

Prayer

Father, we come to You this morning. I thank You Lord for all Your servants who are here; all Your children who are here. Thank You for bringing them all safely. Thank You, You have kept us alive in the midst of a pandemic, through 2021. You brought us through, You kept us alive and we just want to thank You. It's a new year, new life, a new month, a new oil, a fresh anointing and I pray You will revive us from within. Let every downcast heart be lifted up for we are in the presence of the living God, for His purpose has never changed. He always comes to seek, to save the lost. He always comes to give rest. 'All those who are weary and heavy laden, come to Me', is what He said, 'I will give you rest.' In His house there is rest. In His presence there is rest and there is a power to heal, to deliver and I pray that hearts will open, ears will be open, minds will be open to receive the Word of God and to hear the voice of the living God. Oh! Father, we surrender ourselves into Thy hands. We acknowledge in Your presence and in the company of Your saints that we can do nothing without You. Our confidence is not in us, our confidence is in You that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We believe, even now, even today. We just surrender ourselves, speak through us. Let us just be the vessel and You be the oil, the new oil and the new wine. Oh! Father, speak Lord. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We turn to

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

These two will never change, the devil always comes to steal, he always comes to kill and to destroy. He always comes to steal. He always comes to destroy and Jesus always comes to give life, not less life. In 2022, more life. I believe all of you have received your promise for this 2022. If you had waited in 2021 and God has spoken to you, you enter this year with a promise. This is our promise (Joel 2:24) as a church, for all our Churches, the whole world wide GTC. It is the year of restoration. God will restore. We need the promises of God because it was through the promises we received the life of God. Jesus always comes to save. Jesus always comes to give life but we need to know how to receive that life. Because in the last days God will do what looks impossible. One of the pictures we get from the Bible is God will do the impossible.

There are two entities or structures on which God keeps His eyes, nothing else, only two: Church and Israel. One is spiritual; the Church is spiritual. Though we are all physical, only God knows who all are spiritual; that is spiritual. But we know Israel. So there is spiritual and there is carnal. These are the two entities on which God keeps His eyes on and He did the impossible with the physical, just brought Israel back. Therefore we look at that picture and we look at what He does with the physical and what He will do with the Spiritual, both are there in the Bible. Jesus said, you know how to read signs of the weather but there are times and seasons in the Bible. One of the fundamental problems, for us as pastors, is that we miss seasons.

There are seasons of the Holy Spirit. If we miss seasons, that's why agriculture is continuously used in the Bible. There is a time to sow, when rain comes, the ground is soft, you can dig and sow your seed but if you miss the season; either rain did not come or you miss the season and if you try to so, it will be very difficult. Sometimes ministry is very difficult because you missed the season of the Holy Spirit. The Bible talks about seasons and Solomon talks about seasons in life, in *Ecclesiastes 3:3* – there is a season and time for everything. That is why it is important to keep our spiritual ears tuned to the Holy Spirit so that we move along with Him. When Jesus came first, the Gospel went to Israel first, they missed their time and season. Jesus Himself said, 'If you had known your time,' they missed their season and because they missed their season, rejected the Gospel and rejected the Messiah, they are still waiting for two thousand years because they missed the Gospel and the season. It is very dangerous to miss your time and season.

So God left Israel and turned to the gentiles. The gentiles should know their seasons otherwise even the gentiles will miss their seasons. Later in the message we will see that gentiles are not been given all the time. We have been given a specific time and once the time is over God will switch back to Israel so we have to be careful about the times and the seasons in our lives. If we miss times and seasons we will miss years of our life and that's the promise "I will give you back the years that you lost". All promises in the Bible are not the same, some promises are more important

than certain promises so keep that in mind. Many things can be restored. If you fall sick you can get well and get your health back. If you lose your money, if you work hard and you understand the principalities, you can get your wealth back. If you lose your relationship, if you work on it, you can get your relationship back but if you lose time it is impossible to get your time back. Impossible! Only God is able to make the impossible possible.

So, even if you are old today, maybe you are in your 70s or maybe you are in your 80s and you might be thinking I lost so many years, God can give it back to you so that you finish well. Importance of life is how you finish, you finish well. It is good to begin well but it is more important to finish well and God wants His children to finish well. God wants His servants to finish well. Keep your ears tuned because the ways are there in the Word of God. So when Israel rejected the Word of God, God turned to the gentiles. Remember there is a thief and then there is Jesus. The fundamental principles of God, whenever God deals with a person or a nation, He will enter into a covenant with them. He is a covenant making and covenant keeping God. Understand that. He is a covenant keeping God.

He only works on covenants. That's why He made a covenant with Adam and Eve. In Genesis, chapters one, two and three God made a covenant with them. Then He made a covenant with Noah after the flood and then He made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God only works based on covenants. So you know what, how does the Devil seal? He knows the covenant God has made, He knows God is a covenant keeping God. So you know what He does, He comes to break the terms of the covenant. Disobedience brings the curses or the punishments of the covenant. Second, ignorance of the terms covenant brings curses or we lose and the enemy steals and we do not know. My people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge because the Devil knows God very well. He knows that God is a covenant keeping God, either he will make you disobey like Adam and Eve did or he, like Israel, will make you disobey in the wilderness or ignorance. If you turn to

Exodus 2:23-25

²³ Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them

This was talking about a thousand years ago. The whole world was under slavery, there was no nation on earth where slavery wasn't there. Kings and rulers oppressed their people. India, China anywhere you look at a nation's history you see slavery and bondage was common and people were groaning under the bondage, God did not intervene with any people because He had no covenant with any people. He made a covenant only with one nation; He made a covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and Jacob, therefore He heard and He prepared a savior, in the form of Moses and sent him into Israel to deliver them. So the covenants are important, very, very, important.

The first thing you have to be very clear this morning, absolutely sure, "Am I part of the covenant?", "Am I truly, truly, saved?" Don't assume. New covenant is different, it is a person coming to us, it's a receiving of a person. As many as who received Him, it's a covenant because if you are not under a covenant and in our suffering we cry out, God of Israel does not hear. He is a covenant keeping God. Children of Israel cried out and God heard their groaning, God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and God looked upon His people and had respect unto them. If God has to look upon us and have to have compassion upon us and respect our sufferings to deliver us we have to be part of a covenant and there are only two entities which have a covenant with God: Israel, part of Old Covenant, and Church, part of New Covenant. Covenants are very important and the Devil knows that and our God is a covenant keeping God. Once they enter into the wilderness, this is what God says, He brings them into the wilderness and look at what he says,

Exodus 19:5-8

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.'" ⁷ So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. ⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

Keep my covenant! Condition, now He is setting. If you obey My command, keep my covenant, all these things will come to pass. You will be this for Me, you will be My special people, Kingdom of priests, all these are connected to

one thing. In verse seven and eight, Moses goes down and tells the people about what God has said, and what did the people say? *And all the people answered and said, "All that the Lord has said, we will do."* Two parties enter into a covenant: God and the children of Israel enter the covenant and then the blessings are mentioned.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

¹"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

You know what God is saying? If you keep My covenant, you never have to pursue blessings, blessings will pursue you, it will overtake you and that's the promise. Listen to My voice and keep the covenant. This is what will happen. On the other hand,

Deuteronomy 28:15

¹⁵"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

On the other hand if you break the covenant, all these curses of disobedience will come. So God is a covenant keeping God and at that time only one nation had a covenant with God and you know what God is saying? I will not leave you, I will not forsake you but I will punish you. Only Israel! You know why? If we look at

Exodus 3:22

²² But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Israel is My first born. God tells Moses to go tell Pharaoh *"Israel is My first born."* Who is Israel? He is My son. I will not forsake him but I will discipline him. Look at the principle,

Hebrews 12:5-6

⁵"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

He didn't discipline India, He didn't discipline China. He only disciplined one nation, only one nation, yet that nation was preserved. Many, many, nations have disappeared but Israel never disappeared. Though they were scattered to the ends of the earth, God's eyes were upon them. They could not be destroyed because He is a God of a covenant. He says, "Do you know why they are going through what they are going through? It is because Israel is My son and when he breaks the covenant, I will discipline him."

So there is covenant, there is disobedience and there is ignorance. Disobedience brings judgment. Discipline of the Lord. When you repent, restoration comes back. Ignorance brings destruction. What did God say? "My people are destroyed because they don't know My terms, My knowledge, My ways." If the first generation was disciplined because of disobedience, the second generation was blessed because of obedience and the third generation started going into destruction because of ignorance. Israel's history: first generation disobeyed, they wandered in the wilderness and died. Second generation, obeyed, they possessed the Promised Land, God gave them rest from all their enemies. Third generation, the Bible says that a generation arose who did not know God. Ignorance and their enemies took over. Understand how the covenant works. If you break the covenant, discipline will come. If you are ignorant of the covenant, destruction comes.

So if for disobedience the way out is repentance and for ignorance the way out is repentance and knowledge. Knowledge of God; God's ways. How does God's Kingdom work? Please remember, every time we come together only one purpose – it is to understand the ways of God because no one is too late for restoration, no one is too late for restoration because our God is a God of restoration. If you have gone too far, of course you have to fight more, you have to struggle more but restoration is promised. It is promised because our God is a God of restoration. So every time you come, every time you come to study the Word of God, be good students of the Word of God. Age is

irrelevant, we should be able to hear and learn the Word of God. So when you study the Old Testament and the New Testament we need to understand how it works. When Jesus came..., look what happens when Jesus came in,

Luke 10:5-6

⁵ But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.

