

Father we just want to thank You for this morning. Thank You Lord for every privilege, every opportunity that You give to us, that we could be found in Your house on this day of rest, to be seated in Your presence, to listen to Your voice. Your Word says, "The entrance of Your Word brings light," and Your Word also says Lord, "In Your light we actually see light." And therefore this morning I pray Lord that You would open the eyes of our heart, that we may know the hope of our calling, the reaches of the glory that You have given to each one of us in Christ Jesus when You raised Him up and that we are seated together with Him in the heavenly places in Christ and Lord I pray that You would grant us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may know You. I pray Father that Lord through the preaching of the Word, You would generate faith, faith O Lord because Your Word says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ," and therefore I pray Lord, let Christ be lifted up even through the preaching, that You would anoint each and every one of us that we would see the anointed One Christ, that we would be drawn toward Him, because You said in Your Word Lord, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Myself." Therefore, I pray Lord, through the preaching let You be lifted up, and through the preaching You draw Your people to Yourself. To that end I pray that You'd bless and anoint the speaking and hearing of today's Word. We cancel out every work of the wicked one over our lives, every distraction, every spirit of tiredness, we rebuke it in the name of Jesus. We surrender our spirit soul and body, speak to us this morning, in Jesus' name. Amen.

One of the things that you constantly have to do is to speak the Gospel to yourself. It is very important and that is the reason why God tells Joshua, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate upon it day and night." It starts with your mouth, to speak out constantly. Now, the solution to every problem is only a Person that is Christ. When we come to church we don't look for solution, we look for the Person and that is the reason why before Joshua could enter into the Promised Land, he was just wandering as to how to conquer Jericho and he see the Lord of the army with a drawn sword and he asks this question, "Are You for us or are You for our enemies?" and He says, "Neither!" You have to make a choice. The only way that we all, if we want to have a consistent life of victory in our walk with the Lord is to ensure that we have the Person of Jesus Christ in our lives, that He is with us.

It is remarkable when we look at the lives of overcomers in the Bible, two people standout, like the quintessential overcomers if you will, they don't even have a spot on their character. You would see Joseph in Genesis and it doesn't say that Joseph overcame sin. The Bible says, "The Lord was with Joseph." That is remarkable and that is the reason why Joseph overcame because he was constantly aware of the presence of God in his life and therefore he knew if he has to have the continuous abiding presence of God in his life, he has to overcome sin. The Lord was with him and the Lord empowered him. See, that is the secret, the secret is to have the assurance that God is always with us. Therefore, in order to do that, salvation as we keep hearing in different context, we hear that salvation is not just from the penalty of our sin, it is from the power of sin. God not only rescues us and redeems us from the penalty of our past sins but He also empowers us to overcome sin in our lives so that we can have a life of constant victory, so that we can draw even more close to God and enjoy more of His blessing. That is the reason why He asks this question in the Book of Deuteronomy. He says, "How long will you keep circling around this mountain. You've done it for such a long time now. Come on! Break the circle, break this loop and enter into the Promised Land, overcome, become overcomers." And in order to overcome, there are certain things that we need to do. I just titled today's teaching as KRY out it is not C-R-Y. It is K-R-Y. KRY out. What is KRY out? I'll show you what it is and then I'll go into today's meat.

Romans 6:6

⁶Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

In your Bible underline the word knowing. The step number one is that we should know. That is K. Step number two. He says that is *Romans 6:10*

Romans 6:10-11

¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reckon. That is R. Reckon yourselves to be dead but alive to God. What does that mean? And the third.

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

It is because we are all software engineers, there's a three step algorithm. What is that? Knowing, Reckoning and Yielding. This is the secret process of the Christian life to be overcomers. This is just not information, this is not gathering of information. This is something much more than that. This knowing is an intimate relationship with God. Knowing the Lord as a Person. Have this, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Filled and satisfied." Yes, we sang right? As the Deer pants for the waters so my soul longs after You. And you know this morning, God sees our longing. What are we longing after? Many of us might be longing after a breakthrough, many of us may be longing after success or after promotion. I know from the many prayer requests, nothing wrong in that but the greatest longing that will please God, a longing that would please God is the longing for Him. That is something which pleases God the most. And if you see in our own lives, how much do we long for righteousness? Lord I want to be righteous. I long to be holy. We sang that this morning, holy, holy, holy. That is the word that we heard. Holy, we long to be like You. Why do we have this longing? Because we have an expectation that when we rise up from our sleep that is in our resurrected body, the first person that we would see is who? Jesus and when we see Him in our resurrected body, we should not be ashamed and therefore it says in 1 John 3, "Everyone who has this hope, this longing. What does he do? He purifies himself, just as He is also pure." This is the longing and God longs for us actually.

When Adam and Eve sinned you would understand and see it was the Lord who went after Adam and Eve and not Adam and Eve after God. The Lord longs for us. When the prodigal son left the house, he didn't actually long for his father until he came to his senses but the father every day longed for him. The bride was sleeping in her bed in the Book of Song of songs and Jesus is knocking at her door because He is longing to have a fellowship with her. The Lord longs. But you know what, he says the indictment of the Lord, in Jeremiah 2 He says, "I know the love of your espousals, the way you longed after Me in the wilderness." When you're first saved, you had the incredible craving for Me, as new born babes crave for the pure milk of the Word of God because you tasted, that is the song that we sang today in Telugu. I tasted the Lord now and I want to know more of Him. He says, "I know the love of your espousals but what happened to you." This is the indictment; this is what He says in *Jeremiah 4:22*,

Jeremiah 4:22

²²For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

For my people, everybody say, "My people." My people. There are two kinds of people. My people, not my people. It is very interesting if you read the Old Covenant when He calls God's people Israel, He says, "My people." He uses the Hebrew word "Aam" and for the other people who are not Jewish people, He uses the word, "Goyim." Actually, one of the things when an orthodox Jew when he gets up in the morning he says, "Lord I thank you that I'm not a woman, I thank you that I'm not a Goyim." Goyim means not a people. And as Pastor was praying in the morning, he says, "One day we were without God, without hope, without Christ, without any covenant but when we came, now we have Christ, we have become, My people, and the Book of Hosea says, "Where He says not My people, at the very same place He will call My people."

And the point is He says, "For My people are foolish. They do not know Me." They are foolish children and have no understanding. What do they know? They do not know Me, they are foolish children and have no understanding, they are skillful at doing evil. They are exceptional in doing evil. See, the ultimate coder in the programming domain is a hacker. If you are a hacker and saved (that is very important, saved) then what you become is an ethical hacker. What will companies do? Security companies will employ you to save their database from hackers. So, you exceptionally brilliant in thinking. That is the reason why in *Romans 1* he actually analyses the entire human race that's gone away from God, who is being given away to depraved mind. He calls them, inventors of evil. Chat GBT, the other day I was looking at a video, it says, 'Write down a gospel song, a worship song,' and chat GBT is writing a gospel song. Artificial intelligence is writing a gospel

song by the way. We are skillful, now we have chat GBT. How many of us use chat GBT for writing gospel songs? Please chat GBT help me think about a gospel song. No, inventors. The problem is not with the invention, the problem is with the inventor. They are exceptionally skillful He says in doing evil but they do not know how to do good. The problem with many of us is that we do not know, we do not have the knowledge of God, therefore, we have fears. What is that knowledge? It is an intimate relationship with God.

