

Arise and Cross Over!

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Father, this morning we come to You. This morning Lord, once again we want to magnify Your Word. For it is written, Lord, that You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name. We, I, magnify Your Word, O Lord. Heaven and Earth will pass away but not a dot from Your Word. Your Word is forever established in the heavens. And in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word is God. And that Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld the glory of the Father in Him, full of grace and full of Truth. I pray Father that You will take over, even as I minister the Word, in the Word they will see the glory of the Father; full of Grace and full of Truth. Thank You, thank You Lord. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

On 31st night we saw the Promise. God is asking us to turn and He will revive, life comes from Him. He will revive and He will pour out His life. In the worst time in Israel's history, where you had a couple ruling over the land called Ahab and Jezebel. The two examples of evil ruling over the land and you would think, how can something good come out of their reign? And you would read and say, okay all these things happened on Mount Carmel, but what happened after that? You will realise that Elisha rose out of that turning.

Unknown to anybody there was a young man called Shaphat and his son was Elisha. And Elisha rose out of that revival. And all the days he was alive, you need to know, the Word of God prevailed over Israel and the kings were afraid of him. So how these things happen, we do not know. But it will happen, later in retrospect we will realise that God actually did. It is just that I did not understand. So if you were there yesterday, or if you listened yesterday, let me quickly recap what we learnt with the pastors yesterday. Today is the 15th it is a good day, every day is a good day. *This is the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it.* With God every day is a day of hope. So we go to *Joshua 1*,

Joshua 1:1-2

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: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.

It begins with this emphatic statement. What is the statement? Moses is dead. Remember what I said yesterday about Charles Wesley and John Wesley? They are buried in Westminster, it is written over there – God buries His workmen but God's work continues. God's work never ceases. His workmen will be buried. If the Lord tarries to come, one day if you all are still around, you have to bury me, don't leave me outside. His workmen will be buried, I too will be buried. But that doesn't mean I am dead; I will be watching from Heaven who all came for my funeral. So don't miss my funeral because when you come up there I will catch you. God's workmen will be buried, that is the fact of life.

Only two men were not buried; that is Enoch and Elijah. The Bible says that two witnesses will come and they also will die, but they won't be buried. They won't be buried; their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three days and they will rise back. They are the only two who will not be buried nor will their bodies see decomposition. So they will rise back. But I am not one of them, so make sure you bury me. If you do not bury me, I am telling you, you will not like your pastor after that. Hahahah! So now that you are all light hearted, remember Moses is dead. There is finality that Moses is dead. But Joshua is alive. There are so many applications to that.

John 1:17

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

If you see the old versions of KJV you will see that the word 'Joshua' there is 'Jesus'. In Hebrew it is the same word; Joshua is Jesus and Jesus is Joshua. So you need to realize that the Law is dead, grace and Truth is alive. Moses died; he should die in your life. The Law has to die. If Law does not die in your life, the only thing the Law brings is death. Jesus came, Jesus never dies; HE is alive forevermore. What did He bring? He brought grace and Truth. There are pictures in the Bible which have spiritual applications. Moses is the Law-giver, so when he went into Egypt he turned water into blood. But when Jesus came He turned water into wine. Applications! When Moses came down the mountain with the

Law that day in the camp 3000 men died. When the Holy Spirit came upon Peter and he preached Jesus 3000 men were saved. It doesn't work the same way. So let the Law die. If it hasn't died yet, let it die today. Otherwise you will never live. For you need to understand the nature of the Law. The nature of the Law is this.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us victory every day. Three things here – ***The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.*** It begins with the Law, the Law gives strength to sin and sin leads to death. That is the way it operates. If there is no Law, there is no sin. It all began in *Genesis 2:16*, when God said – 'If you eat from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil you will die.' That was the Law. When they broke that Law sin came. And the end of sin is death. Adam died, Eve died and in Adam we all died. Then 1000s of years later the Mosaic Law came. So people fall under two Laws; either they fall under *Genesis 2:17* or they fall under the Mosaic Law. That is the way people work.

How do we make our decisions? It is either based on good or evil, or the Mosaic Law. The result of both is that you will die, eternally. You will die eternally, not just temporally. Even if you are making your choices on good and evil you will die, because we do not have the capacity to know what is good and evil. We do not have that understanding. It is as simple as that. We do not have the insight. We do not have it. What we think good will be bad. And what we judge as bad later we realize that it is good. We have this example of a father with two kids, either on the train or plane. Let's say they were traveling in an aircraft and the father is sitting there with his head bent down, deep in thought while the kids are jumping up and down. There was a conversation going on between the other passengers, 'What is wrong with this man? Why doesn't he control his children?' but the father is lost in thought and he is not hearing all that, then finally somebody shakes him up and says, 'What is wrong with you? How come your children are so unruly? Why don't you control them?' and then he looks at his children and realizes, he gets up and apologizes and says, 'I'm sorry, their mother died, the body is in the cargo and we are taking her body home. The children have never lived a day without their mother.' Immediately everybody's words and attitude changed because earlier they made their judgments based on what is good and evil and they were absolutely wrong.

That is why what came with Jesus is Truth and Truth is always true. And we do not know the truth. We actually do not know the truth of anything, unless God shows. Even when God shows it, we will never know the whole truth because we do not have the capacity to know the whole Truth. That is why the Bible says, we see in part, we prophesy in part. And then we need to realize that we also understand in part. It is impossible for the human mind to really conceive what is true about anything. It is not possible. Yet that is what sets you free; Law does not set you free. Only Truth sets you free. So when Jesus came, how did He come? He came with Grace and Truth. Grace is the power of God. There is no point telling Truth! Truth! Truth! It is because we do not have the power to keep it. If you really want to know and understand and become weak, ask God to reveal the Truth, especially the Truth about yourself, then you will know what weakness is.

God is Truth. If you really want to understand the Truth about yourself you always have to see yourself in the light of who God is. That is why even the prophet said, 'I am a man of unclean lips.' That was the Truth. Every one of them when they had an encounter with Truth they also realized how untruthly they were. That is when you become weak. Then if you allow Him, automatically He will become your strength. That is how it works. So this is it. There is a Law, there is sin and then there is death. You cannot escape it; it is like gravity, you cannot escape it. If you have to escape it, you need a power that defies gravity or overcomes gravity. Simple (my basic) science. That is what Jesus brings into our lives. So let us see how He deals with it and then we will go to the meat of the Word.

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴ But when the fullness of the time (even this we will not know) had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

So many of you good people sitting over here your issue is not that you are not doing right. But His time hasn't come. You will say, 'Lord! What more should I do?' God says, 'Nothing, just wait.' 'What more should I do? I have fasted, I have

prayed, I have obeyed, but nothing!' *in the fullness of the time*. When the fullness of time had come God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law. He had to be born under the Law.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

He was born under the Law; He became sin for us on the Cross. ***That we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*** In the Bible whenever you read about Jesus Christ always circle the word 'in'; everything is in Him.

So we have read about Law and sin. Now there is death. Before we go to death, let us see what happened on the Cross.

Colossians 2:14-15

¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. You know what He did? He took the Law and nailed it to the Cross. He took the sin that comes because of the Law and He bore it upon Himself.

¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

The disarming of the devil, the powers of darkness, you need to understand, how does Jesus actually disarm the devil in your life? See, imagine *Genesis 2:17* isn't there. What does *Genesis 2:17* say? *If you eat from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall surely die.* Let's imagine that is not there. Then in *Genesis 3:1*, the devil comes, but how does he tempt them? There is no Law. Are you getting the picture? What did Jesus do? He took the Law and nailed it upon the Cross and He bore our sin upon Himself. So when the Law is taken away, if you try to live under the Law he will come and catch you. So when he comes and tells you something, you need to ask him, 'Which Law are you quoting from? Where are you quoting from because I do not know what you are talking about?' it is not that we became lawless but it was replaced by something else, completely to something else to which he has no answer.

So there is Law and there is sin, both are taken care of on the Cross.

