

# He Is Taking Us To The Other Side

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So February is here, twelve days, God is good whether you believe it not; He is always good. He cannot change; He is always good all the time. Thank God we cannot change God. He is always good. Hallelujah! So this February, Pastors' Conference, keep in mind about January. God said He will restore. He would restore because He is a God of restoration. What is impossible with man is possible with God. It is absolutely easy for God but we have to hear, we have to believe. It is through faith that all things are possible. If you were there last month and we gave you the promise from the book of Joel, God goes to the most difficult thing. He says, 'I will give you back all the years.' It is impossible to get the years back. Impossible! Time gone is time gone. It is impossible to get your tie back but God says, 'I will give it back.' If it is impossible to get that (time) back then everything else is easy. So keep that in mind. God is a God who restores.

Our God is a God who blesses. Our God is God who strengthens. Our God is God who anoints. A God is a God who delivers His people. He empowers His people to speed. Some people need speed, some people need strength. Some people, like Abraham and Sarah, literally need a resurrection. God is able to give it all. Your ministry, your Church may be completely dead, God can bring it back to life because He is the resurrection and the life. You have to believe. God never gives up on us; it's we who give up on God. God never gives up on His children. Don't give up on God! Keep hearing, keep hearing even today's message. If you have a phone, go back and hear; the more you hear, faith comes. It is not enough to hear it once, keep hearing. Some messages you should keep on hearing, faith will rise because faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. So these two things you have to keep in mind. When somebody is preaching: is it from the Word of God? First thing, Word of God. If it agrees with the Word of God, keep on hearing, faith will rise. With faith everything is possible.

## Prayer

So this morning, Father, we just come to You, we surrender ourselves; our spirit, our soul and our body. We surrender at Your altar, at Your feet. We pray You speak to us and I pray as Your servants and Your children go from here will go high in faith. Faith will be strengthened. There will be an impartation of faith in the house of God. They will go back and continue to do what You've called them to do, knowing that the One who called them is faithful. So anoint us Lord, speak to us Lord. Give us hearing ears that we may hear Your voice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

This morning we turn to Luke, the same record is there in the Gospel according to Mark but with a little difference here.

## Luke 8:22-25

***<sup>22</sup> Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. <sup>23</sup> But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. <sup>24</sup> And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup> But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"***

Now go to verse 22, it begins by saying: 'it happened on a certain day', it was like any other day. A certain day and that day will change a certain life. When you start it may look like a normal day but something might happen that will change your life forever and the day begins with a statement from Jesus saying, 'Let us go to the other side.' The entire journey is based on one statement, one desire, one request - 'Let us go to the other side' but He didn't tell them for what. When God says, 'Go,' we go. He does not have to explain why because sometimes if He tells, we will not understand. Second, if we understand, we may get scared. So He just said, 'Let us go to the other side.' He did not explain. Get that first in your heart. When God tells you something, He does not have to explain. He does not owe us an explanation.

'Let us go to the other side.' The Bible says that they got into the boat, they set out and He fell asleep. They all got into the boat, imagine thirteen people in a boat, it's a bigger boat and He goes to sleep. If you go to Mark chapter four it says that He goes to the back of the boat and verse 23 says there is a storm. There was a storm of wind and the boat was filling with water and then their lives were in danger. Their day had begun like any other day. He said, 'Let us go

to the other side,' next thing you see He is fast asleep, third thing you see a storm come, fourth thing you see the boat filling with water. Life is in danger.

Please listen and remember this thing pastors: not every storm in life is because you or I did something wrong; some storms can be because we did right. This storm they are facing is not because they disobeyed God but because they obeyed God. They did right, they obeyed God, it was His desire to go to the other side. God's desire: 'Let us go to the other side.' Are you getting it? It also means that if they had not taken the journey to the other side, the storm would not have come; they would not have encountered that storm. Imagine twelve of them are on the journey and Peter says, 'I can't come today, my mother-in-law is sick.' So Peter escapes the storm and eleven people are encountering the storm. You see Peter might say, 'You guys are outside the will of God that's why you faced the storm and my life has no storm.' But sorry Peter, you are not in the will of God, those eleven are in the will of God.

So be very careful, don't make quick judgments. Some storms are in the lives of people because they obeyed God. There are others who encountered storms because they disobeyed God. We have twelve people who are encountering the storm because they obeyed God.

We have Jonah encountering a storm because he disobeyed God. You look at somebody going through trouble, don't jump and judge and say, 'Oh you know what he must have disobeyed God that is why he is in trouble.' You may think oh, he is in trouble because he disobeyed God. We are quick to judge people because we don't know what they are doing. Here are twelve people who are encountering a storm because they obeyed God. *A righteous man may fall seven times but he will rise up all seven times.* You know why? Because the storms he is facing, the trials he is facing, the temptations he is facing, the challenges he is facing are because he obeyed; not because he disobeyed.

The challenges of people who obeyed are different. I will give you this illustration right from the beginning. So let me explain this to you. Think of a ship, think about a train, think about a plane. So you are either in water, or land or air. The ship is going in one direction, image the ship is going in that direction. I am in the ship and I am walking in this direction (opposite to the direction of the ship). Do I affect the movement of the ship? No, the ship is still taking me to the destination. I am in Telangana express, and I am going to Delhi. I am in coach number S1 in the front but I'm walking toward coach number S14, train is going in the opposite direction and I am walking in this direction (opposite to the direction of the train) it will still take me to Delhi because the power that is taking me towards Delhi is greater than the power that is taking me to the other end. Or you are in the plane and the toilets or the restrooms are usually at the back and in the front. Thirty thousand feet above the ground, you get up and you go to the back. The plane does not turn and go to the back. If you are in Christ and you are in faith, it doesn't matter what happens, you will reach the other side. You will reach the other side. Only two things you need to know: Am I in Christ? Am I walking in faith? In between there will be storms. In between you may fall but if you are in Christ and you are walking in faith, it doesn't matter whatever happens, He will take you across. These are the things we have to keep in mind. These are the things we have make very sure of, because the storm these disciples faced is because they obeyed God.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph all faced storms but God overlooked and delivered them from all. How can a man lie and say, 'This is my sister,' and God forgive him? Twice! You know why? It is because all those tests came into his life because he obeyed God. If he had lived in the Ur of the Chaldeans, never obeyed the voice of God, he would never have been tested by famine and Sarah would have never been tested by bareness. Every test Abraham and Sarah went through, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph went through is only because they obeyed the first call. Keep that in mind.

The voice of obedience 'Let us go to the other side.' For what? What are you going to do? Nothing is told. "Abraham, leave the Ur of the Chaldeans, go to the land that I am showing you." Where? For what? Nothing is told. He left without knowing where he was going, hit by storm after storm and fell many times, delivered from it all. God said 'My friend.'

Another man, from the same town, heard the voice of God, did not obey that voice, never fell, no storms. God never calls him, 'My friend.' He will say, look at Abraham, poor fellow, look at what he is going through but he does not realize in heaven it's the other way, 'look at this fellow, poor fellow, no trials, no storms, no testing, he will never be approved.' So don't jump in and judge. Lots of storms come into our lives; pastors, servants of God, believers, simply because we obey the voice of God.

Another thing, the Word of God says 'who started the journey?' He (Jesus) started the journey. "Let us go." Still the storm came. Even though He started the journey, the storm still came. This is the point at which many people doubt. You start a Church, you start a ministry, you start a Christian business, you start something which God tells you and

you are hit by a storm and you start doubting, at this point many people quit and go back. But remember He is the One who started. In Mark, this is what the Bible says:

**Mark 4:36**

***<sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.***

There were other boats, we preached this many years ago from Mark and today I'm teaching you from Luke, same incident but different message. Listen to this, there were other ships, at the end of the story there is only one ship because when the storm started, all the other boats went back, at the end of the story you don't hear about many ships, only one. At the end of the story, how many of us will be there? How many of us will finish what we started? Can He finish what He started in us? So what happened to the other boats? When the storm came and the storm intensified, many turned back. When trials come, testings begin, you are in ministry. In one of these two places you will definitely be tested. If your ministry is going well, your home will be tested. If your home is going well, your ministry will be tested. That is the point when many people leave. Look at, *John 6:66*, this is not an Antichrist number but it is *John 6:66*.

