

His Light Is The Light Of Men!

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Let's look to the Lord, Father this morning we come to You, we come by faith believing You are who You are, that You never change. Jesus You are the same yesterday, today and forever. You never change, thank You Father. Thank You Lord that You never change, that we have somebody that our hearts and minds can be fixed on, so that we know we need to change, where we need to change, like whom we need to change, You Lord, You. You never lie, so, when we read the Word, we don't have to struggle because every Word is the truth, God is truth and His Word is truth, for You do what You say and You say what You do. So, this morning we come to You, want to put aside everything that distracts. We sit like Mary at Your feet. One thing You said will not be taken away from her and eternity may we hear from You, that one, this one when they went to church, that one thing will not be taken away from them because they sat there at My feet, they listened to Me and I could speak to them, one thing. That one thing Father, because if we don't hear, faith cannot come. We rest in You, speak to us O Lord for You alone have the words of life, speak to us, for in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

We turn to *Joshua 1:1-2*

Joshua 1:1-2

¹After the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

We saw last Sunday it all begins when God speaks. It all begins with God speaking. We have a God who speaks. Joshua's life will never be the same again. It will never be the same again because God spoke. That's how the Bible begins - *In the beginning God*. Jesus is the Author of our faith. *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. In the beginning was the Word*. Please remember, Bible is a very spectacular Book. In the beginning God and it is written, when did God speak to Joshua? After Moses was dead. Keep all these things in your mind. In the beginning. How was your beginning? Fifth of February we are here, how was the beginning? How was the day? Mark 1:35 says of the beginning of Jesus' schedule.

Mark 1:35

³⁵Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

When it was still dark, early in the morning, He rose, went to a solitary place to pray. So, the Son of God came in the flesh, dwelt among us and in the beginning of every day was God. That was His beginning of every day. He is the way, He's shown us how to live, this is the way you have to live, you divert from that way, every other way leads to destruction. It doesn't matter how good it looks now, it leads to destruction, it leads to loss even if you are saved your soul won't be destroyed but it will lead to loss. So, He showed us a way. In the beginning is God. Let it be our beginning. Today is a good day, five, fifth of February, right? Five is the number of grace. We are not doing numerology, but it's a good day and we are in the house of God. *John 1:17* says, "Law came through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

John 1:17

¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

And the Bible says in *Joshua 1:1*, *Moses my servant is dead*. If we have served Law all these years, it is good. Law is from God and the commandment is holy, but you've served Law all these years, let it die. Wherever there is Law still working in your life, Grace and Truth cannot come in, it will stop. Law will make you a slave, not a bad slave, an obedient slave but still a slave. Truth makes you a son. The son abides with the Father forever. Okay, get simple things into your mind. We are not trying to make it very complex. We will teach you the general will of God, find your slot in the body of Christ. My servant Moses is dead.

Moses My servant is dead and therefore arise. We need to realize there are these patterns in the Bible, until certain things die, God cannot speak. Lord why are You not speaking to me? Because Moses is alive. It's a pattern, it's a pattern in the Bible. When Abraham was in the Ur of the Chaldeans God came to him and He spoke. Leave the city, leave your father's house hold. We don't know what died in Abraham's life for God to speak to him the first time. We don't know what died. The Jewish legend, they have different books; Talmud, Torah, they have their legends also. It says Abraham's father Terah was a worshipper of idols. Joshua also says it. In *Joshua 24* it says Terah worshipped idols.

Joshua 24:2

²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

But the Jewish legends says more than that. Terah was an idol maker and that what he sold. Like we have festivals coming in and the idols are sold, Terah was one of that. He made those idols. One day he had to go somewhere, so he called his son Abraham, said, "You stay in the shop and watch and sell it." When he left, the Jewish legends says, there was a hammer. Abraham took the hammer and break all the idols and there was a big idol and he kept the hammer in the hand of the big idol. When his father came back, all he saw was loss. He said, "What did you do?" He said, "I didn't do anything." What do you mean? He said, "That big one did it." He said, "You liar, you know that cannot do it." He says, "So, you know that it cannot do it and yet you are selling it to people."

So, something probably died, idolatry died in Abraham's life and God spoke because his father was a worshipper of idols. He's the son of an idolater. Something died in his life and God spoke and He said, "Leave all that and go to the land I'm showing you." The problem is he took his father along and settled down. Next time God speaks, the Bible says, "Terah is dead." So, when Terah dies, God spoke and he entered into the Promised Land, lots of things happened. He went to Egypt because he never heard from God, he never sought God, then he comes back, there is conflict. If you listen to last night's Q and A you will get some more insight on it. He's gracious he allows his nephew, whom he shouldn't have taken with him but he took him with him and the Bible says Lot separated from Abraham. Last part of his family, household attachment in his life and the Bible says, when Lot left, God spoke. You need to realize, there is a pattern. God keeps on speaking but sometimes he waits for us for certain things to die in our lives before God show us where to turn and where to move further. They heard from God. The blessing of the seed. He ran with it to Sarah and Sarah ran with it faster. Now, you have an Ishmael. God waited thirteen years until both of them were physically dead. No more capacity to produce another child both are dead, not literally dead but metaphorically dead in their bodies, then God spoke.

So, just don't read the scripture lightly. Moses, My servant is dead and God spoke to Joshua. If God doesn't speak, what He began, I will not allow Him to finish. He is the Author. How did he begin? Faith comes from hearing. How will He finish? That same faith continues by hearing. If you go to China you will see ghost cities, massive structures built, nobody living there, massive skyscrapers but ghost cities. What they started, they couldn't finish. Our lives shouldn't be like that. It should be ultimately when we stand before God it should be a finished work so that God receives the glory in eternity too. So, this is a new generation. They are going to enter into the Promised Land. It's a new generation, it's not a generation that wasted their time and lives without allowing God to finish what he had started. He could get them out of Egypt but he couldn't get them into the Promised Land. God didn't fail them, they failed God. New beginning. New generation, new beginning. In *2 Corinthians 5:17*. *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he's a new creation. Old things have passed away, behold all things have become new.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

It's an awesome start God gives His children. *Galatians 6:15* says in Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision avails anything but a new creation

Galatians 6:15

¹⁵For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

What God gives His children is an absolute new beginning. That's how you should look at your life. Forgiven, justified, and given the gift of righteousness. In sport we say, ready, steady, go. Forgiven, that's one thing for all your sins. Justified, next thing, just as if you never sinned. That is stage two and then the righteousness of God Himself.