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

He tasted death for everyone. Jesus took that as well. He kept the Law for everyone, He took everyone's sin upon Himself, and He tasted death for everyone. So if you are in Christ, He has kept the Law for everyone; if you are in Christ, He took your sin; if you are in Christ, He took your death. So if you go to verse 14-15

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

This is the first fear you have to handle. Death has been taken out of the way, but almost every fear is rooted in death. You have to deal with that, because that is bondage. So first think on these things. These things don't automatically happen. It has to go deep down, only then will we understand. So deal with these things. Really, seriously deal with these things. How did God deal with these things for those who are in Christ?

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. There are two ways in which you can walk. The flesh means your old nature. ***But according to the Spirit*** – that should become our new nature.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

You see the three words come up over there; Law, sin and death, in the right order? So there are two Laws; the law of sin has been overruled by the Law of the Spirit of life. That is the Law we have to learn. We will struggle for a long time

between these two laws. This struggle between the two laws is what you call in an aircraft as Turbulence. 'Fastened your seatbelts!' why? It is because gravity is beginning to work; you are being pulled down by one law. So you need to realize that the most important part of a believer's daily life is to enter into His rest. It is not what happens before and after. The most important part is to enter into His rest. Everyday enter into His rest and the Bible says that that is the most laborious part – *Labor to enter into His rest*. So get these pictures.

Looking at Joshua, God is speaking to Joshua who is a type or a shadow of Christ, and the Christian in Christ. God is telling him, you have to deal with certain things. Everything is there before you but you are not going to go anywhere. You must deal with certain things.

We also have to deal with certain things. A life of Christ is there, which is our promise life. We have to possess it; there is a battle everyday to possess it. But there are certain things we need to be prepared everyday and there are certain battles we will have to fight and the more we learn it, the more of His life we will possess and it is a life of rest. And from that rest, God says that, only He can work. We can work when we are restless, but that work is never counted. God can work in and through us only when we are at rest. And in eternity only those works will be counted. That is what the Bible says – *your works will go through the fire*. So this morning we will first turn to *Joshua 1:8*, the secret behind everything, God says, is this,

Joshua 1:8

⁸This 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.

So the first thing is this word 'meditate'. Second thing is the word 'from your mouth' and the third thing is 'to do'. Like I said we do not want to use the word 'meditate' in India because meditation is what our people have been doing for 6000 years and haven't reached anywhere beyond the Himalayas. So we will not use the word 'meditation', we will simply use the word 'think'. Meditation is what everybody does. Every religion meditates; meditation is there in every religion. So meditation is not the whole thing, but what are you meditating on is what is important. Meditation in itself is not important. Hinduism has meditation, Buddhism has meditation, Jainism has meditation. Basically the core of all these religions, the eastern mysticism is meditation. And if you ask a devote Hindu he will say, 'I am not worshipping the idol, the idol is there just for me to focus and to meditate.' We are not laughing at them, these are all genuine efforts of human beings to connect to God.

But the simple thing is that you cannot connect to God unless God connects to you. So they give you practical things to focus and meditate, the guru will ask you to focus on the tip of your nose. Now you may laugh at it because you have the knowledge of the living God, but if you were a Hindu you will do everything they ask, just like him because he is trying to connect to God and he is trying to get out of his karma, he is being taught that this is what will happen to you otherwise. What they believe in maybe wrong but he doesn't know what is wrong and in this cycle of rebirth he doesn't want to come as a cockroach on which you will stamp. Honestly I am telling you, India is not an atheist country. It is a religious country so the harvest is ripe. It is more difficult to preach in the west than in this country. It is actually very, very, easy to preach to those who are searching, if you have the wisdom of God and the gentleness and the time. It is not very difficult because they are open.

I have people sitting here in my church whose parents are Hindus and the Hindu father, his daughter is the only Christian in the whole family and the father accepted that and I remember he came to my office one day and said, 'Sir, in our religion we follow our guru (spiritual teacher). My daughter says that she is a Christian and she says that she is baptized. I do not understand any of these things. But in my sight you are her guru. You find a boy for her according to your faith, conduct the wedding the way you want. I am there with you, I will do the rest.' Now you tell me, do you find Christians like that? So understand, to be religious is not a bad thing, but to be an atheist is what is dangerous. So you need to understand that everybody has meditation over there. The issue is not with meditation, the issue is – what are you meditating on? That is the issue. Everybody sitting here meditates. You meditate on sports, movies, worry, anxiety, all this is meditation. It is impossible for you not to think. Everybody meditates.

But God says, 'You shall meditate on the Book of the Law.' This is what you have to meditate on. Think on this. Now, when you come to the New Covenant the Book of the Law changes. It changes; it becomes the Word of God, it becomes Truth. And God says, 'Meditate upon My Word. Learn to think as I think.' It is as simple. The Promise Land which you have to conquer is no where outside; it is inside. It is your soul, the old man. That is where the battle is taking place. And in that soul there is something called the mind with which we think. God says, 'That is where you have to fight your battles.' He says, 'If you win that battle here (in the mind, soul and heart) then it doesn't matter what is outside – the devil, the world, the antichrist, it doesn't bother you, you will win. But if you lose here, it doesn't matter even if King Jesus is ruling in the land you will lose. Otherwise after 1000 years when satan is released for a little time, how come he is able to take all those people against Jesus? It is because their soul never changed. And you are living under the most peaceful, prosperous reign ever, but it didn't change your thinking.

So understand, the real battle is here, in the soul. This is where you have to fight your battles. And that is where the Bible says Christ comes with the Truth and Truth is not easy. Truth is very difficult for the old man to receive. So God has taken care of the Law, sin and death. And the Cross took care of it all.

Romans 6:3-11

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Remember the word 'baptized' what is baptism? It is your personal crucifixion. That is when you identify with the crucifixion.

⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 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. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, that is what baptism is. ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 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.

Reckon is an old English word. We don't actually use it today. But do you know what the word reckon means? It means to think. Every day wake up and think yourself to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. It all begins with that. He is saying, you know what, these are all facts. You cannot change it, this is what happened. You cannot change this, this is the Truth; this is what happened on the Cross. Now, every day all those who have been baptized you should reckon yourself dead. Think!

See to think, whatever you are thinking right now, thinking doesn't automatically come out of a vacuum, you must have heard or seen something. Whatever you think on is something that has come from a secondary source. So God says, this is what you have heard – *Romans 6:3-11*. This is the Truth that happened 2000 years ago. So reckon yourself dead. Dead to Law, dead to sin and dead to death. It is very powerful if you can think that way each day – 'I am dead to the Law, I am dead to sin, and I am dead to death. Therefore death won't scare me anymore. I won't be afraid of death anymore. I won't be afraid of death or everything that leads to death. I will not be afraid of sickness, because the end of sickness is death. I won't be afraid of pestilence, I won't be afraid of earthquakes, I won't be afraid of famine, I won't be afraid of sword and I won't be afraid of fire, because the end of all these things that are prophesied is death. I am not afraid of death and therefore I am not afraid of all these things.' Reckon yourself dead. Consider yourself! Think yourself dead!

You have to change the way you think. That is where it all happens. So where did all this happen? On the Cross. And how are you identified on the Cross? In the waters of Baptism. So, on the Cross something happened. What happened? You died to the Law or Law died for you and you died to the Law and you died to the world. Two things.

Galatians 6:14

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

This is the man who understood. See God has His Son, but His Son lived perfect from the beginning till the end. So God needs another example, like us, who was born in sin, shaped in iniquity, but who understood the life of Christ and allowed Christ to live through him. So He needs a paradigm and He looks through all the apostles and He found only Saul – this is a man who understood it. Saul, who is Paul, in so many ways, is a man after God’s own heart. He is the David of the New Covenant, without David’s failings. But he is a man after God’s own heart. So in *Galatians 2:20* this is what he will say,

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh (meaning, in this body) I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

He says, ‘You know what, there is no disagreement between me and Him, I live in Him and He lives in me. One life. And I live it by the faith of God.’ Like I said, the New Covenant faith means something completely different. Saving faith is completely different. That is where it all begins.

