

# Take the Limits Off Faith!

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*Father, this morning we come to You. Merry heart, You said, is a good medicine; in spite of whatever may happen, we choose to rejoice in our God. "Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say rejoice in the Lord," is what the apostle said and Your servant Nehemiah said, "The joy of the Lord is my strength!" We will rejoice through it all, through it all we will rejoice. And we know Father that You will give us Your strength. This morning, Father, as I stand behind the pulpit to speak Your Word, I pray You will cleanse my lips with Your holy fire. For no man is worthy to speak Your Word, O Lord. Cleanse my lips. Pour out grace upon my lips. Even as I bring the Word, I pray there will be impartation of faith in the lives of Your people, that they will receive that faith, they will receive healing because Your Word says, "I sent forth My Word and healed you of your sicknesses, your disease, your infirmities." I pray, Lord, that deliverance will take place because You said, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me', You have anointed me to preach deliverance to the captives. Let there be an impartation today. For the Word of God says when You were in that house, and as You preached the Word, the power of God was present there to heal. Wherever the Word is preached, there is power to heal, to deliver, to move mountains, to do the impossible. For everything was created by the Word, through the Word, for the Word and everything is held together by the Word of His power. The Word has never and will never lose its power; it is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, Father, release Your Word, let it bring forth salvation in the lives of Your children. For in Jesus' name I pray, Amen!*

This morning, keeping in light the promise we have— restoration—we turn to the book of Mark, chapter 11 and verse 20-24. Five verses we will read. Remember the previous chapter: Jesus had gone to a fig tree because He was hungry. The tree leaves were green but He found no fruits. So He cursed the tree.

## **Mark 11:20-24**

***<sup>20</sup> Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. <sup>21</sup>And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."***

Why did He curse it? It is because it did not bear any fruit. Every tree in the life of every person here, Lord, which is not bearing fruit, I pray let it be cursed, let it die and only that bears fruit unto You survive, Lord, because we have called to bear the fruits to the Father's glory. Everything that has been planted by the enemy, the tares he planted in the night hours which will bear no fruit, let it be cursed, let it wither away from the roots, O Lord, but everything that You have planted, let it bear fruit, O Father. For to this You called us – to bear fruit.

***<sup>22</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."***

Jesus is our model in everything. We have many models in the Bible starting from Abel onwards, we have many but Jesus is our model. It is the Spirit of Christ in them that we follow; we don't follow any of those men but the Spirit of Christ in them. So, Jesus is the model. So when you study anybody—somebody was texting me from Sikkim about why Cain was not accepted and why Abel was accepted. Why is Abel our model when it comes to worship, when it comes to sacrifice? Because the Spirit of God in Abel showed him how to offer. That's how Abel speaks to us even though he is dead, says the writer of Hebrews, he still speaks, why? Abel will die but the Spirit of Christ never dies; the Spirit of Christ will speak, still, through men and women who have gone before us; the cloud of witnesses that encamps us and God still speaks to us through them.

So the Word of God says He is our model, look unto Christ. We look unto Christ; He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. He is the way and He showed us the way. He said, "I am the way," and Peter will say, "He showed us the way." He is both the way and He shows us the way. He told us and taught us how it is to be full of grace and to be full of truth, and we know His entire life – if you look at His entire life, it was defined by two things: one; the Word of God. Faith, living faith, He heard from His Father and second; His prayer life. So He is the model, born of the Spirit. Be sure you are born of the Spirit. Like I said last week, all around the world, today being a Sunday morning, people will gather in church, they are in church but they are not in Christ. You can be in church all of your life, die and go to hell. Live in church all the days of your life, but if you are not in Christ... So make sure if you are in Christ, and not just in church. If you are in Christ and in church, it's a good thing; if you are not in Christ but in the church, ask, "Lord,

come into my heart!" It's a Person. As many as who received Him are called the sons of God. You have to receive Him.

So the Bible says that He was born of the Spirit. The Spirit of God came literally upon Mary. He was conceived of the Spirit. Jesus said unless you and I are born of the Spirit we will not see, we will not enter into the Kingdom of God. And at the river Jordan He was filled with the Spirit, not only that, the Spirit of God stayed on Him and then we see that He was led by the Spirit. Matthew and Luke will say – 'He was led', Mark will say – 'He was driven by the Spirit.' Go where the Spirit takes you. You may be thinking, "Why are You taking me here?" but the Word of God says that the Spirit of God led Him up in the wilderness. Even if you go to Egypt, a fertile green place, you go down to Egypt but when the Spirit of God leads you into the wilderness, He takes you up, He doesn't take you down.

*He was led up in the wilderness and there He was tested of the devil.* Don't be afraid of the devil, the Spirit of God will lead you up to be tested of the devil. And when He was finished, He came out with the power of the Holy Spirit. That's what the Bible says, "He came out in the power of the Holy Spirit." And what you see after that is what we long for, desire for, fight for – He continued in the power of the Holy Spirit after that all the days of His life, till His last moment on the cross. He continued in it. That's what we want. And the question is - how did He maintain that power consistently 24/7 all the way for three and half years? The answer is His prayer closet. You maintain that power in your prayer closet. Your prayer closet will define how you and I will go forward. I keep saying this, some great man of God in the past said, "No man will rise above his prayer life." If you ask Solomon, "Why did you fail?" He will tell you, "Because I stopped praying, not that I did not know the Word; I wrote the Proverbs, I was the preacher but my prayer closet was empty." Your prayer closet, that's how we maintain. In the prayer closet, there is one thing that you and I need:

#### **Mark 11:24**

***<sup>24</sup>Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.***

You can pray from morning to evening, but if you don't believe, prayer is a waste of time. So, when you look at Jesus, everything that He asked of the Father was answered, except one prayer, everything was answered. Why? Because He believed. That's why we come for the hearing of the Word of God because faith comes from hearing. It's not enough that you hear, you have to believe what God speaks to you, you have to believe. And Jesus said that, "***When you ask God, when you pray, believe.***" Many young people like Jyoti and all, our young kids pray, I listen carefully to how much of the Scripture they quote in prayer. It's important. Where does your faith come from? Faith comes from hearing; hearing from the WORD of GOD. So they have Scripture. And you believe what you have heard. Faith is the master key. Sometimes you go to these huge doors which are shut... you go to a bank with all the grill and metal, all those stuff over there, open only at 9 O'clock, and the security guard takes a small key and opens the door. It doesn't matter how big the door is, how big the gate is, how strong the door is – all you need is the key, and the master key is the faith. If you believe, Jesus said, "***If you believe all things are possible.***"

That is where we have an unfair advantage and people are not making use of it. We have an unfair advantage over the world. They don't have faith that's why they sweat; we have been given the master key called faith, it opens any door, doesn't matter how big the door is. Peter was put in prison; four sets of guard, many gates and the outside was iron gate, but the church prayed. Herod was planning to bring him out, but the church prayed. Bible says, the gates opened on its own. The angel came, struck him on the side, woke him up; chains fell off; one man awake, all asleep. Angel can do both; wake you up and put others to sleep that nobody wakes up. Soldiers were supposed to be on guard and wide awake, but are fast asleep; the prisoner who was fast asleep is wide awake. It is all because people prayed. When you pray, believe. Remember, faith! There are two aspects of faith: one is Jude chapter 1 and verse 3...

#### **Jude 1:3**

***<sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.***

Fight for that faith! What is this faith? There are two parts of faith: one is the doctrine part of faith. Doctrine was handed one generation to another. Doctrine never changes because God never changes. How God deals with people may change, He may deal differently, but doctrine is like bones—that's why I respect Baptist preachers because they are bone setters, they are very good with doctrine. The only thing I will not listen to a Baptist preacher is when he

preaches about the Holy Spirit, I don't listen to that because they deny that experience, so why should you listen to them, but they are very good with doctrine. So, remember you need doctrine. The whole church around the world is collapsing because they ignored doctrine and they changed doctrine. As the world changed, they changed the doctrine but the doctrine cannot be changed! Your bones have to be strong, if your bones are brittle, when the pressure comes your bone will break. Your bones have to be strong, your doctrine has to be strong, your convictions have to be strong, so strong like the Joseph has in Egypt, like Daniel has in Babylon – strong convictions, very strong bones. God says, "Fight for it! Contend for it generation to generation!" That's one faith because that is also used for the word faith. Then there is another in *Romans 10:17*, the Bible says...

### **Romans 10:17**

***<sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

Faith comes by hearing, it comes! And if you don't have faith that means you are not hearing. You have sat for five years, seven years, eight years, ten years in the church and there is no faith, there is absolutely something wrong with you. You should go, fall on your face and cry, "Lord, what's wrong with me? Am I condemned? Why is there no faith?" Because the Bible says, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That hearing is the Spirit of God, He speaks. So you have to be attentive, anytime, every time, anywhere, you are listening to the Word of God, be very careful because the Word of God and the Spirit of God is waiting for faith – anybody who believes, little, a tiny bit of faith. These are spiritual things. If it doesn't find somebody here in this room, it will find somebody outside who is listening online because God is not a respecter of person. "Tomorrow this time," says the prophet, "Famine will end in Samaria." He quotes the price also. Within the camp, nobody believed, outside the camp suddenly four people start talking to each other. If the devil can put a thought into your mind, God can also put a thought into your mind. Suddenly they spoke and said, "If we sit here, we will die; if we go in, we will die. Let us arise and go to the camp of the enemy." Who put that thought in their mind? It is God. The prophetic word that was spoken through Elisha landed upon the minds of four lepers and the city was saved.

God is not a respecter of person. The king may not receive it, the man on whose arm the king leaned will die under the trample, but four lepers received it. So, God and His Word discounts nobody; because if you have faith, you don't need anything else. And Jesus was perfect in both: both in doctrine and in hearing. Once who had doctorates in doctrines, called the Pharisees, He said, "You err because you do not understand the scripture." That was a slap on their face. "You carpenter from Nazareth, telling us we don't know scriptures?" God says, "Yes, you don't know scriptures." At the age of 12, they were amazed at His understanding of doctrine. He told them, "It is written, but I tell you... it is written, but I tell you... this is what it is written, this is its interpretation..." Jesus was fantastic, perfect in doctrine, and had ears that always heard. Be perfect in both.