**John 6:66**

***<sup>66</sup> From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.***

Not people, Disciples! They left because the going got difficult. Going got difficult. He raised the temperature a little, they didn't like the message. They all left. Remember when the storms come, trials come, testings come, how many will be there till the end? Note another thing, Jesus the Son of God is in the boat, still the storm came. See storm comes if I am in the boat, or Pastor is in the boat, or you are in the boat, we will say ok but Jesus is in the boat and still the storm came. So when Jesus walked on earth He was not immune to the storm, do you think they will be immune to the storm? If all things were created by Him and through Him and for Him and He is held by the power of His Word and then the storm hits him, it will hit all of us. Who is this Person? Look at,

**Hebrews 10:7**

***<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' "***

What has He come for? To do the will of God! No man has ever kept the will of God like Jesus did - 100%. Word, thought, deed, attitude; He kept the will of God. So here is the Man in the middle of the will of God and He is hit by a storm. So you can do the exact will of God and be hit by a storm. Understand who this is, the centre of God's will, living life according to the Word of God. 'In the volume of the Book it is written of Me, I have come to do Your will, O God,' I am doing Your will and the storm is coming. We should learn to judge situations in our life. Therefore we should be careful about our theology about storms. There are normal storms, normal for everybody, believer or unbeliever. That's what Job said, 'As sparks go up, man is born for trouble,' normal to everybody. The second storm comes because of our disobedience. That is Jonah. Then there are storms because of obedience. So be very careful. So when storms come in our lives because of obedience, the simple question is: will you turn back or will you finish the journey? To finish the journey, there are few things we need.

**Hebrews 6:11-12**

***<sup>11</sup> And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.***

Till the end, two things, you need faith and you need patience. Two things: faith and patience. You have received a promise, you received a calling, God says you have to have faith and patience and if you know the next verses (thirteen, fourteen and fifteen), the person who is given an example is Abraham, Father of Faith. God made a promise to Abraham and because there is no one greater than Him, God swore by Himself. In English, verse fifteen,

**Hebrews 6: 15**

***<sup>15</sup> And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.***

Patience; faith; endurance. Are you getting the picture? Please remember this, sometimes storms are the proof that you heard right. Lord, how do I know that I heard right? The storm is the proof that you heard right. The Devil will try to tell you the storm is because you did not hear right. God will tell you, you heard right that's why the storm is there.

Jacob had twelve sons. In Genesis 37, when verse 37 begins, all twelve sons are shepherds. In Genesis 47, almost twenty five years later, eleven sons are still shepherds and one is a prince, why? It is because only he heard, only he obeyed; only he faced the storms, only he endured. Twelve of them started as shepherds in Canaan and eleven of them died as shepherds in Egypt as shepherds. Only one man, he heard right and he obeyed, refused to quit. So it is not whether you start it, but whether we will finish or not. Eleven of them went through storms that are normal to every man; one was hit by storms that come only by obedience. Eleven never received a promise so they were never tested. One received a promise therefore he was tested and then he was approved. So don't scoff the servants of God or men or women of God. They are going through their storms. Don't have the theology of the disciples of Jesus. Man born blind, 'Lord did he sin or did his father sin?' Jesus said, 'Neither. This is for the glory of God.'

Don't go through the theology of Job's friends. Three friends, you are going through this because you have sinned. Poor man (Job asking himself) what did I do, what did I do? He is going through the storms not because he disobeyed God but because he disobeyed God. There was a man in a place called Uz, God tells, 'Man of integrity, upright, blameless, fears God.' The devil also agrees. Upright, blameless but he fears God only because he has got money. He did not disagree with the testimony, he disagreed only with the motivation, after that this man goes through storm after storm, you know why? It is because he (Job) obeyed God. So be very, very, careful; don't scoff at people when you see them going through what they are going through. Simple question is this: when the storm comes will I finish my journey or will I go back? Did you get the picture?

### **Luke 8:23**

***<sup>23</sup> But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.***

Two things are mentioned, when the storm comes, let us say two elements are mentioned, one is wind and the other is water. Two things are mentioned. It is the wind that makes the water rise, you can't see the wind but you can see the water. So behind every storm, listen carefully, a child of God and a servant of God when the face a storm there are two elements: what you see and what you don't see. Every storm has these two sides: the visible and the invisible. Behind every problem you and I will go through in this life there will be two parts, the invisible and the visible. It is always the invisible that empowers the visible, whether it is of the enemy or whether it is of God. When we preach, we pray for anointing. Can you see anointing? No but you can see the work of the anointing in a man. Anointing cannot be seen but the work under the anointing can be seen. So there is invisible and visible, whether it is on the wrong side or on the right side there is an invisible and there is a visible, don't get caught in the visible there is an invisible. Whether it is a problem at home, at church or office, if there is a problem be very sure that there is something from the invisible that is empowering it.

When they started the journey, they got into the boat and Jesus went to sleep. The water was calm. Now suddenly it changed, what caused the water to change? It is the storm of wind. Can you see the wind? No, you cannot see the wind but the wind changed the nature of what you can see. Behind every problem there is the invisible. That's why Jesus says through Apostle Paul, "We do not wrestle with flesh and blood, we are wrestling with principalities, with powers of darkness, rulers of wickedness in high places." Can you see them? No but you can see them working through people. Listen, there is invisible and there is visible, in confronting a storm, in confronting a problem (storm is a symbol of problem). You are going from point A to point B and you are going but there is something that opposes you - whether at home, ministry or at your workplace. If you focus on the visible, not the invisible, and if you focus on what you can see and react to it, you have already lost the battle.

That's exactly what the devil wants, he wants you to look at what can be seen and react and go back. I quit, I'm filing for divorce, I'm shutting my Church down, I'm closing my business, I am looking for a new job because you looked at what was visible, you didn't look at what was invisible. Jesus here is teaching us how to deal with the storm, storms of life. Everything about Jesus is a lesson for us.

First thing to note: while the storm was raging, He is sleeping.

### **Psalms 127:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. <sup>2</sup> It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep.***

Amen! Unless God is building and God is watching, all our labour is in vain. Waking up early in the morning, working late at night, when the storm comes it will blow it away but if God is building and God is watching, He gives His beloved rest. So when Jesus is in the storm, He is fast asleep because He knows His life and His ministry are both being built by God and watched over by God therefore He can sleep.

How many of you were there at Tuesday's Pastors meeting at Malkajiri, at least one or two might be there (one, two, three, oh so many were there at the Malkajiri at the Pastor's meeting). We looked at a small portion on Tuesday morning about the concept about rest. On rest we looked at a tiny portion. Go home and carefully study Hebrews three and four. One generation could not enter into the rest of God because of their unbelief. The Bible says that God swore in His anger '*you will not enter into My rest*', another generation entered into God's rest. They fought the good fight, they won the fight and God gave them rest.

Two pictures in the Bible: if you win your battle, you will have rest. Keep that in your mind. Primarily there are many areas, six, seven, let us put across six areas in your life, a normal Christian life (when we say normal Christian, it is not what we think, but rather it is the normal Christian life according to the Word of God). Six areas we need rest. The first area we looked at on Tuesday. First and foremost is we are spirit beings, God is a Spirit, once I am born again, you are born again, we become spirit. Then there is soul, then there is body. We need rest at three levels. That's what Thessalonians actually says

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

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

See, whenever God's names are used, it is not the same name used with the different situations. When it talks about your spirit, soul and body being blameless at the time of Jesus' coming, it is the God of peace. God of peace! What is Peace? It is a rest. The God of Peace shall do this to you spirit, soul and body for that there is a battle, you have to battle the enemy and who gives you victory over the enemy? Think carefully. The God of peace shall crush Satan under your feet. All places are mentioned as 'God of Peace.' The first and foremost is that I need peace in my spirit. That's what Jesus says: *come to me all who are heavy laden, I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)*. I need rest for my spirit, we lose this rest by sin. First rest I need is that! I am a spirit and God is Spirit. All the other things I am thinking of - money, family, problems, ministry; none of this will matter. What is the time now? It is 11:25 AM. If I am thinking of all these problems and at 11:26 AM I fall down and die, all of these will not matter. Only thing that will matter is did I have peace in my life? Please remember, that's (peace) the most important. It is appointed unto every man to die once. The problem is nobody knows when it is. So peace for the spirit is the most important thing.