When He came, the first command: don't go to the gentiles, don't go to the Samaritans. Who are the Samaritans? They are a mixed group for the Gospel is for Israel, so don't go to the Samaritan. First I have been sent to the house of Israel because He is a covenant keeping God. We know that Israel rejected the Messiah publicly, before two authorities, the secular authority and the religious authority. The religious authority handed Him over to the Roman authority and Pilate said, "I will release your King." You know what they said? They said, "We have no king but Caesar, release Barnabas and crucify Jesus." So they rejected the Gospel and the Messiah. Still God was merciful. All first converts were all Jews. All the apostles were Jews. When the Holy Spirit came, the hundred and twenty were all Jews. On the day of Pentecost when three thousand were saved, all were Jews and as we are going the opposition is also from Jews. Jews are opposing from everywhere. Finally, something happens, it happens in a place called Antioch, not the original Antioch. There are two Antioch; the place where Church started, where the Missionaries were sent out, where Paul and Barnabas were sent out. And there is another Antioch called Basidia and there something happened and there Paul and Barnabas say, read Spiritual history. Read what it says

Acts 13:50

⁵⁰ "But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region."

What did they do? "We are leaving you, we are turning to the gentiles", at that time transition took place. Now the Gospel is not to the Jews it's Gospel to the gentiles. You will see there is a break. What happened in the Spiritual realm, this is the physical realm, Paul is now apostle to the gentiles and Peter is the apostle to the Jews. Have you noticed after Acts 12, it's all about Paul, you don't hear about Peter. Why? Because Peter is an apostle to the Jews and the Jews rejected the Gospel. Paul also goes to the Jews, the Jews reject the Gospel. The Holy spirit says "turn", now it goes to the Gentiles. That is what happens on the earth. Spiritually what happens? Paul, through the Holy Spirit will show us. Listen carefully, mark it in your Bible, because you have to understand the seasons of the Holy Spirit in our history. Mark it in your Bible because right now in the world for many years, there are a lot of people turning into Jewish festivals without realizing that it is not our time or season. We are not appointed to that. You can get fooled by things that are happening. This is what happened to Israel.

Romans 11:25-27

²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

Israel's mind has been hardened. Till when? Till the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. There is a number of Gentiles reserved by God, none of us know that number and once the number is full then the dispensation of grace from the Gentiles is over and God will turn His attention back to Israel. So don't take your Salvation for granted, be sure that you are saved and Peter himself will say that, in his final letter, if you do these, these things, you can be absolutely sure, you can make your election and calling sure and what does verse 26 say? All Israel shall be saved. Not the current Israel, they will go through tribulation, only one small group will survive but He will save every one of them the same way we were saved because in Zechariah it says "I will pour out on the house of house of Jacob the Spirit of supplication and grace and they will cry out and they will be saved. Now it is our time, the clock is ticking, gentiles are reaching the finishing of their time and then He will revert back to Israel.

So understand, there are only two covenants, only two, actually there are three but the other covenant is irrelevant, we'll come to that later. Covenant with Israel and covenant with the Church but if you study the covenant with Israel you will understand how God works through covenants. They have the letter but we have been given the Spirit but without the letter we will not be able to understand the Spirit. So we study both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. Understand this, in the Old Covenant they were given so many different rituals, you became part of the

Covenant through circumcision on the eighth day. Jesus, born of a woman, when? Through Mary, under the law. When? On the eighth day when He was circumcised, He comes under the Law; He becomes part of the Covenant. So you need to understand circumcision. So many things are there for men, women, for different festivals, sacrifices, and all kinds of things. We are part of different covenant—New Covenant, Only two: one is baptism and the other is communion and nothing else. How do you become part of New Covenant?

Mark 16:16

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

You entered into the Covenant. When you believed in Jesus Christ, you were saved from the penalty of sin but when you got baptized, your salvation from the power of sin begins because the covenant starts working in us, and the covenant starts working for you. When we look in Acts,

Acts 2:41

⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

On the first day, on the day of Pentecost, they entered into the covenant. Second thing

Matthew 26:27-28

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sin.

New Testament, New Covenant. That is why many churches including our church won't give communion unless you are baptized. You have entered into the Covenant, now partake of the second element of the Covenant. Only two things, nothing else, no Christmas, no Good Friday, no Easter in the Bible, nothing in the Bible; only two ordinances in the Bible. Through baptism, you die to the world and rise in Christ and you are betrothed to Christ. You entered into a covenant and every time you come together, you judge yourself towards God and towards your brother and you partake of it. Till when? Till you die or till He comes back. Paul, in his famous chapter in first Corinthians brings back,

1 Corinthians 11:25

²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

So there are two covenants, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. So please try to understand this especially when you are ministering to the non-believers, you can pray for them but you can't pray with them because they are not part of the Covenant. Don't make that mistake, "Come let us pray together", no, you cannot pray with everybody even if two people have to agree to be very sure that both of you are part of the Covenant. Even a Christian and a Jew cannot pray together because both call on the same God but one rejected the Son of God, he is part of a different covenant and we are part of a different Covenant but we love them and God also loves them and all our Spiritual heritage is from them but we two are of two different covenant. We are part of New Covenant. The Old Covenant was fantastic if you obey. Look at what the Word of God talks about the New Covenant and compare it with the Old Covenant.

Hebrews 8: 6-8

⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. First thing, the New Covenant is a better Covenant; better than the Old covenant. Why? It is because it is established on better promises. Better covenant, better promises. ***⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.*** In verse seven, Old Covenant is faulty and New Covenant is faultless; better covenant, better promises and faultless. ***⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—***

Third thing, look at verse seven, he is saying he himself found fault in the Old Covenant and I will make a New Covenant with the children of Israel and the house of Judah. Why are there two names here? How does it apply to us? There is a believing Church, house of Israel and in the believing Church there is a set of overcomers who are

praising God all the time and that is the house of Judah. All of Judah is Israel, but all of Israel is not Judah. Understand.

Hebrews 8: 9-10

⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

So he says, "I will make a New Covenant," how will He make it? Next verse, verse 10 will tell you, "This is the Covenant I will make with Israel" – He comes inside. The Old Covenant is outside and the New Covenant is inside. Let me explain, most of you will understand. The Bible is called the Old Testament and New Testament. Testament, you have heard testament, New Testament, Old Testament at least that word you have heard? You know where the word comes from? If I am old (I'm not old, only my hair is white, I will be younger as the years go by because He will give me all my years back). When I grow old, I will write a will leaving what I have to my children. When I write it, I am called the testator of the will. The English word is the "testator" that is where you have the word "Testament" but I will also mention, when I die, let us say I have ten children, so and so person, he is the executor of the will.

So let's say I am dead and the will is open. All the children are there and this man takes the will and explains this is what is written; it is his control. He says, "You get this" and you say, "No! I don't want that". "Sorry your father said this is what you get." So there is a testator of the will and an executor of the will. So the testator of the will is Jesus Christ. As long as I'm alive, my children get nothing, they get pocket money, they don't get an estate. If they want anything I have to die, so Jesus died, the writer of the will died. As soon as the writer of the will dies, the will comes into action but who is the executor of the will? The Spirit of God becomes the executor of the will and He comes in and tells you, "this is what you have, the promises are what have been left to us."

Greater, better promises that's what God is talking about, what I have to do, what I should not do, it is not outside, the letter is outside and the Spirit of God is the executor of the will. I will put My laws in their mind and I will write it in their hearts. There are more than nine hundred promises in the Bible and I don't need all of them. If you go to the RD office and take the manual on driving, there are so many laws. Do you know the Laws? Once we take the driving license we need only two or three. If you are driving a two wheeler you only need a helmet, pollution check and insurance. Even if there is air in your tire, the policeman is not bothered, that is your problem. Of all the laws over there, we only remember three but there are many and the executor (the Holy Spirit) is within. He is the executor of the Will of God. The entire New Covenant is run by the Spirit of God and without the Spirit of God, we will live (if you are saved) and die as children of Israel in the wilderness. Do you know why they died in the wilderness? They came out of Egypt, they died in the wilderness because, God said, "They resisted My Spirit." That's exactly what He says in the Old Testament and in the New Covenant you know who says, Stephan says, "You, like your forefathers, stiff necked people, you always resist the Holy spirit."

So understand how it works. So when we disobey, we disobey. Old Covenant disobedience and New Covenant disobedience. It's interesting most people don't read that portion,

Hebrews 10:28

²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

They didn't break it but they despised the Law of Moses. If you break it, there was a way back but if you despise the Word of God, you die! That's the Old Testament, you despise the Covenant, ultimately this is what will happen. Look at the New Covenant

Hebrews 10:29-31

²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Get this clear. It's New Covenant, better promises, better Covenant and faultless but if you insult the Spirit of Grace, two things are there: the blood of the Son and the Spirit of Grace. The Bible says, we trample upon the Blood of

Jesus, we despise it and insult the Spirit of Grace, and then the punishment is worse than the Old Covenant. Covenants are not just words, because we need to know this, I am going through what I am going through because I disobeyed the Covenant? Or is it because I am ignorant of the Covenant? If the Old Covenant promises are so fantastic and the Bible says that the New Covenant is better then why am I going through this? If it is disobedience then repent, come back, the Blood of Jesus cleanses you and restoration begins. If it is ignorance then grow in the knowledge of God, grow in the ways of God. We have the Word of God, we have the Spirit of God and we have the anointing that teaches us everything and God says, either way you can come out. God says that this is the year of restoration; to be restored I need to know, am I disobedient or am I ignorant? Either way the Devil will use it against covenant people.

If you are a non-Christian, the devil does not come and tell him, 'Do this and God will punish you,' he will leave you alone because they are not under Covenant. Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel. He tried everything but he couldn't curse Israel and he said, "What God had blessed no man can curse." Then while going there is one thing, you cannot curse them but you can do one thing- get them to disobey their own God. Their God will destroy them. That's what he told. Did he tell the people of Moab? Did he tell the people of Ammon? Did he tell the people of Philistines? No, only Israel. They are in Covenant with their God, get them break the Covenant, automatically the other clause will start and second, as their children grow up, keep them ignorant about the Covenant of God. They don't even know what the Covenant of God is. They don't even know how to come back. What did God say?

