

*Father, this morning, we just want to thank You, Father. Through it all, You were there, Father. Through it all, You have kept us. None of us have to be better than somebody, we all have to just do our part in Your plan for humanity, God. You have a plan and You saw the end from the beginning. And You have placed all of us in different positions in time. And I pray, through the ministry of the Word, there will be clarity in the minds of Your children; that they will know what is the good, the pleasing, perfect will of God. For Your Word says, "The world has the desires to pass away but he who does the will of God will never pass away." Your Word says, "It is not the ones those who say, 'Lord, Lord, in Thy name', but those who do the will of God, who will enter into Thy Kingdom." When Your Son came in this mortal flesh, wrapped up humanity, He declared, "Behold, I have come to do Your will. And in the volume of the Book, it is written about Me. A body You have prepared for Me, O Father." A body You have given us separately and corporately. And this volume of this book. it is written about us that we may do Your will, O God. So, even now, when we continue our study, I pray Your only purpose that we may learn, and we may know, we may understand, may we receive the revelation in our points and in our lives that we may fulfil Your will, Lord. Speak to us, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

Last Sunday, we looked at and yesterday also, in detail, in the Pastors' Conference. We looked at, the title of last Sunday's message is, "Who's Got Your head?" I hope your head is on your shoulders. Whoever has your head, controls your life. Head means your mind and everything aimed in this world is to control our minds and when you lose control over your mind, when nobody can anymore control your mind, including yourself, that's when you are certified lunatic. And you're locked up. Understand, everything is directed at your mind and it is from there, that comes. So, for those who are in the Kingdom, who's been born again by the Word and by the Spirit, they start to realize the contradictions in their life. The struggles they face after coming into the Kingdom no longer seems like before – the struggles you're facing. The reason is because the Scripture says, "We were born into this world, born again into a battle of war which will only stop at the last breath of your life, literally." And it's so vividly shown to us by Jesus in last hours on the Cross. The battle is raging over His mind to make Him confess something against the Word of God. The voices beneath the Cross are raging at Him, mocking at Him, scorning at Him. "If You are the Son of God." That's where the first temptation began – "If You are the Son of God, come down." All kinds of screams and mockery and everything to see His mind would be affected through the hearing and to deviate from the will, the purpose and the mind of God. So, remember, till the last breath, this battle continues. So, because it's for your mind it comes, everything through the mind. So, we are at war. We are with war; not with flesh and blood. That's how they deceive us to fight one another because they do not want us to identify the real enemy.

The Bible says, "The real enemies are – the powers of darkness, rulers, principalities, kingdoms, powers of darkness." And therefore, in His letter to the Church Ephesus, Paul writes, "Put on the full armour of God." Armour is defensive in purpose, full armour of God. "Put on the full armour of God." Then, He says, if you look at the armour, you'll see you have a breastplate of righteousness, and then, you have a shield of faith because you see, your heart needs a double covering. Because your heart is a seat of your emotions. And most people are swayed by emotions. The ministry of your Words should not be directed at your emotions because that would be deception. The ministry of the Word should be directed at your reason because the Word of God is absolutely reasonable, and it is logical, and it is truth. Truth is not aimed primarily at your emotions; it is aimed at your mind. The mind processes it; the heart receives it; you believe it, the will decides, and emotions are like the force that drives you forward. That's the way it should be. So, be very careful we did not become emotional when we hear the Word of God. The Word of God is directed to, not to the emotions. Primarily emotions come; yes, great emotions will arise. When what you heard is now mixed with your emotions, you may get excited, you may be convicted, you may be sorrowful, you may be fearful. All these emotions can be evoked by the preaching of the Word of God but the Word of God is not primarily directed at your emotions. And if you see, ministries consistently and constantly preach to the emotions. And you'll see that in the reaction of the people. That ministry is dangerous because Word of God is incredibly reasonable. Because we have to reason it out. Faith does not come from feelings, faith comes from hearing. When Bible talks about hearing, it includes your eyes and your ears. Primarily, these come in together. That's why I say, "Look at me." The reason is not to admire my face. But if you look somewhere else and to listen is very difficult. Your concentration is divided. That's why God put our eyes and ears in close proximity, so you watch and you ear. So, when we hear, it goes into our minds. Faith first comes into the mind because our mind is always processing something and to

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process what God is speaking to us, we need the Word of God because that's God's language that's God's ways. That's how God thinks, that's how God works. We're not studying the Bible or memorizing the Bible primarily; we are understanding through the Word of God, the ways of God. There are a lot of people who know the Word of God. There'll be people who've memorized Scriptures and incredible professors, but they do not know the ways of God because they haven't applied the Word of God to understand the ways of God. And the whole purpose is to understand the ways of God so that we know – this is how God functions. Now, I am born of God, this is how I need to function; then, we start imitating Christ. As Paul says, "Imitate Christ even as I imitate Christ or imitate me as I imitate Christ."

And that's why when we come to the defensive part of the armour and move from there to the fighting part because we are at war. No army has ever won a battle in defence alone. Any army that has won a war has gone on the offensive. So, we are not called to defend alone which we should, but we also need to go on the offensive against these army of powers of darkness and ideas and ideologies. So, Scripture says in *Ephesians*, "Take the helmet of salvation." Every bike riders, they all know when bike accidents take place, most of the casualties take place because of the head injuries, because they were not wearing a helmet. Almost all the casualties in the Church happen because of head injuries, because your helmet was not in place; your mind was not controlled by the Word of God. So, when the attacks came, you succumbed to the attacks because you had nothing to defend, you wouldn't know. The devil came in and said, "If you are the Son of God, You're hungry." But His helmet was absolutely in place; therefore, He could reply. *Put on the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit*. This is the combination the Bible gives, which is interesting; you need this. If you don't have the helmet of salvation, then this doesn't work. This sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, it is the Word of God, but it is processed here. If you doubt here, it will come. Doubt will come out of your mouth; then, it doesn't work. It doesn't become the Sword of the Spirit; it just becomes a balloon with which you are hitting the devil. And He says, "So nice. I love it." That's the problem – this and this goes together; and the problem is if our helmet isn't there in place, our thinking is not guarded, the sword will become ineffective and we see praying with all prayer is a weapon. Use the Word of God as weapon, we pray in the spirit as a weapon because the Spirit will direct your prayer with the Word of God. So, it becomes powerful. So, we need to learn how to fight this battle primarily.

This eleventh year, I really believe that there will be a lot of shift that will take place. Much of this war is personal and it's also corporate. One of the primary purposes the Church is, especially, we, as a Church, exist is to equip the believer to fight this good fight. Everybody has to fight and one of the primary purposes of the Church outside is evangelism inside is equipping every believer to fight this good fight and *2 Corinthians 10*, Scripture says,

### **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,***

So, it suddenly starts telling what the nature of warfare is primarily this warfare is not for outside, it is fought here. Strongholds are established here though stronghold ideas have to be broken down pulled down

### ***...casting down arguments...***

Whenever you hear the Word of God, there will be so many arguments going on in your mind. Scripture says, "You have to cast an argument." How do you do it? You cast an argument with an argument. And the second argument you frame it from the Word of God. "It is written." There was an argument that is coming into His mind; the devil is saying, "You're the Son of God, You're hungry, You've the power, just turn the stones into bread." That's a very powerful argument when your stomach is burning. Very powerful argument. But He cast an argument with another one which is the Word of God saying, "it is written man shall not live by bread alone." You need an appropriate response to the argument which is what the Spirit brings. That's when the Holy Spirit comes. Then, it comes the sword of the Spirit, though you're speaking it, the sword of the Word is wielded by the Spirit of God through your mouth. That is the reason it is to make us understand that Holy Spirit, which is called "Ruah" or the wind. Because when you speak, what comes out of mouth is air, representing the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit wraps up the Word of God and it comes out our mouth, it has power to demolish every high thing that exalts against the knowledge of God. Every argument in your mind and my mind, is basically trying to lift itself above Christ, knowledge of God. God is there in the highest and His throne is exalted over everything.