That's what we sang in Hindi. It's beautiful also because it was Hindi and Urdu beautiful and as I was listening to the Urdu words, I was reminded of the time I spoke one day in a Pakistani church. Simple Pakistani laborers from Pakistan where Christians were treated like dirt. You had to see their worship and their response when I preached in Hindi. They had tears flowing down and they worshipped all dressed in the typical Pakistani, whatever you call it, Pathani suit, simple and they probably came from the other faith, so as they entered into the church, automatically they go down and they are worshipping and crying. So, in that song those words were like music. You need to have come from there to understand the liberty you have in Christ Jesus. When a system and a community treat you like slaves and then you come to Christ and you realize it doesn't matter. In God's sight I am His son. Papa! You have to hear them.

New creation, old things have passed away. Read the epistles. In the four gospels we have the life of Jesus Christ, the persona of the Father, reflected through the Son. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. How He lived among us, how He did. He died, He was crucified, He died, He was buried and He was resurrected, but the epistles are the letters of the Father to His children, what did Christ do! What did He do? And what is He doing in us? The four Gospels the life of Christ. The epistles of what He's done and what He's doing in every one of us. You have to read it. Epistle means letter, it's not like what the Sunday school child wrote, epistle is the apostles wife. Epistle means letter. Paul may have written it. Paul was just an instrument. It was written by the Father of Jesus the Spirit of God to His other children so that we understand how this new creation lives.

It's a new beginning, absolutely new beginning, everyday for the children of God. That's why the Bible says, "His mercies are new every morning." So, when we go and actually by faith receive the mercies, you know what He says? "It's a new fresh start." God says, "Ready, steady, let's go, new beginning. I was telling the Nepali church, there are one thousand one hundred and eighty-nine chapters together in the sixty-six books of the Bible but when you are talking about new, absolutely sinless new, there are only four chapters. First two chapters, *Genesis 1 and 2* and the last two chapters *Revelation 21 and 22*. The rest are all in-between sin contaminated. Chapter twenty, judgment is over, sin has been dealt with, put in the lake of fire. Twenty-one is a new creation. And I saw the old earth and the old heaven has passed away and I saw a new heaven and a new earth and (like music to my ears) there is no seas. You need to realize there are four chapters. These are also chapters as new creation we should learn to focus on because in the first two chapters of the Bible, there are fundamental laws that governs God's universe, God's Kingdom or God's earth in which we live for the new creation and the last two chapters is our destiny. Whenever you are troubled, go read Revelation 21 and 22 honestly, it is comfort. In the beginning.

Revelation 21:4-5

⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Somebody wrote to me yesterday, I get a kick when I have people to whom I just give a reference hoping they will read. These are too big people to tell them to read, so I just put a reference. When they write back with these verses I feel, "Ah! They read it!" He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Please understand that. Anyone who is in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away, all things have been made new. There's a new person inside and that's the world he's called to live in. That's where you are going. We are living in an old world where all things are of old, contaminated and messed up by sin but the person in you God has made him new for the world where we are going where all things will be made new. So, don't get too comfortable here. That's why Peter will use two words to describe our life on earth. He uses two terms, sojourners and pilgrims. But you cannot live like a sojourner and a pilgrim unless your mind starts looking at what God has spoken up to where I am going and who am I. This is who I am, I am a new creation in Christ Jesus old things have passed away behold I have made all things new. And God talks about where we are going. So, when God speaks, whenever God speaks, what He does is, we looked at that, what do you get? What you get is hope. When God speaks. Today's morning daily devotion, if you read it's all about hope. Do you know God is called in the Bible the God of hope? He is called the God of hope. Every time when God speaks to His children, what He births in us is hope.

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

What is that? The second law of thermodynamics. Entropy has set in. That's what you see, everything. Everything is slowly decaying, dying. Every time you look in the mirror, that's what you see. Decay has set in the outer man. It has set in the outer man. That doesn't matter if you know what is happening to the inner man, the outer man's decay doesn't bother you. It bothers people because the inner man is not being renewed but if the inner man is being renewed from glory to glory, the outer man's destruction does not matter. Because you know yes that law is working outside but another law is working inside. There are two laws working, the spirit of death and destruction is working inside but I'm not without hope because another law is working inside. I'm being renewed from glory to glory from strength to strength. That is my hope but it was subjected in hope. Let's go further

²⁴because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Is there a groaning inside?

²⁴For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Honestly, the new creation, if you are new creation in Christ Jesus, when you look all around it understand what God has spoken, entropy has set in, sin came in everything is dying and you look at yourself, you also know, you are also slowly dying outwardly but inside is something else. The Spirit of God through Peter will put it across in *1 Peter 1:3*

1 Peter 1:3

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope. It's a constant living hope. But the problem is all of creation is waiting for us because when man fell they fell. Now, their redemption is connected with us. They cannot be redeemed before us. The old earth is waiting for a new earth because the old earth has to be cleansed by fire and God will create a new one. The old heavens which were messed up by Satan's fall will be cleansed by fire and God will create a new heaven. But it cannot happen until we have finished our work. You don't realize if the trees and the animals and the earth all had voices, they would tell us, 'Would you please hurry up,' because the only entity on planet earth which can hasten the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is written, is the Church and nobody else. Over and over it is written in the parables, the bridegroom delayed, why did the bridegroom delay? It is because the bride wasn't ready. So, hope is a huge thing in the Bible. So, when you read the Bible, when you read God's Word, there should be hope. So, don't look at situations.

So, God is speaking to a generation, a generation got wandered for forty years in the wilderness because of the sins and unbelief of their parents and then they see Moses is dead, he went up and never came down. He's dead thirty days are over and God speaks to Joshua and tells him, arise. So, you have the Book of Joshua and the Book of Acts which are new beginnings for a people who have been redeemed. Genesis 1 and 2, Revelation 21 and 22 absolute new beginnings. Joshua and the Book of Acts from chapter two is new beginnings for a redeemed or a saved people. They are going to enter into the Promised Land, we are going to enter into the Promised Life. Then if you want to look at an individual. We are not going there. You read *2 Kings 2* where a young man after eighteen years, that's what theologians says, he's going to enter into his new destiny and in each of these situations, there is somebody who's left. Moses has left, Joshua is going to lead. Jesus has left, the Spirit of God is going to lead the Church. Elijah is gone, Elisha is going to move forward alone. So, you will see always there is a transition. But what is constant through it all is there is God. So, arise Joshua prepare to pass over and possess. A land that has been promised but that has to be possessed. Though it has been given it has to be taken, it has to be fought for. In *1 Timothy* Paul will tell a young man called Timothy in chapter 6:12.