Recently, we went to a horse academy. I was scared of the horse. When I looked at it, it's not a very easy animal to approach. The fellow is so powerful and it snorts and neighs. In a movie it is okay to watch it but when you come closer to a horse it is not as easy to approach it and one of the things the trainer was telling us; why do you have fear? He asks this question to all the children. You know why you have fear? Because you do not know. I said boy, "He is a Christian teacher." First algorithm he says, "You should know. You should have knowledge." Not just information and he says you should know your horse intimately. A rider and a horse should have a relationship. What a statement that was. You should have a relationship, you should know. The moment you start knowing your animal and your animal knows you, therefore he says come close everybody and tap the horse and tell him that you don't mean any harm. So we went, the first time I touched the horse. What a feeling! Leathery touch and it didn't say anything. I tapped him and he didn't say anything, of course it was a tamed horse. It's a different thing if you have an untamed horse. If it was a stallion it would probably kick me, I don't know. You see, and then over a period of time what happened is, a trainer develops a relationship with a horse and you begin to know. This is knowledge, this is what he is talking about, the knowledge of God. *Jeremiah 9* we know these verses very well. Thus says the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches but let him who glories, glory in this, that he understands and knows Me.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

²³Thus says the LORD, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the LORD.

The problem is God is longing to reveal Himself to us but how many of us are truly, truly hungry for God that is the question. And then he says, let him who glories, glory in this that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, exercising loving kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight.

Hosea 4:6 we know this very well. My people are destroyed why? Because they do not have knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge I will also reject you from being a priest. Why? Because you rejected knowledge.

Hosea 4:6

⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

In other words, knowledge can be given to you but it all depends upon how you accept it and then he says, "If you reject knowledge, I will also reject you from being a priest unto Me because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget." Notice that word 'forget'. Very important, forget, just keep that in mind. What should I always be reminded of? I will tell you what we should be reminded of.

1 Timothy 1:12-13

¹²And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, ¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant,

¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant towards me but let us not go to that point. I want to just look at this one. What was the secret of Apostle Paul's success as a disciple and as a minister of the Word of God, as an apostle? What was the secret of his life? One of the reasons why I believe he was successful is because he never forgot where God picked him up from. He never forgot, understand this. You should never forget from where you were picked up from, very important for us to understand. What does it mean? And not only that, he says, "Because He counted me faithful." Think

about it. This man was going and persecuting the church, killing people, killing his own saints and many of the people were actually frustrated with Paul, I think the believers for sure and I'm sure some of them might have prayed, "Lord, why are You keeping this man alive?" and in fact when Ananias was asked by God to go and lay hands on Apostle Paul and pray for him, he said, "Lord You know that person. He is a dangerous fellow and You are asking me to do this." You know, Paul understands that and then he says, "He counted me faithful." You know what is the greatest motivation to follow God? If the Lord trusts you.

It's like this. I know Abraham, that he would command his offspring to follow the statutes of God. I know him, I'm trusting you. You know the greatest motivation is, You trusted me so much God, I don't want to break that trust. You know the greatest motivation in any relationship is trust. Husband and Wife, what is the most important thing your wife or your husband should know that, 'My wife or my husband can be trusted and he will never break that trust.' It is very important and if Pastor James gives me the pulpit, 'I trust you.' It's an incredible honor and I should always say, "Lord I should never break this trust." Trusted. The motivation for Christian living is trust, my dear brothers. That is what I'm saying in passing. Let's move on. So, the secret of Christian life is that, we should always be reminded where we came from. So, we know, what it is to reckon and what it is to yield, we know it but I'm reminding you this morning.

2 Peter 1:12

¹²For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

You see, we need to understand that every time we come to the preaching of the Word of God, we should say Lord after the end of the preaching, I want faith, after the end of the preaching I want love. Two things, why? Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God and it says in *1 Timothy 1:5*. The end of our commandment or the instruction is this, what is that? Love from a pure heart, from a sincere faith and from an undefiled conscience.

1 Timothy 1:5

¹Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

Lord I want two things, first I want faith and second I want love because ultimately what matters? Faith expressing itself through love. So, three things we want to rehearse this morning. Knowing, reckoning and yielding. We should know and remember what our past state was, we should know what our current state is as Christians is, we should reckon and we should yield. So, in order to understand this process, I want to look at one passage which is one of the most powerful passages I ever came across in my study is Titus 3 which explains salvation in four or five verses in a fantastic way. Let us read that passage in Titus 3. We know Titus 2:11, "*The grace of God which brings salvation to all has appeared, teaching us to say no.*" So we know that verse very well. I want to bring to your remembrance a few verses which explain this process of salvation. Let us look at Titus 3:1 onwards

Titus 3:1-8

¹Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

What did he ask them? To remind. So, I'm reminding you. Why? Now he's going to describe our process of salvation. For we, you know what that means? I like that word 'we'. Who's included in that 'we'? Paul is also included under that we. That's very important. I'm included, Paul is also included. When Paul is including himself, it gives me great assurance. ***For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, I will explain that verse as well this morning. And then what happened? ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us Notice the word whom abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*** You see that the process of salvation and then ***⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God we are all believers, should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.***

Loaded verse which describe our process of salvation and I'm going to explain to the best of my ability few things from these verses that we read. So many things that we can learn about the process of knowing, about the process of reckoning and the process of yielding. How do we apply this in our lives? From Titus 3. First, let's move on. **For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures.** There are several things which are mentioned. One of the things that we constantly have to come to terms with, we have to have an honest appraisal of ourselves. First, let us enumerate what he is trying to say over here. We are all foolish, we are all. You are not convinced. I was foolish, say that. I was foolish, I was disobedient, I was deceived. That is how you read scripture. What was I doing, as a result of being foolish, as a result of being disobedient, as a result of being deceived, there is a fruit of foolishness, of disobedience and deception. What is the fruit? **I served various lusts and pleasures, I was living in malice and envy and what was that sixth, hateful and hating one another.** This is our former position. From here God saved us. We should never forget that we were people who were foolish, we were people who were disobedient. We are still foolish.

Someone was telling me the other day. Vijay, we know what you were when you were a child, now you are teaching us. I mean they did not say that in so many words but they meant it. What is the position that you assume? I didn't tell them out loudly, but this is what I spoke to myself. There is a father and there is a son. The father looks at the candle, you know this is Pastor James' example. He tells his son when he was a baby, "Don't go to the candle and burn yourself," but the child doesn't listen. He goes to the candle and he burns himself. What happens to him now? He gets knowledge. You know what happens? He has experiential knowledge. Initially, he had information, now, with the relationship with the fire that he had, I'm not kidding. Because it says in Proverbs 6 can any man take fire in his bosom and his clothe not be burnt and seared? I burnt my hand, now, I'm assuming the position of the person who is burnt and learnt his lesson and saying, "Baba! Please don't come here." That is the position I'm assuming. Not the position of a teacher or a man who is going to lord it over your life.