Second, Jesus had absolute peace in the Spirit. Tempted at all points and never sinned. He absolutely had peace with God. Then comes the soul. Soul. 'Take My yoke upon yourself, My yoke is light, My burden is not heavy and I will give you rest for your soul.' Next what I need is: my soul. The problem is my soul has three areas: mind, will and my emotions. Have this mind that was also in Jesus. There is a mindset that gives you rest. So when we are told to have a mind, we are told to have only the mind of Christ. So there is a mindset which can fall asleep in the boat and sleep soundly in the midst of the storm. There is a mindset. If that mindset is not there, when the storm comes we will be troubled, our mind will not be in order. So there is the mindset and the Bible says (in *Philippians 2:5* and *1 Peter 5:1-2*) the mind of Christ. Then there is the will, the strong part of us. You have a will, I have a will, God won't tamper with the will. I set before you life and death, you choose, with the will at every moment we are choosing. Some of you are sleeping, you know why? It is because you have constantly used your will against what is good and therefore your will has become weak now. Everything - mind, will, emotions, we have to work on everything.

Jesus said: 'If you will to do My will, you will know what doctrine is.' Everybody wants to know doctrine but what is true doctrine? God says, "I will teach you but before I teach you, decide with determination - 'I will do Your will'." What did Jesus say when He came to the earth, 'Behold it is written in the volume of the Book, I have come to do Your will.' When that will is surrendered to the will of God then there is rest in the will. Then it does not matter what contrary choices you make, it doesn't matter how many trials come, how many testings come, I am determined in my will to do the will of God.

Everybody's voice is different. The Bible says Jesus set His face like a flint toward Jerusalem because the cross was the will of God for Him and He had the will to do the will of His Father and therefore when He taught the Word He told

them, 'You have heard but I tell you...' how come Your (Jesus') doctrine is different? What kind of doctrine is this? they asked. He speaks with authority, where did His doctrine come from? Where did His authority come from? Because behold when He came into this world, He said, 'I have come to do Your will.' Therefore His Father, the Spirit, revealed the doctrine to Him. Therefore He had rest in His will. He was never troubled about His preaching. He didn't have to go back home and check – 'Did I preach wrong?' He had rest in His Spirit, in His mind, in His will and in His emotions.

Emotions are the weakest part of us and we have to be very, very, careful about our emotions. Hunger is an emotion, it is just an emotion and Esau sold his birthright for hunger. There is a hunger for food and there is a hunger as an emotion. Anger is an emotion. Cain would wander all the days of his life because he was an angry man therefore he would never know rest. Sorrow is an emotion, it's an emotion. Samuel, Samuel how long will you sit there weeping over Saul? Rise up! Go to Jesse's house. I have found another man after My own heart.'

One of the greatest prophets of Israel is down with sorrow. But that sorrow is just an emotion. God rejected him (Saul). Why are you grieving over him? It is because sorrow can cripple you and you can go nowhere.

'O' Joseph is dead! I don't want to do anything, I just want to die.' He has forgotten everything. Jacob, Jacob do you remember the God you met at Peniel? Do you know what God spoke over you? 'You are no longer Jacob. You are Israel. You have prevailed with God and with man.' Everything is forgotten! Your encounter with God is forgotten; purpose of life forgotten, destiny forgotten. Gripped by sorrow. Sorrow is an emotion. The Devil will come through different ways so that we don't have rest.

Excitement is an emotion. Sunday morning excited, Sunday evening gone and because you are so excited from Sunday to Sunday, you think you are walking in the will of God when you are outside the will of God. Monday to Saturday, what is the key (in music) you play? Flat! Every Sunday you play the highs and you are thinking, 'I am approved of God' and God says, 'No'. I am telling you, emotions are good servants but very, very, bad masters. Don't judge your life on your emotions. Emotions, you need to have rest otherwise feelings will stop you. All of Ephesus cried, they hugged Paul and cried, knelt down and cried but he said, 'I have to go. Mission over. I love you, you love me, you grieve, I grieve, you will not see me again but I have to go because God has told me to move on.' Paul is not a prisoner of feelings. All the people have come early in the morning, they are sick, some maybe blind, some cannot hear, some maybe lame, some may need deliverance, you look at them, you feel compassion for them and you have the power to help them. 'Peter, let us go to the next town.' 'God! Leave these people?' Yes. 'Why?' Because I heard in the morning, "Go to the next town and teach."

For this purpose I (Jesus) came to do the will of My Father and emotions won't change it. Rest! Twelve are frightened, one is fast asleep. Rest in your spirit, in your mind, in your will, in your emotions rest. That's the first thing you see - Jesus is at rest. Rest in the body, there is rest in the body. We need rest in the body.

### **Hebrews 10:5**

***<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.***

You prepared a body for me. Take it literally. When Jesus walked on earth, it was a prepared body; a body that is prepared. Then you have rest. I will explain it to you in ways we understand. Sachin Tendulkar (Indian Cricketer), everybody knows? Indian Cricketer, everyone knows (all the youngsters are shaking their heads). Mahendra Singh Dhoni both of them retired. Why did they retire? Don't they know cricket? Do you know in their mind they are sharper in mind in Cricket than Virat Kohli but body does not cooperate. Maximum forty years, all sports men retire, then they become commentators. What does that tell you? In their mind they are experts of Cricket. Dhoni got out! Sachin would have said, 'You should not have played like that, you should have played like this.' Mind is sharp but Sachin's body won't cooperate.

We are all called to serve God and we want to serve until the last day. Are you preparing your body? Are you taking care of your body? Are you careful of what you eat? Are you careful of what you drink? For us preachers, even this morning I was telling our Pastor, what pastors need? A voice to speak. Tomorrow is Sunday and if my voice goes, I cannot preach. Are you careful? We have only one voice. I am talking as pastors in ministry. We need our voice. You guard your voice. You don't eat and drink stuff which you know affects your voice. Go to the fridge, ice water. A day will come where God cannot use you; not because you were not called, not because you did not know the Word, but because you did not prepare your body.

Jesus had prepared His body; He could preach from morning till evening and take a nap in the boat. He carried the Cross, nailed to the Cross, He didn't say, AHHH! Ouchh!! His body is handling it. Instead He prays, "Father forgive them for they don't know what they are doing." "You get into the Kingdom," He is ministering from the Cross while the Cross is agony for the body.

Young pastors sitting over here. Young pastors, prepare your body. Once you know you are called, prepared yourself and your body. I told this before; in all these 25-30 years of ministry, never during those three hours, four hours, five years, eight hours of preaching do I go to the toilet because I have learnt to prepare my body. Not just when I am preaching but even when I am sitting there and listening. I am listening, another servant of God is preaching, if I did not prepare myself and I am in that room (toilet) and the Word that the Lord has for me was given that day in those five minutes when I was in the toilet. No control. You know many of you who are here have no control. You are answering the calls, you are walking in and out, do you think God can speak to you? In and out, in and out, in and out. A body you did not prepare, a mind you did not prepare, here is God saying, 'I will give you back all the years that the locusts have eaten and you shall have rest.' You shall have rest! All the things your body runs after in this world is not important in Heaven. Food for the stomach, stomach for the food, both shall be destroyed. That's what the Word of God says.

So if you did not take care of your body and then you come into the light of God's Word; you start preparing your body, believing in the Word of God. The very Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead shall quicken your mortal body. You do what you have to do and keep speaking: quicken my mortal body, Lord. I am not six feet two inches tall, Lord, I am not a strong person like others but from now on I will keep my body disciplined according to the Word of God; and it is written in Your Word: "I will bless your water, your bread and will take sickness away from you." It is written in Your Word – 'Body for the Lord and the Lord for body.' You do not accept sickness as a norm, you speak to the sickness.

Let me ask you this question, can you see fever? No. Can you feel fever? Yes. So fever is from the unseen realm. Sickness is from the unseen realm therefore you deal with the unseen realm. I rebuke sickness in the name of Jesus and Lord, bless my water and my bread. Can you see blessing? Your blessing is invisible. See, you focus on the invisible first. I rebuke sickness and bless my bread and water. Lord, give me strength because I want to serve You till the end. For a body You have prepared for me. For what? To do Your will, O' Lord. In the volume of this Book it is written of me, I have come to do Your will, but to do Your will let my body not be a stumbling block. Let my body not fail me when the time comes to do Your will. Then you can have rest in your body. Rest in your body, rest in your spirit, rest in your mind, rest in your will, rest in your emotions, all by faith. I have believed and I have obeyed and I leave the results to You, Lord.

