

*Father, give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation that I might know You better. Lord, open the eyes of my heart that I might know the hope to which You have called me. Enable me to walk in that hope all the days of my life. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

There was something which Elisha did when he had to start afresh when Elijah disappeared and the mantle fell on him. If you remember, when he crossed Jordan, he took Elijah's old mantle and he struck Jordan and said, "If the God of Elijah is with me, if that anointing is upon me, then let it start working." Something which God has taught me always, when I've gone to places and started new, even this time when we are beginning new with the old Church. I said, "Lord, something which I am going to do which You've always taught me to do in Assam and in Bhutan is that I will not call anybody. If you are the God of Elijah and Elisha, then they will call and they will come. I will not call anybody." I have never called anybody in Bhutan or in Assam, because I need to believe that, You are the God who sent the animals to Noah. Noah's job was to build the Ark, God's job was to send the animals. Noah was wondering, "How will I gather?" God said, "They will be sent to you." I am not an evangelist, evangelists go out and get people. I am not an Evangelist. Yesterday also, I was with an Evangelist and I was telling him, "I just can't do evangelism." I would fail terribly if I do it because that's not the office which God has called me to. Each one of us functions in an office which God has given, we don't try to switch offices. If God has given you an office, you function within that office. So today, as we look into the Word of God. I want you to turn with me to the *Book of Revelation*.

### **Revelation 17:14**

***<sup>14</sup> These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.***

The Lamb will always overcome. The reason why the Lamb will overcome, Jesus will overcome because He is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. But with Him are a set of people and those set of people who will be with Him have to go through a process: they are called – step 1, they are chosen- stage 2 and the final stage is that they are faithful. If is not enough that we are called, it is not enough that we are chosen, we also need to be faithful. And when we are called and chosen and proven that we are faithful, we will become the set of people who will always accompany the Lamb throughout eternity. *Many are called but few are chosen*. Few are chosen but even few are found faithful.

If you read the account of the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt, it is written about Moses that he was found faithful in the House of God. The others were not found faithful; they were called, many were chosen but Moses was found faithful. And you need to realize that this is the process even in the New Covenant.

### **John 8:31-32**

***<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."***

### **Acts 11:22-26**

***<sup>22</sup> News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup> He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. <sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.***

Nowadays, we call everybody 'Christians'. People are named Christian, and the Church is called Christian. But if we look at *John 8:31*, it says, "To the Jews who believed in Him." They already believed in Him. The first stage is that you and I first become believers. To those who believed in Him, Jesus said, "If you truly hold on to My teachings, you will become My disciples. From believers to disciples; the process is called Discipleship; from believers to becoming disciples. But there at Antioch, those who believed and were disciples, Barnabas realized, "I can't handle it, I have reached my limit." And he went and got Saul. Then, Barnabas and Saul met there for a year and taught the disciples and the disciples became Christians.