See, we were all foolish, we were all disobedient, we were all deceived and what did we do in the process? **We served various lusts and pleasures. We were having malice and envy.** You know one of the most common feelings as people in our old nature we have in envy and that is the one sin we do not like to confess. It is very difficult to say, 'Sameer I'm envious of you bro,' it is very difficult. But deep down inside of our heart we all have it. Can anyone say it, from the bottom of their heart that they don't envy anybody? And then what happens, we always were people who are hateful and we hated one another. What is hateful? We caused other people to hate us. How? By showing off. Joseph had two dreams, so please keep your mouth shut. Not only that. He said, "Guys, come here! I had a dream. He told them, twelve sheaves over there and all your sheaves were bowing down to me. What do you think it meant?" He was not asking for interpretation, he knew already the interpretation. What was he doing? Provoking. Now, first of all, the father loved you, gave you a special coat, you are wearing that. Now, you also had a dream, they know exactly what that dream means. So, what is happening now, you are by opening your mouth, you are causing them to envy you and the second thing, you are causing them to hate you and the third thing, he always brought an evil report about them to their father. Now, there are two thing, he also had a heart for the name of his father. Second the word for evil report is very interesting. The very first time it is mentioned in the Bible, the word for evil report means slander. Sometimes we love our parents we don't want our parent's name to be marred, we don't want to bring some kind of a bad name for our parent. But you also say Lord, "You know what, I am better than my brothers. I didn't do it daddy but do you know what they did." What happens? Hateful. Y

ou know this guy is going to search for them and he has this coat of many colors, why? From far away they recognize that coat. Now what is happening? Love is coming out? No, hate. You see? Let us make other people jealous. So many of our things, there is a spirit of competition, I am better, my children are better, my profession is better. You see my children, you see your children, compare. What happens in the process? Hating, hateful. This is our former state. You see Apostle Paul looked at Stephen. You know what, he hated Christians and then when Stephen opens his mouth and magnanimously says, "Father forgives them." He's cut in his heart, his anger is increasing now. "Who is this fellow to forgive me?" Serving, we are living in malice, living in envy. Where is all of these? It is where? In our heart. You see Ahithophel was a man who covered his entire outward appearance but deep down inside of his heart, he had hatred for David. Haman hated the Jews and Mordecai would not bow down and he hated them even more. That is our previous estate. The point here is, why did it start? Because we were foolish, because we were disobedient and we were deceived. That is the root and this is the fruit. So, first let us look at foolish. How does Bible describe foolish people? It says in *Psalms 107*.

Psalm 107:17

¹⁷Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

Fools, we know this verse very well. Everybody read verse 20.

Psalm 107:20

²⁰He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. But how did they come to this point? Because fools, because of their transgression. They transgressed. Second, deceived. What does deceived mean? The word actually means to go astray, to leave the path that God has shown you to follow in. It says in Isaiah 53

All we like sheep have gone astray, meaning, we were deceived. ***We have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.*** That is the word iniquity, which means actually rebellion and the third one is that we were disobedient. This is remarkable and the very word disobedient, the other time it is used in the New Testament is, disobedient to parents. That is exactly the word, the same word is used, the Greek word; disobedient to parents. Let me show you, the quintessential rebel in the Bible. Look at how he is described in the Bible.

Deuteronomy 21:18-23

¹⁸“If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, ¹⁹ then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. ²⁰ And they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ ²¹ Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear. ²² “If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey. What is that? Disobedient. Who is this guy? He’s stubborn, he’s rebellious, he will not obey the voice of his father, nor obey the voice of his mother. There are two voices in our lives. In our church for example, I’m just giving you an example, we have the voice of the Pastor and we also have the voice of Sister Ailsa. We call them Paapu and Ma. That is what your words are. Generally, voice of the fathers is voice of discipline. Voice of the mother is telling the same thing in a different way. For example in our homes how do we tell our children? ‘Dad is coming, do your homework please, sit and study, otherwise he will discipline you, (not punish you). Please listen. That is mother’s voice. So, if you listen to my voice I will give you chocolate. That is mother’s voice. Father’s voice is; hey, did you do it? You didn’t do it. Spank! That is generally, typically. In some home it is reversed, it is okay, whichever home that you belong to. There are two kinds of voice and it is typical in Abraham’s home. In Abraham’s home it is very clear.” Isaac, come here, cut the wood.” ‘Yes daddy.’ “Put it on your shoulder.” He puts it on his shoulder. “Let’s walk.” That is Abraham. Sarah, “eat my dear.” She fed him through his nostrils, that’s what I believe. That’s one weakness because it is the child of his old age. We know our Indian mothers how they feed us, some homes, not all homes. Eat, eat, even if you are like a potato when you come back home after a vacation, they will say, “Nana! You lost weight.” No, you did not lose weight. Think about it, when you call your father, “Hey, how are you studying? What are your grades?” etc. When you call your mother, “Did you eat?” Exactly, “Did you eat?” There are two voices in our homes, the voice of the father and the voice of the mother. That is what we say in Sanskrit or Telugu, Sama, dhana, bheda dhanda payalu. Sama, dhana, bheda, dhanda. Meaning we use all kinds of method, Sama means peacefully bheda means we compare, otherwise you’ll get dhanda. But the problem with this fellow, the quintessential rebel is, “if a man a stubborn, rebellious son who will not listen to his father neither will he listen to his mother.” The point is he also does not respond to chastening. That is the problem, that is the danger. That is the reason why in the Book of proverbs it says *if a man keeps on repeating the same sin even after being chastened, one day, he will be suddenly destroyed and without warning.*

The quintessential rebel. Did you encounter this fellow? I encounter every day, where? In me, in the old man. He is incorrigible. He will not listen to the voice of his father neither will he listen to the voice of his mother, neither will he respond to chastening. See, there is no point chastening the old man, in fact the more you chasten him, the more rebellious and hardened he becomes. That is what happens to Pharaoh right. Chastening after chastening. The Bible says, seven times Pharaoh hardened his heart, after that God hardens his heart and after that Pharaoh hardens his heart and God gives him over. Repeated chastening, he will say, "Ok this please, this time only please. Asks for forgiveness." And after that same old process repeats, why? The quintessential rebel because he will not, he does not have the ability to change even to respond to chastening. So, what should that person do? Then the father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elder of the city to the gate of the city. What is that? A place of judgment. If you read the Book of Deuteronomy it says of the judges, the word so many times is translated as gods or Elohim. That is when you are bringing him to the elders, whom are you bringing that person to? You are bringing that person to God, near the gate. What is supposed to happen near the gate? Judgment has to happen. So, what should you say about your son? This is what they have to say.

