

# Made In His Image

Pastor James

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## Prayer

*Father, this morning as an act of faith, we surrender our bodies as living sacrifices unto You. Sanctify us with Your blood, Spirit of God, that it may be holy and acceptable to You. We surrender our souls to You Lord, for the end of our faith is the salvation of our soul, and I pray the Word that we hear will become Spirit and life to us. By faith I take the blood of Jesus and apply it on the ears of everyone that we may have open, circumcised, sanctified ears. By faith we apply the balm on our eyes that we may have eyes to see as God see. I pray, Father, cleanse my lips that I may be found worthy to share Your Word which You have magnified above all Your Name. Speak to us Lord, all of us, speak to us. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Last Sunday we were looking at the mystery of iniquity. From the first man who murdered his own brother; Cain who murdered his own brother and he cries out to God, 'My iniquity is too much for me to bear.' That is what Cain actually says – 'The weight of my iniquity.' Down to the greatest Apostle, probably in human history, who says, 'Wretched man that I am. Who will save me from this body of death?'

Iniquity is a mystery; how it works is a mystery. But thank God that there is something greater. The Bible says – great is the mystery of godliness. If you turn to *Revelation 10*, there are angels that will sound. If you have ears you will hear. When they start sounding, God's final steps for humanity will start unfolding. And the final one will be the seventh one. It is not a single blast; it is series.

## Revelation 10:7

*<sup>7</sup>but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.* It is a very interesting construction of the sentence.

So there are many mysteries in the Bible. I could count at least 16 mysteries in the Bible. Please remember the word mystery is not used in the Old Testament. It is used only in the New Testament, because it is unlocked only in the New Testament.

The first one who declares the mystery is God Himself in the Garden of Eden, which people did not understand as to how the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. They did not understand. It is a mystery. We now understand. But for the first 400 years of human history nobody understood the first mystery. Then Abel comes; he comes to God with blood. Nobody understood the mystery of the blood. Then Enoch, the next prophet comes, we understand that he prophesies the second coming of Jesus Christ. It is a mystery which nobody understood in the Old Covenant. These are mysteries that are locked in time. The mystery of Noah; you learn how you build something that saves you and brings you through the judgment of God. How he built something for the saving of his household – he heard, he believed and he obeyed. The mystery of salvation.

You go through the Bible, it is full of mysteries, full of mysteries. The Word of God talks about the mystery of God; the mystery of the Father. The fatherhood of God is a mystery. The mystery of Christ, the mystery of iniquity. The mystery of godliness, the mystery of the blindness of Israel. These are all mysteries in the Bible. The mystery of Christ and the Church. The mystery of the seven stars. The mystery of rapture. The mystery of the woman; or the mystery of Babylon manifesting all around. The Bible talks about the mystery of Christ in us which is the hope of our glory. And the key that unlocked it all is the mystery of faith from a pure conscience. So there is this mystery of God and it is unlocked by the mystery of faith. Faith is a mystery, you don't understand it; it is a mystery.

So that is why when we pray and when we preach, we trust God that faith will arise. For you know what Apostle Paul said? 'I am a steward of the mysteries of God.' You cannot be a steward unless you first know the mystery of God. What are you a steward of? Unless we know the mysteries of God we cannot be brought into the stewardship. So keep these things in mind, because the mystery of iniquity is that it is visited from generation to generation. It is the bent nature of

humanity; the propensity towards evil, unrestraint. That is why we need Law. And when there is no law the thing comes out.

There are two primary restrainers. One restrainer is the Spirit of God; the divine restrainer is the Spirit of God. The second restrainer is the laws of the nation. So what the devil does is he puts people in power who will come and change the Law. And once the Law is changed everything changes. See, you look at Law and you think that it restrains only one thing. It is not true; once one of the Law is changed it is like opening a Pandora's box. So many things come out into the public. In 2012 when Obama was president the law was changed. One particular law, which was there for over 600 years in human history, was changed. They legalised, what we call, same-sex marriage. One law was altered. And do you know what it opened up? That opened up to everything that we are seeing today – transgender, drag queens, abortion. Everything we are talking about and seeing now, it is because one law was changed and it opened up everything.

So when one law, which is the restrainer, is taken out, do you know what happens? So the purpose of the teaching of the Word of God is that we learn, through the Spirit of God, the laws of God which govern so that we learn to restrain ourselves. And that is the test for young people. The test for young people is that when you go out of your house and you are no longer under supervision, what will you do?

Today we are in the 11<sup>th</sup> month, Jacob had 12 sons. The ten sons, even under their father's nose, he could not restrain them from evil. The 11<sup>th</sup> son, even when he is sold and he is away from his father's house is restrained by the laws that govern him. You need to understand that; if God has to lift you, exaltation doesn't come from east or west, or north or south. It comes from God. If God has to lift you, you have to understand the fundamental principles. There is this unseen mystery of iniquity in all of us. But there is something more powerful. It is like the law of aerodynamics – when the aeroplane is taxiing down the runway to take off there is a point where it has to take-off. When it takes off it is overcoming one law (the law of gravity which pulls it down) by another law. It is the law of iniquity which pulls man down. But there is another law which is called the great mystery of godliness, which causes you to take-off. So get these pictures because you know what that's where it begins. This is the mystery of godliness.

There was an interesting question yesterday in the Q & A session, about a fresh start.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

***<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

God's solution to the mystery of iniquity is not transforming the old man; it is a completely a new start. It is a new creation. Religions are just restrainers. It cannot change the old man; it can only restrain. But even religions come under pressure in the secular state. For when the state becomes secular and starts changing the laws there is always a conflict between the religion and the state. Like government of India is trying to bring a uniform civil court. But what will happen in the uniform civil court is that some of those clauses may infringe upon many religions. So we need to understand how it works. Religion and their laws are restrainers outside. It cannot really change the man inside. So God has a solution and the solution is a new birth. It is a completely new birth. It is an absolutely, completely a new beginning, because the old man cannot be changed. Forget it, you cannot change the old man. And we will see the proof of it when the anti-Christ is revealed; every man living during the time of the antichrist will be lawless.