They now had the right or were approved of God to take the name Christian. This is the same process that *Revelation* is talking about called, chosen and faithful. God is saying, “If you call ourselves a Christian, you are saying that you are faithful and will accompany Me all through eternity – called, chosen and faithful.” And you need to realize that our call is to be faithful. It is not that God want to deny us anything. Our God is a God who doesn’t want to deny. He wants to lift us up higher and higher, but He cannot lift us up unless He tests us. And we don’t realize that the tests are not in the big things; the tests are in the small things. And Jesus said, “Those who are faithful in small things.” It is easy to be faithful in big things. We know it is big and we know I need to be faithful. But to be faithful in small things is what is very difficult. And I know everyone sitting here are here because you all believe. I do not know; maybe some of you are believers, and some are disciples or maybe all of you are faithful. I do not know, that is something between God and us alone. We need to realize that we’ve been called to be faithful in small things, in the little things. And why this is important is because it will determine your eternity. We are building a Church; we are building a set of people. The job of every man/woman of God who is in the ministry is to build up a set of people who will accompany the Lamb. I cannot stand on the pulpit and say, “it’s okay, even if you don’t accompany the Lamb. It’s fine as long as you reach Heaven and stay around in the fringes. No! You wouldn’t do that with our children. Sanju is here, she has passed and got a first class and we are happy. The first kid, among the young generation, the first one to do her class 10 and she has passed in the first division. But, what if the parents say, “It’s okay, even if you just passed it is fine for me, it doesn’t matter”? It wouldn’t work. We have people who are college principles and those who teach in colleges, we know that we want our students to do well. We don’t want our students to do badly. There is no teacher I think; unless you have a personal axe to grind with some student, who wants somebody to fail. When God is saying these things, we need to realize that He is not putting commandments and rules. He is saying, “I don’t want you to fail. I will put you through the same tests that I put my Son through. I did not approve Him until I found Him faithful.” So, the first statement of the Father about the Son, before the Son steps into ministry is “This is My Son, in whom I am well pleased.” He hasn’t started His ministry at all. So Jesus had to go through the same grading, the same tests- maybe tougher tests than each one of us. And it is a test in little things. And I believe He had a real tough time not the way TV preachers preach today; it is not true. It is very clear if you read the Book of Deuteronomy that when Mary and Joseph go to make their offering after Jesus is born; they don’t offer a lamb. They offer two doves. That was kept only for the very poor who couldn’t even buy a lamb. Some preacher who was preaching recently said that Joseph and Mary were very rich because they had gold and silver, which the kings had given. But that was provision, because God had told them to go to Egypt and this was provision to take care of them. And yet when Jesus begins His ministry what is told about Him is “Isn’t He the Carpenter, the Son of Joseph and Mary.” How many of you believe that a carpenter today – two thousand years later, is rich? Do you really believe that a carpenter two thousand years ago was rich? There is no record about Jesus’ father in the Bible after the age of twelve. So, history presumes he died early. Scripture talks about Jesus having at least six or seven brothers and sisters. So being the eldest He was taking care of the family. He was living with a Mother, with the younger brothers and sisters, assuming the role of the father- the bread provider of that house and living with a people who are under the law and not grace. Under grace we have the power to overcome sin. We can be good people, better people than the people in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, there was no grace released to overcome sin, the way we have today. So, He grew up in a system, in a situation where He was tested every day. And Scripture says that He was tempted at all points and yet did not sin.

Now God is saying that He is the firstborn among many. He is the firstborn and all of us who receive Jesus in our spirits are born from above as younger brothers and sisters of Jesus. And He says, “This is the road.” But I am telling you Church: this process of testing will continue all our life. This testing is not because God is a tyrant sitting over there and finds joy in seeing His people being miserable, no. This is a loving father who wants to raise His children up and gather a set of people who will be faithful to the last, people who will be overcomers. Ten times in the Book of Revelations it talks about overcoming and each time the overcomers have to overcome the test. What you are going to face tomorrow is a test. What Sashi is going to face tomorrow is a test. What Ektha is going to face when she goes home is a test but you need to realize that God will not allow you or me to go through a test without providing the grace to overcome. That is exactly His Word. Though people say, “I can’t handle it.” That is against Scripture. It is against Scripture because God says He will never allow us to go through any situation which His grace will not enable us to overcome. Otherwise, it wouldn’t be fare, like if a teacher giving an exam paper and all the questions are out of a portion that he/she never taught. And then kids cry ‘fowl!’, saying out of syllabus. Our Father in Heaven never sets an exam paper which is out of syllabus. He says, “*My grace is more than sufficient.*” What He is saying is that, “I want to show the enemy and I want to show all those saints sitting there in Heaven, including Adam that you can overcome sin. I want to show them that I am raising up a generation of overcomers.” Overcoming what? Not each other, but overcoming sin and sin in the Bible for us believers is not the Ten Commandments,

it is not what we think, it is *Romans 14:23, everything that is not of faith is sin*. That is the simple reason we study the Word, we meet through the week. The Apostles gathered every day of the week and taught the Church the Word of God, why? So that faith would arise. So that they could walk by faith and when you walk by faith you overcome. You overcome sin and when you overcome, you become a part of that faithful.