"Let us leave," as the writer of the Hebrews says, "*these elementary things, and move towards perfection.*" "Here, Lord, I need to hear. You are a God who speaks, I need to hear! I need to hear every day, I want to hear every day because You speak and You said, 'Call Me Father,' and fathers speak if children are willing to listen. You are my Father. Speak to Me, Lord, You have the words of life." Then He comes to the prayer life. If you look at the prayer life, Jesus taught two fundamentals:

### **Matthew 6:13**

***<sup>13</sup> Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

One thing He said about that, "Lord, deliver Me from the power of the evil one." The power of the evil one is temptation. He cannot make you sin; he can tempt you to sin, then you choose to sin. So, his power is temptation. So He taught us primary principle, in your prayer closet. What is that? "Lord, deliver Me from the power of the evil one, help Me not to be tempted and go onto the road of temptation. Empower Me." Second thing –

### **Matthew 7:7-11**

***<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!***

“You do not have because you do not ask.” Why did He say, “Lead Me not into temptation, deliver Me from the power of the evil one?” Because temptation is the doorway to sin and sin is how the devil gets into our lives.

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

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

We should know the devices of the enemy.

**Ephesians 6:11**, the Word of God says:

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

He is a trickster. He fools people, he tricks people. And you should ask this honest question to yourself—because Bible says, “Examine yourself,”— how is that after all these, I have no zeal for God?! Who stole my fire? How is that after all these, my prayer life is practically zero?! Who took my prayer life? I have heard all these, who took my faith? How is that after the church service is over, ten minutes later if somebody were to come and ask you, “What did you hear today?” you are not able to remember? Who stole it? The Bible says, “The birds of the air came and stole it,” but who allowed it, to steal it? These are questions that should be asked. The writer of the Hebrews says, “By this time brethren, you should have been teachers”; Paul tells the church of Corinthians, “I have to feed you milk.” You have to ask, “What happened, Lord, where does the problem lie?” because there is a thief; he is a trickster, the deceiver; his wiles, his tricks, we should be aware of. Devil never changes his agenda; Jesus never changes His agenda.

**John 10:10**, the Bible says:

<sup>10</sup> ***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*** Who is he? The thief. He comes as a salesman but he is a thief. ***I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*** Not ordinary life, but abundant life! What is that? Zoe – the life that overcomes the devil! He said, “I have come to give you life that overcomes.” So the key to that life which Jesus came to bring, is what *Mark 11* is all about. And the first thing Jesus says there, listen carefully.

### **Mark 11:**

<sup>22</sup> ***So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.***

“Lord, how is that!?” This was a tree, this is supposed to be an inanimate thing and You said “Curse thee,” and it is dry! “Lord, You spoke and the tree dried up!” He said, “Have faith in God.” That’s the first thing, have faith in God. The potential of faith – the faith is like the water behind the dam. You know what that water when it is controlled and released, what all it does in the world? Every gadget you can think of is empowered because that water is controlled and released. Faith is like that. I just want to look at one small list, what faith can do, mindboggling list in Hebrew 11:33-35.

### **Hebrews 11:33-35**

<sup>33</sup> ***who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead raised to life again.***

Others were tortured and they were said, “Deny Christ,” they said, “No! We have the faith to die.” That is unbelievable faith. All this is by faith! Jesus comes and says, “Have faith in God.” The possibilities of faith are limitless, absolutely limitless. Have faith, Jesus says, “Have faith in God,” believe in God, trust God. So, first thing about trusting God is, *2 Peter 1:2-3*

### **2 Peter 1:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> ***Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory virtue...***

How? *Through the knowledge of Him...* The first thing we need is the knowledge of God. To have faith in God, you need to have the knowledge of God, because faith is in a person; faith is not an idea. Turn with me to Numbers 23 and verse 19.

**Numbers 23:19**

***“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”***

God became a man, and God is not a man – it makes a whole lot of difference. God is not a man that He should lie. After the fall, all men lie. If there is anybody who has never lied in life, please stand up, you will be conferred honorary dignitary. God is not a man, why? because He doesn't lie. Why can I have faith in God? Because He doesn't lie! I can have faith in God because my God doesn't lie; His Word, what He has spoken is forever established in the heavens. “Heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” Therefore, I can trust in God because He is not a man, He doesn't lie. That's the reason we can trust God.

So, he is saying, grace and peace will be multiplied. How? In the knowledge of God. And one of the first things we need to know is that, God is not a man that He should lie nor a son of man, that He should repent. What does it mean? God doesn't change His mind. If He tells you something today, tomorrow He will not come and say, “Sorry, I changed My mind,” because men do that. We all do that, we say something and then come and say, “Sorry, I forgot. Sorry, I changed my mind.” There used to be one of the old well-known liners in one of the ancient western black and white movies I think, a guy comes and says, “I changed my mind.” So the other fellow says, “It was good because the one you were using was not clean enough.”

God does not change His mind! It's an awesome thing! You know why we struggle with faith? Because we have only dealt with humans who lie, who change their mind; who make covenants to love you forever and ever and never to leave you, and then two years down the line, they will say, “I want a divorce.” If your covenants don't last, then what will last? So when God speaks, you have to read what He says, ‘If the sun changes and the moon changes, if the day ceases and the night ceases, so will My Word. No, as long as there is day and night My Word never changes.’ (*Isaiah 40:8; Jeremiah 33:19-21*); That's why we can believe in Him.

***“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”***

That's why we have faith in God. Jesus came to show us you can have faith in God, He never changes, He never lies. Once He has spoken something into your life, He will do it, but the question is – do you believe?

**Malachi 3:6**

***<sup>6</sup>“For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”***

He looks to at Israel down the ages – scoundrels; every time running after the idols, baal, asherath, even giving their own children through fires – “I want to destroy them, but I made a covenant with their father Abraham, and I do not change. I will stand on the Word I spoke to your forefather. Therefore, you are not consumed! Not because you are great; it is because I don't change My Word.” He made a covenant through His Son Jesus about you and me, therefore, sons and daughters of God, we are not consumed because He doesn't change. This is called the integrity of God. God is a person of integrity, He never changes; when He says something, He stands by His Word, He is dependable. So, have faith in God. I have the knowledge of God, you know what, my God is a Man of integrity; not a man, but He is a person of integrity, and my God is absolutely dependable, He never changes! And therefore, I am not consumed. He is unchanging.

**Hebrews 11:6**

***<sup>6</sup>“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? ‘O sons of Jacob! I do not change!’***

So, when you come to God, believe that He is still the same, that Person of integrity who will never back out of what He has spoken in your life – sealed and ratified by His own Word. Because there is nobody higher than Him, He said, “I swore by Myself...” The integrity of God! That is why we read this Book (Bible) above all books; we listen to the

Word more than anything else. You know why? It is because behind it stands a Person who is dependable. Jesus comes and says, probably in a very mild tone, to His disciples, He says, "Have faith in God." (*Mark 11:22*)

### **2 Peter 1:3**

***<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory virtue...***

Not some things, all things – connected with this life, connected with the life that is coming. One is life, the other is godliness; without holiness no man will see God. I need holiness now, I need holiness then, but I need all things pertaining to life—think about one thing connected with life, the Bible says, "God has given us all things." How has He given us? through His divine power. So, it is not enough that God is a Man of integrity, He has to be a Man of power because there are many people of integrity in this world, but when you go to them, they will say, "Sorry, I can't do it." Men of integrity, women of integrity, we thought we could depend upon them and when you come to them, they will say, "Sorry, I can't do it."

Is Elijah a man of integrity? Of course, he is a man of integrity! When Elisha asked for a request, he said, "You asked for too hard a thing, I can't do that. You are asking for a double portion of my spirit, I can't do that, I don't have the power to do that but I will tell you secret, if you see me taking, that means you will get it." So there are men of integrity, women of integrity, but you know what, when the king of Syria sent a letter to the king of Israel saying, "I am sending the captain of my army, he has got leprosy," he tore his robes and said, "This man is asking for trouble, how can anybody heal a leper!" he has reached the limit of his power.

So God is not just a Man of integrity; He is a Man of power! That's why I trust Him, that's why I believe in Him, that's why I put my faith in Him. Not only is He a Man of integrity, but He is also a Man of power. Have faith in God, He has integrity, He has power; when everything else will fail, God does not fail. The Bible says, "God never fails in His integrity or in His power, He never fails." You need to know when Jesus says, "Have faith in God, put your trust in God," what does it mean? What is the knowledge of God? What is this knowledge of this Person that I need? It is not enough that I know that He is the epitome of integrity, I also need to know that His power is limitless. Nothing is impossible with God. ***Genesis 18:13***, God said to Abraham, "***Why did Sarah laugh?***" Earlier Abraham had laughed, now wife laughs, two people laughing because they look at themselves; one is 99, the woman is 90 – "You are coming and telling us next year, this time, I will have a child?" She laughed. What did God say? "***Is anything too hard for God?***" "***Why did you laugh?***" is a question God ask many people. We, like Sarah, won't laugh in the church because pastor will ask you, "Why are you laughing?" so we laugh inside. Bible doesn't say Sarah laughed loud, she laughed in her mind. God said, "Why did you laugh?" coz when you say "All things are possible with God," we laugh.