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Then, there was one cherubim or an archangel who was given an anointing, seraphim, who was there whose name was Lucifer. And he wanted to exalt his throne above God's and he wanted to receive worship, he was cast down. And after he was cast down, he's been working with humanity from Adam to all the place, trying to receive worship which was meant for God to himself. How does he receive it? The knowledge of God is there, it is to that my worship, my allegiance, my loyalty, my duty everything should be directed to that. He raises an argument that is above it. When I start receiving it, I worship the devil and not God. so, Scripture says, "Everything that exalts against the knowledge of God..." You don't realize your worship is first determined in your mind, not with the raising of your hands, not with the signing of songs, not during the first part of the worship service. Your worship is ultimately determined here – who do you worship? What have you exalted? Have you exalted the knowledge of the living God or have you exalted something that contradicts the knowledge of the living God? And if it's the second one, we worship the devil because everything else originates from him. Every false idea originates from him. That's why Jesus called him 'the father of lies', 'the father of liars'. So, remember this, we closely, day by day, we practice and learn to bring every thought into captivity of obedience of Christ. Not my obedience, I have to follow an obedience. When you follow... That's why I always I am always tougher with the older children among the younger ones, because younger ones tend to follow the older ones. My eldest; we are five. The other four; I am the youngest, my oldest brother was there and there was so much upon him, because we all grew up away from our parents. So, when you saw the oldest one's sitting and studying and no parent around, we were all automatically compelled to study because he studied. So, everybody did well in academics, simply because we chose to model our studies at him. And even till today, he is studying. He studies never stops you see, that is what we are not trying to be obedient on our own, we model the obedience of Christ Jesus. That is the obedience. Scripture says in *Hebrews 5*, "*In the days of His flesh, with vehement cries and loud cries and tears, He cried out to His Father who was able to save Him from death and He heard because of His reverent submission and because He learnt obedience through what He suffered.*" That's not the exact, I am just quoting; I am not Pastor Vijay. He can quote, okay. But I am telling you how it is gobbled in my mind. But it is Scripture.

That's the obedience we need to come to. So, we need to realize – when Scripture talks about prayer as a weapon, prayer Jesus personally used in His life as a weapon in weeping and crying to God to see that no false idea enters He brought it to subjection. We think about prayer as intercessions, supplications; we don't realize prayer primary part of prayer is my personal life, me crying out to God, "Lord, help me to control my thoughts, bring my thoughts into alignment with the Word of God and whatever contradicts, let me cast it down," and prayer is a weapon directed for spiritual warfare. That's where it is won or lost here. because we are in a fight. And this fight the primary purpose of the Church, within the Church is to teach every believer is how to fight. And the Bible calls it a good fight. It's not a bad fight. It's a good fight.

### 2 Timothy 4:7-8

***<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race.***

He is at the end of his life; he is going to be executed. And he says, "I have fought that good fight." It was fought here and manifested outside.

***...I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.***

And all the others who wins this race." So, Scripture is talking about – this is the fight which you will fight till your end and it's an incredible sight because there is a crown at the end of it if you are a winner. At the end, if you successfully complete this fight, there is an unbelievable crown reserved for everybody. See, that's what the purpose of the Church is. We have to retrieve the doctrine which has been lost or watered down. Doctrine is very important in the Bible because doctrine is how God functions; therefore, the Church functions. Doctrinally, it will be heated, or it will be watered down and job of the Church in every age is to bring back the doctrine that was lost, because we learn how to function and allow our lives to function according to those doctrines. So, we teach we disciple, we mentor, and as a Church, personally, we, in GTC, we give what God has given to us freely, back freely to the nations in the most effective and cost-effective way. We don't splurge money on the preaching of the ministry. If you actually look at our budget actually, we spend on preaching of the ministry and the ends of the earth, we have reached, you will see, it is so cost effective. Because we do it in ways instead of buying TV slots for hundreds and thousands and crores of rupees, we don't do any of those stuff. We simply realize in good in the best medium. Best medium and we do it through the net and through word of mouth. So, we have to pass it on because that's our job. This is the battle to be fought daily, a battle to be won and a crown to be gained. And verse 8 is

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actually talking about success. There is a day. Never count your success today. There is nobody on earth who is successful. It will be decided then. The most successful man could be declared totally unsuccessful on that day. The crown will decide who finished their race well. And you need to know something about success. Success, even in this life on earth is never an accident. Nadal or Federer, Nadal – Pastor Vijay; Federer – me. They never woke up one day and say, “How did I reach the top?” Success is never an accident. Nobody succeeded accidentally. Any field, it’s not an accident. Any area of life, any profession, nobody reaches the top by accident or succeeds by accidents. But true success is measured by the impact of our lives in eternity. That is why it is called ‘that Day’. The day results, a declare. And there is a judge. That day will declare what success is. Success will be determined then.

We look at this successful business man, Bill Gates and Slim and any of this people, but you need to realize, most of these 500 fortune companies, or Hollywood, Bollywood, you name all these successful people, they are not even in this race. So, in God’s perspective, your race begins only the day you were born again. Till then, you are not even in the race. They receive no crown, there’s nothing; they are not saved, they only receive judgment of wrath, of condemnation. So, success has to be eternal, has to be measured in terms of eternity. So, “Put off,” Scripture says, “if you want to succeed in this, there is a fight. You’ve to fight this good fight but put on the helmet of salvation.” Helmet of salvation, meaning? You need information. Everyone sitting here, is functioning on a set of received ideas. And as these ideas keep changing, growing, we keep changing. And these ideas have power to control your mind. Like I said in the beginning, and you’ve heard a 100 times, “Whoever controls your mind, controls your body.” True deliverance, begins in the mind and manifested in the body. True deliverance, begins in the mind. And we have to overcome. In 1 John 5:4, it says

### 1 John 5:4

***<sup>4</sup>For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.***

Everybody has to overcome the world and you will say, “Why should I overcome the world? And what does it mean by overcoming the world?” See, the world; it’s not talking about just people and system. Behind everything in the world, there is an idea and there is an ideology. Everything is ideology-driven. The world is a set of ideas and ideologies. Egypt is not a nation alone; it is an ideology. God brought Israel out of Egypt but they refused to break away from the pattern of Egypt. Therefore, they were destroyed. Your body can be sitting in the Church and your mind can be elsewhere. Don’t be scared. I am looking to you to see your minds is also here. Because your body, their bodies were right there in the desert and marching behind Moses – left, right, left; minds were in Egypt, sitting at the pots and thinking, “Ah! The fish, the meat.” That’s what boys do in Church – they are sitting here and thinking about their theatres, gaming parlours and Pastor is preaching – in one shot and they have already Bodies right here, mind is all over the place. So, remember, Egypt is an idea. It is a set of idea, it’s an ideology. That’s why, you have to see, though they walked for so many months and weeks and eaten the Manna and drunk and under Moses’ leadership, they are rebelling against the ideas. And ultimately, when the judgment comes, they have rebelled 10 times. Remember 10, number 10 is a number of Judgment. In Numbers 14:1-2,

### Numbers 14:1-2

***<sup>1</sup> So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. <sup>2</sup> And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!***

What does it mean? It means, “When you gave us the gospel, you didn’t tell that in the gospel that there is fighting involved.” You were told, “Come to Jesus. Your life will be so nice with health, wealth and happiness.” Then, one day, somebody told you, “No, that’s not the way it works. You will get health but you have to fight for it. You will get wealth, you will have to pay for it.” “Ah! Nobody told me, I would have remained in the world. Why did you bring me here?” This is what happened – “There are giants in the land; there are fortified cities. He promised us land, he promised us houses, he promised us all this but He didn’t say we have to fight. We thought we are getting it all free. Can’t fight.” What did they say? They complained,

### Numbers 14:3-4

***<sup>3</sup> Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” <sup>4</sup> So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”***

See, their minds were always there. If you all were given absolute freedom, I am talking not about older people; they have some patterns set over their lives; young children, all the teenagers. If Ma and me and other parents say, "After Church, you can do whatever you want. We won't say a word. And we'll give you money too." If it was told and you were not watched, you will know exactly where you will go. Some will go to the theaters, some will go to the parlor, some will go shopping. Because that's where your mind always was. And this body sitting here, is useless. We don't have the power. They don't have the power to go back to Egypt; therefore, they were struggling under Moses. The minute they realized they have to fight., "You know what this fellow will never let us go back. Let's get another leader. Throw him out and let's go back to Egypt."