To be called is very simple. Jesus said, *“Unless the Father draws, nobody can come to Me.”* We are all here because the Father and the Spirit of God drew us. Otherwise, we couldn’t accept Him. How could Ektha accept the Lord? At least, we grew up in Christian families, but people like Ektha, Anisha – all those who have come from absolutely non-Christian families. They wouldn’t have accepted the Lord, but the Spirit of God has to draw us. We are called and then, from the time of calling; in the initial years, the testimonies will be like Ektha said, *“I say ‘Lord’ and He is here.”* Do you know why? Because that’s the way I deal with My younger ones. *“You are a small child. Here, I’ll help you out,”* but as you start growing He will also start withdrawing a little and says, *“Now you have to overcome your tests by faith. Otherwise, you will never grow up and you will not become an overcomer. As we come to the Lord in our initial stages of our growth, God will help us out even in the tiniest situation but as we keep growing God will start allowing the tests to become tougher and tougher and will tell, “Stand on your feet, on My Word and overcome.” You can overcome, because it is written in the Book of Revelation that they overcame him (the enemy), by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. That is how there is a testimony. There is a testimony when we stand on the Word of God and we see our victory. If we step outside the Word of God we see defeat. God says, “Stand on My Word and you will see victory.” And that’s how God brings us through.*

Today, what I want to talk to you about is that: to be faithful to God, to be part of that faithful band we need to get one thing always right, straight in the beginning. Your and my priority; as individuals and as a Church, our first priority is always God. It is God and not man. It is always God, it is not man.

People sometimes get hurt when we have to take tough decisions when we put God first. I know I’ve hurt quite a few people in the past few weeks. But the thing is that I love people, but my loyalty is to my God. At the end of the day I need to ask myself, *“Am I serving people or am I serving God?”* If I serve people, I need to serve God first. If these two don’t go hand in hand we go wrong, because in the Church and the History of Bible we see people have gone wrong when the people on top decided, I will serve people and stopped serving God. When God talks about priesthood He says to the sons of Zadok, *“First you shall come to Me and minister to Me. Only after you have ministered to Me, you can go and minister to the people. But if we are not able to minister to God, then everything that we do becomes irrelevant. Everything, it doesn’t matter how successful it is, it is irrelevant in the sight of God. Lot was a very successful man until fire came down. When the angels of God found Lot he was a city elder in Sodom. For an alien to come to an alien city and to reach that position, makes him extremely successful, but when he came out, there was nothing. During that period of prosperity and success people did not see it. Today there is no legacy for him, he has not left anything. Have you heard about any nations called Moab and Ammon? Yet there was a man – his uncle, who stood there and refused to make a choice until God told him, lift up your head and look, east, west, north, south then choose and he choose. That man has left a legacy which is still there in the middle-east, the name of his son Israel and about him it is written: Abraham was faithful.*

God is asking us’ *“Will you be faithful even in the little things which you do?”* Faithful in our personal lives every day, faithful in our professional lives every day. He is not telling you to be perfect, only He can make us perfect but He says, *“Will you be faithful to what you know?”* You have received this much (little) Word brother, will you be faithful to that? You’ve received this much (a little more) Word brother, will you be faithful to that? And I believe when he is faithful to this (little) it will increase. *And to whom much is given, much is required.* God told this about the children of Israel, *“Ten times you disobeyed Me and ten times I forgave you.”* One time Moses disobeyed, God told him, *“You will not enter into the Promised Land.”* He told the children of Israel, *“You will also not enter the Promised Land.”* The punishment was the same, but the quantum of mistake was different. Here ten and here one. Why? To him (Moses) much was granted, to them little was granted because they only sought little. He sought much and God gave him much, but because he was so faithful. When you are faithful in God’s House, even when you make one mistake God says, *“I will not forget your service for Me.”* The service of faithfulness of My servant. The only thing is that, Moses had to wait fifteen hundred years to enter the Promised Land, but when He entered the Promised Land, he did not enter like Joshua and all; he entered with a bang. He entered on the Mount of Transfiguration in glory along with Jesus. That’s how he entered. Most people do not realize He entered the Promised Land, but he had to wait fifteen hundred years. That’s how he entered. God will never forget your faithfulness. If

you've been faithful in God's Kingdom, if you've been faithful in God's House, He will not forget it. Maybe a period of time will elapse where He keeps on testing you, but He will not forget that. He said He will not forget it. He is a God who puts so much premium on faithfulness, because in Timothy He says, *"Even when you are unfaithful I am still faithful, because I cannot deny Myself."* Do you understand what it means? It means He is a God of faithfulness. He says, *"That's My nature, I am a faithful God, when I say something I do it. When I say something, I mean it. I am a faithful God, so I will not deny Myself and I am looking for people who will be faithful."* Here God will keep on testing us to see whether we will be faithful. I want you to turn with me to *2 Timothy*. The letters Paul writes to Timothy are beautiful letters because it is like a father to a son or from a teacher to a student, telling, *"Look, this is the way of discipleship, calling, chosen to being faithful."*

