

## Instruction Or Intention?

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*Father, we just thank You. We just thank You, Lord. We were always a voice in the wilderness and, Father, the voice is still there. Even if the Facebook or the YouTube clarity isn't there, I pray Your children will hear clearly, all of us will hear clearly, Father. I pray Your Word will go forth. We just surrender everything into Thy hands, O Lord; the ministry of Your Word because it's Your Word that brings life. So, we commit this time, we surrender this time into Thy hands and we pray Lord, all of us who hear, will hear You. Speak to us what You have for us in these last days, O Lord. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

So, once again, as we go to the Word, please remember what God, what Jesus warned us about times like this. If there are no birth pangs, there will no birth. If you want the Kingdom, we must be prepared to go through before the Kingdom is manifested in our midst. So, like I keep saying every day, during these 15 days, God is speaking to us loud and clear in times like this. He is preparing us for the end. Yesterday, we were looking at Joseph, 4 verses from the book of Genesis about Joseph and morning from Pastor Vijay, you heard about Simeon and Levi, how to deal with anger. These are the issues of the flesh. But let's continue further. If you turn with me to *Revelation 3:21*, even to the most lukewarm Church; the kind of Church, we wouldn't even want to preach, but even to that Church; a Church to which Jesus has nothing good to say, even to that Church, Jesus says,

### **Revelation 3:21**

***<sup>21</sup> To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.***

So even to that Church, the exhortation is this: overcome and I see your state now but that does not mean you cannot change course and finish well. If you overcome, as I overcame, you can sit with Me on My throne. That's why the writer of Hebrews in chapter 11, after listing so many people in that list (16-17 names are given) and the rest of them are all like innumerable company, cloud of witnesses. If you take a cloud and if you can count the droplets in that cloud, it would be like uncountable. So he is talking about a list, a huge number of people, who overcame in different areas of life in faith. So different areas are given. Then, he comes to *Hebrews 12: 1-2*, exhorts us.

### **Hebrews 12:1-2**

***Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

So there is something that is being told to us over there. We have to endure. We can finish this race. We can overcome. We can get our rewards. What are the things we have to endure?

### **Hebrews 12:3**

***<sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself...***

He faced hostility from sinners every day.

***...lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.***

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You have to endure. You will get weary; you will get discouraged because what you are going to face. When you realize what is the nature of this race, you will face incredible hostility from sinners at every level of people. Like we are looking at 3 levels of this thing. So, if you finish the race as a father, like Moses, you will face hostility from everybody. Forget the people in the world, he faced hostility from Pharaoh and his entire hordes and then he faced from outer court- the congregation of Israel, he faced hostility from the leadership including his elder brother and sister. You would expect Aaron to stand with him. Not even Aaron who saw it all and Aaron knew, Aaron was one man who knew that he was just speaking as mouthpiece for Moses and Moses is the one, who God is speaking to but he faced hostility. So, God says in this race, He is not whitewashing anything. He is saying, remember, you have to endure till the end because the kind of hostility you will face is from people. You will face hostility. So, don't get weary, don't get discouraged. Finish. Then in verse 4, he says,

***4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.***

You will also have to fight this battle against sin, forget sinners; yes, sinners and sin, too. That is the stage that will be set for the greatest set of overcomers, who will come from the last days because sin will permeate the very air like Noah's, every thought and inclination will be sin. Sinners will abound and abound because the love of many will grow cold, the sinners will abound, sin will abound and in the midst of it, you should not grow weary and discouraged because of sinners and you should be willing to shed blood, even to the point of death. You should be willing to die in your battle against sin.

That's why Jesus says you have to sit down and count the cost. Which is a battle worth fighting for? Because the rewards are incredible! Look at Jesus the hostility He faced from the sinners and He was willing to shed blood in the garden of Gethsemane. What is sin for a believer? *Whatever is not of faith is sin.* What is faith? It comes from hearing. His Father has told Him, this is the road and He is fighting with all His strength. "Father, not My will but Your will be done." You will see His fight against sin. Faith is telling to go to the cross; flesh is telling to take easy way out and He is shedding blood. This is what He expects from each one of the overcomers. So, do not ever take it lightly because yes, there is an incredible reward, unbelievable reward promised- reign with Jesus but it comes at a very, very high price. If you go to *Romans 8:16-17*, again it will say, the Spirit will lead us, that is the voice of the Spirit will lead us.

### **Romans 8:16-17**

***<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,***

How? He leads us. *As many as are led by the Spirit are the children of God.*

***<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...***

What He told in *Revelation 3:21- joint heirs with Christ.* He said, "You will reign with Me."

***...if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.***

He says, you have to suffer 'with Him'. The sufferings of Jesus Christ, not the sufferings for sin what He did but sufferings of Jesus Christ. Paul understands it and he says, "I want" but he says, "in me I do not have the strength so I want to first share in the resurrection power and then share in His sufferings." So, don't ever expect a crown if you are not willing to go through the sufferings of Christ Jesus. So always what we say, 'factor it in'. We always factored it in, so it was good. God saw before us, touched Sammy that we had the radio always there and the radio needs very little speed. This is an area where even 4G looks like 2G but the radio is working. So, radio is clear even if you can't watch on YouTube or Facebook. Even if the link goes, remember, God willing, the radio will continue otherwise I will shout, stand on your rooftops if the radio also goes.

So, you will see you have to factor suffering in. There is no 'C-section', where the anesthetist comes and gives you a poke on your spinal cord and then your baby is born and they give the baby. No! There is no C-section in these birth pangs and in this birth of the Kingdom when it comes. No C-section! You will have to endure that pain, the hostility. There is absolutely only normal delivery allowed, no other delivery allowed. You will have to go through that pain. So, all the brothers, who escaped labor pains, this is one labor pain, you will not escape. Brothers and sisters will go through this. Suffering, be prepared for that.

If you go again to Romans 5, from verse 1 onwards, we have peace with God, the beginning of salvation; we have been justified.

**Romans 5:1-2**

***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,***

Every day, this is it, verse 2 is very important.

***<sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

Having done everything, you stand. You can only stand by the grace of God. That is the power of God, armed with the power of God. Faith into this grace! Then we look into the future, what do we have? We have the hope of glory. Where does this hope of glory come from? How do you have this hope, which is real?

***<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations...***

Before the hope of glory, which we are talking about the crown and reigning with Christ Jesus, you have to learn now to glory in tribulations. That glory is different, this glory is different.

***<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;***

Endure. Perseverance, endurance, patience are all similar words. Everywhere you will see these words 'perseverance' or 'endurance' coming. Why does it say, 'glory in tribulations'? Because if you don't glory in tribulations, you will not endure because this tribulation will continue for a long time so consider it as glory. These are all states of mind. These are things how you have to take it. You have to remember, '*Jesus also for the joy set before Him!*'! Glory there is!

***<sup>4</sup> and perseverance, character; and character, hope.***

What is this character? The character of Jesus Christ, being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ and that is what gives us hope. Christ in us, the hope of our glory. So please remember this is continuous. The word 'perseverance' and 'endurance' are very, very important. You have to do it over and over and over again. If you go to *Matthew 24:13*, everywhere Jesus, the apostles, the Holy Spirit is speaking the same thing.

**Matthew 24:13**

***<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.***

You have to endure. Suffering will increase, hostility will increase, sinners will increase; sin will increase but you have to endure till the end. If you endure till the end, your hope of glory will be real; you shall be saved.

**James 1:2-4**

***<sup>2</sup>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.***

So, you have three words being used over there, in different translations – endurance, perseverance and patience. They are kind of similar though they are not exactly the same.

***<sup>4</sup>But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.***

What's he talking about? The character of Christ Jesus! So everywhere! So practice, practice, practice. You hear the Word in the morning, "okay, this is how I handle anger." You try, you fail, don't give up. Practice. If you go to *1 John 3:7*, the word that is used over there is- *he who 'practices' righteousness is righteous.*

It is not righteousness one time, it is practicing over and over and over. What does it mean 'practices righteousness'? What does it actually mean?

**1 John 3:7**

***<sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.***

Let me explain to you, Indians will understand it very well. You know all our greats in cricket. My favourite was of course Sachin. If you know about their stories, they practice and practice and practice for hours and hours, every day. That guy used to swing that ball in his balcony practicing and then go to the field and practicing. What are they practicing? Every type of ball they will practice over and over and over again. We don't see that. What we see him is coming down into stadium with 100,000 people screaming their guts out. He doesn't hear them; he doesn't see them. Then comes the best ballers in the world, they throw that ball and he just hits it. We say, "What a great shot!" Do you know why that shot came? It's because of practicing hours and hours and hours. In the midst of incredible tension, 100,000 people watching and Bret Lee's 100 miles/hr ball, he just flicks it over. We say, "What a great shot!" You know what, he was practicing it over and over and over until it is part of his character and with his eyes closed, he can hit that shot.

That is what Daniel is doing in Babylon. He has practiced and practiced and practiced and so when it is set before him, it's very easy for him to make a decision under tremendous power. All the sons of Judah, other princes, everybody and Babylonians all around, he is under incredible pressure, it's very easy for him to take that decision because he has been practicing this for years until it's part of who he is. That's what the Bible is talking about. Children, let no one deceive you. This is not a one time job or a two time job; you do it and do it until the character of Christ is formed in you and in any situation, you practice it. That is how you have to read it.