Understand, if God were to give us the freedom, the power, where would we reach? The prodigal son was living in a wonderful father's house, where the rules were good; there was everything. But he said, "Give me my inheritance." And we know, when he was given the freedom, the power to make decisions and the power to keep those decisions, ultimately, where he ended? Pigpen, but how did he reach the pigpen? Because his elder brother will say, "He threw away all his money on partying and on prostitutes." So, that was in his mind already even before he had done that single thing. When he's living in his father's house, when the father gave him the freedom and the money, he just reached there.

So, the question is: where is your mind today? Teenagers; it doesn't matter where your body is today because a day will come when you will get a job and you have the money and you don't need the 'Yes' from anybody and that day will determine where you'll go. And we are trying to do is before that day comes, structure is set over here. Mind is aligned with the mind of Christ Jesus and therefore, like Daniel or a Joseph, you are taken into the world in chains. But you stand over there, and you make a decision. Even though your bodies are in Babylon, your mind and heart is still aligned to Jerusalem; therefore, you'll say with your heart, "I will not defile myself." That's the key. If that doesn't happen, we lose this battle like they lost the battle. God could do everything He wanted – mighty miracles, break the power of Pharaoh, bring them out, destroy the armies of Egypt, Manna from Heaven, water from the rock, cloud by day, fire by night. You name it, He did it everything. It didn't change their mind. If your mind doesn't change, nothing matters. This is what, we are talking about.

This is the Church; this is the challenge also spiritual leadership always faces. Spiritual leadership always faces this challenge. Because the leadership, they said, "We don't want this fellow. because, this fellow will always go to this wilderness, signifying this tent, sit inside and come out and tell us something. We want a leader who will walk like us, talk like us, dress like us and be like us. We don't want this fellow who goes into this tent called 'Tent of the meeting.' Because he met God there." First, he met God in the wilderness; then, in the mountain; then, God came out and met him in the tent. And then, the next leader is chosen, because the next leader chosen was the young man. When this man goes into the tent of the meeting, he will hang around there around the tent. And God was watching that and He said, "You know, Moses, you got two sons! But I see two dudes outside always hanging around the tent of meeting. I have picked them. They will lead the next generation." So, this is the key. If you want to be really successful in the Kingdom of God, remember – you are a leader, even if you lead only yourself, you are still a leader. Don't let somebody who is not align to God lead you. You can be a leader if you align to God and the only one who you lead all your life is you, you are still a leader. That's why God pulls Abraham out of Ur and says, "Leave Ur. The ideas and ideologies of Babylon don't suit you and your call. Leave and go to the land and in that land, don't stick around, don't settle down, keep on moving because you stick to one place, the idea will get in. Keep on moving." Spiritually, you have to keep on moving. We cannot be stagnant spiritually. The minute you are spiritually stagnant, another idea starts permeating you because this battle is raging and is constantly happening and in this battle here is no status quo.

You have to win and if you don't win, you will lose. You cannot hold on like this. No, you have to win. If you don't win, you will lose. So, every one of them, you will see, God will call them out and move them into a place where He can actually talk. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Judges, be it all, you will see this happen. But the wilderness experience is a must for anybody. Boy, girl, man, woman – if you really want to succeed and receive that crown. Solomon the wisest, the smartest, the richest young man in human history never had a wilderness experience in his life; therefore, he failed ultimately. He failed! Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul – all of them, you look at the successful people in the Kingdom of God; what defined their success was that period in their life they spent alone with God so that God would frame their thinking. That's the reason why we are spending time with God; not by saying, "How great Thou art." There's no point. Anybody who goes before God; the devil, the demons everybody will one day fall before God and say, "He is Lord but

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that doesn't change their thinking." Scripture says, "The demons know that there is only one God and they tremble," but they don't change their thinking. Your worship doesn't change your thinking; the Word has to change your thinking, and then, your thinking will change your worship.

The man who wrote the one third of the New Testament says,

### **Galatians 1:15-18**

**<sup>15</sup> But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,** (He says I was separated at my mother's womb now I know look back and realize, Oh my gosh everything that has happened in my life was that God has called me for this) **<sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. <sup>18</sup> Then after three years,**

It's almost a period consistent in Bible – three years. Discipled three years, the land owner, the farmer comes after three years to see if there is any fruit. What does it mean? Three years of the ministry of the Word of God, has your thinking changed? Because if your thinking has changed, it will start showing in your work. Paul, three years, disciple; three years. You see, Babylon is an idea and its ideologies over which systems are built.

### **Genesis 11:3**

**<sup>3</sup> Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone**

Babylon, when it's built, it replaces stone with brick. Stone is natural and this is manmade. Stone represents the truth of God. That cannot be changed. That's the reason Ten Commandments were written on a stone. So, Babylon will replace the truth of God with their own ideas. That's on which the Babylon is built. This brick and stone are the symbols of ideologies on which stuff is built. Jerusalem is built on stone and it is built on a stone on which Jesus Himself is called as the Cornerstone and not the corner brick. Babylon is built on brick.

### **Genesis 11:4**

**<sup>4</sup> And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."**

Babylon is built on self-recognition and not on the recognition of God and Babylon is built in the opposition to the known will of God. God said, "Spread multiply"; they said, "No, we will gather and build up." God says, "Spread," and they said, "No, we will go up and we will challenge You." So, Babylon is just not a city; it is an ideology. It's an ideology and that ideology keeps on changing shapes. At the core of it, is all the same because it is built on the man and on self and on selfishness, unlike God's city. At the end, this is what is prophesied about Babylon, this world's system.

### **Revelation 18:10**

**<sup>10</sup> standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'**

You need to realize – ideologies, if they are true, will last over and over a period of time. No ideology last, it cannot last. It will be crushed when judgment comes, the ideology. You realize you believe in so many things but what you believe is true when the testing comes, why do you fall? The ideology should have held you up there. That's what the Apostles and the martyrs down the centuries were willing to die for their faith because they knew what they believed was true. If you believe something is true, then you will be willing to die for it because you know it is true. The end of Babylon is prophesied in *Revelation 18:10, 21*

### **Revelation 18:21-23**

**<sup>21</sup> Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone** (He didn't take a brick like a mill brick, he took a stone) **and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."**

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Though it is there given a picture, given ideology-wise, it is saying that the truth of God, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the truth of God will destroy every ideas on which this earth systems are built. It will be destroyed thus with violence.

**<sup>22</sup> The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters** (Gaming. I'm adding okay? Decathlon, Malls) **shall not be heard in you anymore** (All will be gone). **No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore**, (YouTube videos, Hollywood videos, Tollywood, Bollywood everything) **and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.** **<sup>23</sup> The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.**

So, behind your ideology, there was something that was happening in the darkness. There was sorcery involved. Men and demons coming together and entrapping the minds of people. So, nothing was neutral, there was sorcery involved. When God says something, it is not neutral; there is Spirit of God involved and He is the Spirit of truth and the devil brings something. He uses sorcery using men and that captivates our minds and we become addicts to ideas. So, instead of being led by the truth, these ideas have made us into lunatics. We wonder how we became like that.

### Revelation 18:24

**<sup>24</sup> And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."**

Ideas do kill people, remember. In *Romans 12:1-2*, the apostle begs, we saw that last Sunday too. This is about the body being offered as a living sacrifice.

### Romans 12:1-2

**<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world,**

When it says, "Do not be conformed to this world," what does it mean? From your nail polish, to your earring, to your clothes, to your shoes, there is an idea behind it. Do you think things are neutral? They are not neutral. Nothing is neutral. There is absolute nothing neutral because everything in the physical world is compressed by the spiritual. Meaning – we are sitting over here; the air surrounds every inch of us. The spiritual world is like that. There is absolutely nothing that is neutral. That is why Scripture says, "Every perfect and good gift comes from above." And Scripture says, "Anything in the marketplace, don't ask questions," because if you ask questions, you will not be able to buy it. Then you will end up dying because nothing in the market place is untouched by sorcery. Therefore, receive it without questions, pray over it, sanctify it, and partake of it because nothing is neutral. Everything has a spiritual connotation to it. And what Babylon wants is, "Conform!"