Deuteronomy 21:20

And they shall say to the elders of the city or to the judge. This son of our is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey our voice. What is he? He is a glutton and a drunkard. That means, he is a person who doesn't have any self control in his life. So, what should you do to that person? ***Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stone, you shall put away the evil from among you and all Israel shall hear and fear.*** Now, think about this. In Israel's history, did they do this? Not even once. Even in the John's Gospel, to the woman who was caught in adultery, they wanted to stone her with stones, God stopped them. So what should you do to the dead body of the son who's been killed like this? What are you supposed to do? ***If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, he shall be put to death*** and what should you? ***Hang him on a tree.*** Now, think about it. What is the solution to the rebel inside each of us? Stone him to death and hang him on a tree. If this is the way God looks at a rebel. What about each one of us? What were we? We were foolish, we were disobedient, we were deceived. Why? Because this person is accursed of God. That is the reason why any man who does not listen to his father and mother what is he? Accursed! Cursed be a man who does not honor his father and mother and everybody should say, Amen! Yes, very difficult to say amen now. To say amen to that, it really, really requires a lot of fear of God.

You see, this is our condition. That is the reason why, we should have an honest appraisal of ourselves. We can never come to the point where we hunger after righteousness until and unless we know the condition that we are in. You remember that lady, twelve years suffering with an issue of blood. Am I right? Twelve years and what did she do? She spent everything on physicians and what happened to her? She grew worse and she spent all her money and she came to the end of herself. That is the reason why we need to have an honest appraisal of ourselves. Who we were before Christ came into our lives and this should have been the solution to the person who is a rebel. Let's read on. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deceived and what did we do? We did what pleased us basically. Even the careers that we choose. Why did we choose them? It gave us pleasure. I mean sometimes people don't study for money, they study for pleasure. Warren Wiersbe was asking a member of his congregation this question. This man had a son who was never coming out of college, he finished his undergrad, then he finished his post grad, then he finished his Ph.D. then he finished his post doc. He was doing his double post doc. And Warren Wiersbe asked this man who has this son, "What is your son going to become when he graduates from college?" You know what that man said, "Old man. He's going to become an old man."

Some people have a lust for gaining degrees and they empty the church in degrees, gradually. They do differentiation. Those who have ears to hear, mathematical ears to hear, they will understand. They have all these things, they have pleasures. Some are after money, some are after knowledge but both of them are equally after their own pleasures. You know what we tell our people in our university? What are you going to do after you finish your B.Tech? I'm going to apply for a Job in Microsoft. I said, you know what, he's a traitor. What are you going to do? "I'm going to contribute to the development of science. I am going to become a researcher. You are running after money," and what are you running after? We look down on those who run after money, ultimately, we go to them and ask them to fund our projects. Sir, funding sir, research sir. You see, we all are people who are serving our own lust and our pleasures and we were hateful.

The problem is this. If the solution for a man who is disobedient is stoning with stone and hanging on a tree. Then how does God reconcile and save us is the question. But when the kindness and the Love of God. I love the word. Everybody say kindness and the love of God. You know what the word love of God means. That word Love of God actually in the Greek means philanthropy from which we get the word, philanthropist. What does philanthropist mean? This man is like Bill Gates for example, the fraud philanthropist, who is masquerading as a philanthropist. What is he doing? He is giving away all his wealth for the betterment of mankind. I'll tell you something, you can feed people all the way to hell. That is not actual philanthropy. Like Pastor was speaking to us in one of the Q and As. He was saying a person who actually brings the gospel into your life and because he is the instrument that God used to save you, you owe him his life. Why? Because he was the actual philanthropist, he brought the Gospel to you. What is actual philanthropy? It is to bring the Gospel and not just to feed the poor. What happened? When the kindness and the Love of God toward man appeared. It has to appear. You have to be in this condition. You know you are that the gates of hell almost, close to the portals of hell now. You are hanging on the tree, literally hanging on the tree. You were a rebel, you were a thief, you were drunkard, you were whatever it is. You are hanging on the tree now. You are about to die. Who is that person? *Luke 23*

Luke 23:32

³²There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.

Who are these? Criminals. Who are we? Criminals. Do you think you are a criminal. I will tell you, I was a criminal also. I knew how, so many manipulations I used to do. But God always made a way that I would be found out. I remember when I was I class four or class five, I got my math exam paper. I got fantastic marks, I don't know how many, I don't want to mention that okay. I got fantastic marks which I cannot show to my parents obviously, okay. So, what I did, I took my exam paper, I came back home and I hid it under the newspaper and my mom generally asks, "Are marks out?" Nothing, no marks. I was fantastic, I mean I was lying and happy, pretending as if nothing had happened. Next two days after that, my friend visited my home. He was in a happy mood. Ravi Shekar. I will never forget that fellow, Chintala Vijay Ravi Shekar. He brought a lot of chinta into my life. So he came, he was in a happy mood. My mom looked at him and said, "What happened Ravi? Full happy." "Aunty marks, I got in Mathematics twenty-five out of twenty-five." He left, I said, "Why did you come to my house." And after that my mom looked at me and said, "Marks came. Where did you hide it?" Then I opened it. One day I got another nice mark, I got a zero, even before my parent could scold me, I started crying. I made a huge drama. I went out to my uncles home started crying in front of him also acting as if I was very remorseful because I got low marks I was actually scared I'm going to get a spanking. We have ways to circumvent, we are criminals. Lot of people are found out, some people are not found out. That is the reason why Paul says, some people's sins go before them, some people's sins follow them. But the problem is, what is common between the two? Sin. That is the common parameter. We are all criminals, we have a mind as to how to manipulate situations to make people believe or God even believe for sometimes that we are actually not as bad as we seem to be.

So, two criminals are hanging now. Literally, Deuteronomy 21 is being fulfilled in his life. Now, he is hanging on the tree for the sin that he has committed; two people now. One on the left, one on the right. Almost at the verge of being eternally condemned to hell. What happens? The love of God appears. What appears? The Love of God in the form of Jesus Christ. The Man who took the place of the criminal called Barabbas. Me, I am Barabbas. The Love of God appears, the philanthropy of God, the kindness of God. That is the reason why it says in Psalm 49, "What can a rich man give for the salvation of his brother's soul? Can he empty all his riches and ransom his brother? No way, you cannot because the salvation price for a soul is infinite. It cannot be repaid, no matter what kind of a philanthropist you are, you cannot repay, you cannot buy the salvation of one soul because it says even the entire treasure of the world cannot be measured to the price of one soul. The philanthropy of God. One criminal right there, hanging there and what appears is the Love of God and the Kindness of God. Both of this people it actually says, when they were on the cross, what were they doing? They were blaspheming.