### **2 Timothy 2:4**

***<sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs. He wants to please his commanding officer.***

There he says, all of us sitting here are soldiers and we have a Commanding Officer, His name is Jesus Christ. Now, we are in Mehedipatnam; when you go to that junction, on the other side the cantonment begins. You have the army area, when you go back you have to go through the cantonment. But if you look at the soldiers there, they do a whole lot of stuff which we also do. They have IT there, they have schools, they have colleges, they have boards, and they all can function exactly the way you do in your workplaces. They have doctors, they have everything. Everything you talk about, they have it. Yet, they don't function the way we function. They know they are an army; they serve to please their commanding officer. For them their regiment and their commanding officer is what's important and they will do what the commanding officer tells them. That's what Paul is telling Timothy. Timothy, you are a soldier, don't get side tracked. Don't get side tracked in the way you function. Don't get side tracked in the way you do things because you serve a commanding officer and you need to please Him. You and I need to please Him because we have been enlisted. We are not conscripts; we enlisted voluntarily into the Army of God. Don't get entangled in the things of the world. You work in the world but don't get entangled in it. You need to please your commanding officer. That is one of the first commandments he gives Timothy. Then, look at *2 Timothy 2:15*

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

***<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by God.*** (It is not like God will do it all and I just have to lie down in a vacuum. It is not like that, He says, *"There are a lot of stuff that you need to do."* Present yourself as what? As one approved by God. Are you approved by God? God says, *Approved by God, as what?* ) ***A workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth.***

Now, this is not talking about pastors alone, it is talking about everybody. Whatever field you are working in, please try to be the best. This is one problem with Christians is that they are mediocre workers. I am not talking about this group, you are all excellent. What I am talking about is this general tendency is there for Christians to be mediocre workers saying that Grace will take care of the rest. That's not what God is talking about. God is saying, *"You need to be excellent"* because we have Grace, we have more reason to be excellent. The difference between the world and us is that they don't have Grace. We have Grace; Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit, released into our lives for every situation that you or I can face. That is available to us freely, we just need to God's throne room of Grace by faith and receive it. God says, *"That's the promise: I shall make you the head and not the tail, you shall be above and not below, and the work of your hands shall be blessed, whether you are in the country or in the city."* That's the promise God gives in *Deuteronomy 28*, He says, *"There are no limitations, you shall be the best. You can be the best"* So He says, *"but do your best."* ***Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed.*** You don't have to be ashamed. Can you imagine being in a workplace and saying, *"I'm sorry, I do not know, I did not learn. I didn't do my homework"* God says, *"That sounds ridiculous."* To God it sounds ridiculous, do you know why? Because Scripture says, everyone sitting here who has accepted Jesus has already got the seed, which is the mind of Christ Jesus. Can you imagine Dr Jesus walking into an operation theatre and says, *I don't know what to do.* Can you imagine Jesus walking into an IT sectors and saying *we've got a problem and we don't know how to solve it?* But Jesus says, *"It is already there in you."* The mind of Christ Jesus is there in you. He says, *"What are you doing with it? Are you working on it? Are you doing your best to see that the mind increases with the knowledge of the Word of God and by faith and by grace it increases. That's what it means by I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me. I can do. Why? Because you've got the mind, you've got the grace, you've got the power of the Holy Spirit; it's all there. That is from where we say, "I am not afraid, I do not fear" because we look at what God has given us in the New Covenant. And Paul is telling, "Timothy, the only way you will lose your efficiency in the area where you are working is when you take your eyes off the orders of your Commanding Officer and get involved in civilian affairs." If a soldier does that, then he is immediately court-*

martialled. I've worked with the Army Church for five years as a chaplain, so I know what they do. They have got what is called quarter guards. When you hear the term quarter guards you think it is very nice. It is not, it's their prison. And I've visited the quarter guard and talked to the Christians who were put there. The commanding officer in an army is more powerful than the judges sitting over here. If I am a CO and I don't like you, I can send you for psychiatric evaluation and you end up in the hospital bed for three months. You can't even get out, because the sentry will not let you out. Just one letter, put him in psychiatric evaluation. Your career is ruined for life, you will never get your promotion once you've been sent for career evaluation. And he has just the rank of a Colonel, he is a CO. If he doesn't like Danny he says, "Okay, put him under the quarter guard." And when he comes for court-martial, he is the one who sits as judge. The Army has tremendous power.