### **Jeremiah 32:17**

***<sup>17</sup> 'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You...'***

We sing, "*Nothing is too difficult for Thee...*" and then we go as if everything is difficult for Him. That's why God says, "These people come close to Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me," because it's with a heart man believes; not with your lips. With lips confession is made, it's the heart that believes. And Jesus says, "Do you believe? Have faith in God. I will give back your lost years." Do you believe in the integrity of the Person who spoke? Not me, Him. Do you believe He has the power to do it? The lost years—He started with the most difficult. If that is possible, everything else is possible. Time lost is time gone, but God says, "I will give back the years you have lost." Okay, He is a Man of integrity; He is a Man of power – question: but why should You do it for me? If you can manage to get to see the CM, he has got power, he has got integrity, he looks at you and says, "But why should I do it for you?" "Where do you stay?Address?" That is how you have to give everything before you meet – house address, street no., they will look into their system and say, "All of them voted for BJP, just let them go. Why should I do it for you, you voted for my opposition; you didn't vote for me. I know that ilaka, nothing good comes from there for me." I have integrity, I have power, but why should I do anything for you? the next verse:

### **Jeremiah 31:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup> The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel!"***

Why would God do it for you and me? Because He says, *“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”* Why would God do it for you and me? It is because He loves us. Why He loves us, I still haven't figured it out, but the fact is that He loves us.

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

***<sup>1</sup>Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.***

Therefore, the world doesn't understand: “These people say they are children of God! What's wrong with them?” The world doesn't know Him, but we are supposed to know Him.

So, He has integrity; He has power; and He has motivation – He loves us.

**1 Corinthians 13:8** you know what it says?

***<sup>8</sup>Love never fails...***

Only two things in the Bible which says, “...does not fail” that is - “God never fails,” “Love never fails.” So, I can trust Him. I can have faith in Him. Meaning: I can go to Him not based on my love for Him, but based on His love for me. You know, all the little children sitting in the church, all the little ones, when they go to their parents and they ask, they don't even have the knowledge of it, they are not going on their love for Daddy, they are going on their Daddy's love for them. That's why God says, “If you fathers being evil know how to give good things to your children, what about God?” All of integrity; all of power; all of love. So, keep these three things in your mind because we haven't come to the message yet, this is setting the bones. We are just setting the bones for the foundations to be laid. You need to have the real knowledge of God. God is a Man of integrity, He will never change His mind once He has spoken, it is done. He is a Man of power, unlimited power. Third: He loves us like crazy.

So, the three questions: will God do this? Can God do this? Will God do this for me? That's why it is important to be the part of God's family. Are you going to God based on a covenant? Are you part of a covenant? Or are you going based on compassion? “Please grant me leave!” Leave rejected. No compassion. That's what happened to this Canaanite woman, leave not granted – “Son of David, have mercy!” He didn't even look at her, He didn't even answer. “You are not part of the covenant, why should I answer you? Why should I answer your prayer? I came for the children of Israel, children who are part of the covenant.” That's why it is so important to know that you are part of the covenant, you are a child of God. Covenants matters, relationship matters. This man had visitors; he went to his friend's house midnight hour; kept on knocking. Will you go to knock on stranger's house? He had a relationship, and ultimately, he opened the door and gave him what he wanted. Do you have a relationship? That's why it is important. Jesus said, “This is how you need to pray, ‘Our Father...’” the Spirit of God in you, if you are born again, cries out, “Abba Father.” Be sure you are saved.

Now come to Genesis chapter 1 verse 27 and 28:

### **Genesis 1:21-28**

***<sup>27</sup>So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.***

Now, when we are born again, we were recreated, the fallen man was recreated in the image and the likeness of God. Everyone born again has been made again, born again in the image and the likeness of God.

***<sup>28</sup>Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”***

God says, “I am sending you into an environment you will have to subdue it; there is hostility, there is opposition, but you will subdue it, you will have dominion over it.” Understand that, fundamental principle has not changed. There is absolute demonic opposition to every blessing against everybody's name, you don't get it without a fight. You have to subdue your environment because the devil came and stole it, deceived and took it.

### **1 John 3:8**

***<sup>8</sup>...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.***

Christ was manifested to destroy the works of the devil.

It's a long passage but I want you to read that passage in *Ephesians 1:17-22*. Go back and read it over and over again. Every day read it before you read your Bible if you don't know it by now.

### Ephesians 1:17-22

<sup>17</sup> *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...*

Only thing connected with us in this entire narrative is – do you believe? Everything else is about God. He says, “Only one thing – do you believe?” If you believe, do you know the glory of your inheritance? If you believe, do you know the greatness of His power toward you? Would you just believe? That’s why Jesus tells His disciples, “Have faith in God.”

<sup>20</sup> *...which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places...*

Not just raised Him up from dead, raised Him up, put Him on His right-hand side.

<sup>21</sup> *...far above all principality and power and might and dominion*, everything that opposes your destiny, God says, “Do you know where Jesus is seated?” Far above those powers! Not just above, not just slightly above, far above! “No comparison” He says, “Between heaven 2 and heaven 3, no comparison.” ***and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*** Names and titles will be given in the age to come. Thrones will be given, crowns will be given, names will be given, but He has already been given a name that is far above every name. Wait a minute, He didn’t need any of these things, He already had all these things. He had a name that was above all names; He had a throne that was above all thrones; He had it all. So, what’s the difference? This time He has been given, as the Son of Man, for the sake of the church. It’s for yours and my sake He has been given. Earlier He was God, now He is Son of God and Son of Man. Everything that He has acquired in His battle on earth, and has been given to Him is for us. As the head of the church, He dispenses this to His body. All power, all authority, everything is His!

### Romans 13:1

<sup>1</sup> *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

So please remember, doesn’t matter which state you live, which town you live, which country you live, what oppression you are facing, it doesn’t matter, all power is God’s.

### Matthew 28:18

<sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

This is spiritual reality: all authority, all power is with Him; He is far above every power, ruler, authority, dominion. So how do I exercise dominion?

### Ephesians 2:6

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

So, what does it mean? It means you exercise dominion over every power of darkness; they don’t rule you, you rule them. But remember, it’s a fundamental thing, one word in this line that is repeated, what is that? ***“We have been raised together.”*** If you go back and read *Genesis 1*, two verses we read, there is one thing: ***“You shall have dominion over the fish, the birds, the animals...”*** but you and I have not been given dominion over man. Please remember, husband and wife have been raised together, you don’t dominate each other; you dominate each other, it becomes sorcery, it is not the power of God. That’s why you are blocked in your homes because you are trying to dominate each other and the power of God is not flowing into your lives because that domination is not of God, that domination is from devil; he tries to dominate man, God does not dominate man, He says, “Surrender.” In the light of all this, surrender.

Please understand this. Whenever domination comes in any form in a human relationship, the Spirit of God backs off. Jesus was filled with Holy Spirit, endured with power, you know why? It is because He refused to dominate anybody. Even when His disciples left, He asked the twelve, “Do you also want to go? I am not holding you to Me, I give you the liberty to go. If you follow Me, follow Me for the right reason; not because I am compelling you.” Understand these fundamental principles. All kinds of different ways the devil will seduce our thinking to dominate somebody else, the Bible says, “I have not given it to you.” Anger, tantrum, all kind of things. That’s why the Bible



says, “Be angry, but do not let the sun go down on your anger,” you will give the devil a foothold in your life, he comes and now he dominates. Now you are not known by your name, you are known by Amitabh Bachchan’s title – Angry young man. You don’t dominate man; you dominate powers of darkness. Jesus dominated powers of darkness. You discipline your children; you don’t dominate them. As they grow older and older, you release them, you take your hands off and say, “It’s your life, you have to live it; you have to find your way with God. If you need something, you can ask me, but you are free not to ask me.” I know it’s very difficult because people want to be dominated, because that slave mentality is in our heads. Once man fell, he became a slave, and slaves like being dominated. And God says, “I am not a slave master; I am a Father, I have only children, I don’t have slaves.”

**Luke 10:19**, this is domination!

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

You have to believe! And know the ways, understand the ways, and exercise that power. You should not be afraid of the devil, you should not be oppressed in your dreams, you should not be saying, “I had this terrible dream, and I was so scared, I saw something pressing me down....” No, I am not condemning anybody, you need to know your rights. You know what, you should be telling me devil you are having nightmares because of me, not the other way around. The demons should say, “Don’t go to that illaka because she presses me down, leave her alone.” That’s the way it should be. Is he oppressing you or you are oppressing him? Who is the oppressor here? ***“I give you power over all power...”*** God doesn’t mince words when it comes to domination over powers of darkness, over all the power of the enemy, and it’s not that you shall hit him, you shall trample upon him under your feet. Devil should not scare you, powers of darkness should not scare you. It doesn’t matter who they are, how big they are, what bigger principality it is, what you go by is what the Word of God says. And it is true, He never lies, He is not a man that He should lie.

So, Christ overcame for us and He is seated on the right hand side of the Father, far above every throne, every power, every principality, every ruler and He is been given a name above all names, in this age and the age to come. Above, He is seated over there, and you know what? That’s where I am seated. So, if He is seated over there, Lord open up a little window of heaven—that’s what Isaiah saw; he saw a little window of heaven and he said, “Woe unto me, I am a man of unclean lips! The train of His robe fills the temple.” You know what that means? Those of you who have seen royal weddings, the only royal wedding I saw was of Prince Charles and Diana Spencer, you were not born then, we were born; black and white TV, her train was like a train, so long. “The train of His robe, the edges, filled the temple.” A vision of God, a glimpse of God, a glimpse of Christ – what is Christ like. Why? It’s fundamental to my victory, who is Christ; then, who am I in Christ.

If you don’t know who you are in Christ, then how would you know who you are in Christ? Do you want to live an ordinary life like everybody in the world, like struggle and struggle, sweat, sweat, sweat, get a job, get married to somebody, birth the family, live and die, that circle or is your life different? There is bigger life than that; there is a purpose that goes into eternity. You don’t want to live an ordinary life, you are not competing with anybody but you are saying, “Lord, I know You did not just call me like that.” “It’s a holy calling,” that’s what the Bible says. It’s a high and a holy calling, everybody seated over here, and the rewards—like we saw in yesterday’s Q&A—are unbelievable, rewards after rewards. “If you overcome, this is what you will receive... if you overcome temptation, crown of life... if you finish your race, crown of righteousness... if you... if you...” rewards, because it is motivational. Even a child can be motivated with ice cream, and God is offering eternal rewards even to the reprobate church called Laodicea, He says, “You know what, you can change. Repent, turn, come back. If you overcome as I overcame, you will reign with Me.” “Will we be chaprassies?” “No,” He says, “You can reign with Me.”