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing

wrong.”⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Both of them were blaspheming, you read the record, you’ll see both of them were Blaspheming and then they heard, “Father, forgive them Father.” You know what the word forgive has two words. For and give. What was He doing? He was a Philanthropist on the Cross. God so loved the word that He gave. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them.” And suddenly one man’s eyes were opened. I deserve this punishment. The other guy was blaspheming. He blasphemed. If you are the Christ, save yourself and save us, but the other answered and rebuked him saying. “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?” You are under the same. Condemnation. You are criminal, I am a criminal but this Man is not a criminal. That is his own words. Look at what he says. And we indeed justly for we received the due rewards of our sins but this man has done nothing wrong. Then he looked at Jesus, I love that, then he said to Jesus, “Lord remember me.” You know what happened? The kindness of God and the philanthropy of God on the Cross he saw. ***Cursed is the man who hangs on the tree***, the kindness and the mercy of God that He took my place on the tree and He hung in my place and He finished off that disobedient, that deceived, foolish rebel on the Cross, he finished him off. And He said, you know what, ***“Today you will be with Me in paradise.”*** That is the Gospel. It is interesting the very next verse in the Gospel according to Luke after He says these words, “Today you will be with Me in paradise.” You know what it says, “When Jesus cried out with a loud voice, Father into Your hands I commit My Spirit.” You see, He died, the very next moment He died, right there at the point of his death. The last chance, the disciples had another chance because they could see the resurrection of Jesus. This man has not chance of resurrection because he is going to die now. If only Judas would have known this. The last chance and he said, “Lord, please forgive me.” The kindness of God appeared. You will see this entire thing rehearsed in the life of Abraham in *Genesis 22*.

Genesis 22:12-13

¹²And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and what appeared now? The Kindness of God and the Love of God appeared. Where? There was a nice little ram caught in the thickets. So he took away his son from the altar and he took that ram and he offered it in the place of his son Isaac. This is the Gospel. *Hebrew 11* will say,

Hebrew 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Abraham when he was tested, offered up Isaac and he who had received the promises offered his only begotten son, of who it was said, “in Isaac your seed shall be called, concluding that God was able to, he was literally rehearsing the cross on the altar and therefore you know what the Bible says in *James 2*.

James 2:21-23

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.

The Gospel has two parts, the first part is Jesus Christ died for all of our sins according to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ was buried, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures. That is a historical fact. The second thing, if it has to be personalized in my life, what should I do? *Romans 4*.

Romans 4:23-25

²³Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

If you believe that, that is the reason why if you believe in your heart the Lord Jesus Christ and confess with your mouth that God raised Him from the dead, what will happen to you? You will be saved for all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. So, this morning, God is giving us an opportunity once again. If you are a rebel say, "Lord thank You. I should have died in that place but You took my place. Cursed is the man who hangs on a tree but You became a curse for me on the Cross, by Your stripes, I was healed. I am saved." That's the first part. This you should know. This is the Gospel. You see, one of the things that I'm learning, practicing over and over again is this, I read the Bible, I say Lord, "Show me Christ." You know when Philip went to Samaria and he preached Christ. When the Ethiopian eunuch was reading the Book of Isaiah Philip went and preached Jesus. Two things, he preached Christ to Samaritans, he preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch and both times they were all saved. He preached Christ. And how do you preach Him? Preach Him crucified. To the Jews it's a stumbling block, to the Greeks it is foolishness but to us who believe, Christ the power of God, Christ the wisdom of God. So, believe this morning.

Titus 3:5-7

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

See one of the things that you need to understand, when God forgives us that is justification, He not only reckons us righteous, He not only says that we are not guilty, He not only says, 'When I look at you just as if you have never sinned,' but something else also is done. Do you know what happens? He has reckoned us righteous. He has declares us not guilty, He has declared that we have never sinned, He looks at us as if we have never sinned and the fourth thing is that He also says, 'I have made you righteous.' He made us righteous, understand this, that is important.

Look at what happens when Peter is speaking in Cornelius' house. They hear the Word, they hear about the Cross, they hear about Jesus of Nazareth died etc and how He rose from the dead.

Acts 10:44-46

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

This is called washing of regeneration and sanctification of the Holy Spirit. Something happens, we are not just reckoned righteous but we are also made righteous; the Seed of God comes into our hearts. We should know this. That is the reason why we must keep on looking at this,

1 Peter 1:23-25

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

We sing that song, right, 'Good bye world I stay no longer with you,' and then it goes, 'Born, born, born again thank God I'm born again.' You should say this to yourself every day – 'I am born again. In Christ Jesus I am a new creation. Old has passed and everything has become new and the very nature of God which is never going to sin is there inside of me.' That is what you should know. And you should keep on speaking to yourself. I will tell you why this is important. When Adam sinned, in Adam we all sinned. Right? And we are all condemned in Adam. And what is given to us is the nature of sin. That is the reason why David says, 'I was born in sinned and shaped in iniquity.' I don't have to be taught to sin, I will sin because that is in my nature. Since we are all in Adam this is our nature. The moment we come in Christ there is something similar

which has to happen. If in Adam we have the nature of a sinner, now in Christ we should have the nature of a righteous man. Do you understand? In Christ we should have the nature of a righteous man.

Romans 5:17

¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

...so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. All did not become righteous. The free gift came to all men. You have to receive it. But the moment you receive it. When you were born you have the nature of a rebel inside of you, but when you are born again you have the nature of Christ inside of you. Understand that. You have the nature of Adam when you were born and when you are born again you have the nature of Christ. So what should you do?

Romans 6:6-7

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.

You have been justified, you have been freed, you are made righteous. You have the very nature of God inside of you. This is what you should know. That is the first step – you should know. Every day you have to keep on telling yourself, this is not my nature. Once I was not a people, now I am God's people. I am a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Etc He gives us an identity in Christ. And you keep on telling that every day. You have to keep on confessing and keep on singing. Keep on singing, 'the wildest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus receives a pardon. And the moment he receives a pardon he was just not reckoned righteous, he was also made righteous; the very nature of God has been birthed inside of him. That is why it saying in *1 John 3 – the one who is born of God cannot sin.* He does not sin, He overcomes sin. But how do we do this? That is the next step,

Romans 6:10-11

¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now what is reckoning. I keep on asking God, 'Lord, what is reckoning?' it is an accounting term. We do that reckoning every day. How do we do it? We go to Gpay or Phonepe, we have 3 or 4 accounts in Gpay, so what do we check? Balance. We check our balance. That is what is called reckoning. So you go to Gpay and check your balance and generally for the ones depending on their salaries what happens is that by the end of 1st or 2nd week the money is over, almost empty. UPIs are dangerous, at least in the old days we had to go to the bank, wait in line for our token number, then you have to go to the teller and he will give you lot of money, then you know you have this must of money, you ration it out and you distribute it and you have a feeling in your hands as to how you are spending your money. But now money just disappears in seconds. Money comes and money goes. Money knows only one word – 'Bye! Bye!' before you know it is gone! You expect a certain amount of salary, then you are waiting for the first salary to appear in your bank account, let's say you are expecting 65k, you are already planning what to do with the 65k. When the salary comes, you open your account and see that you have got only 37k you are so upset and you call the HR, 'What is this?' they will say, 'Tax deducted at source.' This is an accounting term.

Salary we get every month. Do you know what the Bible says? 'My mercies are new every morning.' Every morning God does one thing; He fills your bank balance with the righteousness of God. So when you open and check your balance what do you have? Righteousness. 100% balance. You should know this. But the problem is that you should reckon this. What is reckoning? I will tell you what you should reckon. When you get up in the morning you should start thinking right? When you have this salary you think, 'This is how I will spend, this is what I will do,' etc. similarly reckoning also means to think. Let me show you where else this word reckoning is mentioned.