Hosea 4:6

⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Look at this, because thou have rejected knowledge and I shall also reject thee and thy priest. What is the primary purpose of the priest? Knowledge of God. Remember there was no teaching priest in Israel. What is our primary purpose as pastors? Find the knowledge of God and pass it on to people. Why are the people being destroyed, because the priests have rejected the knowledge. God says, 'My people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge.' First comes disobedience. By the time the next generation comes it becomes ignorance but the clauses work. They do. So we need to find out. That's why Bible is there, the entire Bible is a record of how God works and Peter's last words before he dies is, 'Grow in grace and grow in the knowledge of God.'

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

We should grow in the knowledge of God. Who is God? Who is Christ? What did He do? What is His covenant? How does the New Covenant work for New Covenant people? And study the Old Testament and patterns in the Old Testament; God's dealings with His people. People may change but God never changes, His ways never change.

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

2 Corinthians 10:11

¹¹ Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.

Why was it written? Everything written from genesis, it was written for our learning, that through patience and through long sufferings and through the Scripture we have hope because the most important thing that people need while living is Hope. Where there is no hope, people will die. God is giving us hope. If you are 70 years old or 50 years old, you wasted your lives. There is a God that promises all that was eaten away by sin or by ignorance, Devil ate all away, I will give it back to you, I will restore. How do I come back? What is the way to restoration? Look how He uses Old Covenant examples in the New Covenant in

1 Corinthians 10:11

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come

Everything was written as an example to us. Why is this important to us? Pastors listen carefully, if you read Scriptures, you will understand one thing, all authority and power is with God. Jesus comes and tells, 'All authority and power was given to Me.' What does that mean? All power is with God. So the question is, where does Satan get his power from? If all power is with God, where does Satan get its power? How? He understands the system in which God works. If laws are established. You send your kid to school. How many subjects in school? Every subject has its own laws. If you don't know the law, you cannot learn the subject. Let me explain it to you, your child goes to English, it's different, then goes to Telugu class, it's different. English class has 26 letters and 40 sounds, it's not like Telugu. You want to study English? You have to learn the Law of English! You want to learn Telugu, you have to learn the Law of Telugu! There isn't anything established under Heaven which does not operate under a law. If you know the Law, you are good in the Law, you can exercise power.

You know what the Devil does? He knows the laws on which power is established and appropriates the power of God. He does not have any power of his own. That is why it is so, so important that we walk under the power of only the Holy Spirit, otherwise the power we use is illegitimate. That's why He told His disciples, "Don't leave Jerusalem until you receive power." When will you get the power? You will get it when the Holy Spirit comes. You can be right in your doctrine but can be wrong in your power source. The entire demonic works under the laws. There are laws established and they know how to tap into that Law. That is the power of God. Israel illegitimately used the power of God.

I will tell you an example; go to the outskirts of Hyderabad. There will be construction going on, to build the building they apply power. Electricity department gives them the power. It has a meter and a power supply. The ones who are building, the construction workers, live in small little plastic tent houses. Night he has power, no meter, you see one line from the mainline going into his house. You are on this side, your line is coming in this side, your meter is there, every fifth or sixth the man comes and gives you the bill and that man goes to the other side and takes bribe, puts it in the pocket and goes, even if the power is the same. It's the same. One is legit and the other is illegitimate.

Where does your power come from? That's what He told them, "*Don't leave Jerusalem, wait!*" Wait. It's not ministry that is important, what empowers your ministry is what is important. You cannot do this work without power because it is the battle with the kingdom of darkness but be very sure of your power is the power of the Holy Spirit. When He comes, one – He has the power. Two – when He comes, He will lead you into all truth. When He comes, He will teach you all things. When He comes, He will bring to your remembrance all that you have forgotten. Without Him, one, you can do nothing and if you do, it will be considered as illegitimate in the Kingdom of God.

Understand, that's what Jesus meant. If you look at the life of Jesus, from the beginning, starting from His birth till His death on the Cross, then coming back and teaching for forty days. It is written, everything He did was empowered by and through the Holy Spirit. My power is legit and entirely dependent on the power of the Father. That's why we need to understand. What happened to Israel? They knew what their forefathers went through, the power of God, but they did not know the Covenant and the rules of the Covenant but they wanted power. Everybody wants rain, everyone wants blessing, and everyone wants prosperity. So what did they do? They turned to Baal. Baal can give you rain. Asherah can make your wife pregnant. Pagan gods can heal your sickness; can give you breakthroughs in your job. They can do everything but can't save you; except save you. Except save you. That's what they all went down.

Be very careful. Understand how it works. Don't get fooled, God has given us the New Covenant and He writes within us, the Spirit of God is within us. He empowers us, endues us with power. Listen to the voice of the Spirit. Be an excellent, good student not a teacher, but a good student of the Word of God because all these things were written for our admonition. Understand the ways of God, understand the methods of God, it can bring up people out of Egypt by the power of His hand and yet destroy the people of Israel in the wilderness without taking them in the Promised Land. 'Yet', God says, "If you believe, if you obey, when you go in and I will fight for you. If a man says, stop the sun, stop the moon, I will do it for you and when you are fighting on Earth, I will fight from heaven for you, I will bring down hailstones, fire whatever I have to do. I will do it for you because you understand the Covenant. You are obeying the Covenant, believing the Covenant and obeying the Covenant." That's how it works, that's the Old

Covenant but God says, "I have given you a better Covenant with better promises," and that's how we have to look into the Word of God. 'Lord, teach me! Lord, teach me! Lord, teach me!'

Acts 2:16-17

¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

This is how the Church begins. When the Church is beginning, the Holy Spirit has come, 120 steps out in the market and Peter speaks. Who is the first prophet to be mentioned in the New Covenant? It's not Moses, it's not Isaiah, not Jeremiah. It's Joel. You have to stop there. New Covenant begins, out of all these prophets, the Spirit of God, through Peter, goes through all of Scripture and pinpoints Prophet Joel. Therefore as we come into the New Covenant, Prophet Joel is not a minor prophet, but a major prophet because what he prophesied is how the Church began. When he prophesied, he was not prophesying about Israel, he is prophesying for us. Israel did not understand it, Israel did not believe, Joel was not speaking for them. The Spirit of Christ, in Joel, was speaking for us and if Peter does not receive the Holy Spirit, he will not have the revelation of the time and the season. Revelation!

Entire Bible is a book of revelation. *Genesis 1:1* onwards it's a book of Revelation. In the beginning, how does the Bible begin? In the beginning, a simple question, God made. Check your life, when did God begin His work in your life, go check your beginning when did God begin in your life? In the beginning, God is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. The beginning of Genesis is the beginning in my life. He made me, He created me but darkness was over my mind, darkness covered my eyes. By nature a child of wrath, walking in darkness, living in disobedience and then God said, the Spirit of God was hovering over me. I did not know God and I did not know the Spirit and God spoke "let there be light" and the light of the Gospel came into me. *Genesis 1:1, 1:2 and 1:3* is about you and me. It's not just about creation. From verse one onwards you understand how God works, the Father creates everything, the Spirit of God is hovering waiting for the Son to speak. They work together and the pattern never changes. He never changes.

So we look into His Word and Prophet Joel says and the book of Joel. It's only three chapters, only three chapters. First chapter - the theme of the first chapter is desolation and destruction. Second chapter - restoration and third chapter- time for judgment. You know what, Joel three chapters are? It is not for them but for us? Look at the state of the Church - desolation and destruction. Look around the World, which Country can say that the Church is powerful and strong and is able to be the salt, the light and guide the nation, not a single country! Israel, you were supposed to be a sign and a wonder and you shall be a light to the gentile. Israel went down. Church you shall be a city on the hill. You are the light of the world. You are the salt but if the salt loses its saltiness then it is good only to be trampled over. The Gentiles have trampled over Israel. Gentiles are trampling over the Church and then God comes and says in Joel, chapter 2 "I will restore you," in chapter three

Joel 1:7

⁷He has laid waste My vine, and ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

There are two things mentioned here- wine and fig. What is fig? It is Israel. And what is wine? It is the Church. Both had been laid waste in the last days, both Israel and the Church. Israel is practically alone in the Middle East. President Trump went down, another dispensation rose and they are hostile to Israel and the new dispensation in America is hostile to the Church. Seasons keep playing over and over again. Desolation. In chapter two, what does God come and say?

Joel 2:25

²⁵So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

I will restore. Whose army? God's Army. How can it be God's Army? All power is God's, even when the Devil comes and steals, God allowed it, therefore He becomes God's army. The Devil has no power of his own and he has no authority of his own. He uses the very Laws of God to steal. That's why we need to know the Covenant. So learn patterns. God says finally, 'I will restore you the years,' most difficult, that's God's ways. He doesn't do simple things,

He does difficult things. He waits till Abraham is hundred years old, wife is ninety. Impossible! Then He comes and says, "You will have a child." I will give you another revelation,

Genesis 21:1-2

¹ And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. ² For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

God does only what He has said. What has God spoken to you? The Lord visited Sarah as He has said and the Lord visited Sarah as he has spoken. That is why it is not enough to read your Bible and meditate upon the Bible. You have to listen to what the Spirit God says because God will visit you as he has spoken and He will do unto you as He had said. This is not just a book (the Bible), it is a person inside. The Book and the Person but it's the Person that makes the Book alive. It's a Person that speaks. *The Lord visited Sarah as He had said and the Lord did to Sarah as He had spoken.*

When God speaks something to you, you know that God has spoken to you, with patience and by faith you hold on to your promise because the One who has promised is faithful. He is faithful. That is how a covenant works because God never forgets the Covenant, whether you break it or you keep it, He doesn't forget the Covenant. Saul went in his zeal, killed the Gibeonites. Saul is dead and gone, David is king, everything is fine, all victory then first year famine, second year famine and third year famine and David went and enquired of the Lord. I am ruling, I'm keeping the Covenant but why famine? God says because Saul broke the covenant made with the Gibeonites. Who made a covenant with the Gibeonites? Joshua made a covenant with Gibeonites, made in ignorance but in the name of Yahweh, therefore the covenant still stands. How many years have gone by? Four hundred or five hundred years have gone by but the covenant still stands, if somebody breaks, the covenant starts operating. In the same way, five hundred years have passed by, two thousand years have passed by, two thousand years ago Jesus told His disciples, "This the cup of My New Covenant", two thousand years later somebody believes and part takes of that cup, he is saved because the covenant made two thousand years ago still works but if you break the Covenant, Bible says that if you break the Covenant and partake of it without judging yourself, you will be weak, you will be ill, you will be asleep. Two thousand later if you break, it still works.