"I was in the island of Patmos. On the Lord's day, I was in the Spirit." Why? It's because worship is part of his character now. Where you are, what situation you are in is irrelevant. Paul and Silas singing in the midnight hours after their backs broken. Why? Because that is who they are. That's what God is talking about. Because things will get worse and worse and worse. Why does God allow the temperature to be increased? Because He knows a set of overcomes will arise and that's the ultimate objective of the redemption. So please, we need to know these things because the Church has always gone through tribulations or persecutions in its 2,000 years history. There were always leaders, if you know, who were opposed to Christ, in every dispensation. Very hostile! That's why in *1 John*, John will say, there have been many anti-christs who have gone but the anti-christ of anti-christs is going to come. Compared to all the ones who were there, this fellow, not even Nero can be compared to the guy who is coming. Not only that, though the Church has gone through tremendous tribulation, unbelievable tribulation during its entire history, what is coming (*Matthew 24:21*), Jesus Himself says—

**Matthew 24:21**

***<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

That should put fear of God in our hearts. This is not anybody saying, this is Jesus saying, person who has seen the end from the beginning. He is saying, there is a kind of tribulation that is coming, that has never been or never will be. So if God in His sovereignty and free will chose us to be born in a time like that, He also believes we can come through that. So everything you need to realize. God did not choose us to be born in Old Covenant age. Thank God! He did not choose us to be born in any of these 2,000 years and if we are coming into that time! I believe, what is happening now worldwide is like a harbinger of what is coming. It will be initiated by one man, the anti-christ.

**Revelation 13:2**

***<sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.***

He was like a leopard meaning he is swift. His feet were like the feet of a bear. The bear can tear apart with his paws. His mouth was like the mouth of a lion- he rips you apart.

***The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.***

Satan will actually transfer his power, his throne and give him great authority. So the first time, the devil will live through a man. That means this is the epitome of wickedness. '666' - a perfect man has been found, where the devil can inhabit in him perfectly. Please understand that.

Jesus will say,

**Luke 21:35**

***<sup>35</sup> For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.***

So, Jesus warns, be careful; it will come as a snare. But Paul will say in

**1 Thessalonians 5:4**

***<sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.***

So, he says, people who are caught in darkness, it will come as a snare but if you are walking in the light, you won't be surprised. You should not be surprised. So, we have to look at all these eventualities the Bible is actually talking about. So, in *Luke 21:34-36*, the warnings are given very clearly. We are going back again and again because people are taking it very, very lightly.

**Luke 21:34-36**

***<sup>34</sup> "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.***

He says, be very, very careful. Don't get caught in the trap of pleasure and pressure. Don't get drunk. What is drunkenness? When you have lost your sobriety! That is what drunkenness is. He says, pleasure can take your mind off and pressure also can take your mind off. So don't get weighed down by either pressure or pleasure. The devil will use both sin and sinners- 'the hostility of sinners and the pleasures of sin'. That is what Jesus had to endure. Please remember. So keep your mind clear.

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***<sup>35</sup> For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.<sup>36</sup> Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy***

There is a worthiness God expects.

***...that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."***

To stand before the Son of God and to escape all of these, God says, My Son should find you worthy. You are worthy to escape these, that you don't need any more refinement; you are ready. Be very, very careful. *Watch therefore, and pray always.* I would put it this way- watch always; pray always. Let us put it like this- God has a standard He has set. When we reach that standard, God says, "you are worthy to escape. You are ready. The work of Christ in you is complete. You don't have to go through this."

### **Titus 2:12-13**

***<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope...***

What is that blessed hope?

***...and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,***

That's our blessed hope: He will come; we will go. We will not be caught in this. We will be able to escape. That is why we have to be very, very serious. Every generation had to go through this but the last generation will be the worst generation in terms of sin and greatest generation in terms of overcoming.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

***<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

When He comes, all three – body, soul and the spirit! We know the filthiness of the spirit in *2 Corinthians 7:1*. What does that actually mean? That means we are set apart for God, completely set apart, our body, our soul and our spirit. Let me come to one of the major points of tonight. Complete sanctification and overcoming are not the same. You can be completely sanctified, set apart for God and not overcome. One is something that happens to you internally. That's why Joseph has to be taken out of his house. He is sanctified; he is a good boy. But now you are going to be tested whether you will overcome the world. Sanctification is one thing and overcoming is one. Nowhere, you will read in those 7 letters, 'God says, he who is sanctified will sit on My throne.' Sanctification is more like He set you apart; He has cleansed you; now He is going to use you. There are lot of sanctified saints who are not used at all because they are not willing.

The picture you have in the Old Covenant is the wilderness journey. In the wilderness journey, Israel is brought saved from the blood, they come through, they go through their water baptism and the cloud- the Spirit baptism. The entire purpose of the wilderness journey is to sanctify them, to get Egypt out of their heads. Win over your body. Win over you flesh. Win over Egypt, all that. That is the sanctification part. Did the first generation get sanctified? No! But the second generation got sanctified there. Now when they step in, the second generation is going to overcome. That is why when the first person brings unholiness there, he and his household is immediately remembered because it will affect their overcoming. Achan and his family is identified and removed! The second generation is the conquest. That is their overcoming. The first trip sanctified the second generation in the wilderness. Then they overcame. To overcome, they had to fight so many battles.

Jesus looked at His disciples and He told, *“You are clean because of the Word.”* Then they started their journey in the book of Acts. These are sanctified saints, who are coming out, beaten. You are beaten. How will you react? Sanctified saints, they leap for joy. Earlier they were running away. Beaten black and blue and thrown into the prison, they are praising and singing. You know what, now they are overcoming. They were sanctified and now they are overcoming. So, these are the things, which we have to understand what God is trying to teach us. Sanctification and overcoming! If you go to *Joshua 21:43-45*, at the end of it all, after they finish everything,

**Joshua 21:43-45**

***<sup>43</sup> So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. <sup>44</sup> The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. <sup>45</sup> Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.***

Do you remember what God had spoken through Ananias to Saul in the beginning? This is my chosen vessel; he shall stand before kings and he shall suffer a lot. Right? In 2 Timothy, he will say, *“All have been fulfilled in my life. I came through it. I stood before kings. I didn’t buckle. They feared; I did not fear. I have overcome. I have finished my faith.”* He is at rest. New Covenant, you have to read it in terms of what happens there in spiritual terms over there. So, remember sanctification is going on; overcoming also has to go on otherwise sanctification loses its meaning. He will keep your body, your soul and your spirit blameless at the time of His coming. You also have to be careful. Am I overcoming? That’s the difference!

Only when we understand this truth that we will realize how woefully short and unprepared we are! Like covid-19 came in, all of them were boasting of technology, telemedicine; one virus suddenly showed how all the nations were totally unprepared. Ventilator shortage, masks shortage, gloves shortage and everything! Nobody expected this. But it exposed how unprepared every country was. In the same way, this virus is also exposing to the Church, how unprepared we were spiritually for something like this. How unprepared we are!

**1 Peter 4:17**

***<sup>17</sup> For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?***

So, it begins with us first. God is just giving us a warning. He is telling the Church, *“how prepared are you? Individuals, how prepared are you? Families, how prepared are you?”* So don’t call this ‘coronavirus’; it is actually ‘karunavirus’. God in His mercy has given the Church a time to reflect before the thunderbolts begin. He has given the Church good time- sit in your homes, sit alone or sit with your family, listen to the Word, watch and pray and prepare yourself. **What** I was till this began? Nations were not prepared. Am I actually spiritually prepared for the stuff that has been prophesied that will come in the end days? Am I really, really prepared?

**Ezekiel 9:6**

***<sup>6</sup> Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were before the temple.***

Now we look at it and say, it’s a different thing that it is talking about. But if you read it spiritually, He says, *“let them sleep; let them go to spiritual slumber.”* You know what sleep also means spiritually. After these 21 days are over, a Church emerges as totally gone to sleep, didn’t understand anything what God was doing. I tell you the majority of the Church tomorrow will be flashing lights and candle lights and lighting diyas because they have no clue what it actually means. An open demonic doors into all their lives! Because it means something else in another religion; tomorrow, the day and the time and the number 9 and the light and everything. They are clueless. One

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part of a huge Church will go more into bondage but God says, there is a set of people, “don’t even touch them. Leave them alone.”

The outer courts people all will be touched if you read this carefully. In the inner court and holy place, nobody will be touched. So you need to be very, very careful about what God is saying. God is showing extreme mercy. You should not see this as extreme judgment. This is extreme mercy where God has ordered every government in the world to shut down for His people’s sake, give them time to reflect on their lives. How prepared are they? So please prepare, persevere, endure. Can you endure? This is the 15<sup>th</sup> day and 32<sup>nd</sup> message. Did you endure? All those who are listening, did you endure? Are you able to endure? It’s a question! Are you able to endure? Because Bible is very clear; everything will come like a trap. That is *Luke 21:35*. It will come like a snare. We already read that but if you go to *Luke 17*, another portion where His disciples privately came and asked Him, Jesus seems to be suggesting, also in the middle of the trap, something else.

### **Luke 17:34-35**

***<sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.***

So He is also talking about something else. There is something that is mysterious that will happen for those who were prepared. They will just disappear. This thing, I know our Church knows it, but all the others who are hearing, please understand this.