1 Corinthians 13:11

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought (Reckoned) as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

I reckoned as a child. The second thing in reckon is what you should do is start thinking. You have to give your mind to God; start thinking about the goodness of God, about the mercy of God, about the faithfulness of God, meditate upon these things.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate (Reckon) on these things.

You should start to change the way you think. It is very important, because ultimately what you think is what you will become. What you think and what you believe is what you will do ultimately.

Joshua 1:8

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Think! Keep on thinking over and over again about the goodness of God. The wildest offender, if God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not with Him freely give us all things. Do you know what the Bible says? All things are yours. It is remarkable! What are all things? In other words everything that happens in this universe, if you are the elect of God, it happens for you. You look at the events in your life, it was tailor-made by God to meet you. I can testify in my own life, my goodness! I mean, I look at my life, I look at the incidences that happened in my life, everything that happened to me, which I thought was bad ostensibly, or I thought as failure happened to me for a reason. If those things did not happen to me I would not have been here. I would have been somewhere else. God knows where. I don't even want to imagine that. God has still not given me the permission of share my testimonies, if I had to tell you certain things that happened in my life, now when I look at it in the context of what God had done for me, if those incidences did not happen in my life, I would not be here, my dear brothers and sisters. I don't even know where I would have been if not for the mercy of God.

The failures that have happened in your life were tailored made by God to meet you. If you would have not failed. Think about it, the prodigal son, he took his money. Like pastor was telling in the Nepali church, he probably would have gone to his father and said, 'Father, I want some money to fund my project.' So the father gave him the money thinking he would start a business, but what happened? He wasted his life in prodigal living. He was a rebel. The father gave the entire money to the rebel, what did the rebel do? If he was successful, would he have come back to the father? No! He would have died a rebel.

So the incidences that have happened in your life were tailor-made by God so that you would meet Him. Think about it. You will say, 'Ps. Vijay that is too much. You mean to say that God intended failure?' Yes absolutely. So that He could meet you. It is remarkable. Whom God foreknew He predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son, whom He predestined them also He called, whom He called them also He justified, whom He justified them also He glorified. He foreknew even before the foundations of the world were laid. Even before you were formed in your mother's womb He knew you. Meditate on the goodness of God. Meditate on the things that God stopped in your life. Ask God, if certain things are happening in your life over and over again, stop and ask, 'Lord, why?' think, what is going on?

Jesus asked this person to think, right? He said, 'Look at this woman, she has been coming to Church for such a long time. She has been bent by satan for 18 years. Think about it,' He says. Think, mediate. Give yourselves to meditation. Take time to meditate. Just not meditate upon the Word, but also meditate upon how God was good to you. What will happen automatically? You will start thanking. Nobody has to come and say, 'Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!'

Psalm 1:1-2

¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

What does he do? He is thinking day and night. He is thinking all the time. If you don't think, do you know what happens? The Word is sown but immediately satan will come and steal the Word. So certain things have to be repeated over and over again until Christ appears. Think!

1 Peter 4:1 ESV

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

Think about it. You can live a life where you can stop sinning completely. How many of you want that kind of a life? I want it! I don't know about you. The possibility of living a sinless life. Do you know where it starts? You have to change the way you think. Discipline your mind. Focus. That is the reason why He will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts in Him. Perfect peace. Why don't we have peace? It is because we do not think. Do not be anxious for everything but in all things, with prayer and supplication make your request known unto God and the peace of God will guard your heart. Do you know what the word guard means? It means empire.

The word for 'guard' is to be an empire. In other words, a thought will come and you should ask the empire, 'how is that?' he will say, 'Don't allow.' Again another thought will come, 'How is that?' allow. The peace of God will become the empire. See, Christian life is a deliberate choice of the believer. You have to choose this every day. You have to start thinking, because you have been made new. You should know that. You should know that this is what you are in Christ, you have to reckon. You have to start thinking especially what kind of thought I allow into my life, what kind of reports I will allow into my life, what kind of words I will allow into my ears. It has to be disciplined because these are the gates through which all the information comes into your mind. So be very, very careful. Guard your mind. That is the reason why He says – put on the helmet of salvation. Guard your mind.

1 Peter 4:2 ESV

²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

So you can come to a point where you stop sinning. Second, you no longer live for yourself, but you live for the will of God. That means you are no longer foolish, you are no longer deceived, you are no longer disobedient. You are wise and you are not deceived and you are obedient. You are living for the will of God. Where does it start? It starts with changing the way you think.

1 Peter 4:3

³For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

You have lived sufficient time in doing all these, so don't think, 'At least a few more days I will indulge in this flesh and then come back to God.' Nothing of that sort is going to happen. That is what even Felix thought. Felix was given the message by Paul, he talked about righteousness and judgment and self-control. Immediately he was tensed and he said, 'I will hear about this at a convenient time.' That is it, over. So change the way you think.

1 Corinthians 10:4-6

⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Understand that you are in warfare. Where? In your mind. The battle is in your mind. The god of this age controls the mind. So be very careful what information that you allow into your ears because that will mess-up your mind. So many things you don't have to hear. You have to become obedient and your obedience has to be the obedience of Christ. It starts with the way you think. And therefore he says

Romans 12:2

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, change the way you think, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

You have to change your mind for you to understand and know that the will of God is always good. After you reckon, the last one – yield. This is where the rubber meets the road.

Romans 6:13

¹³And do not present (yield) your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present (yield) yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

This is the most important thing in Christian life. Yielding. What should you yield? The members of your body. What are the members of your body? It is primarily your tongue, your ears, your eyes, all your senses, but most importantly your tongue.

James 3:7

⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Life and death is in the power of the tongue. Speech. Paul tells Timothy – *be an example to others*. Where does it start? In your speech. So what should you do? Yield it to God. If you want to have a disciplined tongue you should have a discipline ear.

James 1:19-20

¹⁹So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Tongue and ears and eyes, these are the things that you have to start yielding. Tell me give you an example as to what it means and how I look at it. It is very important to hear. The hearing part is so, so, important.

Isaiah 50:4-5

⁴“The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.

He has a disciplined tongue because He had a disciplined ear. If you want a disciplined tongue, first you give your ear to God. This is the first step; give your ear to God. Very, very, important. Incline your ear. So be very careful as to what you hear. For what comes through hearing? It is faith. What also comes through hearing? Unbelief. So what happens as a result? Confusion. So if you do not want to have any confusion, be very careful as to what you hear (not only that but) also be careful as to how you hear. Two very important things that you have to control in your life. Why am I emphasizing this so much? Ultimately, what you speak is what you hear. What the children speak in their schools and what they speak outside is what they already heard at home.

The Bible says that John the Baptist leaped in his mother’s womb when he heard. And the Bible says that God put him in the wilderness so that He could train him, so that he could only be in-tuned to the voice of God. And it says in *Luke 3* that the Word of God circumvented everybody and it found one hearing ear in the wilderness and that was John. A trained ear is very important. Let me give you an example.