1 Timothy 6:12

¹²Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses

It is the only fight a believer is called to fight. It's called the fight of faith. It's a good fight and Paul will say at the end of his life, *I fought the good fight and I finished my race*. What you get during and in the process of fighting this fight is, you get hold of eternal life, lay hold on eternal life the very life Jesus came to bring. I have come to give you life, life in abundance. God has given but it has to be fought for. The land is given but you have to fight for it. It's a good fight, everything about it is good. The goal is good, what is the goal, it is eternal life, what is eternal life? Life of God and life with God. The method is very good. What is the method of this fight? It is by faith. The resources God offers to fight this fight are very good. What is it? It is called grace. By faith you access this grace by which you stand every day. Are you hearing? But before anything can happen, before the first pebble, rock or whatever they use to build these walls, mud, there was no cement then, lime, mortar. Before the first mortar will start peeling off or the rock will fall off the walls of Jericho before they can do anything, there is something Joshua has to do. Let's quickly fast-forward to *Joshua 5:13-15*

Joshua 5:13-15

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

When the civil war was going on, one of the commanders asked President Lincoln, 'Mr. President. Do you think God is on the union side or with the confederates?' He said, "Man, I'm not worried about that, I'm more worried about whether we are on God's side." You need to realize, God doesn't pick sides. You and I have to choose. I set before you life and death, blessings and curses, you choose. At the end of the conquest, Joshua will say the same thing. "Either you will worship the gods of these nations or Yahweh, you choose. I have made a choice for me and my household." Elijah will stand on mount Carmel and say, "If Baal is Baal worship Baal, if Yahweh is God worship Him." God doesn't choose, we choose. And once he hears His response is he falls on his face and he says, "Your servant hears, what You have to say." This is what He said.

¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

You have heard this many times but you need to hear these things over and over again. ***Every place you go, the sole of your foot threads, I will give it to you*** but before I can give it to you, take your sandals off. The sandals represent our acquired knowledge from the world because when I step out the first place where I touch the world is my feet. Our acquired knowledge from the world, God says, "Put it away!" because when God speaks the simple factor is, your mind usually never understands. Don't bring your understanding into what God has spoken. How can Jesus' stripes two thousand years ago heal my disease now? That's exactly the point dummy, you will not understand! Believe, you are bringing your mind there. Don't bring your mind with the Word of God. First believe then you will start understand, if God chooses to give understanding. In many cases He will not even give you understanding but the thing will happen. Take your sandals off. The first thing that happens over there is, Joshua yields. Before anything happens, Joshua yields. He's on his face before God, sandals are off, he yields. Please understand this, if you do not yield, you will not be able to wield the sword of the Spirit. If you do not yield, you will not be able to wield the sword. *Proverbs 21:31*

Proverbs 21:31

³¹ The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.

Joshua! Prepare. Passover and possess. Three days they prepared and they passed over. The horse is prepared for the battle but don't forget ***deliverance is of the Lord***. They have prepared, they have passed over, but you are not going to win one tiny bit of victory if you don't acknowledge Who delivers you. Victory is of the Lord. So, the first encounter Joshua will have in the Promised Land is with Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Host, standing there. Jesus. Not the Jesus who hung on the Cross but the Jesus with a drawn sword in His hand. Don't forget that, we will never win any victory unless we know the deliverance is of the Lord. You try to fight God's battles in your own strength, it is not going to happen. So, get these simple fundamentals in mind. How can I arise? How can I prepare? How can I Passover? How can I possess the promises of God if God doesn't speak and show up? How is anything going to happen without God? In *Matthew 6:33* Jesus in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, His greatest sermon, the Sermon on the Mount. He says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Matthew 6:33

³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

He mentioned two things. First thing He said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God." Second thing He said, "Seek first His righteousness." Don't just read righteousness, no. His righteousness. The gospel *Romans 1:17*, the gospel is the power of God for in it, what is revealed?

Romans 1:17

¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

The righteousness of God is revealed. Which is how? Revealed from faith to faith. The righteousness of God is revealed. What does faith actually do? Faith actually brings the righteousness of God in. If it is not by faith, you are either proclaiming your own righteousness or the righteousness of the Law and both are unacceptable. So, God says, there are two things you need to seek. One is the Kingdom and the other is the righteousness that comes by His faith. In *Romans 3:22* again He will say.

Romans 3:22

²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Even the righteousness of God. How does it come? Through faith in Jesus Christ. To all and all who believe, there is no difference. The Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of the King is the domain of a king which is governed by His will. That's why we pray, "Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Governed by His will, where His will and His laws are absolute. What a born again believer or a child of God learns in the church in this world govern by the enemy, the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one but you are of God. Is that not what Scripture says in *1 John 5:19*, you are of God in this world but this whole world lies under the sway of the evil one.

1 John 5:19

¹⁹We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

You are of God, you are not of this world but you are in this world. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one but we are of God. So, if we are of God we are of His Kingdom. If we are of His Kingdom, we need to learn how the Kingdom functions.

Our citizenship is of heaven. We need to learn how to walk. *2 Corinthians 5:7* we walk by faith and not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷For we walk by faith, not by sight.

We learn how to walk. We walk by faith. We don't understand, faith is a completely different lifestyle which is contradictory to our earlier lifestyle. These don't mix, sight and faith doesn't mix, they don't agree. So many of you are just staring into my face like that because you are still trying to use sight and not faith. It doesn't mix. We lived by sight. We are called to live by faith. And if we have to live by faith you have to know what the laws of faith are. *Romans 3:27* talks about the law of faith as opposed to the other laws.

Romans 3:27

²⁷Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

That same law of faith in the New Covenant or *Romans 8* is called the Law of the Spirit. These laws are unseen but even if you don't see it, it still works. The simple example we use, all the little children who keep falling, why do they fall? It is because there is an unseen law called gravity. Can you see gravity? It doesn't matter, it works. If you obey the law of gravity, you will walk steady. If you disobey that unseen, with you the doctors will earn their money, you will end up with fractures. This law is irrelevant whether you are knowledgeable or not, that's what happened to our little Jemma, she was in the walker, somebody left the door open, she walked on her walker and went down the stairs. Oh it's a baby gravity stop. No, it doesn't stop. We do not realize, we actually live on earth govern by a whole set of laws which we don't see but we fearfully obey it.