Covenant keeping God! Understand covenant, learn Covenant and ask the Spirit of God, "Help me," because I have a covenant behind me and You are a covenant keeping God, you are not a covenant breaking God. So there He says,

Joel 2:25

²⁵ "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you

How will you restore? You are saying, 'I will restore,' but how will you restore? You will restore but how will you restore? In what way will You restore? It is given in verse 28,

Joel 2:28

²⁸ Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

Listen carefully. He says afterwards but listen to what Peter says, he doesn't say "afterwards" what does Peter say?

Acts 2:17

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

It is not Peter memorizing Torah and speaking Torah through memory, that wouldn't be revelation. Revelation is the Word of God that he has heard and was put across according to the time and season, through the Holy Spirit. So Joel's 'afterwards' becomes our 'last days,' revelation. So we need to understand that the Word of God does not work the way we think it works and even more Joel, remember.

Joel 2:23

²³ Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

How will He do it? "I will give you the former rain and the latter rain." Wait a second. Who should rejoice? So there is Israel, there is Judah, there is Jerusalem and there is Zion, where are we? Read the book of Psalms, His rule comes from Zion, His revelation comes from Zion, His light comes from Zion to all of Israel.

When little Samuel was walking on Earth, he became Zion. The Word of the Lord came to Samuel and from Samuel the Word of the Lord went to the ends of Israel. Zion. How will it happen? The latter rain and the former rain together. Read carefully, when? First month. Don't just read like that. First month! One Scripture is not enough; everything must be established out of two witnesses. If it is three then fantastic and if you get four then you sit in your easy chair and relax. So look at the second one another prophet,

Hosea 6:1

¹Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

Who has done all these? God. Why? It is because He is covenant-keeping God. You might think that the devil did it, but God says, "No, the Devil was a stick." Behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy, you shall trample upon snakes and scorpions and they shall by no means harm you. Then how can the devil do it? Who killed Job's children? The Devil. Who opened the door? God opened the door. Please understand, people outside the covenant and people within covenant, these are two different things. People outside the covenant, whatever the devil does to them God ignores but people within the covenant, it's a different matter altogether. Understand how Covenant works. So Hosea says, 'He did this, He did that, He did this...' for how long?

Hosea 6:2

²After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

On the third day He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight. When? On the third day, in the first month. Read the next verse and you will understand,

Hosea 6:3

³Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth.

If you keep on following, pursuing the Knowledge of God, what will happen? It is like the morning. Morning you see little light, then a little more light and that little light grows brighter and brighter. Follow the knowledge of God and pursue the power of the Holy Spirit. How will He come? How will the rain come? Latter and the former rain together, yeah both together. So if you read Acts chapter two, it was the former rain but He said, 'At the end I will send both together and I will restore My Church and I will restore Israel.' First the Church, finish with the Church, take the Church and then He starts working with Israel. Look at what Jesus says,

Luke 13:32-33

³² And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' ³³ Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.

Third day I shall be perfected. Now go to James,

James 5:1-6

¹Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

James 5:1-6 is talking about the judgment of God that will happen in the last days. What will happen to the people in the world in the last days? And then verses seven and eight,

James 5:7-8

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Wait patiently, don't give up! Don't give up! Wait patiently. Every corner in the world you will see all these happening, don't give up. Don't lose heart, be patient. The rain is coming; the Holy Spirit is going to be poured out once more, once more, the former and the latter. It has got to do with the coming of the Lord. As the coming of the Lord gets closer and closer the world turns more and more hostile. God says, 'Don't quit.' Don't quit. Don't go looking for other sources of power. Stay there, hang in there. The rain is coming, the former and the latter together. The day of restoration is coming. I will give you back all the years that the locusts have eaten, when will it happen? First month. That is the outpouring that will bring restoration. So Israel is going through what the Church went through, desolation but there is a promise, there is a promise.

Do you know about Israel? When this promise was given, physical Israel, Spiritual Church. Both are Israel; but one is physical and the other is Spiritual. When was the promise given to Israel? From the beginning. When Moses took them, before they entered the Promised Land, he told them - this is what you are and this is what you will do but this is what God will do and I give you this promise, when you turn, this is what God will do. Read Deuteronomy,

Deuteronomy 30: 3-4

³ that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you. ⁴ If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

Promise is given before they enter, if you disobey, you will be scattered to the ends of the world, when you obey, I will bring you back and you know what He says? 'I will circumcise your heart, I will pour My Spirit upon you.' But before God can do all that, He will first gather them because Israel is a physical nation, it's not a Church. When the Holy Spirit comes He can fall in Begumpet, He can fall in Suryapet, He can fall all around the world where the Church is there. He can't do that with Israel because it is a physical nation. So they have this promise, let all prophets come and say that, then Isaiah comes and says that, Jeremiah comes and says that, Hosea says that, Ezekiel says that, Joel says that and Israel is waiting. How many years? Look at

Isaiah 66:7-8

⁷ "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, She delivered a male child. ⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children

How will it happen? Can a nation be born in one day? It (Israel) was born in one day! After two thousand six hundred years of dispersion, one day, May 14th 1948 Israel became a nation before May 14th 1948 no Israel. After two thousand six hundred years, they just brought them back to Israel. Be careful, when Israel became a nation, the clock started ticking. Last days have begun. When you look at the physical you should understand the Spiritual. When you look at the letter you will understand the Spirit. If you look at what is happening to Israel then you will know what will happen to the Church. In the last days, I will bring My people back. People have not been brought back, the Spirit has not been poured yet and that will happen after the Church is over. I told you it is not like the Church for Israel; first Israel has to be brought back as people. They were sent to the ends of the world.

In 2020, in 2021, COVID but Israel is still coming back. Do you know in 2021 the lost tribes are still coming back to Israel. The lost and dispersed people are finding out and are coming back to Israel. You may have been or your forefathers have been in India or in China for two thousand years or two thousand five hundred years but if in the year 2022, if you can prove that you are a Jew, Israel is open for you to come back. There are no Jews left in India, there were a few in Mumbai and there were a few, the first time I went to Jewish treat in Cochin. There were a few

Jews. The second time I went there, Jews were gone and all the Jewish shops had been taken up by the Kashmiris and they were Malayalis. Jewish people speaking Malayalam and I asked them, 'Where are they?' All went to Israel.

He is gathering His people and no COVID will stop that because in the Word of God, He has spoken that He will gather His people from the ends of the world and make them one nation again. So when you look at that, look at the Church. He is going to pour His Spirit upon Israel and before He pours His Spirit on Israel, He will pour it upon the Church. Fullness of Gentiles will come in, the Bride will be prepared, the Bride will be taken off, dispensation of the gentiles is over. Then He will turn His eyes to Israel.

So don't sit there quietly, be very, very, serious about these things. If you miss the times and the seasons, you will be in trouble. Jesus told Israel, *"If only you had known the times of your visitation,"* and it was blindness in the house of Israel. Jesus is born in Bethlehem, everybody knew where He would be born but nobody knew that He was born. Nobody! Only by revelation and angles come and tell a few shepherds, only the shepherds were told that Jesus is born. Eight days later He was circumcised and I believe He was circumcised, probably in a synagogue in Bethlehem. Rabbi usually does that. Little boy, eight days old, is circumcised. Blood of God for the salvation of men. This man (who circumcises the babies) is a butcher, he has no feelings, no revelation, nothing. The Blood of the Son of God is dripping, for the first time, on the Earth.

Even when Jesus was dying on the Cross, the Centurion looked and said, "Behold this is truly a Son of God." Do you think the Rabbi didn't know the Scriptures? Blindness! Then forty days, time for purification, there is the father, the mother and the little baby. They enter into the temple and everything in the temple is about Him, the sacrifices are about Him, the temple is about Him, the Levites are working for Him and the King steps into the temple in the hands of His mother. Nobody has any clue. There is one old man. He is outside far away, he had been told by the Spirit of God, "You will not die until you see the Savior," and the Spirit of God tells him, "Run! The Messiah has come!" and he comes running and he takes the baby and he says, "My eyes have seen the Messiah, now release me O' God." There is an old woman, the Bible says that she spent her entire life in fasting and prayer for the constellation of Israel. She has a revelation – this is the Son of God. Just two people.

Understand, without the Spirit, you and I will know nothing because the Pharisees knew their Scriptures. Two years later the wise men come, "Where is He, born King of Jews?" and all of Jerusalem was troubled. Herod calls all the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and Levites and asks, "Where is He to be born?" Oh everybody is competing to quote the scripture, "Oh it is written in the Scripture in the book of Micah." Do you know the Scripture? Do you know He is born? It's been two years! The wise men go to find the Child, they receive a revelation in a dream and go in another way.

