

## Four Lessons From Daniel's Life!

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*Father, this evening, we just come to You, we just thank You, we just praise You, we just worship You once again Lord, with our life itself, Lord. We thank You for this place, we thank You for giving us this freedom, the time, the opportunity to come together in Your Name. Now, as we go to the ministry of the Word, I pray, Father, that You speak to us Lord. Teach us continuously that we may stand fast in faith all the days of our life and our faith growing stronger and stronger as time passes that we receive more and more grace, for Your Word says "...where sin abounds, grace will abound more." We need that grace in our life, Lord. Speak, Father. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

A great man of God who passed away, I forgot his name, said when a man of God preaches, the pulpit should be so high and so broad that only his voice should be heard and he should not be seen. That prophecy has been fulfilled here!

The first verse from today is from *Acts 6:4*, when there was a situation in Jerusalem in the Church, but leaving the context beside; this is what the apostles and the leadership in the Church said,

### **Acts 6:4**

***<sup>4</sup> but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.***

The early Church is prioritising life into two components, which is true for the leadership, which is true for everybody. One is prayer and the other is Word, or Word and prayer. They are prioritising life into two major components from out of which will flow everything else. Next, we go to *2 Corinthians chapter 3* –

### **2 Corinthians 3:13-17**

***<sup>13</sup> unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. <sup>15</sup> But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. <sup>16</sup> Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.***

The Bible here talks about what we have been hearing about, grace, law and truth. What is similar about both the law and truth is that both are the Word of God. So, the text is the same, text is not different. The problem with the law is that as long as you read Moses, the Old Covenant, and a person has not really turned to Christ and the Spirit of God has not come, the veil covers. But when a person turns to Christ and the Holy Spirit comes, if you read verse 17, "*Now the Lord is the Spirit...*" Turning to Christ means turning to the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit. The Lord is a Spirit, and *where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*. So, when you turn to the Spirit, and you rely upon the Spirit, to read the Word of God, the veil is lifted. Otherwise, the veil is not lifted. It still covers our eyes and we see the Word only as the law. The apostles are talking about the ministry of the Word and prayer both. If you go to *Ephesians chapter 6* and verse 18, Paul will say –

### **Ephesians 6:18**

***<sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints***

So even there in the prayer life, we need the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit does not come, actually the veil does not lift. We pray like the Jews prayed in the Old Covenant. It is the Spirit that changes our prayer life. Please understand, the Holy Spirit has to come. Otherwise, the veil will cover our prayer life also because we do not know what to pray for. In *Ephesians 1* and verse 17, Paul will say –

### **Ephesians 1:17**

***<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him***

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It is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. It is the Spirit that changes the Word completely. It is the Spirit that changes our prayer life and our Word life. Otherwise, remember in the Old Covenant they also had prayer, and they had the Word. But whenever they read it or they prayed, there was a veil that covered them because it is the Spirit that changes everything. So we learn from the Old Testament from the lives of people. Technically there are so many we can learn from. But today we will be primarily learning from one Old Testament character connected with Word and prayer, because the New Testament is primarily the unveiling. As long as you read Moses the veil covers your eyes and law is in your mind, and you read the Word of God only through the eyes of the law. So, you always are under condemnation, because the law only condemns, it does not help anybody. But Scripture says "In Christ, the veil is taken away..." So, we turn first to *Daniel 1* and we will read from verses 3 to 5, we are reading the context –

### **Daniel 1:3-5**

***<sup>3</sup> Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, <sup>4</sup> young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup> And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.***

So, if you look at the context, it is the same for everybody. All the young people sitting over here, the context is the same. This is not a spiritual context. These boys are not in some Bible college or seminary. They are right there in the world. The context is absolutely secular. Not even secular, it is a pagan, religious setting, but for the secular service of the king. It is not a kingdom setting, it is not a Bible college, it is not a Christian school, it is not GTLC, and it is not even a Christian country where you are studying in school or college, none of these. The setting is absolutely worldly. Okay? A young man like any one of you out there looking at good career prospects. He got the break of his life in a career situation. But if you read from there, the next 12 chapters, in all the 12 chapters the context is spiritual. Though the context where it begins is secular, the 12 chapters are primarily spiritual about how the Kingdom of God affects the lives of children. So we will look at four spiritual disciplines young Daniel had in the world. In a secular, worldly, carnal setting which Daniel had, which God is teaching us about the unveiling that how it will help us. So first we turn to Daniel chapter 6. By the time you have come to chapter 6, Daniel is an old man - he is not a young man, he is an old man. If you read verse 10, this is when the decree is passed that nobody can pray for 30 days –

### **Daniel 6:10**

***<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.***

So, first thing you learn here connected with the verse is that from his childhood, maybe even before coming to Babylon, right from childhood he had a discipline - which is called the discipline of prayer. This is the first thing we see about Daniel - the reason behind Daniel standing through all 12 chapters. Forget his secular success. He was successful in the secular realm too. But that is up to God. But spiritually he was very successful. In the age of captivity, he was an incredibly spiritually successful person, more than anybody else. Nehemiah or Ezra or Esther – you pick anybody over there. In the Babylonian captivity, he was the most spiritually successful person over there. One of the first spiritual thing you see in him as a young person is that he had a discipline of prayer. If you come to Daniel chapter 9, turn a couple of pages and come to chapter 9 and read verses 1 and 2 –

### **Daniel 9:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.***

The second thing we see is that though he is a very busy man, he is a satrap in charge of 120 states. India has only around 30 states. There were 120 states, stretching all the way from India to Jerusalem. His priority was studying the Word of God. He has a discipline of prayer and he has a discipline of the Word. He is studying Jeremiah's scrolls. I do not know from