In the same way, if you want to live by faith, God says, "It's a completely different lifestyle. It is how God lives." Let me put it in a different way. How does God live? By faith. God lives by faith. That is His life. The faith that I live, I live by the faith of the Son of God. I no longer live but Christ Jesus lives in me. It's God's life. How does God live? By faith. And how does it come? It comes by hearing. Hearing what? Hearing comes from the Word of God. That faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That's *Romans 10:17* and then *Romans 10:8* says, "When you hear, the Word that you hear, the word of faith that we preach, we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth."

Romans 10:8-9

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

So, the seat of faith is the heart. And I'm praying and I'm believing as you hear God speak, you will believe with your heart. I don't understand salvation but I've experienced it and I experience it everyday. I don't understand salvation, I still can't figure out salvation with my mind. How can you figure out salvation with your mind? But it happened. Forget salvation, I can't figure out my microwave and still I heat and eat, I'm not sitting there and trying to figure it out. I don't know how it beeps and it goes for one minute and everything is warm. I don't waste my time to figure it out, I just enjoy it. So, don't try to figure out salvation with your mind, just enjoy it but if salvation is of the heart, then faith is more than a lifestyle. Faith is a relationship. This is what we forget. It's more than a lifestyle. Faith is a relationship and that's why the Scripture says, "Love God with all your heart." First with the heart, first is with all your heart, then with the mind and all, you will keep understanding but first with all your heart. And that's what God said, we sang a beautiful song about Father and son. I did not know I was always your son. Did you know that before you were saved you were God's child that even before the foundation of this world was laid, our names were written? We were always His children we did not know it and that changes everything because the world is full of orphans, fatherless children. God adopted us put us into His family. The Kingdom of God is full of children. There is a family, and there is a Father. The will of the Father is how the Kingdom works. So, *Hebrews 11:1* the most powerful chapter on faith says

Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

So, faith doesn't come first. Hope comes first. Faith doesn't come first, hope comes first. Faith is the evidence of what you are hoping for. I hope all of you are sitting and looking at me, at my face, looking hopefully and all your facial expressions are all evidence of it. Faith is the evidence and what are you hoping for? Like I said, hope is the goal setter. Where there is no hope, there is no goal. Let God set the goal. There is a divine hope, there is a human hope. For the divine hope God sets the goal. In the carnal hope, you set the goal and you are asking God please would you please pay the check. God may or may not, but at the end of it is emptiness.

Genesis 1:1-2

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God sees three things. What does He see? He sees there is no form, it is empty and it is dark. He sees three things. No form, empty and darkness. That's what He sees but God is a God of hope. What is hope in simple word? Desire. Understand it better. I desire something. "*Delight in the Lord and he shall give you the desires of your heart.*" Give me the desires of my heart and I shall delight in You. God says, 'No. Delight in Me and as you keep delighting in Me, I will change your desires. Your desires will be My desire.' That's why David was a man who said, '*It's better to be in the house of the Lord than to be in the tent of the wicked. A day in the presence of the Lord is better than a thousand elsewhere. I was glad very glad.*' This is a man who delighted in the Lord and God gave him all the desires of his heart except one thing – to build the temple. Every desire He fulfilled and when he took Bathsheba that's what he said. In His Spanish He said, "Malcriad! Naughty boy! You shouldn't have done it. If you had wanted I would have given you all the concubines of Saul." Why was God so extravagant towards David that He would give him all the desires of his heart? Because he was a man who delighted in the Lord. So, don't invert order. God is a God of hope, He is a God who desires, so He sees something, He sees there is no form, it is empty and there is darkness but when He speaks, He speaks according to what He is hoping for. He says, "Let there be light." He doesn't speak what He sees. He speaks what He desires.

The problem is the natural man speaks what he sees and he gets what he sees. God doesn't speak what He sees, God speaks what He desires. So, the first manifestation of faith, faith is the evidence of things hoped for or the proof of what you desire for is your words. How do you know what God is hoping for? You look at His Words you will know what He is hoping for. That is faith. So, He sees there is no form, it is empty and darkness is covering and He doesn't say, "Let there be form, let the earth be." He doesn't say. He says, "Let there be light." You need to understand, that's what we need first. You enter into your house at night. The first thing you do is, you put the light. If there is no light, it doesn't matter what is there is the room, it looks void and it looks empty. 'Lord fill me. Lord I don't have this.' God says, "Let there be light!" *Psalm 119:130* says, "The entrance of His Word brings light."

Psalm 119:130

¹³⁰ The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

What brings light? The entrance of His Word brings light. Get these pictures very, very clearly. First, what light, the Word, brings in is hope. That is the first thing God births in man after the fall. What is it? *The Seed of the woman...* so there is hope birthed.

Do you remember John the Baptist in the river Jordan? '*Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!*' two of them followed Jesus. Jesus turned around and asked, 'What do you seek?' 'Master where do You stay?' he said, 'Come!' they went and dwelt with Him that day and one of them was Andrew. He straight away went to his brother Peter and said, '*Come, we have met the Messiah.*' Why? What were they hoping? They were hoping for the Messiah. What are you hoping for? What is your hope connected to? It is connected to the One who will save you. *For this purpose the Son of Man came that he might destroy the works of the devil.* Nicodemus came in the dark and went out in the dark because he was not coming looking for the Messiah; he wanted to know the secret of God's power. "I know You are a Man of God, otherwise You won't be able to do all these things." Jesus said, you know what, '*Unless you are born-again you cannot see or enter, or understand what the Kingdom of God is.*'

In the next chapter He goes to Samaria, to the Samaritan woman, a person with whom you wouldn't you to spend time who had 5 husbands and now living with the 6th one, and Jesus and she were having a conversation. Then you know what? She also had hope; they are talking about worship. She says, 'When Christ the Messiah comes He will explain to us all these things.' Do you know what He said? '*I am He!*' She left her pot, ran to the town and told them, '*Come and see the Messiah.*'

When you invite people to the Church, don't tell them, 'Come and see our worship. Come and hear our pastor.' No, but tell them, 'Come and see the Messiah.' For where two or three gather in My name I am in their midst, says the Lord. If you had come with that in your mind you will encounter Him today because He is there. He is always true, He never lies. If He has said, 'I will be there,' He is here. That is how hope is birthed and that's where faith comes. So God does everything by faith because this is what He desires. He speaks to what He desires.

Like I said, there are two kinds of hopes; one is natural and the other is divine. One is birthed in self by the flesh and the other is birthed by God.