***<sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.***

So, one is talking about the night and other is talking about the day. This was written 2,000 years ago when people did not know sun rose in one area, while it was dark in another area. They did not know. This time thing and all, nobody knew. This is all modern discoveries after people started travelling and they realized all these things. So when Jesus writes, He is writing what He already knows, which we discover quietly and give credit to ourselves saying we discovered it. There is rapture also there being mentioned. So take all these warnings seriously. Prepare like Noah did because Scripture says, *when he was divinely warned of things unseen, he prepared an ark with holy fear for the saving of his family*. So please remember this.

Go to *Revelation 3:8* because we always have to give you hope also but your hope should be sure. We cannot give this outer courts hope, where everybody thinks they are just going to make it. Jesus does not say that at all. Then there is this inner court hope, where they take you back to the law. They are also preaching tribulation is coming but do you know what their answer is? ‘Go back to the law!’ Lot of people are listening to those messages. “We have to go back to the law and get into that again.” So this is the danger. If you don’t look at the Word carefully, either the outer court people will say, “nothing like that will happen. Jesus loves me so much. He will just take me.” or the inner court people will say, “we need to go back and even more get into the law, keep it to the minute details, celebrate all the feasts and everything.” That’s not what God talks about. If you look at *Revelation 3*, to one Church—

### **Revelation 3:8**

***<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...***

Now, we talk it as an open door of ministry, which is true. It can also be an open door of escape. Nobody can shut it, not even the devil or all the hostile sinners cannot stop it. It will be open for you. *No one can shut it*. Then He says, the reason:



*...for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

**Revelation 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Because you have kept My command to persevere,*

You have little strength, you have kept My Word, you did not deny My name. You kept My command to persevere. It is a command. How many times it is repeated in the New Covenant? Endure! Persevere!

<sup>10</sup> *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

He is telling them, "You, I will keep you; I will keep an open door for you. I will keep you from trial." So, for one Church, the promise is given. While corresponding to that (if you come further down, verses 15 and 16), to another Church, that is Laodicea, absolutely 'gung ho' thinking they have made it, when they were nowhere.

**Revelation 3:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

But this is my reading. I could be wrong, but this is my reading. If you are cold, then you are anyway in the world. You are appointed for wrath. But you are neither cold nor hot, you're lukewarm. So, you're not appointed for wrath but you are not appointed for rapture either, so I'll spew you into the tribulation. Come through that. Now when tribulation begins you'll suddenly realize all that you've heard was true. Now you come through. You'll have to die and come through. But your death will be refined through tribulation. We may be worried about death. He is not worried about that. He's already overcome it. So, you have to read these things carefully, the warnings given in the Bible, otherwise we are absolutely and totally blind, because from Romans down to Revelation 22, it is all warnings and warnings. Why would a loving Father and a Holy God warn His children so much unless He's very serious about it? So, I believe this is divinely ordained by God in His kindness and His goodness and mercy to the Church. And if you have noticed all around people are not sure and they're always listening to the Christians because you are the only people who talk about somebody coming. When a crisis like this comes, God says, "Put your head up!" So, you have Churches which have gone in millions online speaking, "Put your head up in the midst of a crisis." Others, what do they say? Honestly, what do they say? If you are part of any religion and if you've studied any of these, if you're a Buddhist, I studied Buddhism, what can a Buddhist say? What can a Hindu say? What can a Muslim say? What can a Catholic say? What kind of hope do you have at a time like this? But He says, "You lift up your heads, because you know exactly. So, they'll look to you." God is saying, "I'm giving this time because many gentiles through this will also come to the Lord, and the Church will wake up and the rest, let them be. I can't give a bigger warning than this, a bigger universal warning than this." So, keep these things in mind. That is the reason why we are studying all these things, how to overcome. First is sanctification, personal sanctification. We've dealt with Reuben. We dealt with Simeon and Levi. If you look, the firstborn is Reuben, the second is Simeon and the third is Levi. And you'll see when Shechem is attacked, it is Simeon and Levi who do it. So, who is the leader? Simeon, because Reuben is weak. So, Simeon takes over his position and he's a very violent guy. And Levi also follows him. Simeon and Levi are the ones who put a city to death. Don't you ever think Joseph was a small boy understanding nothing. He was watching everything that is happening: his elder brother's weakness, second brother's wrath, he's watching everything. That's why when they go, the first time he locks Simeon up. He locks him up lovingly, because you reflect first on the violence of your life. He doesn't touch Levi, because it is the Spirit of God operating through him. Though it is Miriam and Aaron who opposed Moses, it is Miriam who has to stand outside seven days. The high priest can't stand outside, then there is no atonement. So, he lets Aaron go and sends Miriam to stand outside. In the same way, Joseph will lock up Simeon and let Levi go, because he knows positionally he has to become a priest one day. So, the Spirit of Christ is working through him and you've have to look at it and think, this boy was

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not an ordinary boy. He's seeing things. Why is he put over there in Genesis as an example for us? Why is he put over there? Because He says, "You want to overcome? Study from the lives of these people. Those who are overcomers would have poured through their lives. Okay you've have to go through stages. Those who sit in the outer courts will study other things. They only will read Psalm 23 and Psalm 91 selectively and read a few gospel, but beyond that they don't know doctrine at all. Those who are into sanctification alone will read Daniel and these things, but that is excellent. That is good! But you have to go beyond that. We have to go into overcoming, because this is the time to be sanctified and be prepared to overcome. So, we stopped yesterday. Where did we stop? Joseph had a dream.

### **Genesis 37:5**

***<sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.***

Question: do you have a dream? One: If you have a dream, who is the source of your dream? Everybody dreams. Who is the source of your dreams?

### **Matthew 13:25**

***<sup>25</sup> but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.***

So, when people sleep there is another fellow who sows. He can also give you dreams. The problem with the tares is that it looks exactly like wheat until it is time for fruition. So, he can give you very good dreams but the source is not God. So, the first question is: do you dream?

Second is – who is the source of your dream?

### **Ecclesiastes 5:3**

***<sup>3</sup> For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words.***

So much activity means, worries and anxiety and dreaming, dreaming. You watch so many YouTube videos and Netflix and everything and then one day you dream you're an actor. God says, "Too much activity. It's got nothing to do with me." Dreams are a result of much activity. NIV uses the term 'cares'. Too many worries! That's who mothers are. In the night, also they are dreaming about what to make for breakfast and what to cook tomorrow. They dream these dreams.

### **Ecclesiastes 5:7**

***<sup>7</sup> For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.***

Much of the dreams are vanity. Much of the dreams have vanity. I had some vain dreams at the beginning of my ministry sitting in this program and I used to dream, the Pastor is going to come over there and he will say, "The Lord is speaking to me that there is a young man sitting in this crowd and then he's going to call me by name and then I'm going to preach." Nothing like that happened. In the multitude of dreams there is also vanity. That's how so many preachers have come and dressed also in vanity and they'll always come and tell about how they had this dream. And then they whipped these people into giving them so much money to fulfill their dreams. And people buy their dreams. So, you'll have a Church full of dreamers. They sell their dreams and the people buy their dreams. And the guy who gets the money lives his dreams. So, it's full of dreams. Please remember – Joseph had a dream and that dream was from God. Be very careful to know the source of your dream.

Then, the Bible talks about another kind of dreamers.

### **Jude 1:8**

**<sup>8</sup> Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.**

They are filthy dreamers. How do they know those whose dreams are filthy? First thing is that they reject authority and they speak evil of dignitaries and they have dreams that defile the flesh, meaning their dreams are all unclean dreams. If you look there is a pattern in their lives, they reject authority. They reject the authority of God's word. They reject the authority of God's servants who speak that word and they speak evil about them. If you speak about sanctification and how to lead a holy life they will mock you. They hate those kinds of sermons and then they have dreams which are filthy and which defile the flesh. So please note these things. Then he told his dream to his brothers they hated him. So, you have to be very careful. Learn from Joseph's mistakes. You have to be very careful as to whom you share your dreams with. You do not dream the dreams that are from the Spirit with flesh and blood. With flesh, especially, it doesn't matter how close they are, you do not share those dreams with them. You share spiritual dreams only with spiritual people, spiritual mature people, so that they understand, they appreciate and encourage your dreams. If you come there, if you know your story, he dreamt twice. His father on earth had given him a gift that was a coat of many colors. Later in life he'll get other coats also. But his Father in heaven gave him another gift, the ability to see dreams and interpret them. The coat which his father gave was taken away. But the Bible says, "The gift and the calling are irrevocable." And his gift is in accordance to his calling. You have a gift and you have a call. I still remember in 1994, the Pastor calling me out of the blue, it's like shocking, "Next week I'm going to Singapore so next Sunday you are preaching." And I've never preached in my life. I'm going to Singapore so next Sunday you are preaching. So, next Sunday I'm there in YMCA hall in Secunderabad preaching, it was not a big Church or a small Church either. There were all kinds of people like big people those who are learned in the word and people in ministry and I'm preaching, a young boy who is studying in EFLU second year of his M.Phil. And you can easily guess which book I preached from, Genesis, from Genesis 3. I stood there with butterflies in my stomach and I preached. When I finished preaching, I realized, I have a gift and this is my calling. He has called me and this is my gift. And all my EFLU friends came and they were all happy. So, the EFLU crowd was coming and all the other crowd. The EFLU crowd came and said, "Oh! We're so proud of you!" They felt very bad. It's called reflected glory. But what I'm saying is, "Your gift will also reveal your calling." The gifts that man gives you can be taken away. And the gifts your Father gives you cannot be taken away. On the other hand, it will be tested in difficult times. And the Bible says, "The one who has a gift will stand before kings." And you will see Joseph will stand before kings. That's where we start. He has hallowed his father's name. He's zealous for his father. So, a level of sanctification has taken place, we know that. Now, God gives him a dream basically telling him, this is your purpose in life. Bible says, "When they heard the dream, they hated him even more." Why? What was the reason? The reason was:

**Genesis 37:6-7**

**<sup>6</sup> So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup> There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.**

It's very simple to understand. If I were to say, I had a dream. In the dream, we were all standing and then I was standing straight and you were all bowing down. Everybody understands what that dream is. Why is that when people are told that you need to be upright, then only you will reign, people get mad? It's only when the Church preaches overcoming message or that everybody will not reign, everybody will not be raptured, everybody will not sit with Jesus, everybody gets mad. That is the truth from the days of Joseph. We are all sons, but only one will rule. That's the truth and people get mad. Even now, people get mad. What do you think? You people preach about sanctification overcoming, you're the only Church in town? We didn't say that. We're saying this is the pattern for overcomers. We're not talking about salvation here. We're talking about overcoming. Eight times in the book of Revelation Jesus will say, He who overcomes, He who overcomes, even to the best Churches. Even the best Church, the Church in Philadelphia, nothing negative to say, still He says, "Hold fast to the crown!" You haven't finished yet. You're still there. Hang in there. Don't lose your crown in the last minute. So the question is: do we have a vision

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of uprightness. That's the first thing Jesus says – Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Do we seek righteousness in everything, the righteousness that comes from God, not from man which comes by faith alone? Because faith comes by hearing and hearing alone, because the scepter of His kingdom is the scepter of righteousness. That's Joseph. That's what he sees. And these people Daniel and Joseph and all saw that when they are young. When you are young, if you are able to see the vision of the righteousness of God, you are set for life. You should see that when you are young. That is what Solomon finally realizes and he says, "My children, serve your God your creator in the days of your youth before that days come, because you are set by then." Because you have persevered and you are set now. And when these comes habit and character are already set. Now God is able to send you out, because you are sanctified and now you can overcome. He can send you out. That's what He's talking about.

### **Psalm 19:13**

***<sup>13</sup> Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.***

That one line is too loaded. Too much! I'll leave that to Pastor Vijay. Too much over there, because I have to give you the big picture and he will take the electron microscope and deal with that. There are sins of presumption. That is why God took Israel through the wilderness. You think you are ready and you're marching in order. And then they look and see, "Pharaoh is coming!" He says, "Did you see?" The way you're marching, this is a battle not a parade. That's what happens to young boys. The army and navy put their advertisements they will shoes ships going, shooting and marching. When you join over there, you will realize, "Abaa! I didn't know!" But you already signed up and now you cannot get out, you are in. There's one guy who became a Pastor later. He says, "When he finished his service in the US army and he came out. When they came to the college for recruitment, they were so nice and everything. Not in college, in the recruitment camp, it was all nice and he was seated in the chair. He chatted with him and was very friendly. And all the paperwork was done and once he signed he said, "Get up! Now you'll breathe when I tell you to breathe. You will sit down when I tell you to. You, your life belongs to me." He said, "I was shocked." And there is no way you can go back and you are in. But he said, "That's how they train in the first month." I remember one of the recruits saying that, you are asked to climb up the stairs backwards and down straight, until you are tired and you are not to stop until they tell you." When they asked why do you make us all do that? He says, "We are training you to obey, because a time will come in the war you will have only a fraction of a second to obey the instruction and fight. So, we are not training you. We're not asking you to think and imagine and all that. We are training you to hear and obey. So, all the training is going into that." God is talking about training in righteousness. Little things, how you deal with your father, how you deal with your mother, how you deal with your brother, how you deal with money, your father's money, your shoes, your socks, and in everything righteousness is concerned. You deal with these little things and little things and one day you are thrown before the devil. It's very easy to take a stand then, because you are already transformed in those things. That's Daniel and Joseph. Otherwise you'll only see the big picture and you won't be able to see the small details. And our God is a god of details. His eye is on the individual and the whole world. He's the only one who can look at the whole world and also be minutely interested in the hair that falls from your head. And you'll know the nature of God and you know what God is talking about. Every detail of your life is important to me. It matters to me. You want to be an overcomer you will also keep your eye on every detail of your life. This has not got to do with unsaved or saved. This has got to do with overcoming. That is reigning! That is authority, because you need to realize that a day is coming when you will rule over the world. Saints will judge angels in eternity. Remember Nehemiah sitting over there, standing there as a cupbearer to the king and the king asks, "Why is your face sad?" He was trembling and afraid. The king noticed his expression. It turned around for his good, but the fact of the matter is the king notices everything. The whole idea is this, the whole idea of sovereignty and kingship is this – you should not cause anything in your outward or any behavior or anything that causes disturbance in the mind of the sovereign, because he has to focus on ruling. He is focused on one thing, so you should not. That's why we talk about our worship, because our worship is focused on God. There should be no distractions. Because this is the sovereign, the King of

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kings and the Lord of lords. If you go to that country called Bhutan when the king and the high people come, they wear this huge gown and this is how they stand. The sleeve will come over there. They will stand like this and they will only talk like this, meaning my breath should not disturb the king. These are sovereigns of the earth, the kings of the earth. That is what God is talking about. He's preparing you to rule. Eternity is coming. This is the character of Christ Jesus if Christ Jesus said that My Father has never left me, because I always do what pleases Him. That means His Spirit is so sensitive, every second He realizes there is nothing in Me that disturbs My Dad in thirty years. That's what Hebrews 5 talks about – until His obedience was made perfect. How did He go through? Through suffering. The suffering of training the flesh consistently. He was suffering, suffering, training the flesh until His obedience was perfect. Then the Father sent Him out. He was ready. So that was His sanctification for 30 years. And after 30 years, He's overcoming. After 30 you're not seeing sanctification of Jesus Christ, you're seeing the overcoming of Jesus Christ. Everything He's overcoming. You have to see these two concepts – sanctification and overcoming. In our case we are being sanctified and we also have to overcome. We're not sanctified so completely now that we can get out. No, sanctification is a continuous process. So, to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness is a choice. But grace is there. It is a choice. We struggle when we see these truths. But we have to see it and walk in it.

### **Daniel 1:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> Then the king** (The king of the Babylonians) ***instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,***

But before they can be brought even admitted into the king's academy they have to go through the screening test. Seven qualities.

**<sup>4</sup> young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking** (KJV says well favored), ***gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.***

Seven things for an ordinary earthly king. So, the question is: if this is what an earthly king demands to stand before him and serve him, how much more the heavenly King? Long ago in Suryapet we preached this many years ago. But the whole seven things can be translated into spiritual qualities God looks for, because Scripture says, "He'll make us blemishless." Good-looking not outwardly, but inwardly. Everything, the whole thing, seven qualities to stand. So, the question is: if that is what a king requires, and after this they go for three years training. So, all these pictures are given so that we can stand before our king. Let us go back. We saw the two dreams. We know it very well. His father also got a little irritated, because in the second dream he saw his father and his mother bowing before him.

### **Genesis 37:9-11**

**<sup>9</sup> Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."** <sup>10</sup> **So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"** <sup>11</sup> **And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.**

Those days, they believed in dreams, because God did not speak in other ways. Dreams and visions were the primary ways and they knew that their father and their great grandfather all had seen dreams. So, they know what it meant and they envied him. They can't stop him for dreaming. The father kept that in his mind. The narrative changes.

### **Genesis 37:12-13**

***12 Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So, he said to him, "Here I am."***

There it all begins the story of Joseph. The first question we ask is, can you be told? Can your father talk to you if you're a child sitting there, youth, teenager? Can your mother talk to you? Can your husband talk to you? Can your Pastor talk to you? We're looking at it in terms of authority God has placed a person under. Can your father talk to you if you're a young person living in your father's house? Everything will begin here. This is divinely ordained by God. All the visions, the dreams, the revelations are worth nothing if you don't pass this test. This is called the test of obedience. If you don't pass this test, was your dream real? Yes. Did God give it to you? Yes. Is your vision real? Yes. Will it come to pass? No. There are stages before it comes to pass. Will you pass the test of obedience? That's the question. Will you obey when you are told something?

### **1 Samuel 16:19**

***19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."***

Aren't you the guy anointed by Samuel? He still goes back. His father said, "You got your anointing, but go back to take care of the sheep," and he went. You're gifted. You got the anointing from the prophet, but where are you? Taking care of sheep. You got two dreams of you reigning. The father says, "Go check on your brothers." Will you go? The problem is the minute you get a vision or an anointing we realize that now we are not cut for ordinary things, because now I'm cut apart. That's the problem. Now, David is in Saul's service. Saul takes him in. What does the Bible say?