So God says, ‘You hear,’ faith comes from hearing. Period. Though there is a comma in the original text, for us it is a period (full stop). Every faith came from hearing, including fear, which is negative faith. Everything comes by hearing. If you haven’t heard, you don’t know what it is and you will have no faith for it. If faith has to come, hearing has to be there. Faith comes from hearing, but faith in God, or the faith of God. Faith in God is what comes first, after that you need the faith of God. Faith in God is that you heard something. So there is Israel in Jesus’ time, all waiting for the Messiah, they heard about the Messiah, the Son of David, they do not understand the suffering Messiah but they understand the Messiah; the Messiah is coming and they heard, read, book of Isaiah was read over and over again, from the scrolls, in the synagogue and misinterpreted by the Scribes but they have heard it. And they heard that when He comes He would take our infirmities and sicknesses upon Himself, Son of David is a merciful Man. all these things they have heard. The lame will walk, the deaf will hear, etc, it is all written in the Book of Isaiah. That is why when John the Baptist sent his disciples from the prison to Jesus, ‘Are You the Messiah?’ Jesus said, ‘What is written? Why is he questioning? Where is his faith coming from? He pointed Me out but when his situation has changed he started to doubt. Ask him to go back to what is written about Me and see whether it is happening.’

So when they heard about Jesus, everywhere you will hear that they heard about Jesus. What are they hearing? Is this the Messiah? Or the gentiles hear about His power. Like, look at the gentiles in our country, simple people, the only thing that they hear is – Jesus heals! Even today, in Pakistan, in any of the cities, in the government gives the freedom to hold a healing crusade, lakhs will come. They will pack the stadiums because they know Isa heals. And the problem is that everybody needs healing. Everyone has one sickness or the other. They all know that Jesus heals. So the Roman centurion hears the power of Jesus to heal, the Canaanite woman hears the power of Jesus to heal. All the sick in Israel and the Israelites hear about it and the address is different. The Israelites will come, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!’ and each one when they are crying they are saying, ‘We have faith in You.’ And Jesus says, ‘Great is Your faith.’ Or ‘Let it be according to your faith,’ and you realize everyone is healed. But that does not mean that the woman with the issue of blood for 12 years, or the blind men who followed Jesus and got healed or any of the others are saved. It only means that they have experienced the power of God.

The saving faith,

Ephesians 2:8

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

That is a different thing. In nature, the power that saves you is the same, but what it does in you is not the same. When you are saved, something, absolutely, totally, supernatural happens. Whereas healing can happen anywhere, healing is just a physical, bodily manifestation of a malfunction in your system. Doctors can heal you, witch-doctors can heal you. Anybody can heal you, Christ also heals. But for Christ that is not who He is; it is just a sign pointing you to something which nobody else can do. We are first touched by the infirmity of our bodies. That is where we are first touched. We are very conscious about it. So God touches us there and says, this is just a sign. That is why in the Gospel according to John the miracles are called ‘signs’. *This was the first of His signs He displayed at Cana and His disciples believed in Him.*

Like I said, there are signs in the Gospels which are private and which are public and you will see that these are all signs signifying something greater and deeper which is our salvation. So the faith that saved, the evidence of that faith is in *Ephesians 1:13-14*,

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

What is the proof of your salvation? It is the Spirit of God that is in you. There is no other evidence. You can have all the other things without this, you are unsaved. You have the Spirit and you are born-again and you have no other evidence you are still saved. Like a small baby that is being carried over there, the evidence is that the baby cannot do anything that a child, a teenager or an adult can do but it is a baby. You will never deny that it is a baby.

The proof of the pudding is the Holy Spirit. That is the proof, the evidence. Doctrines are important but it is not about you knowing the doctrine; the proof is the Person. That is why doctrine in the New Covenant is called the doctrine of Christ; the Person. Doctrine of Christ, the Person.

Romans 8:15-16

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Something happened over there; before the Holy Spirit came in we were slaves. What we had was the spirit of bondage and there was always fear. But what happens is when we receive the Spirit of adoption the first thing we do is we cry out, 'Abba Father!' that is the security that He brings. That takes away the fear. You are all sitting here as adults you will not understand. You have to go to the back and see the children. You need to realize that as long as the father is with that child the child is not afraid of anything. Even if there is a lion standing on the street the child will just go behind the father and peep from between the legs to see what is happening. He/she is not afraid.

But even though we all become adults in the spiritual realm nothing has changed; from your birth to your grey hairs He is still your Father who carries you. The only thing that will take your fear away, is knowing God as your Father. That is why when Jesus came He said, 'I didn't come just to save you; I came to take you to the Father. I am the way, the Truth and the Life. No one can go to the Father except through Me. You will never understand the Father, so the Father became Me or I became the Father.' So His name according to Isaiah is *Everlasting Father*. So when the disciples say, 'Show us the Father,' Jesus says, 'If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.' That is why around the world there is this constant attack on fatherhood.

¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, not your soul, not your mind. Your mind may tell you contradictory things because the enemy will saturate and bombard your mind with contrary things, but deep inside your spirit listen, the Holy Spirit will tell in your spirit, 'Most of the things this dude is saying about you may be true but that does not make you any less than being My child. You are still My child. You don't have to listen to what he is saying. You are My child.'

Learn to hear from the Spirit of God for fear to go.

In the Bible, like we said yesterday, there are these words called faith and belief interchangeably used, but not today. The meaning has changed. When you say, 'I believe that Jesus is the Saviour,' you are only agreeing to a fact. But merely agreeing to a fact does not save you. Especially in the US if you ask them, they will give you all the facts of an airplane better than you and they will give you statistics as well where in all the modes of transports the least in accidents is an airplane. Everything they will tell you. Then you ask them, 'Have you ever flown?' they will say, 'NO.' why? 'It is because we are afraid.' So the thing is that they believe in airplanes but they don't trust it.

Lot of people when they say that they believe in Jesus it means that they have a whole lot of facts but they have not trusted Him. Salvation is when you trust Him. You trust him. That is what it means – repentance from dead works. Not good works and bad works; dead works. And you trust Him and faith towards God. These two things must take place kind of almost simultaneously. You can repent from dead works but you are still dead because you have not put your faith in Christ; you have not trusted God. You have not trusted Christ. You repentance and trust in God is one time for salvation and after that it is a continuous journey. The Spirit from inside, as you hear the outward witness, which is the Word of God, by reading or hearing, the Spirit who has come inside (which is the evidence of your salvation) starts speaking to you by saying, ‘This is true. This is false.’ And you keep turning; repentance and faith will be continuous in your life because we are changing.

In its simplicity, repentance means change of mind. What is God trying to do? He is trying to save your soul.

1 Peter 1:6

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

This looks like contradiction right? I mean you have been grieved by various trials but you greatly rejoice. But why should I?

1 Peter 1:7-9

⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

You need to understand what God is saying, you know what, there is something called saving faith. Saving faith is when the Spirit of God comes in. So the most important things is the faith that caused all this to happen. Your faith has to be tested so that you know that you are actually saved. So the life of a child of God will be full of trails. The trials are such that if you try to overcome with any other means they are tailored made for you to fail, because you will only overcome by faith, that is what we sang – when I am weak then I am strong. What makes you weak? It is your trails. Your old nature knows 1500 ways of how to deal with this trial. But now after you are saved you try those ways all you release is that you have reached your dead-end and you are not able to overcome. God says, ‘You are trying everything except faith.’ You will not succeed, that is your default setting. You will fail. Without God you can do nothing. Still we will not give up; we will keep on trying on our own. Like the old philosopher said, ‘We are mad men who keep on trying the same old thing expecting a different result.’ It is not going to happen.

So your faith has to be tested. It has to be proven. Why? When the revelation of Christ Jesus takes place it should be to His glory and praise. So the problem is with my soul. When you and I were saved the Spirit of God came in and the Spirit of God resides in my spirit and He tells my spirit, ‘You are My son.’ But in my soul I don’t feel like His son at all. I don’t even want to think like a child of God, I don’t want to act like a child of God. Think – talk – do. You feel like that because your real personality is your soul. That is your personality with which you function. So the Promise Land is the Promise Life. But the Promise Life has to come into this soul. And the battle is constantly with the soul.