My question to you is this? Jerusalem to Bethlehem it is six miles. How long? Two hours maximum. Only two hours but did anybody go? Nobody went. Be careful, be careful. Don't get satisfied by religion. Christianity is not a religion, it is a personal relationship with the living God made possible by His very own Spirit; by His Spirit. So God says that there is restoration for Israel because they have a Covenant. There is a restoration for us because we have a Covenant. *"In the last days I will pour out My Spirit."* Now in Telugu it is not clear, it is not very clear. One place it is written 'out of' and the other is said in English 'He will pour out His Spirit' that's the difference.

On the day of Pentecost, He poured out of His Spirit. In the last days, he will pour out His entire Spirit both the former and the latter and like a farmer who is patient, when all these things, when everything is going against the Church, wait for it because the One who promised is faithful. Lord, I will not exit out of this world like this. I will finish well. I will see all my Church finish well. I will not go empty, I will go full. That's what God told Israel, before Moses went in, no one will leave Egypt empty, they will go out of Egypt full.

When you finish your ministry, when it's your time to exit and if God does your restoration, you should not go empty.' Father, I brought all these souls, my hands are not empty. I brought these souls. You gave me fifty sheep, You gave me twenty sheep, not one lost. I brought them all. You gave me fifty, you gave me five hundred, you gave me five thousand, it does not matter, don't go empty because the year of restoration is here. Understand Covenant. So there are three covenants operating now, one with the world, one with Israel and the other with the Church. This is the Covenant with the world.

Genesis 9:11-15

¹¹Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Who is He making the Covenant with? With Noah, with a new world, with new creation. God made a covenant with Noah and all the generations. Floods will be there but the whole world will never be destroyed by water again. It will not happen, God said that. That's the Covenant with the Lord. How will they be destroyed? Peter says,

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

How will He destroy? Not by water, but by fire. World will never be covered by water ever again. If God has got a covenant with His people, God has got a covenant with Israel and God has got a covenant with the Church. God says, 'I will restore,' and when He says, 'I will restore,' it begins with the most difficult. What is the most difficult thing to restore? What is impossible? Time! You cannot get time back, when it's gone it's gone and what does God say, "I will restore." 'The most difficult part,' God says, 'I will give your years back.' Our wasted years, the years you wasted.

Luke 15:15-16

¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

He has wasted his years away. Imagine he went at the age of eighteen. Five years, six years, eight years, everything, down to the ground with the pigs. Ten years gone. Then he comes back, repents, when he comes back, look at what the Word of God says,

Luke 15:22

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet

One day everything is restored. He came to become a servant but he became a Son in one day. All the wasted years have been restored in one day. Only God can do it. One day it is restored, God can restore it all. Only God can. That is what God is saying, He can restore. Another picture, the women in the Bible, their lives are pictures of Churches. The woman called Naomi, what happens to her? Famine comes, she and her husband and sons go into Moab, go into the world and what happens? Her husband dies, her married sons die and what happens? Disaster! She comes back and this is what she say,

Ruth 1:20

²⁰ But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

Wasted years, 10 years wasted. Husband gone, sons gone, everything gone, no power nothing but there is a woman called Ruth. She turns to God of Israel with all of her heart. Restoration begins and look at what God says at the end,

Ruth 4:14-16

¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! ¹⁵ And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.

He shall be a restorer of thy life. Naomi is holding a baby. When she was restored she doesn't know the baby she is holding is special. Whom will that baby birth? He will birth David. When God restores, it won't be like the way we are thinking. He is the God of restoration. All these are examples of restoration.

Look at another one, this is Samson,

Judges 16:20-22

²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. ²¹ Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. ²² However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

Samson is a picture of the Church. He went into the world, did everything in the world's way, lost his anointing, lost his revelation, no vision, and no revelation. Dead Church serving the world. You listen to Samson's messages, nothing about God, nothing about the wrath of God, nothing about the preparation of His coming, no idea of time and season; it is only about the world. Why? It is because he lost his revelation.

Judges 16:22

²² However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

How does restoration take place in the church? Your hair has to come back. What does that mean? Samson had seven locks of hair; that was the sign of his separation. When your Church starts separating again, from the world to God, your strength will come back. You know what God says? As many as who received Him, He gave them the power to be the Children of God but come out from among them, touch nothing unclean and I shall be a Father unto you and you shall be my sons and daughters. When your separation takes place, you experience God at a different level. Now his (Samson) separation is coming back,

Judges 16:28

²⁸ Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"

What is he saying, 'Lord I lost my eyes, I lost my vision, I lost it.' Fast Forward to Revelation,

Revelation 3:18

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Laodicean Church is blind. Why because it has gone into the world. Samson is blind and what does God do? Look at verse thirty, how Samson finishes,

Judges 16:30

³⁰ Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

How did Samson finish? He finished better than all the days of his life, why? It is because God restored him all the years that he had lost.

Revelation 3:20

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

What does Jesus say to the church of Laodicea? "I stand at the door and I knock, if any man hears My voice, (if any man reads my Bible? No!) If any man hears My voice..." What happened to Samson? The Spirit of God left. What happened to the church of Laodicea? They have lost the ability to hear the voice of the Spirit. You restore that and what will I do? I will come in and I will fellowship with him and what is the promise?

Revelation 3:21

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

“If you overcome you will still reign with Me, you still can finish well. I will restore all the years in your Church, you will finish well.” And then there are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. They lost their years not because they sinned but because they were obedient. What about them?

Revelation 3:8, 10-11

⁸“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

You didn't quit. In spite of everything you hung in there but in the process you lost your years. Look at the picture in the Old Testament, thirteen years Joseph is in prison as a slave and what does God do?

Genesis 41:14

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

Brought him suddenly out. Thirteen years as a slave and one day he is free. What do you know next? Pharaoh says, 'You are a governor.' You know there is this Chief Secretary in the secretariat, when the COVID restrictions and guidelines come you know who signs? Somashekara Reddy. He is Chief Secretary. Did he begin as Chief Secretary? No, he began as an IAS officer. If you check their age, they are about to retire. Start from the bottom and work, work, work, work your way up and finally before they retire, if there's a chance, they become a chief Secretary. See how much you have to work? Joseph, thirteen years in prison and in one day he is out and becomes the Chief Secretary! God gave all the years back to him. That's what promotion means. God can just do it like that and you know what God says?

Genesis 41:51-52

⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.” ⁵² And the name of the second he called Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

'Through the first son, God has made me forget all the years of suffering.' All those years of suffering is forgotten in one day. Forgotten! Next one, what did he say there? 'In the midst of affliction He made me fruitful.' God can restore. You know when you meet people, they come to you, 'Pastor pray for me.' Why? 'It's my fortieth wedding anniversary,' but if you know the truth it's their first wedding anniversary forty times, nothing has changed in their lives. Miserable, miserable. Nothing has changed but God can restore your marriage. Imagine it's your fortieth wedding anniversary, you understand the principle of God, you turn with all your heart back to God. Man turns to God, woman turns to God, Spirit of God comes upon them and He teaches them, forty second year, forty first time of their marriage, it is like as if they were just married. You know what happens? They have forgotten forty years of affliction. 'I will give you back the years all that the locusts have eaten.' That's what it means.

It applies to every area of your life. It's time for restoration because the Son of Man always comes to give us life and life in abundance. So don't just look at ministry alone because He is the God of restoration. So the question is how does God restore? Lord, what should I do? The most important promise to Israel, Moses says, I know, you know, God knows, you will all go to the other way but this is what God says,

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Listen to this, Israel's highest point. Solomon is king, the temple has been built, Shekinah, the glory of God has come and God comes and gives them a promise. Listen to what He says, "If I shut up heaven." Who shut up Heaven? I (God) shut up Heaven that there is no rain. Understand, this is important, very important because this was a blessing, a promise given to Israel – "I'm taking you to a land flowing with Milk and Honey, a land that will give you rain in its season, not like Egypt. In Egypt there is no rain in season. You have to work with your feet to raise the

water from the Nile to your fields. Work and toil, work and toil but I will send rain in season for you. If you obey My voice and keep My commandments, you won't be like the rest of the world. While they toil, you will prosper, I will bless you."

Work won't be a burden. The Ministry won't be a burden. You will work but it won't be a burden but if you disobey, first thing, shut up the Heaven. No rain, no rain, but you will say, 'Oh! We were trained in Egypt even if You don't send rain we know how to get water but we will not repent, we will not turn back to You.' There are many gods in this world and we have studied a lot, we will bring water, we will plant our crops, in our fields. What will we do? We will have a good harvest. Then God says, "I will send the locust to devour." Ah! Locust no problem, I will spray with chemicals that kill the locust. Remember locusts were coming last year and they stopped them. God says, "Really? Then I will send the pestilence." Aren't we in the time of pestilence? Starting with Alpha, we went to Delta, then Omicron and now till Omega we will go on. One vaccine for COVID, second one for Delta, third one for Omicron but we won't call on to the Alpha and Omega. "When I send this, (this is not for the world, it is for God's people) when these things start happening in your life, you work hard, as it was told in the book of Haggai, you work hard and you bring it into the bags, but it is empty, full of holes. You work hard, end of the month you get the money. Five days, six days, finished. What happened? God says, 'I blew it away because you will prosper in only one way - I bless you. No other way.' When these things happen,

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

"If My people, who are called by My name." So it's only for My (God's) people. Do four things, first thing, humble yourself. Don't pray but first humble yourself. Everybody prays, every religion there is prayer. Even the Pharisee prayed but that is not what God is saying. God is saying, 'Humble yourself.' Humble yourself - that is what fasting means. Last month we looked - How do I humble myself? By fasting, by serving others, by taking the lowest place, different ways you can humble yourself. We need to humble ourselves. Even God Jesus, though He was God, He humbled Himself, made Himself of no reputation. Took the form of a man, took the form of a servant. If He humbled then you have to humble yourself. If you exalt, God will oppose you. If you are humble, God will lift you up. First condition is humble.