So, who is Christ? What is His picture in heaven? Turn to the book of revelation.

**Revelation 5:8-12**

***<sup>8</sup> Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.***

There is something in heaven, when you go into your prayer closet and when you pray, if you believe, if you ask, all those prayers are in Heaven. The Bible doesn’t say all our worship is in heaven, the Bible doesn’t say all our praise is in heaven, the Bible doesn’t say my preaching is in heaven, the Bible says our prayers are in Heaven. Who is holding it? The twenty-four elders.

***<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain,***

**And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God;**

**And we shall reign on the earth.**”“We shall struggle on earth,” no! I am telling you, get this very clearly, you are not reigning over man; you are reigning over powers of darkness. You can reign over every man and be a slave to devil or you can live with people around you in absolute liberty and reign over the devil – it is your choice. Reign on earth.

**<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”**

Power – one; riches – two; wisdom – three; strength – four; honor – five; glory – six; blessing – seven. If it is His; it’s mine. I was a poor beggar, a woman on the road, He picked me and married me; when I was married, everything He has is mine. That’s what means, “Seated with Him.” I came with nothing, but I received everything. What is the sevenfold proclamation about Jesus over there?

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”**

For whose sake? Didn’t he have all these things? So who is He receiving it for? For the Church, for His Bride. **Power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing** – He is crowned with many crowns. Seven crowns on His head begins with the crown of power, He is crowned with power.

### **John 1:12**

**<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

What did He give them first? He gave them power to become children of God. Who are the children of God? They dominate the enemies of God. Who are the enemies of God? Not flesh and blood, powers of darkness. Satan came after Jesus for forty days, Jesus said, “It is written,” and the devil left Him. Waiting for an opportune moment, after that he came, he attended every meeting of Jesus and accused Him through the mouth of the Pharisees. Therefore, He looked at them and said, “You are of your father, the devil, you don’t win over Me, you don’t understand scripture.” This is what it means, the devil came after Him. Then the devil came after Him through the one who was closest to Him, called Peter, and tried to stop Him from going to the cross, and He looked at him and said, “Satan, get behind Me!” then the devil got into one of His disciples and betrayed Him but He overcame it all. Showed us a way: “I have given you power to become the sons of God,” because you cannot have dominion without power.

### **Acts 1:8**

**<sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**

When the Holy Spirit comes, you shall receive power and you shall keep on receiving power if you keep on going— “Lord, there is one thing I want to do, I want to dominate the enemy! I want to dominate the devil in my life! I want to dominate the powers of darkness that are after me. The thief, I want to dominate him! I wanna take back from him everything that he has stolen.”

### **Ephesians 6:10**

**<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

### **Psalms 110:1-3**

**<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”**

So, what is Jesus doing? Why is He seated? He says, “Son, sit there, got still enemies down there. Sit here until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

**<sup>2</sup> The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! <sup>3</sup> Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power;**

Son, sit on there. You know the children We have birthed? They will dominate and put all Your enemies under Your feet. You sit here, Son, We will watch Our children dominate the devil; they are the volunteers on Your day of power. Do you understand what we are called to do? Why is Jesus delayed? It is because we are not dominating the powers of darkness. He says, “Now, you do it, behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy. You shall trample upon the snakes and the scorpions and they shall by no means harm you.”

### **Psalm 110:3**

***<sup>3</sup>Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning...***

We are His strength right now on earth. That's how your understanding has to change! We are busy trying to dominate man instead of trying to dominate devil. The minute you have tried to dominate a man, power has left your life, sorcery comes in; the Spirit of God stays back and you don't realize after you have won your argument, how come you are so miserable. You should be happy, no, "I won my argument," no, you are miserable; you are lonely; you are wretched; you are bitter; you know why? It is because there is no peace in that kingdom.

That's why it is so important to understand the wiles of the devil. That's how the enemy takes over power. He knows we have been empowered to dominate him, so the thing is that he will not give you face-to-face fight in the beginning. What does he do? He tempts you to sin, and once you have sinned, he dominates your life. Now you are dominated by your sin, whatever it is, doesn't have to be a big sin, it can be anything. That is why Jesus said, "This is how you need to pray... 'Lord, lead me not into temptation, deliver me from the power of the evil one.'" What is the power of the evil one? Temptation. I will give you a small temptation, a small way—it's actually big—but it is so small that it escapes our notice every day.

We read from Mark 11, from 20 to 24, right? ***"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*** Immediately He says something in verse 25: ***"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."*** Otherwise, you will not receive because the other fellow is dominating your heart and your mind. Do you understand that devil dominates us through the power of unforgiveness? Even over imaginary persons, you don't even have to be real anymore. How he tricks people that there is no power! He says, "You can't have any more power over me because I have got you into a trap." Jesus' final battle against the devil is on the cross and on the cross His first statement is, "Father, I forgive them." "I won't let you (satan) dominate Me (Jesus). You are not going to dominate Me over here, you think you have got Me, you don't. I know your wiles, your tricks. Father, forgive them, they have no clue what they are doing." It's a very simple thing, very simple thing. Pause for 30 seconds and ask the Spirit of God to show you in your mind: is there anybody you cannot think without peace in your heart? When you think about them, you automatically grind your teeth. You cannot be a volunteer in the day of His power. We heard from *Hebrews 11*, some didn't receive their dead back from life, they chose to die – Stephen chose to die but as he was dying, he was forgiving those who were stoning him, the power of God rested upon him; heavens opened and he saw the Son of Man standing. You know why? Power. He didn't get tripped by the devil. These may be simple things, but they are powerful in the Kingdom of God because first and foremost I need power to overcome, and sin is the doorway. I need power.

### **Acts 10:38**

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

He anointed Him with the Holy Spirit, right? But even when He came back from the desert, He came back with power. In between what happened? He overcame the devil. Listen carefully – how did He maintain this power? How do you maintain this power in your personal life? Look at *Hebrews 5*, verse 7; my favorite line.

### **Hebrews 5:7**

***<sup>7</sup>Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear...***

What is His entire prayer? If this is a prism of His daily prayer, a part of His daily prayer – every morning He has a prayer, and what is His prayer with vehement cries and tears? "Save Me from temptation." Did God save Him from physical death? No. So what death is He talking about? "Lord, lead Me not into temptation. Let Me not sin." There is a death that comes by sin; He died for sin, He did not die by sin. So what is His prayer? "Let Me not sin against You today." Therefore, He maintained His power, because the only way the devil takes control over you is by opening the doorway to sin and He overcame it every day, for the Bible says, "He was tempted at all points, yet He was without sin." How did He overcome? In His prayer closet. He is not telling God to save Him from the cross; He is telling Him to save Him from sin.

You want to maintain power? That is what you pray in the morning: “Lord, let me not sin today against You or man; guard my heart, guard my lips, guard me, guard my words.” Because ultimately in the multitude of words in your conversation, there will be sin, you will offend somebody. So zip your lip. “Lord, guard my heart, guard my mind that I do not sin against You.” You know what, you are able to maintain your domination, you are able to hear clearly because you are dominating the powers of darkness. Because what the devil wants is to rob you off of your power. You have to make choices. And many young people sitting over here, they should be giants of faith by now, but you know what, you cannot escape the world. It is not because you cannot, you don’t want to escape the world. And God says, “Leave them alone, Ephraim has joined with the idols, leave them alone.” Social media! Ephraim has joined his heart with social media, leave her alone, leave him alone. Can’t stay out of FaceBook, can’t stay out of YouTube, can’t stay out of junk and then – I want power! – God says, “What power? This fellow is dominating your thoughts.” Go to the world but you are not part of the world. Your thinking affects your domination and the devil gets into your mind through your thinking. It’s only faith that overcomes. Whether you want to overcome the sin, or you want to overcome the world, it is only through faith. Faith comes from hearing.

### **Romans 14:23**

***<sup>23</sup> But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.***

So, rewrite the sentence – whatever is of faith is not sin. If whatever is not of faith is sin, then whatever is of faith is not sin. Whoa! I can overcome sin?! God says, “Yes.” How do I overcome sin? Whatever is of faith is not sin. And faith comes from hearing the Word of God. We are hearing-impaired people, that’s our problem. If you were to hear, that’s all we have to do, hear and obey, we have overcome. You overcome sin. If you have overcome sin, you are maintaining the power, not only that, He is able to give you more power. You are maintaining your position in the spiritual, it doesn’t matter what the world says, it doesn’t matter what your neighbor says, the only testimony that matters is what God says, and what the devil says, “Leave him alone, he is trouble,” God says, “Listen to My Son, I am well pleased with Him.” Only two testimonies matter, man’s testimony is irrelevant. “Jesus I know, Paul I know, who are you?” Only two testimonies matter, it doesn’t matter what people say about you. The simple thing is that, are you dominating the spiritual? Are you overcoming sin?

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

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

Faith always overcomes. It is impossible for faith not to overcome, it is because your faith is, one, is in God, and two, when you have faith, real living faith in God, what flows into your life is the power of God which is called grace, and the Spirit of God always overcomes; He can never be defeated by any power of darkness. It is the very Spirit of Christ that overcomes, He overcomes. Learn to maintain. Ultimately learn to live your life before God because at the end, if we haven’t overcome, it does not matter what else you have done...

### **Revelation 21:7**

***<sup>7</sup> He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.***

Some things? most things? He who overcomes shall inherit all things. It doesn’t matter what else you have, if you haven’t overcome sin, the world and the devil, eternity will be loss for the saved – you are not going to hell, but you will be at loss.