So if you look at verse 8, ***⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*** where is this person? He is inside you, in your spirit ***⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.***

Faith unto faith unto faith, at the end of this journey what happens? Your entire soul should be conquered. That is the promise land. When that happens you are at rest.

So the Bible says that after so many years of war God gave Israel rest from all their enemies. Joshua is only a type but God gave Israel rest. That was their physical enemies. Then the writer of Hebrews says – *if God gave them rest through Joshua he would not have spoken of another day.* So that was just a type but the real thing is through Christ. Understand what salvation is, otherwise you will not understand what you are going through. ‘Where are these trails coming from?’ God says, ‘They are tailored-made for you.’ You are not going to escape this.

Romans 8:9

⁹ ***But you are not in the flesh*** Now when you look at the word 'flesh', you need to understand that it is the old man which is the soul. The body is the same. The spirit and the soul are in the same body.

⁹ ***But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.***

Even if you have memorized the entire Bible, never missed Sunday service, regularly fast and pray and give your tithes, if you do not have the Spirit of Christ you are not His. Proof? The Spirit of Christ. So in verse 9 you have the Spirit, you have the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. All three are the same in nature. All three are Spirits, except Jesus now with the body as well, before He came in the body Jesus was the Spirit, the Father is the Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit. What is common about Them is the Spirit, the nature is the same. And that Spirit is the One who came and now resides with us, in our spirits. And who is that? That is the Spirit of Christ.

That is why Jesus said, 'When I go I will send somebody just like Me. The world won't understand Him but He will be in you and with you forever.' You can't escape Him, even in eternity He will be in you and be with you. And then He also said something, 'I will not leave you orphans.' The day He comes in is the last day of you being an orphan; that is the day you are kicked out of the orphanage, 'Go! You are adopted into God's family. Abba Father!' Understand! This is how it works. These are all very comforting Truths. Comfort should be true. It has to be true and that comfort doesn't come from doctrine. Comfort from the Person of that doctrine. God did not give us doctrine, religion gives you only doctrine and you beat your head against the wall and you don't know what you should do. I mean, if dipping in river Ganges or river Godavari could cleanse you, how many times do you have to dip yourself? If going to Mecca makes you righteous how many times do you have to go? If going to Rome or Jerusalem makes you feel like a Christian how many times will you go?

None of these things will change what is inside. But when the Person comes He changes you from the inside out. Remember what Jesus told the Samaritan woman? It is a statement to all religion – 'Your people worship what you do not know.' You do not know what you worship. That is why when Paul went to Athens there is this statue saying, 'To the unknown God' so he thought, 'That is a good text to preach from,' he said, 'Look! You have written here unknown God, now listen to me I will reveal to you who this unknown God is. He is known to me.'

John 14:6

⁶ ***Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***

It is a very powerful verse for me, not only because of the entire content but because of what happened at a meeting that I had gone to before the COVID. But the year before that also I had visited the same place where I was invited to speak for their 50th anniversary in one of the largest churches over there. It was in Nepali and the final day, the evening service was in English. So the final day, the final service in the evening I shared in English and so many other people also came for the meeting. And among them was a very old, senior pastor. When I finished, after the closing prayer, the old pastor came to me and said, 'Next year, same time my church has a convention. The Spirit of God is asking me to call you. Will you come?' I said, 'I will come. If I am free I will come.' I didn't know that was the largest church in the state in hundreds of churches. It was a huge convention. So next year I go there for a 3-day convention and I am still not sure what to preach. Now you don't go for a convention with hundreds and hundreds of pastors and elders coming without knowing what to preach. Right? I knew all text, the Word, but I didn't know what to preach, because there is Somebody inside you who tells you what to preach, because this is not my congregation, this is His congregation about whom I don't know anything. So on the first day seminar of the convention for the pastors, when I entered through the door and I get in, they garland me and all that, then I sit in the front row, worship is going on and this verse *John 14:6* was written on the front and God said, 'For the next three days you shall preach on this.'

So you need to realize that there is a real Person. Yesterday, at the Pastors' Conference when we were leaving a pastor came to me and said, 'I came to this Pastors' Conference 2 years ago. Do you know why I came? When I was praying the Spirit of the Lord showed me the glory over your church and asked me to come here. That is how I came.' There is a real Spirit of God who speaks to you. You know, if He speaks to you suddenly your fears goes. You have a need, you don't

know how to pay your fees and everything, college sent a notice and you come home, the father said, 'Don't worry' all your fears are gone. Just one word, 'Don't worry' and all your fears are gone. How many times has God said the same thing, 'Don't fear,' 'Don't fear', 'Fear not', 'Fear not', 'Don't be anxious', 'Don't worry' we read all that but we don't realize who is saying this. We read it but we are not able to hear the same words from our spirit echoing 'Don't fear! I am the One who said and I am the One who is telling you now. I have never changed.'

So Jesus comes here, in *John 14:6*, and says, '*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*' And then the Spirit of God comes in. It is the Spirit of Christ in us.

Galatians 5:16, 25

¹⁶ ***I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

²⁵ ***If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.***

Suddenly you realize that the Spirit becomes the way. He shows you the way. He Himself is the way. So the Bible says, 'live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit', because when you are walking in the Spirit God is saying that you cannot go wrong, because that is the way to the Father. That is the way to the truth.

1 John 5:6

⁶ ***This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.***

The Spirit is Truth. So when Jesus says, 'I am the way,' the Spirit is the way, 'I am the Truth,' the Spirit of Christ in me is the Truth.

Romans 8:10

¹⁰ ***And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.***

Do we understand practically how that statement, the proclamation of Jesus, 'I am the way, the truth and the life,' works in all His children? He says, 'I have put My Spirit in you. He is the way, He is the truth, He is the life. So listen to Him. Don't grieve Him, don't lie to Him, don't quench Him.'

All the warnings in the New Covenant are given about the Holy Spirit, not so much about the Father or the Son. It is about the Holy Spirit. So when they start saying, 'Jesus is doing by the power of Beelzebub,' He said, 'You know what, if you sin against the Father or the Son it will be forgiven. But if you sin against the Holy Spirit, if you blaspheme against the Holy Spirit you will neither be forgiven here nor in the other place (heaven).' Why? It is because He is the way. He is the truth, He is the life. What if He gets upset and He leaves how will you find your way? (Now don't get scared when you hear all this. These are all extreme cases. I'm sure you are all His children. Don't panic.)

So we need to understand the difference of life in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

Leviticus 17:11

¹¹ ***For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'***

In the Old Covenant, life was in the blood. So what was given was blood. 10s and 1000s and millions of animals had to die. In every religion they knew that blood had to be offered. To the right God or the wrong god blood was required because life was in the blood. So when you go into occult and extreme forms, because they demonically understand that life is in the blood, they drink blood to receive more strength and power. In every occult there in drinking of blood. Understand, life is in the blood.

But then there is the Blood of God's own Son.

Hebrews 12:24

²⁴ ***to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.***

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Where are you being sanctified? In your soul. Your spirit is made perfect. Why? It is because the Blood has taken care of it all. Meaning, to actually understand how it works, let me explain – you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. In the flesh you are dead because of sin. In the spirit you are alive, but we live in the flesh. We vacillate between these two, so when you leave the soul-life, when you sin and go you to God and confess, what is it that is cleansing you? It is the Blood of Jesus. It is the Blood that is speaking for you. So you need to realize that the Blood is connected with the old life. Cleansing the sins of the old life and because you are still trying to live the old life the Blood is still working over there. The only thing is that you have to confess. *If you confess, He is faithful and the Blood of Jesus cleanses you of all your unrighteousness.* This is constant. Why? It is because you are still flipping between the two.

