

Are We Ready?

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Father, this morning, we just come to You. As we come to the ministry of the Word, Father, I pray Your Spirit will anoint us to hear what You have to teach us what You have to speak to us so that O Father the Word would cleanse us. Jesus 2000 years ago when Your disciples followed You. And listened to Your teaching. You said, "You are clean because of the Word." And I pray this morning even in Your house there will be, a cleansing a supernatural cleansing by Your Word, O God so that even we come to Your table, it will be a set of cleansed people who will sit at Your table, Lord, and partake of the emblem the symbols of Your body and Your blood that was shed for us, O Master. And we truly will be able to spiritually experience, Lord, food, manna, the bread that has come from heaven. Speak to us, teach us this morning. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

As we continue our study, remember; we have been looking at the devices of the enemy. There are four fundamental things which every child of God, believer, has to be strong in and grow stronger. One – we need to know God, the Person of God through Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "If you know Me, you have known the Father." So, we can know the Father only through Christ. So, we need to know the Person of Jesus Christ. We need to know the Word of God, the Bible because if we don't know God, we just become just the follower of the religion called Christianity. Okay? Christianity, which has no power. Christianity has power because of Christ. You take Christ out, Christianity is just another religion. So, we need to know God through Christ and we need to know the Word of God so that when people come and say, "I think God is speaking to me," where is it written that what you say aligns with the Word of God? So that people are not deceived by voices that sound so similar to the voice of God. God has given His Word written. *Genesis* from 1:1 to *Revelation* 22:21, He has given us His word. Continue to read, continue to meditate, continue to learn from the Word of God. So, God His Word. Third, we need to really continue to ask God, "I need to know myself." There is a guy who said, I don't know which man said; "If I had the difference of what you think you are and what you think really is, I could live off it for the rest of my life."

Israel will think "We are cat's whiskers." They walked like that for centuries. God says, "Jacob, you worm. You are not destroyed only because of My person." Okay? We really need to know who we are because don't keep saying, "I am following my heart." We'll see so many preachers talking about following your heart. The Bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things." Wow. It's incredible, right? My heart, your heart is deceitful above all things. That's why salvation, the beginning of salvation, is with a new heart. That doesn't mean the old heart has gone away. Okay? Hasn't gone away. Kill it, each day. So, know God, know His Word, keep learning about self and know your enemy. If you don't know your enemy and his tactics, you are already lost in the battle. We cannot fight this battle and win this battle without knowing the enemy. So, we will continue to study. Today is kind of a tough teaching sessions. Okay? So, tune your ears.

The greatest danger to God's people, that's the Church, the living Church, especially in the last days, is not persecution but deception. Persecution is from the outside and in almost all cases for 2000 years, God has used persecution both for Israel and for the Church to refine the Church and purify the Church. He has used persecution to refine and make the Church as He wants her to be. So, the greatest danger the Church faces in the last days, especially, is not persecution. Remember the Church in Smyrna? The *Book of Revelation*. Christ refused to pull them out of the fire persecution. Instead, He actually told them "Stay in the persecution." You can see that in *Revelations* 2. Stay in the persecution and be faithful unto?

Revelations 2:9

⁹ "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich)..."

He says, "You are poor." Tribulation will always bring poverty because your property, everything, will be taken away by the system and by the mobs. "I know your tribulation. I know your poverty," but spiritually, He says, "You are rich."

...and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.

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He is not talking ten days in ten days. Long period of time. “You are not going to come out of it. Be faithful until death.” Meaning? Many of you are going to die in prison. Many of you will die in this tribulation but remain faithful. God says, “You know I am not going to take you out.” Okay? So, remember, the greatest danger the Church faces is never persecution. We feel sorry for the persecuted Church, but we don’t realize they are sorry for us. Because actually, when a Pastor went to the underground Church in Korea and he looked at a man and he wanted to pray for them, they told him, “Do not pray for us looking at our condition. We actually pray for you. We are refined in this fire and we know our God. We pray for you that you will know your God. We heard the God through you but you have forgotten the God who brought you out.” So, understand. That’s why when it comes to all the warnings of Jesus about the last days. Jesus will warn. In *Matthew 24*, they are at the Olivet Discourse,

Matthew 24:3-4, 11, 24

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one (They are talking about last days first warning, continuous warning is) **“Take heed that no one deceives you.”** (How will this happen? Verse 11)

¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

Like I said, the greatest danger the Church faces from within, not from outside. From within is, deception. False prophets will arise, and they deceive you. And in *verse 24*,

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive,

Why do they do great? What is the need to show these great signs and wonders to deceive? How do they device with great signs and wonders? Their word, doctrine is a lie. People who do not know the Word of God will get fooled by the power ministry. And God says, “Beware even the elect, the very elect, yes you are part of the elect you were chosen.” But God says, “Be very careful. Even the elect, if they are not founded strong in the Word of God, will get deceived because they see the signs and confuse with the apostolic signs which was given to confirm the Word.” The devil will use same similar signs, to deceive people from the Word where God will use signs and wonders to confirm the Word that was preached to the apostles. So, remember it is a double-edged sword before which many will fall. Persecution from outside and deception from inside. Remember? Thousands and thousands of children of Judah were brought to Babylon. Those who were brought to Babylon and given the best facilities and escaped the sword of persecution. But history says, “They could not handle the deception of Babylon and assimilated into Babylon.” Only a remnant came out. What could the sword not destroy, or persecution could not destroy, deception did. We hear only four names in the *Book of Daniel*. In one generation, we hear your names but hundreds of them were brought. Rest were deceived by the ideologies and they bowed before those ideologies and those gods and they disappeared. So, God called Paul. God through apostle Paul specifically keeps warning the Churches, “Be very clear.” Be very careful. In *Timothy*, he will say, “Now, the Spirit expressly says,” that. Now, let me ask you – if you had the money and if you have to go from point A to point B, would you go by an ordinary bus or an express bus? Would you pick a passenger train or an express train? You want an ordinary delivery or an express delivery? Did you see the Spirit? See, God uses words to bring to us the importance of certain matters.

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from faith, giving heed (To what?) to the deceiving spirits and doctrine of demons.

How do these spirits deceive? They deceive with false doctrine. Doctrines of demons. Demons have theology. They are smart. Please understand when Isaiah and Ezekiel speak about the devil, he is called perfect in wisdom. He is smart beyond understanding. That’s why God says, “Be wise as a serpent.” Don’t be crooked like him. Be wise. He’s got wisdom which God gave him. He was made perfect in wisdom until pride sin iniquity was found in him. So, you need to realize they will use false doctrine. Doctrine of demons. This is fundamental.

1 Timothy 4:2

² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

You know what is that? You know you burn and you have a burn mark really deep burn and it heals. You touch and there is no feeling. There is no feeling anymore. What does it mean? These false apostles who come as servants of Christ will walk around and they will do all and they will preach false doctrine. And they even be a prick of conscience in their conscience anymore. They will lie to the congregation with open eyes with all, absolutely no conscience inside. So, He said be careful. Conscience have been seared with hot iron and they speak lies in hypocrisy. Hypocrites are double. They pretend to be servants of God, but they are preaching the doctrines of demons. So, God says, "Be very careful." That's why when the Church began 2000 years ago. 2000. The Church began when they heard the Word, they received it, they repented. They believed, and they got baptized. First set of people they came out, they got baptized. When they got baptized, what did the apostles do first in Acts 2? They continued steadfastly. Okay. Like expressly. Note words. You have to be steadfast. In what? First is what? Apostles doctrine. First thing they did with the Church was, grounded them in doctrine. That's the first thing they did. Apostles doctrine. This is important. We don't realize the importance of doctrine. Doctrines are fundamentals truths of how the Kingdom of God functions. How God works. It's about the ways of God. they are not flexible. Doctrines are not flexible. They cannot be changed.