### **1 Samuel 17:15**

***15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.***

Which boy will leave a palace and go to feed sheep? David. And God is watching over all these things, that's why these little nuggets are given over there. God watches every detail of our life. Okay, I have anointed you, but let Me see whether you will do that ordinary things of life. That's why He sent His Son as a carpenter. After one year, five years, seven years, the father and the mother also forget all the dreams and running to Egypt and all the angels and all. They will call, "Yeshua!" Yes, dada! Bring me that log! Yes dada! Who is this? Son of God. Yeshua! Bring me that hammer. Yes dada. Yeshua! Bring me a bucket of water! Yes mama! That is why when there is an issue in Cana she shows this is one boy who will always listen to whatever I say. He's obedient. Only thing he crossed a line which she doesn't understand. That's what you have to ask. Sometimes we have a gift and a vision, but have you passed the first test, the test of obedience. What did his father say? Will you go to Shechem? We heard much about Shechem in the morning, right? I didn't know it was coming in the evening too. What all things you have, the reasons you have. You have all reasons not to go. Only one reason to go – because your father said. All the reasons not to go: one, I'm the youngest and they're all older. I'm just seventeen. Two, all the servants in the house are there. Why should I go? Second, aren't these people very hostile? They are very angry and mad with us. So, it's a risk for my life. They went together. Are you asking me to go alone? I can't go alone. It's a risk. And the distance is, "Dada! It's 60 miles!" it's not a short distance like going to the shop at the corner and getting something from there. No. Walk 60miles. Where are you? Hebron. Where are you asking me to go? Shechem and that's not a good place. And this place Hebron, of course, I like it, fellowship with God and with man. It's a place of fellowship and you're sending me to a place where there are gentiles who are hostile. But that's where God sends us. First test is the test we all have to pass.

### **Hebrews 11:8**

***8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.***

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But he obeyed. That's the beginning of his journey. What is the beginning of your journey with God? You heard and you obeyed. "Joseph!" Yes dad! "Will you go?" Yes dad!

*Romans 1:5*; After that incredible introduction and everything.

### **Romans 1:5**

***<sup>5</sup> Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name***

There is a faith and there is an obedience to that faith among all nations for His name. That's what Jesus had given the commission: teach them to obey everything that I have taught. So, there's faith and there is obedience. Today, there is only faith and confession. There is no obedience, obedience that comes from faith. When he finished the letter in *Romans 16:19*, what does he commend them for, the Church in Rome?

### **Romans 16:19**

***<sup>19</sup> For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.***

He doesn't say your worship is known to all, your singing is known to all, your dancing is known to all. Your obedience of faith is known to all. You're a Church known for your obedience to the word of God. That's what God is telling the Church in Philadelphia. You have very little strength, but you have kept My word and you have not denied My name and you've persevered. Not that you have kept it for two or three days, no! From the time you have heard, you have persevered in keeping the word and honoring My name. Till today you have persevered and I'll keep the door open for you. Your obedience is known. Your reverence for My name is known. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name! Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done. He says, "I will keep the door open for you!" You have persevered in it continuously and you've learnt that these are the things that matter in life. Therefore, I'm going to keep a door open for you, because this is just a sign to prepare people, to really prepare people for what is actually coming. The question is: are we known for our obedience as a man, as a woman, as a wife, as a father, as a mother, as a child, whatever place you are in, are you known for your obedience? Because the proof of faith is obedience.

*John 14:15*; Not only is the proof of faith obedience but the two top things in God's hierarchy, love, faith and hope, the proof of love is also obedience.

### **John 14:15**

***<sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, keep My commandments.***

Hope is a different thing since it's connected with the future. So, there are two things that are connected with my walk with God now, one is love and the other is faith and the proof of both is obedience. Somebody called it like listening ears and obeying hearts.

### **Philippians 2:12**

***<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, (How?) not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence...***

That is the key! You obeyed in My presence and now, you obeyed in My absence too.

***...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;***

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Keep doing it. Persevere in it and God will do it in you and do it through you if you persevere in your obedience to what you have heard.

**<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

So, the question is: will you obey? Will you go? And the test will begin. What do we want to be known as, a sanctified saint or an overcoming saint? Well, you received two dreams about reigning, now I will test whether you are fit to reign. The entire test is being we fit to reign. There are two things that can change a believer's life. Both are good. Both are necessary.

### **2 Peter 3:11, 13-14**

**<sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;**

So, what is one thing that can change all our lives? The reality of the judgement that is coming! Judgement can change your perspective completely. That's why God is giving the Church a break and says, "You know what? I wasn't kidding when I spoke through all my prophets all these years. Judgement is here." This will be over. It will take quite a few months and after that famine will come. Shortage of jobs, lack of resources, all this is going to come. And He's saying, "Judgement is one of the two things that can change a believer's walk completely! The understanding of judgement" Nevertheless, Scripture says that the whole thing is going to be burnt up, what kind of people should you be!

Second thing is the concept about overcoming. One is judgement and the other is overcoming. Judgement can change your walk completely.

### **Genesis 5:21-24**

**<sup>21</sup> Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.**

He lived sixty-five years and had a son called Methuselah.

**<sup>22</sup> After he begot Methuselah...**

That is the way of sentence construction.

***...Enoch walked with God three hundred years...***

So, assumption and presumption, it is very clear. It is after the birth of Methuselah that something happened. He started walking with God. He changed his walk with God.

***...and had sons and daughters.***

It was not sons and daughters but this boy, when he was born, changed him.

**<sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.**



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So, if you go back over there, you will see – he has a son. Absolutely definite. He heard from God when the son was born, “Call him ‘Methuselah’.” Now, imagine Roshan and Tabitha have a second child and Roshan prays and hears, “Call him ‘judgment’.” We all have nice, beautiful, fancy, Biblical names for our child but what happens is the child’s name is not decided by you? That’s what happened to John the Baptist – father is mute. The mother is very clear, “He should be called ‘John’.” “But there is nobody in your family called ‘John’. Call him ‘Zacharias’.” She said, “No, John.” So, they said, “We will ask the father.” The father is mute but that day, when they asked the father, the father opens his mouth and says, “John.” So, the first promise in the New Covenant is, “You shall call Him ‘Yeshua’.” Yeshua means ‘the Saviour’. So, the name signifies something radical is going to take place with this boy. So, here is a name given which is called ‘Methuselah’, which means – when he dies, judgment will come. That changed his walk. That changed his life. So, the teaching of judgment will change many people’s life but it is not just a one-day thing or a one-month thing; Enoch walked with God. It changed his life completely, totally, radically. He started walking with God. So, you will actually see, when he dies, judgment will come. When Methuselah dies, judgment begins.

So, what happens is – at the age of 65, he changes direction. To change your direction, you have to change, also, the direction of your affections. Your affections have to turn towards God. You have your wife, you have your children, you have your work, you have everything; but once you realize it, the seat of your affection turns towards God. Love God with all your heart, with all your might, all your strength. “If any man loves anybody or even himself more than Me, you cannot be My disciple.” A disciple is somebody who walks with God. Others are followers. They don’t walk with God. They are followers. They, too, walk but they walk behind Him; they don’t walk with Him. So, when something else comes, they leave Him and they go back home. But the disciples walk with Him. So, you have the first disciple in the Bible – that is, Enoch. Enoch walks with God. He walks with God. He changes direction, his affection, his walk – everything changes. Like we used to teach students – “Aiming is deliberate. It’s never accidental.” Aiming doesn’t happen by accident. It is very deliberate. It cannot be an accident. That’s the difference between Saul and David. Do you see the difference between Saul and David? Saul lost his donkeys. So, his encounter with Samuel was, kind of, accidental. But David’s was not an accident. It was deliberate. “Go to Bethlehem. Go to the house of Jesse. I will tell you which son.” Very clear. And you will see – nothing accidental in the way David walks – back and forth, back and forth. From father’s house to the sheep, from palace to the sheep. He says, “That’s my duty and until God changes it, that will be my duty.” He was very clear about what his purpose is. “Until I am changed from a shepherd to something else, I will remain faithful to what I have been called. Yes, there is an anointing there. You know what I’m going to do? I’m going to use this anointing to shepherd.” And I believe it is after the anointing that actually, he kills a bear and a lion. So, he is using his anointing right now where he is.

God is not aiming at man. Man has to aim at God. All our prayers are to change God. And all of God’s teaching is so that we can change because God says, “I do not change.” That’s what I said – if I have to walk with God, the only way I can walk with God is by saying every day, “Lord, I am ready to change.” He is not going to change. That is why the husband called ‘the savior of the wife’; meaning – he is constantly changing her to fit in with him. But now, it’s been the other way. That’s why he is called ‘the savior of the wife’. These are fundamental principles. Sisters sitting over here, you need to understand – this is Scripture. Because the Church and Christ is the mystery of marriage. The husband doesn’t really change much for the wife; it’s the wife who changes for the husband. Constantly changing for the husband. So, that is what is being said over here. If Enoch has to change, walk with God; Enoch has to change. God is not going to change. Can two walk together unless they are agreed? No. So, God doesn’t have to agree with me; I have to agree with God. And a lot of people never cross that following to becoming a disciple is because they don’t want to agree with God. Very few disciples. Many are called, few are chosen. Because the few are willing to change. And who are the last category? The faithful. Meaning – these people persevered in the change. By the 300 years, God told, “You are sanctified. You can come with Me, Enoch. But you haven’t overcome. You are perfect in your sanctification. Come with Me and I will send you back so that you will go, fight and overcome.” So, Elijah and Enoch have to come back because they were sanctified but they didn’t overcome.