Romans 4:18-19

¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

¹⁸ who, contrary to hope (so there is a hope that is human and as time passes on the hope starts fading and you start lowering the bar), in hope believed,

When you begin school you hope for 1st rank and state first. After few years class 1st, and after few more years at least 1st class and by the time you reach class 10 you hope to just pass. What happened? Your hope was in yourself. It is not a divine hope, it is a human hope. Divine hope is birthed by God. So it doesn't matter who you are. He is the 11th son in a family of 12 and he gets two dreams – 'this is the dream there were 12 sheaves of wheat. Mine was standing upright and I saw the other eleven bowing. The next dream is the sun, the moon and the stars bowing down.' Now that is of God. That is not of man. That is of God. And 22 years later they will all bow before the governor of Egypt. Why? It is because that hope was birthed by God. So there is a natural hope. And there is a divine hope. Don't confuse between these two. Don't birth hope in your flesh and then flog God to fulfill it.

There are hopes in this world which are temporary which is of God, it is not of the devil. But it is temporal. And there is the hope of God that is eternal.

1 Corinthians 15:19

¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

So in this life you can have hope in Christ. There are many hopes which are connected with Christ, which are in this life. What is that? Healing; I don't need healing in heaven I need healing here. Strength, provision, a spouse, those who are married hope for children. These are all hopes connected with this life. You are not going to get married over there. The Bible is very clear. You are not going to have children over there. So there are a lot of things which are genuinely, godly, kosher hope which are connected with Christ, but if you hope is only connected with Christ with this life, you are the most pitiable. For the hope of Christ is not only connected with this life, it goes into eternity. And when it goes into eternity there may be some of the temporal hopes you will discard, because it becomes a block. Though it is right for somebody, God may tell you, 'It is not right for you because your eternity is connected with something else.' So God tells Jeremiah, 'Don't get married.' Isn't it God's will that man should get married? Yes, it is He who instituted marriage. But Jeremiah, don't get married. Don't beget children. What has that got to do with it? It is because it is bigger than a temporal hope. So there is hope that is temporal in Christ and there is hope that is in Christ which is eternal. God is a God of hope and He is a God of faith.

Then there is a hope that God can birth in you and then you don't wait to hear the rest and you take off on your own. God birthed hope in an old couple. When the first time He told them, the father was 75 years old – 'In you all nations shall be blessed.' Abraham must have thought, 'Ah! I have waited for so long and we have no children. Hope is birthed. We shall have a child.' Then a few years later down the line, may be when he is 80 or 85 years old God comes and shows him, 'You see the stars in the sky? Your seed will be like them.' Hope is reinforced. He goes and tells his wife and the wife has a very wonderful suggestion. What is the suggestion? Have a child through the Egyptian maid – the way of the flesh. The hope of birthed of God, but the act is not the act of faith; it is an act of flesh. It birthed Ishmael.

Now God has come 13 years later and tells him, 'That is not the guy I chose.' He is shocked, 'Lord, what are You saying?' because he invested so much in this. The Author of hope was God, but the author of faith was man. Do you see the difference? The Author of hope was God, but the author of faith was man and now you have raised him up and it is looking so good and in *Genesis 17*,

Genesis 17:18

¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

'Shut down your ministry!' Oh Lord?!?! What are You telling me? 'Resign your job!' O Lord, what are You telling me? But Lord, You told me long ago that I will work. 'Yes but I didn't tell you where you should work. Before I told you you ran.' Lord, please Lord, please. O Lord that You would bless Ishmael. God will answer your prayer.

Genesis 17:20-21

²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. Why will I (God) do all these things? It is because you prayed and I shall do all these things. ²¹ But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

You need to understand this, all that work in your life called Ishmael that is outside the covenant, meaning there is nothing eternal in it. God's covenant is with Isaac. What is eternal is Isaac. The simple question is - do you have the time, the energy, and the resources to waste on Ishmael? Do you want to wake up one morning and hear God say, 'Throw the bond-woman and her son out because they cannot live together,'? That is why it is so important to hear. Do you want to waste 15 years pursuing a career and have your back against the wall and then you are turning left and right, 'Lord, what is happening? What is happening?' and God says, 'Resign.' Lord, what are You saying? Do You know I took a bank loan? Do you know how much I owe people? Do you know what all these people will say? God says, 'Yes, but do you want to move? I will prosper you if you want. I will allow you to finish all this and I will allow you to buy houses, car and all but I will tell you one thing – all that work will not be under My covenant.'

I telling people how to save time because we have very limited time in life. We are constrained by something called time. We are constrained by something called strength. And as you grow older and older one of the first things you realize is that your time is running out. Your strength is running out. Your resources are running out. The simple is that are you caught between the temporal and the eternal?

So we need light. We need light. Do you know how much you can save? See many of these old people, the patriarchs and their wives in the Bible, they were very smart people. Rebecca was a very smart mother. As soon as there was trouble in her womb she didn't take Digene or Gelusil tablets; she knew this was spiritual and she went to the Lord and enquired of the Lord and God said, 'The older shall serve the younger.' What does it mean? You have two kids in your womb, it is the younger who is chosen by Me and not the older. The Bible says that she kept Jacob aside. Very carefully marked out, this one came seconds earlier and Jacob was kept aside by the mother because she understood purpose. And you will realize that Jacob becomes Jacob because the mother understood purpose very early in life. Very early in life, before he was born and she made strategic decisions because of that. She kept him aside and Esau is going out all the time to play and to hunt and everything, but this fellow doesn't go anywhere, he is in the tents with his mother. But you don't understand that he is born when his father was 60 years old. And when his father is 60 years old his grandfather is still alive. His grandfather is 160 years because Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old. And Jacob is born when Abraham is 160 and for the next 15 years of his life, because he is kept in his tents by the mother he is able hear about the God of Abraham from Abraham's lips. Which Esau never heard, nor was he interested. One strategic decision by the mother so that Jacob would hear. You need to understand why it matters. What is your hope connected with? And God is not even talking about Jacob or Esau, He is talking about two nations. So she knows that whatever is connected with the young boy in connected with eternity. It is not a temporal thing, it is an eternal thing.

Whatever is connected with the Christ in you will never be temporal, it will be eternal. So what we need is light. The entrance of His Word brings light. And that is what God is saying, 'Let there be light.' You see, the Bible is such a beautiful, simple practical book. If you are used to waking up early in the morning when it is still dark, the first thing that you do is switch on the light (read the Word) so that you know where you are going. What is the first thing that we need? What we need is light.