First thing you see is Jesus is at rest and the next rest is that you have to go beyond the general will of God to the specific will of God. Most Christian who are in the Church are walking in the general will of God and they are very happy. O God gave me a house, Hallelujah. God gave me a car, Hallelujah! God me a bike, Hallelujah! Brother, sister, do you know what God wants you to do? No? I thought this was God's will. No, that's God's general will. I am taking you to a land where there are houses you did not build, wells that you didn't dig, cattle and folks you did not tend, gold and silver you did not work for it. That's my general will. Do you know what My specific will is? No. We have to move from the general will to the specific will, then only we will have rest.

'Who are you Lord?' Jesus of Nazareth! If You are Jesus, second question, 'What do You want me to do?' It will be told to you, go to the city and wait three days. Fasting and prayer? For what? 'What do You want me to do?' God answered him(Paul) in three days, otherwise he would have fasted for thirty days. What am I fasting for? What do You want me to do? You told me to go and wait in the city, You will tell me the next step. I am waiting in the city. I am fasting and I am seeking Your face. "Ananias, go to this city, go to this street, go to this house, there is a man Saul of Tarsus; behold he is praying. He is My chosen vessel, he shall stand before gentiles and kings, he shall suffer for My sake." General to specific will. In three days, 'What do You want me to do?' 'Go to the city and wait.' That is general will. What is the specific will? 'It will be told to you.' Once it is told there is rest.

So remember this, waiting in Jerusalem, waiting in Damascus, people don't even fast they feast because that is the general will of God but do you know what you should do?

Mount Carmel, fire has come, prophets of Baal are dead, 'I hear the sound of rain. Ahab, you go eat and drink.' He goes to eat and drink. Elijah goes up to the mountain to pray. What was the specific will of God? 'Rain has to be brought down, until that happens I will not rise up from my prayer closet.' Another man is going to eat and drink. That's how rest comes. Once you know what God's will is, rest.

Another area you need rest is in your provision. We all need provision but the question is do we all have rest? Do you have rest? Paul is lying in the prison, Paul is writing to the outside: "My God shall supply your need." Rest in provision. Understand this; rest in provision does not come from a big bank balance. No, you can have a big bank balance and no anointing or you can have a great anointing but no bank balance, either way no rest.

Remember the Prophet, the lady comes, 'My lord, your servant the prophet, my husband is dead,' and what has happened? 'The creditors have come to take my two sons.' What does it tell you? Prophet, A+ in anointing and D in finances. Sons are going into slavery, if God does not intervene. In his ministry he may had rest but in finances he had no rest. There is rest, it does not come from abundance of wealth, but in knowing God as the Giver. At the end of His ministry, Jesus asks His disciples, "When I sent you out with no bag, no money, no staff, did you lack anything?" They said, 'No.' You know why? He has never sent his disciples out to do something which the Father has not asked. I tell the people, God is the Author, not just the Finisher. He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith.

Many pastors think to themselves, 'I am the author and Lord, You are the Finisher.' God says, 'I don't have to finish anything I did not start but if I start something, I can finish it and it does not matter what the need is.' Six hundred thousand men, their women and their children in a wilderness for forty years; I will feed you everyday of your life. Your clothes will not wear off, your shoes will not wear off. There will be none feeble among you, there will be none sick among you. You know why? I started it and I will finish it. That's the rest that comes from finances. Don't start anything which God hasn't told you. And the sixth one: rest in relationships. God and man,

#### **Exodus 33:14**

***<sup>14</sup> And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."***

My presence will go with you and you shall have rest. What does Paul say lying in prison, with chains, "*Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice in the Lord, let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.*" He (Paul) had rest in prison because of his relationship with God and with man.

#### **Hebrews 12:14**

***<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:***

Follow peace with all men; rest that comes from relationships. That's why Jesus is sleeping in the boat. See people may not have peace with Jesus, but Jesus has peace with everybody. Jesus has the peace of God. Jesus has peace with Roman, He has peace with the Samaritan, he has peace with the Pharisee. He has peace. Roman centurion, 'Oh my servant is sick!' Jesus did not say, "what! Romans?! Ruling over Me!" No. he said, 'Come I (Jesus) will come to your house.' Jesus had peace. Samaria, He goes all the way to meet the Samaritan woman; eats at a Pharisee's house; come down tax collector I want to eat with you. He is at peace with everybody. Romans may not have peace with Him, Pharisees may not have peace with Him, Samaritans may not have peace with Him but He has peace with God and with man. Therefore, when the storm is blowing, He is fast asleep.

First lesson He teaches you: storms will come whether you disobey Him or obey Him, storms will come. How do you handle storms? Rest in the soul, rest in the spirit, rest in the body, rest about provision, rest in relationships, that's the first lesson He teaches us. Be at rest. Please understand this, proof of faith is rest. Proof of faith is rest. When you are walking by faith, you are walking with God and the proof is this: you have rest. That is the rest Jesus offers. So the problem is not storms, the problem is rest. Hebrews chapter four says: labor to enter into my rest.

#### **Hebrews 4: 11**

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

Do you know why His ministry was so easy? Though we won't be able to do one day of Jesus' ministry in all our life but His ministry was easy for Him, you know why? Because early in the morning He went to have rest with His Father; what we see is the result of His rest. Out of rest God works and He enters into rest in His prayer closet and what we



see after that is the result of His rest. Second thing Jesus teaches is, there is a storm blowing and there are disciples panicking and Jesus is silent. When God is silent in our storms, that does not mean God is not in the storm with you. In Job chapter 1, in the house of Job storms begin. It's a terrible storm that none of us will ever go through. Job 1,2, all the way till chapter 38 God is silent. A man is going through storms because he obeyed God and for thirty eight chapters God is silent. This man is crying, weeping, mourning but God is silent. In chapter thirty eight God finally speaks, the silence of God. It's a mind set, your mind itself is a weapon of warfare. In first Peter it says, have the mind of Christ.

#### **1 Peter 4:1**

***<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,***

Your mind is the weapon, it's a weapon. Even if God is silent, I am at rest. I know this storm won't kill me, this storm won't destroy me; God does not have to speak, why? Because I heard very clearly: "Let us go to the other side", He didn't say let us go and die. He said, 'Let us go to the other side,' therefore God doesn't have to speak anymore. When we reach the other side, then I will ask Him, "Lord what do You want me to do?" It's a mindset. Your mind is a weapon, either it works for you or against you. Teach your mind to work for you. That's what happened in Luke, what does it say?

#### **Luke 8:24**

***<sup>24</sup> And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.***

What do they say? 'We perish'? Did God save us to destroy us? Did God call you and me into ministry to destroy us? Did it start by your voice or His voice? Did you tell Jesus, 'Let us go to the other side,' or did Jesus say, 'Let us go to the other side?' Where did the word 'perish' come in your vocabulary? Where did it come from? Perish? Did He start this so that we perish?

Paul and Silas were singing in the prison because they had rest. He didn't call me so that I will perish in the prison. So when the storm blows, are you going to sing or are you going to shout? It is because your deliverance is there. What are you going to do? Look at the parallel portion in,

#### **Mark 4:38**

***<sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"***

"Do You not care?" one more addition is here. Most of the world in sympathy; all want sympathy, 'Oh you don't care for me?' No one cares for me? Once the meeting is over, few of you will come with sympathy; I came from far away, I missed this bus, I missed that bus, last time pastor, please give me that cover (offering). All on sympathy. Don't you care? How long will you live on somebody's sympathy but God cares. You don't have to wait for the storm to cease to know that God cares. You don't have to wait for the storm to cease to rejoice. When a storm is blowing just verify something: is Jesus in the boat or not? That's the only thing that matters, that's the only thing. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Why? For thou art with me, not that You speak to me, not that You comfort me, not that You are shouting in my ears, but I will fear no evil even though You are silent, even though You are asleep, You are with me, that's enough.

That's what Paul tells: the Lord is with me, 'Everybody abandoned me but the Lord is with me.' We don't need sympathy, we don't live on sympathy, we live by His presence. Know this, the truth, you and I can fail alone but you and I will never fail with Jesus, impossible! You and I will fail alone, but you and I will never fail with Jesus. That's why Paul says: 'If God is for us who then can be against us.' Who then can be against us? You cannot fail, you cannot fail. Storm does not have to go, but make sure Jesus is in the boat. There are many who have no storms in their lives but there is no proof that Jesus is there in their boat. Absence of storm is not proof that Jesus is with you.