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where he got his hand on that scroll, but he has copy, and he is studying the Word. So you see two disciplines he has. He has a discipline of prayer and a discipline of studying the Word. I can tell you they started early. You do not get this discipline at the age of 80, specially the discipline of studying the Word of God. You do not get it at 80, you have to start it early. Specially to study the scrolls of Jeremiah and all, you have to start very early to understand and figure it out. So there are two important disciplines in the Kingdom of God – a New Testament revelation through a character in the Old Testament. First is prayer as a discipline and second study of the Word as a discipline. We all are very familiar with Romans 12 verse 1 –

### **Romans 12:1**

***1“...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”***

The first question is “For what?” The answer is - for the discipline of prayer and the discipline of reading the Word of God. All the parents with small children, you start with them straight up. They do not have to understand what they are praying. Discipline is something else. If you ask any of these little children – Emmie or Joanna or anyone of them – “Do you understand why you brush your teeth?” They were taken to a dentist and given a video presentation of what happens. No, they are just told to do it. It is a discipline. Just do it. So, they have to learn the discipline of reading the Word of God and a discipline of praying. It is a discipline. You start very early until it becomes part of your nature, part of your character so that you can carry it forward. Revelation will come later. There is no point of giving revelation to people who have no discipline, because it will be like Samson. He has revelation but no discipline and then, ultimately, he is destroyed. Okay? Discipline of the prayer and discipline of the Word – start inculcating when you are young because you do not know. Yesterday I was hearing, in so many countries people are not able to meet like this. I heard yesterday that all the Churches in Singapore are not allowed to meet. So, the pastors are preaching to them via video online because of the Coronavirus. So suddenly everything has changed. You are not able to gather. You see the videos coming in from Shanghai and Beijing – the mega cities streets are empty, markets are empty, colleges are closed, schools are closed, shopping malls are all empty. The same thing will happen here if the virus hits here. The government will shut down everything. In quarantine, people will not be allowed to go out and in. And further you go, it's interesting. Another one which I was watching was that – in all these big cities in Australia, Sydney, Melbourne – all these cities have an area which is called China Town and that's where the Chinese leave and the restaurants are famous. Now, all the China Town restaurants in Australia are empty. People don't go there to eat because they are scared that some Chinese have come from MainLand and is there and he has got Corona Virus, which could be true. So, the economy of the Chinese people, it doesn't matter which part of the world you are in, it's very badly being affected. There're a lot of preachers even in this city who are preaching, “Just read *Psalm 91* over you and the Corona Virus won't affect you.” It's bunk up, okay. It doesn't work like that. Because you need to understand in *Ezekiel 21:3-4*, when God says, “When I draw My sword out of My sheath, both the wicked and the righteous will perish.” You need to understand Scripture.

I was teaching in another Church and I was saying – if you don't want to perish in famine, in pestilence and in war, if you don't want to perish, there is only way you cannot perish. Know your purpose. You cannot be killed before your purpose and if you are a righteous Christian with no purpose, you will die in famine because God doesn't have any reason to keep you alive. He would say, “Come home any way.” You don't have to be afraid of death. So, famine hit David. Pestilence hit David. War hit David. David could not die. Scripture says, “He fulfilled God's purpose in his generation and then, he died.” And all these things were hit during his regime. So, please understand why we study Scripture so that we understand God's purpose. “Lord, this is my purpose. You have revealed to me my purpose and I'm aiming towards fulfilling Your purpose.” To understand purpose, there are two foundational disciplines you need in life – one is the study of the Word; the other is the discipline of prayer. These are two foundational disciplines you need, if you want to realize God's purpose in your life and fulfil it in your life. You will need these two. So, we are basically looking at the Kingdom of God. We are not looking at the Kingdom of God. So, you will see – Daniel, he is not beginning to pray or read or study the Word because there is a problem in his life. That's what most Christians do. When they have problem, they are immediately looking, “Give me a promise. Please give me a word.” They start praying. No. Good times, bad times and all times, he had a discipline of praying and studying the Word of God. The problems were irrelevant in his life. He had this discipline and we learn from these incredible people who lived thousands of years ago. They did not have the Spirit. So, the Spirit literally did not speak to them but they had spiritual disciplines which were from the Kingdom of God. So, that discipline is what we are trying to inculcate. Like I said, that was his priority. Though he was one of the busiest man in the Kingdom because kings don't do anything, primarily. They hand it over to people who can actually govern. If you think the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitaram

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is sitting with figures, she is not. It's all prepared by the bureaucrats. And she finally, overall, has to understand what is happening. If you think Prime Minister Modi is sitting there and is working out administration, he is not. It is the IAS officers and the collectors and the IPS – they are the ones who run the country. So, the king has 120 satraps. The 120 satraps will have 1200 below them. It's a chain that works like that but they report to these three and these three, report to the king. So, he's an incredible busy man but he has prioritized the Kingdom of God in his life. He has a discipline of prayer and discipline of the Word.

In *Psalm 55:15*, another busy man. This is the king. This is what he says,

### **Psalm 55:17**

***<sup>17</sup> Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.***

Who is this? King David. Evening, morning and noon-time because for the Jewish calendar, the day begins from evening to evening. So, he says, "Evening, morning and noon time." Why should a king pray three times a day? Don't you have anything else to do? That's he. Evening and morning. He was king David. He had great responsibilities and he is saying, "Evening, morning and noon time, I will pray." He had a discipline of prayer. So, though he stumbled, he could always rise back because he had two disciplines in his life – one is the discipline of prayer and the other is the discipline of the Word.