I think I am the only one, and Pastor Vijay, I'm slowly changing him. Slowly, but not too slowly, he is moving fast. I think I'm the only one, you've seen me for how many years? Have you seen me in anything else other than like this? But you all have changed. You saw the pictures? As the world changes, you also change with the world. Why? Because of the pressure that is intense with conformed to the pattern of this world, and you have no strength to fight it. In little things, these are little things that may not really matter. But if you are not able to resist little things, the question is: what will you do when big things come? "If you cannot resist wine, O Daniel, how are you going to resist women?" If you cannot resist the meat, how are you going to resist money that buys the meat? That's where we reorient our minds and say, "Lord, I am not." Because Babylon demands conformity. So, if you go to India, you will see a movement in this country in the past three years, "Churches, conform to our ideology." A lot of Churches are buckled under pressure and they are changing the way from candles to diya (lamp) and music and dress and everything. Now, priests are coming dressed like Brahmins. Why? Conform! "We will allow you if you conform. We will set the package and you just process it from the middle of it; so, what you say will look like us." If you go to China, there are lots of Churches and they will bring news reporters and say, "We have freedom of religion in this country. See! Thousands upon thousands in the Churches," but every message of the Pastor or the Priest is given by the Communist Party. Conform! That's the problem.

So, the battle is fought or won here (mind) and every martyr in human history the saints in the Bible, they died for how they thought. That's where it began. This is what Caesar says, "Think." He says, "Sorry, this is how we think. You can choose to reject this, and accept this or die." They said, "We will die." Put on the helmet. Who has your head? Who has access to your

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eyes and ears, especially in these formative years, especially when you are young? When you are young, either in age as a baby or young in the Lord? There has to be a unity or goal.

1 Samuel 1: 21-23. For all the young parents sitting at the back.

### 1 Samuel 1:21-23

**<sup>21</sup> Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever." <sup>23</sup> So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.**

The man was a wise man. He looked at her and said, "You know what? You are most spiritual among the both of us. If our son belongs to God and has to serve God, you should be mentoring him more than I. And you know what? I leave him to you. Take care of him until he is ready to be given over to God." Because you know what? Children hear and watch. That's how they imitate. They don't read; they don't listen to your lectures. They hear, they watch. So when Hannah is praying, you see on GTC WhatsApp group DP, my wife is praying and the little baby who was abandoned in the dustbin and picked and given to us, beside her and praying. The other pictures, you don't know. Every two seconds, she will look because this one never stops praying and the child is getting tired; she is imitating without reality but she is imitating. And I believe Samuel watched his mother and he imitated her life. After five years, when weaning was over, he has got the God of Hannah in him. So, he could be left in the temple run by the reprobates. It didn't make any difference because his mind was already programmed to go in God's ways. Instead, what do we do? We pick the biggest schools in the city – Euro kids and African kids and American kids and all that, we pay through our nose, to get them in so that one day, they become reprobates. Because in the first four, five years of your life, the mind is already set. Then, you change the thinking pattern is what is called salvation beginning of change of thinking pattern.

This young guy whose father and mother framed him, you know what Scripture talks about him in,

### 1 Samuel 3:19

**<sup>19</sup> So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.**

Why? Because his mind was framed by the law of God. And who was responsible for that? His mother. That's why the Scripture says that, "*The wise woman builds her home.*" If you are wise woman, you build your home. It's in your hands. The father goes out and comes in the evening but the child is walking around, holding on to your apron, watching everything that you do. If you have a Charles Wesley and John Wesley, it's because you have a Susanna who was the Hannah of that generation. There was a mother, there was a loyalty, her love for the Lord, her prayer life, her principles and you know what? Their minds were programmed that way. They stepped forward and God said, "You are ready to be used." And therefore, think, as sisters, as young mothers, fathers sitting over here, do you have the helmet of salvation? And then, when you come to the Lord, let us say, you didn't have it, you came to the Lord' later, then Scripture says in,

### 1 Peter 2:2

**<sup>2</sup> as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

You have to do it. You ask any mother sitting over here they never fed anything other than milk for the first six months, not even water. When I asked one of the mothers "Do you give her the water?" She said, "No, the paediatrician said, 'No water; only milk'." What does it mean? Seriously like it happened to me. 34 years ago, when I got saved, I did not go to college for three weeks. I just sat there and read one book and one book alone. It was my Good News Bible. Nothing else. I am not going to eat anything else, I am not going to watch anything. My career is not important than my soul. Yes, my father put me here; yes, my father is paying for it but there is something which my father has not paid for which my Redeemer has paid for, which my father could never pay for. I love my father, I honour my parents but there is something bigger than that. I shut down – went to eat, came back, and I sat there and read it over and over again so that my mind could be framed. I did not even know what I was doing, later on I found that it was Scriptural. New born babes! That's why Scripture says when the Church began in Jerusalem,



**Acts 2:42, 46**

<sup>42</sup> *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

<sup>46</sup> *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

I realized that's what I did. I read the Word of God daily from morning till evening, went to the mess, ate and came back. Went to the mess, ate and came back. That's what I did. Put a premium on your soul.

**Acts 20:31**

<sup>31</sup> *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

What does that mean? "Ephesus, my job is over. I taught you for three years day and night. If you haven't got it now, you are never going to get it. If your minds are not programmed by now, according to programming, that's the software language, if your minds are not defined by the Word of God, it's not going to happen." Three years – Jesus, Paul, everybody, three years. Put on the helmet of salvation and if you are not starting today. That's why I am always told you young kids, when you go on two months' vacation, don't waste your time. Most cases, because children hardly hear, see the Bible being lived out, then they go to the world and their minds are framed and in their minds, they are rebels. Bodies are in the Church; minds are wandering in the world. The children of Israel over and over, every decision you and I take you is ultimately is spiritual.

That's why we say whoever has your mind has your body. Scripture says in,

**Psalms 23:5**

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

Like we say in English – the slip between the cup and the lip. *He anoints my head with oil.* The purpose of the anointing is to what is in the head. What happens if you anoint an empty head? That is Samson's head. That's the empty head, it is not empty; it is empty of Scripture and Scriptural principles. Anointing is very powerful. So, you know what? The anointing scourges his head. It goes into his arms and his body. It doesn't touch his mind. So, he will do jadu (magic). Nothing that glorifies God only glorifies himself. He goes into the Philistines prostitutes house, sleep over there, wake up in the morning and take the gates and walk out. "Wow! What a great deal!" Because they messed him up, he takes the foxes and ties the tail... what glory God gets in any of these things? Sleeps on Delilah's lap, he is taken captive, eyes are gauged, "Lord, please one more time, please." God says, "Okay, at least, die in glory." Anointing on the head, empty head. That's where information comes. The world deals with facts and lies; But God deals with truth. He is Truth; He is the Spirit of truth. His Word is truth. In,

**John 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

What does it mean? Ministry of the Word! Sanctify means set apart for holy use. He sets you apart through the ministry of the Word in your mind. If he has not set apart in your mind, the anointing will never come. If your mind is not being sanctified by the Word of God, when it is sanctified, the anointing will come and when the anointing comes it will work for you.

**Ezekiel 37:1-3**

**1** *The hand of the LORD came upon me* (Ezekiel is somewhere up there in the mountain. That's how God works. He will take up from the mountain) *and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.* (Not ordinary bones, dry bones.) **2** *Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.* **3** *And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."* **4** *Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'"* **5** *Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live."* **6** *I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you*

***shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.” ’ ’ ’ <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.***

Then, He says, “Speak to the wind.” You don’t speak to the wind first. You speak to the bones first. Once the doctrine is set in, then the Holy Spirit comes; then, you rise up as a mighty army that can take over this nation. That’s the order. You look at the order always. You may be sitting like dry bones over here, very dry but our job is to speak to the bones so that it falls into place in your mind. This is the Kingdom of God; this is how it functions. It’s all falling into place and when anointing comes, you can overcome. But if you don’t fall into place, it doesn’t matter what your current carrier is. In your mind, you must be set apart and the body will follow. The body can be trained by the mind, do you know that? Like how Archie sang. We know that she is a semi classical singer. Why? How does the tongue perform like that? She was born with a gift? No, she used her mind to train her tongue. She used her mind for over a time to exercise her tongue in particular ways according to the instruction and she trained. Everyone who plays instruments, it’s the mind that trains the hands, the fingers and the ears. The mind can train the body. Everybody, any field, it is the mind that works first, that trains the parts of the body to excel. The little girls sitting in the front, if you want to be an excellent student, it’s the mind. You don’t want to work, you want to be a housewife and a mother, it is the mind that will teach you to be an excellent mother. There are many mothers. But there are Biblical mother. It is the mind falls into place. Remember that it is the mind. That’s why you struggle to listen, devil knows if you listen, if somebody gets your ear other than him, you are gone.