Here he is talking to Timothy in those terms. He is saying, "Our God is not like that." He says, "Look, you have a fantastic future ahead of you. A Tremendous future, so don't get side tracked and miss it." I've called you, now between the calling and the choosing there is this test that you have to pass. Then once you are chosen and God entrusts more responsibility onto you, there will be bigger tests to see whether you will be faithful. And you will see that there were very few people in the Bible who were faithful. Very, very few people. There were many who were called, many who were chosen, but faithful? Very few. Paul says, in *2 Timothy*, *in my first defense everybody deserted me and I was all alone*. But he also says, there was One who was faithful: *The Lord Himself stood by me and strengthened me*. There is one who is faithful, who said I will never leave you nor forsake you. Now if you imagine a person like Paul, who literally has written: *My life is poured out like a drink offering*. His life was poured out for the Church, yet when he is arrested and he has to go to court. He is looking for a little moral support. In a Roman court, surrounded by Romans, he stands there all alone. Do you know why? Because there were many whom he ministered and preached and talked and mentored who were called and chosen but in that time, in that city there was nobody who was faithful. He stood there alone, but yet there is One who is faithful; He stood by him and Paul says, strengthened him. It is not enough if you are called, it is not enough that you are chosen. Our ultimate eternal destiny is much bigger than that. God is talking about the royal companion. Two Sundays back, on a Monday when I met Sr. Kundowango and said, "Hey, I didn't see you at Church last Sunday." She said, "I couldn't come his majesty called me for dinner – me alone and I had to go." I said, "yes, you need to go. It is his majesty's dinner" She was a royal companion. Can you imagine ending up in eternity and you getting a calling from Jesus saying, "I've called you for dinner. Not the wedding feast of the lamb alone, but I have called you for dinner after that." Do you know why? Because you were faithful. You were found faithful. What I am saying is that, this is what Jesus is actually talking about: *Eyes haven't seen nor ears heard, what God is preparing for those who love Him*. Those who love Him will be faithful; faithful until the end. That's what God is talking about be faithful till the end. The call is of faithfulness.

And I'm telling you that those who work in the secular field, it is not easy to be faithful, because you face tremendous pressure and if you are in ministry; it is still not easy. It is still difficult because there is always pressure upon you. To run an orphanage, do you think it is easy? It is not easy: you need to get a place; you need to get somebody who is faithful. It is not appointing somebody to take care of an orphanage, because it is God's orphanage. This is not man's orphanage; there are a lot of secular orphanages; government run orphanages, you can appoint anybody over there, but you can't appoint anybody in God's orphanage because you need a mother. You need to mother seven children. To serve God and to be faithful is not easy, if you know the standard He sets. He said, "*I laid my life for you, you lay down your life for my brothers*." That's the standard He sets. John 3:13 and 1John 3:16 he says, "The standard is set; I don't lower the standards" but we lower the standards. He says, "I never lower the standards." So sister needs a lot of grace; to work with seven children who are seven different children. With just two I know what I face and that too from the same womb. You need a lot of Grace, because you are not a supervisor, God has called you to mother seven and bring them up in the knowledge and the instructions of the Lord. And God says, "if you are faithful in that. If you are just faithful in that; to what I've called you, then you will be one of my companions on that day" Called chosen and faithful. Now this sister has been chosen, now begins the next set of testing of being faithful. And the same thing runs for each one of us; in whichever office you are working in. You need to realize; you may be working in HSBC and wherever you are working, in college or school or wherever, your commanding officer still is Jesus. It is easy to work well when your manager is peeping over your shoulders. Yes, you are very busy then but are we busy when he is not peeping? I like some of the things which Joyce Meyer says did your office pin reach home? Did the office pen reach home? Would your Commanding Officer approve of it? Little things, to be faithful in little things is a difficult thing. Put in eight hours of work, we will do it, but don't take a single pin from the office; what? How does it matter? No, it doesn't matter to the company. The company will not say anything. But it does matter to your Commanding officer. Not that He will keep you out of Heaven but He will say, "You were not faithful in that tiny little thing. How many pins did you want? I would have given you the resources to buy a carton full of pins, but I wanted you to be faithful in leaving that one thing there,