### **Psalm 119:23-24**

***<sup>23</sup> Princes also sit and speak against me, But Your servant meditates on Your statutes. <sup>24</sup> Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors.***

"Your testimony, Your Word, Your law are my counselors and my delight." So, here's another man who's got the discipline of prayer and the discipline of the word. Why is this important? Because it is got to do with choices. Life is ultimately full of choices and we are, whatever we are and at whatever stage we are the sum total of the choices we make. On average man, they calculated, makes around five thousand choices each day. From the time you open your eyes to whether you want keep them open. We've already made three to four thousand choices we've already made. Now to make choices you and I need information. In almost all knowledge that Daniel acquired in the King's college, University and the royal academy is temporary, is human, but what he received from God what was spiritual and eternal. We need both. We need to go to school, study and understand a lot. But there is something that is temporary, the world and that knowledge is passing away. Like Dr. Richard if he wants to be a doctor in heaven, he will have no job, because there is no sickness there. He'll be jobless there. So, it's good. In this world medicine is an incredible knowledge and career, but in heaven, you'll be jobless. So, while you pursue medicine and you pursue God's kingdom and His knowledge. So, what we ultimately, eternally and temporarily need is the knowledge of God which comes through the word and prayer. It is spiritual and it is eternal. Then second thing when you look at his word life and prayer life. If you go to,

### **Daniel 9:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup>In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— <sup>2</sup>in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.***

This is actually from *Jeremiah 29:10*. He studied. He found seventy years are given for your people and after that, but the question is now, by the time you come to this point, Daniel is a very old man. And he's reached the pinnacle of his career and he's not going back Jerusalem. He'll never go back to Jerusalem. Yet, he's studying and praying for the sake of others not for himself.

### **Daniel 9:3**

***<sup>3</sup> Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.***

"Daniel, why should you do all this? Are you going back to Jerusalem?" "No." "Does Jerusalem destiny change your life?" "No." So, the next question God asks is: do you have a discipline of prayer and study of the word which is selfless? We pray because it benefits. We study the Word of God because it benefits us. But Daniel's discipline of prayer and the study of the word was never for himself. The second discipline, first you inculcate the discipline of studying the word and praying and

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second you go further deeper and find out, what is the nature of your prayer? Is it selfless? Is it selfless? Is the study of the word for self or you are doing it even if you may not need it? You primarily don't need it. Look at his prayer in verses 4-6.

### **Daniel 9:4-6**

***<sup>4</sup>And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup>we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. <sup>6</sup>Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.***

Never in the prayer will he say, 'They have.' He'll always say we have. So, if you look at the prayer, the tone of his prayer, his study, everything is connected with outside himself. It's not for him. We do a lot of stuff which is for our own benefit. The question is: how selfless are we in our pursuit of a discipline of studying the Word of God and a life of prayer for others. How do we approach the word? Because if we approach the word with self the veil is very rarely lifted. One of the reasons people really struggle with the veil. They read the Word of God but the veil is never lifted where it becomes living, where it becomes revelatory is because they're approaching the living Word of God with self. Read verses 20-23.

### **Daniel 9:20-23**

***<sup>20</sup>Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup>yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.***

It's interesting! He's praying in secret and we hear about a God who sees in secret. We know this only because he was told to write or whoever the scribe was told to write otherwise you would have never known what he was praying for. But there's a God who sees in secret. Like I said, "they don't have the Holy Spirit in them who gives them revelation." So, what is being sent? The angel Gabriel has been told to go swiftly answer a prayer.

***<sup>22</sup>And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.***

I have come to give you revelation. You read something. You don't understand something. You saw something and you don't understand it. Imagine how much more blessed we are we have the spirit of God within us who can give revelation. He did not have it, yet he fasted and prayed and the Lord sends an angel because of the nature of his prayer and the nature of his study.

***<sup>23</sup>At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved...***

You are greatly beloved. It's incredible. Nobody knows you. Nobody sees you. But you have a prayer life and a word life. You're not studying for yourself. You're studying to understand God, His kingdom and His people. And God says "You know what, I see you and you're greatly beloved in heaven, because I see your word life and your prayer life and you're selfless." There's no self here. There's no selfishness here. You're an unselfish person and you're greatly beloved.);

***...therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:***

Jesus actually tells us the New Covenant people, when the Holy Spirit comes He will guide you into all truth. So we have a guide, who will guide us into all truth. We don't need a Gabriel to come. We have the Holy Spirit whom Jesus said about, He will come and He will teach you. In 1 John 2:27, this is what it says.

### **1 John 2:27**

***<sup>27</sup>But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.***

If you abide in Him and the anointing abides in you, the anointing – it's again talking about the Holy Spirit, the anointing of the Holy Spirit will teach us all things – even about prayer and how to pray and about the word. The question is: are we interested? So, we are without excuse. We have an old covenant man who did not have the Holy Spirit to teach him constantly, going into fasting and prayer to understand the word and God sends him angels to understand the revelation. God says, "You New Covenant children you have My own very Spirit, do you have first the discipline of prayer and the study of the Word of God?" two: in your discipline of prayer and the study of the Word of God, how selfless are you? Are you selfish? Daniel was beloved because he was selfless. Me, my wife and our two children, we four and no more! How selfless are we in our prayer life and our word life? Are we carefully studying the areas of the word which is connected to our problems, how to find promises to escape or overcome this? It's a very selfish study of the Word of God. It's a study of the Word of God, better than not studying the Word of God, but at the core it is still a selfish study of the Word of God. If you look at the crowds gathered in Churches you'll see the entire teaching of the Word of God is directed towards the flesh, how you can prosper, how you can get healed, how you can do well, your best life now. It's all directed at the flesh. Therefore, the study of the Word of God is also connected with the flesh. The first thing, we start this early, the discipline of studying the Word of God and a discipline of prayer. From there, graduate where you study the Word of God and prayer which is selfless. You're not studying for yourself. You're not studying for yourself. You're primarily studying to know God and the will for His people and then when you understand your prayer life also changes. You're not praying for yourself but you are identifying yourself with the entire body of Christ and your prayer life is connected with that though you may not require that prayer at all. You're a satrap. The king actually wants to make you number two. You got a palace and you got hundreds of servants to take care of you. You're probably a eunuch. That means you probably don't even have a family. You're totally carefree, yet you fast and you pray and you study the Word of God, probably more than anyone in the Babylonian empire. What a man! Right? What a man! So everything is evaluated by God in the context in which we are placed. Two men may pray at the same time but the context may be completely different. One man is fasting for 21 days because he's going through hell. Another man is fasting for 21 days when he's not going through anything and praying for others. One man outwardly you'll see weeping and crying because of his troubles. Another man you'll see weeping and crying in sackcloth because of others. Context matters to God. There's a God who sees in secret and He says, "Daniel you are well beloved." Those are the first two. Now go to the third one. Please understand this: very seriously selflessly start studying the Word of God and praying. It is war. It is spiritual warfare. Both the study of the Word of God and prayer is spiritual warfare, because flesh fights the spirit and the spirit contends against the flesh. And Jesus made is very clear. If you really come into the Word of God like Daniel then you will realize that My word is spirit. The flesh profits nothing. If the flesh is not going to profit anything from the ministry of the Word of God and prayer, it will fight you. It will see that you don't listen, you don't concentrate and when you go out you forget it and by the time you reach your room you're not interested at all to do your homework or read your notes. Your flesh will fight you, because this is a spiritual battle. It's a spiritual battle. It's a battle. Every day, it's a battle because the flesh profits nothing. To have a disciplined study life, long discipline of studying the Word of God, and prayer which will actually need to revelations and vision that means it was war for him all the days of his life. Paul will say in Ephesians 6:12, we know very well. We do not fight flesh and blood, but principalities powers rulers, but we are fighting our own flesh in real spiritual warfare. So the minute you really get into the study of the Word of God without self getting involved over there or prayer, remember you have to contend the powers of darkness. That's why you struggle. That's why you run out of words and you fall asleep. And you need to understand this is not normal, because you realize if I were to fall asleep by the time I speak for five minutes in prayer, if that is the norm I should be falling asleep whenever wherever I speak for five minutes. But you realize you don't. If I fall asleep and lose attention and lose track of mind whenever I read the Word of God then I should lose my track of mind whenever I read anything. But you don't. If I lose concentration when I listen to the Word of God for five or ten minutes and if that is the norm then I should be losing my attention whenever I'm listening to anything whether it's on youtube or any tube. But the fact is that you don't, so it's a battle. It's a spiritual battle. It's not normal, it's a spiritual battle. So we realize and we have to realize that it's a spiritual battle. And be prepared to fight it out all the days of your life. Look at,