And the most powerful, dangerous and blessed ideas have come from minds. Like how I told the Pastors, Karl Marx was a small man but the idea that he brought forth was powerful to destroy lives of million and frame nations. You need not be like Samson. The idea was enough. Mao was small man, Lenin, Stalin, Napoleon all of them were small men. They were powerful not because of their size but because of their ideas.

What is happening in US is two ideologies is clashing. Ideas represented by different people. But it is ideas. They hate somebody not because of who he is, because of what he represents. If you ask them in past one year, “Hasn’t your economy grown?” “Yes, it’s the fastest growing economy.” “Yes.” “Hasn’t unemployment reached to the level below three that means almost every American has a job now?” “Yes.” “Are you all not making money?” “Yes.” “Why do you hate him?” “Because of the idea he represents.”

Its ideas! But this Book (Bible) in worldly term is a set of ideas, which is called the doctrine of Christ. There is no other powerful idea that has ever come, the Word of the Lord. Heaven and earth will pass away; meaning – every ideology on earth will pass away, world’s, satan’s every ideology will pass away, Your Word, O Lord, is settled in the heavens. *John 1:1-3* is the declaration of this ideology.

### **John 1:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***

What an idea Sirji! Meaning – we, sitting in the Churches, are being given the idea above every other idea. The ideology over every other ideology and God says, “Do you see how you struggle to receive it?” Every other idea is sold with incentives. You want sell furniture, half naked girl. You want to sell cell phone, you have another one. Truth stands on its own. It will hang on the Cross and stand alone. It is not sold with incentives. This is truth. Receive it; then, you are free. That is the primacy of this Kingdom. That is why Jesus said, “Repent!” What does ‘repent’ means? Change of mind; everything will change. If you don’t change your mind, nothing will change. Change your mind! Why? Because the Kingdom of unbelievable ideology and power and the future and the primacy of this Kingdom is shown to us who is within the Kingdom at the end.

### **Revelation 11:15**

***<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world (The ideologies that framed different nations of this world) have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”***

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His Kingdom over rules everything else. The battle is in the mind. That's why Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is within you." "Where, where?" Not in the stomach or in your head. If it's not in your head, then it is not anywhere else. He knew that a lot of people will think of their stomach he said, "Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking." The kingdom of India is eating and drinking. One rupee rice, everybody will go. Next person says, "Fifty Paise." Go to the other side. "TV!" "Ah, Amma is the best. Amma canteen." He says, "The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking; the Kingdom of God is righteousness. Those who do not seek righteousness, will never find the Kingdom. Ideas and ideologies. See how it is marketed. If somebody is coming behind the pulpit and is trying to market the Kingdom in terms of food, drinks and material things, you know what? That doctrine is false. They are trying to change the nature of the Kingdom. In the nature of the Kingdom, we put righteousness and the Kingdom of God first. All these things will follow you. That's part of the Kingdom. You don't have to run after it; it will follow you. It will. So, Scripture says, "Be careful how you think."

Like I said yesterday, I told you on Wednesday too – do not make permanent decisions on temporary situations or circumstances. Be very careful. The devil will use temporary things and try to make you make a permanent decision. In *Hebrews 12:16*, Scripture says,

### **Hebrews 12:16**

***<sup>16</sup>lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.***

His birthright is eternal. Your hunger will pass away. It's not that, "I'm going to die." No, you are not going to die. You are a strong man; how can you die if you miss a meal? You are not going to die. For that one meal, don't sell away. Hunger is real. It's real. But it is temporary. Don't make that mistake. Be very careful. Hunger and desires, which are there in the body, are legit. Don't throw away eternal things for temporary things. It's God who put it in the body. The devil didn't give us anything. The devil takes what God said is good and tries to warp it. The desire for pleasure is put by God. It was put for man; for He says, "In My right hand, there are pleasures forevermore." The devil says, "No, you take two pegs – pleasure unlimited." What is he trying to do? Now, he is trying to take through the body, he is trying to captivate your mind. Who is an addict? Who is an alcoholic? An alcoholic is somebody whose mind has been captivated through the body. Any addict – gaming, sports – anything. You can be addicted to anything. Sex. Sex is put there by God. It was put before the fall and he saw this sexual desire put in Adam and God said, "It is good." It is legit. That's why Tiger Woods had to go for sex addiction classes to be de-addicted because it's got nothing to do with his wife. He's got a Miss World or a Miss whatever nation as his wife. It didn't make any difference because this is an addiction. Your mind has been captivated by your body and the devil is after your mind. He doesn't care about your body because he knows – if he has your mind, he has got your body. You see addicts, absolute total addicts. They will kill their father and mother to get a fix because their mind is gone. The only things their minds say is – "I want it. I can't handle it." Understand that – mind. The devil is after our mind. That is what he was trying to do with Jesus and the Holy Spirit was allowing it. "If You are the Son of God, then," hunger is legit. So, what does He say? "I am the Son of God. Therefore, I will satisfy My desires according to legitimate ways. It is written." You should reply that way – "I am a child of God. If I am a child of God, these desires are put in there by God and these desires will be met in God's ways; not your ways, O world. I am a child of God. That's why I cannot meet my needs the way others meet because I have ways prescribed by my God and in that, there is safety. In that, there is fulfilment. In that, there is joy forevermore." That is where temptations and tests are actually aimed at God's children; not at others. They don't experience temptation like we do. The same temptation for a believing child and an unbelieving child is not the same. When he falls, there is no problem. When you fall, you need to repent. When he falls, he doesn't have to repent because first, he has to completely repent and accept God. Then only, he daily repents. For him, his mind is conditioned by however he has been brought up. His father says, "It is okay," his mother says, "it is okay," then it is okay for him. But for a child of God, even if your father says, "it is okay," the mother says, "it is okay," it is not okay because his mind is being framed by God's standards and the Spirit of God is convicting him inside and says, "You have sinned against Me." That's what happened to David. Everybody said, "It is okay." Nobody knew about it. The Spirit of God convicted him. He's not able to sleep. His bones are wasting away. And Nathan comes and says, "You are that man." He said, "I am that man." And when he opens his mouth in *Psalms 51*, what he says is, "Against You and You alone I have sinned." That is not something an unbeliever is able to say. The Muslim doesn't say, "Allah, I sinned against you." The Hindu doesn't say, "Krishna, I sinned against you." The Buddhist doesn't say, "Buddha, I sinned against you." The believer says, "Lord, I have sinned against you." That's the difference. The temptations are unique to a believer. Our temptations are different. And we battle it in our minds because the head; do you have the helmet of your salvation all in place? That's why the Bible says, "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands," because you may be passing an anointing on an empty head or a rebellious head. That's why when

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people come and ask me for prayer, I ask them, “What do you want me to pray for?” “I don’t know. Let me pray over you!” No. I don’t want my anointing to pass on to an empty head. To receive this anointing, it cost me years and years of my life. I’m not going to pass this on to somebody who is an empty head or who is rebellious, who doesn’t value the Word of God and the Kingdom of God. And the Bible says, “Do not be hasty.” So, what do you want? “I want to study well.” “Okay, no problem. Lord, I pray this child will study well.” That’s okay. The Bible is very clear.

A full head is also useless without anointing. Ask the Pharisees – full head and they cannot recognize the anointing. Hundreds of people are coming to get baptized, right? River Jordan is probably full. John the Baptist is baptizing Jesus. Let me tell you – one anointing man sees the anointing descend on another Man. Nobody saw. It takes an anointed man or a woman to recognize another because the anointing is the same. Nobody else saw. They all stood there. They all watched Him and they said, “This is another Jewish dude going.” Scripture doesn’t realize; they don’t realize – another man heard the voice of God, he saw the Spirit; nobody heard; nobody saw.