because it did not belong to you.” He does not want to disqualify us, but He is a fair and a righteous God, He is a righteous judge. He is not like many of our judges who can be bought or who will wink. He says, “I am righteous, I set everything into motion because I am righteous.” This is not to discourage, this has nothing to do with not entering Heaven. This has got nothing to do with salvation, no. This has much more to do with, than that. You are all saved and that’s the reason you are here. But if salvation is the only end then you don’t have to be here. God is saying, “I don’t want you to get disqualified. I don’t want you to miss out on the great things that I have for you all of eternity. And lets see what Paul says to Timothy in 1Timothy 1:12

**1Timothy 1:12:**

***<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me (faithful) trustworthy, appointing me to his service.***

He gave me strength for what? So that I may be faithful. I thank God because he did not ask me to be faithful, without giving the strength. I thank God for the reward, for the strength, ***I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me (faithful) trustworthy, appointing me to his service.***

Thank God He says, “I was found faithful.” And Paul was found faithful all the way, he was found faithful. Till the end he was found faithful. He was found faithful, he was zealous for God through it all, and there was a point in the Book of Galatians when Paul is a junior apostle and the senior most apostle Peter is there and the one who introduced, junior apostle to senior apostle Barnabas is there and the big man of the Church, James the brother of Jesus; from whom few people have come, but they all have gone wrong. This man is so zealous for God and he doesn’t hide it under the carpet. He publicly rebukes Peter. He is telling in other words, do you know Peter, “His name is at stake. Not your name or my name, we were believers, we were disciples, we are Christians today. We don’t have any other name we just have the name of Christ and His name is at stake and you don’t play with that name.” Peter listened to him and he humbled himself. That’s what God is talking about. And in Philippians 2:19-22

Do you know how many hundreds or thousands of people Paul disciple? Europe was opened up, Asia minor was opened up by that man. But what is he saying? I am hoping to send to you Timothy because I have no one else like him. When it comes to being faithful, he says there are very few. I know one man, Timothy, who is my disciple, but every one looks out for his own interest, not of Jesus Christ, but you know Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served me in the work of the Gospel and therefore I am sending him. So receive him as if you are receiving me. Paul is looking for somebody to whom the mantle can be passed, who will be faithful and the fact is that Timothy took over from Paul. You need to realize that God is also looking for people to whom He can commit Himself. In John 2 it is written that Jesus did not commit Himself to any man because He knew the hearts of Man. But God still wants to commit himself into the hands of man. And He is asking, “Will you be found faithful in My house so that I can commit Myself into your hands.” That is why God was offended with Moses because God had committed Himself into the hands of Moses. So when Moses struck that rock, do you know what God said? You did not honour Me. The people did not realize it at all. You need to realize that when Moses struck the rock and water came the people had absolutely no idea as to what went wrong between God and Moses. As far as they were concerned they thought, Wow! God has approved him again, again water has come out. But something had transcribed here between the two of them. Meaning, people may never know absolutely nothing. Do you know what, I committed something into your hands and you were not found faithful. Why did you strike the rock? What did I tell you? I told you to speak. We may think, what difference does it make? God told speak but Moses hit and most pastors, preachers today would hit because that is more spectacular. Imagine having a nice wand and bang, everybody will see and the water comes out; it looks really spectacular, but God says nothing spectacular, just stand there and speak. Speaking is not as spectacular as striking, but the problem is not that, the problem is that the rock had been struck years earlier for water. The rock had been smitten the first time in the desert when they did not have water and the water had come out. The second time God said, speak to the rock. Why? The revelation that Paul gives *The Rock that accompanied you in the wilderness was Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus is smitten for your sins only once, He cannot be smitten twice.* Therefore Moses you did not honour My Son; when you smote Him a second time, you are crucifying My Son all over again. Then you know the magnitude of what he did. We crucify Jesus once for our sins after that you come and speak, “Lord, I need mercy.” You only speak and receive your forgiveness. Once and for all He was crucified for our sins. You don’t crucify Him over and over again. We come and only speak and receive our mercy freely.