### **Daniel 10:2-3**

***<sup>2</sup>In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. <sup>3</sup>I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.***

Why? Because he saw something and he didn't understand what he saw. It was from God and he didn't understand anything. So, he went on a three-week fast. Imagine you read something in the word and you know this is important and

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you know this is touching your heart, but you don't understand it. Imagine going on a fast to understand it. He went on a three-week fast and it's a battle. Look at verse 4.

### **Daniel 10:4**

***<sup>4</sup>Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month...***

The answer came only on the 24<sup>th</sup> day. It took him 24 days to understand something he had seen which he didn't understand. In our context, it's something we read or hear and we don't understand. Then what happens?

***...as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris***

That's when Gabriel comes. Now, read verses 12 and 13. This is Gabriel speaking.

### **Daniel 10:12-13**

***<sup>12</sup>Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God (In fasting and prayer), your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days...***

For one person to understand a revelation of something God had shown him, there's a battle going on in heaven to stop the revelation from coming to him. This is the principality, the prince over the Babylonian empire. We heard that we don't fight against flesh and blood but against principalities, that is the highest order of demonic angels under satan, the prince – principality. Can you imagine? Do you think studying the Word of God is easy? You think hearing from God is easy? It's not war. You know how difficult it is to study your own subjects. The teachers have to war with you. It is a battle even for earthly carnal subjects, temporary subjects. Imagine what a battle it is to understand the Word of God and he's an old man selflessly battling it out until he receives the answer. And on 24<sup>th</sup> day the answer comes and Scripture says, "This is a battle." On the first day itself, you were heard. What does it mean? All these days I was stopped from giving you the revelation. And read on.

***...and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me...***

Gabriel was stopped by the principality over Babylon. It was like a tug of war, nobody was winning. So, Michael the prince over Israel had to come. So, it took two archangels to defeat the principality. What is it about? Revelation. Why is it a battle over revelation? Because the revelation that is coming to him is very, very important. What is that revelation? Revelation is connected with the return of God's remnant to Jerusalem and the last days.

***...for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.***

There is a war in heaven going on, you people should not know when he's returning and what is going to happen in the last days. We are sitting here involved in prayer and study to prepare a people for the Lord's return. Do you think it's going to be easy? We have to battle powers of darkness. We have to battle people to get their attention. We have to battle false preachers who are trying to take people and grab them onto temporary things. It's a constant battle within and without. And I'm telling you, because I go out on missions, you don't know; the easiest thing to preach is to somebody who doesn't know Scripture but if you preach to somebody already has read the Scripture the wrong interpretation, to correct that out and put the right thing in is almost the most difficult thing. Like if you (I am not prophesying or saying or interpreting or anything), look at the horses that are released in the *Book of Revelation*, the first horse is the white horse, I believe is the horse of deception. After deception has taken place is the death coming in, pestilences coming in. So, the question is: has the majority of Christian world already been deceived? And now pestilences and wars are beginning.

Once you are deceived, you are so angry and you will refute the truth. You will not receive the truth. But to a simple person, who doesn't know, like a Hindu or a Muslim who doesn't know Bible and they accept the Lord, it is very easy to teach them because they are receiving it for the first time. But if you have received error and then you have to take the error out first and put right in! Here we are trying, primarily God's servants have to be involved in preparing a people for the coming of Jesus Christ. There is this battle the Church is faced to. In *2 Corinthians 11:2-4*, look at what Paul will say.

**2 Corinthians 11:2-4**

**<sup>2</sup>For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**

I want to present you to Christ as a pure, blameless, spotless Church- virgin to Christ.

**<sup>3</sup>But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

The first thing he is talking about it is- what is there? The devil is there. The serpent is involved over there. Who is there? The demonic is already over there, who is deceiving you.