Read, *Genesis 37* all the way, there is a young boy, a slave. You know what is written about him? 'God was with him (Joseph).' Accused falsely, thrown into the prison. You know what is written? *God is with him*. God is with him (Joseph) as a slave and as a prisoner. Joseph cannot fail, all his brothers failed. They were not prisoner, they were not slaves but they all failed, you know why? Because they were all alone, they were alone. In his storms, he did not fail because God was with him. His gentile master said, "His God is with him." He cannot fail. So make sure God is with you, God is with you. Next thing Jesus did, He arose,

### **Mark 4:39**

***<sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.***

Go through the Bible how many times God has to tell 'Jacob arise,' you are living in Laban's house, you are becoming too comfortable, you forgot your purpose, arise and go. He goes, God protects him, becomes Israel, comes to Shechem and settles down in Shechem. God has to come again. "Arise Jacob! Go to Bethel I told you to go there, arise Jacob." Through the Bible God tells people, "Arise!" You know about the prodigal son? When the change happened, this is what happens,

### **Luke 15:20**

***<sup>20</sup> "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.***

Some of you, your deliverance comes when you rise up from your sleep. The Bible says - *arise you sleeper, your salvation is nearer than the day you believed.* He arose. We have to arise. When we pray, when we pray spiritual warfare prayers, what is one of our prayers; 'Arise O God, let your enemies scatter.' God arises in His wrath, in His zeal for His people. So the Bible says that Jesus arose. So we have to rise. It is not a physical thing, it is a Spiritual thing, you have to rise, you cannot live the way you are living in these last days. Pestilence is finished, COVID is on the way out; war is starting. Everyday Russia is entering Ukraine. You need to remember this, in Ukraine there are thirty thousand US citizens living there, another war any day. Jesus said pestilences, war, famine, arise, lift up your head, your redemption is near. You cannot live the way you are living. You cannot conduct the ministry the way you are conducting your ministry. You have to prepare yourself and your church for the day of the Lord is near, the day of the Lord is getting closer and closer, arise! The Bible says Jesus arose.

Listen carefully, He didn't speak to the waves, he didn't speak to the disciples, He didn't speak to the seen first; He spoke to the unseen first. Understand principles from Jesus, first, in whatever problem you are facing. Some of you are facing the problem of sleep, it's a real problem; but you don't address the body first, you rebuke the spirit of slumber first. Spirit of slumber, there is a spirit behind it that operates the body and the mind. Though you may have to do things for your body, you have to address the spirit behind it. If it is consistent, whenever you come to the hearing of the Word, you fall asleep and remember there is a demonic spirit behind it. All these eleven years of Pastor's meeting we have given lunch. I have never seen a pastor falling asleep over his food, never. So you know how to remain awake. So there is a spirit behind it. Jesus addresses the unseen first. He can see the waves, He can see the disciples; He ignores them, He looks at the unseen. The Bible says He rebukes the wind, this is lesson number two.

### **2 Corinthians 4:18**

***<sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

Unseen is real! If you deal with the unseen, seen will take care of itself. In English it says, "We do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen." You don't look at the things which are seen but things that are unseen. "Jesus, You will not go to the Cross" who is saying? Peter, but He does not address Peter, 'Satan get behind Me!' He addresses the unseen and not the seen; address the unseen. All our problems increase because we address the seen. What does the Bible say? Jesus arose and rebuked the wind. Let me ask this question, does the wind have ears? No. Then how can you rebuke the wind? Unless it has ears.

Lord, the tree You cursed is dried. Do trees have ears? How did they hear what He said? Things which are unseen are eternal, what we see are temporal. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen; sight is the substance of things seen and My people shall walk by faith, they shall not walk by sight. So you rebuke the unseen and you speak to the seen. So early in the morning He will rise and go to a place where there is nobody and He will contend with the Father and He will contend with the powers of darkness, deals with the unseen; and He comes and speaks to the seen and He walks in the rest throughout the day. For unto rest God had called us. We will not have rest until we deal with the unseen. He is not rebuking the seen, so is there something behind the wind that can hear? Is there something behind your sickness that can hear? Yes, there is something that can hear behind your sickness, behind every sickness. Let me ask you this question: does sickness have a name? Yes it has a name; cancer is a name, COVID is a name, it's a name and it has ears because behind that there is a spirit; and we also have been given a Name,

a Name far above every name and every principality, every name, every ruler seen in the age to come, we have been given a name; we have been taught to use that Name. 'In My Name,' because everything has a name and everything has ears because behind it are spirits. There are spirits operating and when God speaks, in the unseen realm things happen, things happen.

Faith is a substance of things not seen. My righteous shall live by faith. How do you live by faith? Lesson number one: rest, lesson number two: speak to the unseen. Not to your wife, but to the spirit that troubles your wife; not to your children, but to the spirit that troubles your children. Not to your sheep; otherwise you will not be able to love your sheep because we are reacting to the seen. Problems are real but you are dealing with the unseen, rebuke the unseen and you speak to the seen. Does fever have ears? Because the Bible says when Jesus went to Peter's house, He rebuked the fever and Peter's mother-in-law got up. That's not what we do, we rebuke Peter's mother-in-law and she won't cook for you ever. The unseen controls the seen.

We do not fight flesh and blood, we deal with the issues, there are issues in marriage, there are issues in home, there are issues in office. We deal with issues, we do not fight with flesh and blood; but we fight the powers of darkness. We don't deal with powers of darkness, we don't negotiate with powers of darkness. Lots of people negotiate with powers of darkness. Storm is blowing; leave me alone, I am going back, Satan says, 'bye, bye.' Otherwise water is getting into the boat; one bucket out, one bucket in; you have reached nowhere because you are negotiating with the devil. You don't negotiate with the devil, the Bible says submit to God and resist the devil, not negotiate with the devil. You don't negotiate with the devil, you never negotiate with the devil. He (the devil) is always a thief, he always is a murderer and he is always the destroyer. His nature never changes, that is what he is, that is who he is.

There is this story I forgot about what it was; yeah this bird was flying. So the flood was coming, so this scorpion was there. The scorpion said, 'Would you please carry me across the river?' So the bird said, okay get on me; and when they crossed, the scorpion bit it, the bird was dying. The bird asked, "Why did you do this to me? I helped you." The scorpion says, "I can't help it, I am a scorpion." That's the devil, he always comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. Even if he blesses you it is to destroy you. You don't negotiate with the devil. We don't fight flesh and blood but we fight against the powers of darkness.

### **Acts 10:38**

***<sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.***

All who were oppressed of the devil. When Jesus is looking at the people, He knows behind them is the oppressor. All who are oppressed of the devil, that's what the Bible says,

### **2 Corinthians 2:11**

***<sup>11</sup>lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.***

We are not ignorant of his devices. He has many, many, tricks, devices to deceive us.

### **Ephesians 6:11**

***<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***

For what? Against the wiles of the enemy. If you don't deal with the unseen, let me tell you, every time you will fail. If you deal with the seen and do not deal with the unseen, you will ultimately fail because we were called to a battle and battle is with the unseen; and there are armies of evil spirits. Spirits of infirmity, spirits of depression, unclean spirits, deceiving spirits, lying spirits, spirit of anger, spirit of envy, mind binding spirits, all kinds of spirits are there in the Bible. Spirit of slumber. When the Spirit of God left King Saul, what does the Bible say? A distressing spirit came upon him, a distressing spirit. After that the man is distressed and in his distress, he murders people. When Ahab and Jehoshaphath are planning to go to war, how does Ahab get trapped? A lying spirit said to God: "I will go in the mouth of all prophets." All kinds of spirits are there. Deaf and dumb spirits are there. So there are deaf and dumb spirits, a spirit that can cause you from not hearing, a spirit that can cause you from not speaking. So a spirit can cause a woman from bearing a child. So all kinds of spirits are there. So instead of going to fertility clinic or gynecologist to have a baby, first deal with the unseen. Those years there were no gynecologists but after praying for twenty years, Isaac broke through and his wife, Rebecca conceived. You know why she was barren? It is because she was chosen. That's a storm in Isaac and Rebecca's life, everything else is ok, peace, rest everywhere, no problem, happy home. One problem: the wife is barren

but if the wife is barren, the promise of God will not come to pass. Unless you deal with this storm, Isaac will never reach the other side. You have to deal with the unseen, deal with the unseen.