### **Romans 8:19**

***<sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.***

Who are the overcomers? Who are the overcomers? All of the creation is echoing – who are the overcomers? Nobody knows, only the Father and the Son and the Spirit know who the overcomers are. All of creation is waiting, because who are they? They are the rulers of this coming age – he must be a housemaid, driver, sweeper, carpenter, plumber, irrelevant to what you are on earth, are you dominating the powers of darkness? Because the young man who picks up garbage from our home, he is a believer, he is not ashamed of Christ, in his garbage truck in the front lies his bible. He teaches in Sunday school, he came for last Pastors’ conference, you wouldn’t come, he came. You were so busy; he came for the Pastors’ Conference. On that day of judgement, “Oh, you are a garbage collector?” He says, “Come, well done My good and faithful servant! Enter into My joy. You overcame in your situation. Though you gathered garbage, your witness did not stink. They had such precious scented things but their witness stank.”

Don't look at man, what man says, look at to what God says. All of Israel didn't even know who this Man was – "Isn't He the carpenter's Son? We know about Your father." God says, "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased." Did it matter what people said? So, in your prayer closet, first and foremost: "Lord, give me the power to overcome sin! Help me, Lord, help me!" Whatever you are tempted by, whatever you are drawn away from, know that that's the trick of the devil; devil has no power, he has only the power to deceive and you give it into his hands.

### **Psalm 63:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup> So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.***

Early in the morning I have come to Your sanctuary, why? I want Your power. The day is beginning, it is still dark—every morning when I wake up, it is still dark, the day is beginning and the challenges are coming, I know myself and You know me better than I do, I need Your power. I need power first to keep my mouth shut, second; I need power to speak; I need power to control my thoughts; I need power, I need power, Lord. Why was He crowned with power? Because the Bible says, ***"Early in the morning when it was still dark, He went to a deserted place and He started praying,"*** and Hebrews 5:7, the writer of Hebrews much years later gives the revelation, this is how He prayed, ***"The Son of God in the days of His flesh with vehement cries and tears cried unto God who would save Him from death and He was heard because of His godly fear."*** "You will not sin, My Son, I have heard Your cry and Your prayer. I will endue You with power, You will not go out of this prayer closet without power. Every day the mantle will be fresh, You will go out in power, You will be accosted by the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians, the Levites, all kinds of people but You will not lose it, You will walk without sin because You ask Me for power." Ask for the power to defeat the devil, and ask for power to consistently love man.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...***

He who speaks in tongues edifies himself – now, I am very strong inside, I can move mountains ***but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.***

***<sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy... Oh, I can edify the entire congregation with the spirit of prophecy, the word that I preach. I have received revelation, I have the spirit of prophesy... prophecies edify others, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.***

So, Lord, help me to dominate the powers of darkness and teach me to love man. Every time I have to tell people when they are fighting, "Can you discuss issues?" Discuss the issue, leave the person behind. When we teach parents—how many times we have taught, how many times I have counselled you! You discipline a child with your rod. Rod is for disciplining; hands are always for loving, you never discipline a child with your hand, not even pinch, not even hit, not even slap, the hand is for loving, for blessing. Sons in the Bible craved for their father to put their hand upon them; not to punish them but to bless them. The rod is for punishing, the hand is for blessing. My hands are to bless.

When you go on missions, you need to see after a meeting the people standing in line for laying of hands: Would you bless us? As they come in before the meeting, they all stand: Would you bless? As they go, they stand. I told you, once I was getting out of my hotel room and it was dark, and I was walking down the road, suddenly I saw all these people stopping and standing, I said, "What's wrong with them?" because I finished the church and they saw me and they were standing in the line so that I could lay hands on them, on the dark sidewalk. "Would you bless us? You are the man of God who has come to town, would you lay your hands?" What are the hands for? Blessing. What are your hands for? Loving. Help me, Lord, to love. That's who God is!

I asked Lord, other than my own children, You gave me two children who were with me in the house; one was easy to love because she was a bundle of joy, so you know who it is. She brought joy into our hearts and lives; it was easy to love her. And we have another child also with us, now she is special needs; she is slow, she won't bring you that kind of joy. She can't talk like that child, she can't be funny like that child, but you know that child, you have to love her differently, she brings you peace, she gives you no trouble but she cannot bring you joy because she doesn't have it. But you know, that child gives no trouble.

Ask Maa what did I tell Siri last night – I said, “Siri, you know what, you don’t get married, okay?” “No, I don’t wanna get married, Grandpa, I just want to do graduation.” Now she has Jyoti in her head, graduation she has heard. I said, “You grow and take care of Grandpa and Grandma, stay with us forever.” “Okay Grandpa, I don’t wanna get married, I just want to do graduation.” Children are different, people are different and Jesus loved them all. We need to cry out to God, “Lord, teach me to love.” We all struggle with it. “Help me to deal with issues, yet Lord, help me to love because that’s who You are. Give me power to dominate the powers of darkness. Give me power to rule over myself.” A man who cannot rule over himself is like a city without walls.

We are not talking about this mushy emotional love; we are talking about this genuine love who will see something through, it is not that Bollywood, Hollywood love – “Love me, love me not...” we are not talking about that because words are cheap; like they say in English, “Put your money where your mouth is.” Words are cheap, very cheap but have you put your money where your mouth is? Have you put your life on the line? “Give me power, Lord.” This is the power God is talking about. Jesus Christ was filled with Holy Spirit and with power and He went around doing good and healed everyone who was oppressed of the devil. You need say, “Lord, I need power because I see in *Revelation 5:12*, ‘You are worthy to receive power,’ I need Your kind of power; You never dominated man, You gave them absolute liberty and those who followed You, they left everything and followed You willingly.” They were all volunteers—Derek Prince once said, “The problem with volunteers is what happens when they stop volunteering.” That’s the problem with volunteers. They volunteer, but what happens when they stop volunteering? They are disciples; disciples are not volunteers; they have burnt their bridges. And they said, “You have to give hats off to those eleven.” Thomas said, “Let us go with Him, die with Him.” His mind is fixed on Jerusalem to the cross, you know what waits in Jerusalem, they are after Him, let us go with Him and die with Him.

He is worthy to receive power, He is worthy to receive riches—as soon as ‘riches’ you heard, there is sparkle in everybody’s eyes. Money talks. Bible is not talking about that kind of money, my question is, what are you going to do with that? What are you going to do with that kind of money? You can’t take it. It’s in Greek mythology: you put a coin in his mouth so that when he crosses that river to the other world, you can pay the boatman; your fare is given in your mouth – one coin, after years of slavery, one coin to cross the river. And the river was called ‘Styx’ – the river of forgetfulness, and if I am right, that fellow’s name was Charon, the boatman. What are you going to with this? As Job said, and as Paul says to Timothy, “We came with nothing; we go with nothing.” Nobody has taken anything to heaven.

So when you think about riches, please understand *Ephesians 3:20*, He is talking about abundance, more than you can ask or think, He gives in abundance, for what? For the sake of the Kingdom. What do I need money for? I need little to eat and much to give. Jesus said, “How much can you eat?” Six course dinner; couldn’t finish the first course, still won’t leave the table, “Pack karke le lo, kal khayenge.” How much can you eat? How much can you wear? Imagine, if I am wearing two coats today – what’s wrong with Pastor, why is he wearing two coats? That’s why Jesus says, “If you got two coats, give it away.” I mean, money is not the problem, we said it last night, it’s not whether you have money; it’s whether money has you? And you don’t have to be rich for money to have you. You don’t have to be rich for money to have you, you can be poor and money controls your life. There is indictment in the book of James, connected with last days, “You have hoarded money in the last days, hidden it, hidden it...” You keep on hearing on the news: income tax raid, in pipes and all, people have hidden bundles and bundles, hiding here, hiding there, for what? “Oh, I am poor, I have not hidden,” no, you have hidden it all in your mind, bundles are there in your mind, you are always dreaming green bags. Hidden in your mind, dreaming money. God is not talking about that; God is talking about abundance. And Jesus had abundance when He walked on earth. This is the simple question: “Lord, let me not meet a need in my life, a God given need in my life where I don’t have resources to meet.” That’s abundance.

### ***Acts 20:35***

***35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”***

What is blessing? To receive. What is more blessed? To give. “Lord, make me a giver!” I cannot give unless I have more than enough. If I have just enough, then I will be like that woman in Samaria, “I have only little bread, little oil; little atta, little tel, make two rotis, one for you son, one for me and we shall die.” “I did not come to your house to proclaim death; I came to your house to proclaim life, make it and give it to me. And I have proclaimed the Word of God to you today, your bin shall never go empty nor your oil jar, until the rain comes.” It’s more blessed to give than to receive. You know why she lived? Not because she ate, but because she gave, so she lived; no tension, one house

in that entire land, tension free because everyday you go the kitchen, the bin is full; you look at it, the oil jar is full, you know why? Because you gave. That's what the Bible is talking about, you don't need more than God's plan and purpose in your life. What do you need it for? Who is going to take it?

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

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

He was rich, He became poor. How do I become rich through Him? Let me give you the key through which you become rich – keep the concept of abundance – John 2:5.