**<sup>4</sup>For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached,**

Second, another Jesus has been preached now. It's not that another person has been preached; another Jesus has been preached. The demonic is involved, another Jesus is involved and—

**...or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received,**

Another spirit has been received, not the Holy Spirit; another spirit which is mimicking the Holy Spirit; another Jesus which is not the real Jesus. So you have the demonic, you have another Jesus presented, another spirit presented and then--

**...or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!**

Another gospel is preached! Do you see the battle the Church is involved in? Demonic is involved, another Jesus, another spirit, another gospel! Do you realize how it affects your hearing? You are not able to hear the Gospel? The Gospel doesn't move you? Because your hearing is gone. That's what the Bible actually says. When they say, "Peace, peace, safety!", some destruction will come. When you receive another Jesus, another gospel, another spirit, all they say is- "It is alright. It's okay. You don't have to worry. Everything is in control. God loves you. You don't have to worry. All is fine. He will receive you just as you are." Then you try to go and tell them, "Sorry, that is not Scripture. Be on your toes. Watch and pray. No man knows the hour when He will come." It's a battle to keep your ears open to actually be able to hear. It's a battle! Nobody will believe. "I don't want to hear that. That's not true. God loves me. God loves all people. He will save everybody."

It's almost impossible to preach the real Gospel into the free world because hearing from God is primarily what faith is. *Faith comes from hearing.* Unless you hear, there is no faith. Real, living faith comes from hearing and real faith has (like I keep telling) 3 components. It has got to do with the past (what you have heard), it has got to do with the present (what you are hearing, not from me, but from God; maybe through me but not primarily from me) and what you will hear. Life has 3 components- past, present and future- so has hearing. In *2 Timothy 2*, if you read verses 1 and 2, listen to what Paul tells Timothy.

**2 Timothy 2:1-2a**

**<sup>1</sup>You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses,**

You have heard! Things that you have heard from me! If you look at verses 1 and 2, he says, *stand strong in the grace.* *Romans 5:2*, we know, *we have access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.* So I have to hear now to stand in the grace today while I also need to know what I have already heard. So faith is already over there; faith has two components: things you have heard- stand in it, walk in it, believe in it, practice what you have heard and then for today's peculiar situation, you may need to hear. Your life is the same as there it is today, then you stand on what you have heard. But if you are suddenly confronted with something that is peculiar, then you need to hear today because you need grace for today.



## Four Lessons From Daniel's Life!

But that's not how average Christian lives. Average Christian lives like this- you go to a restaurant and you order chicken 69 and you love it. It is so yummy! Next day, you go and say- "okay, yesterday, I had chicken 69, let me have 'kadhai chicken'." Yummy! You say- "wow, it is fantastic." Third day you go and you have some other whatever chicken you want to have (butter chicken) and you say, "wow, it is yummy!" Fourth day, you have a fourth variety of chicken. Fifth day, you have a fifth variety of chicken. Sixth day, you have a sixth variety of chicken. At the end, you and the manager are very friendly because he is also happy you are coming every day. So you ask him, "Do you get this chicken every day?" He says, "No! the chicken was the same; it was in the freezer. The meat every day you ate was the same 7-day old meat. The only thing is each day we cooked it differently." Do you know that is exactly what is happening to Christians? They are eating the same Word they have eaten always. Only thing you fry it differently. There is nothing new. There is no revelation. You are hearing nothing. Everybody is living by what somebody else heard and became a practice of the Church and made into a set of rules and living by it. There is nothing new! As if God has stopped speaking! The Holy Spirit is no longer involved at all.

But the Holy Spirit is actively involved with the Church. That is His job to prepare the body of Christ. The Church that is hearing is the Church that always hears. In Christendom, in 2000 years, there has always been a Church that always hears. 'A Church' meaning not a particular denomination, but a Church in time and in space. That Church is the Church, which in *Revelation 22* says, *the bride and the Spirit says, come*. It's because that bride hears the Spirit and together their voices have become one and they both are saying, "Come. Hear! This is what God is speaking!" To hear!

We have to very, very careful about it because if you and I want to hear, you and I will have to have this discipline of entering into our closet for prayer and study and seek His face. It is war! It is not easy to get into your closet; after 5 minutes, come out because it is not connecting; it is not happening. It's a battle! Prayer is a battle. Studying the Word of God is a battle. You have to win this battle. You cannot lose this battle. Every other battle in life you can afford to lose; this is one battle you cannot afford to lose- the battle of prayer and the battle of studying the Word and hearing. You cannot afford to lose this battle. You have to take this very, very, very seriously.

Fourth- both the Word of God we study and the prayer we pray has to lead to revelation- personal and/or corporate. It has to lead to revelation. If you pray and you don't hear, if you study the Word of God and God doesn't reveal anything to you, then it has become ultimately a pointless exercise. It has to lead to corporate or personal revelation. If you go to *Daniel 10:14*—

### **Daniel 10:14**

***<sup>14</sup>Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.***

You see what he is saying? I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the last days. So how do you know his prayer and his study of the Word was effective? It led to a revelation! What if the angel had come and said, "We have heard your prayer. Good night! Go to sleep. That is enough." That is not the case. There is a revelation there. God is very pleased with your prayer. He says, "I want everybody to pray like you", but if there is no revelation, it is still ineffective. It leads to revelation what will happen to his people in the latter days. Now in today's Church age, we do not need extra-Biblical revelation because Scripture has already been given but the question is- do we at least have Biblical revelation? Forget extra-Biblical! We don't need an angel to come and tell us the things that are going to happen in 2021, 2022; we don't need all that. We already have the Word of God. Do we have at least Biblical revelation?

This is important, especially young people. All the young ones sitting over here, seriously I am telling you, it's very important. Unless and until our mind (it's called 'the renewal of the mind') is constantly and continuously and someday maybe completely renewed by the Word of God, we don't even know how to read anything. We don't know how to read news, we don't know how to watch movies, we don't know how to read story-books; we don't know how to read anything because our perspective is not according to the mind of Christ. Our perspective is different. We don't know how to even read. We have reading abilities and capabilities, language skills and all but we don't know how to read.