1 Samuel 3:1-4

¹Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. ²And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had

begun to grow so dim that he could not see, ³ and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, ⁴ that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

So what did Samuel have? A disciplined ear. Why am I saying this? Lot of people do not hear. One of the reasons there are so many problems in my life is because I did not hear properly. I did not listen carefully to the instructions. I did not practice listening over and over again. You see, how do you learn things by heart? By speaking over and over again. And by speaking what happens? You hear what you speak and that goes into your heart. That is the reason why when you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart. And then it says *with the heart one believes and with the mouth one confesses*. So it starts with confession and then it goes to believing in your heart. You learn things by-heart by disciplined ear, by disciplining your ear and listening to instructions carefully. This is a very crude example but I want to emphasis something important here,

We went to this Horse academy and some of the things I have learnt; I never taught I would learn so many things from horses. You see horse is one animal which has got tremendous power. But you know what, after it is trained there is a bridle and a bit, the rider just has to pull it a little and it will turn right. He pulls it a little on the other side and it turns left. The whole power of the horse lies in how you control the bit. The Bible says that we also have a tongue which is like the bridle of the horse. So if you want to change the course of your life what should you do? Change the way you speak.

There is a story of this preacher who went to buy a horse for himself and there he found a Christian horse. What is a Christian horse? It is a very interesting horse. The trainer was saying, 'Praise the Lord.' The moment it heard, 'Praise the Lord,' the horse would start walking. You say, 'Praise the Lord again and it goes on a trot. You praise the Lord more it starts galloping, then he says, 'Hallelujah!' and it comes to a halt. So the preacher was fascinated and he said, 'This is a Christian horse and I want to have it.' So he pays the price for it and he says, 'Okay now let me test it out.' So he gets unto the horse and he says, 'Praise the Lord.' It starts moving slowly, he enjoys the ride, he enjoys the feel. Then he says, 'praise the Lord' again a gentle trot, 'praise the Lord' and now it's galloping. He is enjoying the speed. Horse is fantastic when you actually have a feel on the horse back. His adrenal is pumping now he says, 'Let me go faster,' and he says, 'Praise the Lord', the now it is galloping at a good speed; it's really, really, going very fast. Now in this excitement he forgot the command as to what to say to stop it. So he said, 'Amen' it is not stopping. He says, 'In the name of Jesus I rebuke you,' it is not stopping. So the problem is that you can't rebuke the flesh you can only rebuke the devil and cast him away. Now anyway this preacher was rebuking it and it was not stopping. To his dismay he was going to the edge of a cliff now. And he is not getting the command as to what to say to stop the horse. He is trying every word in the dictionary, his concordance etc and it was not stopping. And now it is coming to the edge of the cliff and he shouts, 'Hallelujah!' and it stops. The moment it stops he says, 'Praise the Lord!' and he is off the cliff.

Now tell me, who heard the instructions properly? The horse. But who was supposed to hear the instructions properly? The preacher. So when the Bible says that all kinds of animals can be tamed except the tongue. So the very first miracle by faith the walls of Jericho should come down, what should you do? Shut your mouth. If you want to begin to possess the Promise Land control what you say. You see this is a lesson that we all have to learn. What we have is an undisciplined tongue. That is the reason the Bible says, in *James 3*, with the same mouth we bless God and speak in tongues and we curse man on the road and speak in our mother tongue. What is mother tongue? It is our familiar tongue. The default setting. You see, what was Samuel taught? Why did the words of Samuel not fall to the ground? Do you know why? It is because he had a trained ear and therefore he had a trained tongue.

The Lord God has given Me a disciplined tongue. Why? It is because He had a disciplined ear. So what should you do? I will tell you something, close your ears to many things. You should ask God, 'Lord, I do not want to go to places where I hear the things that I am not supposed to hear.' I was asking the Lord, I want to overcome sin. But how does sin come? It is because of temptation. So the best way to overcome sin is to stop getting tempted. Do you know what, the Lord's Prayer is – lead us not into temptation. So Jesus looks at His three disciples and I say, 'Lord, I do not want to be led into temptation, what should I do?' this was my question. Do you know what the Lord said? 'Pray that you should not be led into temptation. That is what He told His disciples, 'Pray that you will not be led into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.'

So what should your prayer be? Pray that you should not be led into temptation. Pray. Get up in the morning and say, 'Lord, do not lead me into temptation.' Can you say that? Say it out loud, 'Lord, do not lead me into temptation but deliver

me.' You see, the problem is, we like our sin. That is the reason why every man is enticed. He already has his deceitfulness. He wants to be tempted. So have a disciplined ear. That is what he says, 'Here I am.' How did he get to this point? It is because he was disciplined in his home, disciplined in the church and ultimately one day, you know what, God will say, 'I saw you in your home, I saw you in your church and now you are ready to hear from Me directly. I saw you, the way you heard your father and mother and responded to them. I saw you the way you heard your pastor and you responded to him and now I know that you are ready to hear directly from Me.'

That is the reason why, 'Moses, My servant is dead,' and the Lord spoke to Joshua. Do you know why? He saw him, how he heard Moses and he listened to him, now he is ready to listen directly from God. Disciplined tongue is a directly result of a disciplined ear.

James 3:16-18

¹⁶For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

It is wise to yield. You know, if you yield to your parents it will save you a lot of trouble as a child. I am telling you, like yesterday pastor was telling, 'My father told me these things when I was a young man. I wish I heard him then. I wouldn't have taken this route. Yield to your parents at home, children. You may not have believing parents, but you have a believing parent, yield to them. There is wisdom there and you will save yourself a lot of trouble. How was Daniel such a disciplined man? I believed he heard and listened to his parents at home. It does not come naturally and automatically. It is a habit. He chose because he chose at home. Why was Joseph so successful? It is because he listened to his father. He yielded to the direction of his father. The problem is that many of us don't yield. We know, we reckon but we don't yield.

So where does the problem lie? The problem lies in your mind. You have to start changing the way you think. Start changing the way you think. Reckon yourself dead indeed unto sin. Reckon, start thinking over and over again. Pray, 'Lord, I want to have control over my thinking, the thoughts that I have.' I know so many things but I don't give it sufficient time to settle down. I don't think on those things. I immediately allow something else to come into my mind and replace the words that have been spoken into my mind or into my heart. That is the reason why it says – the words that fell into good soil and prepared soil, with patience he endures and ultimately what he brings forth is good fruit. Why? It is because he thought over and over again on the things that we already heard.

So this morning, three steps for a successful Christian life.

- Knowing (easy)
- Reckoning (slightly difficult)
- Yielding (most difficult)

The Bible says offer your bodies as living sacrifice. Start there. Yield your members. Make a decision. If any man wills to do his will he will know. Understand? In the volume of the Book it is written of Me, I delight to do Your will. I offer My body.

God is very wise, He knows if He has the body He has everything else. This mornign there is a grace for those people who yield, a special grace that God will give, the grace that only you will experience. When you yield to God you will experience the power of God to overcome your situations.

It is a very simple message – Know! Reckon! Yield!