### **Psalms 11:3**

***<sup>3</sup>If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?***

The most important part of any building is not where you are sitting, it is what you are sitting on; it is the foundation. If I were to tell you that among all the chairs in this hall one leg of one chair is broken you will all start checking, 'Is it mine?' why? It is because that is the foundation on which you are sitting. The most important part of any building, any construction, is the foundation. And if you notice, the foundation is not visible. You can't see the foundation; the foundation is invisible. And Jesus Himself talked about two houses. Outwardly both the houses look the same, but the issue was with the foundation. One house was built on the rock. The old man's foundation is iniquity.

**Psalm 51:5**

***<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.***

It has got nothing to do with the mother or conception; basically it is saying that the foundation on which my life is built is iniquity. It is just a matter of time and I will sin, because that is my nature. The foundation of the old man is iniquity and therefore he will sin. You don't have to do anything with the little children at the back, just leave them alone, their natural tendency is toward rebellion and sin. That is our human nature. So that is the wrong foundation. That house will collapse. Ultimately on judgment day fire will consume it all.

So in the new birth God is changing the foundation; He is changing the entire foundation. What is the foundation?

**Romans 3:21-22**

***<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;***

So when you are born, all are shaped in iniquity, brought forth in sin, all and no difference. But when you come into Christ, you believe in what Jesus has done and you believe in Him what God does is that without any difference He changes the foundation. What is the foundation? The foundation of the new man is righteousness. And the result; how does that new man live?

**1 John 3:9**

***<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.***

And you should be able to say with confidence. I can say with confidence, 'The new man in me has never sinned.' It is the old man who sins. The new man has never sinned; he is incapable of sinning because he is born of God and his foundation is righteousness, he will not sin, ***for His (God's) seed remains in him and he cannot sin.***

So you need to ask yourself, deep inside all of us have two houses. Which house are you building? God is a builder and we are co-labourers with Christ Jesus.

So the whole thing is that the foundation matters.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-11**

***<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

No other foundation. The Bible says, once you are saved and a new foundation has been laid and the foundation is the very righteousness of God, by faith, now be careful how you build on it. Be very careful how you build on it. That is where faith comes. For the issue with faith is this, Paul prays this prayer, 'Lord, give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that the eyes of our understanding...' there are three words that he uses – one is wisdom, the next is revelation. The Word is the wisdom of God. The Bible says that the wisdom of God is a mystery and you will not understand the wisdom of God unless there is revelation. That is why they did not understand the Cross, because the Cross is the wisdom of God and it is a mystery. So where there is the wisdom of God there has to be revelation. And when the wisdom of God and revelation comes, you have understanding. Now that you have understanding and you understand what God is saying, the question is – do you believe? And the question is – will you obey? That's where faith comes in.

600 years before Jesus Christ was born the prophet Isaiah says, 'The virgin shall give birth.' Nobody understood it. 600 years later. In a small village called Nazareth, the angel Gabriel comes to a young teenage girl and says, 'Blessed you are among women, highly favoured...' and she was wondering what kind of greeting that was. And then he says, 'God has chosen you to bear a child.' And her answer is, 'How can this be, for I do not know a man?' Gabriel explains in *Luke 1:35* – the Spirit of God shall overshadow you, the power of God shall come upon you and the One you conceive shall be the

holy One, the Son of God.’ Now 600 years later what was spoken through the prophet you have a revelation. But even in this revelation she doesn’t fully understand because nobody can understand what is being told. But the question is – do you believe? Will you obey? And she says, “Let it be unto me according to thy Word.” And you know what? Now the miracle starts happening. And that is why we need hearing ears. Sometimes we do not understand what God is saying or doing. That is why one of the most fundamental principles of walking with God is to know that God loves you and you can trust God. After the Cross, especially, you can trust God.

You see when Israel came out of Egypt in; Israel is a type of a born-again person in the New Covenant. It is just a type; a shadow, not the substance. ***Israel is my first-born.*** So Israel is a type of the first-born; a born-again child. He was born-again in Egypt, in the world because he believed in the Blood and he came out, but when he came out, the Bible says,

**Exodus 13:17**

***<sup>17</sup> Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.”***

There was a short way, but God took them through a long way. Only God knew why He was taking them that way. Sometimes we looking for a result God takes us a long way and we say, ‘Lord, why so long?’ God says, ‘Because I know you.’ Are you getting it? God knows us better than we do ourselves. We say, ‘Lord, take me through the shortest way possible.’ And God says, ‘You will just crumble under pressure. You don’t know how to fight, you haven’t learnt the art of war in the spiritual realm. You are very fearful. So you need to realize, God knows. So the question is – are you building on a foundation which is fear? Be careful how you build, because if fear is your foundation I am telling you when the time comes it will crack. God had planned something completely different for them which they did not understand.

**Exodus 14:13**

***<sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.***

God says, ‘I have to take you through this process because I want to build a very solid foundation. You have been living in fear of these people for 100s of years. But I am going to do a thing in such a way that you will lose your fear of Egypt forever. The fact is that they lost the fear of Egypt forever but they didn’t lose their fear; two years later they were again afraid, not of their past but of their future. God has taken care of their past, they are not afraid of their past anymore, Egypt is gone; they are afraid of the future. But God’s promises are all there in the future, God says, ‘Go! Take the land I have given it to you.’ They said, ‘We can’t!’ do you know what happened? They wandered in the wilderness for the next 38 years and they died. What kept them out? Fear. And God will not build on fear.

