bible

**What happens then to children who die and never receive their inheritance?** What happens to the inheritances of great men and women of God both in biblical times and in our day and age who seemingly die prematurely? Do these inheritances just disappear? There is a fascinating story in 2 Kings 7 about the four leprous men who move over into the camp of the enemy. The enemy has fled and the booty that has been left was of silver, gold and clothes and various types of equipment. This was their inheritance of faith waiting lying in the field. Are there such inheritances or mantles lying in the spirit world awaiting someone to pick them up? **There are some scriptures other than just inheritance scriptures that tell us they are waiting for someone of faith to appropriate.**

➤ **There are promises in the spirit waiting to be fulfilled...**

Heb 4:4-11... "3For we who have **believed enter that rest**, just as He has said, AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.4For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS"; 5and again in this passage, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.6Therefore, **since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,**7He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."8For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.9So **there remains** a Sabbath rest for the people of God.10For the one who has entered His rest has

himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.<sup>11</sup>Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

➤ **Some people died before they received the promises..**

\*\*\* **O.T. Believers didn't received the promises..**

Heb 11:13...All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Heb 11...<sup>39</sup>And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,<sup>40</sup>because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect=*tel-i-o'-o* G5048

**How on earth do we “perfect” or “complete” those in the presence of God?...see below**

The word “perfect” or “complete in the above text is *tel-i-o'-o* meaning; to complete, that is, (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character) consecrate, finish, fulfil, (make) perfect.

\*\*\* **People that were martyred& in heaven didn't received the promises..**

Rev. 6.9-11.. <sup>9</sup>When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; <sup>10</sup>and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup>And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

▪ **The apostle Paul didn't received all the promises..**

1.Cor.15-50-55...<sup>50</sup>Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,<sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.<sup>53</sup>For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.<sup>54</sup>But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.<sup>55</sup>O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

▪ **Yet the bible says all of Gods promises will be fulfilled..**

2.Cor.1.17-20..<sup>17</sup>Therefore, I was not vacillating when I intended to do this, was I? Or what I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there will be yes, yes and no, no at the same time? <sup>18</sup>But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.<sup>19</sup>For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us--by me and Silvanus and Timothy--was not yes and no, but is yes in Him.<sup>20</sup>For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes;

therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

Mth.5.18-19.. "For truly I say to you until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.<sup>19</sup>Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**The word accomplished G1096=*ginomai***

A prolonged and middle form of a primary verb; to cause to be ("gen" -erate), that is, (reflexively) to become (come into being be brought (to pass), (be) come (to pass), continue, be divided, be, be ended, be finished, , be fulfilled, be ordained to be, partake, pass, be performed, be published.

Mat. 24:35.. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Mat.6.9-10..Pray, then, in this way:'Our Father who is in heaven,Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom comeYour will be done,On earth as it is in heaven.

I think it was Shakespeare that said "The evil men do lives on long after them, the good they do is interred in their bones." Maybe we can change it to "the anointing and scriptures men have, live on after them for others, the evil they do has been killed on the cross".

**How on earth do we “perfect” or “complete” those in the presence of God? By receiving their anointing, mantels, promises & spiritual inheritances! (See "Generational Blessings")**

**Notice how that the anointing and mantle of Elijah was transferred to Elisha whose very bones, when he died, was saturated with that mantle anointing raising a man from the dead..**

2 Kg 13:20-21... "

When we receive a mantle inheritance from the Spirit we receive authority, supernatural power, gifting and divine favour and supernatural call.

**How do we get a mantle? - do what Elisha did, passionately pursue it, ask for it and be determined to get it!**

In Hebrews 11 we have a portrait of many mantles. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Samuel, and so on. Where have those mantles gone? In some strange way they were not fully completed. (Heb 11:13,39) Amazingly it appears that we can receive and tap in to these inheritances in the spirit. (Heb 4:4-11) The writer of Hebrews goes on to say that we can complete them. Read this following verse.

Heb 11:40... "

Here the writer says that we have got something better than them and that they did not reach their fullness, it is people of faith that reach in to their mantles that complete what they left undone having died without having received the promises. It is we who make them "perfect". This word "perfect" is the word "telos" (5048 from 5056) meaning "to set out for a definite point or goal" "the point aimed at as a limit" "the conclusion or termination of a state", "to reach the ultimate or prophetic purpose."

**What is life like in heaven? Look at this verse..**

Rev.6 9-11 When he ripped off the fifth seal, I saw the souls of those killed because they had held firm in their witness to the Word of God. They were gathered under the Altar, and cried out in loud prayers, "How long, Strong God, Holy and True? How long before you step in and avenge our murders?" Then each martyr was given a white robe and told to sit back and wait until the full number of martyrs was filled from among their servant companions and friends in the faith

**Notice the continuity between heaven and earth in this text, the martyrs testimony extends back to their lives on earth.** What is their prayer on the other side of eternity?.."How long, Strong God, Holy and True? How long before you step in and avenge our murders?.."Those in heaven ask questions, they know what is happening on earth, they have a keen sense of justice, there is time in heaven-how long?