I am just showing a little snippet- like when this corona virus took place, in 2020 January or December it started, they kept it hidden for how long we don't know (maybe 2 months they kept it hidden) and when it couldn't be hidden anymore, it became too big to hide even for a Chinese regime. If it's too big to hide, that means it's really, really big because you really

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never know what happens in that country. If they don't want you to know, they can see to that nobody knows. But it was so big, they couldn't hide it anymore. So when I was looking at it, something was reminding me to check something out what is happening over here. I am not prophesying, (it is not my job to prophesy, I am not a prophet; I am a teacher of the Word of God) but I went and checked something and I realized 2019 (I think) September, China celebrated 70<sup>th</sup> year of the communist regime. In 1949 in the month of September, Mao Tse Tung declared China as 'people's republic of China'. In 2019, 70 years were over. They have celebrated 70 years of Chinese Republican. I never majored in history, but I am a history student personally because I love history; Bible is history and we study history, too.

So, I looked and I said, "Come back again! somewhere it rings a bell." I remember 1919 was Bolshevik revolution (the Russian revolution)- the communists took over under Lenin and Russia became communist republic. In 1989 was the end of the communist republic; that is 70 years. I look at "*the 70 years has been determined for your people Israel*", has 70 years been determined for the most 2 ruthless regimes ever the world has seen? Is this the beginning of the end of China as we see? Is it? I don't know. Because in 1989, it began in USSR, it ceased as USSR and by 1991, it was completely gone. Is it the beginning of the end of China? If it is, it will affect every one of us; not like the Russian republic. Russia's economy was not connected to anybody but China's economy is connected to everybody. It's the second largest economy in the world. All the nations have outsourced their factories to China. If China crashes into (and becomes like Russia) 10 different republics and fighting and infighting and new dictators and all kinds of junk happening, it will affect everybody sitting here, prophetically. We wouldn't even know which way.

You can't even read eschatology any way in the proper ways. You don't even know how to interpret the book of Revelation if that country falls because everybody thinks that the two hundred million army coming through the east and going to Jerusalem is always connected with China but if China collapses, how do you read eschatology again? You have to look at it and say, "Lord, one thing I need to know in all these situations, I need to hear from You. Lord, I need to hear from You." So hearing is so important.

Daniel heard! It changed our lives, your life, my life; everybody's life changed because Daniel heard. You take the book of Revelation alone, you cannot interpret the last days. You need the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation to understand the last days. If Daniel is missing, you cannot read Revelation and interpret it. It's very difficult to interpret the book of Revelation on its own without the book of Daniel. So one man had a discipline as a child to study the Word of God, read the Word of God and he was absolutely selfless when he has reached the pinnacle of power, absolutely selfless, fasting and praying for revelation and God reveals through him and you have this incredible revelation and we are still standing on it. We have hope and all that because of one man because he chose two disciplines in his life. That's what God is talking about every one personally- how is our discipline? Because we have to hear. Everything is connected with hearing.

Turn with me to *Genesis 31:13*.

### **Genesis 31:13**

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

Three words he heard! What is that? *Arise, get out, return*. 20 years of his destiny is suddenly changed. For 20 years, he was just living there in his father-in-law's house like a labourer. To change the entire shift of his life, not only his life, his household, Israel and human history, this man hears- *arise, get out, return*. It's like David will hear- *pursue, overtake, recover*. He heard. One old man heard! *Arise, get out and return!* It changed the destiny of nations because he heard. Then he arises, he goes and we leave all the story we know but if you come to *Genesis 35:1*—

### **Genesis 35:1a**

**<sup>1</sup>Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there;**

Again destiny will change. Earlier, he has come to the promised land. Again He says, "*Arise, go to Bethel and dwell there.*" It's important you have to hear very clearly what God says. What did he say? *Dwell there!*

Turn with me to *Genesis 24*.

**Genesis 24:62**

<sup>62</sup> ***Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.***

Where is he dwelling? Beer Lahai Roi! He is dwelling there. When did you hear this first? You first hear about this place when Hagar and Ishmael are thrown out and there they cry out, then God shows them the water, they drink and they go. There is a difference between crying out to God and His eyes-opening where you drink from His well and dwelling where His well is there. Isaac is dwelling there. Ishmael drinks and goes. God is telling Jacob- *Arise, go and dwell in Bethel*. Bethel means 'house of God'. Dwell there. Stay there. Stay put in the house of God where you will have constant fellowship.

So hearing is important. Don't accept this Christianity religion as status quo; hearing is important. Very, very, very important! Because Churches shift. Like last Sunday, if you have heard Carter Conlon's message in Times Square Church, there was shift. He said the Lord has told him to move on. So Tim Dilena is going to be the new senior pastor. In 2006, David Wilkerson heard and he called and handed the Church over to Carter Conlon. Now Carter Conlon was not a regular preacher even at Times Square Church. He was a policeman in a ministry in Canada. He came all the way because an old man heard and handed it over to him. Tim Dilena is not the actual part of the Times Square Church leadership; there is Patrick Pierre and all the other pastors are there. But the senior pastor heard it as to be given to this man. So last Sunday he handed over to Tim Dilena. It changes the destiny of the Church because one man heard. There are no issues over there, no problems over there. Everybody understands that this is God's will, this is God's plan and this is God who speaks and we are all servants to hear and to obey.

Do you know how important it is even in our own days and times to hear? Because we have a God who speaks. We go to *Daniel chapter 12*. In chapters 10,11 and 12, we will see God speaking to Daniel about the end times, His plans, things that are in the future about the Persians, about Greeks, about Rome, about the Anti-Christ, about tribulations- in the last days, God speaks to him the whole nine yards; things that are not going to happen even in his time. All the things will happen even after we are gone. What will happen? God speaks to him. But if you come to,

**Daniel 12:4**

<sup>4</sup> ***"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."***

He shut up the scroll and it is sealed till the end because this book will not be opened until then. "You can write it but I'm sealing it." Meaning – when God seals a book, you can read whatever you want, you won't understand. The revelation won't come. It is not come. It has been opened only in the last days. That's why, now, people talk about the last days and understand about the last days because it's been opened only in the last days. It is sealed.