### **James 2:5**

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

The Gospel is preached generally to the poor. The poor come in and they in the house of God, they are made rich in faith. What are you made rich in? In faith! You know what faith is? Faith is God's credit card without limit. No limits. Faith is God's CC. The credit card is your Father's – you spend, He pays. Debit card is yours; you spend, you pay. This is your Father's credit card – He has made the poor rich in faith. That's why we are sitting here in the church and listening to the Word of God, if faith is not being generated in your heart, you are poor in every respect, but you are rich in faith; you are not poor. Jesus carried nothing with Him, all He had was faith and He never met a need in His life which He couldn't handle because He had heard from His Father. He already knew—the Word of God says—what He was going to do, so He was just testing them: "Philip, Andrew, let us feed them." "Lord, feed them? Don't You see the crowd? Six months wages won't be enough!" One little boy with five loaves—but He already knew. One thing about faith—the bible says, "He is the author and the finisher of faith," you know what you see in Jesus' life? He never started anything which was not begun by His Father, therefore, His Father finished it for Him, He had already heard, "This is the day, We shall feed a multitude. Get them to sit down." We are struggling because we started things which He never began. Now we are not running faith ministries, we are running compassion ministries: "Lord, have mercy on me, please finish this." That's not what the Bible says. Even on earth, credit cards have limits; God's credit card is limited only by the will of God, the faith of God is limited only by the will of God; therefore, we study the Word of God, listen to the Holy Spirit to know what is His will for us. Look at 1 John 5, what the Word of God says:

### **1 John 5:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. "Anything, according to His will..."***

Jesus never asked anything outside the will of His Father. Therefore, the Father always answered Him. One day, in the garden of Gethsemane, He asked outside the will of the Father, His flesh was manifesting, He said, "Father, take this cup away," the Father said, "No." The only "No" the Son ever heard. "You ask but you do not receive because you ask amiss to spend on your own pleasures," so, even when Son of God asked amiss, the Father said, "No," but whatever you ask, the faith of God is limited only by the will of God. That's why Gods says, "This is how you need to pray, 'Thy will be done.'" It's not limited by anything else. That's why I said, *God has made the poor rich in faith.*

Imagine somebody sitting over here, a credit card with ten lakh limit and give it to you and say, "You can spend, limit is ten lakh every month," you would be cool as a cucumber. "Ten lakh a month?!" "Yes, ten lakh a month; that's the limit, swipe it, I pay the bill, no problem." You would be suddenly relaxed. And God says, "All things are possible to him/her who believes." They were amazed, "Lord, the tree You cursed yesterday has dried away!" "Have faith in God." Don't waste your time, children, sitting in church, sitting in your homes during this lockdown period you have plenty of time; fill yourself with faith, fill yourself with knowledge of God, fill yourself with the understanding of the will of God, you can live as I said, a stress-free, a sweat free life. In the middle of the storm, you can sleep because the power of God is within you, when you wake up, you can say "Be still." And they said, "What manner of Man is this! He commands the waves and the winds and they obey Him!" This is not theology; this is life.

You have to enforce recovery.

**James 4:2** says,

***<sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.***

That means, if you ask right, you will receive. Don't ask outside the will of God. When you ask outside the will of God, when you ask amiss, you know what happens? You put your CC into God's ATM Machine; it says "Transaction Declined." You ask amiss, declined. God says, "Ask right. Know My will; know My power; know My integrity; know My love, and ask Me, no limits." But you have to enforce your victory because you are fighting a battle, there are forces against your blessings. Everybody looked, the disciples looked, "Oh my God, how does He do this?! He does this, deliverance takes place, healing takes place; He preaches with authority and all kinds, and they tried to cast out demons, it did not happen, then they asked Him in private, "Lord, why were we not able to do it?" He says, "Because of your unbelief, and this kind goes out only with fasting and prayer." So, He won in His prayer closet before He came down every day. Therefore, He enforced the victory. He won in His prayer closet. David is not a random— "Oh, I will fight Goliath!" He has fought his lion, he has fought his bear, "I can fight Goliath because the power is the same; the power I received was the power of God. If God can bring a lion down, a bear down, God can bring a man also down; the power is the same, the Person is the same, the source is the same." When you pray, you need to ask. Have you asked? Dire situation, absolutely dark dire situation – 1 Samuel 30:8.

**1 Samuel 30:8**

***<sup>8</sup> So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?"***

He asked. Sixteen months, no prayer, no worship, no Psalms, no service, nothing – reached back against the wall; everybody against him, but he still asked. He said, "Lord, shall I pursue?" Did you ask? "Shall I overtake them?" he only asked that much. God said, "Absolutely son, pursue. You shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all." God is more interested in yours and my victory more than we are. He doesn't ask "Will I recover?" he only asked "Will I overtake?" look at his question! He doesn't ask, "Will I recover?" because he is scared to ask. God says, "Of course you will recover all, but you have to pursue."

Did you ask?! "*You do not have because you do not ask.*" Did you keep on asking until you received? "*Man ought to always pray and not to lose heart.*" The woman came, the wife of a prophet who was dead – good in prophecy, terrible in finances. "Lord, your servant, my husband is dead! And the creditors have come..." she asked the right person. She asked; therefore, she got a solution. There is a prophet over there, she asked the prophet and God spoke through the prophet. Did you ask? "Alas! I lost my axe-head, it was burrowed!" he asked. "Where did it fall?" He asked! People in the Bible asked! God says, "Did you ask?" David asked. You have to pursue, you have to believe for strength to overtake; you have to believe for strength to fight the powers of darkness who opposes your victory, who opposes your recovery.

**Matthew 11:12**

***<sup>12</sup> And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.***

The kingdom of God suffers violence. From when? From the day of John, the Baptist. Why? Because that is when the kingdom is being preached – "***Repent! For the kingdom of God is here!***" From that time, man started fighting and recovering what the devil had stolen. They started recovering because the Kingdom has come, from the days of John the Baptist, and John the Baptist's preaching is this: "...The Kingdom of God is here!" If the Kingdom of God is here, it is not a matter of talk; it's a matter of power. It suffers violence and violent take it by force. You can be as gentle as a dove, but in your prayer closet, you are not gentle.

The Bible says, Jacob wrestled with God until daybreak. God dislocated his hipbone, he is still in pain and he is still fighting with God is prayer, wrestling with God with tears, with supplication. Read what Hosea says, how he cried out to God; what is he saying? "Unless You bless me, I will not let You go!" Jesus says, "Let Me go, for the daybreaks." Ask this question: when was the last time when you prayed through the night until daybreak and said, "Lord, I am tired, I am tired of this powerless life! Unless You bless me and give me victory, I am not going to let You go?" These men won in their prayer closet and their destinies changed. Jacob becomes Israel and Israel becomes a nation because he won in the dark. The Bible says, "In the evening, he sent his family across and he crossed the river, and



he was all alone and then this man comes and fight from evening till daybreak; there is a wrestling match going on in the prayer closet between man and God.

You have to look at the account in Hosea, go home and find it in Hosea, look at what it says. It is powerful! Your prayer closet is a war room! It's a war room, you are fighting over there; victory over self, fighting the powers of darkness, you come out in peace. Look at *Hosea 4:12*...

#### **Hosea 4:12**

***<sup>12</sup>Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—***

"He wept." It's not there in Genesis but we see another revelation – he prevailed; he cried, he fought with God and said, "Lord, I am tired of this defeat! I am afraid of my father, I am afraid of my brother, I am afraid of my father-in-law, I am afraid of everybody, Lord! I am just tired. These blessings mean nothing to me, my life is the life of torment and fear, would You please bless me?!" God says, "I will bless you, and I will change your destiny. Your name shall not be Jacob, your name shall be Israel – man who prevailed with God and man, you will be a prince." Prevailed in prayer.

Pursue! You have to fight; you have to overtake because the Kingdom of God suffers violence and violent take it by force. If you sit there and think these promises will automatically flow into your lives, it's not going to happen; you have to fight and we have taught you to fight. There are certain battles others can't fight for you; you have to fight on your own. David did not fight with Rachel and Leah; he fought alone; they couldn't fight for him. Your father won't be able to fight for you, your mother won't be able to fight for you, your husband won't be able to fight for you, your pastor won't be able to fight for you – some battles you have to fight alone! But victory is promised. Fight!

#### **Hebrews 11:33**

***<sup>33</sup> Who through the faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions...***

Enforced, worked righteousness and in their prayer room, what did they obtain? They obtain promises. That's the key, you obtain a promise, the power of a promise of God! One man was just going, he went to sleep, put a stone on his head, heavens opened, he heard it and sought it. Strange thing; he was scared, woke up in the morning, put the stone like an altar, poured some oil which his mother gave for him to put on his head, and made it in an altar and he made a vow, a covenant with God – "God of my father, if You take me and bring me back, I will give You 10%." That's all he said. God remembered and when God speaks to him years later: "I remember the covenant you made with Me at Bethel. I don't know whether you forgot, I remember, I will bring you back. I am the God of Bethel with whom you made a covenant." You obtain a promise, the power of a promise you have heard; it is deposited in your spirit, now you fight for the promise to come to pass.

"Shall I pursue? Shall I overtake?" That's all he said. And God said, "Pursue, overtake, you shall recover all." The power of a promise! You obtain your promise in the prayer closet, after that it doesn't matter how tired you are, how many people will back off—500, 600 people, tired like dogs, 200 back off and said, "We are too tired to follow." Numbers don't matter, strength doesn't matter; you have obtained your promise, you will win if you fight. The number of the enemy doesn't matter, nothing matters anymore because you have obtained a promise in your prayer closet. Some of you are young with little children, let me tell you, I am more troubled about your children than we, who have older children and we see them nobody walking with God, we are not troubled because we have obtained a promise and we stand on the strength of that promise; we will not go by what we see, we have heard in our prayer closet: "All your children shall be taught of the Lord, they shall return from the enemy's camp and they shall serve Me." We stand on that promise and we are free to do our ministry without worrying about our children. The power of a promise!

They obtain promises because the Bible says through Peter, "It is through these exceedingly precious promises that we partake of the very divine nature of God and escape the corruption that is in the world. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one but not you and me because we have a promise. We have obtained promises and the promises have the power because God is not a man that He should lie nor the son of man that He should change His mind. "I do not change, therefore, sons of Jacob, you are not consumed." If you sit just like ducks in the church, you will be a sitting duck for the devil. Don't be a sitting duck, he will know you off every time. Go back and hear the

Word of God again, go back and hear the Word of God again, go back and hear the Word of God again because the Word of God, Jesus says is Spirit, it is life, it has the power of God behind it.

