

Father, we just come to You this morning, we just want to thank You, we just praise You, for all that You give us every day of our life—even today, life is a gift, an act of mercy. None of us were blameless in Your sight to be worthy of life today, no one, but You stretch forth Your scepter, You extended mercy towards us, we just thank You, thank You, Father, thank You, Lord. You brought us all these 5 months, thank You, Father, thank You. Everything that we have has come from You, Lord, there is nothing we can give You back, other than our whole lives back. Thank You, Father, we thank You, we thank You for Kirti, we thank You for Dr. David and Dr. Beula, we pray that You would bless them, we thank You for brother Wilson, Lord, tomorrow he turns another year in his life, I pray that You would touch him, empower him, Lord. Oh Father, go with us, go before us, Lord, we all need You, we all need You, Lord—even the ministry of the Word, it is to hear from You, for only You can take us through. We really have not gone this way before and there is so much confusion outside, deliberately created confusion by the enemy but You are our light, Your life is our light; go with us, Lord, go before us. Let Your Holy Spirit speak to us – the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, speak to us even now, Your people everywhere need to hear. Each one’s situations may not be same, but we all need to hear from You – You are the way Maker; You are the Healer; You are the Deliverer; You are the Redeemer; You are the One who destroys the powers of darkness. Speak to us, Lord, today; open heavens is what we pray for, where there is nothing blocking us from hearing from You; open eyes, open ears, open heart, speak Father. For in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!

We have been looking at the Spirit of God, the Kingdom of God, the power—the Holy Spirit is both person and it’s also power. If you turn with me to Acts chapter 2—that’s not the text for today—but as we read from verse 1, we look at the church; how the church began...

Acts 2:1

¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

That’s how it all began: when that day fully comes, they were all together in one accord.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

So, God had planned it all out; that’s how the church began – He picked a place, He picked the time and the day was picked by Him there in Jerusalem because the Gospel had to go first to the Jews and He picked the day of Pentecost, and they were all there, from every corner—that’s how the Gospel would go through the Jews who is saved to the ends of the world because it was first to them. But we look over there, you will see, the Holy Spirit came upon them as a mighty wind and as fire; the power and the fire. And if you go to Luke chapter 3, verse 16 and 17, John the Baptist had talked about this, he had prophesied about this...

Luke 3:16-17

¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷ His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

He said it very clearly: “God will baptize you with the Holy Spirit,” and that was symbolic of the mighty wind, and fire. But the problem is, whenever we hear about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we talk about the

infilling of the Holy Spirit; when we ask, we leave the fire out – while the Scripture says, “and fire,” so that fire function of the Holy Spirit, unlike the rest of the functions of the Holy Spirit seems to be different from the rest, and it is the fire that will take you till the end. We know there are two things that is needed before the end of Jesus Christ or the end of this age comes, when Jesus comes back again; one is, Jesus said: “The Gospel has to be preached to the ends of the world and the end will come,” and the second is: “The Bride has to be ready; she is the only one who can hasten the coming of Jesus Christ,” and if you look at it—for both of this, you need both power and you need fire, okay.

We see people often flaming like you put wood and pour a cap full of petrol over it and it blazes and then it's gone, but we are not talking about that fire; we are talking about something that is steady throughout, and that's what you have to ask for: “Lord, I need that steady fire that I never lose my zeal for You.” We are not shooting stars, we are consumed by the zeal for God and that's what you have to look into your own personal lives too, that is how you look and say, “Do I have this consistent zeal for God? Do I get distracted easily? What causes this distraction?” and that's the fire we are talking about!

And the second part of fire that we are talking about is the fire that purifies. How does the bride get ready? The bride has to be without spot, she is blameless—Malachi will talk about the Holy Spirit suddenly coming, uses two words over there: Refiner's fire and the Launderer's soap. These are two different aspects. The launderer's soap basically works at the surface; the refiner's fire does much more deeper work which is embedded into you. You know, nobody swallows a soap; you apply it on the surface, outside, right? But the Refiner's fire is not that, the whole thing is put into the fire and everything, all the impurities, surface and He takes it off.

So, we need to realize, there are two fires of the Holy Spirit in the Bible and we need both. People are very afraid to ask for the fire of the Holy Spirit – they all want power, they all want the mighty wind but they don't want fire, and you will always look at the men of God who sustained—like I was telling in the Nepali service: Samson had the mighty wind but he did not had fire and therefore he was destroyed by the enemy's fire; King Saul had the mighty wind, he prophesized and he had great victories but he did not had fire, so he was destroyed; King David had the zeal for God, that's one of the first things you notice about King David is, “Is there no cause?!” he is always zealous for God, so, even though he falls few times, he always springs back because the fire never goes and he always asks for that fire back. So, please understand the fundamental principles of the Kingdom of God: how do I run this journey?

Today, we will look at why this fire is so important. How do we get that fire back? Because one of the famous personalities in the Old Covenant is prophet Elijah, and you will always see, there is no way you can set people free unless you encounter powers of darkness. See, one of the reasons the Gospel has failed in India is because the servants of God in India refuse to tackle the powers of darkness, so it fails, it's a real battle and those battles have to be engaged. Jesus puts it this way in *Matthew 12*,

Matthew 12:28-29

²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

You see, certain things what we need to realize is, Jesus' ministry is like this; He doesn't reveal everything to everybody because it is very dangerous—like the sons of Sceva: “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” So, He is saying something: “If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God...,” He says His ministry is like that, and He says, “How do I cast out these demons?” “By the Spirit of God.” And He tells you how He does that. “You see Me casting the demons out, but do you know how I do that?” “I first bind the strong man.” You know when He bound the strong man? Early in the morning in His prayer closet, He bound the strong man and came out to minister. Unless you bind the strong man, you cannot release the people, and you will see, early

in the morning He arises and spends His time in the prayer closet; it's a spiritual battle, He wins that every day and then He comes out and people receives the blessings down.

So, He is teaching us something and this is a pattern continuously in the Bible. Unless Moses and Aaron confront the sorcerers, the magicians of Egypt and overcome them, Israel is not going to go free, and the enemy has power, Israel cannot come out; you have to defeat the enemy's power: first three times it is challenging; they are matching each other and after that they bind the enemy's power, and the enemy is not able to move and the finger of God comes. They also acknowledge this—they don't know the Spirit of God—so they say, "This is the finger of God, we can't do anything, let them go." So, you need to realize, now you do not have those people out in the front, they are all at the back, hidden, but it doesn't change, the battle is the same. If we do not win our battles in our prayer closets, we will not win our battles outside. It's often repeated illustrations: before David could finish Goliath, who is out in the open, he has to kill the lion and the bear in the secret, nobody knows that; Daniel has to win the battle in the prayer closet, so that the lions' mouths are shut, the lions are not going to touch him because he has overcome the powers behind.

And Jesus is making it very clear, and this is where we fail – in our prayer closet, we struggle with that. The other part we want. You know, if you go back to what the disciples are asking Jesus, "Teach us to pray," not the Sermon on the Mount, the other place, you will see,

Luke 11:1

¹ Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Look at the question again. You know what they are saying? He didn't say, "Teach us how to pray," he said, "Teach us to pray." "We don't know what it is to pray. After looking at Your life, we realize, we don't even know what prayer is. We thought we were all praying people but when we see Your prayer, we realized, we don't even know how to pray. Teach us to pray." They looked at His prayer life. They are the only ones who knew, but you know, they said all these but till His last day, they still didn't pray; it's only after He rises again, they learn to pray.

So, get this very clearly. When the Amalekites come to attack at Rephidim, they prevail, only because Moses prays, Moses hands are lifted up—we looked at that too—that's the only reason they prevailed. This is the most difficult part – try to get people locked down to pray—I mean, God has locked us down, five months are over, but the question is—let's ask about our own church; GTC India, worldwide, wherever - how many people have learned to pray in these five months? And the lockdown was one of the most beautiful opportunities God gave us. Everything is locked down; everybody is locked down; have we learned to pray? So, you see there, first battle in the wilderness is also won because of prayer, and then look at Israel's history, Israel has gone down so far, they are being ruled according to God's Word, most evil king so far—who is Ahab, married to an even more evil woman called Jezebel and Israel has gone into idolatry, completely. That is when the great praying man appears. Elijah is important, very-very important. *Malachi 4:5*, Jesus says this about Elijah.

Malachi 4:5

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

So, we see, Elijah is a picture—when Israel went into idolatry, Elijah is the one God used to bring them back to God. The Spirit that was upon Elijah is the one that was upon John that brought the people to Jesus—he is the way maker for Jesus and the people come. And the Scripture says, "Before the dreadful day of the Lord, the same Spirit will operate." So we should never discount the patterns in the Old Testament and we learn. One of the things we learn in the Old Testament about Elijah is: how did the people come back? They came back because of fire, that's how the people came back. And we also need to realize, there has to be an encounter with the powers of darkness; with the prophets of Baal, there has to be a real encounter—it may

be in your own prayer closets, it's not going to be like Elijah where it is very visible sign, but there has to be an encounter where the powers of darkness are bound and the prophets of Baals are destroyed and the fire will fall. Once the fire falls; the people will destroy the prophets of Baal. The fire has to fall, there is no other way. And if you look at 1 Kings chapter 17 and verse 1 – when Elijah is first introduced to us.