Let me tell you for February, one of the ways you humble and come for the Pastors' Conference on a second Saturday is by sleeping well on Friday night, crying out to God on Friday night, 'Lord, I'm not going there to listen to Pastor James or Pastor Naveen, I am not going there for lunch. I'm not going for the cover (offering). I need to hear from You.' Try that, try that. 'Lord, I am weak, I tend to fall asleep, help me stay awake so that I won't miss anything that You have for me.' You will see that it is humbling. *Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.*

Humble thyself. There are different ways, the Word of God teaches us how we can humble ourselves and then pray. Praying without humbling is useless. It is always like mantra, it becomes demonic, if you pray without humbling. You don't realize, if you pray without humbling, you don't go from God's presence justified; you go from God's presence condemned. That's what happened to the Pharisee and the tax collector. Learn and ask God to teach you how to humble yourself. Pride is one thing and confidence in God is another thing. Paul was a confident man but he was a humble man. These are two different things. He didn't say, 'Oh, I can do all things.' He said, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' These are two different things. One is pride and the other is confidence in God.

We need to have confidence in God and not in ourselves. First thing is *humble*, the second thing is *prayer* and the third thing is, '*Seek My face*', and fourth is, '*turn*.' You cannot turn unless you seek His face. You think, 'I have turned enough,' but God's Spirit will say, "You have a lot to turn." Look at the order. Don't change the order because in divine order there is divine power. There's an order. God's Kingdom is in order. When the priest had to offer sacrifice, the Bible is very clear, it has to be in order. God's Kingdom has order and where there is order there is power. This is the order - humble, pray, seek and turn. But what will I do? God says, 'I will do three things - I will hear, I will forgive and I will heal. I will start restoring.' These are the fundamental principles of Scripture.

If we look at Joel, He did exactly the same. You know what God says, He says desolation is what He needs to do, sanctify a fast, humble yourself, call a solemn assembly, gather, cry unto the Lord. Humble yourself and cry and start praying. I'm telling you, if you do what God asks you to do, God will do what He has promised. Humble thyself and cry out unto God.

Joel 2:12

¹²Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and with mourning. While still fasting, stay humble because when you turn, don't look down at the person who has not turned and say, "Ah foolish fellow". He may not want restoration but do you want restoration? Your wife may not want restoration, but you want restoration. She may mock you, don't sin with your words. She may be like Job's wife and everything that he did, he did not sin against the Lord. What does his wife say? 'Curse God and die!' She may not want restoration but do you want restoration? He may not want restoration, do you want restoration? Stay humble because the enemy will provoke you. There will be provokers in your midst. Stay humble because you want restoration.

If your church's elders say, "Oh why should we fast? We don't want to fast. The Church doesn't want to fast." It doesn't matter. You, the Pastor of the Church, fast. You know why we got the promise on 31st night? It is because we enter the New Year, including Christmas, with twenty one days of fasting. He told us, 'Fast, eat one meal on Christmas day, but fast. And I will tell you what I will do in your midst next year.' We received a promise, turn with all your heart. Next verse,

Joel 2:13

¹³So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm

Rend your heart, and not your garments. Not outward, inward. Let the rending be inward and what should your cry be? If you are a pastor, if you are an elder, if you are a leader in your Church or you are the head of your house, what does the Word of God say,

Joel 2:17

¹⁷Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

"Spare Your people," that's our duty, that's our responsibility as pastors, as elders, as a father, if your children are gone and they are not interested in the Lord . You cry before the Lord, "Lord spare my children, spare Your people." Why? Because the gentiles should not say, 'Where is your God?' Let them not reproach the Name of the living God. Are we zealous for God's name? You look into the Word of God and you will see how God is zealous for His name. We can appeal to God based on His name. "Lord, we are Your people, the gentiles are trampling over Your Name, the government is against us and the Devil is against us. We are Your people called by Your name. It is a reproach to Your name, spare Your people for Your Name sake." You know what, that's what God said in Ezekiel,

Ezekiel 22:30

³⁰ So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

One man! "I look for one man who should stand in the gap. One man, I look for one man." You should look at the account in Numbers,

Numbers 32:13

¹³ So the Lord's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone.

Forty years in the wilderness, enough! Moses step aside, I want to destroy them and I will make you a great nation. Moses became that one man, a bridge, who stood between God and Israel and he said, 'Lord, You can do it but if You do it, You know what the gentiles will say? "Oh poor God brought them out of Egypt but could not take them into the Promised Land," what will they say about You? Don't do it.'

Numbers 14:20

²⁰ Then the Lord said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹ but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord

'Spare my people,' that's what Moses prayed for. 'Lord, spare Your people, I know they are stiff-necked, I know they are rebels, I know all that. Lord, for Your Name sake, show mercy. If You destroy them, what will the gentiles say?' You understand the way back? *If My people who are called by My name, humble themselves and cry and seek My face and turn.* That's what Joel says. When we do this, go back home and read Joel chapters 1-3. God says, 'I will be zealous. I will, I will, I will...' Look at all the I wills in Joel 2, I will do this, I will do this and look at what He says, "'You know the years you lost, I will restore all the years back to you.'" I will restore. I will give you both the latter rain and the former rain. Your threshing floor will be full, your vats will flow with win. New wine, new oil. You know what He is saying? When one hundred and twenty stood outside and the Holy Spirit fell, you know what the people said, "Ah these men are drunk, it's only morning and are you drunk with new wine?" They said, 'No, we are drunk in the Holy Spirit.' God says, 'I will send you new power.' He says, 'I will give you a new life. I will send you new members to your Church. I will give you a fresh harvest. I will restore,' is what God is saying. The question is – do you believe? It is because He is a God of restoration.

God does not curse us, He just disciplines us. God does not curse His people, we curse ourselves. He just disciplines His people, but He wants to bless His people. He says, 'If you turn this is what I will do.'

So, shake up O' pastors. Go to your prayer closet, seek the face of God this year, consecrate a fast, it just has to be with you and God. I will fast this year, I will pray for my family, I will pray for my people because God is faithful to His promises, He will restore, for God is a God of restoration. God is a God of Covenant. Covenants are powerful. Make sure you are part of the Covenant.

After writing two letters to the Church of Corinth, all doctrines, do you know how he ends?

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Please examine yourself if you are in the faith or not because if you are in the faith and obey the covenant and this is what happens in my life. Examine yourself if you are in the faith or not. How do you know if you are in the faith or not? Jesus Christ is in you. The Spirit of God is in you. You have the Spirit of Jesus speaking to you because if you are not in Christ, look at the tragedy that happens in,

Ephesians 2:12

¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

What was your and my state if we are not in the Covenant? Pastors look at this, if you are not in Christ, you are an alien from the commonwealth of Israel. I don't even have the Old Covenant to claim. The Old Covenant is better than no covenant. You cannot even claim the Old Covenant if you do not have Christ. Strangers from the covenant of Promise. No hope without God in the world. You know what a Covenant does? When Christ comes in, with Christ, with God the promises of the Covenant start working in you. So the first thing, be sure, be sure you are part of the Covenant. Then be that man. In English we say 'you can either be the source of the problem or the source of the solution.' I will be the solution. God is looking for one man, one man, in your village, in your town, in your street, one man! Why?

Isaiah 42:22

²² But this is a people robbed and plundered; all of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses; they are for prey, and no one delivers; for plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"

There is no one who cries "restore". God says that they are spoilt. They are living in prison houses, bound in their minds, bound in their sins. You know why? God says, 'I looked and there is not even one man who cries "restore".' and you must say, "I will." Look at the next verse,

Isaiah 42:23

²³Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come?

Who among you will give ear to this? Will you give your ear? Today the 15th of January will you cry out, "Lord, spare my Church, spare my town, spare my state, spare my Country." If there is no Church, there is no Country. The Church is the light. Where there is no Church the nation lives in darkness.

You know what happens? The people went away, further away and started spreading the Gospel. The Gospel started in Israel and when people went further and further away, after Noah's flood, the people went further and further away into the East and to the South, further they went, further it became demonic, darkness. You know what it is? Ultimately worshipping snakes, further down you go, further into East- China, Japan worshipping the dragon. As they went further and further, when you go away from the light you will go into darkness. Who will cry for them?

That's why Jesus said, 'If the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!' The world will not be saved till the Church is restored. The Church has to be restored and then the Church will be able to speak the Word with power and authority, like Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, as Paul preached, as Philip preached. First the Church and then the world. God says, 'Will you be that person? Who will hear, will you stand in the gap?' "God of Jacob, God of Israel, God of my Lord Jesus Christ, my Father, would You spare Your people and restore?" Then God says, "I will." But first you have to start in your prayer closet, you spend time in your prayer closet with God, then God will rent your heart, you will rent your heart, God will rent your heart because there is something about a broken heart. Something about a broken heart. What are the sacrifices of God?

Psalms 51:17

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

Something about a broken heart that attracts God, that's why He says, 'Rent your heart.' You may not be able in the beginning but if you stay in your prayer closet because your heart maybe hard, that's why the Holy Spirit is called rain, the Holy Spirit is called oil, the Holy Spirit is called dew, as you stay there He will break your heart and a broken heart God will never despise. A broken heart God will never despise. God is not looking at what you have done; God is looking at your heart. That's what God told Samuel, 'Man looks at the outside but God looks at the inside.' He is looking only at your heart.

What did Pharaoh say? After the 10th plague what did he say? 'I have sinned, take your people, bless me also.' Did it make any difference? God destroyed him because heart did not change. Do you know what Balaam said? 'Oh! I have sinned, I want to die the death of the righteous,' but heart did not change.