**How do we make those who are dead perfect or complete?**

By picking up their mantle inheritances and completing what they started in history and in their lives. There are many mantles in history that we can pick up in the spirit that may not have run their course. People such as Savonarola, Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther, Smith Wigglesworth, Woodworth-Etter etc.

**When God gives a mantle He thinks in terms of generations and the transference of inheritances in the spirit. What are you leaving to your generation?**

Ps 105:8... "

Iza 59:16... "

## 6. ACTIVATING GOD'S DIVINE FAVOUR AND SPIRITUAL INHERITANCES.

This is the year of God's divine favour on your life. It is the year of God's increasing favour on your life. What you need to do is to ask Him for it, pursue Him for it, and activate by faith in your life, into the market place ministry.

**Gods Favour;**

- lasts for a life time... (Pv 30:5)
- It gives strength... (Pv 89:17)
- Seeking for it brings it... (Pv 11:27)
- Its given to those who act wisely... (Pv 14:35)
- Its better than silver and gold... (Pv 22:1)

## C. HOW TO MAKE THE WORD AND SPIRIT BECOME FLESH.

This is all fine and good you may say, but what practical thing can you do for the year to make the word and spirit become flesh?

### 1. Find a biblical text or texts for the year and embody it by being obedient to what it says. A simple example!

Lk.4.17-19.. 17And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18" THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." 20And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Another text we as a church are using to embody this year is Ex 23:20-31. We have found a "place" where God wants us to make his "Name" and "Glory" known and seen. So we are putting up a building / tent to facilitate His desires that will benefit many people.

Ex 23:20... "20 "Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared."

**Discuss:** What are you as an individual and as a cell doing to put finance towards the building project a "Sermon in Stone or in a tent!"

### 2. God may choose a text for you Himself!

**Joseph had a text chosen for Him by God!** (Ps 105:24)

- ❖ If God could give a donkey a text... (Zc 9:9)
- ❖ If God could give some dogs a prophecy to fulfill... (Ex 11:7, 1 Kg 9:10, 36)
- ❖ If God could get bees to fulfill scripture... (Ex 23:27)
- ❖ If God could get bears to fulfill a prophets word... (2 Kgs 2:23)
- ❖ If God could "prepare" a big fish to bring about his purposes... (Jonah 1:17)
- ❖ If God can get a fish to pay tax... (Mth 17:24)
- ❖ If God can get a text out of Jesus' mouth to get a prophetic cock to fulfill his text... (Mth 26:34, 74f, Mk 14:30, 68, 72, Jhn 18:27)

**If God had scriptures for animals to embody surely he has a text with your name on it?**

**Has this text been chosen as a designer garment to fit you?**

Jhn 16:2... "2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God"

**Discuss:** What do you need to do spiritually that will make people want to kill you!

Mth 19:12... "12 "For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it."

**Discuss:** What is the easiest way to become an eunuch?

### 3. Sometimes you may be fulfilling embodying texts without knowledge you are being used of God!

There is a phenomena that occurs in scripture and life that people don't even realize God is using them to fulfil His word. It may be on reflection that they then see it. Did all those O.T. and N.T. people who are mentioned in the bible know their lives were becoming scripture?

- ❖ Did Caesar Augustus know he was fulfilling God's word? (Lk 2:1-7)
- ❖ What of Joseph taking Jesus to Africa (Mth 1:13-15)
- ❖ What of Pilate and Herod?

Act 4:27-28... "27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,  
28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur." (God will even make unbelievers fulfil his word!)

- ❖ Then there were the dice throwers and the one that pierced Jesus with a spear (Ps 22:16-18)
- ❖ The soldier who didn't break Jesus' bones...(Jhn 19:32-37)

**Discuss:** When you look back on your life do you see yourself having fulfilled a certain text? Share your testimony.

### 4. When we receive prophetic words over our life (words are spirit) God may require us to fulfil them.

1 Tim 1:18... "18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight"

1 Tim 4:14-15... "14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, (spirit transference) which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. 15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all."

**Discuss:** What prophecies over your life ....

- Have been fulfilled...?
- Are in the process of being fulfilled...?
- Are waiting for you to do something...?

**Discuss:** Is it possible that a prophetic word can stop you from dying before your time? (Lk 2:25-26)

**Enjoy!**(See also "First Principle – Déjà vu", "Simple Bible meditation", "The One world of Christ." "Tithing – weapon of Spiritual warfare")