Genesis 1:3-4

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Did you see how beautiful it is? What God saw was void, formlessness and darkness. What God desired was something else and He spoke, 'Let there be light,' and what He sees is light. And He looked at that light and He said, 'It is good.' Now please remember when God said, 'Light,' all darkness did not go. It is still darkness. *The entrance of Your Word brings light*, that doesn't mean that all darkness has gone. It means that light has just entered. Do you know even in this room, now when you are standing, this place where I am standing is where there is more light and the darkness is at the back (at the end of the hall). It is a real thing. There is more light here. If there is more light here that means there is less darkness here. And if there is less light there it means that there is more darkness there. When God said, 'Let there be light,' all darkness did not go. When God looked He looked at only the light. He looked at the light and said that it is good.

When God looks at you and me He wants to see light. And He looks at the light and says, 'It is good.' He never compliments darkness. He never does. This division will continue, let me warn you. This is the spiritual truth. This division, if we are not careful will continue all through eternity.

Revelation 21:23-25

²³The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. Christ is the light of that City. The New Jerusalem is shinning with the glory of Jesus Christ. And by the way, what is New Jerusalem? It is the Bride of Jesus Christ. *The glory of the woman is man. The glory of the City is Christ.* That city is full of people who glorified Jesus and His glory is shinning and for the whole new universe the City becomes its light. ²⁴And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

So you need to realize that there is a city shinning with the light of Jesus Christ and there is earth which does not have so much light. They are walking in the light of that City. There are kings in that earth who have more light and

there are subjects on the earth who have less light. So this division goes through eternity. It depends upon how you receive light. The play of light and darkness is going all through eternity. It doesn't end here. So those who are in the City, the Bible says, shall see His face and serve Him. What about those who are on the earth? There are people on earth and there are kings on earth. And the kings are bringing their glory and honor into the City. So there is glory and honor in the next life too. That is why I said that if only in this life you have hope in Christ, God says that you are the most pitiable of people. You are selling away your birth-right for something that is for God which is temporal, without looking at the eternal. For Christ in me is the hope of my glory. Not me in me with the help of Christ. No. It is Christ in me. Get these pictures so that you will know how to make decisions in your life. And you don't need a PhD to make those decisions. It is as simple as that.

Saul of Tarsus says, 'Who are You?' Jesus of Nazareth. 'What shall I do?' decisions made instantly. And then at the end of his life he says, '*I have fought the good fight, I have finished my race and I have kept my faith. I know what is reserved for me. It is glory, the crown of righteousness.*' And it is the righteousness that is of faith unto faith unto faith and he has allowed Christ, who had authored faith in him, to finish it in him. It is as simple as that. Don't get caught in the temporal.

But there is a shift in the New Covenant, please understand – *the entrance of His Word brings light. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*

John 1:1-4

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Please understand, we are not living in the Old Covenant where His Word is light. Now His life is light. His life in you and me is the light of men. We have moved from theory to life, practical. What God does is that when you are born again His very Spirit comes and births in you His life and that Spirit who births in you that Spirit is life and that life alone is the light of men. My life is darkness, nations will not come to it. People will not be drawn to it, because what they see is their darkness in my darkness; their darkness in my darkness, so I am not a source for them. I am a source of depression for them. But then there is this Life, that Life becomes the light of men. You receive that life by faith. You hear, you believe and you obey and when you hear, believe and obey what you are partaking and what is coming out of you is the very life of God. You won't understand it that is why it is by faith.

Hebrews 11:3

³By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

³By faith we understand, understand here doesn't mean that you understand with your mind, it simple means that you experience God's reality. We cannot understand what God is doing. We just believe what He has said because He has said, 'This is how I live. This is how I do things. So you receive it by faith, receive My power and My grace to do it and just do it, that is My life.' Do you know what the Word of God says? The Word of God says that because of the preaching of the Word, in the act of deliverance Paul and Silas were beaten; striped and beaten. They were thrown into the prison at the midnight hour and their legs were locked up in stocks. The Bible says that they were praying and they were singing. Do you know what it is? It is the life of Christ. For He said, when you are persecuted rejoice and be exceedingly glad. They received it by faith and they practiced it by faith and the Bible says that all the captives were listening. Why were they listening? It is because in them was life and that life was the light of men. It is dark, it is the mid-night hour but the life of God is not constrained by physical darkness. The life speaks.

It is the Spirit life, it is not constrained by darkness. The Bible says that all the prisoners were listening. And the Bible says that the power of God came in the prison. It is not written that Paul's and Silas' chains came off; it says that everybody's chains came off. It says that all the doors opened.

I speak in the name of Jesus, as the life of God is manifested in you, the shut doors will open in Jesus' name. The life of Jesus opens doors that are shut. You don't need the emperor's permission of open prison doors. When the life of God comes in doors open because that is what the life of Christ does. In Him was life and that life was the light of men. That is what Jesus is saying, 'I've come to give you life, life in abundance. That life itself becomes the light of men. But if they see your life and my life it is darkness. It is the dark sitting in the dark, the blind calling to the blind,

because my life has no power to change the life of somebody else. It is God's life. That is what God is trying to give us; His life. But that life is received by faith. In the Old Covenant you have acts of faith. In the New Covenant, He says, *'My righteous shall live by faith.'*

Paul understands that mystery because of his surrender and he says, 'The life that I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God.' But we don't want it? Why don't we want it? We want glory, we want temporal satisfaction. We want to be on FaceBook, we want to be on social media, we want to be appreciated by men. And therefore God says, 'You know what, you are save but you will die because you never speak for Me. You cannot speak for Me.' Even the greatest in the Old Covenant, remember, for him the entrance of God's Word was light. But as soon as that stops he is sitting in darkness. He is sitting in the prison and he is sending his disciples to ask, 'Go and ask, are You the One? Or should we go and look for someone else?' John, John, what happened to you? Then we understand that you are an Old Covenant person. You don't have that life. You don't have that Person living in you to give you light.

Beaten, broken, town after town, stoned to death, flogged three times, famine, desert, you name it Paul had it. But do you know what he says? *'I know in Whom I have believed. I am well persuaded.'*

This morning, are you persuaded? Are we persuaded? That is why I said, their very praise and prayer in the prison is an act of faith. It is an act of faith. All they are doing there is using their mouths with words; their hope has substance. That is what God is talking about. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory; the glory of the Father, full of Grace and full of Truth. And from the fullness of His grace we have received blessing upon blessing upon blessing. What is healing? It is part-taking of His grace. What is deliverance? It is the partaking of His grace. What is promotion? It is the partaking of His grace. You can name whatever it is, it is all part of His grace; unmerited favour. And you will see people in the Kingdom of God looking at their temporal situations and making eternal choices. When they made that choice they had no clue where they would end, but they knew that this is the choice which has to be made because this is the only choice that is true.