So when Joshua entered the Promised Land, they killed Balaam by the sword. King Saul said, 'Oh! I have sinned but stand by me,' but his heart didn't change. You know what happened? He fell on his sword and died. Judas said, "I have sinned," and then he went and hanged himself. You know why? It is because his heart did not change. David said, 'I have sinned,' heart was broken. God said, 'I have removed your sin from you.' A broken heart. 'A broken heart, I will not despise!' Stay in your prayer closets, your hearts may be hardened, you may have lost the way to pray, you may have lost the way back to God, you will find it back in the prayer closet. In the prayer closet, stay there. Keep going back, I promise you He is faithful. He will pour the rain upon you. He will cause your heart to break, then you go out.

This is the lesson Jesus has taught, every time the same lesson, He took the bread, He blessed it and He broke it, then He gave it. Everyone ate and were satisfied. Where did the miracle happen? Not in the taking, not in the blessing, it was in the breaking that the people were satisfied. If your and my life has to satisfy people and bring joy to heaven then He has to break us. He has to break us. That is what we run away from. Once we are broken God gives it away and our life and our ministry will satisfy others. Don't run away from that!

There was Abraham, there was Isaac and there was Jacob, all had a promise and then there was Jacob, he ran and ran and ran and finally told God, "Unless You bless me, I will not let You go." You want a blessing? Okay, and God broke him, and then said, 'From today you shall be Israel.' There will be a nation there; forever the nation will be there. It is not called the nation of Abraham, it is not called the nation of Isaac, it's called the nation of Israel. A broken man, all the days of his life he limped. Jacob! Why are you limping? Did you fall down? No. Why are you limping? I met God and I was broken. He becomes Israel.

Abraham is old, Sarah is dead, he marries Keturah, eight more children, now ten children. Old age, no time for anything. "All of you come here— you take this, you take this and all go far away."

And Isaac, old age and blind, 'Oh I am blind, I want to eat mutton. Esau come here, cook for me and I will bless you.' What happened to you, Isaac? Only thing written about Isaac after that is, 'Isaac died old and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.'

Jacob – "Oh! Sons of Israel, come to me, listen to what God of Israel has to say, Ruben.., Simeon.., Levi.., Judah, the scepter will not part from you." He is prophesying about everyone; his last day, last hour, still the voice of prophecy is going on. You know what he says? "*The blessing of your father has over shot the ancestors.*"

To Isaac, God comes and says, 'I am the God of your father Abraham.' To Jacob, God comes and says, 'I am the God of Abraham and Isaac'. Jacob says, 'The God of Jacob.' How did he finish that way? Because he was broken. Don't run away from that. Allow God to break you in your prayer closet because a broken and a contrite heart God does not despise. God still uses broken people.

King Saul, hard man. King Solomon began very well, and ended hard. King David, broken heart, ended well. Jesus will always be called the Son of David, not son of Solomon. Get these lessons, understand, in God's ways there is power. God will restore.

Revelation 2:4-5

⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

You have fallen from your first love!

Psalm 51:12

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

First thing- restore! Restore my first love. Lord, when I met you, how I was zealous for Your Name. Lord, first thing Lord, for this year, restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation. Restore unto me my first love. Yes, my ministry is good, I am doing all these things but deep inside I know I have lost the joy of my salvation. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation. That's the first thing you need to pray. Start right. Look at the order in the Bible. Lord, restore my money? no, restore my joy, restore my first love.

3 John 1:2

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

Prosper in all things according to the soul. It's very dangerous. You have to pray for that. My soul first, why? Look at what happened to Israel,

Psalm 106: 15

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

Leanness into their soul. So the prayer is not for other things but first for the joy of my salvation. Lord, my soul, my soul. What does *Psalm 23* say?

Psalm 23:1

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Lord, I am not looking for ministries right now, I am not looking for a message from the pulpit right now. You lead me to green pastures, You lead me to still waters for my own soul sake. Restore my soul, then restore other things because if you restore other things and You don't restore my soul. I will use those things and go into destruction. Restore my joy, my zeal, my love for You, restore my soul even as You restore other things.

Pastor, when you pray, be careful of what you pray for because people have prayed for things and got things which they regretted later in their lives. And then Lord, restore my lost years. I lost them.

1 Samuel 30: 6-8

⁶ Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. ⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. ⁸ So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake *them* and without fail recover *all*."

All of us know this story, David and his men have come back to Ziklag. When he comes back to Ziklag, three days marching, Midianites have come and burned the city, taken everything including their wives and children. Lost everything, he can't go anywhere. Achish said, 'Go', but he can't go to Israel. All gone, everything lost. How long have you been here? Sixteen months in the Philistines territory. At the end of it, everything was gone. The men wept until they had no strength to weep. Then what does David do? David was distressed when he heard the men talking of stoning him, all alone, tired, with loss, worn out by grief, everybody's hand against him. The Bible says, at that hour, he turned to God, he cried out to God and then asked, 'Lord (Abiathar, bring the ephod), shall I go?' You know what God said? *'Pursue, overtake, you will recover all.'*

This is a God who wants to restore everything that the enemy has stolen. 'David, where were you these sixteen months? In the Philistine territory? Serving the king of philistine with My anointing?' Did God say any of that? He didn't say anything, David just came broken, 'I call upon mercy. Have mercy upon me,' then turns. After mercy is grace. Go for grace, it's Grace that gives you victory. 'Shall I pursue? Shall I overtake?' He only had courage to ask that. He didn't ask about recovery. God says, *'Pursue and you shall surely overtake and recover all.'* Pursue!

The enemy is days away. How can I pursue it? Already I am tired, three days of walking, tiredness of walking, tiredness of hunger. We thought we would come and eat but everything is burnt, tiredness of sorrow but they are far away and You (God) are saying, 'Pursue?' When God says, 'Pursue,' when God says, 'You will overtake,' there is an anointing for that. It is the anointing that gives you the speed. It is the anointing that gives you the speed to recover, to overtake.

Look at the final picture after Mount Carmel; keep that in your mind. How do you recover? How do I pursue it? How do I get back things that I lost? What do I need? I need speed. How do I get that speed in the spiritual realm, how do I get that speed?

1 Kings 18:46

⁴⁶ Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Ahab is going in a chariot, king's chariot, best horses, chariots are fast but the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah and he is running faster than the chariots of Ahab. It's the anointing but the hand of the Lord is the Spirit of God! When the Spirit of God comes upon you, He will speed you. The Revelation you lost in ten years, He can give it to you in one day. The truths you missed in fifteen years, He can give it to you in one year because it gives you speed. And because Daniel decided to glorify God in his heart! Best in Babylon, the best minds in Babylon but after three years when the king tested they were found ten times better, not because he worked hard but the hand of God was upon him. Hand of God gives you speed. You will be able to recover, that's what God is talking about. He says, 'I am not just sending you the former rain. That happened three thousand years ago. Oh! In the last days you will see situations that no man has ever seen. It will be so demonic. If the days are not shortened, even the elect themselves will not survive but I will give you the former and the latter rain.'

It is the anointing that gives you the speed. When the former rain fell, Peter and John stood and they spoke to the Sanhedrin and they said, 'These are unlearned fishermen, we are scholars.' What made the difference? How did they overshoot the Sanhedrin in the knowledge of God? It's the anointing.

Stephan, who was asked to wait at the table, stood before the Sanhedrin, begins with Abraham, gives revelation after revelation of Abraham which we didn't know, revelation about Moses which we did not know but how did you get this? You were not trained under Gamaliel, you are not a Pharisee, you are not trained in the scriptures, where did this come from? Because the anointing of the Lord is upon him. That's what the anointing does, it gives you

speed. It causes you to recover what the enemy has stolen. It's not what you have, it is who is in you that matters. It gives you strength.

Judges 15:14-15

¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. ¹⁵ He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

It didn't matter what was in his hand. He would still kill a thousand Philistines, why? For the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

David is tired, men are tired and they are pursuing. You know what happened? They have only six hundred men, two hundred said we are too tired, we are not coming. Now the number has come down, one third has gone, David says it doesn't matter. Number doesn't matter anymore because if God said that I will overtake, then I will overtake. If God says that I will recover then I will recover. He goes with four hundred. I want to look at that portion,

1 Samuel 30:17-18

¹⁷ Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. ¹⁸ So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives.

Think a minute. Travelled three days, hunger, hasn't eaten, and tired by grief, one third gone, from evening to evening he fights; from twilight until the evening of the next day. Twenty four hours! David, where did your strength come from? See, his Psalms are not Psalms, his psalms are his experience. *'For the Lord is my Rock. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.'* Where does your strength come from? Oh! When the anointing comes, you will have speed, you will have strength. Church, you need to ask Him, 'Lord make me strong, restore my joy, restore my soul, restore everything the enemy has stolen.' Not only that, 'Lord, make me fruitful.'

Genesis 49:22

²² "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.

There is a difference. I am a fruitful bough. I am planted by the well. I bear the fruit, I eat it, my family eats it and the Church eats it. Good. That's not Joseph, his branches run over the wall. I don't want to be a blessing to myself alone, I don't want to be a blessing only to my home, I just don't want to be a blessing to my own Church alone; I want to be a blessing to everybody. 'Lord, not only restoration, not only what the enemy has eaten but restore my fruitfulness.' Do you understand the principle? Seed, good ground, thirty fold, sixty fold, hundred fold, good ground, seed is the same, ground is the different.

Imagine from 2012 to 2021— ten years. You brought ten people. Ten years, how much did you bring? Hundred! Then 2022, you believed the promise and you went into your prayer closet and you struggled with God, you broke your heart, God anointed you, now the anointing is flowing. 2022, your harvest (I am talking spiritually) is not ten, but it's hundred. So in one year you got what you got in the last ten years. Did you understand how God restores when He makes you fruitful? 2023, you are a hundred fold. First ten years- hundred, next two years- two hundred.