1 John 1:7-9

⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. It is not possible for us to say that we are without sin, because the soul is still there. If you say that you are without sin you are actually lying because your soul is sinful; the old man. The truth is not in us.

On the other hand, **⁹ If we confess our sins,** as you hear the Word of God and the Spirit of God speaks to you and says, ‘See, your soul said this, but this is what is true,’ and you are constantly confessing, ‘Yes Lord, I was wrong,’ ‘I was wrong’ ‘I was wrong’ it is a change of mind, ‘That was not true,’ ‘that was not truth,’ ‘this is what is true,’ there is this constant changing of mind. What is happening? The blood of Jesus is cleansing you of all unrighteousness. ***He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

In the process of you walking more in the light, you are able to hear God speak more and more clearly. The eyes of your understanding are opening. You understand how God functions better and better. All the wisdom in the world, all the training in the world is not going to help you with this. There is only one way and this is the way of the Spirit. It is the Spirit who convicts. But for a lot of people it is not going to bother them at all because they need deliverance, because their mind has been taken captive by the devil to do his will. So you can’t do anything with them, they need deliverance. Now we are so conscious and interested about the deliverance of the bodies. It is easy, delivering a body is very easy, but delivering a mind is very difficult. It is not easy. Delivering a body is like turning a mug upside down, everything in it will come out, but delivering a mind is not possible especially when they are not listening.

Delivering of a mind will happen this way, I’ll tell you – let’s say the mug is full of black ink and I am pouring clear water, even as I keep on pouring and as you are receiving the Word of God, the water that spills out will be black and murky but as you keep on pouring and pouring the water you will see that the color is changing and at some point it will start becoming clear. Do you know why? The mind is changing. But for that you need to do one thing; you have to be willing to receive and you have to receive it. That is why in the Bible Jesus said, ‘One thing you learn from Me – *learn of Me for I am meek and lowly.*’ It is only the meek that He can teach, it is only the meek that He can lead. So there is an attitude to receive. Otherwise you cannot. This is a choice we can make because our will is there. We don’t have to understand anything but we can decide on our attitude. Otherwise what will happen is that our mind will be in bondage for years and years. You may be saved like Israel came out of Egypt. Are they saved? Yes. Are they free? No. Their minds are not free at all, their minds have been taken over by the bondage of Egypt; controlled by the thought-life of Egypt. Bodies are free, walking freely in the dessert but their minds are not free. But God cannot take them onto the other side until their minds are free.

So the actual salvation is the salvation of the soul and the main part over there is the mind. All three have to be sanctified but it first starts with the mind.

Hebrews 4:11

¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Who is that example? The first generation. He says, be very, very careful to have rest. And Jesus uses two rests over there – *all those who are weary and heavy laden come to me and I will give you rest*. The rest is from your sin. That burden is gone. Then He says – *take My yoke upon yourself, learn of Me I am meek and lowly, I will give you rest*. Rest for your souls. That is the process; you have to be yoked to Him. And who is carrying the yoke on your side? It is the Spirit of God inside of you. Be yoked to Him, be meek, be lowly, listen to Him and He will take you through the process and as you go on this process your soul will have more and more rest. It doesn't matter if problems are there or not, but you will have rest. *Be diligent to enter into that rest* because He says, you know what happened to them; they were saved but they wasted forty years in the desert going round and round. In their picture, because God said that they would all die in forty years they died. But in our case people don't die; they live the same life for 40 years, 50 years, 60 years after their salvation and you look into their lives nothing has changed. They are just going around in circles because their mind refuses to change.

So don't look at it as a generation. Take it as your own life. When was I saved? How long have I been going around in circles? Everything God promised them was on the other side. There is a land flowing with milk and honey. Wells you did not dig, houses you did not build. Don't look at the material. But He is talking about the life of Christ – *I have come to give you life and life in abundance*. But He says, you have to cross over and you have to fight for it. You have to change your thinking. But they refused, one generation refused. Most Christians refuse but you have to fight. You need to realize God is not going to give you what He has for you unless your mind changes, because your mind, or my mind as it is of now cannot handle this life (life that God wants to give you).

Simple example – there are babies at the back, lots of babies. Blow a balloon which may be for 1 rupee and take a 2000 rupees note and give both to them, they will tear the 2000 note and throw it and take the balloon. Why? It is because their minds are not able to handle or understand what the difference between these two is. Do we understand the life of Christ? Do we understand the magnitude of the life of Christ, the power of God's life? He says, 'That is what I am giving you and brought you out for.' But He says, 'to handle it your mind has to change.' And that is the struggle, because as soon as we get out from here, or even while sitting here the thoughts that are going on in your mind matter, the worldly thoughts and carnal thoughts and all those things that are going in, it is not going to change. Whether it is good or bad it is irrelevant. The only thing that matters is, is it true? 'No, I am not thinking any bad thoughts.' It doesn't matter; your good thoughts will take you away from your possession. That is how it works.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² ***For the word of God is living and powerful, When the Holy Spirit speaks, not when I speak, you receive an echo in your spirit and the Word of God becomes living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, it cuts over t here, between the soul and spirit. Suddenly you will hear in your spirit, 'this is what God is saying and it is true. This is what I am thinking and that is false.'*** It actually separates the believer from his soul which an unbeliever can never experience. It actually separates the believer from self-life and God's life; the soul and spirit. It cuts over there ***and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*** Even when you say, 'God is saying this, I am also saying the same thing, we agree,' God says, 'Maybe, but your intension is wrong. That is not My intent.'

And this is where we struggle; I mentioned three things – Think! Speak! Do!

Do you know that you can think one thing and say something else? Or you can think and speak the same thing in agreement but do something completely different? But that is not Christ. When Christ does it, what He thinks, what He says and what He does they all agree with who God is. And the attitude and the reason why He does it are important; it is because He is love. You need to understand your struggles, because if you don't understand your struggles you will not fight for these things.

So the spirit is the new man and the soul is the old man. This old man (soul) has to be transformed to think like the new man (spirit). And that is our struggle. All our struggles are there. And Paul is a man who learnt this and who understood this.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ ***I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***

The simple question is – how can Christ actually live in me and through me? If I learn to think like Jesus, speak like Jesus and do like Jesus in our own particular way. It is not that we will all be similar. No we all have different functions, it is like one body with different parts and it is all functioning according to the Head. Though you see it as similar even these five fingers are not the same, they don't even move the same way. Yet it is all functioning from the same life. There is no discord in it. In the parts of my body, there is no discord with what I think, what I say and what I do. And when there is a discord, do you know what it is called? It is called sickness. It is called an illness in the body, because you know what, your head says that you need to wake up but your body says that you have fever. If the body of Christ is sick when the Head says one thing, the body will say, 'We will not do.' There is a discord.

Now forget the whole body of God. Let's focus on myself and yourself – 'Am I in alignment with my Head, which is Christ?'

So here is a man ***Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God.*** He is saying, 'There is no discord between my spirit and my soul. There is no discord, I have reconciled it all. There is no discord at all.' So he is at rest. You can put him before a crowd, you can put him in prison he is always at rest. That is the key. You can beat him up, strip him, and throw him in the prison in the midnight hour, what is he doing? He is thanking God, he is praising God. You can put him in any kind of situation you will see him operating from rest. You take Jesus, put Jesus into any kind of situation He operates from rest, because there is no discord in His Spirit and His soul and His body obeys. Like the example I sued yesterday. Jesus gets into the boat, He is very tired, they are going to the other side. He goes to sleep. The storm comes, the water fills, everybody is panicking and finally they come and shaking Him and the words they use are not kind, 'Don't You care for us? We are sinking.' You know what? He goes to sleep in rest and He wakes up in rest and He rebukes the wind and speaks to the sea. There is no restlessness in Him. This is the life of Christ. Unless we know theory we will not know how to practice it. We need to know, before you go to the lab you should have read your text.

This is how you read the book of Joshua. You don't read the book of Joshua as an Old Testament text, you read the book of Joshua as a New Covenant believer in whom the Spirit of God is, who says, 'This is the way.' Then the book of Joshua starts coming alive. It becomes alive. We have to get the fundamentals.