1 Kings 17:1

¹ And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

That's how he is introduced to us. James chapter 5 and verse 17 will give us the spiritual introduction of this man.

James 5:17

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 42 months, okay.

So, if you look at Elijah's ministry, Elijah's ministry began with lockdown; Israel is locked out of God—no rain, no dew—these are symbols of the Holy Spirit, no moving of the Holy Spirit in the land. Life is going normal downstairs but the Holy Spirit is locked out and God uses this man to say, "No rain, no dew." So, it begins with a lockdown and Scripture says that he is a man of prayer—it doesn't say he is a man of powerful preaching, we hardly know anything about Elijah's message, okay, we know nothing. Even John the Baptist was not a great preacher but if he was of the same caliber, you know definitely he was a man of prayer. Elijah is a man of prayer; he hears, he obeys – 42 months heavens is locked up. Remember, in the book of Revelation, the antichrist will also lock down for 42 months (3 and half years), the worst part of tribulation. So, the pictures are there. So, Israel is going to go through what God had told through Moses: "When you turn away from Me, this is what your life will be like."

Deuteronomy 28:23

²³ And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.

It's talking about spiritual condition. "Heaven is bronze": no prayers are going up, no answer from heaven, it's blocked and down, life is so difficult; earth is like iron. Yet, during this season, Elijah is hidden and then, he is brought out by God at His appointed time. In 1 Kings chapter 18, we will see Elijah will come out.

1 Kings 18:1-21

¹ And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

So, we know three years and six months are over, or almost six months are over.

² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.

Look, this is how the man of God are—he knows, for 3 and half years, king is looking for him to kill him, he sends soldiers to every country, and then the Lord says, "Go, present yourself to Ahab."

³ And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. ⁴ For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

You see something happening over there during this time—there is Ahab, there is Jezebel and Jezebel has been destroying the servants of God; Obadiah had hidden one hundred of them. Understand this, because why this is so important is, in the last days, these two spirits will manifest: the spirit of Ahab and the spirit of Jezebel – this is the woman riding the beast. If you look in Revelation, nobody notices the beast; it's the woman who is noticed. You look over here, never does it say that Ahab destroyed the prophets of God; it is Jezebel who destroys the prophets of God. If you look further down, you will see prophets of Baal and

prophets of Ashtaroth, they ate at Jezebel's table. You have to handle these two spirits. If you don't handle these two spirits, Elijah will cut and run, he doesn't cut and run before Ahab; he runs before Jezebel, understand that. It is not enough that you confront the spirit of Ahab, you have to confront the spirit of Jezebel, then only you will overcome. You have to confront these both and you will see these pictures throughout in the Bible.

Let's come back further down,

5 And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock." 6 So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. 7 Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?"

Now, if you look at Obadiah – Obadiah is a man who fears God but the problem is: he aligns himself with Ahab and God; one side he has secretly hidden hundred prophets of God and feeding them but he is serving Ahab. So, you will see the nature of people, even the godly people, when the spirit of Ahab operates, they are double-minded, they will swing this way and that way—they fear God but they will fear Ahab too.

8 And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.' "9 So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? 10 As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, 'He is not here,' he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you. 11 And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here"!"

If you actually study Israel's history, Israel prospered during Ahab's time until the famine came—David's time; Solomon's time; Ahab's time; Israel prospered, it is very powerful.

12 And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me.

See, these people know all these things but they still serve Ahab. They know about the prophetic, they know about the power of the Holy Spirit, the miracles, all these things they know.

But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. (But still serve Ahab) 13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? 14 And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here.'" He will kill me!" 15 Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today." 16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 17 Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

Now this is what you need to realize – 42 months have gone by, complete lockdown, the land is suffering, still hasn't changed the heart of man and that's what we are talking about—5 months of lockdown is over, has there been a qualitative shift in the attitudes of your heart towards God? That's the question people have to ask. We are not talking about new ones who came in, they are all new, young ones in the Lord, all excited and all, but we are talking about the ones who are in the Kingdom for long time – what have these 5 months done to you? Have you seen the hand of God? Has it really changed your life or is still the same thing? Let me ask you this simple question—do you wake up little more early now to pray? Do you search the Word of God with more intensity now, for answers to what the world is facing or is it still the same? This is the issue.

This man, if you look at, is a man who will take no responsibility for what's happening.

18 And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals.

Look at the whole picture of what's happening over there—he turns around and blames Elijah for this – is Elijah responsible for this? In one way – yes, he locked the heavens up, but why did he locked it up? Because

God said so; in short, God locked up the heavens, it's not Elijah, Elijah is just a mouthpiece, God locked it up. So, he is still blaming God.

I mean—to be political, if you look at it, last week was four days of convention of the DNC in the U.S.: Who is responsible for all the problems in U.S.? Day 1: Trump, Day 2: Trump, Day 3: Trump, Day 4: Trump – four days he got free advertisement, they didn't speak one word for the issues that are actually concerning the country, not one word really, they spoke. You have to see it's the same spirit: the duplicity of it, to the point, Governor Cuomo calls the European virus and not China virus, as if the virus came from Europe—they actually call it the European virus, deflection! Not one word was mentioned about China in four days. It's very strange if you look at it—not one word was mentioned about the looting, burning, and the attacks that are going around those cities run by Democrats; not one word! You are not able to address the same issues, it's just the blame game.

This is what happens with Ahab and Jezebel. You see, Ahab is the front; the power behind is Jezebel, please understand, Ahab is the front, this is a physical; the spiritual picture will be different – at the end, the beast will destroy Jezebel, the Jezebel is just used as a prop to get the votes, the power and Jezebel is fooled, Jezebel doesn't realize the beast hates Jezebel. Feminists do not understand communists hate women. Have you ever heard about a woman leader in any communist nation? They will finish them off. They put all these LGBTQ, all these group, do you see here about any one of them in the communist nations? No! They will just use them as a prop.

Four years ago, they tried; Jezebel was put in the front, she lost; this year they are bringing it from the back, with a weak Ahab in the front, they put Jezebel at the back to come to power. It's the same tactic that is being used; these are spiritual games that are going on. I am not saying that Trump is like Elijah, for me, he is more like Jehu; the tough man, the rough man—Jehu is a tough man, he is a rough man, he is not like Elijah, a praying man or anything but he is a rough man. So, we are seeing parallels happening right before our eyes—which way it will go? Why these things are important is – if you don't understand these things, it will not work, it simply will not work.

What happens is this—let me put it this way, this is how you have to put this spectrum: man, woman; if you notice, the devil doesn't come to man in the Garden of Eden, he goes to the woman because the devil knows that the woman is a weaker vessel, that's where the fall takes place. If you look at it: woman, after woman is bisexual, after bisexual is gay and lesbian, and transgender and it goes like that and all of them are emotions, controlled by emotions; you touch them, they will bite you and that's how the order goes. If you look at the political spectrum: it is not LGBTQ, it is F first and you should be bisexual first, and when you become bisexual in your mind, you already compromise, you have fallen onto the other side, and that's how they do—it's bisexual, even if you are not actively bisexual, you will say: it is okay. Then you come into gay and lesbian; from bisexual, you move to the other and then you have now problem with gender also, you go into transgender.

And if you notice about all these people, they are very sensitive, you cannot talk to them, you can never talk issues with them because they will turn it around and make it into emotional things, they will always turn around and accuse you of being homophobic, sexist, anti-woman, but they will never talk the issue, the real issue. You have to realize; this is how the devil operated. So the first Ahab and Jezebel is, Adam and Eve. The devil comes to Eve, the Scripture says, Adam was not deceived. What does it mean by Adam was not deceived? The woman was tempted to become like God, Adam had already swallowed it, he wanted to be like Him but he will keep the woman in the front and use her for that; the Bible says that he was not deceived but the woman was deceived.

So Ahab is the man who will keep Jezebel in the front; he is the beast upon whom Jezebel rides. Understand pictures in the Bible because in the last days, that is the force and all these issues, whether it is militant feminism, militant transgender, gay, lesbian, LGBTQ, whatever it is, so many. You have to see their caucuses

and the different groups who were speaking—one girl came online and she spoke in the convention in one of the caucuses, “I am transgender queen, mermaid, princess,” that’s her identity. We feel sorry for them, I mean, they are all just mind blinded people. I mean you just had to see the DNC four days convention to know exactly what’s happening. You look at the Bible and you look at what’s happening in academia in the higher learning institutes and you look at the convention, this is exactly what is happening, and all these issues are brought over and people are caught. We have to realize and ask ourselves: you know what! None of us are exempt from the oppression of these spirits. The question you have to ask is : Is it possible for me to sit down and discuss an issue without moving and going around? Can I discuss an issue as an issue without deflecting it?