So, when the Church, the infancy, when the Church gathers when people come in, the first thing you teach them is the inflexible ways of God. These don't change. These are foundational truths of how the God's Kingdom works. So, the primary fundamental doctrines, remember the one in *Hebrews 6*, remember? First is, what? *Repentance from dead works*. That's the first one. First one. And we constantly have to repent from works which are dead. There is no life in it. But you stop it. Why? Because we are habituated to it. I am not saying they are bad works. They may be good works but there is no life in it at all. It's just practice. There is no life in it at all. It's just practice. We do it by practice. But God says, "Everything that I do, everything I do that Christ does through you and me, there is life in it." Repentance from dead works – those are primary. So, there is this foundational doctrine of repentance. You cannot take it away. And you look at most of the preachers and evangelists in crusades and all, they never preach repentance; they just say, "Repeat after me." What they preach before a crusade is a miracle. Then, they ask people to repeat a salvation prayer. There is no conviction. So, the foundation stone which they are laying in the life of the person itself is wrong. Because the first thing of doctrine is, the doctrine of repentance from dead works and then, faith towards God, that's second. What should we do? Did Peter say, "Repeat prayer after me"? He said, "Repent." John the Baptist began his sermon, what did he say? "Repent." When Jesus began, what did He say? "Repent." When Peter began what did he say? "Repent." When Paul preached what did he say? "Repent." That's foundational doctrine. If you take that foundational doctrine of repentance away, your salvation is not sure. Building on false foundations. Okay. That's why doctrine is foundational. So, when Jesus came and started preaching, they were astonished. In *Matthew 7*, Scripture says,

Matthews 7:28

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

KJV will say, "Astonished at His doctrine." Doctrine is basically teaching. They are stunned. They have hundreds of teachers around but when He came and taught, they were stunned not by his eloquence. Not stunned by His signs and wonders. Not stunned by the volume of His voice. Not stunned by Him jumping up and down. That's how preacher do. They were stunned by His doctrine. In *Acts 5:28*, the apostles start teaching, the high priest and the ruling class is so mad, they call them and say,

Acts 5:28

²⁸ "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

They understood doctrine very well. They refused to accept it. They knew that, "If we accept your doctrine, then we are guilty of His death." If you accept the doctrine of repentance, you and I are guilty of Jesus's death. And it was a rage in the Jewish community the leadership. So, doctrines are fundamentals truths of how the Kingdom of God functions. And they are not flexible, like I said because these doctrines establish the righteousness of God. Therefore, when the doctrine of demons come through false prophets and Pastors and teachers, they take these positions and they teach; they change the doctrine of Christ. That's how the Church gets deceived. And the Scripture says, "In the last days, there will be so much with power and signs and wonders if you know it did not happen in the previous centuries." This is reserved for the last days.

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The devil will empower his disciples with power. So, they will preach with signs and wonders so that even the elect will be confused. If they are not sure. Okay? So, understand. Our doctrine is false righteousness of Christ is not getting established in our lives, and the Kingdom of God is righteousness is based on righteousness. That is the fundamental way in which God functions and those ways will never pass away. The devil, on the other hand, we know in the last days, the antichrist comes and preparation for that; for what he does is he changes the laws. *Daniels 7:25* says,

Daniel 7:25

²⁵ ***He shall speak pompous words against the Most High...***

What shall he speak? That's what you'll see all celebrities everybody making pompous words against Christ and His Word. They are speaking very pompous. As the spirit of the antichrist spreads around the world. Even in Christian nations, you will see, their judges sit in courts, supreme court judges sit in courts around the world. Around the Christian nations authorities, Prime Minister, celebrities, TV celebrities, Hollywood celebrities. All speak pompous words against Christ. And His Word. And they persecute the saints of the Most High. The one who are caught are the saints who are trying to stick to the truth.

...and shall intend to change the times and the law...

See, he will change the law. He will change it. He will change the doctrine. He will change the law of the land so that if you are not firm in the doctrine of God, you will compromise. How did the Churches in America compromise? And huge denominations have accepted homosexuality as norm to a point they ordained homosexual Pastors and clergymen and Bishops. How did it happen? Because they did not stand on doctrine. A doctrine is not flexible. Has God changed? No, He hasn't changed. He never changes. We have to change. Doctrine, another word for it is, is truth. By its very nature, it is unchangeable. Truth, by its very nature, is unchangeable. When Israel came out of Egypt and came to Mount Sinai, what God gave to them is the Ten Commandments. Everything else is subsection – A Subsection, B – some can be thrown away; some doesn't apply but Ten Commandments apply. Can you negotiate with that? It begins with, *"Thou shall have no other gods before Me."* And ends with, *"Thou shall not covet."* This is non-negotiable. It will be always the same for ever and ever. You can't covet in heaven. Okay, I will not covet in earth when I go to heaven. No, you cannot. It will remain because what is true is true forever. That's the nature of truth. You cannot destroy truth. It is forever. That was fundamental to their existence as a nation. It was non-negotiable. When they tried negotiating with the Ten Commandments, the nation was allowed to go into captivity. God says, *"My Name shall be hallowed even among My people. So, I will hallow My Name by sending My people into captivity."* I will show you. Understand that it doesn't change. That's why the apostles were very clear in the first stage to focus on doctrine to establish the Church, when you cross from a nation, one nation to another nation, there may be fundamental differences in how they function and if you do not know how that nation, you are crossing into functions, you can run into trouble with the laws of that nation. When we were born again, if you are born again. We are born again from the kingdom of darkness this world into Kingdom of God into the Kingdom of Light. There is a fundamental difference in how these nations operate.

Around I don't how many years back, when I was 23-24, finished my MA, applied to Bhutan, sent a handwritten. Those days, you don't even have type writers. So, sent a handwritten application saying, *"I just finished. Is there a vacancy?"* Those days, you get what is called wireless telegram. One week; not one week, a month; or a letter takes 30 days to reach those days. I get letter *"Report immediately to Thimphu for interview."* I was like my results are not out. You know. Excited. Booked my tickets. Went to the education headquarters and had my interview and this thing. And then, I get my slip, I realized I was the only one who was called; nobody was called. I was selected because there was one vacancy which had come. And I was sitting; the director called me. Yeah, when I went back to join; I came back, went back to join. The director of education called me. I went into his office. I still remember. There are certain thing people even the Gentiles say makes a lot of sense. He said, *"Mr. James, you are from India. Let me tell you about my nation."* He said, *"In my country, power flows like the feathers of a rooster top to down. In your country, power flows from bottom to up. Understand here – power flows from top to down."* Meaning? You don't do stuff here the way you do in India. No strikes, no unions, no protests, nothing. This is a monarchy. The Kingdom of God the power flows like feathers of a rooster top down. Any sin you see in the Bible connected with families – David or anybody is forgiven. Murder is forgiven, adultery is forgiven, lying is forgiven everything. Rebellion against a king is not forgiven. You are executed even if you are a king's son. Understand how laws work. Being a sinner being a rebel are two different things. They are not the same. God loves sinners. God's face is hard against rebels. Satan was not a sinner. Satan was a rebel. So even though he was created as the most magnificent creature

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who stood on the Holy Mountain, when he rebelled, God kicked him out. Kicked him out of heaven. So, understand how systems work. We get our doctrines clear how the Kingdom of God works. Because a strength of a Church is not seen in its numbers, it is not seen in structures, it is not seen in the signs and wonders that take place in His name. It is seen in how true they are in obeying his Word.