Romans 14:23

²³ But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Rewrite that sentence – whatever is of faith is not sin. What is it? It is righteousness. So there is a righteousness of God that comes by faith unto faith unto faith. Where is the origin of your faith? Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. That is righteousness. It cannot be unrighteous, because what the Spirit of God has spoken to you and what is confirmed by the outward Witness (the Word) is True. It is not whether it is right or wrong but it is true. It is no longer about good and evil, it is not about right and wrong, the only question is – is it true? That is where we have to learn. That is why God says – don't judge. Where you have no authority do not judge because your judgment may be absolutely wrong.

Three years, everything we heard through media, now as the twitter files are coming out, we realize that everything was false. Mar-a-Lago was raided, 'Trump should be executed!' now even in Biden's garage secret documents were found. What did Biden say when Trump's was found? 'How irresponsible' so everything was a misjudgment because nobody knew what was true. Yet we all believed it.

There is only one thing that is true – the Word of God; what God has spoken. God says, 'Meditate on that. Meditate on Me, meditate on what I have spoken, meditate on the life of My Son, because that is true. What I am trying to make you is not successful or prosperous like in the Old Covenant because it is irrelevant.' Like Solomon says in the book of Proverbs – I have seen one thing; neither wealth nor ground lasts. It doesn't last generations. Yet the Psalmist says – *You O Lord have been a dwelling place for generations.* There was one thing that was true in Israel from generation to generation – Yahweh and His promises.

So God is not trying to make us prosperous, successful and famous, He is trying to make us true. And if we become true we are actually successful, eternally successful. And the battle is in the soul. So the conquest of the promise land is the conquest of my soul and your soul. That is how we read the book of Joshua; it is the Promised Life, not Promise Land. *I have come to give you life and life in abundance.*

So we are in the flesh but not in the flesh. We are in the spirit. We are in the body yet in the Spirit. That is what it says in *Romans*. We are in a body but be in the Spirit. What does it mean to be in the Spirit? Listen to Him, listen to the Word. We are in the world, but we are not of the world.

John 17:16

¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

The simple question is – how is it possible? How is it possible to be in the world and not of the world?

John 17:14

¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

What will make you and me not of this world? It is our thinking. How do you know somebody is worldly? Just look at how they think, how they speak and how they do. How do you know somebody is not of this world? They think, speak and do like the Word, which is Jesus, they are not of this world. So you need to understand how did we become Wordly? Simply by the Word. *Just as I am not of the world.* Even the most religious Jew understood that Jesus was not of this world. When Jesus came He made an absolute, clear cut demarcation between the law and the Word. Nicodemus who was the master of the Word, teacher of the Law, came and said, 'I know You are of God,' meaning You are not of this world. Jesus said, 'Truly, I am not of this world.'

And you know what takes us out of this world even when we are living in this world? It is our thinking. And God says, that is where we have to change. Like I keep saying, don't read the Old Testament until you have read through the New Testament at least a dozen times until it seeps into your bones. Then when you read through the Old Testament you will understand it. Otherwise if you meditate on the Old Testament what will set into your bones is the Law. And then when you read the New Testament you will only see Law. On the other hand if you meditate on the New Testament first over and over again, when you read the Old Testament you will see Truth and you will see Grace. Otherwise you will live in bondage. That is why the Bible says – as long as they read Moses a veil covers their eyes. But when they turn to Christ the veil is lifted. How do you turn to Christ? *Where the Spirit is Lord there is liberty.* That is how it works. So let's go back to Joshua.

Joshua 1:2

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.

One small word over there called, Arise. It is a life-changing word. If you don't hear that word from God, not literally that way but if you don't understand what that word means and if you don't hear it in your spirit your life will never change. You have received the promises of God, it is all with you, you have met God at the altar, and promises have been made. You have done all these things, you are living a good, godly, righteous life, allowing even your nephew to take the first choice. Everything all is good, you are a good man, but until you hear that word 'Arise!' you will not even know what you are on planet earth for. What did God save you for? What are you supposed to do?

Genesis 13:17

¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Arise! How long has he been in the Promise Land? At least 8 or 9 or 10 years. So many years he has entered the Promise Land, meaning it is a picture of a man who is saved but he doesn't know what he is doing. And then suddenly God says,

'Arise! And walk the land.' Suddenly purpose is defined. For the next almost 90 years this is what this man will do. And because God has spoken it ¹⁷ ***Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.***

Because he has heard God speak and because he believes, and because he obeys every step he takes it is the Spirit of God in him walking, claiming the land for the Jews forever. It is not an ordinary walk anymore, because you heard in the Spirit, 'Arise' and you are walking, every step is powerful. And because this old man walked for hundred years in that land, 500 years later God will tell Joshua, ***'Arise! Every step the soul of your foot treads I give it to you. Why? It is because your grandfather walked at My Word.'*** It is not an ordinary word; it is a very powerful word. These are the words we need to understand, these are the words we need to hear. Not for your salvation, but for your purpose.

Lord, I thank You, You saved me. Thank You, You are Jesus of Nazareth. Thank You. What do I do? ***'Go! Wait in the city. It will be told you.'*** Purpose!

Genesis 19:15

¹⁵ ***When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."***

The most important words Lot will ever hear in his life. You know, that one word and the obedience to that word is between life and death; literally life and death. Lot has never heard before or after more important words – 'Arise!' get out! Take your wife, take your two children and get out otherwise you will be consumed.

Genesis 21:18

¹⁸ ***Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."***

In modern day terms, a single mother; thrown out, homeless. We have this scenario all around the world; millions and millions of homeless mothers. Even yesterday I saw a clip from somewhere in the US a homeless mother being hosed in the US by the landlord. The world is full of homeless widows and mothers, single mothers with little children. They live and die like that and their children go down, because they do not hear one word.

In verse 18, she is at the verge of desperation, of death, hopeless, starvation and she hears, 'Arise!' I will give you a reason to arise. Your entire life is tied with your child right? Arise. Light up the lad with your hand and I will make him a great nation. Suddenly everything changes. If there are nations in the Middle East with unparalleled wealth and success which the world has never seen, it is because a single mother heard the voice of God, 'Arise and hold your son up.' She heard and she obeyed and we have Muslim nations in the Middle East; the Ishmaelite because one mother heard and believed and obeyed.

When you hear from God, when you believe and you obey the power unleashed in the power of God, the power from Heaven itself. Arise!

Genesis 31:13

¹³ ***I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'***

Here is a man, he is working and working and working. He has a terrible master, his own father-in-law. Terrible. Morning till night he is working, going nowhere. And so many people in their work places and their lives, in their homes are resigned to that fate; for 20 years, 30 years simply going around in circles. There is conflict in the home, conflict with the landlord. He has conflict with his boss, who is his father-in-law, he has conflict in his home with his wives. There is only conflict and still waking up early in the morning to work.

Unless the Lord builds they labour in vain. It is vain to wake up early in the morning and sit up late in the night because the works of your hands have no purpose because you have not heard.

And then God tells him, 'Arise!' like that many have to hear, 'Arise!' ***I am the God of Bethel***, do you remember many, many years ago, your salvation experience where you put your hand up and said, 'Lord! I believe!' do you remember

that? And so many years after that you haven't heard God speak because you were not interested. Now your back is against the wall, you are living like a slave in your father-in-law's house. God says, 'I am that same God who spoke to you at Bethel. Arise. Get out of this place and go to the place I am telling you.' We need to hear.

Don't ever assume that whatever you are doing, if you haven't heard from God, is what God wants you to do. For we have a real, personal, living Saviour who will speak to us. And until He speaks to you keep doing what you are doing, but do not reconcile, 'This is my fate.' This is what this man had reconciled to and God says, 'Arise!' so Jacob obeyed Him half way. It is like a prisoner who is set free goes to a half-way house. That is what they are called in the US, before he is released into society. And because Jacob was still a slave in his mind he settles in a place called Shechem. And the next thing you see is his daughter is violated, his sons have covered their hands in blood and all those gentile nations are mad at him. Why? It is because he only obeyed God half-way; he arose but he didn't go where God told him to go.