And then,

**Daniel 12:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> ***Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"*** <sup>9</sup> ***And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."***

"I don't understand." He is saying, "Lord, I don't understand." God is saying, "It's not for you to understand. In this particular case, it is for only to write. It's not for you to understand. Seal it." And you come to verse 13, three times, God tells him,

**Daniel 12:13**

<sup>13</sup> ***"But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."***

Very personal. So, he has a corporate revelation and he has a very personal revelation. "Go your way. You rest. In your last days, I'm telling you – you will rise and you will get your reward." Daniel was never alive to see any of his words fulfilled. But God could unlock it to others because of one man. The key was – he selflessly sought God in prayer and in Word.

## Four Lessons From Daniel's Life!

So, I'm not going to close immediately. I'm going to come to a tough part. For the children, it's okay. For the older people, older in spiritual understanding, this is a journey. Understanding God, knowing God, walking with God is a journey. The journey begins from self to self-sacrifice. Listen to me carefully – from self (you are absolutely selfish) to self-sacrifice to sacrifice of self. Self sacrifice, sacrifice of self – is not the same. Because first, when we are all born, we are full of self. Full of self means, our question is: what is in it for me? When will I get it? How will I get it? You ask any child; these are the three questions they always ask. "When will I get?" "What will I get?" "How will I get?" Because it's all about me. That's the self. And if we, at some point in our lives, all men are born that way; if we don't encounter Christ, we will drown in self and we will die in self; and we will be by ourselves in eternity. From self, as we start getting understanding, knowledge, wisdom, learning and all that; different teachings, we move from self to self-sacrifice. That is primarily religion. Religion per say is not bad. It's good for the society. Go to self-sacrifice. In self-sacrifice, listen to me carefully, okay? Self-sacrifice is when we give up things but we give up things which we want to give up, when we want to give up and the way we want to give up. And in self-sacrifice, we are in control during the entire process. This is nothing more than works of flesh designed as religious sacrifice. Meaning – we decide what to give up; we decide when we want to give up; we decide the way we want to give up, how to give up. The 'what', 'when' and 'how' is dictated by self. There may be great labour and great sacrifice but the core is still self. The third is what, ultimately, what God wants to bring all His children to. His sacrifice of flesh. It is when, ultimately, we have learnt to put our entire self on the altar of God. We allow Him to show us what He wants us to sacrifice. We allow Him to show us when He wants us to sacrifice and which way He wants us to sacrifice or how to sacrifice. Now, He is in control and self isn't. Now, if you were to say, "I will definitely do it only if God personally speaks to me," then self has already taken glory. Because very rarely has God personally first spoken to anybody. He speaks to people through others. In Joseph's case, his father told him. In David's case, his father; and then, later, king Saul told him. In Samuel's case, his mother and then, Eli told him. In Paul and Barnabas' case, the Church leadership told him. Be very careful. People will say, "I'm willing to do all these if God were to personally appear or speak to me in revelation." God says, "I don't do that. Very rarely have I done it to a few people but usually, I do it through others to see that how your self will respond to it." So, in the sacrifice of self, God is at the centre. The 'what', the 'when' and the 'how' is dictated by God. We are dead to our choice in this matter and that is what it actually means – we walk by faith; because it's got to do with hearing. Whenever you hear by faith, you have to hear somebody else speaking. You can't say, "I walk by faith but the decision is mine." It can't be. When you walk by faith, faith comes from hearing. That means – somebody is speaking. And the biggest stumbling block to genuine faith is self. See, we find it easy to follow Christ in the crowd, the Christian crowd. We are not talking bad crowd; Christian crowd. Like this is a crowd. But to follow God, it's easy to sit here in the crowd and everybody look at my face. But to follow Christ alone is when you go back home, when you take your notebook and your Bible and you start working on your own. Now, you are no longer part of the crowd. It's easy to follow the crowd, whether it's a crowd of disciples or a large mega-Church; whatever crowd. Both to the disciples in private and to the public who followed Him, Jesus had the same words, in *Luke 9:18*,

### **Luke 9:18**

***<sup>18</sup>And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"***

So, He's alone and the disciples come to Him in private and ask Him. Now, read verse 23-24, what He tells the disciples.

### **Luke 9:23-24**

***<sup>23</sup>Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself...***

The first thing He says. Now, He's telling to them in private. The private group of disciples. His Word says, "You have to deny yourself." Your self is the problem. "If you want to really follow Me, hear Me," you can't follow Him unless you hear Him. You can't follow somebody who doesn't speak. You want God to speak but the question is: will we follow Him if He speaks? The first thing you have to hear so that you will follow is that you deny yourself. Now, who is He telling this to? The disciples in private. And then, what does it say?

***...and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.***

Process is the instrument where your self dies daily and follow Him. Now, you come to *Luke 14:25*,

**Luke 14:26**

***<sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.***

We know this portion very well. Now, remember – both sets of people are following Him. These are not hostile crowds. These are not carnal, secular, worldly crowds. These are crowds that are following Him, disciples that are following Him. To both of them, He tells them something – “If you want to be disciplined,” the core part of the disciple is that the disciple hears. Otherwise, you cannot be a disciple. If you want to be a disciple, you have to deny yourself. So, private revelation and public revelation of hearing is that you have to deny yourself and if you look at Daniel, he denied himself in prayer and in the study of the Word. There is no self there. He was not studying for himself or praying for himself, though we may have studied for himself and prayed; but that was not the core purpose. He had a discipline of prayer and he had a discipline of studying the Word of God and he was doing it for God and His Kingdom and His purpose and God's people. Therefore, he heard all the way – corporate and personal. He heard. So, the question is: is there sacrifice? Yes. But the question is: who chooses what, when and how? Who chooses? Now, we know the last two verses. Last two and we shall stop.