To one of the smallest weakest Churches in the *Book of Revelation*, in the Philadelphia, He says in *Revelations 3:8*,

Revelation 3:8

⁸ ***"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, (It's an only Church with an open door in those 7 Churches. Open door through incredible trails that's coming upon the whole earth. A kind of a last days Church. He says) and no one can shut it; (no power on earth, no power in heaven, no power of darkness can shut the door that I am opening for you why?) for you have a little strength, (you didn't have strength, you didn't have name, you didn't have power, you didn't have money, you didn't have political influence, you had nothing but you) have kept My word, (you struck to doctrine, you kept My Word) and have not denied My name.***

"You did not compromise. You did not deny My name. You hallowed My name." See that's why He says, "if you have to pray. Pray first, *hallowed be Your name, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Your Kingdom come.*" This is one Church which took it literally and said, "We will do it." See, when Ezekiel is seeing the vision, remember the vision in *Ezekiel 37*? The valley of bones. When he sees that vision,

Ezekiel 37:2, 4

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.***

God told Ezekiel something about the state of the Church, everything is gone. There is no hair, no skin, no flesh, no tendons, everything is gone. What is left? Doctrine is left. So, He can breathe life into Church where doctrine is still there. Where there is no doctrine He can't breathe. What's the point in breathing into a Church which has no bones. Skin and flesh comes back and collapse when they try to get up. This is what you see. If you have gone through it all. They are very dry. The spirit has gone out of your doctrine. They are very dry. But the doctrine is still there. Many of these denominations which survived for hundreds of years will not survive the last days. They survived for hundreds of years, though their bones were dry, the spirit had left. Their bones were dry, they survived because the bones were still there. Now, they won't survive because their bones have gone. They have changed their doctrines. Now, they won't survive. So, understand – for us to survive, first is for God to bring a revival in a Church. They are asking for revival. For God to bring a revival in somebody let there be some bones. Something for him to breathe into. And the first prophesy is through the bones. *Verse 4 and 6*

⁴ ***"Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, (if you are feeling like a dry bone today, oh dry bones, hear the word of the Lord) hear the word of the Lord!***

Church, I have seen this over; yesterday also, I had a meeting. I have seen this over and over again. Sometimes, without knowing us, knowing never having heard anything, they called me for a meeting and when you go to the Church, you realize – they are not able to comprehend or listen to the Word from the beginning till the end because they are no bones there. No bones there at all. Absolutely no bones. I'm not talking about unsaved people outside; I'm talking about people who go with the name of Christianity. Churches that are not founded on the truth, there will be nothing to prophesy about. When Paul writes to Timothy and therefore, the Holy Spirit, to us, he uses a term,

1 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ ***Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. (Match your life with the doctrine that you receive) Continue in them, (Constantly keep changing as you learn the doctrine of Christ) for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.***

1 Timothy 5:17

¹⁷ ***Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.***

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Here, there are many elders in the Church but all of them are not involved in doctrine. One of the reasons God says, “Many of you should not teach,” is because those who teach will be judged very strictly because anybody who tries to put the mantle of teaching in any format in the Church is passing the doctrine without checking. Why, what is the reason? I sometimes shiver to send some of the WhatsApp forwards because some of them are doctrines which you never tested out. I like it but when I look at it, it’s like; “Oh my gosh! What have this person put in? Because it doesn’t fit the standard of God’s Word.” Because social media and television and internet is accountable to no one. So, you see, those people have no accountability. They pass something and some child sitting over there says, “Oh, wow! It’s lovely, I’m going to walk in it.” It may be absolutely false. That’s why God says, “Every teacher of the Word will be strictly judged on that day.” Did you teach on false doctrine?

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

So, it’s the doctrine. We need to be very sure we keep learning doctrine and adjusting our lives to doctrine instead of picking doctrine that adjust with our lives. Why does it say in another place that these people will go with these itching ears and find teachers who will speak to what they want to hear? We should change our lives according to the doctrine of Christ and not try to find doctrine which will pacify our flesh; not crucify. Listen to Paul again when it comes to doctrine. Paul is writing to Timothy and now, he is writing to Titus.

Titus 2:7-8

⁷ in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

He says, “When it comes to doctrine, Timothy, when it comes to doctrine, Titus, when it comes to doctrine, every man of God who will follow me,” he says, four fundamental principles for everybody who passes doctrine on. In your doctrine, let there be integrity. In your doctrine, let there be reverence; in your doctrine, let there be incorruptibility and,

⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

He says, “When it comes to doctrine, if ever you become a teacher of the word of the God because when it comes to doctrine. Everything we preach one way or the other it fits into the character and person of who God is. He says, let this four tests be there. Is there integrity, is there reverence, is there incorruptibility and does it have sound speech that cannot be condemned? So what does that mean?

First Scripture says, you and I, we need integrity in doctrine. What does it mean? It means our doctrine must pass the test of Scripture, the whole Scripture. Preachers on television specially have their particular text and they have built their doctrine on one or two text. It doesn’t fit in with the whole Scripture. So they always avoid all the portions from the Scriptures where it doesn’t fit in with the doctrine and because people are biblically illiterate and they love them being illiterates like politicians in India love their people to be illiterates so that when five years come they can whip up their emotions and get them to vote and forget them after that. Preachers who are false love the congregation to be biblically illiterate. They don’t understand fine, I can sell them my products. Old days they used to call them snake oil merchants. In your doctrine let there be integrity.

So, when a preacher is very selective, everyone has to be healed and if you are not walking in the healing then? He doesn’t know his Scripture at all. “This is from the devil.” “No, sir. It’s not.” “Who told you?” “God told me.” “To whom?” To Moses. I cannot speak. God says, “Who made you dumb? Who makes man dumb, who makes man blind, who make man deaf?” He says, “I do.” Your theology goes out of the window. The devil is not the creator of anything. God’s sovereign hand is over everything. You see, that’s the problem and people walk in guilt. You know that, “I am not healed because I do not have enough faith, I need to repent more, I need to confess more. I have gone through every check list but I have found nothing.” But they are still not healed. Because they didn’t read all of Scripture. Healing is there, cases of not healing both are there in the Bible. The greatest healer of the Old Testament prophet Elisha died of an illness. There was an anointing on his dead body to raise a dead person but there was no anointing on him to heal his sickness. Same God!

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Don't walk in false guilt and condemnation because you don't understand doctrine. Sometimes you may be binding and casting out demons when there are no demons. Integrity! Everyone has to prosper. Who said so? Did God say? Actually, Jesus said that the poor will be always there among you. What did He say? When the law was given about the material prosperity, He said, "In the law, I am writing all this, there will be poor, so poor that they will sell themselves to clear their debts after seven years." "Please let them off. When you are reaping, just leave the edges. "Let the poor fellow eat that." In God's promise land which flows with milk and honey, there will be poor people. Get your theology right or else you will feel condemned, "I haven't prospered. I believed, I claimed I gave all my money to these TV preachers and nothing is coming and he promised me ten times, five times, seven times. I see him growing ten times, twenty times, nothing is happening to me." God says, "Honey, where did you get your doctrine from? We need to have integrity about doctrine, the whole Scripture."

Let me ask you this question? Why was Joseph able to stand alone in Egypt? Because his doctrine was sound and he stood on the doctrine. Whoever taught him, he stood on that doctrine though he was surrounded by the doctrine of demons. Literally, these were ideologies are doctrines of demons; here was slave, physically; standing there free. Why? All these demonic ideologies, who are showing the power, might, money and their glory; this man is standing strong alone on his doctrine and he cannot be compromised. Why was Daniel able to stand 70 years in Babylon? Because his doctrine was sound. Why are people not able to stand in the pressures of the world? Because you know the doctrine was not sound. Why was Saul not able to stand? Why was Samson not able to stand? Prophesied before birth, angels came and declared his birth, set apart from birth, anointed of the Holy Spirit and when caput at the end. Why? Because he had everything going for him except one thing – what he needed to do, he didn't do. He didn't have foundations in doctrine. He thought because of all the things happening through him, God would change His way for him. God says, "I don't do that for anybody! You change your ways for Me. I don't change My ways for you." Only there can be one God at a time. And there is only one God.