What is the issue? The issue is rain. Three and half years, there is no rain and you know it started after this man spoke to you, so you are meeting that man again and you should be saying, “Elijah, it hasn’t rain for three and half years at your word. What is that I can do?” but no, “You are the reason for the trouble.” And then, the shortest acceptance speech, last day, Joe Biden comes and speaks exactly the opposite of what they spoke for four days, “I am to unify... light in the midst of darkness...” but the entire four days was darkness. And the problem is, once your minds are blinded, you will not be able to see through the deception that is taking place and the same thing is taking place here in this country in a different way—if there is left wing nuts, here right-wing nuts, same thing and the eyes are so completely blinded. There are no jobs, millions and millions are starving, there are no jobs at all, things economies are on a nose diving down, and everybody is so happy that the temple is being built—what does it feed you? How does it feed you? How easily they deflect the issue.

The Chinese are still there where they were, they haven’t moved yet, it’s nothing in the news at all, it’s no longer newsworthy; the fact that 20 soldiers died doesn’t matter. See, how it’s happening, and the issue is not these things are happening; the issue is when these things are happening, what is your response? Are you also blinded? Does it cause you to move in your prayer closet—not about China-India crash in the border—the eyes of people are blinded, they are not able to see, even though things are so clear before their eyes, they are not able to see. These are the spirits that are operating and that’s what is happening over there, and there has to be an encounter.

That’s what he says, ***“I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals.”***

You went after the gods of this world—the demons.

19 Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

He is very clear, he didn’t say, “Who eat at your table,” he knows these prophets are from Jezebel, empowered by her, they eat with her because she is from Ithobaal’s daughter from the Sidonian king, his daughter she is, so she has brought this here and it’s empowered this at her table, okay, Baal and her female counterpart is Asherah. Eight hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and Asherah—look at one man! Unless you have an encounter like that – unless you encounter the powers of darkness in your prayer closet and you defeat them, eyes are not going to be open.

So, people don’t even understand, people sometimes wonder: what is that we are calling down, fire on the prophets of Baal and the Baphomet and the covens, but the same thing is happening still today; day and night, 24/7 they don’t sleep, they have shift after shift, shift after shift going on. What is that for? To keep people’s eyes blinded. The issue is, there are no Elijahs. People ask this question, “Where is the God of Elijah?” that’s not the question to be asked—where are the Elijahs of God who are hidden in their prayer closets and have heard very clearly from God what to do, when and what to do, when to come out, to whom to confront! Where are the Elijahs of God?

Let’s go further...

20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

That's the interesting part—three and half years they have been locked out of any blessing because it's an agriculture land, water is your blessing, there is no water; there is no life. Three and a half years; the prophets of God have been killed, all the priests who were there, all of them have been massacred by Jezebel, the rest are hidden—even Obadiah knows only about hundred, he doesn't know about the rest, they are all hidden; Elijah was not to be seen at all. So, who was to be seen? The prophets of Baal and Asherah, they are flooding the land, their rituals are going on everything, no rain yet. So, by three and half years, people should have known the prophets of Baal and the prophets of Asherah have no power to bring even a drop of water, yet, they will not choose. Why are they not able to choose? Because their minds have been blinded.

And I see the same thing inside the Church—I am not talking about GTC, I am talking about the Church, after five months of lockdown, people are still caught between the two opinions: the world and the Kingdom of God. All the plans Christians make is also connected with the world and not the Kingdom of God. These are two different ideologies: the world is one; the Kingdom of God is one; and for weeks and weeks, we have been preaching about the Kingdom of God, even our prayer is tuned about the Kingdom of God—that's why Jesus got tired of signs and wonders: "Unbelieving generation! You always ask for a sign and a wonder," meaning: you want healing; that's a sign. The question Jesus is asking is, "After your healing, where will you go? Where will you go with your healing?"

A man with 38 years of infirmity was healed in an instant, and he was found in the temple – do you go back to God? Did you get the message behind the sign? That's what Jesus is asking! There was a sign, but did you read the message? After you got healed in your body of infirmity, or you came through five months when people of all ages and communities were being infected and dying like flies in Gandhi hospital and outside, you were untouched – did you offer your body to Christ? Is it a small thing that five months have gone by and we don't even have a sniffle and the same air is full of same virus! God says, "Did you get the message?" Five loaves of bread and two fish was put it into His hands and He multiplied it and five thousand plus people ate it and He says, "Do you still trust Me? Are you willing to put little into My hand or still holding it back?" He is asking you, in these five months, haven't you actually lived better than before when it was open? Didn't I take care of you? did you lack? Didn't I extend your provision? Didn't I stretch it even more? Did you get the message?"

These are questions God is asking, and that's what Elijah is asking—How long? And these are questions God asked throughout the Bible. Let's go back to that.

Exodus 10:3

3 So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

How many more plagues do you need, Pharaoh? How much more trouble do you need in your life before you will humble yourself and serve God? That's what God is asking—How long? Sometimes, these questions need to be asked; five months are over, hundred and fifty-five days after the lockdown actually began, and God is saying, "How long?"

Exodus 16:28

28 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?

How long? He has brought them out of Egypt, they are in the wilderness, and they started—how long? These are questions God asks!

Let's ask a few questions; let us not get into power encounter right now, we need to be prepared for that in the prayer closet.

Numbers 14:11

¹¹ Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

You know, God takes it very personally when we reject what He has said. Last Sunday we saw: "Early in the morning I will seek Thee, Oh Lord!" David talking about his prayer closet. So, God says, "Why don't you seek Me early in the morning?" Have you tried it? It's not difficult! Don't need an alarm.

God says, "How long will these people reject Me?" I am not picking on you or anything, but this is just a symptom. One of the things you kids still haven't got is: order. You know, the other half of the hall gets order only on Saturday evening, have you noticed? Because the camera has turned that side. Notice something? But God says, "My eyes are upon you, always."

And this is one of the fundamental things of the last days: *Redeem the Time for The Days are Evil!* One of the fundamental things of redeeming time is—you save so much time if you have order in your life, and if you look at Jesus' life, He was a Man of order; He knew exactly! Remember that Prof. I told you long time back? He had three glasses: in one glass were three big stones; and in another glass was sand; and the other glass was water; he put these three and then he held his cup and asked his students, "Do you think you can fit all these three into this?" They all looked at it and said, "No, it's not possible!" he said, "Watch!" He first took the rocks, and put the three rocks in, then he put the sand and he poured water; he says, "If you know your priorities in your life, you will be able to fit everything in." The problem is, you put the water first, then you put the rocks and the water spills, then you try to put the sand and you are totally confused.

So, you have to put God first, His kingdom first, and you have to practice it, and suddenly you realize everything falls into place; it is a consistent thing in your life. There are things about Jesus which is written: "Early in the morning He rose when it was still dark," and He began His day that way and encounter the powers of darkness. When He dies: He is buried, put in a burrowed tomb, He rises up and He goes, it's not seen; Mary Magdalene sees, she runs and goes, and tells; Peter and John come; John runs faster, he doesn't go in; Peter comes and he goes in and one of things which Peter notices, which is written is, "His handkerchief is wrapped nicely and kept there," that's order. It's not just left like that and gone, that's order. You look at Jesus' life, which man in human history has achieved so much in three and half years? We are still reaping the fruit of His labor; no man ever was born with a greater task than His! He didn't need much; three and half years. He taught everything He needed to teach, did everything His Father told Him to do, then at the end He said, "It is finished!" nothing left, meaning: balance sheet is clear. God is telling us things: "How long?" The reason is, we falter between two things, we sit in the middle. "How long will these people reject Me? How long will they not believe Me?"

Numbers 14:27

²⁷ "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

And we need to ask ourselves: "Are our words complaints or thanksgiving and prayer and supplication?"

Joshua 18:3

This is for the next generation, so called 'overcoming generation.'

³ Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?"

"It's already given it to you, the land is still not possessed – how long will you sit like this? Who has to light a fire underneath you before you will move? What more do you need?" And if you put it in the spiritual aspect

in the New Covenant: Jesus has come to give us life; the life in abundance; the life that overcomes the flesh; the life that overcomes the world; the life that overcomes the powers of darkness – how long will you sit like this until you possess that life? How long? The same question God is asking GTC—how long? How much longer do you wait before you possess the life of Christ Jesus? That life that overcomes—how long? It is the question God is asking. These are God’s question through man or directly.

1 Samuel 16:1

¹ Now the Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.”

The simple question to ask is: how long will you start mourning over people and things God has rejected? You know God has rejected but you are sentimentally attached—that’s what you call as soul-tie, sentimentally attached in the soul to those things. God says, “How long?” These five months—may go more unto six months, we don’t know, may go until November 3rd, if Trump wins, it will go on further; if Trump loses, suddenly the virus will disappear, the riots will cease—but how long, is what God is saying. Are we mourning over things which God has rejected in our lives, which God said ‘No’? Are we mourning over those things?