It is very clear - ¹³***I am the God of Bethel***, so where should you go? To Bethel. Did he go to Bethel? No, he didn't go to Bethel. So God speaks to him a second time in *Genesis 35:1* after all the mess. After all the mess that we have done because of our half obedience, half-hearted obedience, the God of love and mercy and kindness, whose mercy we said today endures forever, still comes back and speaks to you. After Jacob's daughter was messed up, his sons are messed up and everything is messed up, God still comes and says,

Genesis 35:1

Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

When God comes to speak He is always coming to give us a hope and a future and an appointed end. ***Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there;*** who asked you to dwell here? Go there and dwell there.

That is our God. So He tells Joshua in *Joshua 1:2*,

Joshua 1:2

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.***

Arise and cross that river. For everything that God has for you is across that river. You have to cross that river. On this side it doesn't matter how green it looks, you may have a good but purposeless, empty life and die. But if you want to find the life of Christ, the life He promised, it is on the other side. You have to cross the river Jordan. There are battles to be fought, cities to be won, but you have to cross over. Otherwise if you don't cross over, you can live on this side, what is on this side of the river? The wilderness. You will eat the same food every day. You may call it manna, but you know what Jesus said?

John 6:58

⁵⁸***This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."***

If you eat and live on manna you will die, because your fathers ate manna and died. You are supposed to eat the life on the other side of river Jordan. This side there may be manna but everybody who ate manna died without fulfilling their purpose. But there is a living manna; the manna that has come from above, that lives in you, resides in you, the One who speaks to you and confirms everything that is written in the Word about Me. Jesus says, 'Live by that, you will not die.'

So many people are used to this entitlement mentality – it is okay in the wilderness, the food is free, clothes are old but it is okay as long as they don't tear. Old footwear is also fine. But where are you going? In circles. God says, 'That is not the life I have destined for you. I came to set the captives free.' God could set them free out of Egypt in one day, one day at the mid-night hour they walked free out of Egypt, from the penalty of sin. But after 40 years He could not get their Egyptian thinking out of their mind. You win or you lose in your mind. That is why they say, 'You can get the boy out of the jungle, but you can't get the jungle out of the boy.' That is why we have 'Mowgli' you can get Mowgli out of the

jungle and they adopt him and when they go to his room in the morning they can't find him anywhere. They search and look around and finally find him up there hanging on the raft across the pillars and sleeping because that is how he is used to sleeping in the jungle, on a branch. So you can get the boy out of the jungle but you cannot get the jungle out of the boy. But God says, 'You can. The Teacher is right there inside. *When the Spirit of truth comes He shall teach you all things. But He will not speak about Himself. He will not speak about you either. He will speak about me (Jesus).*' That is your life; *when Christ, who is your life...*

The simple thing is that when you hear all these T.V. preachers with billions of subscribers and followers, ask yourself, what are they preaching? 'Your Best Life Now!' so who is 'you'? Who are they talking about? Do you know the subtlety of the trap of the word of faith movement, thought much of the things they say is true, there is one trap; they take all the truth of the Gospel and direct it to the unsaved, unredeemed, unsanctified soul and say, 'It is all about you.' Paul comes around and says to such preachers, 'No, it is not about me. It is about Him, Christ.' 'The Champion In You!' who is the champion in you? Who is 'you' here? These are famous books by famous pastors. 'Your Best Life Now!' so who is 'you' there? So they are using the principles of the Kingdom of God, the power of Kingdom of God, cancelling the Person of Christ and feeding the old man. And they come and give their testimony, 'See! I confessed! I claimed! I proclaimed! Look at my house! Look at my car! Look at my wealth!' who are you talking about? Whose testimony is that? And you listen to all that and you forward that to all your friends. It is not Christ's testimony.

There is prosperity in the Gospel, but it is not a prosperity gospel.

3 John 1:2

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Your thinking needs to change, otherwise all your prosperity and all your strength will take you down, because your soul did not prosper. Your soul did not change. The prosperity preachers omit this part ***just as your soul prospers***. They don't want to talk much on the soul because it is problematic. Then Joshua will come to the picture with the sword drawn. Like I said yesterday, you read the book of Joshua, there are certain words missing in the entire book. What are they? You will see no praise, you will see no song, you will not see the words 'Joshua prayed'. What kind of a book is that? There is no prayer, no songs, no worship, there is no praise. There is only one thing written – *the Man with the sword drawn. 'Who are You?' 'I am Jehovah Sabaoth! As the Captain of the hosts I have come.'* The Bible says that Joshua went on his knees, fell down on his face, worshipped Him and asked, 'What does the Lord speaketh?' that is it! That is the center of the entire conquest. 'What do You say?'

That is the simple thing. You have to go line by line carefully and ask the Lord, 'Lord, what are You saying to me? To the New Covenant person, not the old covenant man, but to the new covenant person, Lord, what are You trying to tell me.' Three times in verses 6-9 God says, 'Be bold! Be courageous! Be strong! Be bold and very courageous!' why is He saying this? It is because He knows us. He knows all of us. Why is everybody, even in the secular world, taken such comfortable jobs? It is because you are scared of taking risks. Even in the world only those who take risks prosper, because life is a risk. Over and over again God says,

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Three times He tells us what to be. Another time, in verse 9, He tells us what not to be. The Do's and the Do not's. if you read *1 Corinthians 13* you will see – love is, love is not, love is, love is not. You need to have both. I am only the 'is' I will not be the 'not'. No is does not work that way. So in verse 9 it says, '*Do not be afraid, do not be dismayed,*' it is a command. He says that you will never possess the life of Christ if you are afraid. Even if you are the best, genuine believer, true son of faith; faith passed down from three generations which was in your grandmother and your mother and now in you, Timothy, if you are afraid you will not become what you are called to become. Nobody has to doubt your ordination because you were ordained by my hands, you received an apostolic call through my hands, the call of Jesus Christ, but you are a coward. You will go nowhere until you learn to deal with it. Do not be afraid.

We are not talking about the worldly fearlessness. We are not talking about that. The reason we are not afraid is because our God is with us wherever we go. If you follow what is in verse 8, you think, you say and you do what He has told you He will be with you wherever you go. Don't make it unconditional. You don't have to be afraid. But if you don't you will be afraid and fear will cripple you. Fear cripples people.

The first thing that God has dealt with is fear. The devil has held people bondage by the fear of death. God says, 'I have already taken care of death, but you have to deal with fear. I have taken care of death, you handle fear.' God doesn't say, 'I will come and take the fear out of you.' No He says, 'You be bold. You don't be afraid.' That is our choice. And the choice is in the light of this word **for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**" If He has said, **'I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you forever,'** that means that I can stand on that promise that He will not leave me. Even if you are a child of God and you fail and you fall into the hands of the enemy, God will hold His nose and still come down to the stinking hole with you. Why? Ask Samson. God came to Him in the philistines' camp when he was blind and tied, because God is a God of covenant. *Even when you are unfaithful He is still faithful.* That is what should give you the boldness to go back. It is not about who you are, but who He is.

That is where it all begins. **The prodigal son came to himself.** What does it mean? He started thinking right. He came to himself, there was nobody to speak to so he spoke to himself or maybe to the pigs. 'I will arise. I will go to my father's house. In my father's house...' he thought right, he spoke right, and then it is written in *Luke 15:20 – He arose.* The rest was history. Don't worry about what the father will do, what earthly fathers will do. Don't worry about that. There is something about the Heaven Father. Jesus was trying to show, 'This is what your Heavenly Father is like. He is not going to come and reveal all your mistakes, He will cover you.'