Why was David able to fall and rise again? Because his doctrine was sound. I am not saying, if your doctrine is sound, you don't fall. If your doctrine was sound, when you fall, you will rise. Because you know the wrath of God, you also know the mercy of God for every sinner who repents, when you understand doctrine. So, we have to be sound in faith. Then, we must have soundness in our doctrine. We must have integrity in the doctrine that we believe and walk in.

So, what is the second one? Reverence. Let's look at reverence. What does it mean to revere? To hold with utmost respect, right? Does the doctrine that we receive give more reverence for God, things of God, the house of God? Is it working in us? In *Psalm 36*, the Psalmist says

Psalm 36:1-4

¹ An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. ² For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity and when he hates. ³ The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good. ⁴ He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil.

A whole list is given of what this man does in his heart and outside, the way he walks, but the reason? Verse 1.

Psalms 36:1

¹...There is no fear of God before his eyes.

That's the reason. What's the reason? There's no fear of God. Why do people sin and sin and sin and never repent and it doesn't bother them? Simple reason, because there is no reverence. There's no fear of God before them. There's no reverence at all. The Holy Spirit understands the importance of doctrinal purity when something is being established. When a Church is being established, a nation is being established, when Israel is being established, the laws are given, the first two people to die is the high priest's own sons because of irreverence. He is teaching them. The lessons you learn when something is being established from by God is very hard. It is so that subsequent generations learn that lesson. It's the high priest's own sons – Nadab and Abihu who offers profane fire in the Holy place, immediately, are struck dead by God. And the high priest is told, "Don't even mourn for them."

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When the Church begins in the New Covenant, again, you see the first two people to die in the Church not because of persecution, because of God.

Acts 5:10-11

¹⁰ Then immediately she fell down at his feet (Who is that? Mrs. Sapphira, Ananias is already dead.) **and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. ¹¹ So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.**

So, great reverence was restored in the Church. The Church was getting a little too familiar with God, to the point a husband and a wife thought they could fool the Holy Spirit. Covetousness was dealt with an iron fist in the first Church and reverence was restored. You know these things, God deals because otherwise, it will block the doctrine of God from being revealed.

Doctrines are being set in Israel; doctrine is being set in the Church and the two hindrances that came in, God removed it. So, that doctrines can continue to flow and people will continue to receive. Today, He doesn't do that. If He did that, the Pastor would be in jail because Sapphira's children would go and file a case in the police station, "The Pastor killed my mother," though he may have nothing to do with it. Doctrine has been established. He doesn't judge those ways. Not that He won't. In extreme cases, He does. But, He doesn't. So, we have to be very careful, what is that we believe?

Third component is? Go to *Titus 2:7*,

Titus 2:7

⁷ in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility.

Incorruptibility. Let your doctrine be incorruptible. What does 'incorruptible' mean? What does 'corruptible' mean? Scripture says in *1 Peter 1:18-19*, you don't have to turn there – You and I were not redeemed with corruptible things like gold or silver by the incorruptible blood of God's own Son, Jesus Christ. Incorruptible. Everything in this world is corruptible. Heaven and earth will pass away. It's corruptible but God's doctrine, His truth is incorruptible. So, God says, "Your doctrine should be incorruptible; it should be immortal; it should be eternal." Why?

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

If the Word is God, it is incorruptible. The preaching that you and I receive should be true yesterday, today and even in heaven. And you put that test, to some of the doctrines you hear today – will this doctrine be there in heaven? Will it last in heaven? It should not be the latest fashion that passes away. What false teachers always do is they appeal to the emotions of people with very little Scripture. You take some of the biggest names, in the Christian circuit today and you look at their sermon – one hour thirty minutes. You will find three or four Scriptures at the maximum and they built around it and it doesn't sometimes tally. And you know what they need? To push this onto the people who are Biblically illiterate when it comes to the doctrine, they have props, they have lights, this thing. At the back, they have this Pianist sitting and every time he goes one notch, he plays something. Can you imagine Jesus teaching His disciples like that? Does truth need props? Think about it, it should be decent because it's the house of God. Does He need props? Does He need psychedelic colors? That's mind-blinding, right? That's mind-washing. Does He need music at the background? Ask yourself this question, why? Can't truth stand on its own? The only thing truth demands for the listener to receive is what Jesus said – He called His disciples to Himself. He refused to teach the crowds. That's why every Sunday, I say, "Come forward," because unconsciously or consciously, you are making a step towards being a student of the Word of God. Because He refused to teach to the crowds. He only told the disciples, "Come." And when He saw the crowds, He always went into a higher place and the disciples followed Him, He sat them down and taught them because if you are not willing to move towards God, He cannot teach you His truths. Because people come for all kinds of things. Ultimately, that will not save you. No miracle will save you. It's the doctrine that will stand by you, for you and in you till the end and God says, "My Church shall be built on that rock." Doctrinally, we should be sound. That's why you see people running meeting after meeting because one new prophet has come. And he put his this thing and they are running there to hear what is the latest. From there, they go next

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week to another meeting. Do you need to go to so many places to learn Doctrine? You know what Scripture says in *Psalm 119:89*?

Psalm 119:89

⁸⁹ ***Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.***

It is forever settled in Heaven. Doctrine is set. Nobody can change it. *Isaiah 40:8* says,

Isaiah 40:8

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

And it doesn't matter who that man is. The Church may say, "When he speaks, he speaks kathidra, this it is truth," but if what he speaks contradicts the Word of God, his word will fall to the ground and one day, he will be judged for it because the Word of the Lord stands forever. It will never change. It cannot change because it is immutable; it is incorruptible like God Himself, what He speaks. There is no confusion with or God. He has no doubts about, "What am I saying? Let Me check it in My concordance." Nothing. When He speaks, it is truth because He is true.

So, Scripture says, "Let your doctrine be incorruptible." What does that mean? It means – what applied to Adam should be applicable to the last man too. "*If you eat of this tree, you shall die.*" Old Covenant. "*The wage of sin is death.*" New Covenant. It doesn't change. Salvation is through the Blood of the Passover Lamb. You believe and you confess, you are saved. Salvation is in the Blood of God's own Son. This is a symbol. Therefore, it has to be offered over and over. This is the substance offered once and for all. Nothing has changed. From shadow to reality because doctrine is incorruptible. If God judged sin in the Old Testament, He will judge sin in the New Testament too if we don't confess and forsake. Don't change God. We need to change. So, the question is: is our doctrine incorruptible. In *Ephesians 4:14*, remember the problem?

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ ***that we should no longer be children,*** (what do you say in Telugu? Papa. Chinna pilla. You should not be children,) ***tossed to and fro and carried about with every*** (not doctrine; doctrine ka hawa. Hawa are, naya hawa (there is a wind coming, a new wind). That is what it is – wind. It is only wind; not substance in it,) ***wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,***

"You should not be children," he said. You should be absolutely established in doctrine, little by little; by establishing, trusting the Word of God, checking with the Word of God and being established in doctrine.