You can surrender yourself every time you come to church and make a decision, 'Lord, this Sunday I want to surrender myself. I do not want to go back home the same. I want to live a life which is consistent and consistently overcoming sin. The possibility of never sinning. Lord, You give it to us.' The Lord is saying, 'Change the way you think. Arm yourself with the same mind. Know what you are in Christ. You are a new creation. The old rebel is dead.' The old rebel with all its iniquity, with all its disobedience, its deception, with all its foolishness was nailed to the cross. 2000 years back that old rebel was punished in Christ, He was cursed and made a curse for us so that we could enjoy the blessing.

Closing prayer

Lord, I pray Lord this morning all of us, beginning with me, will surrender ourselves. We will surrender ourselves. Lord so many times we listen to the same thing over and over again but Lord I pray Lord that this morning You will appear to many. Maybe someone here in this congregation is crying in their heart and saying, 'Lord, I repeat the same sin over and over again. I have come to the end of myself. I want to yield this morning.'

Whatever your sin, the Bible says, if you confess your sin He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. And God is going to look at you as fresh; He will give you a fresh start, just as if you have never sinned. What an awesome privilege. He will not hold your sin against you. Not only that, He not only reckons you righteous but He will also make you righteous. God is an ultimate giver, the love of God and the kindness of our God in Jesus Christ. The old man was taken care of. You don't have to sin anymore. The devil tries to keep us from this truth.

This morning we will tell the devil, 'I am not going to be deceived anymore. My old man died with Jesus on the Cross that I should no longer yield my body to sin anymore. I will reckon myself dead and yield the members of my body as instruments and weapons of righteousness.

Lord, I surrender myself afresh this morning. We sang this morning, 'Take me past the outer courts, into the holy place. The first thing that you will encounter is the brazen altar. The altar where He was judged, where He took my sin upon Himself. He not only took my sin but He was made sin so that I could be made righteous in the sight of God, in Christ. He could reckon us righteous. The second thing is the brazen altar where we judge ourselves. The Bible says that you can come boldly and confidently to the throne room of grace this morning to obtain mercy and grace in the time of need, because He took our sin on the Cross. He became sin for us, He became a curse for us. He was made sick with all our diseases. He took our infirmities upon Himself. And by His stripes we were healed. We no longer have to walk in sickness, we no longer have to accept sickness into our body. The Bible says the body for the Lord and the Lord is for the body. So yield, this morning, to God. Don't fight Him. Don't fight Him. Don't fight God. He is a gentle Saviour, He doesn't force Himself upon us. The Bible says I beseech you therefore brothers by the mercies of God that you offer yourself as a living sacrifice. It is the beseeching that God is doing for us. Offer yourself, it is for your own good. Don't fight God. So many of us fighting God; fighting His purposes, some are fearful, what will happen if I surrender? The Bible says – He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all why will He not, with Him, freely give us all things. Do you believe that this morning? Look at the Cross. God cannot be more generous than what He did for us through His Son. Your money, your security in this world.

Don't fight God this morning. Let us not fight God in our thoughts. Let us not reject the wooing of the Holy Spirit. Some of you are in the wilderness of your life. The Lord has led you into the wilderness so that you could speak kindly to you, that is what He told in the book of Hosea – 'I am going to lead her into the wilderness and I am going to speak kindly to her.' Surrender! Do not rebel like the children of Israel in the wilderness. Don't harden your heart because of unbelief. Yield to God. Don't fight your parents, children. Don't fight your pastors who teach you the Word. The Bible says, 'Obey those who have rule over you. Don't be a cause of grief to them because they care for your souls. Don't fight the counsels of godly men. Don't fight, yield this morning the best that you know how. And if you are unable to yield, say, 'Lord, Holy Spirit help me to yield.' There is a blessing in yielding. Do not rebel if you have heard the voice of God this morning. Do not harden your hearts, but worship Him, bow down and yield this morning to Him.

Father we come before You this morning O Lord. We want to surrender ourselves once again the best that we know how. We want to yield Lord. We don't want to fight you O Lord. It is hard for us to kick against the goads Lord. Many of us trying to fight you O Lord, many of us angry with our parents. Many of us angry with our spouses. Many of us are angry with our pastors. Don't be angry. The Lord told Cain, 'Cain, why are you angry? If you do well will you not be accepted? But if you do not, sin is crouching at the door, but you should master it. Therefore yield before it is too late. Don't be angry, don't fight God this morning. Every time you hear the Word don't fight God. Don't resist the Spirit. Yield this morning to the convictions and the wooing of the Spirit. Lord, speak to us O Lord, speak to our hearts this morning. Convict us of our sins. Lord, convict us O Lord. Don't leave us, don't pass us by O Lord. We cry out to You and we want to say, with Apostle Paul, 'Who will deliver us from this body of death. Thanks be to God through Christ Jesus.' You are willing to forgive, You are more than willing to forgive O Lord. You said, O Lord, even though your sins be as scarlet they will be as white as snow. Come, let us reason together this morning the Bible says. If you are willing and obedient you will eat the best of the land. Therefore be willing this morning. Obey Him, don't fight Him. Yield to your parents. Yield to your spouse if your spouses are

godly spouses. Yield to them and if you have pastor yield to your godly pastor. Don't fight. Yield. Submit to one another in the fear of the Lord, the Bible says. For God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble. Yield to God this morning.

Father, I pray Lord, we will yield O Lord. We heard this so many times but we want to yield. Lord we want to yield, O lord. We want to prepare ourselves, we don't want to rebel O Lord. Your Word says O Lord, every day You stretch out Your hands to an obstinate and a rebellious generation. Lord, we don't want to take Your love for granted. We want to yield to You. I want to yield to You. Forgive our sins O Lord. Forgive our rebellion. Forgive us our disobedience. Forgive us our stubbornness O Lord. Lord Your Word says that rebellion is as witch craft and stubbornness as iniquity, as idolatry. O Lord, so many of us stubborn Lord. We are like the horse and the mule which will not obey. I pray O Lord, break us this morning, O Lord, gently. We want to humble ourselves this morning. We want to yield to Your Spirit, we do not want to fight Your Spirit. Surrender all of us into Your hands O Lord. Touch us O Lord. Touch us this morning afresh. Some of us who do not know You I pray Lord that they will cry out O Lord. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, will be delivered is what Your Word says. I pray that they will cry out to You, O Lord.

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and if you believe in your heart that He raised Him from the dead you will be saved. You can confess that this morning. You can confess this morning and say, 'Lord, You are the Lord of my life and believe in your heart and you will be saved and your life will not be the same anymore. So yield to God this morning. Father I pray Lord that You will find in this congregation at least a few of us who will yield, who will listen to Your voice, who will obey and who will be blessed to be a blessing to others. For You can never bless a people who are obstinate, you can never bless people who are rebellious but You can only bless and make people a channel of blessing. Those who will yield and I pray Father that this morning You will find those people who will yield. Beginning with me O Lord and all of us here this morning. Thank You Father, I commit all of us into Your hands. Let us not fight You even through this week, let us yield and You know O Lord Jesus You always have the good for us, not only the good but the best. You have plans to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us a hope and a future and a desired end. Enable us to be willing and obedient this morning. Empower us with Your Spirit so that we can yield. Thank You Father, thank You, thank You. We praise You Lord, we worship You. We give You glory, Honor and praise. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of you. Amen.