I told you, the New Covenant person does not live by the principle whether it is good or evil, that is from the tree of knowledge. Nor whether it is legal or illegal, that is under the Law. He lives by the principle of whether it is true or not. And God is truth. Jesus said, 'I am the Truth. My Word is truth.' And He said, 'My Church is the foundation and the pillar of Truth.' So it does not matter whether it is right or wrong. The only thing that matter is whether it is true and you do not know what is true. That is why God says, do not judge. How do we judge? 'That is wrong,' 'this is right.' God says, 'Don't judge.' It is because you will judge only by the outward, by what senses can perceive. You cannot make right judgments. Do you know what Jesus Said? 'My judgment is right.' *He will not judge by what He hears. He will not judge by what He sees, as prophet Isaiah says, but by righteousness He judges.* Jesus comes and says, 'My judgment is always right, because I only say what I hear from above. I don't speak what I hear and what I see. I hear from My Father and I speak and therefore all My judgments are right because My Father is never wrong.'

Are you getting the picture? Is it complicated? Are you getting it? Prophets can go wrong. Samuel was wrong, Prophet Samuel went wrong. When he heard the Word of God, 'Go to Jesse's house. How long will you grieve over Saul? Go anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king,' he went there. The whole village is troubled because the prophet has come. Jesse gets all his sons ready, but only seven sons are there, the eighth one was not considered, he was sent to the wilderness with the sheep. Then the first one comes, Eliab, 'Truly this is the Lord's anointed!' then Abinadab, 'Truly this is the Lord's anointed' God says, 'No!' Then Shimea comes, God says, 'Nah!' one after the other is rejected and they are wondering what is going wrong? God says, 'You are looking at the outside.' You are looking at the principle of what is right and wrong. He looks right, he looks right, he looks right, by the time the youngest one comes smelling of sheep and he looks wrong, but God says, 'He is true.'

So you don't make those judgments. It is a different life that we are called to live. Don't make any judgments based on outward things which pertain to the principles of this world. We have to go to the principle of life – in Him was life and that life became light. How do you partake of that life? It is by faith. That is why three times in the New Covenant He says, 'My just shall live by faith.' My righteous who live by faith, if he/she draws back My soul shall not be pleased with them.' Why? It is because they are denying the life of My Son and projecting their own life. What I see is darkness and it is not good. It doesn't matter how right you are, you are still wrong. It doesn't matter how right you are you are still wrong.

I am trying to save you time because we have an issue and man's issue is with time. 3 score and 10 years and add another 10 years, total 4 score and then what happens? If you want to be like Moses at the age of 120, walk by the

principle of life. You see he was the last man standing, everybody else is dead. You read the book of Deuteronomy, everybody is dead and this is the last man standing and God's words cannot go back, He said, 'You will die.' But this man will not die. He will not die, why, it is because his natural vigor or strength had not diminished and his eyes are as sharp as ever. Why? It is because though he gave the Law he is living by the principle of life. He is not living by the Law; he is living by the principle of life. So God has to quietly, secretly take him up and knock him out. And He buries him. These are simple principles over there in the Bible. What are the principles by which you are living? Are you living by the principle of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Then you become the arbiter – this one is good and that is bad, this one is good and that is bad. Really? Or the principle of the Law – this one comes to church regularly, he never breaks his Sabbath. He is a good man. Which one are you going by?

God says, 'Do you know this Pharisee who is praying? He goes by the Law, he tithes regularly, he gives to the poor, all his acts are good and he is false. And do you know this guy, he breaks every Law in the book, even if he wants to do good he does evil, and he comes here and cries without even looking at Me. He is true. So he will go home justified.'

So this morning, what do you want to be? Do you want to be false? Or do you want to be true? 'I want to be right!' God laughs. He asks, 'What do you want to be?' 'Lord, I want to be true.' 'Then partake of My life. There is only one life that is true and that is My life.'

Everything God had for Israel was in the Promise Land. Do you know that? Everything was in the Promise Land. Outside the Promise Land in the wilderness they had a pink ration card. Morning by morning you go to the ration card counter and collect your rations. That is how they lived for forty years, because everything that God had for them was in the Promise Land. And do you know that everything God has for us is in Christ and Christ alone, nothing outside of Him. Read your Bible, it is in Christ and Christ alone. Do you know what Christ is? It is a life. Everything the Father had for the Son was in the Father. So He said, 'When I come down I will show you a way; I will not live My life, I will live My Father's life and everything that My Father has for Me I will have.' It was the Father's life that he lived on earth that is why He said, '*If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.*'

So always go to the beginning and read what is written – in the beginning God. Simple way to live life. In the beginning, God. Every day in the beginning is God and in the end is God. In between God, not yourself. In the simple things God. In the complex things God.

In the simplest thing, Daniel purposed in his heart that he will not defile himself with the food that was set on the table. Very simple. The King said, 'If they cannot interpret what I have dreamt I will cut their heads off.' That was a very complex things, even in that there was God. With Daniel, have you noticed, whether it is a matter of eating or whether it is a matter of losing his head, it was still God. And you see in 12 chapters of the book of Daniel, kings come and kings go, from Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus, every new dispensation says, 'We heard about this man. Can you serve us?' why did they seek Daniel? It is because Daniel was not living his life; in him was life and that life became the light of kings. Where ultimately the king had to confess, 'O you Daniel who serve your God continuously are you alive?' 'God bless you my king. I hope you slept well. I am fine here. The angel came and shut the mouth of the lions.' Can a lion devour the life of God? No, it cannot.

Satan is the lion. Can satan devour the life of God in you and me? No he cannot, but he can devour my life and your life. For the curse over satan is this – all the days on your belly you shall crawl and you shall lick the dust of the earth. That is my flesh life. Dust unto dust you shall be. So my flesh is fodder for him. But the life of Christ is not. So there is transference literally that has to take place through faith and the faith that we are receiving is the life of God. God looks at it and He says, 'This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.' In everything you have to bring Christ in. If you bring the life of Christ in, like Peter when the king has ordained your execution tomorrow, you can sleep because it is the life of Christ. Do you know why? *I give My beloved rest.* Who is the beloved? It is not you. *He has accepted me in the Beloved.* I am not the beloved. Christ in me is the Beloved.