Do you remember about children? We looked about it last Sunday on children. Like we have in our Churches, Sunday School is there; Youth Saturday is 4th Saturday and then, we have the adults. Right? We divide into three categories. That is by physical age. Spiritual age, we saw last Sunday, didn't we? *1 John 2*,

1 John 2:12-14

¹² ***I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*** ¹³ ***I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one.***

Three categories. Children, what do they know? Fall, get up. They never overcome the evil one. They have to live on mercy alone. So, most of them, their name should be 'Mercy'; not 'Grace'. Grace overcomes. What does the Book of Romans say? "Sin should not have dominion over you because you are not under the law, you are under grace." So, your name should be 'Mercy'. If you are overcoming, you should be 'Grace'. And if you are not overcoming, your name should not be 'grace'; it should be 'mercy' because that's all children know. They don't know anything else. The question is: are we functioning as a spiritual child? Because you can be 70 years old and a spiritual child. What does the child think? The child fundamentally thinks, "What is in this for me?" When is Daddy good to the child? When Daddy tells her to do homework? No. "Chocolate, ice-cream, if you give me whatever I ask, you are the best Daddy in the world!" The minute you ask the child to do something difficult, you are not so good. That's a child, spiritual child. So, they will go after every wind of doctrine which demands nothing from them and they will jump, dance and sing 'hallelujah' and say everything. That's Israel. "Arrey! Pharaoh is gone! This army is gone!" Everybody took their tambourines; they are dancing, "Hallelujah!" A little later, there

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is no water. “Why did you bring us here? You brought us here die? Weren’t there enough graves in Egypt?” How did their tones change so fast? Because they were children. Look at our own hearts. What are we? How do we react to situations? Are we spiritual children or are we young men, young women spiritually? What are we? Because there are so many overgrown children filling Churches. That’s why the ‘name and claim’ gospel thrives. Why are those Churches full? But they will say, “Look at our sanctuary; it can be 50,000. We are going to break and build something more bigger,” and God has to say one day to that Pastor, “Foolish fellow, don’t you know your soul will be required today? You have filled My barn with children who never grew because you wouldn’t allow them to grow. You gave them what they liked, not what they needed.” That’s our problem. “Feed me.” You know our old song, right? “Gimme, gimme, gimme, my name is Jimmy.” You cannot overcome the devil. The problem is – to move from there to the next level of a youth, spiritual youth, you have to overcome the devil. You have to overcome the unforgiveness in your heart and not mollycoddle it. The hatred, the bitterness, the lust, the jealousy – these are the enemies you are facing and if you haven’t overcome it, you are still a spiritual child. It doesn’t matter how old you are. If you are still fighting over petty things and raging, shaking, shouting and screaming and all, you know what? You haven’t moved anywhere with all the knowledge you have. You are still a spiritual child. That’s what God is saying, “I need children to grow up.” We know Scripture very well. We talk about inheritance and all that. Scripture is very clear in *Galatians 4:1-2*,

Galatians 4:1-2

¹ Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

And so many children are going to enter into Heaven, 70 years old, 80 years old, and realize, “And oh my gosh, I’ve got nothing here.” God says, “I love you. Sit at My table, eat all the days of your life but you get nothing because you never grew. I love you. You are My child. If I need to bottle-feed you for the rest of eternity, I will do it.” Ask Anisha. At LHL, don’t we bottle-feed our children there? Yes. What can they do? Nothing. Do we throw them out? No. They get better care than most of our kids. They are carried for their bath. They are cleaned when they wet their diapers. They are fed through tubes. They are dressed, changed, everything. They don’t have to do anything at all because they will be children all their lives but they can do nothing for God either. Understand. If you don’t grow spiritually, you will be caught in a trap – children. So, the first thing you need to teach a child is obedience. Obedience is when a child is being taught that the will of the Father is more important than your will. It’s the first thing you teach a child. It’s not mollycoddle. Teach obedience. That’s where the mother comes into play. Don’t be a stumbling block; be an aid, helpmate and together, teach obedience to the child. Otherwise, it will not work. You don’t have to wait 80 years for this. You could be 40 years old and be a father, spiritual father.

At 17, Joseph was a child. He hallowed his father’s name; he was an obedient child; he loved his father; he was zealous for his father’s name and whenever his elder brothers did something, he came and told his father about what they were messing up with his name. And his brothers hated him, wouldn’t even talk to him and God said, “Joseph, child, you are ready to go to the next level. I’m going to send you to those who hate you. Let Me see whether you are ready to battle the powers of darkness.” From there, in chains, he goes to Egypt. He fights every demon of Egypt and he wins. Jealousy, bitterness, anger, lust, persecution, pain, abandonment – you name it all; every demon, he overcomes in Egypt alone. At 30, God says, “You are ready. You are ready to reign.” 7 years of plenty. He is 37. 7 of famine begins. Let us say, for mathematics’ sake, one year of famine; two years of famine; three years of famine; how old is he? 40 years old, you will see, Joseph on the throne; his father is here; his brothers are there; their children are there. He is a father to his father and his elder brothers at 40. Do you understand what God is talking spiritually? Age has got nothing to do with anything. It’s just a number. He says, “I want fathers.” You have to go through the stages. Before that, doctrine has to be set in your life and you stand because those doctrines are incorruptible. They are immutable. It never changes. That’s what God is talking about. How is our doctrine?

And the fourth one; *Titus 2:8*,

Titus 2:8

⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned...

What does ‘sound’ mean? If I say, “Sameer, you are in sound health,” good health, perfect health. That’s what it means.

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Sound speech. You should have integrity, you should have reverence, you should have incorruptibility and it should have sound. One of the fundamental qualities of a Church should be that it should have sound doctrine. If you look at Titus 1, when it comes to leadership in the Church, one of the qualities that he says is,

Titus 1:9

⁹holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

One of the fundamental principles in the Bible for leadership, eldership in the Church is that the doctrine should be sound. The danger the Church has come to today is – eldership has been taken by people whose doctrine is not only not sound, it is warped. Sound doctrine. That's what it means – sound.

And second – listen to God speaking about Paul's ministry. When your doctrine is sound, you are both able to exhort and convict. You can exhort those who are searching for truth, "Come on! Grow! Yes." And he is able to say, "Yes, this is what I was waiting for." And those who are fighting it, you are able to contradict them because of the soundness of your doctrine. Listen to Paul's journey described in the *Book of Acts*. In *Acts 17*, he is in Thessalonica,

Acts 17:2-3

²Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths (what did he do?) reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

These are people who know Scriptures. He said, "Hey, hang on! Let's reason doctrine." His doctrine was sound. He reasoned with them from Scripture. Question is: if somebody comes to you, can he or she reason with you from Scriptures? Do we have foundations of doctrine built, established so that we are able to say, "No, that is false; this is true." Are we able to say that?

³explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead,

He showed from Scriptures. Sound doctrine. In *Acts 17:17*, he is in Thessalonica. From Thessalonica, he has reached Athens.

Acts 17:17

¹⁷Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

What did he do? He reasoned with them. This is not apologetics. Please. Apologetics is a different field. That is a different thing. This is reasoning from Scripture because your doctrine is sound. You can exhort or you can refute. By the time you come to *Acts 18:4*, he is in Corinth.

Acts 18:4

⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

The soundness of the doctrine. Because these are a set of people who know their Scriptures. How can you reason with people who don't know Scriptures? You can sell anything. That's what is happening. Why are these ministries, who don't have doctrine, which was never sold in any of the old Churches, ancient Churches, are able to sell it so freely today? Because there is no reasoning. But the time it is *verse 19*, he is in Ephesus.