There are issues which we need to tackle. God cannot build on fear. So it doesn’t matter how old you are, how long you have been in the Lord, how much Scripture you read, if you don’t tackle these things you will not move into your God-given inheritance and destiny and promises. There are all Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus but be careful how you build. Your foundation is solid, you are born-again; it is Christ Jesus. But be careful how you build. That is why over and over 365 times God says, ‘Fear not!’ the first thing you and I need to be delivered from is fear. We need to be delivered. Do you know the word ‘deliver’ and deliverance’ is used in the Bible over a thousand times? Over a thousand times the word deliver and deliverance is used in the Bible because God knows us. And God knows what happened to us after the fall; what all we need to be delivered from before we can go ahead and possess what God has for us. And fear cripples. For if you do not deal with that, you will be saved but wandering.

We need to realize that there are rules of engagement in the spiritual realm. That is why God says, ‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.’ Yes, through Daniel we have the knowledge that the Kingdom of God rules over the affairs of men. But the question is – do you know how the kingdom works? Are you seeking, searching and learning how the Kingdom works? *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.* Why His righteousness? It is because *Hebrews 1:8* says – *the Scepter of His Kingdom is the scepter of righteousness.*

### **Hebrews 1:8**

**<sup>8</sup> But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.**

The Scepter is the authority of the King. He carries a scepter. If you have watched Queen Elizabeth's funeral, one of the last things that was done is that the Scepter was taken from her. That signifies the authority of the monarch. And the scepter of the Kingdom of God is the scepter of righteousness and God says, 'Seek.' And because you understand the Kingdom of God and you understand the righteousness of God, there is a righteousness that comes by faith and as you grow in your faith your power and your authority increases, because the scepter of His Kingdom is the scepter of righteousness.

That is why the Bible says – *My righteous shall live by faith, faith unto faith. Jesus is the Author and the Finisher of our faith.* As you walk by faith and grow by faith and move ahead by faith what happens is that your authority to change your own destiny increases, because destinies are not decided on earth; destinies are decided in the spiritual realm. *The thief comes to steal.* What? Your destiny. *To kill.* What? Your destiny. *To destroy.* What? Your destiny. But Jesus has come to give us life. So we need to understand how God operates and how the devil operates Paul says, 'we are not unaware of the wiles of the devil.' We know how he operates. These are two realms under which we live.

We need to understand this – God has loved us with an everlasting love but the love of God does not change the ways of God. The love of God doesn't change the ways of God; God does not work on sympathy. We wish He worked on sympathy, but He does not. He works on covenant.

### **Exodus 2:24**

**<sup>24</sup> So God heard their (Israel's) groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.**

Israel is enslaved in Egypt. They are going through a real bad time. And when they cried God remembered His covenant. Do you remember when Israel was enslaved by the Egyptians almost in the entire world one group was enslaving another group. There were only two classes of people – the masters and the slaves in the entire world. When all the slaves were groaning God did not hear their groaning because they had no covenant. When Jesus was walking and whenever the people on the road cried out, 'Jesus Son of David! Have mercy on us' He stopped because they were crying out based on a covenant. But when the Canaanite woman cried out, 'Jesus Son of David, have mercy' He refused to answer her because she had no covenant to stand on. So He is not moving on sympathy; He is moving on covenant. Please understand that. That is why God says, 'Mercy is shown to a thousand generation for those who are under covenant. That is why a remnant of Israel will still be saved after 6000 years. Why? It is because they are the children of the covenant. And we in the New Covenant are children of the covenant. That is why the foundation is so important because the foundation of the new birth brings us into an absolutely solid covenant. And this morning we will be coming to the table of the covenant.

### **Psalms 105:7-9**

**<sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. <sup>8</sup> He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, <sup>9</sup> The covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac,**

Are you getting it? He remembers His covenant for a thousand generations. I don't think this world will last for a thousand generations.

### **Psalms 89:34**

**<sup>34</sup> My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.**

Can you imagine? The words that have gone out of His lips He will not alter. That is why we can go through the Bible and see that what He has spoken personally and through the mouth of the prophets He will not alter. We have a solid foundation to stand on and to build on.

**Psalm 50:5**

***<sup>5</sup>“Gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”***

Covenants are ratified by sacrifice. When God makes a covenant with Abraham it is ratified by a sacrifice. The New Covenant is ratified by the sacrifice of His own Son. And every morning when you and I rise up as an act of faith and offer our bodies as a living sacrifice we are renewing our covenant with Him. It is a covenant. If you have woken up early this morning and gone to God and said, ‘Lord, as the first act of faith I offer my body as a living sacrifice,’ He says, ‘You have come to Me My saints by covenant, by sacrifice.’ There is power.

**1 Corinthians 11:25**

***<sup>25</sup>In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”***

See the awesome-ness of the New Covenant is that we don’t have to kill anything. He killed His own Son and shed His blood, now we come based on that covenant. But please remember there are other covenants that are working in the spiritual realm that we are not aware of; blood covenants made by our fore-fathers which empowers iniquity.

**Psalm 74:19-20**

***<sup>19</sup>Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor forever. <sup>20</sup>Have respect to the covenant; for the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.***

Full of haunts of cruelty? Why? It is because all our fore-fathers, we have no clue what they did. We do not know what covenants they made and what they did as a sacrifice. It didn’t matter to them. We see an instance in the Bible itself when Israel is fighting Moab and Moab is being defeated. Do you know what the king did to escape? He killed his own son and offered him as a sacrifice and then the wrath of Moab rose and they cut through Israel and escaped. What happened? He made a covenant with the powers of darkness and a compromise Israel did not have the strength to overcome them. Our fore-fathers have done all these kinds of things. I am not saying that they have done this willfully and wickedly. What they did was they went to the gods of their times and place and they said, ‘You know what, I want this success, I want my business to prosper. If you prosper my business every first born in my household in the generations to come I give them to you.’ And then subsequently you will realize that all the first born keep on dying. And the man keeps on prospering. They made covenants, because without covenants nothing is going to happen on this side with God’s people, nor on the demonic side. And in covenant there is always a sacrifice; you have to offer something. God could not have a covenant with us until He offered His own Son’s blood on the Cross.