Saul is flesh; David is spirit, Samuel has the opportunity to keep on mourning for Saul or mentor David—he mourns for Saul; he never mentors David. You have a choice: you have so many desires and aspirations in your flesh; God said ‘No’ to all of it, and then you have your spirit, but you won’t mentor your spirit. Even now, your prayers are still connected with your flesh knowing that God has rejected your flesh, everybody knows Spirit of God has rejected the flesh, yet their desires, their dreams are all connected with the flesh even after God locking down flesh from being fed for five months—no live football, no live cricket, no live anything... the first live was a four-day horror show. And still, flesh is just waiting. So, God is asking: “Will you feed David?” Look at *Psalms 106:15*, we looked at it yesterday too.

Psalms 106:15

¹⁵ And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

He gave them their request—every request is connected with the flesh; if you keep on asking, God will give it to you but if you look into their soul—it was dry, therefore, they failed. I wish we had a soul mirror, a mirror which can show the status of your soul, because what we have is mirrors of the body – every angle I look good – what about the soul? If you look at them, every angle their flesh looked good: none ill; none weak; fit as a fiddle, every one of them, but when time came to fight, they all ran and said, “We can’t, these are the giants and we are grasshoppers.” You know why they ran? Because their souls were lean. You know why we actually run from spiritual battles; most Christians do not face spiritual battles? Think! Honestly, think! We are not able to sustain spiritual things when we are able to sustain the things of the flesh—without a blink, we can finish three-hours movies, but try to separate yourself with God for three-hours, we struggle.

Psalms 4:2

² How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood?

We all know, we all know it by heart that the world and its desires are passing away—we still seek it. The entire world, I mean the ancient sages used to say, “This world is a maya, it’s an illusion,” in some ways it is true! It is an illusion, it is not permanent, it will pass away.

***“How long, O you sons of men,
Will you turn my glory to shame?”***

His glory! But we are not seeking His glory. One of the first temptations Jesus had to face was with glory—the devil took Him to the top of the mountains and showed all the kingdoms of the world and their glory—we still bend our knee before glory. Almost all choices we make is connected with glory, not utility, glory.

“How long will you love worthlessness

And seek falsehood,”—like FBI does money trail, do a time trail—what do I serve? We serve worthless things.

Let’s go to the next one. We have to come to these things and asked the difficult questions.

Psalms 62:3

³How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.

That’s what the Democrats do, morning till evening with the whole media for four years attack one man and hide everything, the false suits.

The statistics sometimes lies, sometimes don’t, statistics don’t lie about US before COVID came, there is no economy like that, ever. Never in the history of the world has an economy boomed like that. He did more than any president did for any race in America—yet, how long will you attack a man? You never see a set of people who hate their country so much—this is like what we say in English: “Burning your barn to kill the rats.” Honestly, it’s a political thing: they think—four days they painted Trump black and then put Biden, so Biden looks very fair. It doesn’t change anything; Biden is still Biden. And that’s what God is talking about. By attacking something, it doesn’t change anything; if you want to attack, attack the powers of darkness.

“How long will you attack a man?” May be this is prophetic for U.S, the Democrats--***“You shall be slain, all of you like a leaning wall and tottering fence.”***

Psalms 74:10

¹⁰ O God, how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?

This should be our cry! *“How long, O God! Your name should be hallowed. Your name is mocked day and night.”* *“Thy Kingdom come, enough of this junk, Lord, enough, I am tired.”* But the problem is, people are not tired.

Proverbs 6:9

⁹ How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?

When are you going to rise from your sleep? When are you going to wake up from your spiritual sleep and your physical sleep? How long? When are your eyes going to open? We are like Jonah—fast asleep in the midst of storm—the church, fast asleep. The whole ship is shaking, people are throwing their stuff left and right to lighten the ship, every gentile in the ship is crying to whatever god they know – the man of God is fast asleep. And that’s what God is saying, “How long will you sleep?” Are we spiritually awake?

My two questions: How do you know the Gospel has not been preached to the ends of the earth? Is it dependent upon man? No! We, such a weak, small ministry is able to reach from Alaska to Australia, then think what God is doing with other ministries we don’t even know of! Bigger and stronger and more devout, given completely into fasting and prayer—what God is doing through them?

How can you be sure that the Bride is not ready if you are not part of the Bride? Does anybody in GTC think our standard of holiness is enough for Jesus to take you? NO! NO! Then you have not met holy people, you haven’t met people who are walking in the presence of God.

That’s the question we need to ask. How long will you slumber? When are you going to wake up?

Jeremiah 4:14

¹⁴ O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

Outwardly, everybody looks good, but God is not looking at anything outward, but He is looking at the thoughts. He says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the thoughts inside of you are evil." How long! They have taken residence there—that's what lodge means, it's part of your thinking process, you think evil constantly. "How long O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness," that's a sign of the last days—Sodom and Gomorrah, and Noah; their intents and thoughts were evil continually—what does it mean? People always walk angry with somebody: Angry at the system; angry at people; angry...angry...angry... and what does it mean? It simply means this—*Jeremiah 31:22*

Jeremiah 31:22

²²How long will you gad about, O you backsliding daughter? For the Lord has created a new thing in the earth— A woman shall encompass a man."

You are backsliding but you are happy, you are not going forward, you are going backward. Let me ask you this question: Does the joy of your fellowship after church match the joy of your salvation? There is joy in fellowship, but does it match the joy of your salvation? It didn't for David—everything was okay, everything was fine, country is at peace, prosperity, wives are all quiet, Bathsheba is now his wife, but his cry is, "I am unhappy inside because You are unhappy with me." That's not a case, he says, "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation." But the backsliders are all happy. These are rhetorical questions, okay. Each one knows which question applies. And then, Jesus comes, in *Matthew 17:17*, He asks this question...

Matthew 17:17

¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

Put it into our perspective: Jesus looks at this generation and say, "How long should I leave My Holy Spirit with you?" "How long? Isn't it enough? Shall I withdraw My Spirit?" Is 150 days too long? So, that one question, just don't go over it.

1 Kings 18:21

Elisha comes and ask that question, "How long?"

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

How long will you falter between two opinions? By now we should have made up our mind and say, "Lord, to heck with the world, I don't want to be anything in the world which You don't want me to be, my life is united with You; my heart is not united with Babylon." These are one of the first decisions which Daniel make, which may look as if he's making a decision at the dinner table, but he is making it very clear: I don't have two opinions, I have only one opinion. Even when it comes to eating, only one opinion. When there is mandate "No one shall pray!" only one opinion; when there is a mandate "Everyone shall bow to the idol," only one opinion – these people are very clear: only one opinion, and life and death doesn't matter, only one opinion; whether it is about food, whether it is about worship, whether it is about prayer – only one opinion, not two – that's the book of Daniel, only one opinion.

And Elijah is asking this question: "Do you still have so many opinions?" Only one opinion—The Bible, the Word of God is one whole, written by forty authors, 1,500 years, one message - "The Kingdom of God and The King will Prevail from the beginning till the end and blessed is the man whobows his knees and confesses Jesus is Lord." We have no issues with confessing Jesus is Saviour, our issues are with confessing Jesus is the Lord. The minute you confess Jesus is Lord, you have only one opinion. And we have a peep into what happens, right? Let's go further down and see what happens...

1 Kings 18:22-26

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. ²³ Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves,

cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. ²⁴ ***Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.*** ***So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."***

This is the key! "The God who answers by fire, He is God." He didn't say, "The God who answers by rain, He is God," what they want is rain, everybody wants His blessings. Who is the God who is real? The God who answers by fire is real. The God who shows Himself holy is the God who is real. The gods of this world never project themselves as holy. Tell me which god? Tell me which god in any religion is holy? Nobody. And God says, "Blessings can be duplicated; holiness cannot be," the devil can never be holy nor can the gods of this world can be holy. They steal, they lie, they cheat, they steal others' wives, all of them—there is no righteousness in them. We need to ask ourselves, "How do I know the God I worship is real God?" because He is the God who answers with fire in my life. Everybody's testimony is about signs and wonders, healing and blessing—all good, praise God! But after that? Can it sustain you? It's fire that sustains. Rain will come, it should come, after the fire.

"Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it."

"But put no fire," fire should be put first underneath the wood; but here no fire, you can have everything. That was the sign that was shown to Moses—the fire that burns and doesn't consume, all the impurities gone and Moses becomes a man of God, to the point God speaks through him. You know what He speaks through him? "I will give you another Prophet like him, don't dare to disobey Him!" that is Jesus, and that was the vision he had seen years earlier – he had become that man; consumed by fire, yet not consumed. These pictures are there.

²⁵ ***Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."***

²⁶ ***So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.***

Look at verse 26, okay. They do this regularly and in the old days, Baal had answered. So, if you look at it, Elijah had locked up heaven; except for dew and rain, many other things Baal answered, rain was not coming. Now, it's about fire, fire is also not coming. This is what we need to understand—God has put something over here: unless battles are fought like this—*Matthew 18:18*, then we will come back to this.