Remember – the head. He who has your head has your body. Let’s recap quickly some of the heads in the Bible which were lost or found.

### **Judges 16:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head...***

“Munna, soja (Dear, sleep).” Where is the strongest anointed man in the *Book of Judges*? Sleeping on Delilah’s lap. By the time he wakes up, anointing is gone. Prophesied before he was born, consecrated in his mother’s womb, set apart for a mighty deed, this is the one upon whom the Spirit of God moved with power. Even in his disobedience, God used him. “Philistines are upon you,” and God has prophetically gone ahead of him and prepared the hour and the day for him. He looks and he doesn’t realize – months before, a donkey had died and the donkey’s bones have been wasted and one donkey ass-born is over there. He takes that and kills him because even for an obedient guy, because of the anointing, there is a provision there. But finally, he takes his head and puts it on the lap of the world and God says, “Let it go.” The final picture we have of him in the Philistine’s camp which is seen in *verse 21*; it says,

### **Judges 16:21**

***<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.***

When we see this picture, you need to realize – this is just the body following the mind. Before he reached there, his mind was already in the Philistine’s camp. God says, “This is the nature of sin. You thought, as you slept with all these Philistine girls, you were a cool dude.” He said, “You were not. You were a slave of the devil. Now, let the world see what you really are in the physical – blind, bound, serving your enemy. When you should be stamping the enemy in his head, you are serving the enemy because the body just followed where the mind was always.” Body just followed. That’s why your mind, children, your mind.

When you see Ruth, a Moabite, born of drunkenness and of incest, of whom God said, “Up to ten generations, you will not enter into My presence. No Moabite will enter into My presence,” that’s how, after *Judges*, the *Book of Ruth* begins. But when Ruth opens her mouth and she confesses what is in her heart, Scripture says, Ruth said,

### **Ruth 1:16-17**

***<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also,***

The Lord is saying, “Living in the land of Moab, the body of a Moabite, the mind of a Jerusalemite. Take her in. She needs to be joint to My family.” So, it doesn’t matter what your body is, what matters is where your mind is. Her mind was in Jerusalem even while living in Moab and He says, “She needs to be in Jerusalem. Go to Bethlehem and be joint to My family,” because where the mind goes, the body will follow. Where is your mind today? Where is our mind?

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And there is another one. You see the pattern as it begins. Eli the high priest and judge during Samuel's time. He is big, fat, blind, spiritually blind, compromised – everything is compromised; his sons are running a riot; the father doesn't bother and he allowed them to run the ministry as they pleased. They were totally compromised. Scripture says, "His eyes are dim. There is no open vision. There is no hearing of the Word. God is speaking audibly. Nobody hears in the temple. A little four or five-year-old boy alone hears," because his mother has brought him up where his ears are sanctified, his mind is sanctified, his body is sanctified so that when all of them are going around and Hophni and Phineas are sleeping with the women right in the temple, here is this little boy, sleeping in front of the ark and the Lord speaks and he hears. So, you are not too young to hear. Lie before the ark of the Covenant even in your sleep. You will hear. When you lied before the ark of the Covenant, you are saying, "I am set apart as a testimony of the Living God." Before that, it was called 'the ark' but when his testimony was put into it, it was called the Ark of Testimony. And before the testimony of God, this little boy is sleeping. Therefore, he hears the voice of the Living God. And Scripture says, "They fight. They lose. Hophni and Phineas die. The report comes to Eli – 'sons are dead, the ark is gone'." You know what Scripture says over there?

### 1 Samuel 4:18

***<sup>18</sup> Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.***

God says, "Your head is dislocated from the rest of your body because this head was a head that compromised My body. I'm showing judgment before the eyes of the people because the head is the seat of the government. The government is broken and the government is shifting from Eli to Samuel." Because that's what 'head' means – the head of Christ is God; meaning – your mind is your government's seat. Whoever controls your mind, governs your life and the head of Christ is God. Scripture says, "The head of man is Christ and the head of woman is man." There is a change of government.

In 1 Samuel 10; we saw that yesterday also.

### 1 Samuel 10:1

***<sup>1</sup> Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"***

That is Saul. The oil is poured upon him. He is anointed; he got a new heart and a new spirit; he does a few things but his mind is empty. There is no Word in there and he goes in the ways of all flesh. Pride comes in. He starts blowing his trumpet. The Philistines all gather around him. He doesn't know how to fight and he fight God's anointed, he fights against God; his ears are shut; he cries out to God; there is no response; there is no answer; he goes into witchcraft and finally, his death is described in 1 Samuel, the last chapter,

### 1 Samuel 31:8-9

***<sup>8</sup> So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. <sup>9</sup> And they cut off his head...***

Because Saul represents an idea. "We are the one who will overcome you, Philistines." So, they took his head and said, "We have overcome your idea." Yet, when David came from the wilderness with bread for his brothers and Goliath came, huge, massive ideology representing, "You fight us. If we win, you serve us. You win, we leave." All these ideas in the mind is taking place. David comes and he takes one stone in his sling; he swings it and it hits his forehead, signifying, "This is the idea that has kept God's people cowering in fear, hiding in the caves, running in fear. This idea, I will break in one stone." But that's not enough. He falls to the ground; he goes, takes his sword, cuts his head off and brings the head back to the city and says, "This is the idea that terrified you. Do you see it?" The power of an idea. That's what the head symbolizes and God asks, "Who controls you?" Who controls your mind? Is it God or this world? God or this world? Cut off. Pull down. Bring to captivity. That's what David is saying, "I have brought to captivity the Philistine ideology. This terrified you? See what I have done. Am I big? No. Am I strong? No. But my God is strong. You come against me with the sword, the spear, the javelin, the sword, I come against you in the Name of Yahweh Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts. I come in His Name." Do you see the power of an idea, the power of truth?

Ahithophel served David with his body. He served him, "Yes, lord, yes, lord; three bags full, lord. Yes, lord." But in his mind,

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he was plotting and planning for the day when he could destroy his king. His king was his head. He was plotting against his head. One day, he got the chance. He went over to the enemy's camp, sold his head out and then, God turns the tables. When God turns the tables, you know Ahithophel's end? Scripture records,

### **2 Samuel 17:23**

***<sup>23</sup> Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died;...***

There he is, hanging on, from the fan in his house. He didn't have a fan but he had a rafter. There he is, hanging. Why? Because his head betrayed him. He used his head to betray his head. Therefore, he is hanging from the head. Whoever has your head has your body. The devil had his head and the devil took his body.

Absalom, Absalom! Handsome young dude. Handsome young son. Beautiful, handsome, good-looking, great hair, great PR skills. He won the hearts of the people. He camouflaged his heard and his mind. He pretended he was the best PR guy any company could hire. He won but in his mind, he was plotting against his father first; two – his king. Unlike Ahithophel who plotted against the king, his head; Absalom plotted against his father, his head and his king – his head. Two plots. One is patricide; the other is regicide. Two different terms. Finally, his end,

### **2 Samuel 18:9**

***<sup>9</sup> Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth...***

Earth said, "We vomit you. He went against his king." Heaven said, "We don't want him because he went against his father." He was hanging there in between because where your head goes, your body will follow. Joab, what does he do?

### **2 Samuel 18:14**

***<sup>14</sup> Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.***

He said, "You betrayed your king with your head and you betrayed your father with the heart. Die." The Bible is very clear. That's why this is what matters. Get your ideas correct because where your head is today, your body will follow tomorrow. Tomorrow meaning, not tomorrow; but in a certain period of time in the future.