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He didn't face any challenge. He only separated himself and walked with God but to fight battles in the Name of Jesus Christ – because Elijah failed and he ran. So, God says, "I will send you back. Finish your fight and come back." This time, nobody will back down. They will be there on earth and they will face the might of the world, the sinners and all that. They will not back down. They will die and they will rise up. So, they will be there – two Old Covenant saints who are sanctified and overcomers. So, God is saying, "Please understand these things." Think about it. Just think about it – you have the Prime Minister's office and they have the Public Relations' office and they have the Prime Minister's work being done. If Roshan has to be called to be the photographer of the PM's office, doesn't he really have to be good? Absolutely, right? Absolutely good to be there and he will be doing all the photoshoots of the PM. Do you think it's a joke to sit on Jesus' throne and reign with Him? Salvation is one thing; reigning with Him is another thing. But He offers it to all His children. He says, "It is open. Come, run the race. My grace is there for you. Stick to Me. Walk with Me. Be sanctified and overcome. Don't look at all these troubles about submission and all. It's all irrelevant. Those are sufferings. Take it." Because of the goal that is set before you. All the women who suffered in their submission, He says, "Get over there! If your husband makes it, I will see that you rule over him, there, for eternity. Don't worry about it." Because there is no male or female in Christ Jesus. They are all spiritual beings. You will reign with Him. A woman who suffered and suffered in her submission to a moron, but she understood, "This is the principle and I need to go through it. I am looking for my glory. I am looking at my crown and I'm going to go for it." She goes through and finally, reaches as an overcomer. This dude makes it on the last day of his life and he crosses over. He will automatically think like that. The attitude doesn't change. It's like the rich man. "Send Lazarus to my..." He is a wretched fellow, sitting in hell and he still got that attitude and that he can order Lazarus, "Send Lazarus to my brothers' house." So, this guy reaches and tells, "Honey, where is my...?" God says, "Wait, honey. She is in charge of these six towns and you are in that town, the furthest in that village. You are a chowkidar there. Go there. Listen to what she says." There are a lot of surprises which are going to happen in eternity where He said, "The last shall be the first and the first shall be the last." So, if people don't see what these mean You think it was easy for Jesus to submit, humble Himself? This is God in the flesh. From eternity to eternity, from the time of creation, the morning star, shouting for joy, a billion angels worshipping Him day and night and then, He comes; and He humbles. You think it was easy? His obedience was perfect, absolutely perfect. So, God is not saying it is easy but He says, "Look at what I set before you." Jesus also saw the joy that was set before Him. A set of overcomers will arise. That was the only joy. But that is the joy of God, the joy of the Father – another set of sons will arise like this. So, that is what God is talking about here. Man has to aim. There is only one way you can walk with God – that is the walk of righteousness. God is righteous. Holiness is your character. Righteousness is your walk. Because you have to realize the pressure on Jesus. Extreme. We don't know Jesus, except at 12 years, we see a little snippet of His life but at 30, He steps out. Look at the pressure on Jesus to change to the ways of men – good men, trying to change Him to their ways and not the ways of God and He already knows the ways of God.

### **Matthew 3:13-15**

***<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.***

"Now, this is the righteousness of My Father. I don't have to ask – why should he baptize Me? I should be baptizing Him. No, My Dad said it and that's it." So, John is trying to change. The first pressure is from John, the one who has gone before Him. "Hey, You don't have to do this. If You have to do this, let's reverse the position." He says, "No, this is the position ordained by My Father." He's not trying to change God's ways. He is trying to walk in the righteousness of His Father. The Father has determined a way and that way is right. You may not even understand it. We may not even agree. Nobody may agree with us but is irrelevant. That's what the Father told. And once that is over, He is driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. And the devil comes and tries to change the ways of God. Pressure, now, from the devil. "You are hungry. You are thirsty. For 40 days, You've been here." He says, "If You are..." And Jesus says, "But I am. That is why I will not do what you are talking about because what you are talking

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to Me to do is contrary to the way of My Father. I am the Son of My Father. You were also once the son of the Father. You were also called ‘the son of God’, right? But you did not stick to the way of My Father. I will tell you – you can’t tell Me to go out of the way of My Father because My Father is the way of righteousness.” So, He goes through temptation and comes out. And after that, He comes and three days later, the Bible says – He is in Cana, whichever those three days mean.

*John 2:4,*

### **John 2:4**

***<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”***

Again, pressure. What is that? Change the timing. “Father has told Me something. You are telling Me something else.” The pressure never stops. Loved ones and demonic and good people and bad people and Pharisees and the crowd want to make Him a King. Pharisees want a sign. If you go to *John 7:3-6*, brothers have another agenda.

### **John 7:3-6**

***<sup>3</sup>His brothers therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. <sup>4</sup>For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup>For even His brothers did not believe in Him. <sup>6</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.***

“You can go any time you want and do whatever you want because you are not seeking My Father’s will or His ways. Are you? No. So, you can do whatever you want. But I can’t.” So, the question is: you heard your brothers in Shechem; will you obey? Joseph had no clue that his dream was being tested. This is why this hearing is so important. If you don’t hear, then we will go into pressure. You have to hear from God. You have to be absolutely clear and hidden in God, know the character of God. Sanctification has two sides – come out; and be separated unto God. If you go to Jesus, the *Gospel according to John* is very interesting. If you go through that in the next chapter, you will see *John 3*, Nicodemus comes. Just think about it – quietly, somebody knocks at the door. Somebody comes in, wearing a robe and you open the door – it is KCR. How will we react? This is Nicodemus, the ruler of the Sanhedrin! Does it affect Jesus? No. Does He change the message? No. He doesn’t change for anyone. “You must be born again. Otherwise, you cannot see or enter into the Kingdom of God.” He is not overwhelmed by personalities. He doesn’t change the way. He doesn’t change the method. He doesn’t change the message. In the next chapter, if you look, he is walking all the way to meet the Samaritan woman. Why? Because He heard. Does He change the message? No. He didn’t change it for Nicodemus. He didn’t change it for the poor sinner, thinking, “Poor person. Six times, she got married. Now, she is living in sin, five times. Let Me change it and make it a little easy for her.” No. He didn’t make it easy for her too. This is the test. Will we obey what we have heard or will we change the message?

Next thing you see Him is in chapter 5 – He is the Pool of Bethsaida. Hundreds of them are lying over there. So many crippled, lying for years. They don’t know Him. He doesn’t know them. So, He asks, “How many years?” “Samuel, how many years? How long?” Then, He asked one guy, “How many years?” “Thirty-eight.” “Do you want to get well?” That guy must be thinking, “What kind of question is this?” “Yes.” He immediately relates to the healing of the angel that stirs the water. He says, “Yes. Nobody does. First, somebody always gets in.” So, He says, “Okay, fine. Pick up your mat and walk.” That guy gets healed. He picks up and he goes. And Jesus walks away without healing anybody else. Because they haven’t come to Him; He has gone to them, sent by His Father and the Father only told, “Heal one and go.” Everybody who came to Him, He healed. But when He was sent, He went, did exactly what He was told and walked away, without even revealing anything. Who can do ministry like that? This is what the Bible is talking about. Can we hear?

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“So, you shall name him ‘Methuselah’.” Now, what is happening? He is just not holding a baby – you have to internalize what God has said – he is now living with judgment. I ask these questions to people – you are in your homes now. All of you are listening, you are in your home but are you at home? Are you at home? Many are home. You have heard all these messages about judgment but now, are you living with it? That’s what living with Methuselah is, for Enoch. He is living with judgment. It’s not a theology; it’s not an end-time prophesy; it’s not a doctrine; it’s something that is living with you. You wake up first thing in the morning. You go and see, “Is Methuselah breathing?” “Yes.” I don’t know. I had my babies. When they were small, when they sleep next to me, all the parents, what do they do? We always panic about the baby because babies, when they go to sleep, they are hardly breathing. You can’t even see them breathing. So, you panic. “Is this one breathing or not?” You put your ear over there. You feel its tummy. Because they can go so still and then, finally, when you are not able to see, you just move them and they move and they turn out. And you are satisfied, though you disturbed them. I’m absolutely sure that after he heard the name, he kept Methuselah with him and gave his wife a break. “Honey, I will take care of him.” “My lord, you are going to take care of him?” “This one. The rest, you take care. This one, I will take care.” That is what it means to live in the light of judgment every day – “This kid goes, I am done. Judgment is here.” That’s how he walked for 300 years with God. That’s what the messages of judgment should do to us, because you have no clue when he is going to die. That boy lived another six hundred and sixty-nine years after his father was taken away but he has no clue. He was only told one thing – “When he dies, judgment will come.” That changes his entire walk. So, fifteen days of messages are challenging you to a closer walk with God. Is it doctrine or have you started to live with it?

The same way, overcoming is not a doctrine; it’s a lifestyle. It will change the way we look at the Kingdom of God and the way we live. In *Joshua 10:16*, the battle. This is going to be one of the biggest battles Joshua is going to fight – the five kings.

### ***Joshua 10:16-24***

***<sup>16</sup> But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah. <sup>17</sup> And it was told Joshua, saying, “The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” <sup>18</sup> So Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. <sup>19</sup> And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hand.”***

Meaning – in this overcoming life, as you are battling, you have to know how to make your decisions. The soldiers are all over there; cities and all are there, the kings are hidden. “Okay. Now, the kings are over here. Now, I am going to finish you.” In the meantime, there is another bigger battle and your attention is needed in another area. You have to understand strategies on how you fight because you are hearing sanctification messages in the morning. “Yesterday, I heard about Reuben. I have fallen so many times. Now, I’m going to focus on that.” God says, “Focus on that but there are other battles to be fought too.” Maybe, what you need to do is – that king called ‘Ist’, lock him up, put a stone against the wall and you fight these battles and you can come back to this. Otherwise, what will happen? You will lose track. A lot of people have lost track because if you ask them, “What are you fighting?” “I’m fighting the king of Ist.” “How long have you been fighting him?” “For the last ten years.” You forgot the strategy on how to fight these battles. This is an overcoming life.