Matthew 18:18

¹⁸ ***"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.***

That's what Elijah did! He just bound it up. Nothing is going to happen. They are dancing, they are jumping, they are screaming from morning till evening, there is no voice. God says, "I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, you engage in this battle, all the other voices will cease in the lives of people so that they can hear My voice." The other voices will lose its power.

Let's go back. The problem is, there are so many voices, the Scripture says, "But there was no voice." People hear so many voices. Why do believers struggle? Because they are hearing so many voices. Let's leave the world aside, we are talking about the Kingdom of God and God's people because Elijah is fighting for the soul of Israel, the people supposedly saying they are fighting for the soul of America, they sell it to Baphomet. We are fighting—why are we more zealous for U.S than India? Because U.S is a Christian country, it was formed on Judeo-Christian values, not this nation, this is different—here the Gospel has to be preached. Now we have to fight for the soul of that nation that it doesn't go into darkness, if that nation falls, it will have a rippling effect on everybody, if that nation falls on November 3rd, they will make mask mandatory, every nation will follow; they will make vaccination mandatory, every nation will follow; but if that nation

stands, we have time. We are not talking about America, we are talking about a land that was framed by the principles of the Kingdom of God, and still there is a remnant that is fighting for it day and night and we have to join our hearts and spirits with that group of people. And why is there so much of confusion among the people of God? Because they are hearing so many voices. Why are they hearing so many voices? Because there are no Elijahs who have bound the voices up.

1 Kings 18:27-30

27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

They did not realize Elijah was mocking, they took it as advice.

28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. Because their gods have to have bloods and is still happening: blood is being offered, children, unicorn... those who are listening know what happens in the convince.

All kinds of blood shedding are taking place until blood gushed out of them.

29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

The prophets are all prophesying like Kenneth Copeland: "Vaccine is coming! I now command COVID-19 to leave!" Two prophets are standing on one side and say, "I am prophesying, it's 12 O'clock, by 1, fire will come," no fire came. Another fellow said, "No, data has been wrong." Remember, so many people prophesied about second coming of Jesus Christ? So many dates were given—these are the prophets of Baal.

Prophesying, Prophesying, Prophesying; no voice, no effect. Remember India's election last year? So many prophesied, "Oh, I see a young generation of leaders coming up and they are going to take the reins, there will be a paradigm shift in the country—the old group came back, and they don't even have the decency to come back and say, "I made a mistake, I didn't hear right." That's why we say, "We don't prophesy." We do not know all the things of God, we do not know what His plans are, even November 3rd we don't know which way it will go, we just believe in our hearts, we get four years.

"they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention," that's interesting; no voice, the demonic realm is shut, nobody is able to speak, nobody answered to their cry, and third; no one paid attention. God blinded the entire second realm that they did not even see what was happening to pay attention, completely. God says, "Did you see my power and you are running after all these silly things? I just used one man, shut everything else: no voice, nobody will answer, and nobody even knows what's even happening over here." These are questions we need to ask. We have to engage into these things, preaching alone won't work; preaching is proclamation, but in the prayer closet it has to be all-out battle. The Bible makes it very clear, it's a wrestling—that's the most intense battle because when the beast rises, he has got seven heads and ten horns – he always duplicates God. So, there are going to be seven principalities and ten rulers underneath it, we do not know how it is, the beast is rising and the beast is Babylon; sitting over multitudes of nations and everybody has drunk from her cup; Ahab and Jezebel's spirit will rise.

But God says, "I don't even need many people; I just need few Elijahs, that's enough! Elijah runs, I will have an Elisha, I will have a Jehu," people like Jehu we need. That's what God is talking about! Will you fight this battle? If you don't fight this battle—because the battle is for fire, if fire doesn't come, people's eyes will not be opened and people will not destroy the powers of darkness and their servants, and whatever is influencing them, they will not destroy it. Everything is dependent on one thing—fire has to come. The God who answers by fire is God.

"And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice,"

That means, from morning till evening they were given time, you have to look at it. God says, "Even time is on your side." Let us say they were given twelve hours, He just needs one hour, because in one hour, Babylon will be destroyed. You don't need time. "Lord, I need so much time," God says, "No." You need my heart. Morning till evening was the night, evening was given to them—this is the absolute confidence and security that comes when you know you are in God's will and you heard clearly from God. That confidence.

Remember Elijah's confidence—first three and half years ago, "I who stand before God is telling you, until my word comes; no rain, no dew," that's the confidence: I have stood before God, I have heard from God clearly, then he comes, "Get all of them tomorrow to mount Carmel," gives them first choice and give them time till evening, and gives them extra time. "Should have been till afternoon and afternoon to evening is my time, 50-50—no, you take 90, no issues." "Can bring your best, no issues; can gather everybody, no issues; now, finish? Tired? All of you look weak, you lost to of blood, sit down now, it's my turn now."

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, So all the people came near to him.

That is how it all begins; you have to respond to them. We want fire, but we won't go near. We are like the children of Israel when fire came on the mountain, when the law was given, they saw the fire, they turn around and they ran for their lives but invitation of God is always the same: "Come near to Me" We have to be patient with the people and impatient with the prophets of Baal. We can't give up on people because the entire ministry is for people, we get them back to God—that's the whole purpose, God loves them, therefore I love them; it's not that I love them – God loves them! Therefore, I love them, and it doesn't matter; they are blinded, they are faltering between two opinions, they don't know what to do, and every time Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them—He saw the Pharisees, He was mad at them but He had compassion on the crowds, the multitudes, He looked at the people on the streets, He had compassion; they are lost, they are just lost. He says, "Come near to Me!" This is the invitation of God, "Come near to Me!" Please understand, this is important. We looked at the prophets of Baal, we looked at the prophets of God, you don't see the prophets of Baal inviting the people to anything because for them, this was about them, this was about power and money, this was about prestige, this was about fame—this was about them. For the prophet of God, this was about God, to bring the people to God, there is an invitation of God, "Come near Me!" You have to hear that, when you get into your prayer closet, you will hear.

Let's look at the invitations of God!

Matthew 11:28

The first invitation of Jesus Christ!

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Why does He call us to come near Him? To give us rest, not to give us work. The enemy calls you to him and gives you more work and more burden and more misery, and he makes you feel it was a good life, "LG—Life is Good!" that was the appliances Israel carried in desert, remember? They are sitting together there and talking, "Do you remember how it was in Egypt! We ate fish and meat and leek, garlic and onions at no price," now, narrative has changed, what's it? "We were the landlords; Egyptians were the slaves, they served us. Do you remember how we sat on that beach chair by river Nile and the Egyptians were giving us tandoori chicken, do you remember? At no price!" See, when you talk about your good old days, it should be only about the days when you were in school and before, after that—once you know what was good and evil, it was never good until you encountered Christ. I don't want to even remember those days—childhood? Yes! Fantastic! That's when you were innocent of evil. I don't even want to think about other days. Everybody talks about those good old days.

When He calls you; He calls you for rest, it's a spiritual rest. The thing is that: unless our spiritual eyes, and our spiritual senses are open, we will not experience that rest even when we go through that rest. Do you get it? You are wearing an asbestos suit; you can go through that fire and not feel that fire. In the same way, if your spiritual senses are closed, you can go through that rest and never experience that rest. Forty years: nobody could touch Israel, they were actually at rest, nobody experienced that rest—none was sick, none was weak and God said, "I carried you," but they didn't know it. And we don't realize, for so many Christians it is the same thing; He has carried us from 2019-2020, He will take us to 2021, but we experience no rest though He is carrying us. Everything the enemy could throw at us he did and God has brought us through every crisis, but we experience no rest, that is why God said—remember the important verse after *Matthew 6:33*? Verse 34 is important, verse 33 everybody knows, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you," but nobody does it, and verse 34...

Matthew 6:34

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

He says, “I promise rest for today, not for tomorrow. How can you rest for tomorrow? Tomorrow hasn’t come,” but we worry, and because we worry about tomorrow, we never have rest today. “Give us this daily bread,” what is the first thing? Rest! That’s why Jesus says, “You have to labour to enter into that rest,” and you labour early in the morning in your prayer closet, enter into the rest, the rest of the day is fine. What did you hear first in your prayer closet? You know what you hear? “You are not going to die today, I have ordained your day for you, go ahead, today is not the day, I have worked for you today.” ‘Thank You, Lord, I can do my work now because my works proceed from Your rest.’ **²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,**” that’s the first call and when we listen to that call and we desire to go to Jesus Christ—in *John 1:39*—when we desire to go to Christ Jesus, we hear the second call. He looked at them following Him and He said, “What do you seek?” and they said, “Where do you stay?”
The second invitation.