Acts 18:19

¹⁹And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Wherever he goes, he is reasoning with people, "This is Scripture, this is doctrine. Check my doctrine with your Scripture. You know Scripture, right? Okay, did you understand Scripture? Let me explain to you," and they listened to him and realized, "What this man says is true." "In Garden of Eden, third chapter, there is a lamb that is slain. Mount Moriah, the lamb is substituted for Isaac, the Passover lamb. The lamb, the lamb. Behold the Lamb of God." This is true. They could

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reason. If we know our Scripture, when doctrine comes, it would make sense. “I always had this doubt. It makes sense now. It fit in. I had this picture. People come and say so many things but I have a picture. That is not what I think God is. God and his doctrine doesn’t fit.” Then, you hear his doctrine and you realize, “Yes, it fits.” Then, he is in chains. He is a prisoner and he is brought before Felix. Chapter 24, he is before Felix,

Acts 24:24-25

²⁴ ***And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish...***

So, because of his wife’s influence, Felix knew Scripture. He never believed it, never obeyed it but he knew Scripture because his wife was Jewish.

...he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, (he said, “Please. Let me enjoy my life a little more. Go away. I don’t want to hear from you.”) ***Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”***

Do you see? A sound Church may have very little strength but they are faithful to the Word and His Name. God says, “I keep an open door.” Question is: can we handle sound doctrine? How many of you think you can handle sound doctrine? I’m not saying ‘understand’; I’m saying ‘handle’. I don’t understand a baby but I can handle a baby. Whenever someone comes, they think, “Pastor is going to ask me questions.” I didn’t ask any questions. I’m not asking. I’m just saying that you can handle some sound doctrine today. If you read Titus 2, it is written about the sound doctrine for the Church. That’s actually the heading in many translations of the Bible. You will see, “Sound.”

Titus 2:1-2

¹ ***But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:***

Now, he is going one step further. You should not only have sound doctrine, you should have proper sound doctrine. What is the first one?

² ***that the older men be sober...***

What is the first thing? If you don’t have self-control, you can never receive doctrine. That’s what sobriety means – temperance, control. You need to have control. Are you old? Do you think you are old? Then, do you have the control of your age? Be sober. Remember the last days’ warning? The end of all things is near. So, what’s the first thing? “Be sober.” Be temperate. Be balanced. Don’t be extreme in either way.

...reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

That’s what he says. He says, “That’s how you are older; by being sound in these things.” Older men.

Now, let’s go to the next category – older women. I don’t know why but God gives three verses to women and one verse to men. The only thing he tells men is – “Be sober.”

Titus 2:3-

³ ***the older women likewise,*** (They should be all that the man is, plus,) ***that they be reverent in behavior,*** (It is fundamental to the woman to sound doctrine,) ***not slanderers, not given to much wine,***

It is interesting in the old days, it is told to the women not to drink and today, we tell the men not to drink wine.

...teachers of good things— (to whom?) ⁴ ***that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,*** ⁵ ***to be discreet, chaste, homemakers,***

So, if there are any of you who left your job to take care of your home, you don’t have to be ashamed. Your doctrine is sound.

...good, obedient to their own husbands, (why?) that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

The problem is – when the Christian home goes and speaks about Christ, the Muslim and the Hindu says, “Look at my home and look at your home. Your Christ doctrine is practiced in my home. My man is sober, my woman is reverent, my children listen to me. You talk Christ. Your man is always drunk, your woman never shows any respect and your children are wild.” Doctrine has to meet with Christ. The other side of the story is that the devil is only after living people; not dead. So, therefore, if you have the name of Christ, the demons are after you to attack your marriage, to attack your children, to attack your destiny because knows you’ve got a name. That’s the other side. But let us be practical about it. Do we have sound doctrine? Are we reverent? Scripture talks about the man in *1 Peter 3*; he talks about treating your wives with honor but an addition is put there.

1 Peter 3:7

⁷Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel...

What does it mean? Let me put an example here. You see a child? A child is a weaker vessel. When a child throws a tantrum, do you throw a tantrum? No. You don’t throw a tantrum. You try to distract the child. You try to avoid the subject. In a similar way, your wife is a weaker vessel. When she throws a tantrum, don’t throw a tantrum in the same way. Show honor there as a weaker vessel. When she shouts two words, you don’t have to shout three words back. Be sober. You can diffuse the situation. Be sober. This is sound doctrine for homes. Be sober. It always takes two hands. With one hand, it is only hava (air). But the problem of all the sounds coming from homes is with both hands. Be sober. Walk away. Like David, be wise. Walk away. “Is there not a cause?” Yes, what is the cause? The cause is that your prayers are not hindered. Second – the Word of God may be blasphemed. If your wife is shouting, open the door and go for a walk. Why? So, in the eyes of the neighbours and in the ears of the neighbours, the Word of the Lord is not blasphemed. It is a cause bigger than you and me. Then, come back when things are quiet and sort it out. We have issues. Issues can be dealt with without explosions and lava flowing and all that. We can handle it. This is sound doctrine. Absolutely sound doctrine. The Bible says, “This is sound doctrine for older men and older women.”

Next – young men.

Titus 2:6

⁶Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

He says, “Be sober. Be self-control and watch the older men and walk that way.” That’s all. Very simple. Older men, go this way. Young men, be sober-minded, observe them and walk. Older women, teach the younger woman, through your life and through your teaching, this is what they need to be. Young men, just be sober and follow. Then,

Titus 2:9-10

⁹Exhort bondservants...

Let’s change this term ‘bondservants’ to ‘employees’. All working in the IT sector, when you are giving 24X7, you are a bondservant. You may name yourself as a manager and a HR and all; you are a bondservant. They hire you, fire you. In the old days, they sold you. They sell you today also. “Who are you working for?” “I am working for Google but I am a vendor with Microsoft.” They sold you. They just sold you. Scripture is applicable for all ages because it is doctrine.

⁹Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

Don’t answer back. Even if you are wrong, if you don’t answer back, you will receive mercy because your doctrine is sound. Don’t answer back. You don’t have to fight for your rights as the rest of the world is doing. We are a set of people who have given up our rights and have picked up our responsibilities. This is sound doctrine.

¹⁰not pilfering,

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When he pays you Rs.500 a day for 12 hours of your work, don't pilfer. What he is actually paying you for is for the 12 hours of your life, 12 hours of your time. Don't pilfer because he has paid for it.

...but showing all good fidelity (honesty, integrity), that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Look at that! You come back in the workplace and God says, "When you do these things, you are adorning God our Savior." You look back in the seventies, eighties and all, you look in the advertisement, all from April, May, North India advertisement – "Want Christian Teachers." Do you see that today? Why? Because they knew one thing in the sixties and the seventies in North India which was practically pagan, that Christian teachers have integrity and they are hardworking. Today, I am waiting for the day when they start advertising, "Christians, don't apply." We didn't realize – this is part of doctrine. This is sound doctrine for older men, younger men, older women, younger women and all employees. This is sound doctrine for the home and outside. So, doctrine is not knowing the stories of the Bible; it is not memorizing Scripture but understanding the ways of God. The man who prayed, "Show me Thy ways," remember Moses at 80? He prays one prayer, "Lord, show me Thy ways." When he is 120, one of his last messages to all mankind in KJV version, in *Deuteronomy* 32, this is what he actually says, his final words to Israel and all of us. This man who walked with God. At 80, he prayed a prayer, "Lord, show me Thy ways." At 120, he says this,

Deuteronomy 32:1-2

¹ Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

What is he saying? He is saying, "I have come to that point in my life where I am absolutely dead; it is Christ who is speaking and my word is applicable equally to heaven and to earth. Earth, heaven, you can hear my word."

² My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew...

You know what it means? Dew is absolutely pure.