That is what I said last week – altars, images and groves. It is the altar that empowers but the altar is not empowered unless there is a sacrifice on it. There is something that empowers it. Altars are spiritual things; there is a physical altar and there are spiritual altars. This (communion table) is a physical altar for us today, but this has no meaning unless in the heavenly realm the blood of Jesus (on the spiritual altar) speaks for us. This is just a shadow, the substance is up there. And the Bible speaks in the book of Hebrews – the blood of Jesus speaks better things than the blood of Abel. It speaks. There is nothing dead in Heaven, everything is alive. So there are altars. Words spoken don’t just die, they hang around there. All words can be primarily divided into two groups – blessings and curses. Things that make things happen. So curses and blessings are pronounced. Abraham blessed Isaac; Isaac blessed Jacob and Jacob blessed his children. It is going on. And the curses go on as well.

See the Cross is an altar and Jesus is the sacrifice. What He is offering is the Soul through the Blood, because life is in the blood and He poured out His soul. And Bible says that God was pleased. So just as there are righteous altars, there are evil altars as well. So if the blood of Abel was speaking and God came to Cain and asked, ‘What have you done? The blood of your brother is speaking.’ The blood has a voice, it is speaking. It is saying, ‘I have been cut-off without any progeny. My life has been cut-off, my descendants have been cut-off. There is nobody.’ The blood is speaking because life is in the blood and the life of Abel is speaking that his life has been cut-off. The blood speaks, life speaks, altars speak.

### **Galatians 6:14**

***<sup>14</sup> But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.***

Why should I boast about the Cross? It is because that is the altar that speaks for me. Lord, I cling to the Cross, I cling to this altar because when I cling to this altar the blood of Jesus speaks for me and every other voice that is speaking against me is nullified by the Cross. That is why we preach the Cross. That is why we preach Christ crucified because the Cross is an altar and that altar speaks for us. The altar speaks for us. These are mysteries; the mystery of the altar, the mystery of the blood of Jesus. These are mysteries and these are real in the heavenly realms, but unless God shows it to us we do not understand, we don't believe, we don't plead.

Did Israel understand what it meant to take the Passover lamb, kill it, take its blood and apply it on the door post with hyssop? And God said, 'Stay inside.' What happened? The destroyer passed over their houses. But every house where there was no blood the first born died.

I have shared this before, one of our pastors in another country; he came from a Buddhist family in Nepal. And one of his ancestors made a vow to their gods that he would give the first born (for what we do not know). So every first born in the family died. And when this man was born and he was a child he was not well and they find out that he has a hole in his heart. The doctors said that if they don't handle this fast he will die. And they were very poor, they couldn't handle anything and the eldest one is born with a hole in his heart. Do you think it is an accident? You know what, near to where they stayed was an under-ground church. At that time, in that country Christianity was banned but they knew there was a church. The father and mother who were Buddhist brought this little boy and told the pastor, 'We hear that your God heals. If your God heals him, your God can have this boy.' That same week there was a team from CMC Vellore in the general hospital, in the Capitol. And the boy was taken over there and they looked at him and said that he needs an open-heart surgery and they agreed to do it at a much discounted rate for him. Within a few days the money came, he had an open-heart surgery and today he is 37-38 years pastoring our church there. Now he is saved, his father is saved, his mother is saved and his entire household is saved. Everyone came through. Do you know why? It is because there are things working in the spiritual realm which we do not know of, they don't die. We need to cling to the Cross.

Words that speak, covenants that speak, blessings that speak, curses that speak. The minute you and I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, what happened? The Spirit of God came into us. Why? It is because God blessed Abraham, when did He bless Abraham? How many thousands of years ago did He bless Abraham? But those words of blessings still stand – 'In Abraham all nations shall be blessed.' And what is that blessing? We shall receive the Spirit of God. So when I believed, the words still stand 4-5000 years later. The words are still standing. It immediately works.

### **1 Kings 16:30-33**

***<sup>30</sup> Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.*** See if there is no restrainer and if there is evil, evil will only increase. That is what you see in the kings of Israel; they became worse and worse. One or two righteous ones come in-between and again they become more evil. And we will always ask - How can Hezekiah's (a righteous king) son become the most wicked king? It is the power of iniquity. It skips one and goes to the next one. ***<sup>31</sup> And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.*** He joins himself with an idolater and he goes into idolatry which brings a curse. ***<sup>32</sup> Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. <sup>33</sup> And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.***

So here is king, he is wicked, then he marries a woman who is even more wicked and he sets up an altar, he builds a shrine for baal and he sacrifices over there. Now something has been empowered in the kingdom. Do you know what happens in the next verse?

### **1 Kings 16:34**

***<sup>34</sup> In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.***

### **Joshua 6:26**

***<sup>26</sup> Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."***

When did he say this? Before 600 years or more. The words are still hanging. This man, called Hiel, probably doesn't realize; he lays the foundation stone to build Jericho and suddenly the wife comes and say, 'The eldest one is not well.' They are rushing from Doctor to doctor and they all say, 'We don't know what is wrong. We can't do anything.' And the next thing you know is that he dies. Nobody could save him. Why did he die? It is because there was something that has been opened 600 years earlier – 'if you build this, when you lay the foundation the first born will die.' He must have said, 'Okay it was some sickness. Thank God I have all these other children.' And he continues to build and finally he laid the gates. When he laid the gates the wife comes and says, 'The youngest one is ill.' That is one reading. The other reading that is he lost all his children one by one – from the eldest to the youngest by the time he finished building he lost them all. Why? It is because when Joshua spoke something there were powers of darkness waiting to implement it.