John 1:39

³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

What does it mean? The second call is to come, see His life and stay with Him, “Abide with Me, don’t just check-in and check-out, stay with Me!” They just stayed with Him for one day, and it was enough for Andrew to say, “I have found the Messiah.” You know why we always struggle with the King and the Kingdom? It is because we don’t stay with Him—Sunday morning we check-in, by afternoon we check-out. To check-in, of course, Sammy sends you the reminder, it comes on your phone “GTC live” and you check-in, then benediction over, we check-out, we don’t abide with Him but the invitation is, “Come and see.” Think about it! This is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the God of the universe, inviting us to come and see how He lives— “Come and see My life, come and stay, come and live with Me.” It’s an incredible invitation— “Not only that I will give you rest from all your labour, burden, everything; you can come and stay with Me.” The call of salvation is a call to a life not occasions, it is life. He didn’t say, “I have come to give you some miracles, I have come to give you some advice,” He says, “I have come to give you life; life in abundance.” Where do you get it? “If you abide in me, stay with me.” The first experience of the first set of disciples, two of them who followed was, to experience life with Jesus Christ. I don’t know what it was like, we don’t know what happened there, but one thing is that, they went out and said, “He is the Messiah,” Andrew went and told Peter, “I met the Messiah.” Once you have stayed with Him, you have experienced Him, the third invitation goes out—*John 7:37*.

The third invitation.

John 7:37

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”

It’s an invitation, but that’s not what we do—we don’t see Jesus like that; we see Him more like a vendor, it’s a vending machine, okay, and we see: Pepsi, sprite, coke, 7-up, all these things are there—we have our different thirsts, we are not thirsty for Jesus, we are thirsty for other things and we expect Him to quench our thirsts, supply it. He didn’t say, “Come to Me, I will give you drinks,” He said, “Come to Me and drink.” There is a difference, but our mind is that, “If I go to Him, He will give me my drink,” He is a bartender, and there are so many pastors like that—you know, I have seen bartenders in old timemovies; they can dance and mix a drink also. Have you seen pastors? They can mix, “Tell me what you want, I will give you, I will give you that, brother, I can mix it for you nicely,” but that’s not what He says, He says, “Come to Me and drink,

drink of Me.” The invitation is to drink of the Spirit of God, He is the river of life flowing from the Father’s throne.

This is the conversation between the Messiah, the seventh one, and the Samaritan woman; married five times, divorced, living with the sixth one, still unsatisfied, nobody to accompany her, she is still alone; and the seventh One comes into her life and says, “If you drink from this well, you will be always thirsty, but I tell you, the water which I give, if you drink, you will never be thirsty again, you will be satisfied.” You know why people are not satisfied? Shopping-shopping-shopping... eating-eating-eating... mind is always on these things—online shopping—amazon, he is getting richer and richer because we are feeding him. We have amazon-prime, we don’t have Jesus Prime.

He says, ***“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”*** This is an invitation of Jesus Christ. “Come and drink of Me. If you drink of the water that I give, you will never be thirsty again, you will be satisfied,” and if you look at it, it will very clearly say; He was talking about the Holy Spirit. You look at the subsequent verse, very clearly, He was talking about the Holy Spirit Who was not yet given because He had not been glorified yet. The Scripture says, *“Those who believe in Me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit* —what are you asked to drink of? The Holy Spirit. And then He says, “It will just overflow from your life.” Those who are contented in their spirit, out of them the Holy Spirit flows; and those who are discontented, out of their mouth only the world will flow and the world always brings discontented. These are two pictures. From Jesus’ mouth flows the Spirit of God; the devil also spews out a flood after the woman to consume her—the Church. Lies and deceptions, it only brings dissatisfaction and people are dissatisfied. God had given us such a beautiful opportunity of five months: “separate yourself from the world, spend time with Me, enjoy Me, you could have come out of it really, really contented—men and woman, children could have come out contented, ‘I have drunk of Jesus; I am thirsty for the world no more,’” otherwise, you will be thirsty, if you are not contented with that, you will be always thirsty for something else.

This is another call to good people.

Fourth invitation

Mark 10:21

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

He looks at so many young people, he is a young man, a righteous good man, He looks at him and says, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me,” He says, “There is one thing that is holding you back,” not two things, he doesn’t have two things, only one thing is holding him back. And ask yourself, “Are you that person who is holding that one thing back?” “Come, take up the cross and follow Me,” one thing is holding you back. It’s like the monkey with his hand in the vessel, one thing is holding him back—that banana. God is saying, “The banana or your life,” and he says, “banana.” It would have looked wonderful if verse 22 were to say, “He left everything and followed Him,” but he didn’t.

Just think about it—the call of God, how many good people have rejected it? How many good people rejected the call of God? Not bad people, good people—he is a good guy—you change the scene a little later, a bad guy who is also rich through ill-gotten wealth, his name is Zacchaeus—He said, “Come down, I am coming to your house.” Happy.

This is rich guy, a young guy and the other one is the old, rich guy, all his wealth was of evil means but he left everything. Will you accept this call? What is that one thing you are holding back? May be resentment, letting go of somebody in the past, that is your riches, riches is whatever you treasure, your mind is wherever your treasure is, what is on your mind most of the time? Will you just let go? “Come, pick up your cross and follow Me.” Sadly, that man turn around and walked away. These are all invitations of Jesus Christ.

Fifth invitation of Jesus Christ

This is for people who are genuinely following Jesus: they follow Jesus, they love Jesus, they serve Jesus, but the problem is; they are workaholics—not alcoholics—they are workaholics. To them, Jesus has something to say.

Mark 6:30-31

³⁰ Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

Very excited! “Lord, You know! Today’s ministry was great: we preached this, we did this, we preached this...” **Jesus said, “Come aside yourself to a deserted place and rest a while,”** “Come aside with Me, don’t let it go into your head. Don’t ever put your work you do for Me above your relationship with Me, don’t make that mistake.” And people don’t realize, most homes have collapsed—ultimately, the basic unit is home—most homes have collapsed because men and women put work ahead of relationship, and God never does it. So, you ask a man, “What do you think are the most important commandments?” Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind; love your neighbour as yourself,” on this hang the entire law. Like I keep telling—God didn’t create man primarily to work first—he had work, that’s God’s nature—but to relate to Him; to God first. Angels don’t relate, they are workers, they don’t relate like us. This is where we go wrong—Come aside! You have to make that choice every day to come aside by yourself to a deserted place—if you don’t have space, get into bathroom and shut the door, it’s a deserted place—especially, mothers with the small children—they will all stand outside the bathroom waiting for you, its okay. You need to set some time aside, otherwise we will get burnt out.

Work becomes misery, a drag, and you are not able to hear daily directions how to go ahead with it, and after some time, you know what happens? There is no satisfaction in your work, and all you can talk about is, “Yeah! I remember that time, it was really good!” but what about now? You know why? Because you didn’t come aside by yourself to a deserted place, you didn’t separate yourself unto God. It’s a different experience all together. The rules were very clear right from when Moses ordained Aaron and the sons, down to the sons of Zadok. Remember, in Ezekiel, God says, “When you come to minister before Me; no sweat, only linen clothes, no wool, nothing; just come there and minister before Me; when you go out, change your garments. When you come to Me, you come in rest, when you go out, there will be lot of works, but don’t take this there.” Your experience with God is very personal and to be valued, don’t relate to God and the man same way. God, You are awesome; honey, you are awesome—don’t. I am actually talking about words, it’s talking about how you relate; how you relate to God, and how you relate to man—don’t relate the same way. That’s when the danger happens. There is only one God and for you relate to Him, and to happen that, you have to come aside; don’t get excited about your works, it’s irrelevant, nobody knows the judgement about any one of our works, you will only know that day the weight of glory we have—sometimes, it will be two ounces, after forty years of ministry, two ounces, God says, “That is all,” ‘Lord, how can it be?’ He says, “It’s all you, it’s not about Me; it’s all about you.” Come apart with Jesus. And when you come apart with Jesus, look at what Jesus does.

John 21:12

¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord.

This is after resurrection, after showing Himself—they still go back discouraged, depressed, they go back fishing, they catch nothing. We all know the story. Jesus is at the shore, they are in the water, it is not clear. Jesus says, “Did you catch anything?” they said, “Nothing.” He says, “Put the net on the other side.” There is something about believers—believers who have been called by God, you try to do something else, you will catch nothing, you will be miserable, you will be empty, because that’s not what He called you for. This is

not about the world, this is about God's children and God's servants especially—you catch nothing, but at His Word when they put the net in, it was coming in, hundred and fifty-six fish or something they caught and Peter immediately recognized —it takes him all the way back to his first encounter, it is the Lord! And the others comes behind, he jumps in, swims across the brink; Jesus has the lit the fire, there is bread and there is fish. "Where did you get the bread from, Jesus? And where did you get the fish from?" basically, you know what God is telling? "I don't need you but I will use. I don't need your talents; but I will use your talents, I don't need your money; but I will use your money, I don't need your life; but I will use your life." And you know what? He has cooked for them, He says, "Dine with Me. Come, eat breakfast." Imagine, today's work timing, we would have preferred dinner but He never changes order. He says, "You begin with Me; you don't end with Me, you begin with Me and go through the day, you will have rest; come eat breakfast." We want to come tired after office and nodding-off, reading our Bible: "Lord, I am so tired, into Thy hands I lay myself," He says, "You don't..." You see another person chirpy through all the day, he is working, working: "Brother, what is the secret?" 'I had breakfast!' "You had breakfast! I also had breakfast." 'No, I had breakfast with the Lord.'