...my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

The smallest little baby born-again a few hours earlier in the Lord, that Word will fall upon him so gently. A rain can fall upon the newborn baby and the father in the Lord and it is relevant both for Heaven and for earth. That's the Lawgiver. That's what this is. This is not just to be read and to be meditated and to be memorized. We learn the ways of God through this. That is doctrine. What is doctrine? This is how God functions and that's how God functions and if I am of God and I belong to God and have been bought with a price, I'm not my own, then this is the way I function and I'm willing to pay any price for that because this is true and therefore, even when I die, I will not die; I will live because Your Word is true and my life is true. I am immortal. If not, we will keep struggling as children and God will love us. He loves children. He loves all His children. If you are a child, you are a child but you cannot move to the next stage if we don't get doctrine into our lives and start walking in that doctrine.

We will go to Communion now and at the end of Communion, let me see if I have time to finish but let's go to Communion. Remember; like I said, if you understand the doctrine of God, it sets you free from persecution and from deception. Constantly watching. Watch, Lord.

Communion Song: Unfailing Love

As we come to the close, I want you to turn to *Exodus 29:7*; this is when the law is given, the tabernacle is done and God is setting the rules for the priests. Remember, in the New Covenant, all are priests, should be priests. Positionally, yes.

Exodus 29:7

⁷ And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

There were two things they had to do for the priests; one – you had to take the blood; the other – you had to take the oil. One – you and I are cleansed by the Blood of Jesus that prepares us to serve God; the other is – we are anointed by the Holy

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Spirit so that we have the power to serve Him. Let me tell you something about this; listen carefully, Church. Then, we will understand where our struggle is. In the Bible, these two things are different. There is something called ‘the gifts of the Holy Spirit’ and there is something which is called ‘the anointing of the Holy Spirit’. The gift is given to somebody whether you deserve it or not. When your birthday comes, they don’t check your record; you just get your gift. Nobody takes it back from you. Just because you are a child. A gift of the Holy Spirit, through practice, you can be extremely skilled with it but the anointing is different. The anointing is a flow. While the gift is operating, the anointing can be stopped. The anointing can be blocked. That’s why Scripture constantly talks about not grieving the Holy Spirit, not testing the Holy Spirit, not lying to the Holy Spirit, not quenching the Holy Spirit because that’s not talking about the gift. That’s talking about the anointing and we need to understand this difference as to why doctrine is so important. It’s so important because the anointing works on the doctrine. If I don’t grow in doctrine, my anointing to understand even more doctrine will never come. I can get fooled if I have a gift and because the gift is operating more and more, I may not realize that the anointing has stopped. That’s what happened to Samson. The gift was working. Saul also won many battles but the anointing was gone. When David went into the Philistines’ territory for 16 months, he won every battle. He didn’t lose a single battle. Meaning – the gift is operating; the anointing has stopped. He hasn’t heard from God. People in the 21st Century Church, who hear and receive different kinds of impartations, please understand – gift and anointing are not the same and we need to guard our anointing. We need to grow in our anointing because it is the anointing that will break the yoke. You can live under a yoke like Samson, do mighty things and finally, the yoke finishes you off because you forego, you lost your anointing to break the yoke; because your life was not founded on deeper and deeper doctrines of God.

In *Mark 4:10-12*,

Mark 4:10-11

¹⁰ But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. ¹¹ And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

Don’t say immediately, “I am in that.” No, we are not in it. If we are in it, when you read your Bible, you will understand mysteries which are there – old, ancient, hidden; but revealed because the anointing is flowing. You know what Jesus says concerning the last days in *1 John 2*?

1 John 2:18-20

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming,

You’ve heard the Antichrist is coming? If you have heard this, why are people not concerned? Why are they not putting their lives and homes in order? Instead, they are going around making more purchases and more business deals, running still after money. If you know this is the hour and it is getting closer and closer, how come we are not aware it? We know in our head but we don’t know in our heart. Why? Because something is missing.

...even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing (not a gift) from the Holy One, and you know all things.

You have an anointing, an ongoing anointing from the Holy One. Therefore, you know all things. When I read the Bible, I want to know how God dealt with Adam; I want to know how God dealt with Abraham; I want to know how God is dealing with me now; not just yesterday because His Word says, “I Am that I Am.” Not just I was. In verse 26-27, in the same chapter, Scripture says,

1 John 2:26-27

²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.

How do people get deceived in the Church? Because how do they not get deceived?

²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

That is the flow of the Holy Spirit. That is what the high priest was anointed with – a flow of the Holy Spirit because out of the mouth of priest shall come knowledge. In Hosea, He says, “My people perish because of lack of knowledge; because you hated knowledge, I also demote you from being priest.” Meaning – if the anointing is not flowing, then I’m not a priest. What makes me a priest? Not the Blood. The Blood makes me a son. What makes me a priest? It is only the anointing. And all of us function as priests in the Body of Christ because we are not allowing anything to block that anointing. Men of God, like David, understood – one sin can block. So, they are constantly repenting to see that the anointing flows because we need that anointing to face today. Without anointing, we cannot function today. You go to places like in, what you call, China today, on Sunday; you will see thousands upon thousands of Churches packed with people over ground. What is that? Government-sanctioned Churches. No persecution there. You know why? Because there’s no doctrine; there’s no anointing. You will see tens and millions are gathering in this hour in underground Churches. Why? There is doctrine; there is anointing flowing. Where there is no anointing, there is no persecution. The devil is not bothered. He says, “You go your way.” And if something happens, it is called ‘a collateral damage’. It’s not deliberate. The doctrine of Christ, the game-changer, you need to realize from this thing, is the anointing – the Holy Spirit. Once our doctrine is right, it still is not enough; we need the anointing because without that anointing, we can do nothing; we can learn nothing; we can be prepared for nothing. Jesus says, “*Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word.*” It’s an ongoing anointing, ongoing hearing from the Spirit of God. *Every word that proceeds.* Abraham heard from God in the Ur of the Chaldeans. He listened, he obeyed and got stuck at Haran. He couldn’t hear anymore because his father was blocking him. He wouldn’t leave his father. So, God says, “Fine. You wait.” He had to wait till his father died to hear the voice that proceeded from the mouth of God. What if Terah had lived like Methuselah for 900 years? Abraham would have been finished. His destiny would have gone. He would have been stuck at Haran. You look what it means to hear every word, the anointing, the preceding voice of God. He comes into Canaan, he hears from God, fear comes; goes into Egypt. The voice stops, he comes out; he hears from God. There is trouble between Lot and Abraham. There is trouble. Is there trouble? Like in homes, is there trouble? What if Abraham said, “Okay, like in the old wild west, I’m going to hire ten gunmen; you also hire ten gunmen. Let us see who will have the estate.” He realized, “If I need to hear from God, to heck with the estate! I need to hear from God.” He humbled himself, went to Lot and said, “We are brothers. You take whichever you want. You go and I will go my way. You take the first choice.” The nephew took first choice and moved away. Scripture says, “God spoke.” If you keep fighting in homes, in colleges, universities and offices, the ongoing anointing of the Holy Spirit will stop. That’s why God says, “Pursue peace,” because you need something which you don’t know how badly you need. You go through Abraham because if God spoke to him that way and he is my father of faith, the father of believers, then I’m learning lessons from him on how he blocked the voice of God and until he changed when Ishmael came, God did not speak to him for 13 years. When Ishmael is 13 years old, God comes to him and speaks and says, “Circumcise. You leaned on your flesh. Get rid of it. I will speak to you again.” Oh, he loves Ishmael. Then, God says, “Listen to your wife. You are not able to hear My voice because your emotions are tied up with this boy. I am speaking through your wife. Listen to her. Throw Ishmael out.” When he threw Ishmael out, he is able to hear from God again. Then, God suddenly appears and speaks to him one day and says, “Take your son, your only son.” And he takes his son. A three-day journey, he went over there; he left the servants behind and he goes up the mountain. He tied the son up over there and he lifts his hand, lifts the knife and what does Scripture say? “God spoke.” What if he hadn’t heard the voice of God? He would have killed Isaac. He would have killed his future. You have to keep on hearing the ongoing voice of God even in the small details of life because our God is living. He heard him three days earlier. He had to hear him three days later. Otherwise, Isaac would have died. “Oh, I’ve heard. I’m going to obey now. Now, I have got my doctrine right.” Boom! Gone, your future. You didn’t listen. That’s why, over and over again, Scripture says, “All those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit says.” There is only one thing that blocks you and me from hearing from God and Scripture says, “Our iniquities.” That’s why the first doctrine in the Bible is – repentance from dead works. There is a verse.