You need to realize, there are blessings spoken and there are curses spoken and words remain in the spiritual realm. Nobody has any clue what our ancestors did. So what do we do? There is only one place that is safe, only one foundation holds; that is Christ the Rock. Cling to the Cross. You know when you cling to Christ. Do you know what He actually does? He absorbs all the curses and He releases all the blessings. The only thing is that the Lamb is there, the Blood is there, the door post is there, the destroyer is coming. But to take the blood and apply it on the doorpost you need something and that is called the Hyssop. You dip it in the blood and apply it; that hyssop is your faith. That is where faith comes. Faith is by which you take hold of what Christ has done and apply it into your own life. That is why I said that sickness should not be your default setting. For the new man health should be your default setting. For that you need to believe.

### **1 Corinthians 3:10**

***<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.***

First be very sure, 'Lord, I am not clinging onto anything.' Each morning go to God and say, 'Lord I cling to the Cross. Everything I did for the past 10 months until yesterday I want to forget. I take no glory in anything. I am just coming to You everyday based on the righteousness that comes by faith and faith alone. I am standing on the Rock and nothing else. When I build, Lord let there be no fear. Let there be no unbelief. Let there be no doubt. Lord, help me to build by faith. And faith comes from hearing and hearing comes from the Word of God; what is written. Jesus said, 'It is written' but to say what was written He heard.

So it is a total negation everyday of the old man. That is why I said, one of the first things you have to settle in life is the question of ownership. Let's say my phone is here and somebody could have a similar phone of the same size, with the same cover. But when you open and click on it you realize it's not yours, it's Pastor James' and you return it back to me. Why do you return it back to me? It is because one thing is confirmed; the ownership is confirmed. So everybody returns it back to the owner, (unless you are a thief).

Even thieves return. One time when I was in this huge youth conference, it was massive; hundreds of young people from all over the country had come for the conference. The first day of the camp lots of things happened; phones went missing and other things like that. So in the evening meeting I told them, 'In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth the phone will be put back from where it was taken, otherwise you will be found out by God.' Before dinner time everything was replaced/returned. So one of the most important things of life is you have to decide on ownership. You can have only one owner – You (God) own me and I own me. It doesn't work that way. You can only have one master; either it is He or it is you. He (God) owns the new man and he despises the old man. And He makes it very clear that the old man will not inherit the Kingdom of God; flesh and blood will not inherit the Kingdom of God, but only the spirit will. So you have to decided on the ownership. That is the first thing you have to settle in your life. Once you settle that question only then will the rest follow. I am telling you, most struggles which people are struggling with are not about salvation. You know you are saved, but you struggle because you have not settled this question of lordship. But when you see certain people

who have more troubles than anyone of us could imagine, they seem to go through life well. It is because they have settled this question – who is Lord.

Once you have settled this question about who is the Owner, you realize that you are a son/daughter and you are a servant. The son and servant becomes a steward.

### **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup>Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.***

That is important, because like I said this Bible is a book of mystery. And the mystery of God ends when the seventh angel starts sounding the trumpet. So we are not trying to discover mysteries; you should have known the mystery by now and you should have become a steward of the mystery of God. He says, 'I am a steward; I am not the owner. I am somebody to whom God revealed the mystery of God and now I am a steward of the mystery of God and it is required that one be found faithful. We have look at it, through the previous weeks about faithfulness; faithful with little things.

The first thing you need to be faithful on a Sunday morning is to come to Church before time. That is a very little thing. Tomorrow when you have to go to office and there is a set time before which you have to punch in, or at school or college, you will not be late, but you did not make it a priority to come to Church on/before time. So you have already decided who your master is; the world is your master. Your boss at office is your master, not God. It may look so simple but we don't realize that little things matter to God. God says, 'How can I trust a man/woman/child who comes late to My house for 52 Sundays and I have to wait for him. Who is the master?' It may sound very insignificant and you cry, 'Lord, why don't You speak to me? Why don't exalt me? Why don't You enlarge me?' God says, 'It is because you cannot be trusted.' 'Trust me? You never entrusted me with anything.' God says, 'Yes, I was watching you; you never came to Church on time.'

Don't neglect little things in the Kingdom of God because it is written very clearly – '*You were faithful with small things. You were faithful in little things.*' Little things do really matter. I am not talking about exigencies or accidents and other emergencies. I am talking about normal days. Little things! And that is not enough.

### **Matthew 25:29-30**

***<sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'***

It is not enough to be faithful; we need to be profitable in God's Kingdom. He is a business man. That is what he told the third servant, 'Okay you didn't want to work with the talent I gave you. But why didn't you put it in the bank? I would have got it back with interest.' Yes you are faithful, but that is not enough. The question you need to ask yourself is – am I more profitable to God? Don't compare yourself with anybody else. Are you profitable as you are with what God has given you?

So these are fundamentals of faith; fundamentals of the life of a new man.

### **2 Peter 1:5**

***<sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,***

Virtue is the first thing that you have to add to your faith. Faithfulness is a virtue. Being profitable is a virtue. So you should pray, 'Lord in my house/office/ the place where I work, I am not working for a company or the boss of the company. I am working for You and I pray Lord that You would make me faithful and make me profitable.'

You know what? Joseph didn't get a salary, he was a slave, yet he was both faithful and profitable to Potiphar and God lifted him up. Faithful and profitable! You have to pray because these are virtues in the Kingdom of God. There are so

many virtues which have to be added to the new man because we are called, according to Peter, by His glory and His virtue.