The head of the woman is man. We will come to that later, what kind of a man it should be. Jezebel was the head. She replaced the head. She did everything in the name of her husband. The actual headship was her. Ahab was just a power broker. She was the one who handled the strings of power. So, when her death comes, Jehu will come and she is looking through the balcony with her head out, with her eyes painted and opens her mouth and speaks, Jehu said, "You eunuchs, are you with me?" They said, "Yes." "Throw her down." Scripture doesn't describe it in graphic detail but I really believe she came down and her skull cracked open and the whole mess was there on the floor because it is with the head she plotted wickedness against the God of Israel. Because Ahab represents an ideology that started in the city of Babylon which is continuing today; till today, in the halls of higher learning centers, that ideology is continuing. So, he said, "Throw her headlong. Down." And this idea of Ahab and Jezebel is continuing. It has to be stamped out. So, Jehu wrote letters to everybody in the city and said, "Ahab has seventy sons and if you are with me and with the Lord, I want their heads tomorrow." Seventy sons were picked, heads were cut off, put in baskets and given to Jehu. Meaning – the head represents an idea. Every thought, every imagination has to be brought to the captivity of Christ Jesus. Don't even leave the little one out because they represent an idea which will grow later and take over your mind. Graphically given in the Old Testament so that we spiritual understand its implications in the New Covenant, what these things mean. Children, don't get fooled. "The Kingdom of God," Scripture says, "is like the merchant who went to a field and found this pearl of incredible value. He went back and he sold everything and he went there to possess this." If you don't seek after the Kingdom like that, you are wasting your time on earth. Because there is nothing of greater value in this life than the Kingdom of God and the King who rules over that Kingdom.

John the Baptist preached a message, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is here." People were broken; they repented; others

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were angry, mad; then, he looked at Herod and said, “You, dude. You took your brother’s wife.” Truth doesn’t stumble before kings. Agrippa, Felix, Paul, when he started talking about righteousness and self-control, the king started shaking. The prisoner is standing there. The prisoner is not shaking before the king; the king is shaking before the prisoner because the prisoner’s mouth and his mind is framed by the Word of God and the truth of God, and the truth of God is like a double-edged sword – kings and nations and dispensations have come down before it. It took one man called Apostle Paul, a small little man; a man who was practically half-blind, wrote one-third of these Epistles. Those Epistles broke the Roman empire down in 300 years. There is no more Rome. One man and an ideology given to him by God. The power of an idea. Herod takes John the Baptist and puts him in prison but Herod has a problem – every day, he will go to listen to John. He like an addict. He needs his fix. He is sinning but he needs a fix. “You tell me, scold me. It is okay. At least, I can feel good when I sinned because I have also listened to a scolding.” Then, like the dog that returns to its vomit, he will go back. then, again, he will go back but somebody is watching. Herodias is watching and she knows, “This man, the king, if he continues like this, that man will change his mind and if he changes his mind, I am out of this palace.” So, one day, the king is drunk and she calls her daughter and says, “Salomi, go dance.” And she goes and dances and the king is drunk, he looks at, probably, a young teenage girl, half naked, dancing and his mind is no longer sober; his mind is captivated by the enemy. Feelings of pleasure and lust takes over. He says, “Ask of me, even half of my kingdom, I will give to you.” She goes and asks, “Mummy, what should I ask? She said, “Ask for John’s head.” Because that head is taking over the mind of this man. Get his head. A little later, on a platter, the head of John is brought. Because that head represents a voice and a Kingdom but when it represents a voice and the Kingdom of God, even though you take one head off, other heads will rise up and Jesus will rise up and say the same thing – “Repent for the Kingdom of God is here.” They take that head, put Him on the Cross, silenced His voice, 120 arise upon the Pentecost Day and says, “Repent for the Kingdom of God.” You take that 120 out, another 2000 will rise up and say, “Repent for the Kingdom of God,” because the voice of truth cannot be silenced. It cannot be silenced. So, be careful where your head is and who has your head because ultimately, if you lose your head, you have lost everything. That’s what people say – the drunk man who never got drunk, comes back home and tells his wife, “I don’t know how I lost my head.” Exactly. That’s what you lost. The gambler who has gambled the fortune away, maybe we can call him Yudisthira; he comes and he will tell his wife, “I have no clue how I have lost and I have sold our wife also. (Not my wife; our wife). In that moment, I lost my head.” Don’t lose your head. You may not get it back.

Judas walked with Jesus, prayed with Jesus, ministered with Jesus, healed with Jesus. He walked and he walked and he liked all the trappings of power but he did not like the price of power. We like that trappings of power; we do not like the price of power. So, he realized – “I need to sell Him.” He was already selling Him even when he was walking with Him because Scripture says, “His hand was always in the money bag.” One day, he sold Him. His head was in the enemy’s camp while his body was walking with Christ. So, Acts 1:18 describes,

### **Acts 1:18**

***<sup>18</sup> (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong...***

Headlong. Yesterday, I told the Pastors, “How did he fall, the Apostle 12? How did he fall?” Headlong. Why? Because he betrayed his Head with his head. Not only that, another graphic description in the Bible.

***...he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.***

So, God is saying, “I want to be very sure that you know this that nobody will change history. Out of your belly, Judas, I have prophesied, rivers of living water will flow but what came out is muck and dirt because you sold your head out for money.” And I’m telling you, when you read the Bible and ask God to show you things, it scares you. That’s why Paul will say, “Knowing the terror of the Lord, I persuade men. I understand who He is – the loving God and the severe God, the kindness of God and the severity of God, the love of God and the terror of God.” He says, “Know it. Let no one fool you,” because nobody falls away in faith in one day. It’s a process. That’s where the Word of God comes. The Word of God is in our mind and we are constantly meditating on our mind; we are looking at an argument from the world; counter-argument – we know this is the truth; we take it, we throw it out and replace it. Don’t leave it empty. It’s like casting demons out of a body and leave it empty. That fellow will go and come back with seven other ideas. Earlier, you had only humanism; now, you have humanism, communism, feminism, socialism – everything has come in because when you took humanism out, you did not replace it with the doctrine of Christ. So, ultimately, you don’t know who you are – sometimes, you talk like a feminist, act like feminist, talk like a feminist and dress like a feminist. Sometimes, you are humanist. Sometimes, you are with the

red flag; sometimes, you have a rainbow-colored flag. You don't know who you are because you did not replace what was taken out with the Word of God. Confusion. Scripture says, "There is no shadow of turning with Thee." There is no confusion with God. Our God is a God of order. He says, "In the beginning, He created the Heavens and the earth." The earth was void and the earth was dark. Darkness covered the earth and the Spirit of God is hovering over the waters. God doesn't do anything in random. He says, "Let there be light." Order comes. Light is divided from the darkness. Evening and morning was the first day. What order! Second day – the evening and the morning. Third day – the evening and the morning. There is order in God's Kingdom. Is there order in our mind? One minute, thinking about cooking; the other minute – thinking about washing; next, thinking – Pastor is speaking. Come back; then, go. Is there order in your mind or is it all around the place? Train, discipline your mind to listen. That's the first discipline. Scripture says about Jesus, "Morning by morning, You awakened Me and You gave Me the tongue of the instructed because You taught Me to listen." That's the first lesson God the Father taught His Son, "Son, learn to listen. When the Spirit speaks to You, listen because if You listen, You will learn how to speak." Moses said, "I cannot speak." God asked, "Can you listen? If you can listen, you can speak." "No, Lord. I cannot speak. I-I-I stammer." "It's okay, your brother will speak for you before the people but you will speak for Me." "Lord, I cannot speak." "No problem. Can you listen?" He listened for 40 days before God and came down with what he had listened. "This is the law of the Lord." Every nation after that, every constitution has been framed on what he listened and he brought down. Can you listen? Can we listen? Because it's hear that is all begins. It's with the mind.