It may look like a little test. The People may not have figured out at all as to what was happening. Some of the things may look very little but it was very big. I remember the email Anisha forwarded to me. It's a beautiful email; it stopped me in my tracks. A Pastor was travelling in a bus in the US. There, you enter through the front door, you give your money to the driver and he gives you your change and a ticket. He goes and sits. When he counts his change, one quarter (25 cents) extra was given to him by the driver. 25 paisa, would we be bothered? The Pastor is sitting there and thinking- this is a new pastor starting a new Church. How does it matter? It doesn't matter to the company because this change would make no difference. All the while, till he reaches his stop, this 25 paisa is on his mind. He was not able to get over it. So, finally, as he is getting off the bus, he returns the 25 paisa to the driver and said, "You gave me 25 cents extra." The driver asks him, "Aren't you the new Pastor in town? I am coming to your Church this Sunday." You know why? Because, he gave him the 25 cents deliberately. After the bus moved on, the man holds on to the lamp post and said, "Lord, thank You. I almost sold You for 25 cents." We sometimes don't even realize those little things, because that man would have gone back and said, "Don't go to his Church. If he is not faithful in 25 cents then why go to his Church." He wouldn't put it as 25 cents, He would say that he takes money from the company and never returns. We don't realize those little things God is allowing, He says, "Look, I don't want to disqualify you, I want to promote you. These are little tests that you will go through. From a loving Father who wants you to be faithful in His House.

And that's what Paul is talking about, so many called, so many chosen, so many disciplined. When I really want to entrust something important, I need to look for Timothy because could pass it on to him because he was approved. And that is the whole thing: we want to stand one day before God and hear from God: Approved; Faithful to be part of the Royal companion; to be part of My Son's companion; to be part of the overcomer. You've been found faithful in My Father's house. And I am telling you: the test will not be in the big things. Thou shall not kill. Nobody here will kill; though last week I was talking with a man who had killed six or seven people; was in prison for so many years and then God had to rescue him literally, he came to the Faith and was rescued from the prison. He beat a guy to death; he shot three people dead and he was sitting there; an old man sleeping on the side of a road now, he has no place; and the Church is taking care of him. He has a small tarpaulin sheet where he sits. And he was still trying to justify why he killed. I said, "There is no justification for that." What I am saying is that we won't break the big ones. God is talking about the small little ones. Are you faithful in your house? Are you faithful in your workplace? Are you able to do those little things which are our responsibilities, without grumbling, without complaining; giving Him praise and thanksgiving? We may do, but we may grumble. Nowhere in the four gospels is it written that Jesus grumbled or Jesus complained. It is not written anywhere there. Yet, He went through test after tests at all points but He did cheerfully, gladly. Even on the cross He did not think about Himself, He was still thinking about glorifying His Father. That's what God is talking about: Will you be found faithful? And that's what Paul is talking about there: Will you be found faithful? In Psalms 105:37 God's testimony about the children of Israel.

**Psalms 105:37**

***<sup>37</sup> He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, and from among their tribes no one faltered.***

The KJV will put it a little better,

***<sup>37</sup> He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.***

There was not a single sick/feeble person among the people God brought out of Egypt, for forty years. They were rich, they never lacked in the desert, they were never sick; for forty years- every one of them. Yet, do you want to hear the other side of God's testimony about them in *Hebrews 3:17*? Again, the forty years is used there.

**Hebrews 3:17**

***<sup>17</sup> But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?***

Other translations will say: with whom was He angry for forty years? Both are there, grieved or angry for forty years. For forty years they had no lack, silver, gold, water, manna, no sickness, everything. Yet for forty years He was grieved with them; for forty years, He was angry with them. Do you know why? Because they were not faithful. If they were to stand and give a testimony we would all back off and say, "We are Sorry brother, we have no testimony to say. Your testimony sounds great." What testimony do we have? If one child of Israel stands here and says about how they came out of Egypt and when it comes to Red Sea we will all have to shut up. We've got no testimonies left. And then he talks about the forty years, we've got

absolutely no testimony left. Yet, Scripture says that He was angry with them for forty years. That He was grieved by them for forty years. Do you know why? Because they were not faithful. Were they called? Yes. Were they chosen? Yes. Were they faithful? No. They were not faithful.