You do not know the very God who says, "Pray this way— 'Give me this day my daily bread,'" is also the One who cooks the bread for you, He makes your breakfast, "Just come, feed off Me, feed off My life." Why are you so tired? Why are you so worn-out? Nothing is going to change, things will only get worse, but you don't have to be depressed, you don't have to be burdened." He says, "You are tired out, and worn-out because you did not have breakfast with Me." Imagine: "Come and eat," I want to eat that fish more than that bread, I am Mallu; I will give that bread to my wife and I will eat that fish, we will share equally. Imagine their privilege, right? Think about God! He has never change, He makes breakfast for them.

Like I was telling, in the ancient system until electricity came and life started changing, people had an early supper/dinner by six o'clock; even those young days when we were growing up, everybody ate dinner very early, and those places, by four o'clock in the morning, the sun is up. So, if you have had your supper at 6 in the evening, and you have your breakfast in the morning at 6; 12 hours have gone by, that's why it is called 'break-fast,' breaking your fast. Imagine, you break your fast with Jesus and He cooks for you, He feeds you. So, this invitation is given when Elijah makes a call, "Come near me," it is to give them rest, it is to so that they would learn to abide with Him, it is so that they could come to Him and drink of Him, so that they could feed off Him because that's his experience—three and half years: "Did you have water?" 'No, we struggled,' he said, "I had no issue." 'Did you eat?' "Everyday." 'Where in Kerith? But there is no bread in Kerith!' "Yeah, but my bread came every day. He fed me from His table... and I was at Sidon." 'Sidon?! Ahab and Jezebel have been looking for you all these days. Where were you?' "Right under their nose." 'And did you eat?' "Yeah, I ate well." 'Why?' "Don't you know? It is written that 'He prepares a table for me in the wilderness in the presence of my enemies'." If your spiritual eyes were to be open, you would see our spiritual enemies, dark and diabolical creatures all around, every second wishing to destroy us but we are eating off His life, that's why we are not destroyed. "Come and have breakfast, come and eat off Me," He said.

When we have gone through these responses, then we will hear another one in *Matthew 25:34*,

Matthew 25:34

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

This is what we were talking yesterday, about inheritance— "The kingdom prepared for you." That's your inheritance. So, in that one invitation, "Come near," there are so many things hidden to it. What is He calling us to? "Come near!"

Let' go back to Elijah—*1 Kings 18:30*

1 Kings 18:30

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

The first thing we need to do is—he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down—this is the first step towards restoration. The altar is gone, our prayer altars are no longer there, altars are gone. Altar is the place where physical and the spiritual meet, whether it is demonic or divine, they all meet at an altar. What has happened is that—God’s altar is broken down and Baal’s altar is standing—did you notice? Baal’s altar was standing, they didn’t have to fix, it’s already standing over there, they didn’t have to worry about Baal’s altar. And honestly, if believers were to look into their hearts, you will see Baal’s altar is standing. Like I said, it’s not that you did not wake up in the morning; it’s that you did not go to God, you went somewhere else, to the god of this world; those things took your attention, took the best of you. And lot of people will wait till they get retire to serve God, meaning: they gave their best to Baal. Daniel begins as a young man by giving best to his God: “I will not defile myself; I will keep my best for you, Lord.” If you have wasted your life, it doesn’t matter, don’t worry, your time starts now: “If any man is in Christ Jesus, he is a new person, the old has passed away,” you have a fresh start today, today you decide, “I will repair my altar, I will repair my altar.” And it is important, you don’t skirt God’s methods, do not skirt God’s ways. In *Psalms 103:7*, it says...

Psalms 103:7

⁷ He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

That is God’s ways—don’t change His ways, don’t make do shortcuts, “Lord! I am waiting for this!” He says, “You will keep waiting for this. My way is this; first fix your altar.” Remember Moses praying this prayer years earlier: “Show me Your ways.” And God said, “My presence shall go with you and I will give you rest.” So, only in His way, we experience His presence, and in His presence, there is rest. And the first thing—this is revival plan 4.0, there is no other way; if you want revival in your personal life, it starts with personal life because we are all individuals. We may have five people in our home, but it doesn’t mean the Spirit of God will fall upon all five because only one may be ready—one may be ready to repair the altar, and the Scripture says, “First thing they did was repair the altar.” The altar is where you encounter God, it’s a place of significance because that’s where you encountered God. Do you remember when Noah came out of the ark after lockdown? There were many lockdowns in the Bible; Noah was locked down with seven people/his family, for months together, locked down from the entire world; whole world was destroyed, ark came to rest, Noah came out and the first thing he does is, he builds an altar and he offered a sacrifice and it was by smelling that sacrifice God said, “Okay, I will not destroy the whole world by water again.”

You know why God made that covenant? And the LGBTQ community stole that covenant which is not theirs—the rainbow—you know why He made that covenant? Because one man when he received the mercy of God, chose to worship first. That’s why God made a covenant on which we still stand—one thing we know, the world is not going to be destroyed by water, it’s by fire—you know why? Because one man made an altar and worshipped. Altars are powerful! God saw that man’s altar, God saw that man’s sacrifice, and He made a covenant with mankind. Think about it! You know why? Because he built an altar. You know about Abraham—*Genesis 12:7*, after tarrying, halting between two opinions for many years in Haran—two opinions: “Should I follow God or should I follow daddy?” Daddy won and he is stuck in, and this is what happens. There are two things which you have to be careful about flesh: flesh that pulls you and flesh that follows you. When God has asked you to leave, leave both. Terah pulled him; Lot followed him. It will cost him. Caught between two opinions—finally, Terah is dead, Abraham hears, he moves into the Promise Land and as soon as he enters into the Promise Land, Scripture says, “The Lord appeared to Abraham and said....”

Genesis 12:7

⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Immediately, He appears, meaning: it’s a sacred place. In the New Covenant, we don’t need sacred places; we have sacred times. Jesus had a sacred time and wherever He was, He would look for a deserted place, His formula was: “I don’t want to disturb anybody because I am going to worship, I am going to pray, I am

going to cry out to My Father; and I don't want to be disturbed by anybody." He always found a solitary place, that became a sacred place. Oh, I wish when the rapture and everything takes place, the angels will come and show us, "You know, this is where your Lord worshipped on this day, this place in Israel, this place in... Everybody goes to Jerusalem, let me show you sacred places; these are all sacred palaces, this is where He used to pray in the days of His flesh, these are all marked by angels, God prayed to God here." We don't need sacred places, we have sacred times, we have an altar. And that's how Abraham's beginning in the Promise Land begins; it begins with an altar. 1-5,6 is almost about the blessings and everything, then he comes into the Promise Land, God meets him there and he builds an altar, and after that you will see his life is defined by altars.

Now we can hear all these things and become very casual about it, but the question we have to ask is, "Is your life defined by altars? How will you survive what is coming if you don't have an altar? How will you have the fire of God unless you fix the altar?" The first thing he does there is, he fixes the altar. The first thing you seen in Abraham's life in the Promise Land is, he builds an altar. You see, we need to build an altar—why is it important to have an altar is this: it's not that the altar will make us perfect; it is because imperfect people will have place to come back where they will be made right again. We will never be perfect until we put away this tent, but we know in imperfections we can come and meet our perfect God every day. After that you will see famine in the land, he goes to Egypt, he messes up like no man, sells his wife to the Pharaoh, goes rich and God had to supernaturally intervene, he comes out of Egypt, he must have put his head down in shame, everything... and next, chapter 13, verse 4 says the difference.

Genesis 13:4

⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Sheepish Abraham, repentant Abraham; he came to that place between Ai and Bethel where he had built his first altar. He had goofed up big time but he comes back to the altar, puts it right. The altar is not just a place where we encounter God, the altar is a place where God encounters us and puts us right where we have failed—there is only one place, there is only one person who can put us right, it is God. And then, he receives the purpose of his life—Lot is gone, all flesh is gone, now it is just him, Sarah and the multitude that is with him. "We shall walk the land," we sing that song—it was told to Abraham. As soon as he gets his purpose, he builds his third altar, or his next encounter, he moves to Mamre.

Genesis 13:18

¹⁸ Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the Lord.

That's where God will visit him and say, "Come, have dinner or lunch." He builds his third altar.