That's what Paul says, "When we came and preached to you the Word of God, though we were men, you received it as the word of God and it has the power to work in those who believe." But the problem is, you are not focused, many are not focused because you are distracted with so many things. It's very simple; you can do only one major thing in your life, everything else should be minor. If you try to do two major things, I will tell, you will fall in between. You can do only one major thing. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything shall be added unto you." You can only do one thing. You cannot serve two masters.

Our problem is, we are distracted in so many things so we are not able to even remember when God has spoken to us. God says, "Let distractions stop this year, be focused. I will tell you what to do and whatever you do, I am behind you 100%. I am behind you 100%, put Me first and see what will happen." That's how recovery takes place. Obtain a promise, and fight unbelief! It's a war; your prayer closet is a war room where you fight. You see in *Genesis 14*, Abraham is sitting quietly in his tent having a good time, thinking this is all I have to do, then he gets a report: four kings have attacked, five kings have attacked and they destroyed the five kings and, on their way, while they were going back, they made a mistake, **they also took Lot**, that was the mistake that they made, otherwise the history would have been different. They picked, touched one child of God and the news came to Abraham. We thought this was a poor shepherd, you didn't realize he was a man of war – 'You touched my own.'

The Word of God says over there—

#### **Genesis 14:14-16**

***<sup>14</sup> Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. <sup>15</sup> He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup> So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.***

He went after him. Everyone who is fighting for your lost loved ones, who have been taken captive by the enemy, go after them, you will recover them all. Souls that you are fighting for, you are praying for, are not going to be won without a fight – don't outsource, fight in your prayer closet. And you will see, you touch my brother; you may be four kings, you may have tens and thousands of armed soldiers, it does not matter, the power of God is behind me! You touch one of my own; I will come after you, why? Because if I dominate that level, I will dominate here; I will pluck those souls out of your hand and bring them back. He recovered all. David was a true son of Abraham, he too fought and he recovered all. "Lord, I will recover all and all that is with them. Lord, I am not only fighting for my loved ones, I am also fighting for all that belongs to them: their gifts, their talents, their destiny, I want to fight and say, 'They too will fulfil their race, they too will finish.' I am fighting for their prophetic future, Lord. They will not die in vain. It's not just they shall live, but they shall live and declare the works of the Lord." I will fight, this is not the battle where you will quit, you don't quit. Let your prayer closet become your war room and see what God can do.

#### **Joshua 6:2-3**

***<sup>2</sup> And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. <sup>3</sup> You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.***

He heard from the Lord: "I have given..." but when you look, that's not your physical reality; the walls are huge, the men are mighty, the gates are shut, nobody goes in and nobody gets out, "Lord, how do I take it? You have given it, but how do I take it?" Verse 3 says, he heard. What does God say? "Walk around the walls." You don't know how to fight, you don't know what is the promise you have to hold on. You have to obtain the promises in your prayer closet; every promise will not work, you have to obtain specific promises from the Word of God how to fight. You cannot tell the devil: "It is just written," you have to also tell him what is written and you have to have heard from your God in your spirit. I told you how to fight— "Lord, no soldiers?" "No." "Don't say anything?" "Don't say anything. Keep your mouth shut and march." And what will happen? It will come down.

The writer of Hebrews will say, "*By faith the walls of Jericho came down.*" Limitless! Limitless, there is no limit on faith, there is no limit on what faith can do. That's why you have to read *Hebrews 11* over and over again. "You know Lord, I am just an ordinary kid in an ordinary church and out there in the world are the smart ones; I cannot compete

with them, but today I heard, by faith they subdued kingdoms; by faith they wrought righteousness; by faith they shut the mouth of lions; by faith they quench the flames; by faith they escape the edge of the sword. Therefore, I believe, by faith I will overcome. I don't have what they have, I don't have brains, I don't have money, I don't have reputation, but I have something – Your Word says that I am poor but rich in faith; I will exercise my faith. And I realize, You are crowned with power, and I am Yours, so crown me with power. I see You are crowned with riches, crown me with Your riches, Oh Lord. Your faith is my riches." That's how you overcome, that's how you battle, and after some time, you will start enjoying the battle, you realise, 'This is fun.'

Every day, I can bring joy to my Father by kicking the devil. That's why I write to my churches, almost every day I write, "The devil is mad; we are glad," and I write the names of some living devil also. Show me, Lord; teach me, Lord, how to fight. The battle is not the same; He has to tell you how to fight.

### **2 Chronicles 20:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup> Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.***

Oh Father, I pray today, let the Spirit of God come upon Your people! Each one's struggle and battle is different; let them hear from You, Lord, how to fight their battles. I can only speak generally unless You give me a prophetic Word for a particular person, but You are able to speak to Your people, Lord. Let the Spirit of God in the New Covenant, O God, the Spirit will come and speak to each one and tell them what to do. Speak, Father, let Your children hear. Let them not live pointless, aimless, meaningless lives, having received salvation, for the Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of purpose.

The Spirit of God came upon him, a Levite and suddenly he spoke. What did he say – verse 15...

***<sup>15</sup> And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. <sup>16</sup> Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.***

The minute you have heard in your prayer closet, you come out in rest. That's what the Bible says: "Labour to enter into His rest." Where do you find your rest? In your prayer closet. You hear from Him, and you know it's done. Now, tell me what do I need to do? It's already done. That's why Jesus was talking over there, "When you are praying, when you are asking, believe that you have received and you will receive." You don't receive first; you believe first. "The walls will fall?" "Yes, the walls will fall." "What's the proof?" "You don't have to carry your weapon, just walk around." "Really? What if they open the gates and come out?" "Do you believe or not?" I believe. If you believe, you have received your victory, maybe it will happen six days later, but you already received it. Why? Your walk shows it, because faith is the evidence of things unseen. Show me your evidence that you have believed. "Jehoshaphat, don't worry; people of Judah, don't worry, the battle is not yours, but God's." "Do you believe Jehoshaphat?" "I do believe." "What did you do?" "I said, 'Everybody come here. Levites, who are the best singers among you? And who are the goldy singers among you? Okay, you go on the front. We are just going to praise, we are just going to praise God.'" What is that? An act that you have received. When do you praise? After your victory. When do you praise in faith? Before your victory because God has said, "Battle is not yours."

David recovered all; Abraham recovered all; Jehoshaphat recovered which was not his also. Please understand, the things which you hear are not natural things; these are spiritual things, you have to receive it by faith because there is power in it because God said it. Everything God tells us to do, it is spiritual in nature; the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, they are mighty in God. Turn to *1 Thessalonians 5:18*, what is there?

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

***<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. "In everything" means, everything. Sounds funny. God says, "Do you believe?" I believe, Lord. Give thanks.***

### **Philippians 4:6**

***<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God;***

### **John 6:11**

***<sup>11</sup> And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.***

So, it is not something natural when you give thanks; something happens in the spiritual because you obeyed by faith. In His hands, He had only five loaves of bread and two fish, but when He gave thanks, it multiplied. When you murmur, it decreases; when you give thanksgiving, God says, "I can multiply." Keep on doing it on everything until it's really coming from your heart, it's the law of multiplication. So, it is not natural; it is spiritual. Instead of going to complain, grumble and nonchalant about everything, you will struggle all your life because you are not using the weapons which God has given you. Look at what Jeremiah says:

### **Jeremiah 30:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.***

"You thank, I will multiply; you thank, I will multiply." So, these are not normal things; everything God asks us to do, you have to do it by faith, add faith to it because it has power in the spiritual realm. So, when God says to give thanks in everything, even when you fail in your exam, and you only got 34 and not 36, take it before God and say, "Lord, I thank You, I just thank You. I don't know what's going to come out of it, but it doesn't matter, I, by faith will thank You." And suddenly you will realize, God starts doing something which you did not even imagine. The power of thanksgiving. The power of fasting –

### **Jonah 2:9-10.**

***<sup>9</sup> But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.***

***"But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving;"*** From where? From the bottom of the sea— "Thank You, O my Father, that I am still not dead in the belly of the fish." And verse 10,

***<sup>10</sup> So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.***

Not just vomited, reached his destination in three days. He paid the fare to go to Tarshish, reached Nineveh free because he praised God with a voice of thanksgiving. Think, for yourself, for a minute – dark, drench, stinking stomach of a fish – how can you give thanksgiving? But he gave. How can you give thanksgiving in your situation? "Pastor, you don't know my situation." Don't worry, Jonah also didn't know but he gave, and God said, "Spit him out." Don't worry, God can speak to your fish, to your situation to spit you out. He doesn't have to speak to you; He speaks to your situation: "Spit him out at My destination where I want him."

And the Word of God said, second time the Word of God came to Jonah and said, "Arise, and go into the city." He had recovered his calling because the gifts and the calling are irrevocable, he recovered it back. To lose a calling, to disobey a calling, and to recover a calling, when you reach heaven, you will realize how important it is! You cannot buy a calling with money; you are called or not called; it is His sovereignty. The gift that He gives you it is His sovereignty. He recovered both – he recovered his calling, and he recovered his gift and when he started preaching, all of Nineveh repented. So, he got his calling, he got his gifting. What did he do? "Thank You, O my Father, for sparing my life." So, these are not normal things and don't take it normally! Fasting is not a normal thing. Jesus said to His disciples, "These kind do not go except by fasting and prayer."

Some of the obstacles you are facing; you have pushed with all your might, you have tried everything, it is not budging at all; God says, "Try fasting and praying, and then speak to it, it will move." Some kind go out only with fasting and prayer. You have to do it, this is not a corporate fast because it is your mountain, others won't have the same intensity, it's your mountain. So, fasting is not a normal thing, it's a spiritual thing when you apply faith— "My chosen fast," God tells Isaiah. So, there is a chosen fast, God has chosen. "Lord, how come You were able to do it?" "Because I fasted and prayed." "How come it is not a mountain for You, it's just a mole hill for You?" "Because I fast and pray."