We have little children sitting over here, lots of little children and we have older people who come to the Lord later. There is a difference between these two groups. What happens with children who are born in believing established families whose parents who know and understand the Kingdom of God is that these children are taught virtues – don't lie, don't be late, learn to submit, learn to honor, learn to obey, learn to be faithful, learn to be profitable. You teach them all these virtues and then one day when they have an encounter with Jesus Christ and they become His son/daughter they don't have to struggle for virtue; it is already built in and they take-off. That is why Apostle Paul is one of the greatest in the Kingdom of God, because he says. 'When I was under the Law I learnt everything under the Law. I was blameless under the Law.' So when Christ pulled him he didn't need any virtue, he already had it all; all he needed was faith. With faith he took-off and over-shot all the other apostles.

But the Bible, from the book of Romans, is primarily written to gentiles. These gentiles have come from gentile background, idolatry and all kinds of pagan activities and when they finally come to faith virtue is being taught – those who lied don't lie anymore; those who stole don't steal; those who are lazy don't be lazy. All virtues are being taught. But if you learn the virtues early you don't have to waste time when you encounter God; you are ready to take-off. So these things are virtues. Because in the Kingdom of God there are fundamentals; there are negatives and positives. Negative is offense. Be careful that you are not offended. I'm telling you, don't be offended especially with your father and your mother, no matter what they were and what they have done. Don't you dare be offended with your father and mother and don't be unforgiving towards your father and mother.

Fear, offense and unforgiveness are all terrible things that will block you from God's Kingdom until that is dealt with. Do you know that all these principles are built-in in God's Kingdom, that if you fail in a particular area God will not promote you until you have passed? How do you know? In the Kingdom of God what is the Church compared to? Man or woman? Woman. Do you know that for a woman something happens every month in her life? Do you know what it means? It means that the previous month it failed; failed to conceive. So the cycle is repeated all over again until you conceive. So the lesson is put there right in the womb of a woman – that if you fail, I (God) will repeat the cycle until you succeed.

There is a lesson to be taught. Forgive! If you don't forgive, I (God) will put you in class 1. Until you learn to forgive I will not promote you. You can lift yourself, but I will not lift you. If you are offended I will keep you there until you have learnt to deal with it. Otherwise I will bypass you (Naomi) and I will pick a Moabite girl (Ruth) and make her My Son's grandmother. Ruth was not offended, both of you are widows.

We have to understand these lessons. That is why the Bible says that all of creation speaks of the glory of God. Lessons are put in there if you look around. Don't take anything for granted. In everything that God has created there are patterns set in, because these patterns are according to who He is. That is the Kingdom of God. And we have to deal with this. Honestly, I am telling you the issue is in the home, the issue is not in the office. In every place the issue is in the home. If your home is settled your office won't be a problem. If your home is not settled your office will be a problem. Do you know that? Joseph did not have issues at his work place. Do you know why? It is because he had peace with his father and he had peace with his brothers. His brothers had no peace with him, but he had peace with his father and he had peace with his brothers. His brothers had no peace with the father nor did they have peace with Joseph their brother and God could not promote them until they had passed that lesson? Do you know how many years it took for them to pass that test? 22 years to pass that lesson. Still they were not fully through, because when Jacob dies they were still coming in fear to Joseph and says, 'Our father said please forgive us.' Joseph was like, 'I have forgotten it all. Why are you bringing it up?' you see they could not be promoted because they haven't learnt the fundamental lessons of the house.

Exaltation does not come from the east of the west, nor from the north or south; it comes from God. Get these pictures. When you read the Word of God what are you looking for? There is something called Truth. Truth and the Word of God are not the same. Truth comes from the Word of God. *Sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is Truth.* When you are going through the Word of God there are histories, there are stories, there is poetry, there is wisdom through it all and

then there is Truth. It is the truth that sets you free. And you should be able to see yourself in the Bible – this is where I am. For *in the volume of the Book it is written about me*. And the Spirit of God is pointing out and saying this is where you are stuck. What do you do? You cling to the Cross.

Go to the altar and cling to the Cross. Confess! Repent! And the blood of Jesus will cleanse you of all iniquity and book of Hebrews will say, it will purge you of your conscience (that is on earth) and in heaven it will speak on your behalf. There are altars that speak because God doesn't change; His plans for His people never change.

### **Genesis 1:27**

***<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.***

He created man in His own image. He didn't create animals that way. These are fundamental things which you need to understand because people like us who love pets you need to understand that the soul of every dog is the same, but the soul of man is not the same. The soul of man is in the image of God. So if your dog/pet, which you love, dies you can replace the pet. But when your child dies you cannot replace your child even if you have another child. That child is unique, made in the image of God. He/she was destined to represent one facet of God's character on Earth. It cannot be replaced. Once you lose him/her you lose them; they cannot be replaced. Even if you have 10 children after that he cannot be replaced. So when your dog dies, bury it and get another one.

***He created us in His own image; male and female He created them.***

### **Genesis 1:28**

***<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."***

Five-fold blessing – fruitful, multiply, fill, subdue and the most important one, all these four will happen if you have dominion. How do you have dominion? Over the sea, over the air and over the earth. Three areas He gave man dominion. Do you know in all of creation in 6000 years it is only man who has dominated the air, the earth and the sea. Nothing else has dominated, man has dominated all three and he is ready to even go to mars. Do you know why man is able to dominate? It is because God said. God said that you shall dominate the sea, the air and the earth and man dominates. No creature was able to do that. That is why this idea of evolution is so stupid. If you only understand how true the Word of God is, God has given man dominion over three realms and man has been dominating these for over 6000 years. But when it comes to spiritual domination God said it is on one condition – you obey God and when man disobeyed he was kicked out. He still dominates the physical earth, the physical air and the physical sea but he has no dominion over the spiritual realm. He lost that dominion.