God is preparing a set of people who will be faithful in every area. We have fallen; we might have fallen here, but don't lie there go back to God, put it right with Him, under the blood and say Lord, help me to be faithful in this area where I have repeatedly fallen and I believe your word which says, *"Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more."* I want even more grace in that area God, where I have struggled; there I am going to be an overcomer.

Like I told, He is not like a teacher who just sets an examination paper, He pours grace into our life so that we overcome. Amen? And in the coming weeks we will look at overcomers and the tests that they went through and we will go through. The tests are not different. The pattern of the testing is the same; it will be different in different ways in our lives but the pattern will be the same because He will test us. Unless you have decided this is as far as I go, I don't want to go any further God. When I was studying in Kerala, the bus would be completely empty, yet they like travelling on the footboard. There are many who have told me, I just want to make it to heaven even hanging on the footboard. I don't want to sit in the front seat or anywhere, just make it somehow or the other. And Scripture tells us that a great many will reach that way: just skimming through the flames they will get burnt; you can smell their singed hair. God says, "That's fine, if that's what you want, that what you get." But God says, "That also will be eternity." It is not for ten years, twenty years or fifty years, but all of eternity you will be that in heaven. Amen? We'll pray.

**Closing Prayer:**

*Father, I thank You, I praise You for Your children here, O God. Father we are all children not because of anything that we did but because of Your love and Your mercy, not because we sought You but because You sought us as it is written oh God, You sent servants, You sent Prophets, You sent Apostles, You sent all those servants but Father, You were not satisfied, You sent Your own Son to look for us, O God; and He came and He paid the price so that we could become Your children and then, You sent Your Holy Spirit who sought us out oh Master. And Father we thank You for Your Son and it is because of You, O Lord, that we are here. We were sought and we were called and we were received into Your bosom oh Master. But today as we are here, called and maybe chosen, Father we all know Lord, we fail in that area of being faithful in all things oh God. But Your call to us is be faithful in all things. Because the end of all things is near. That's Your Word, O God. And today, even as we have gathered here, like the Apostles and all of them did for hundreds and hundreds of years Oh Lord, in little houses where Your Church has gathered. We also have gathered here, O God, and we are not saying, Lord, that we are any different, that we need more mercy and we need more grace; that we may be found faithful in Your House, O God- each one of us in our workplaces, in our homes. Wherever You take us, Father, help us to be faithful. Let us be counted faithful and be counted among those overcomers oh Master. And, Father, freely that we cannot do it on our own, we need Your grace. We need Your grace, O God. Father, I pray You will teach each one of us to enter into Your Throne Room of grace as many times as possible, every day and seek that mercy and that grace that is more than sufficient for us every day, O Master. I commit each brother, each sister, each child, each family that is represented here. Bring them under the covering of the Precious Blood of Jesus, O God. As they go into a new week, Father, I pray that Your presence and Your Power will go with them and Your grace will empower them to stand there as a Christian oh Master. Be with the children, O God, as they are spending the last week of vacation, Father, let them enjoy the last week of vacation, O God, and prepare them for a new academic year, O Master. Thank You, Father. We commit the sister Lord Ekta who is travelling to Gujarat. May Your presence go with her to her family oh God and I pray, Father, You will give her the wisdom and the power of God to speak only when You tell her to speak and remain silent when You tell her to remain silent and through it all, O God, You will touch her family through her, O Master, that even without a word being spoken, O God, they will see the manifest power of the resurrected Lord in her life, O Master. Take her safely and bring her back with even more wonderful testimonies, Oh God. Thank You, Father. All the other brethren, O God, we commit them into Your hand, those who are weak, those who are facing sickness, those who are facing situations in their work places; we speak to that mountain to be removed in Jesus name and we confess oh God that You are the God who will fight our battles and not us. That the God who made man dumb or blind also is the God who will deliver and heal oh Master, because You are our healer oh Master. Thank You Father, Thank You. Father we praise You, we worship You God, we give You all the Glory and the Honour and the Power, it belongs to You and to You alone, O God. Thank You, Father. For in the most precious Name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

**Benediction:**



**Called, Chosen, Faithful**

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, rest and abide with each one of us Amen. Thank You, Lord. Thank You.*