2024 again another hundred. Do you know what is happening? You are making up for all your lost years because He is making you fruitful and more fruitful.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

You are saying, 'Lord restore the lost years,' but He says, 'You have no idea how I will restore.' Do you remember Jehoshaphat? Such a huge army came, like sand on the sea shore. Do you know what he did? He reverted straight back to the second chronicle.

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

He declared a fast, went into the temple and said, 'God we can't fight, we don't have the strength,' and the Spirit of the Lord came upon a prophet. He said "You don't have to fight, God will fight for you. The battle belongs to the Lord." The next day he called all the Levites and separated the singers. God said, 'You don't have to fight,' but I will praise. He answered our prayer and now we will praise God by faith. We will praise God in the beauty of His Holiness and the Bible says that God started fighting. That's one battle where none of Israel's soldiers had to draw their sword. They didn't have to fight at all. Other battles like this, they had to fight. Joshua had to fight, David had to fight, Saul had to fight but Jehoshaphat does not have to fight. He just stands there and sees the victory. What did he ask for? He asked only for victory. He never expected the victory to be this, all the foe was destroyed and then it took them three days to gather the loot. He can give you much more. You can't even imagine or ask what God will give them who humble themselves and cry and turn and seek His face. He says, "This is what I am!" So pray to God, 'Lord restore my first love, my joy, restore my soul, restore the lost years. Anoint me that I have speed, anoint me that I have strength, anoint me that I am fruitful in my last days.'

Genesis 49:26

²⁶The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

The blessings of my father have prevailed above the blessings of my ancestors. You know what he says? He says, 'My blessings are exceeding the blessings of Abraham and Isaac. Jacob, how did you finish like this? Fruitful till his last years. That is restoration! But this is a man who lost his years, forty years in his father's house, twenty years in Laban's house, twenty two years thinking Joseph is dead. Do you know how many years already? Eighty two years gone! How did he finish? Because God not only wants to restore but wants to make you so fruitful that you will be better than your forefathers. Final thing before we close,

1 Samuel 30:22-23

²² Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart. ²³ But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the Lord has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us.

Go home and read till the end of the chapter. David did not recover only what the Midianites took, he also got what they had taken from others. So you know what he did, the two hundred who refused to fight, he gave them their share. All the towns of Judah these ten years, twelve years, fourteen years, we do not know. While I (David) was running from Saul, different people who helped me, send gifts to everybody. When God restores your joy, when God restores your soul, when God restores your speed, when God restores your strength and God blesses you and your latter end is better than your former end, show mercy and grace to all those who invested in your life when you had nobody. Don't forget! That's the heart of a King. David was always a King but the crown had to come.

When you are blessed, don't forget. Be a shepherd after God's own heart. Never forget your sheep, sheep that have left. You all have sheep that have left, who left your church? Creating problems or without creating problems, but have left. Be honest. I have but do you know them, you ask me I will tell you the name of every sheep that has left. From the first one, never forget them, I pray for them every day. If you don't have the heart of a pastor, don't be a pastor, be an Evangelist. Evangelists don't have to care for people. Go preach, take it or leave it. That's not a pastor. David is a shepherd. That's what God says, when Saul was picked by man, when was he picked? He was picked when he had lost his father's donkey. But when God picked David, he was a shepherd boy who has never lost his father's sheep. Never lost his father's sheep! They may leave us but you can only lose them if they are not in your heart.

The prodigal son went away, he forgot his father but the father never forgot his son. Only when he hit the pig pen, he remembered his father but the father always remembered him. So when that day comes, when the restoration day comes, when God blesses you, don't forget all the people in your life. If you have an opportunity to bless them, be like David because we will be tested in all these things. That's why God said, "Man after My own heart." This is how God restores, understand the ways of God, humble yourself, get into the prayer closet and ask God, 'Show me where I have to turn.' Keep turning back until Heaven opens.

You know what the first thing mentioned about Jesus is? This is what the Bible says when everyone is getting baptized, Jesus was also baptized and He was praying and the Heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descending. That is prayer! If Heaven doesn't open, God hasn't heard my prayer.

This is what God tells Israel, 'When you disobey Me and you go away, Heaven will be brass and earth will be iron. But when you cry out I will open up Heavens. No more brass, I will send the rain.' Jesus never knew the heavens shut. He always had open heaven, except once— on the Cross. Father turned His face away, heavens closed, for our sake. That's why the disciples came to Him and said, 'Teach us to pray as John taught his disciples to pray.' Some of them were John's disciples and they knew John was a praying man but they have never seen John praying like Jesus. Go into your prayer closet and ask, 'Lord, teach me to pray, I want open heavens in my home, in my life, in my ministry. Earth is iron, Heaven is brass, I am slogging and slogging. Earth is iron, Heaven is brass, would you please open Heavens? Everything happens because of prayer. Everything happens. Heavens will open, not only for you, for the children, for your grandchildren, for your sheep and for the next generation.

That was Abraham a man of prayer, everywhere he went he built an altar and he cried over his altar. Abraham is dead, son Isaac is blind, grandson has messed up his life and is running in fear, not knowing where he is going. It is dark, the sun has set but he reached a place, he doesn't know the place but it is the place of his grandfather. Long ago his grandfather built an altar; he takes a stone, put it as a pillow and went to sleep. In the night, heavens open and he sees angels going up and down and God speaks for the first time to Jacob, 'Jacob, I am the God of Abraham and Isaac.' Do you know what this is? Later in the morning do you know what Jacob says when he wakes up? 'Truly this is the gateway to heaven.' How did it become a gateway to heaven? It is because his grandfather, Abraham, had wept in that place, in prayer.

Let your Church and my Church, let your home and our home be a gateway to Heaven. Where others do not have open heavens, where others do not have open life and they come to our home, they come to our Church and they say, 'We went to this church and that church, we went to this home and that home, I went to this meeting but when I came to your Church, God spoke to me.' It is because – 'My house shall be called a house of prayer.' Let your churches be open Heaven. Let your homes be open Heaven. So people who have no prayer life, when they come and hear God speak, they will see visions and they will say, 'Truly is a gateway of Heaven.' That's what God does.

Set your life apart for that. I shall be a house of prayer. My house will be a house of prayer. My Church shall be a house of prayer and even if no one comes to Church I will go, I will be that man and I will stand in that gap and I will cry, 'Lord spare my people,' and when the rain comes I will not tell them, "Why are you all waiting for the blessings, I didn't see you for the prayer meeting, you were not there to fight?" Show mercy, show grace, act like a king because that hour is here if you believe it will happen. It will happen. Everything happens in the prayer closet. Open heavens or closed heavens, it doesn't matter what manner of man you are, whether you are educated or uneducated, young or old. Only thing is this: 'Do you know how to pray?'

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed and God shut the Heavens. He prayed and God opened the Heavens. Only thing mentioned (in the Bible), man like us but is different from us in prayer. Be a man of prayer this year. Let your Church be, as God said, 'My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations.'

Shall we pray and ask the Lord to restore.

Prayer

Lord, restore the joy of my salvation, restore my first love. Restore my wasted soul. Restore my speed. Restore my salvation. Restore my wasted soul. My soul is wasted, my soul is lean. So many things I asked and so many things I got but today I am not able to enjoy nothing because my soul is wasted. Oh Lord, lead me to green pastures, take me to still waters for Thy name sake. Lead me to paths of righteousness and restore my soul. I am slow, give me speed. I have lost days and years, give me speed. Others who have started behind me have shot ahead with Revelations that I have never heard. Lord, I need speed, I need speed, I need strength. The battle is thick, the enemy has stolen everything. I have very few with me and those who are with me are tired. God of Samson, strengthen me. God of Elijah, give me speed. God of David, give me victory. Let not the gentiles reproach Your name. We are Your people called by Thy name, let not Your name be a reproach in this nation. Why should the gentiles say, 'Where is your God?' Oh Lord, restore, restore. Restore lives, restore homes, restore churches, restore ministries, restore this land and make me fruitful in my latter year. For You said in Your Word, the glory of the latter shall be greater than the former. The end of a thing is better than the beginning. Lord, I want to end like Jacob. I want to lean onto Your strength and

prophesy over the nations and I want to end, Oh Lord. I want to tell my generation, 'The blessings of your father are greater than the blessings of your ancestors.'

Restore the wasted years O' Lord. Anoint Your people with the anointing that breaks the yoke. You said the former and the latter rain, first month. We are standing in the first month of 2022, the first month of this year. Let Your rain fall upon Your people here and everywhere. As we cry out, let Your rain fall O' Lord. Let Your rain fall, Father. Let Your anointing come, Father, because it breaks the yoke, it sets the captives free. O' Father, in one day, You can restore what the enemy has stolen. In one day You can turn it around. The woman who had the issue of blood was healed and restored in one day. Twelve years were given back in one day. The woman who was bent over for eighteen years, was made whole in one day. In one day You gave her 18 years back. A man who has been begging for thirty eight years, in one day you gave it back. In one day You brought Israel out of Egypt and they did not go empty, they went with their hands full. You gave them back everything the enemy has stolen. They were slaves and the next day they were no more slaves and they were none feeble among them for You led them out of Egypt. And I pray that You lead us out of bondage, lead us out of captivity and we will not go empty, we will plunder the enemy and we shall leave with our hands full. So we will not meet You with our hands empty.

O' Father, we just want to thank You, we just want to thank You. In this house, Your house, we are called by Your name, we are Your people, we lift up Holy hands and we bless Your Holy name. Thank You Father. Thank You Lord. bless Your people, keep Your people. We declare in Your house – Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

Hallelujah! God of restoration! Believe and when you go back home get into your prayer closet and say, "Lord, today is the day You will speak to me," because You said, 'Today if you hear My voice, do not harden your hearts.' I will not harden my heart, speak to me today, not tomorrow, today.

God bless you.