Do you know how to bring faith into everything? The life of Christ in? 'Lord, I have all these issues I am facing and Your Word says that You have accepted me in the beloved and You give Your Beloved rest. Thank You Lord I am going to rest.' This is how faith comes, because the righteous are called to live by faith and to live 24/7 by faith, where all the normal activities of life are brought into faith. So the Bible says – if anyone doubts while eating or drinking he sins. Whatever is not of faith is sin. So you know what is sin in my life? Everything that is not of the life of Christ is sin, it is darkness. It is rejected. It is Ishmael. It doesn't matter how good it is, how blessed it is, how many

people applaud, it is dead. It is not part of the covenant. What is part of the covenant? The life of Jesus Christ. That is when all the disciples of Jesus started leaving. He said, 'Unless you eat My body and drink My blood,' they said, 'This doctrine we do not want.' He was talking about the transference of His life for our rotten life. He says, 'Can you receive My life and get rid of your rotten life?'

Now even when you partake of communion know that and believe that you have received mercy. When you partake of communion you have to go by what Christ has said through His Spirit about communion – because you did not judge yourself, because you have sinned against the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ, because you did not judge yourself many of you are sick, weak and asleep. So if we judged ourselves as Christ has called us to judge ourselves (don't make it radical. Judge as the Word of God says) and you believe that you have received mercy you also have to believe the other side. As I partake of this which are the emblems of His body and His life which He offered for us, I will not be sick, I will be well, I will not be weak, I will be strong. I will not be asleep, I will be awake to know what is God's doing now in this generation. I don't want to know what God did in 2020. I want to know what God is doing now. He says, 'That day should not catch you by surprise because you are children of light.' Do you know what that promise means? It means that if Jesus is going to come on 6th Feb, you will know. You will be prepared. You will be ready go, with no accounts to be balanced you will be ready to go. 'I will not catch you by surprise.' Surprise is for the ones who are living in darkness, who were not living the life of Christ. They will be caught by surprise.

That is why the Church is asked to hasten the Lord's coming. Hasten the Lord's coming because in every parable wherever the good ones fell away, it was because the bridegroom delayed. Delay is something that we do not want, because delay causes its own troubles. When the bridegroom delayed 5 virgins fell away. They were virgins, they were good. But what was the reason? The bridegroom delayed. So Peter, through the Spirit, will give us the unction, 'The Church has the power to hasten the Lord's coming because His delay is dangerous for the old man. The old man has a way of drifting away. It is the nature of the old man to drift away from the things of God. We don't want delay. If we ask God to delay it should never be for ourselves, it should be for somebody else. Abraham is not standing in the gap and crying, 'Lord, would You please save me and my household.' No, 'Lord, even if there are 50 righteous in that city...' he is not interceding for himself, he is ready. The Lord has come to his house to fellowship and blessed him, he is ready to go. But he is praying for somebody else; for another believer who had drifted away. If we pray for delay let it not be about ourselves; let it be about somebody else.

One thing they were told when they were leaving Egypt, 'Gird your loins, eat with haste and get ready to leave in a moment's notice.' And in the mid-night hour God said, 'Get out!' eat the Passover lamb with haste. There is something which you need to learn to eat with haste, it is the life of Christ. Eat that with haste so that you are ready to leave. For the only thing that will prepare you to leave is the life of Christ; that is/ the Passover Lamb. We are talking serious things as we come to communion.

Yes, hope for temporal things are all good, but if you have hope in Christ only in this life, God says, you are most pitiable. We don't want to be pitied. We want to hear, 'Well done! My good and faithful servant. Enter into My joy.'

Communion prayer:

Father this morning we come to You Lord. We come by faith and faith in You alone. Not resting in our works, not resting in anything. Not even in our confession or our repentance. However deep it may be. Depending only on Your faithfulness because You said that if we confess God is faithful. We do not know in ourselves how much we need to confess, but we can depend on your faithfulness. For Your name is true and faithful. We come to You, believing that as we partake of this there will be a transference of Your life into our lives. Even when Your servant, Ps. Vijay, broke the bread we believe what You did 2000 years ago was repeated here that You have blessed this bread today. You have blessed this cup today. So as we partake of it we are partaking of the blessed bread and the cup by the hands of the living God. We shall be strong, we shall receive Your life and we shall be awake. Thank You Father, thank You Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you know about the second generation that possessed the Promise Land, it is written that God gave them rest from all their enemies. It is not just that they possessed the Promise Land, but they kept the Promise Land; they kept what they possessed. If He tarries to come, if He tarries to come, do you know what we are called to do? *Occupy till He comes.* Occupy every part of our soul, every part of our physical being and our body, so that when He comes He can present our spirit, our soul and our body blameless for the glory of God. That is what it means to occupy till He comes.

So this morning, there is only one life. There is no second life. There is only one life that God accepts it is a life of faith. With the enemy our first line of defense is not the belt of truth, it is not the breastplate of righteousness, it is not the helmet of salvation. It is the shield of faith. That is the first line, if it crosses that, then it starts questioning you, your very righteousness and your salvation that is when the other things come into play. But your first line of defense from the fiery darts of the enemy is the shield of faith. The shield of faith where you are able to say, 'it is written and that is my life. I have no life outside of His Word and the boundaries of God's will. That is what is written, that is what I believe and that is what I speak. And help me God.' That is the Law of faith. In that life there is no condemnation because the Bible says – *who is he that condemns?* It is because it is Christ who justifies. How dare you question my life? How dare you question my righteousness? Not our life, only one life.

Closing prayer:

Father, this morning we come to You Lord. This is the simplicity of the Gospel. This is the doctrine of Christ. This is the life of God lived in faith unto faith till the end. You began that good work in us. You are the Author of our faith. Lord, help us each day to allow You to finish it. You be my beginning and You be my end. You be the first, You be the last. You be the Alpha, You be the Omega and You be the all in between. Then the Father can look and say, 'I am well pleased. This is My Beloved Son's life.'

I bless Your people in Your name. I pray the hand of God would rest upon them. The hand that delivers, the hand that heals, the hands that empower to live that life will rest upon each one of us. And when we go we go in peace and our hearts and mind will be set on things that are above and things that are eternal because it is written that the things that we see are temporal. The things that are unseen are eternal. And Your Word promises us that You will keep our hearts and minds in peace; that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. I pray, as we, Your people, go through this week and we come back, we would have gone in peace, walked in peace and stayed in peace and we would know that the Kingdom has worked in us. Thank You, thank You Father. Lord we praise God, we worship You. We glorify You Lord. We stand in Your house and we once again declare, Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. And God's people said, Amen.

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.