You think this (Offering bag) is an ordinary bag? This is not an ordinary bag, if you believe, this bag has the power to open the window of Heaven.

### **Malachi 3:10**

***<sup>10</sup>Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.***

You think this is (offering bag) ordinary? If you think it is ordinary, it will remain ordinary; if you believe, it will open for you not only window, but windows for you in heaven. So, tithing is not natural, it is supernatural, it is spiritual. Everything that you hear God speak in His Word, you have to receive it with faith – I believe, therefore, I do. There are no ordinary things in the Kingdom of God because the Kingdom of God is not an ordinary kingdom; only supernatural things, and everything when God says, “Pray,” Jesus prayed and heavens opened. So, prayer is not natural, it is supernatural. Jesus was praying, His visage changed, His clothes started changing. So, it’s not natural; it’s supernatural. These demons which disciples could not cast out with the Dunamis they had upon him, Jesus just cast it out and He said, “It comes out by fasting and prayer.” So, fasting is not natural; it is spiritual, it is supernatural. Tithes open the windows of heaven – not window, but windows! Offerings open the windows of heaven; giving opens the windows of heaven, it opens windows. Unbelievable opportunities can open for you. God suddenly opens a door for you, and you say, “Where did this come from? How did this come, I dint even pray?” God says, “You gave, I opened a window for you.” That’s how it works.

That’s why the Bible says, “Those who are poor, God has made them rich.” How did He make them rich? Jesus who was rich became poor for us, so that we can become rich through Him. What are the greatest riches you can have? It is faith, it is the master key and through faith, people changed kingdoms. Democracy says, “Government comes through the ballot”; communism says, “Government comes through the bullet”; man of prayer says, “My God decides! I can change governments in my prayer closet.” If you have doubt, read the book of Daniel. It’s praying man and woman who changed dispensations. You are upset about governments, pray! “Lord, we have unrighteous government...!” The Bible says, “Through faith they subdued kingdoms and wrought righteousness.” Righteous rulers took their place because men and women got into their prayer closet and they prayed and obtained a promise and a new person rose, and the new person was righteous, and the Bible says, “The land had rest for twenty years, 40 years.” Why? Because men and women wrestled with God in their prayer closet and God changed the dispensation for them. You don’t need the ballot; you don’t need the bullet; all you need is to get into your prayer closet and change dispensations. That’s how it works. God is giving us a key. So let man pray and not lose heart.

### **Psalms 105:18-19**

***<sup>18</sup>They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. <sup>19</sup>Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested him.***

God gave him a promise, confirmed it through two dreams and Word of God is testing him – will you take it or will you leave it? Don’t think this promise will not be tested, look at *Exodus 23:25-26*. Look at all these as promises; there are general promises and other promises.

### **Exodus 23:25-26**

***<sup>25</sup>“So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.***

Most sicknesses, medical science will say, are communicable; they come through your food and through your water. All the mothers sitting here and those who cook, have you blessed the bread and the waters? “***And I will take sickness away from the midst of you,***” it’s a promise. “Lord, I look into Your Word, You said Lord, if I serve You—that’s all I want to do as a wife, as a mother – whatever it is, Lord, I just want to serve You. You bless my bread, You bless my water, I don’t want sickness in my house.” Do you believe?

And the next one:

***<sup>26</sup>No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.***

No miscarriage, no barrenness. You see, when you hear the promise of God, and you are excited, you receive it, it is implanted now; now the devil is after you to see that you have a miscarriage, that you abort that Word. That’s why people who are so excited in one Sunday are sitting like dummies next Sunday because during the week they aborted that Word and they end up in barrenness and wondering “I believed, I no longer believe.” No! You believed, but you did not guard it.” God said “No miscarriage.” Paul did not abort his vision, he is saying in his old days, “King Agrippa, I have been faithful to that vision, I did not allow what God planted in my heart to abort; I allowed it to grow and grow and I am seeing what you told me then, I stood before one Ananias one day but now I am standing

before kings and queens, I am standing before governors. What He said is coming to pass for me. I am standing because I did not abort the Word.”

That’s why our ears have to be sensitive to hear what the Spirit of God is telling me. I heard about a sister; married for many years but never conceived, and she heard from the Book of Romans where the Pastor was preaching from about how God came and spoke to Abraham in his old age; Abraham is dead in his body, Sarah’s womb is as good as dead. And she heard it, and she heard the Spirit speaking: “Your husband is young, you are young; If I could birth a child through Abraham and Sarah, can’t I do it for you?” She said, “You know what, my husband isn’t dead, my womb isn’t dead, I am just not bearing.” She said, “I believe.” Next year she delivered. She had gone through every medical procedure, nothing happened, but when she believed the Word of God, God touched her womb. I am not saying you shouldn’t do medical this thing, but I am saying, do you believe that there is a Word that is above everything, “*There shall be none barren in the land*”?

Be definitive, specific about your prayer like Hannah – she went and cried out, poured out her soul before Lord, “Lord, I want a child and I want a male child, and I promise You, You give me the child, I give You the child back.” It didn’t matter after that who the man of God is—the blind man said, “Are you drunk?” “No, I am not drunk...” “Okay, may God answer your wish.” She went back, she immediately heard, she understood God has heard and she did not go grieving, she knew God has answered her prayer. She obtained her promise, now she will receive it in the course of time. That is how it works in the Kingdom of God.

So, this morning—Jesus said, “Have faith in God! When you pray, when you ask, believe.” Two final verses I will give you:

### **2 Corinthians 4:13**

***<sup>13</sup> And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak... Who is he talking about? He is talking about Psalm 110, He is talking about the messianic Psalm, we have the same spirit of faith. There is the spirit of faith. You need to ask, “Lord, I need the same spirit of faith.”***

look at

### **Luke 1:16-17**

***<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”***

Lord, I want the spirit that was upon Elijah! What was the spirit that was upon Elijah? It was the spirit of faith and the spirit of prayer. And you know what Elisha asked? “Give me a double portion of that spirit! I want that prayer life and that faith life. I want a double portion of that faith and that spirit.” Power is the same and there is no difference in the power. And God is asking you today, “Do you want that same spirit?” That’s what he asked: “What do you want? I am about to go. What do you seek?” he said, “I want double portion of that spirit that was upon you.” What was that spirit? What is that one thing about Elijah? One is faith, the spirit of faith – one man could stand against an entire nation all alone on Mount Carmel, do crazy stuff which God said, and stand back and said, “Lord, I have done everything according to Your Word, prove Yourself.” That is the spirit of faith. And then he said, “Elijah prayed, and God shut the heavens; Elijah prayed and God opened the heavens.” The Spirit of faith, and the spirit of power. Say, “Lord, I want that, I want that spirit of faith. Let the spirit of grace and supplication fall upon me, O Lord, I cannot pray, but I hear that I have to pray. You said in my weakness, you are my strength, when I enter into prayer closet, will You give me the spirit of supplication? I want to pray!” See what God will do for you.

Start February well. Start February well and say, “Lord, I will fight this good fight, O Lord! I want to fight this good fight, O Lord!” Whatever you are fighting in your life, wives fighting—not fighting with—fight for your husband. We are very good at fighting with one another, now fight for. God says: you wasted all these years fighting with, why don’t you change and start fighting for your husband, fighting for your wife? Fighting for your children? Fighting for your parents? Fight! For the Kingdom of God suffers violence and violent take it by force. Lord, You were crowned with strength, power, You were crowned with riches. We looked only at two, five are left. You are crowned with wisdom – “If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask. God gives freely but let him not doubt because a man who doubts receives nothing.” You want wisdom, God says, “Ask, because I have been crowned with wisdom, I want to crown My bride with wisdom.” Ask. It’s not natural wisdom; this is supernatural wisdom that God may be glorified.

Shall we stand!

**Closing prayer!**

*Father, this morning we just come to You, we just thank You, Father, that we had this extra time today. We thank You, we just thank You, Father! You said, O Lord, "I will bless your water, I will bless your food and I will take sickness away from your midst," command sickness to leave the house of God for we are the temple of the living God. Whatever that sickness is, how long it has been there, it is irrelevant. We magnify Your Word above all our situation, and I command that spirit of sickness to leave in Jesus' name: the body for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. I will not be sick, even when I am sick, I will look into Your Word; the third day I will be up but You will not even allow it to come near, Lord, for Father You have said, if I obey Your voice, You will not bring upon us the sicknesses that came upon Egypt. You are able to open barren wombs, You are able to protect pregnancies. You see it all, Lord, because each one's need is different. You are able to open windows in heaven and I pray, Father, if they haven't learnt to tithe, they will learn from February and You will ignore their seasons of ignorance, they will learn that tithing opens up windows in heaven. If they have never prayed violently, You will anoint us to pray in violence in our prayer closet that heavens may be opened, powers of darkness may flee and we will reach our God given destiny, Lord. We need power and all power is with You. Every day, I pray, Father, endue Your people with power. "Behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy" – without the power of God, we can never tackle the enemy.*

*And I pray, today, faith will arise, the spirit of faith will come upon people who believe and they will separate themselves from the crowd, they will separate themselves from other people, they will be separated unto You, O Lord. As Your Word says in Genesis, "Joseph was separated from his brothers, so his blessings are more and greater," and I pray, Lord, Josephs will rise up in this house who will be separate from the others and say, "Lord, I want to be a blessing! I want to be a blessing!" To be a tree planted by the river, that bears fruit even in the old age, make us a blessing, Lord. O Father, I just thank You, I thank You! I thank You! For everyone who believes here, everywhere around the world who are listening, I pray there will be a divine impartation of faith, today, Lord. Let them receive, let the spirit of faith come upon Your people, for with faith nothing is impossible; we are limited only by the will of God and we don't want to do anything outside the will of God. Thank You, thank You Father! Let the children go into the February, every child of God, with confidence, with boldness, with the power of God.*

*Thank You, thank You, thank You, Father! For in Jesus' name I pray, Amen!*

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