Once a son, always a son. The father put the ring on his finger. The first thing the father does when his son returns is that he receives him and makes a very clear distinction between his servants and his son. Son is saying, 'Make me like one of your hired servants,' father says, 'What? What are you saying? Make you like one of them?' *even though you have been made a little lower than angels, like Jesus, do you not know that you are supposed to judge the angels one day?* Says Paul. The day you are raptured, or the day you reach Heaven you will suddenly realize that there is a distinction between you and the angels; you are a child of God. The angels wait on you. *Aren't angels ministering spirits sent to those who are being saved?* God asks, 'Do you know the truth of who you are?' for the truth will set you free. You can turn back, you can go back.

That is what repentance means. You are turning back. Change of mind and change of direction. But without repenting you cannot have faith in God. This is an absolute fact, because if you are going this way and your destination is in the opposite direction, if you have to reach your destination you have to turn around to the opposite direction and walk in the right direction. So God says over and over again, 'Do not be afraid.' 365 times, as the theologians say, 'Don't fear!' Every time an angel comes he says, 'Don't fear'. Don't fear! Do not be dismayed! In the Old Covenant He will ask you not to be dismayed. Why? It is because you are fight physical, real enemies.

The New Covenant is not like that. You are fighting invisible enemies.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

⁸We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

So many things in the New Covenant, when you are walking in the life of Christ you will not understand; you are always confused about what is happening. But you are not in despair. This is not Old Covenant. You may be dismayed but you are not in despair because there is Somebody inside you saying, 'Trust Me. Trust Me, don't go by the evidence of your eyes or the hearing of your ears. Trust Me. Don't go by what you see because the things that you see are temporal but the things that you do not see are eternal. Do not get bogged down by your affliction, it is momentary not permanent.' Eyes haven't seen nor ears heard what God is preparing for those who love Him, but He revealed it to us by His Spirit. You are perplexed but not in despair.

We are talking about the real life, the life of Christ Jesus has to be authentic. It can overcome any situation. If you are believer in a prosperous free country in the west you should be able to handle the weight of prosperity and still be true. If you are living in an underground church, persecuted, beaten, the life of Christ should be able to handle all the horrors of persecution and yet be true. It is true everywhere. In poverty or in prosperity it is true. So Apostle Paul says, *'I know how to be abase and to be abound. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'*

We are not talking about the Law, we are talking about the life of Christ. Can you handle it? God says, 'You cannot, but I can, in any situation, every situation.' Paul had to life of Christ to stand before Felix and king Agrippa and speak without fear and could clap and worship in a prison with chains among other prisoners who were gentiles. So his location did not matter, the life was always manifested. We are looking for locations to manifest. That is your life, not His life. For us location matters, only then can I do. God says, 'No. That is not how it works.'

I am telling you. Go back home tonight and meditate on *Romans 8*. It is one of the most powerful chapters in the Bible given by revelation to a man who experienced it. It will change your life if you keep on meditating upon it. What is this life in Christ? I will give you one verse, it is powerful,

Romans 8:10-11

¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. This is a sinful body. It is dead and the manifestation of death is this weakness, sickness, tiredness, weariness, all that is there in this body. But this is the same body God is saying, 'Give it to Me.' After you and I were saved He did not give us another body, this is the same body; the body of sin. The body that you used and abused, misused. You don't have another body to offer to God, God says, 'Give Me your body.' 'Lord, here is my body, weary, tired, wrinkled, abused and misused.' God says, 'Give Me your body.' 'Okay Lord, use Me for Your glory. ***¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.***

I know what this is because all my life I have experienced it. I know what it is, tired, weary, you end up somewhere and they say, 'You are the only speaker for the next three day,' and the sessions are from morning 9 to night 9. I know what it is for the Spirit of God to raise up my mortal body and give me strength where I could practically preach nonstop for 12 hours, 14 hours and not miss a word because He is speaking through me. That is what I am saying, to everything that you see in the Word of God you have to bring faith in. Don't look at your body, don't look at your weakness. You say, 'Lord, this is my body, this is the condition of my body, but it is written ***¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.***

When you are tired and weary and you still have task to be accomplished and to finish, and you know who you are, why don't you seek the Spirit of God? I still remember, long time ago, these are all very powerful experiences which I will never forget. I was travelling to the other end of Assam, near the Bangladesh border. It was a huge Christmas town celebration, and I was on the other end of the city and they called me to be the speaker. I went by bus which I never travel, my head was pounding, I was feverish, by the time I reached there the next day evening the meeting was about to start. And you know how these meetings are one program after the other, one item after the other, I was like, 'Lord, I'm shaking, my head is pounding, I feel like throwing up.' Finally after 1 or 1 and half hours into the program they called me and I heard the Lord say, 'You just walk down and get onto the podium.' And I went onto the podium and the fever left, the headache ceased. It just left. And I spoke, and I just spoke. They didn't realize that it not was me speaking, it was God speaking through me. The people who don't know Christ will complement you. Don't get carried away by that. They were like, 'Hamare share me sher agaya.' (the lion has entered our village) but the actual Lion is He, not me. He is the actual Lion.

Your physical condition does not really matter if you are on God's way. *'Teach me Your ways,'* what prayer that old man prayed at 80 or 83, Moses. 'My presence shall go with you. And I will give you rest.' Wow! 40 years he walked with God, His presence was there, he had rest. You should read the last chapter of Deuteronomy, let's read it before we close. Powerful chapters with new Covenant pictures.

Deuteronomy 34:1

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. Imagine you are Israel (congregation), your heart is breaking, Moses said, 'Bye! Nobody can come with me. I am going alone.' Your heart is breaking. And the people are watching him go, they can only see one man, but there are two people walking. It is not one man, there are two people walking – Moses and Christ.

And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Because you disobeyed Me. I said that you cannot crossover, but I did not say that you cannot see. Here, take a good look. I am going to make you see more than any man has ever seen with his physical eyes. You can see the end of Israel's territory. See it all.

⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. ⁶And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. He is the only man ever in human history who was buried by God and his grave cannot be found. That is the reward of walking with God. Faithfulness. He is the only man. **⁷Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.** The Spirit of God was quickening him daily, because the presence of God was with him. He died well, he died strong. **⁸And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.**

What I am telling you is that do not look at the condition of your body. Look at what is written in the Word of God and say, 'I believe! I will not die before my time. I will run my race, I will finish my task because the God of Moses is my God.'

So you see these glasses on my eyes? I've been wearing it for almost 10 years. Do you know what I pray over my eyes every day? 'Lord, one day I believe that I will take these off and I will be able to read.' I don't quit these things. I don't take any sickness in my body for granted. I do not take it. I will always say, 'Lord, one day!' and you know what, once in a while I try to read without the glasses, one day it will happen. One day I will take off my glasses and I will realize that I can read. You know why? It is because I believe that all things are possible with God. When it comes to sickness I believe that He bore my sickness and my infirmities upon Himself and by faith we will receive His strength.

Shall we pray?

Closing prayer:

Father, this mornign0 we come to You. We comes to You, the Author of life. You came to give us life. When there is an ocean of life there we are just satisfied with trickles and droplets. O Lord, touch us. Touch Lord. Let doubt and unbelief go Father. Our first battle is with fear, doubt and unbelief. And I pray Lord, none of us, including me, standing here will ever stop fighting fear, doubt and unbelief. We will keep fighting it until we are bold and courageous. We will keep fighting it until every ounce of doubt in every area is gone and until we learn to think like Christ thinks. Not because of what we want but we will know what You want for us. We don't want anything outside Your will, because we understand that Your will is perfect. We can never go beyond God's perfect will; that is the best we can ever have. But Lord, I pray that each one will determine in their hearts, 'I want that! The perfect will of God for me. Whether it is in a palace or whether it is in a prison. I want that! And I will not die beneath it or behind it.' That we too should be able to say, 'I finished my race. And what I see is the crown of righteousness.' The completion of faith, the fulfillment of righteousness in each one's life. Let faith continue to arise and be strengthened in each one O Lord. Teach us to think Like You, to speak like You and to act like You so that we can be true witnesses in this world. Not us, but You.

Thank You Father, thank You Lord, thank You. Let each one go in peace and rest believing that God spoke to them today – through Christ I can do all things. Thank You Father, thank You. For in Jesus' name we pray. 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.