***<sup>20</sup> Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities. <sup>21</sup> And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel. <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave.” <sup>23</sup> And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. <sup>24</sup> So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, “Come near...***

“You, leaders, you come here. All of you, come here. The kings are all lying on the ground, chained.” He said, “All of you, come here. Put your feet on their neck. Feel what victory feels like. Feel what it is like.” This is overcoming. That’s what Jesus did. He was going around, preaching and healing, casting out demons. He said, “Come all of you. Two by two. Come near. Here.

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Go do it. Feel what victory over the devil is like. Go, feel and come.” They came back, tickled! He said, “Wait. Don’t get too excited over it. What is important is that your names are written in the Book of Life. Feel it.” You know what? Victory propels victory. Then, it is an overcoming life. You enjoy it. You start enjoying the victorious life and God starts enjoying your victorious life because He says, “Even My little children can beat you, devil. I could have finished you a long time ago but I want you to suffer defeat in the hands of these little ones. I want to see it.” So, this victorious life is a life which has to be lived daily.

So, what is our hope? Judgment or reigning? Both are good. Both should propel us. Judgment is good; reigning is also good.

### **1 John 3:2-3**

***<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.***

This is what I’m talking about – our hope will change the way we walk. What is our hope? A lot of people just want to make it to Heaven when they die. That’s why their lives don’t change. That’s all they want – “I want to have a blast when I’m on earth and I want a blast when I reach there. So, I have made my decisions very clearly. When I die, I want to go to Heaven.” God says, “No, it doesn’t work like that.” I don’t know. I’ve heard about preachers talk about shadow areas. In the new earth, those who never overcame were sent there. It is where new Jerusalem comes and the Father is with them where it says, “There is no tear, no sorrow, no grief,” because these are overcomers, who suffered much in life. There are others who are kept in areas where children make it but there’s a lot of shame and a lot of sadness because they lost it all for eternity on what they could have become. Now, I do not know. It’s a presumption but looking at human life, it could be possible. Right now, people reach a certain age and then, they realize, “I wish I had studied in those days. Lots of time, I have wasted watching movies, going around with all those fellows. At that time, I thought that was life and now, look at all the fellows we laughed at. They are doing well and I’m stuck over here.” This regret. That’s why Scripture says, “Godly repentance leads to sorrow and to salvation and leaves no regret.” Joseph’s life is a life of an overcomer and his dream is to overcome. Enoch’s life is the life of judgment. Two different lives. So, the question is: will we obey? The obedience that comes from faith and the obedience that comes from love. If you look at *Romans 8:35*. Interesting, right? When we change the whole topic and we read it and when we read it separately.

### **Romans 8:35**

***<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation...***

You go through tribulation because of the love of Christ. The love of Christ enables us to go through all these things. Love will be tested. His faith is being tested but that will be later. The first test Joseph has to go through is – “You were zealous for your Father’s name but do you also love Him to obey Him?”

In verse 37, look at what it says,

### **Romans 8:37**

***<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.***

It is the love of God that makes us overcomers. The love of God. And these are things which we have to ask, practically. We have to practically ask. This is the first test where Adam and Eve failed. They failed the test of obedience. If you go to *Genesis 3:9*, the first question God asks Adam is,

### **Genesis 3:9**

***<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”***

The second question He asks is,

### **Genesis 3:11**

***<sup>11</sup> And He said, “Who told you...***

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These are fundamental questions – “Where are you? Are you in a place of victory or are you in a place of defeat? Are you hiding from Me or are you standing before Me? Because you are supposed to be standing before Me. Are you hiding or are you glad or are you ashamed?” These are the answers Adam gives – “I was afraid. I was ashamed.” “Who told you? If you had obeyed what I told you, neither would you be ashamed or would you be fearful. When people obey Me, they are not ashamed,” because the Bible is very clear – anyone who calls upon the Name of Jesus will not be put to shame. Daniel was not ashamed to stand in the court of Babylon, neither was Joseph.

### **Genesis 3:13**

**<sup>13</sup> And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”...**

God’s order never changes how He will handle a person.

Turn with me to *1 Kings 19:11*. Who is this? Elijah. After eating two meals provided by the angels, walked 40 days and reached Mount Horeb,

### **1 Kings 19:11-15**

**<sup>11</sup> Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;<sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.<sup>13</sup> So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle...**

He is familiar with that voice which he heard all these years. That’s why when this voice came, he went out.

***...and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him...***

What was the question?

***...and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”***

“If you had obeyed what I told you, you wouldn’t be standing here. You would be somewhere else. What are you doing here?” This is the test of obedience. After the father calls, “Joseph?” “Yes!” “Okay. You will go.” And after that, Joseph goes into another tent and sleeps. Then, the father would say, “What are you doing here?”

**<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to him: “Go, return on your way...**

You have to go back the way you came – “Retrace your steps where you failed Me. Go back the way you disobeyed Me. You want to be restored? You have to go back. Look into your own lives.” “God had told me. I didn’t listen. Go back that way. This is the way to restoration,” because the first test is the most important test – Adam and Eve failed in the first test. What was it? The test of obedience. “Go back the way you came and you will have to anoint three different people.” For what? “To do the work which I had told you to do in the beginning. So, you are going back the same way and you are going to do the same work but you will not do it; three others will do it. You will just anoint them. The anointing is upon you. You will put it upon them and they will do the work.” Why? “Because you did not obey Me the first time. So, they will do it.” This is the issue. In *Genesis 12:4*,

### **Genesis 12:4**

**<sup>4</sup> So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him...**

Now, finally, the old man learns his lesson. He hears. He obeys. Then, the Lord appeared to Abraham. He obeyed and God appeared. This is a constant question that believers have – “Why doesn’t God speak to me?” He does. Go back and check when was the last time you obeyed what He told you. “Joseph, will you go?”

### **Isaiah 6:5-8**

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**<sup>5</sup> So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”**

“Oh, so your problem is with sin? Not an issue! I like people who cry about their sins.”

**<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”**

Now that you are sanctified,

**<sup>8</sup> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”...**

Now that your life is sanctified, will you go? Your test will begin whether you can overcome.

**...Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”**

Sanctification is not for sanctification itself. There’s a purpose behind it. Not holiness for holiness sake. Now that you are sanctified, you’ve got all the lessons of sanctification, will you go? When the lockdown is over, will your eyes be open? Will you be sent? Can you go? You will start your overcoming life. It will be difficult. God is not saying it is easy; it will be difficult. “But I am there with you. If you go, I will be there with you all the way.” Sold as a slave – God is with him. Thrown into prison – God is with him. Put on the throne of Egypt? God is with him. “I am with you.” Will you go? That’s the question.

We will take five more minutes. *Genesis 37:5*. He said, “I will go.”

#### **Genesis 37:14-36**

**<sup>14</sup> Then he said to him, “Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me.” So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. <sup>15</sup> Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, “What are you seeking?” <sup>16</sup> So he said, “I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks.” <sup>17</sup> And the man said, “They have departed from here, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.**

Let’s go to *verse 14*. The father sent you to Shechem. The question is: how far will you go? You will till Shechem and they are not there. When you are sent, how far will you go? “I will send you to Shechem.” That’s the instruction but if you read at *verse 14*,

**...“Please go and see if it is well with your brothers...”**

So, what is the intention? Are your brothers okay or not? There is an instruction of faith and there is an intention of faith. It is the intention that pleases God, not the instructions. Remember the ten lepers? Let’s go there.

#### **Luke 17:15**

**<sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,**

Did we get it? *John 11:4*,

#### **John 11:4**

**<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”**

What is the intention behind every miracle? That you get healed? No. What is the instruction when God tells you to do something? That you receive your miracle? What is the intention behind it? That God is glorified. As soon as the Samaritan realized he was healed, he glorified God. So, he had to come back and glorify the Son too. That was the intention – that the

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Son of God may be glorified through the miracle. First, he glorified God and he ran to Jesus because now, you have fulfilled the intention of faith. Others got the instruction of faith. They all went. They all got healed but they never fulfilled the intention of faith. They never glorified God. This is our issue. And all of you, because the message was a little slow and tuned off, you missed the real core of the message. You may be just following the instruction. You will didn't follow the intention of listening. And Jesus said, "It is to My Father's glory that you bear much fruit." You know, when we bear much fruit for God, we go beyond the instruction and go to the intention of God. So, behind every instruction in the Bible, go and try to search and find the heart of God – what is His intention? That's the difference between law and truth. Truth is the intention. Law is the instruction. That's why I said, "Nobody can please the Lord by keeping the law," because you just kept the instruction. So many people are still living under the instructions, not the intention. And the intention behind everything we do is that we glorify God and it pleases Him. And then, we are His disciples.