Psalm 32:3

³ When I kept silent, my bones grew old...

What are ‘bones’? Doctrine. He had sinned and he kept quiet and he says, “My doctrine is churning inside. I cannot live with this truth. I know I am wrong and I’m keeping quiet; I am restless.” When you don’t have doctrine, what bones will wax

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within you? When you don't have the truth of God, how do you get convicted of what you have done? He says, "When I kept quiet, my bones." Understand Scripture from Scripture. God should be able to speak to us and when He speaks to us and if we keep silent, our bones should rattle inside. We should literally feel that pain in our bones. Our doctrine that holds us. And that's when he repents. And if we are people unlearned in Scripture, with no doctrine understanding on how God works and His Kingdom works, we will go like sheep to slaughter. Understand. Get your doctrine right.

Let me tell you this – God's Word is not like the mail you send with an attachment. It's not because many Christians, in their thousands, in their millions, are Communist in their thinking and the Bible is an attachment. Millions upon millions of women, 21st century, sitting in the Church are feminist in their thinking and the Bible is an attachment. God is nobody's attachment. His Word stand on its own and there can be no attachment to it. You cannot attach communism to it; you cannot attach feminism to it; you cannot attach humanism to it. You just have to think – it stands on its own. He says, "Reason." Let me ask you this question, when you were all young, when we were young and you were not probably born, there were these nations called 'USSR' and there was a nation called 'China' and there was this nation called 'Cuba'. Let me ask you – how many people from the world went to work in USSR, went to work in China, went to work in Cuba? Why? They couldn't afford to give you a job. So, communism always failed. Why do you want to make this land into a communist nation? Did any communist nation ever give another person a job? So, the ideology itself is a failure. It could not sustain their own people; it could not sustain somebody else yet, we are very communist in our thinking. We don't realize in 21st century, what is the reigning spirit is the spirit of feminism, which is Jezebel in 21st century clothes. Nothing else. It's Jezebel that rules. When Jezebel comes, along with her comes Ahab. They go together. Ahab is the emasculated man who has been compromised by the sex which Jezebel offers. So, all the young men in the world, multitudes have been compromised by porn and by sex. And they have no masculinity to stand up because they have been dehumanized. That's why Ahab had 70 sons. That's how she compromised him. These are ruling spirits. There are no attachments to the doctrine, sound doctrine. No attachments. So, men, if they have to be men, need to understand what that 'yoke' is because only the anointing can break the yoke. Women need to know who women are according to sound doctrine. Then, the anointing will break the yoke. If you don't know the yoke, how will you break it? The Bible talks about yoke, the yoke of Egypt, the yoke of Babylon; the yoke of the deceiver. "The deceiver came and stole my birthright." And he goes to his father and said, "Father, don't you have another blessing for me?" He says, "It is taken." The devil has taken the birthright of God's people. Now, don't put Jacob as the devil but it is the work of the devil. When God gives a blessing to a chosen person, he doesn't have to steal, he doesn't have to lie, he doesn't have to do anything. It will just come to him automatically if he walks in the ways of God but the devil is a thief and he is a deceiver. That's the yoke of deception and that's his cry, "Dad, don't you have anything for me." And you know what the father says? "You live by the sword and you will be restless. When you are restless enough, you will shake the yoke of him and you will walk free." Are you restless today? Because only the anointing can break the yoke. You were not meant to serve another; you are meant to serve Him. You were not meant to serve the deceiver; you were meant to serve the Redeemer. But are you restless? That's what Isaac told Esau, "The day you are restless." That's why Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God advances with violence and the violent..." You need to be restless and say, "This is not what I was meant to be. This is not what I am. This is what I am and I'm going to be spiritually restless. I'm not going to let anything block this. I'm going to rise up and I'm going to take my destiny for which Christ redeemed me so that when I enter into His presence, it won't be with empty hands. I will be able to say 'Lord, You gave me and I multiplied it with Your grace. It belongs to You'."

So, this morning, let's stand up and let's get our doctrine in place and ask and check with the Word of God. One final verse will give you to chew on when you go.

Jeremiah 23:29

²⁹ "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

The Word of God is like a fire, breaks down every idea, every ideology in your head, in your heart, in your mind. It doesn't matter how old it is, how many professors taught you, let it work like a hammer and break it down and cleanse it with fire so that all that is left is the Word of God and Christ Himself. Nothing else. So, this morning, surrender, as Scripture says, your body as a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing and acceptable to God. That's our reasonable sacrifice. That's our reasonable offering. And after that, Scripture says, "Do not conform to the patterns of this world." The world has many doctrines. Christ has only one – "Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth." One doctrine. Let your mind be renewed starting today. Let our minds be renewed so that when we read Scripture, the anointing teaches us. When we

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hear preaching, the anointing teaches us and the anointing starts breaking the yokes in our lives so that we will be set free to serve Him, to walk with Him, to worship Him.

Closing Prayer:

Father, this morning, we just come to You. We just worship You. We just glorify You, Lord. This is the fifth month and I pray, grace will overflow into every life that is represented here, every life that hears this message. It's on the net, Lord. I pray grace will overflow because You came with grace upon grace, O God, so that we would not only receive forgiveness for our sins, O Father; we would receive power to be overcomers, O Lord; children to young men, young men to fathers; children to young women, young women to mothers, O Lord; that we will be fathers and mothers after Your own heart, O Lord; so that You can send the other orphans and the other broken ones so that they can find refuge under our wings because we have stayed under Your hand, O Lord. O Father, I pray, out of this Church will arise fathers and mothers, spiritual fathers and mothers, O Lord, who will have sound doctrine in their heart and an unbroken flow of anointing from Heaven itself, O Lord, flowing through us. Father, Your Word says, "River of Living water shall flow." Father, I pray it will flow, breaking yokes not only here, everywhere they go, Father. O Father, yokes will be broken in their schools, in their colleges, in their offices, in their homes, every place they go, Lord, let the river flow, Father, because only the anointing can set us free, Father. O Father, we just glorify You, Lord. Thank You, Lord. Go before us. We don't look at the weather warnings; we look at Your Word. Your Word says, "Our God is a shade at our right hand." Your Word says, "He who finds shelter in the Most High," O Father, cover us with Your feathers, O Lord. The sun shall not smite us by day, Lord. The moon shall not smite by night, Lord. No power of darkness can prevail over Your people. We are under Your Blood. We are under Your wings. We are Your children, Lord. O Father, I pray, Lord, go before us through this month, Lord. We need You. This fifth month, we need You, Lord. Go before us. Let every path be made straight, Lord. Thank You, Father. I bless Your people in Your Name. May the blessings of God pursue them and overtake them as they hear Your voice and obey Your commands, O Lord. Thank You, Father. By faith, we lift up holy hands now. We bless Your Holy Name. Thank You, Father. Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, 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.