So there are spirits everywhere, especially in these last days for the Bible says the devil knows his time is short and he has come with great anger. Look at what's happening around the world, it's not normal. The thief comes to? What does he come to? The Devil knows he does not have much time and he is somebody who redeems the time he knows that the days are evil. The devil won't waste his time. So don't be happy that the devil has left you. He left the ten sons of Jacob because there was nothing in them to steal. If there is nothing of value, for him, in your life he won't come after you; for the thief comes to steal and it doesn't steal cheap stuff. The presence of the thief is sometimes proof that you have something valuable in your life because the thief comes to steal. Presence of the storm is proof you are on the right journey. Your calling is real and Jesus rose and rebuked the wind; and it's time to rebuke the devil. To rebuke the devil, you need to know two things; one – you have authority, your authority comes from position,

### **Ephesians 2:6**

***<sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,***

We are seated with Christ, that's your position. Where are you seated? Far above every principality and where does God put us? In Christ! In that place; that is authority, and then power,

### **Luke 10:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***

Both, you need both. You need authority and you need power. Jesus was seated with His Father and He was endowed with power; therefore He rose and rebuked the wind; and it stopped. Deal with the wind first, deal with the unseen first. Sometimes our faith may not be strong enough. Look at the example I gave, (maybe it is not there in the Telugu Bible. The Telugu Bible took it out because some scriptures were taken out by the devil. It is true, many Bibles don't have this verse). This is what it says in English.

### **Matthew 17:21**

***<sup>21</sup> However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."***

The devil is very scared of these verses because there are the verses which are dangerous for him. Look at verse nineteen, what it says,

### **Matthew 17:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"***

"Why couldn't we do this? And He says because of your unbelief. He says, 'because of no faith.' Then He says, "But this kind comes out by fasting and prayer." So what is God saying? Fasting and prayer are by which you empower your prayer, to deal with the demonic. Why could He cast out? What does it tell you? It tells you that His life was a life of fasting and prayer. See, fasting and prayer are all not normal things. They are not normal things. As long as they are normal, it is religion. If you deal with it in the normal way then you will go nowhere. Look at,

### **John 6:19**

***<sup>19</sup> So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.***

Jesus went in the evening, sent them at six in the evening, now it is at the fourth hour; that is three in the morning. Nine hours of rowing, how much did they go? Two miles. He went up, He fasted, He prayed and He is walking on the water. What is the difference? Why were they not able to move forward? Because the unseen was stopping them. Why is your ministry not able to move forward? Why is your reach not going beyond what you want? Because the unseen is stopping you? Why is Jesus able to go easily? Why is the unseen not able to stop Him? Because He has spent the whole night in fasting and in prayer. They are dealing with the seen. He has dealt with the unseen and He walks over the sea, He has no boat, He has on oars but He walks over the sea because He dealt with the unseen; this is the principle, this is what Jesus is teaching. If we do not have that life, we will struggle and we will be disappointed, now

and in eternity. That's how the Kingdom of God works. On earth, Jesus addresses the unseen and then He turns to the seen and He asked them the question,

#### **Mark 4:40**

<sup>40</sup> ***But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"***

So He asked them this question, "Why are you afraid?" Two questions He asked them, why are you afraid? (in Luke it says, 'where is your faith?' And in Mark He says, have you no faith?). Why are you afraid? The whole world is in the grip of fear. The devil rules the world through fear. First question asked is why are you afraid? Fear is not just an emotion, it is a spirit. Fear will cause you to turn back. The whole purpose of the storm is to cause them to go back, to turn back; and many turn back because of fear.

#### **Judges 7:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' "*** ***And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.***

Only one thing; they turned back. "Whoever is fearful can turn back," twenty two thousand turned back. Twenty two thousand! Imagine this is a Church, a mob comes, breaks up the windows, beat up a few of you and disperses the meeting; and next Pastor's meeting half of you won't come, offering or food you won't come. What is the purpose of all things that are happening? Fear. No Hijab, you see that? In Karnataka, court and all. No Hijab for muslims. How does it help you? What difference does it make? Fear in the mind of minorities. Let me tell you something interesting: the court may finally say, 'No religious symbols in educational institutes.' Let me tell you something; our dear Sardhar jees, his turban and his bangles, try to take it off. See all this is selectively. They won't threaten them but they will threaten those who can be threatened but we don't give into fear. So when all these things happen, the Bible says, the hearts of many will give away because of fear; even the mightiest of men can give into fear.

#### **1 Kings 19:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.***

Elijah ran. So whenever you ask for the double portion of Elijah's spirit don't ask for that spirit of fear. People turn back, people run, people lock up.

#### **John 20:19**

<sup>19</sup> ***Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."***

What did they do? Doors locked up! Jesus has entrusted the Gospel into eleven people and the doors are closed and Gospel is locked. The Gospel is locked. Eleven people have the words of Life; nobody has the courage to step up and speak the Gospel of Jesus because of fear. Don't tell me fear is not real. Twenty two thousand turned away on the day of the battle, Elijah ran and the disciples were locked up for the fear of Jews, after receiving a teaching and an anointing and a work from Jesus Himself. So Jesus says: "why are you afraid?"

#### **2 Timothy 1:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> ***when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.*** Okay first thing, true faith. Generations of faith in your family, grandmother, mother and you. Second, true son, true faith. <sup>6</sup> ***Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*** , true son, true faith and true gift but Timothy is going nowhere, why?

<sup>7</sup> ***For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*** He is a fearful man.

Generations of faith and a true gift received by the hand of God. You read first Timothy, prophecies over his life; all this is useless if you have not dealt with the unseen spirit of fear. Timothy is going nowhere, he is useless in the kingdom of God unless he learns to deal with the spirit of fear; and there are so many Timothys in the Kingdom of God, very good people, true sons of faith. Faith is true, they have a call, they have a gift, they have received prophecy but they are fearful. Fear will stop you from destiny but that spirit is unseen and you have to deal with the unseen before you deal with the seen. The question is, Jesus asked, where is your faith? We asked last week this question, Jesus makes a statement in

**Mark 11:22**

**<sup>22</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.**

Have faith in God. Question: Why should I have faith in God? I am not going to give you scripture. Do you know why I should have faith in God? Do you know why God says to Israel to have faith in God because God is not a man that He should lie. Do you know why you don't have faith in man? Because men lie and God never lies. God is not a son of man that He should repent and change His mind. God never changes his mind; therefore I can have faith in God. that's the integrity of God, he will never lie to you, He will never change something that He has told you but that's not enough because there are people also like that. You can be a person of integrity but no power. So God comes and tells Abraham and Sarah, "is anything too difficult for God?" He has created everything, the seen and the unseen with the power of His hand. Is anything too difficult for God? So I can have faith in God because He is a Person of integrity, He is a Person of divine power, nothing is difficult for Him. Those two are not enough, there is a third reason, You are a Person of integrity and You are a Person of absolute power but why should You do anything for me? You know what He tells Israel and tells us? 'I loved you with an everlasting love.' Three reasons why I should have faith in God.

Three reasons: God of integrity, God of all power and behold what manner of love the Father has shed upon us that we may be called the sons of God. That's why we have faith in God. Jesus had faith in His Father and He dealt with the unseen. We deal with the unseen because homes will break, churches will break, homes and churches will never reach the places of their destiny because the devil has stopped us. We have to deal with the unseen first because behind everything there is an unseen and every time the enemy wins, God loses His glory in your and my life.

**Acts 12:5**

**<sup>5</sup> Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.**

Peter is in prison, it is the seen, the church is praying; they are not appealing to Caesar, they are not appealing to Herod, what are they doing? They are dealing with the unseen, they are praying. There is a seen situation, the situation is, the apostle is in the prison. What is the churches' response? Deal with the spiritual, unseen, first. The Bible says, Peter was fast asleep, angels came from unseen into the seen. Intervention is unseen. Comes (angel), wakes Him up, put your clothes, come out, you are free. What did the church learn? Battles are spiritual. If you win the spiritual, you will win the physical. If you lose in the unseen, you will lose in the seen. Paul and Silas are stripped, locked, chained and in prison, what are they doing?