Genesis 26:25

²⁵ So he built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

Look at the order! You do the other way—people dig a well first, get some water, then build an altar; meaning: we will get a job and then worship God—he worshipped God and got a job. You see, even I don't need any reason to worship God; He is worthy to be worshipped, that's the difference. He built an altar, pitched his tent, and then they dug a well. It's interesting, right? There is an altar, there is a tent and there is a well—but that's not how we do—first, we dig a well, we got water, let's pitch our tent, and then after that, let's build an altar also, otherwise God will get mad. We think our God is like the Canaanite God who gets always mad. But not the man of God—first he builds an altar, he pitches the tent, "You know what! Whatever happens, I am going to stay close to God," then dig for a well. Get the ways of God! Learn it from the ways of godly man. All these people, their lives were defined by altars. Altars matter! Our altars matter!

Years later, Jacob will run from his father's house because his brother is planning to kill him, so his mother makes excuse: "Go to my brother's house and come back later, go." Scripture says, "He was in the wilderness, same place where his father had built his altar, same area; and he is in the wilderness, sun has set, it is dark, poor fellow—I don't know how his mother sent him, he did not have anything to keep in his head, he puts a stone on his head and slept on it as a pillow. Think for a minute—what is under his head? Stone. You know what God had said? "Earth shall be under iron and heaven shall be brass" —that's the way it should have been for Jacob: stole, lied, ran. What made the difference? I believe it was the stone, I believe that stone was one of the stones that had fallen from the altar his grandfather had built and encountered. Next thing he knows is: Heaven is open and God is speaking to him and had never spoken to him before.

This is what Paul tells to Timothy, "The faith that was in your grandmother which was passed on to your mother is in you." How do parents leave a spiritual inheritance? By having a vibrant prayer altar in their life. "You don't worry, you have an altar where you have met God, because you have met God in the altar, you know your children and your grandchildren are secure because you have met Him there, and He has given you a promise about generation after generation, generation after generation; you will always have someone in your remnant who will be faithful to me because I will not forget your devotion. I will be merciful towards a thousand generations of those who love me."

Instead, we wake them up early in the morning, take them for cricket coaching, music coaching, hockey coaching, everywhere, we don't spend our time at the altar for them. Finally, Genesis 33 and verse 20...

Genesis 33:20

²⁰ Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

This is Jacob—Jacob's life is also full of altars. Question God is asking us today is, "Are you faltering between two opinions?" The thing is that: as long as you halt between two opinions, you receive nothing from God as a double minded person receives nothing from God, he may receive from Baal and say it is from God but he is not receiving it from God.

First: be single minded. To be single minded, the way is to take a step towards God. Every step you take towards God is a step away from the world. "Come near me! Come near me!" it's a step toward God. What is happening is: your opinion is now converging, you are becoming one in your mind, you are leaving something and moving towards something, you are making a choice—it could be as simple as switching the channels—carnal to spiritual; changing your music to listen from carnal to spiritual; may be simple things like Daniel, changing your eating habits; spiritual decision, changing how you dress. God created sex, He didn't created people to be sexy; no, that's not from God, that's from devil. If you look through the Bible and look through the history to know what is God's dress code, it is modesty always. That's God's dress code. You can wear whatever you want, but be sure it is modest in God's eyes, not man's eyes. Man may say you are modest, today—there are some people around the streets, they may look modest according to today's culture but prostitutes used to wear that 20-years ago. Culture doesn't define these things; God does.

So, when you take one step towards God, let God tell you where He wants you to take that step. You leave something and move towards something, and then you repair your altar, altar that has broken down. Family altars have broken down, altar of Baal is there and that table is empowered by demons; Jezebel's table is full of guests, 850 people eat there, God's prophets are hiding in caves and have to be fed bread and water; another main man, raven has to bring him food; Jezebel's prophets are all fed well, fat. God is asking this question to us: "Will we repair our altar?" Move towards God, listen to that cry: "Come, come near Me." You need an altar. You know why you need an altar? As I close,

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

How can you have a sacrifice without an altar? Sacrifice demands an altar, every sacrifice demands an altar, every sacrifice demands fire. God says, "I am asking you to be a living sacrifice." That's the bush that is burning and yet, it is not consumed. He says, "Do you have an altar? Did you repair your altar?" "Yes Lord, my altar is ready. What shall I offer?" "Yourself." "But Lord, how can I?" "I did that for you, I offered up My Son on the altar for you. He died, but you don't have to die, you are called to live. He died for you, so that you would live for Him." A living sacrifice! Please remember that, that doesn't change. Your altar can be anywhere, it's a sacred place. No edict of any king can stop that. Daniel's bedroom was his altar and when the king said: "You cannot pray," he went and offered his daily sacrifice.

This morning we have heard a few things, it's a spiritual battle. Unless we deal—we look at Ahab and Jezebel in the spiritual form later how it works, and you need to realize that's the most powerful force that is operating now, destroying families, cultures, everything; spirit of Jezebel and Ahab working, you have to be very-very careful about it, you have to confront the prophets of Baal, otherwise it is not going to change. If you don't fight this spiritual battle, people will not turn back to God, there has to be a true spiritual encounter with powers of darkness, because they are not stopping, they are not stopping, they are cutting themselves, shedding blood, crying, shouting, leaping, day and night. Yesterday it was very special for them because it was new moon, rituals were happening, so many children would have died yesterday, blood would have been shed like crazy. Who has the power to stop it? The church! This is my prayer: the church should get so on fire for God and pray that they would be afraid to go to their altars because the terror of the Lord would strike upon them and innocent lives would be saved. You have to fight this battle, you win there; you win here, you lose there; you lose here, and God is not going to do anything because He says, "I have given you everything that you need, you have the power, you have My Word, I have given you My authority and I have told you to put Me first." Change your perspective. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, prepare that altar, put God first. Amen!

Closing prayer:

Father, this morning we just come to You, Lord. We look to You, Lord, this has to be received individually, only You can light this fire. In the day of Pentecost, they were gathered in one place, in one accord, hundred and twenty, but today, the edicts of governments, the church has been isolated and separated, we cannot gather in one place, yet we can be in one accord through Your Spirit, and through Your Word and wherever we are—different nations, different towns, different homes, we can build our altar again. You said the fat should be forever offered to the Lord, our best. I pray Father, during this season, homes will start building their altars again and early in the morning, people will be found at the altar offering themselves in prayer, in praise and proclamation and then come out and find that the burden is light, the walk is easy, because we entered into His rest, gave Him our best and when we come into that altar, we find He was there before us; the fire is lit, the bread is ready, breakfast is there, and we hear Him say: "Come, dine with Me!" You are the Giver, forever Giver, even when we go there to give You, we see that You are already there to give us.

Oh, help us to know, Lord, no one ever has lost giving his life to Christ, never, never Lord! For You are no man's debtor. The Baals and the Baphomet just take and eat and leave beside misery, confusion and death. But my God comes to give life, a life in abundance—at His table every day, there is life and you call us: "Come, dine with Me, drink off Me," and Your Word ends by saying, "If anyone is thirsty, come, drink freely." The bride says: "Come, Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!"

Let the call go out to the ends of the earth, the wedding feast is ready, the banqueting table is ready, there is a call going from the Lord to the ends of the world, "Come! Come!" All of the universe has waited for this hour, the call is coming, "Come! Come!" Don't tarry anymore, don't delay anymore, wherever You are in Your homes, just bend down Your knee to God now. If You have never surrendered to God before, this is your hour, this is an altar call. If You are a father, You can kneel before God, a mother, children, if You are alone in a hostel room, wherever You are, take this call. I don't see you but God sees you, take a call: "Lord, I heard, I am coming back Lord. Like the Prodigal son, I am sick and tired of this world, sick Lord, sick, I am coming back

to You. In my Father's house, even the servants are fed well, they have plenty, while I am hungry, miserable. Lord, if my soul were to be seen, it is so lean, the bones of my soul are sticking out, You can count the ribs, Lord, I am famished, Lord, the front of my stomach is sticking to the back, that's how famished I am! Yes, there is money in the account; yes, the wardrobe is full; yes, there is food packed in the fridge but Lord, the state of my soul only You see, I am dry, I am famished. I am coming back to You, Lord, I am coming back, meet me. I know You are faithful, if You say, 'Draw near to Me,' You also promised, 'I will draw near to you.' Cleanse me, Lord, wash me, fill me. The rest of my life, I want to walk with You, I am tired of company of flesh, I want to be in Your company, I want to be in the company of Your people. Today is a new day, Lord, let Your fire fall and consume everything that stands between You and me; everything in my life, whatever it is, doesn't matter how long it has been there, how precious it was all these years, consume it, let it go, Lord, because Your fire removes only bondage, it doesn't consume the holy." Daniel's three friends went into the fire bound, came out free; those who walk through Your fire will only experience the liberty of Your Holy Spirit. We come to the altar, Lord, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice and say, "Lord, we hold back nothing, take us, use us for Your glory." Thank You, Father, thank You, Lord, thank You! We just thank You! We just praise You! We just worship You! We just glorify You, Lord. Thank You, thank You, thank You, Lord. Into Thy hands, Lord, we commit ourselves; we are safe there, Lord. Thank You, Father. We give You praise; we give You honour, it's all Yours and Yours alone. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Benediction

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