The prodigal son is living in his father's house. But his mind is not there. He is eating the food; he is wearing the clothes his father has given; he is riding the horse which the father has given; he is making the servants do all the things, the servants his father has provided. Well-to-do family, everything is taken care of but his mind is there in the world. He is just gathering his courage. One day, he gathers his courage and he tells his father, "I need my inheritance." Why does the father give? You would say, "That's not right. If I were the father, I would not have given." No, that's not true. The reason is – the father knew his son well. You cannot hold a body back when the mind is already gone. I tell that to women; I tell that to men. Once you know your husband's mind is already gone and he is not going to come, why are you compromising and holding, "I don't care if you sleep with 50 other women, just come back home in the night." You are a compromiser; not he. The mind is already gone. You are holding on to a dead body. Parents also need to realize – there is only one way – let them go. If you don't let them go, sooner or later, they will make your house a pig pen. He lets him go. He goes; he has a blast. It won't last too long. One day, he is in the pig pen, sitting in the pigs and looking at the hogwash. He is hungry. And then, he thinks. See, hunger makes his mind think. The devil was using Jesus' hunger to make Him think with his idea. Instead, God used his hunger to make him think about his father's table. He suddenly think, "Mere baap gi gar pe roti hain, chapatti hain, aloo hain, paratha hain, machali hain; beef nahi. India mein tho beef nahi hai. Baki sab kuch hain. (In my father's house, there is roti, chapatti, potato, paratha, fish but no beef. In India, there wouldn't be beef but everything else is there)." He came to his senses. In terms of food, he realized – "My father is a righteous man. He always took care of me. What did he deny me? Did he deny me anything that was good?" That is how you should remember the people who took care of you. I'm telling you, the children who are orphans – that is how you should always remember the people in your life – did you ever lack in these 10 years? If you were seen with a child who is from a home, do you look different? Aren't some of you better dressed than children who come from homes? Don't you have good English medium schools when children in homes go to Telugu medium schools? Aren't your fees paid on time? Don't you get transport – picked and dropped, picked and brought back; you need to think – "The hand was of man but above that hand, there was a Father and He was good." He took care of me and all His rules, therefore, are good because the rules do not come from an evil heart; the rules come from a good heart." That's what He says, "You, evil fathers. If you know how to give good things to your children, how much more your Father in Heaven?"

He came to his senses and he realized, "My father is good. I will go back." How did he start his journey back? His journey did not start with his legs; it started with his mind. In his mind, he came to his senses. He knew one thing – he is sitting in a stinking pig pen. I told the Pastors yesterday – he can't change his clothes because he has no clothes to change into. He can't change his sandals because he has no sandals to wear. He has nothing to change because he has no change, literally, no loose change also, to buy a cup of tea. He has nothing. But there was one thing he could change – that was his mind. God is not asking anything from anybody here but there is one thing He wants – it's your mind because he, who has your mind, has your body. When he comes back with a changed mind, the father, who was always waiting to see if his son is coming back, he knows, "This son is not coming back because he is hungry; he is coming back because his mind is changed. And he is coming." And Scripture says, "The father ran." He changed his mind; his father changed his clothes. He changed his mind; his father changed his sandals. Not only did he change his clothes and his sandals, the father put a ring on his



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finger and said, "Come back, son. You will always be my son." Understand what it means. Salvation, primarily, is a change of mind which leads of heart, which leads to a change of desires, which leads to a change of walk. You are going this way; you are turning slowly back this way and you are faltering. God says, "I am with you. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. You will never be alone. Everybody may forsake you because you changed your mind. Your father may forsake you because you changed your mind. Your mother may forsake you because you changed your mind. Your teacher may forsake you because you changed your mind but I, who was instrumental in changing your mind, will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you all the way, till the very end and take you on to the other side." That's why Paul says, "Put on the helmet of salvation." Take the sword of the Spirit and start fighting these ideas and these arguments that are sold to us through 500 channels on TV, a billion hits on the net and all hoardings – every advertisement, every politician who stands and talks about Ache Din (good days) when Bure Din (bad days), when judgment is coming and you look at him and say, "Ache Din (good days)." God says, "Bure Din (bad days). The day of judgment. The day of Jacob's trouble." The hills shake, the mountains shake, people hide, the kings hide, you want to die; you cannot die because even death is taken. You hang, you will not die. You eat poison, you don't die. You take a gun and put in your mouth and shoot, you will not die because God says, "You will not die. You will face judgment." That's what is written because death in His hands. Jesus says, "He who has the keys has authority. I have the keys of Death and Hades in My hand. If you die, I choose you die. Otherwise, your rope will break. You will not die." Everything in life is preparing to that day, a world prepares with terror. Hearts of men failing. Scripture says, "For My people, for My children, their heads are held high because they know their redemption is near." They know and we don't prepare the same way. We prepare it differently. We prepare it with joy; we prepare it with terror. They are putting millions, building underground bunkers, the rich people, to hide when the holocaust comes. Nothing will stop the wrath of God from coming into your bunkers. The man of God builds not bunkers, nothing; he walks because he knows – "I am covered by the Blood. O Jerusalem, O Zion, will I not be a wall of fire around you? I, your God, am a shield. I go before you. I am your rearguard. I surround you with My glory. My everlasting arms are underneath you. Above, I am there. Below, I am there. You don't have to worry. I am there with you." We don't need bunkers; we need the Holy Spirit.

So, this morning, I want the worship team to come. Know our God as we prepare. One day, you are on the mountain top; He brings you to the dry valley of dry, dry bones. Another day, you are in the island, sitting on dry bones and He lifts you up and puts you in His throne room and shows you the future. What a God! We will stand. We will sing that song 'Leaning on His Everlasting Arms of God'.

**Closing Song:** *Leaning On His Everlasting Arms*

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just come to You. You are the Rock of our salvation. The lifter of our head and I pray, Father, today, we will know that we are seated with Christ Jesus in the Heavenly places. "If you are seated with Christ," Paul says, "then let your mind be on things that are above," and I pray there would be a lifting of heads today, Lord. They will lift their heads from worthless things that are on earth – these fanciful ideas of this world, these passive desires of this world. They will lift their head and they will think Your thoughts, O God. I take authority in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth and I pull down every stronghold, every thought, every argument that lifts itself above the knowledge of God, O Master. You have given us power over the power of the enemy, Lord; an idea, if it is small like the scorpion, we stamp it out. An idea, if it strong like a snake, we trample it out because Your Word says, "You shall trample upon snakes and scorpions and they shall by no means harm us." I pray, Father, if poison has entered into the bloodstream of Your children, today, I pray and I confess Your Word. Your Word says in Mark 16, "Even if you take poison, it will not harm you." I pray, Father, the Blood of Jesus. The Blood of Jesus will work as an antidote in the minds of Your people, O Lord. There will be a conviction in the hearts. There will be a pricking in their conscious. There will be a confession of their mouth and the Blood of Jesus will cleanse their minds, will cleanse their consciousness with every unrighteousness, thought, word or deed, O Master; that they would be set free in their minds to serve You, Father. I pray, Lord, that their minds would belong to You so that, with our bodies, we will serve You, Lord. We may be in Babylon like Daniel. We may be in Egypt like Joseph, sent out to the world but our hearts, our minds and our bodies are with the Lord and the Lord alone and we will not prostitute our minds; we will not prostitute our hearts; we will not prostitute our bodies, like Samson did with Delilah. We will consecrate ourselves for the Lord's use as Joseph did, as Daniel did, as Your servants did, as Your Son did. As the Son confessed, we confess, "Behold, in the volume of this Book, it is written about everyone who is standing here." You have given us a body; you have prepared a body for us to do Your will and Your will alone and in the volume of this Book, we lift this Word above every other idea, every thought, every ideology*

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*and we proclaim in the volume of this Book, it is written about Your Son. He is the head. Therefore, it is written about us because we are the Body. The body will not be separated from the head. We will not be a headless people; we will position ourselves under our head because the anointing flows from the Father to Jesus and from Jesus to the rest of the body and I pray, by faith, everyone will position themselves under that head in this 11<sup>th</sup> year so that the anointing will flow from Your head down Your beard, down to the helm of Your robe so that even if somebody touches the helm of the robe, they would be healed, O God. Let Your anointing flow in Your body unhindered, Lord. Everything that blocks in, I pray, Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, be removed. Our old men will see dreams. Our young men will prophesy. Our children will see; our babies will hear the voice of the Lord. our babies will leap in the wombs of the mothers. I pray You will separate these children and the other generation as a set apart people for the work of the Lord in these last days, O Lord. I just thank You for Your faithfulness, Your goodness towards us, Lord. All these 10 years, You watched over us and I believe, O Lord, we have come through and You brought us through. And this 11<sup>th</sup> year, I believe You will shift us to a different realm altogether, Father. We stand, we wait. Do Your will in our lives, every one of us. Thank You, Father. Thank You. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You. By faith, we lift up holy hands now in Thy sanctuary. We bless Your holy Name. The Kingdom, the power and the glory is Yours and Yours alone, O God. Thank You, Father. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction:**

*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.*