**Acts 16:25**

**<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.**

Ah! That (praying and singing hymns) is Spiritual, that is not material. They are not writing letters appealing to caesar. Seen and unseen, the Bible says that everybody's chains came off. Question: Who broke the chains? Doors opened, who opened the doors? The unseen came into the seen; because they dealt with the unseen first, principles they learnt from Jesus. Weapons of our warfare are not carnal but there are weapons of warfare, they are mighty in God in pulling down strongholds. If the battle is spiritual, then let me tell you, the weapon has to be spiritual. So prayer is a spiritual weapon, not all prayers, the prayer according to the Word of God; empowered by the Spirit of God. So prayer is a weapon, fasting is a weapon. How can fasting be a weapon? If you understand the spiritual behind it and you fast accordingly, it will become a weapon in the spiritual realm.

**Isaiah 58:6**

**<sup>6</sup> "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?"**

Chosen fast. How can fasting break the bonds of the enemy? Here is somebody bound with sin, fasting breaks it. So fasting is not physical, though it is physical, it is spiritual weapon. Do you fast? Do you fast regularly? For it is a weapon. If you don't believe, you don't fast. If you believe that you have to deal with the unseen things then you will fast and pray. Praise is a weapon, otherwise when Jehoshaphat and Levites praise, how can the enemy die? How can Paul and Silas sing and chains come off? So praise is a weapon. So you should not look at the seen, you have to look at the unseen and praise; because it is spiritual, because God is on the throne, because Jesus has won the battle. When you praise, angles go to war.

The Bible says there is war in Heaven, Michael and his angels fought the Satan and his angels. Why are you fighting? Because down here they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. Do you know why Michael is fighting Satan? It is because the Church is praying on the earth. It is a response to the prayer and a testimony of the church, there is a war in heaven. So if you and I don't fast and pray, why should angels come and intervene? You need angelic intervention; but it is a response to something which we do in the spirit here. In everything give thanks. Make your prayers and supplications known unto God, with thanksgiving. So giving thanks is not a seen thing, it is a spiritual thing. It is a spiritual weapon.

"Let us feed them." Lord, six months wages won't be enough, there is a little boy with five loaves and two fish. What can you do with this? Give it to me. He took it, He gave thanks. What multiplied the bread? What will multiply the little you have? Because by faith you gave thanks. Thanksgiving is a spiritual weapon. That's what the Bible says, "Give thanks in all situations." Why? In your need God can multiply the grace you need. These things are not natural, these things are spiritual. If you don't understand; and if you don't believe; and if you don't consistently practice, we will not go to the other side, the storm will stop us, we will turn back or we will negotiate with the devil; but we will not reach where God wants us to reach.

Why am I preaching? It is because preaching is a weapon. Do you know what Jesus said? 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, He has anointed Me to preach deliverance.' If I don't believe that deliverance will come through my preaching, I will not preach. The preaching is not natural. You have to believe that preaching is spiritual. Teaching is not natural, teaching is spiritual. If you are going to teach with the natural eye, it will not happen. Teaching in the Kingdom of God is spiritual, it is a weapon. Look at this powerful verse, if you do not have these three things; a person will fall, a family will fall and a nation will fall. If you have these three things, a person will stand, a family will stand and a nation will stand.

### **2 Chronicles 15:3**

***<sup>3</sup> For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law;***

True God! There are many gods but I need true God. As a person we need true God, as a family we need true God, as a church we need true God and as a nation we need the true God. The first thing is the true God. Second thing, we need teaching priests who will teach the ways of God because from the lips of the priests comes the knowledge of God. We need true God, we need the teaching of the true God and we need the Law. We are not talking about the Levitical law. We need to know how the Kingdom of the Lord functions. You have these three things in your life, you cannot fall, your family cannot fall, your church cannot fall, your nation cannot fall; therefore teaching is not natural, it is spiritual. And when we leave these things, we look back and what we have is calamity, then only we will reach the other side. We walk by faith, not by sight. Understand this, faith is a way of thinking, sight is a way of thinking.

Sight does not see value in prayer. Sight does not see value in fasting. Sight does not see value in praise. Sight does not see value in thanksgiving. Sight sees value in talking, instead of talking to God, we just sit there and talk, talk, talk. Sight sees value not in fasting but in feasting (Ahab went to eat, Elijah went to pray). Sight finds value when somebody thanks you and not in thanking God. Sight finds value in somebody praising you and not praising God. So the question is, are you walking by faith or are you walking by sight? Because this is a mindset and God says, 'Grow in that mindset.' When you grow in that mindset, 1 John says,

### **1 John 5:4**

***<sup>4</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.***

Faith! So the world has a way of thinking, faith is a way of thinking and faith will overcome the world. Every storm the ruler of the world brings, faith will overcome.

### **Luke 8:26**

***<sup>26</sup> Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.***

And they arrived. When Jesus rebuked the wind, and spoke to the sea, and spoke to the disciples, they arrived. You have to arrive. It is not enough to start the journey, it has to be "I arrived". Abraham recovered all. Stolen along with Lot, he fought and recovered all. David pursued, overtook, and recovered all. We have to arrive and we will arrive only by faith, only by faith, there is no other way. They arrived and the first one to meet them was the municipal chairman

of Gadarenes, MLA of Gadarenes, no, you know who met them? The mad man, it's a mad man. So what was it all about? There was a mad man there and the Bible says,

**Luke 8:27-28**

***<sup>27</sup> And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!"***

This is not the man speaking, the demon is speaking. If you look at the whole scene, there is a man and there are demons in him; the seen and the unseen. Jesus doesn't deal with the seen, He deals with the unseen first. He does not deal with the man, He deals with the unseen. You take this portion, I am telling you pastors, look at the parallel portion in *Mark 5*. Look at *Luke 8:27*, he had demons for a long time and he wore no clothes. Understand when a civilization starts wearing less and less clothes, it is demonic. World will call it style but God will say that they need deliverance. He lived among the tombs. What does the tomb signify? It is a container of dead things, their life and attention are spent on things which have no eternal value. Understand why people need deliverance.

Paul will say to the church in Colossians, "If you are raised up with Christ, set your mind on things that are above and not on things which are below." As a sign of the 21<sup>st</sup> century demonic, they wear less and less clothes and their minds are on things below and not on things above, dead things.

**Mark 5:5**

***<sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.***

Crying all the time. Do you see people crying all the time? Presidents cries, Prime Ministers cries, everybody cries and you see people cutting themselves. Young people cutting themselves, older people cutting themselves; it is demonic and they need deliverance. Watch pastors, if we don't deliver we can't sustain our ministry.

**Luke 8:31**

***<sup>31</sup> And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.***

Please don't send me to the abyss. There are requests there, even demons have requests, 'Don't send us to the abyss now.' So they know the reality of the abyss. When I do deliverance, the final threat to the demon is, "If you don't leave this person, I will send you to the abyss," then they will say, 'I will go.' They don't want to go to the abyss. Second one, listen carefully

**Mark 5:10**

***<sup>10</sup> Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.***

Please don't send us out of this place. There are territorial spirits. If you try to cast him away from Telangana, he will say, 'Don't send me to AP, because the fellow in AP will not allow me.' That's why people are not the same everywhere but depending on the territorial spirits, people take up the nature. There are familiar spirits. I may be a drunk and I have a drunken spirit; and I die or I am delivered from that spirit. It looks in my family, ah! My children are not saved but nobody drinks, they are not interested, I need somebody who drinks. Familiar spirits, territorial spirits, these spirits control areas and accordingly the nature of people becomes like that.

Oh Daniel, 1 to 21 days I have been fighting with the prince of Persia; not with the prince of Egypt but with the prince of Persia. That's the principality over and I had to call Michael for help, why? Because of your prayer. Why did you pray? Because you understood the deliverance of your people is near. You understood that Israel's deliverance is near, seventy years of captivity is over. The prince of Babylon, Persia, does not want to release Israel alone and I had to fight twenty one days to bring you a revelation. We are not fighting flesh and blood, we are fighting powers and principalities and rulers of wickedness. We are fighting territorial and familiar spirits. Some houses I go to, every house there is a mental patient, why? That's the spirit that reigns there. Naomi, her husband and her sons went to Moab, out of covering, all the males are dead, women are alive because that territorial spirit took the men out.

Jesus is going, reaches the city called Nain. Here is a widow and her only son and her husband died. Why? Because the spirit has taken out her husband and her child and the Deliverer has come to Israel. He says, 'Rise up,' 'Take your son



and go.' We are fighting a spiritual battle. This is a battle, we don't understand the nature of the battle, the church is going nowhere. We need to understand this.