But when Christ comes back, what He is restoring is the dominion over that realm. *Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Whatever you release on earth shall be released in heaven. If two of you agree...* he brings all these concepts in and you know what He is restoring? He is restoring the dominion we need in God's Kingdom because this world is ruled by spirits. There are only two kinds of people on earth – masters and slaves. I am not talking about the freemasons, I am talking in general. Even on the other side there are people who have learnt to dominate through occult and they are called masters. In God's Kingdom there are those who learnt, through the Spirit of God how to dominate their own environment and not let the devil rule over them. Dominion matters and it has never changed.

### **Revelation 1:4-6**

***<sup>4</sup> John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Did you see that? It was never changed. It is made even clearer in *Revelation 5:9-10*

### **Revelation 5:9-10**

***<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."***

Where is the dominion? On earth. Where shall you rule? On earth. So it never changed. From Genesis 1 to Revelation it is still the same, God says, 'My desire for you is the same.'

But how do you rule? Go back to *Revelation 1*,

### **Revelation 1:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Who is Jesus? He is the ruler of the kings of the earth. And who are the kings of the earth? We are the kings of the earth. Now don't think about the kings with crowns, that is not what it is talking about. It means that you shall rule over the powers of darkness and you shall exercise dominion in your area. And Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. So if Jesus is the King of kings, who are the kings? If He is the Lord of lords, who are the lords? Do you understand what God is trying to say? These things never change. It never changed. That is what God intended us to be. Not to rule over others, please don't misunderstand me. That is also given, in terms of a family, in terms of a church, 'those who rule over you', your husband is supposed to rule over the house, pastors are supposed to rule over the congregation. But as Christ rules; not like how man rules.

There is one aspect of God how He does things, just one small aspect we will try to look into in the little time we have.

### **Genesis 1:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.***

This is how it all begins – the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And the next verse is where it begins. What happens? *God said*; God spoke and there was light. This is an aspect about God. How did God create? Two things involved in His creation – He spoke and the Spirit of God brought it into being. Man has been man in God's image.

By the rule of first mention. God is not giving information, God is not giving an explanation; God is creating. Words are more than information, words are more than explanation; words have the power to create your reality because there are spirits hovering. There are spirits hovering and whatever you speak the spirits will empower it. Unlike God and unlike Jesus it won't happen immediately because we haven't reached that point, but it will happen.

Please remember, in Genesis 1 when God is speaking all these things there is no man. So God is not giving information. For the next five or six days there is no man, so God is not giving information; God is speaking and He is creating through His words. And when He creates through His words what happens is that the spiritual comes unto our realm and it starts creating. The spiritual cannot do anything in man's realm unless it is spoken first. The Word that can save you is very near you, if you believe in your heart and speak with your mouth you will be saved.

One of the ways you function both as a priest and as a king to exercise dominion is through your words. One of the ways is through your words.

### **Genesis 2:20**

***<sup>20</sup>So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.***

Master (God) and apprentice (Adam), Father (God) and son (Adam). Do you know what God is doing? We see in the Bible that God didn't name them; He brought every animal to Adam and said, 'You name them. You exercise dominion.' That is what you do when you buy a pet. You name it and after you name it, when it learns its name you call it and it comes to you. You exercise dominion over it. Naming is an act of exercising dominion. God is teaching – you name it. So Adam looks at the lion and says, 'Okay this is what I name it.' Not in English of course. God is teaching him to exercise dominion.

### **Genesis 2:21-23**

***<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."***

Verse 23, Adam said; God did not say. God said to Adam, 'You say. Whatever you say is what it is to you.' He didn't say, she's the football of my foot. I'll kick her around my house. He didn't say that. She's the dog in my backyard, I will whistle for her. He didn't say that. What did he say? "Bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman." He named her. So when you are upset and when you are angry be careful what you call your wife, the reason is that there are spirits waiting to empower so that she becomes that. What you call your children there are spirits waiting to empower them to be that. Be careful! Authority has been given and you have been made in the image of God and one of the ways you exercise is through words.

Then the fall comes, competition has been injected into mankind between man and woman

### **Genesis 4:1**

***<sup>1</sup> Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."***

Who said? Eve said. She is usurping his position. She said and conflict has begun. She said, not he said. Be careful! I'm telling you, there are a lot of young people, young couples sitting over here. Be very careful about these things. Man did not speak, the woman spoke. Why is it important in the Kingdom of God?

### **Isaiah 3:12**

***<sup>12</sup> As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths."***

In every case where a woman refuses to submit to godly authority and takes over, you can be absolutely sure, by the Word of God, that your children will be oppressors. And Cain killed Abel. Be careful! It is not what the world says about how the Kingdom of God and the powers of darkness work. It is not how it works. Be a man who is under God and be a woman who is under man and be children who are under parents. For the Kingdom of God and the powers of darkness do not work the way we think. Please understand.

So that is what Adam is saying over there – 'Flesh of my flesh and bone of my bones.' And then you have the first prophesy from the first man; he says, 'For this reason (he is not talking about himself; he is talking for all mankind) man shall leave his father and mother and they shall cleave and become one flesh.' He is prophetically speaking, now what is he prophetically speaking? He has no idea what he is talking about because it is a mystery which would take 4000 years and a steward of God's mystery, who is Apostle Paul, to explain to us of what Adam really spoke and what it really means.

### **Ephesians 5:31-32**

***<sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

Now get this fundamental difference, young Christian, believing couples, please understand the mystery; the mystery is this that the husband and his wife are one flesh, where as Christ and the Church are one Spirit. Husband and wife are not one spirit. Some of you act as if you are one spirit, you are not one spirit, you are one flesh. You may have the same spirit in you or may not have the same spirit, but you are not one spirit. You and Christ are one Spirit. That is the mystery of the Church. If you get this wrong what it means is that you will be like the illustration I gave a few weeks back – the Ostrich that follows wherever you go, or the tail wagging the head. Do you know what it means for the tail to wag the head? It means the wife who leads the home, one way or the other, subtly. These are dangerous things because the consequences will be reaped by the children. For that iniquity will be visited upon your generations. Get these fundamentals correct.