Come to *James 2:22*. We know Jesus is the Author; meaning – we began a journey. Author and the Perfector or the finisher of our faith. *James 2:22* talks about the end of Abraham's faith journey.

**James 2:22**

***<sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?***

His faith was made perfect. At some point in his life, his faith was made perfect. He had begun his journey long ago, many years ago, many moons ago. That was – Jesus was the Author of his faith. At some point in Abraham's life, his faith was made perfect. Now, you go to *Genesis 22:1-3*,

**Genesis 22:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac...***

First question: what are you going to sacrifice? Who says? God says. What does He want? Your son. Your only son. What is that? It represents his entire self. “I want your son, your only son.” Now, he is not deciding what he is going to give, sacrificially. God is deciding what he will give as a sacrifice. “I want your son, your only son.” Second,

***...whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."***

“I will tell you where. You won't decide. I will tell you what I want. Two – I will tell you where I want; and third – I will tell you how I want. You will offer him as a burnt offering.” The what, the where and the how was decided by God. And *verse 3* says,

***<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning...***

And what does *James 2:22* say?

**James 2:22**

***<sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?***

Why? There is no self involved now. This is his son, his only son. He loves his son and God says, “I will decide what I want from your life.” Because we, very sacrificially, give things to God. It's like children. We don't realize; when a child has a toy, one toy alone, he will not give it to anybody. Mother will say, “Share. Sharing is loving,” all that, the baby listens and says, “No.” Then, suddenly, he gets a second toy. Suddenly, he realizes, “Okay, the old one and the new one.” He looks at the old one, one wheel has come off. “Here. Take it.” Sacrificially, he gives. Is there sacrifice involved? Yes. Two minus is one. Two

minus one is never two. So, we will see, even in our sacrifice, we choose to give what we want. We also choose to give when we want and how we want. There is no sacrifice. A lot of Christians are caught in self; a lot of Christians are caught in self-sacrifice. And as long as we do not move from self-sacrifice to that surrender... and God knows. Sometimes, God doesn't ask us. God didn't ask Abraham all those years because He knew he was not ready for that. God also knows us. So, that doesn't mean we cannot hasten to that point by constant surrender saying, "Lord, You tell me what, when, how. I have no personal stake in this. Your stake is my stake." It's not easy but at some point in our lives, our faith has to be perfected. And the rewards wait for those whose faith is perfected, not in sacrifice, not in self-sacrifice. And there is a danger in it, even for us – Pastor Vijay and I. There is an incredible danger in it. Okay, when we came into the ministry, we did not want it. We did not like it. But we sacrificially came out. But now, we like it. Because we get used to it. We like preaching. We like to study the Word of God. We like it. We enjoy preaching. The question is: what will we hear next? When you are sent to somebody somewhere where you actually don't like. We all are very sacrificial in the things we like and we do it as unto the Lord, which is true, which is good. I still remember – engraved in my memory – 1994, my first Pastor's wise words to me as a young man, just in ministry. He said, "James, remember, your obedience is never tested when God tells you to do what you like. Your obedience will actually be tested when God tells you to do something which you don't like at all. That's when it will be tested." All the things which we do, we like it. It's not that. It's good. You should do the things which you like, which are righteous, which are good, which benefits the society, everybody; which is good. It's all good. But remember – everybody in every religion does that. So, at that point, we are the righteous under the law.

Paul likes teaching but he was sent to the Gentiles. Now, if you are a scholar like Paul, who wants to go to the Gentiles? "Send me to the Sanhedrin. I want to really show them what preaching is. Send me to the Jews. I will prove them from the Torah that Jesus is the Lord." He was sent to a set of people who don't know Torah, who don't know Talmud; they don't know anything. He is not sent to the people he likes. Likes means – naturally like. Naturally, we are gifted in certain ways, we are like it. I'm telling you, even though there is much sacrifice over there, much of it is self-sacrifice. A day and an hour will come in everybody's life, if you are a child of Abraham, you will hear what Abraham was told. And God is deciding to test you. "Take up your son, your only son." That's your self. And make a journey. "I will show where. I will show how." And Scripture records beautifully, "Early next day morning." He didn't delay. He didn't tarry. James will get the revelation that his faith was perfected. It's a revelation which eclipsed hundreds and hundreds of years – *Genesis 22* is written. Moses comes and goes; Joshua comes and goes; Elijah comes, Elisha comes, minor prophets; major prophets. Everybody come and goes; nobody gets this revelation. This revelation is kept for James. This is when his faith was perfected. We never understand the ways of God. So, we have to wait for James before we will understand. There is a point in time when God will say, "Your faith is perfect and your righteousness is complete." Amen? Let's pray.

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, we just come to You, Lord. We are all in that same journey as Abraham, Lord; because he is the father of both the circumcised and the uncircumcised, the Jews and the Gentiles who believe in Christ by faith. But this is a journey. And all of us are somewhere on that journey, Lord. Some may not have even entered that journey because they are still struggling to surrender their lives to Christ and be saved. Some have surrendered, received You but they are struggling in surrender in so many areas. Wherever each one is there, Lord, there is only one way and that way is narrow and You said in Your Word – it's a way of life. And You also warned us that very few will find it. So, Father, we pray – an hour, a time like this, we will be watchful both in the Word and in prayer that we will start young. Our young ones will start young, inculcating the discipline of Word, studying the Word and prayer; and then, one day, we will hear. You will speak and we will move further in that journey with You, Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. We commit the rest of the night into Thy hands and we commit all Your children, Your servants everywhere around the world who are contending with powers of darkness, contending with the pestilences that are enveloping the earth. For Your Word says in Hebrews 13:2, those who are free, be bound with those who are in prison because we are one body. We are not two bodies – the free body and the chained body. It's one body. So, we are duty-bound to pray for those who are bound. So, I pray, Father, in our prayer life, too, we will put them first. Thank You, Lord. You brought all of us here safely and I pray You will reach all of us safely. Our trust is only in You, Lord. Thank You, Father. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*