Third request, you know what the third request is? 'There are pigs here, send us to the pigs,' and the Bible says that as soon as they entered the pigs, the pigs went over the cliff and all the pigs died and people of that area came and they were afraid because they saw the man sitting at Jesus' feet with the right mind and they told Jesus, 'Please go away from us.'

Let me tell you another reason, now listen carefully, and read the book of Acts carefully after this today. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation; and why does the world system and the enemy oppose the Gospel so much? Because when one man was delivered and was set free of the demonic; one whole set of people's business went down. When the pigs died they lost their business. So people are held in captivity so that some set of people can become rich, but when you set these people free their riches go. That's why the opposition to the Gospel.

Why is Gospel opposed? Because business, economy that holds people in captive will come down because religion is the biggest business in the world. Gospel is free, you don't have to do anything for it, you don't have to pay one rupee (Indian currency). Salvation is free. If people believe, businesses will shut down, temples will shut down, mosques will shut down, churches will shut down, everything will shut down; and people who worship true God will arise because they realize that this is the true liberty of God. One man went free and one set of people's business went down.

See when Paul goes to Europe, people believe and they gather. We made lots of money through the selling of these idols, we need to get this fellow (Paul) out of this city otherwise our religion will end. Paul and Silas were in Philippi and there was this girl with a divining spirit; who brought her master much money with her gift. He just cast the demon out. And as soon as her masters knew that they were not going to get any money, they caught Paul and Silas and beat them and threw them in the prison because when deliverance takes place in one place, people will lose their business in another place. So understand how the Kingdom works. The Gospel of the Kingdom is a terrible thing for the kingdom of the devil and a terrible news for many pastors who make money out of their congregation.

### **2 Corinthians 8:9**

***<sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.***

He was rich, He became poor so that I can be rich in Him. The question is how do I become rich?

### **James 2:5**

***<sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?***

God has made the poor of this world rich by faith. I told my church and other churches. This is faith, God's credit card, I use it, He pays it. Do you know the difference between credit card and debit card? Debit card you use, money goes out immediately from your account. Credit card you use, only at the end of thirty days a bill will come. They give you a limit, one lakh, two lakh, three lakh, limit is there but you can use it up to the limit. Faith is God's credit card, He pays the bill, limited only by the will of God. When a man lives like that, there's very little the devil can do to him. His business goes down.

You are witnesses. My church is here, you are here, eleven years of Pastor's Conference, have I ever asked anything from you? Never. Have I given to you? Yes. You can ask my church, all these fifteen years, ask them if ever, from the pulpit, have I asked them for money? Never! I teach them what the Bible says and leave it to them. We never ask them for money, why? Because that's how the Kingdom of God works. That's how His Kingdom works.

That's not how the devil's kingdom works. One set of people become poor, they go into oppression, they go into bondage and few people become rich. Not in the Kingdom of God. He sets you free and then He makes you rich in faith. He tells you, whatever you need in life I will add, do not fear I am taking you to the other side.

One more truth,

### **Mark 5:18-20**

***18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. 19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." 20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.***

Now he is delivered, and he says, 'Please can I come with You?' Do you know what Decapolis means? Ten cities. Now do you know why the storm came? Because in the madman was the evangelist for ten cities. So don't write anybody off. The madman you see today, you know why he is mad? Because the devil saw his destiny, the devil saw his call, the devil saw his purpose but there is one called 'Jesus'; He went to the other side, to release him so that he can fulfil his destiny. God has not called the rich, He has not called the powerful, He has called the poor, the weak, the madman but when they are delivered what the rich could not do, the powerful couldn't do, one man turned the ten cities to God. That is ministry.

Therefore my Jesus and your Jesus went all the way to Samaria, sat by the well for a poor woman, married five times, living with the sixth one; we will write those people off, unclean people but when He delivers them the Bible says, the city of Samaria came to Christ. Do you know why she fell six times? Do you know why she married five times? Do you know why she is living with the sixth one? It is because the devil saw something in her worth stealing. Because he saw in her a person who could save Samaria. See through the eyes of God. It is not the IAS and the IPS officers who will turn the people to God but it is the madmen and the poor women. And there was a poor woman, fully possessed, seven demons, that after resurrection Jesus told her, "Go tell My brethren I have risen." The world receives the message of resurrection through a totally demon possessed woman who was delivered by Jesus. That is ministry!

Eleven years ago when I started this Pastor's Conference; I didn't advertise, till today I don't advertise. God said, "I will send you My servants, they are not rich, they are poor, they will come from villages, they will come from the by-lanes, give them enough money to go back home, give them a good meal." He told me very distinctly that for many, of them the meal you give will be the best meal of their month, for some of them will set the mad and the unclean men and women free. Because the big and the rich ones won't go to them. That's why for eleven years we do this. By faith we give you a good meal and give you that offerings because you can go to places we cannot. But when you see people like this man, like this Samaritan, like Mary, don't write them off because in them is a call that can save ten cities.

In her is a testimony that can bring a city to God because the Bible says that the men in her city believed in Jesus because of her. That's how ministry works. So he said, "Let us go to the other side." There is somebody waiting, there is a mad man who walked among the tombs, cut himself but he can bring Decapolis to Christ. The Kingdom of God does not operate the way we think. That's why we preach by faith. Preach by faith, put money away, put away the things of this world, put your face towards Christ and say, 'Lord, You sent me, I will go, I will let no storm stop me but every day I will rise up early and deal with the unseen.' You may be hungry, it's almost two O clock but I have been up from three in the morning. It's going to be twelve hours; because you can't preach until you have dealt with the unseen first. First the unseen then the seen and the seen does not matter, it does not matter. It does not matter what you look like, it doesn't matter what the man of Gadarenes looked like because you are able to see an Evangelist in him, you are able to see a prophet in him, you are able to see an apostle in him. So we go where He sends us but be at rest. Don't be afraid. Deal with the unseen first and the seen will fall into place.

### **Prayer**

*Father, we just come to You this afternoon, we just thank You Lord. I just want to believe, You chose us because we are fools, You chose us because we are poor, we were ignoble therefore You chose us. You confound the rich, the wise and the powerful and we pray; make us rich in faith. For You said all things are possible with him who believes. For they subdued kingdoms by faith, they wrought righteousness through faith, they shut the mouth of lions by faith, they quenched the fire by faith, they raised the dead back to life by faith and some refused freedom for faith. You have made us rich by faith. And I pray Father that by faith that there will be a shifting and a churning in this body, that You will really, really, separate the believing from the unbelieving because only the believing can stand, only the believing can overcome and if some of them who keep on coming and are not actually interested in You at all, are only coming for the money, I pray by next month, shift them out but those who believe let them rise. For all things are possible to those who believe, let them be made rich in faith, let them grow in the knowledge of God, let them grow in grace, let them grow in power, let the anointing of God be poured upon them and let them take their villages and towns for Christ. Let them contend with the enemies, the unseen, let them put to flight the armies of the devil. Let it be written of them that they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives even unto death.*

*And I pray a discipline of fasting and praying, teaching and learning will come upon them. Let the Spirit of grace and supplication rest upon Your servants, that they will take nations for Christ, that they will have power and authority to rebuke the powers of darkness. Let there be a conviction in their hearts, real convictions in their hearts. Let them cry out to God, 'I am tired of this life, I am tired of this ministry. This is not what I have heard. I heard that we shall receive power when You come; power to speak, power to minister, power to deliver. Lord, I want that power, I want that rest, I want that authority and that comes from You.*

*When people see, they should be able to say, "These are unlearned men but they were with Jesus." That's the only testimony we want and if people say anything about us let them say, "He was with Jesus." That's all that matters. We are on the journey, we will arrive on the other side, we will recover all, all that the enemy has stolen and kept away from us. We will recover all. There is no turning back, there is no turning back. There is no negotiating with the enemy. I take authority in the name of Jesus, I bind every spirit that hinders; every stealer of Your servants' destiny, every spirit that distresses Your people, I bind you in the name of Jesus and I command you to leave God's people. And I pray that there will be a release and anointing on Your people that they will come to their right mind, and they will be clothed properly in the Spirit and be found seated at Your feet and they will hear from You, "Go to your city, go to your village and tell the people what the Lord has done." Thank You Father. We just want to thank You. We just want to praise You. We just want to glorify You. It all belongs to You. Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. In Jesus' Name I pray Amen. Amen Amen.*

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