So, what is the entire purpose of salvation? Redemption, sanctification and the third part? Glorification. Yes? Sanctification alone is not enough. You need to glorify God. How do you glorify God? Every time you and I overcome, God is glorified. The whole of heaven sees that. You think nobody noticed? Probably, the eunuch saw it; three of his friends saw it. Maybe later, the others saw it but when Daniel took a stand over there, the whole heavens saw it and God was glorified. He had overcome his appetite and God was pleased. That's the whole point we are getting at. Many Christians never experience God's will. They experience the good will of God and not the perfect will of God. The perfect, pleasing will of God, you glorify God. If you only follow instructions, you will go till Shechem; brothers aren't here. Dad said, "Go, check on your brothers," but brothers aren't there. He can go back and said, "Dada, I went till Shechem. Very tiring, Dada. Hundred and twenty miles back and forth. My back was hurting. I was alone." All kinds of stories, you can make up and everything is true. And, "I didn't see them." Because you followed the instructions. But what was the intention? "I sent you with an intention. How were your brothers doing? You went and you came back and you still do not know how your brothers are doing." Jesus came to see how His brothers were doing. And when He found His brothers were not doing it, He had a solution for it. How are your brothers doing? He could have told many things and everything would have been true but you also did not realize – in God's plan for you, Joseph, the plan was not at Shechem; the plan was at Dothan. Only those who go to Dothan, the extra mile, actually get to know what is God's will for their life. The others? They follow instructions but they do not go that extra mile. So, Jesus will talk about that extra mile. Those who go the second mile. Joseph went the second mile. At Dothan was waiting for him God's perfect plan for him – it was a pit. But that was God's will for him. If he hadn't gone to Dothan, he would have had to wait for many, many more years and we don't know how old he would have to wait and if he didn't ever go to that place where God wanted him, God would have overlooked Joseph and started with Benjamin. God's plan will always work. He could have probably picked Benjamin. A lot of people, the call of God passes over them and goes to somebody else. You know why? You only followed instructions. You don't follow the intention. Like today, Sammy could have said, "No internet." If we don't have internet, we cannot broadcast. That is the instruction. And we all could have listened to it but the intention is something else – the intention is that we need to reach the people. So, the way you guys went around to fix it – this phone and that phone, standing on the roof, going outside, trying to get the signals from different things unto the computer so that finally, we go on YouTube and Facebook and then, once you've fulfilled the intention of the meeting, the internet also came. So, we didn't realize that even that was a test for us. God says, "You fulfilled today's intention." Now, if you have told me, "It's not possible," I would say, "Okay, do it with the radio." It's fine because that's all I know. But you knew the intention of what God wants. Different levels of people are there. For whom the voice alone is enough. They are used to it. And they are new people who like to see and hear. God loves all categories of people. Whenever you hear something – God speaks through different people – don't go beyond the instruction; go to the intention. "Samuel!" "Did you call me?" "No, go back and sleep." "Samuel!" "Did you call me?" "No, go back and sleep." "Samuel!" Then, he realizes, "Samuel, let me tell you – Somebody else is calling you and He has an intention to speak to you. So, this is how you need to reply – 'Speak, Lord. Your servant awaits'. Behind that call, there is an intention. Answer that intention. He will speak to you. Whatever He says, it doesn't matter. Tell it to me." I always feel sad for people like Eli and Michal and all. He knew. He had heard from God once. He knew. God had stopped speaking to him but God used him to mentor Samuel. God used him to show the ways of God to Samuel. So, you cannot say he failed completely. God used this man to show the ways of God to Samuel and then, one day, Samuel will arise and all the days of Samuel, Israel will have peace. Every time you read the Bible, every time you hear the message and every time God speaks to you, you have to go beyond the instructions; you have to look at the intention. Like tomorrow, a lot of people will say, "Pastor, first Sunday, Communion. How are we going to do it?" Okay, what is the intention behind it? What is the intention behind Communion? Judging your hearts. My question to people who are worried about Communion: did you listen to all these messages for fifteen days? Did you judge your heart in the light of whatever you have heard so far, if you had? It's okay if you don't take Communion because the intention has already been fulfilled. We will wait until everything is open.



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What is the intention behind Communion? That you judge yourself and you partake the symbols of God's Body and His Blood and you shall be revived. You are already revived, if you have been listening and been appropriately reacting to the messages. So, the intention of the Communion is already met. Even if you are not able to keep the instructions of the Communion. And then, the next time we meet, we will have Communion. So, behind everything, don't go by the letter. Whatever God speaks to you, you always have to ask, "Lord, the intention behind everything that You ask me to do – it's not for the benefit of people; it is the glory of God." People will be benefitted. Yes. By our ministry, people will be benefitted. That's not the whole purpose. That's what we read in 3 John. "We went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles for the sake of your... If we take from Gentiles, our ministry will prosper. We can feed the poor, build houses and everything." Because Gentiles give. They give nicely for good causes but the problem is – God won't be glorified. So, what is the intention behind the work that we do that benefits people? It's not people should be benefitted; God should be glorified too. If God is not glorified (then that's what Paul is actually talking about) by the ministry of our Word of what we preach and people are only excited, he says, "I'm not a servant of God; I'm a servant of man." These are fundamental questions we need to ask. Each time you and I do something, it's an act of faith – is God glorified or not? Am I glorifying God or not? And God says, "If you are bringing Me fruit, which is My glory, then I will start pruning you further and further so that you will bring even more glory." That's what happens to Joseph – there will be more pruning. "You are bringing Me glory the way you are – an overseer, slave in Potiphar's house. That's not enough. I need to show this to the devil. I need to get more glory out of you. Go to the prison. Show him how My children function in prison," and he brought even more glory to God there. God said, "That's not enough. I need to take you and put you on the throne. Let us see. Let everybody say 'the Hebrew shepherd boy ruled over Egypt and brought glory to God'. What were you? A shepherd boy. What are you doing? God is using you to feed the hunger of the world." Just a shepherd boy. That's why God says, "He picks the foolish things, the weak things, the ignoble things so that when they trust Me, I get more glory." God gets incredible glory out of them because people will look at them and say, "This is God." Glorified God.

So, tonight, that's the question we leave with – can God call you? Will you go? How far will you? Will you obey only the instructions or behind that, will you find the intention? What is the intention behind? In Malayalam, it's beautiful. Those who understand Malayalam will understand it. In Malayalam, we used to have this saying in the olden days, "Parana cheyuga and aranyu cheyuga." That's what Jesus actually tells them at the end, "I no longer call you servants; I call you friends. All these days, I told you and you did it. But now, you know Me. So, you know what I expect from you. You know Me. You know My Father. You know what My Father wants from you. So, now, you are no longer My servants; you are My friends." And that is what Hebrews 3 will say, "Of all in God's house, Moses was faithful as a servant. Jesus was faithful as a Son." So, He was worthy of more honor because He brought more glory. Do you know that servants get mad? Do you know that? And that's why Moses got mad. "Should we bring?" Did Jesus ever get mad with His Father's instructions? Because He was a Son. He was not a servant; He was a Son. He loved His Father. So, no instruction of His Father was too burdensome because He loved His Father. Sometimes, we act like Moses. God says, "Good. In all My house, Moses was faithful. But remember – as a servant. In all My house, Jesus was a Son," and you are His house.

Shall we pray?

### Closing Prayer:

*Father, we just love You, Lord. It's our joy, Father, to serve You. Fifteen days, Father. Thank You. When these things started, Father, we had no clue. We hadn't even planned this out. Nothing was planned. It was just when we started, we believe You told us – "Feed My sheep." That's what You told Peter, "If you love Me, feed My sheep." We love You, Lord. That's why we keep on feeding Your sheep. We believe this is what Your sheep need, all of us need at a time like this – a message on sanctification and a message on overcoming. And I pray, once this is over, a Church will arise, a Church that is triumphant, a Church that loves its Master, a Church that loves God, a Church that loves to serve God; a Church that will go beyond Shechem to Dothan; a Church that does not make excuses; a Church that will go beyond instructions and will understand the heart and intention of God in every little thing that we hear – as individuals, as families and as a Church. That's my prayer, Father – everywhere, GTC will arise as a Church that knows that God intents and we will be content because we know that we have pleased our Father and we have brought glory to our Father in Heaven. Earth may not notice us. The world may ignore us. It's irrelevant. The world did not even know You when You stepped out at the age of 30. But Heavens opened and said, "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased." And nobody had any clue. That's all that matters, O Lord – what You say. And I pray, this evening, that Your children will surrender. We will surrender to the will of our Father and bring You great joy and great glory into our lives. We will sanctify ourselves and we will also overcome. Both will go hand-in-hand and look to our destiny – to*

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*reign with Christ Jesus. If it was only promised to Pergamum or Philadelphia, we would have been discouraged but to Laodicea, You promised that – the worst Church of the lot. That is the heart of a Father; that is not the heart of a king. Nebuchadnezzar wants the best to stand before him but the Father is saying, “Even the worst among you can overcome and sit with Me.” Only a Father can speak like that, Lord. And Father, we want to please You. I pray, Father, people will take clear aim. Their walk will change like Enoch’s walk and their work will change like Jesus’ work, like Joseph’s work. Thank You, Father. Help us to meditate on the things we have heard and tomorrow, the first day of the week, we come back to You and we will sit in Your presence, sit like Mary. For even to sit at Your feet like Mary is bringing You glory and not to be restless like Martha. That doesn’t bring You any glory, Father. So, Father, I pray we will prepare tonight how to sit with You tomorrow. Thank You, Father. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You. For in Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction:**

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