So you see everywhere what is being spoken? Words are being spoken. So the Bible is full of the wisdom of God; the mystery of God's wisdom. And to understand the mystery of God's Kingdom the first thing you need is to understand ownership and submission. We have the book of Proverbs written by Solomon. Why? It is because they say he became king when he was 12 or 14 years old and he actually said, 'I am just a child I don't know anything.' So he understood ownership, he understood submission and he understood lordship and therefore God gave him wisdom. And therefore what does Solomon say?

#### **Ecclesiastes 5:6**

***<sup>6</sup>Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?***

What causes your flesh to sin? Your mouth. Where there are no words, there are no actions. If you need an action, you need words. He says don't use your words to cause your flesh to sin. Be careful!

#### **Proverbs 8:15**

***<sup>15</sup>By me (wisdom) kings reign and rulers decree justice.***

Are you a king? Hasn't God said that He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and you shall be priests and kings? How do kings rule? They don't do anything; they make decrees. One of the ways a king rules is that he makes decrees. God says, 'But how do you rule? You need wisdom.' The mystery of God's wisdom is in His Word and you need to know what to say in your circumstances. Doesn't matter how drastic and tired that situation can be – forty days of fasting; hungry and ravenous and you have this powerful temptation from the Tempter himself, 'If You are the Son of God turn these stones into bread.' Jesus says, 'It is written...' He is making a decree, to Him, to all of spiritual realm, to His hunger and to His flesh, saying, 'It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' And as soon as He had spoken it His hunger goes down because He has reigned through the Spirit and by the spoken Word. He reigns. That is what we are talking about.

You see Jesus was in the boat, He was tired, He fell asleep and the storm is blowing, the boat is sinking. And as soon as they wake Him up He doesn't even need time 'Let Me fast, let Me worship and pray and get into the Spirit,' No! He just says, 'Be still!' He is walking in the Spirit and sleeping in the Spirit. So when you go to sleep you are sleeping in the Spirit and when you wake up you are in the Spirit. You know exactly what to do. We have to come to that point.

I still remember 1998 I was in Assam and the house where I was staying I had just put up the bamboo fencing (that is what we did in those days) and that night the storm hit. I looked around and everybody's fencing was flying away and I managed to open the door and I stepped out and said, "Lord what do I do?" He said, "Speak!" I was like okay, 'In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth the wind shall pass over my compound and my fence will not go.' The wind passed over and the fence did not go. Everybody's fence fell. It is because He said, not I, but He said, 'Speak'.

Another testimony, this has got to do with nature. I don't like sharing testimonies because let God be glorified and magnified. Another time, I think it was in 1998, I was travelling from Assam to Hyderabad in the train. It was an emergency so I had to come. I had my baby with me and that baby was very young and it was summer in the month of May and you know what May is like. I had only gotten a reservation for sleeper-class. And it was hot; heat-wave in Telangana, people are dying and it is a sleeper class. We came to Guwahati, checked into the hotel, the train is in the

morning, early morning I wake up and I look out of the window and I say, 'Lord, how do I travel with this baby?' the Lord said, 'Speak!' I asked, 'What?' He said, 'Speak what is written.' So I held on to the bars and said, 'The sun shall not smite us by day.' 990 kms, if I'm right, from Guwahati to Howrah it was cool. Then comes the major length – Howrah to Hyderabad, its blazing hot. We get into the train and there is a cloud cover. I know every station where it stops for 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes. Railway timetable is in my head. So for every station where it stops for more than 10 minutes I run to the end of the platform to look up and the cloud was following me. We reach Vijayawada, the engine is changed and instead of going straight to Chennai the train turns to Hyderabad and the cloud turned with us and took our direction. He hasn't changed, but you have to believe.

That is what I said, you have to believe. I speak to my body every day. Yes, my mother is bed-ridden, yes my mother has Parkinson's but I said, 'Your son is not going to park in the bed. I shall die standing, preaching the Word of God. I will not be in a sick-bed. I will not be bed-ridden. The body for the Lord and the Lord for the body,' I speak that over my body every day, 'I will not lie on the bed and fade away that way. I will not.' I love my mother, I pray over her every night but I ain't going that way. Words are powerful, but it is written. You have to know what is written.

<sup>15</sup>**By me (wisdom) kings reign and rulers decree justice.**

When you decree justice do you know what happens? The righteousness of God is brought into your situation.

#### **Isaiah 54:17**

<sup>17</sup>**No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.**

Understand this - **You shall condemn.** 'You' is capital. That means the Christ in me shall condemn. So I have to hear what I need to speak from Him. When He speaks to me I speak it out. 'You' is the Christ in you; the hope of glory. But understand this, there are spiritual weapons in the spiritual realm, in the demonic realm which has been formed against all of us. How does it come? It is spoken. **No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue...** how are those weapons released? How are those curses released? It is through words. It's released through words. That is what occult is all about; cursing marriages, cursing children, cursing Christians, cursing churches. How do you handle that? That negative thing comes over you and you don't feel right and you open your mouth and you agree with it. And the devil says, 'Gottya!'

But on the other hand, you rise up and you say, 'No, it is not going to work. I condemn it in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. That is what the Bible says – *the God of peace shall crush Satan under your feet.* This is all spiritual, this is what is happening, because the entire occult world is full of blessings and curses and the curses are against God's people. There is a battle going on; the thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy, but the question is – who opened the door? That is what is in the heavenly realm.

#### **Isaiah 59:21**

<sup>21</sup>**"As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, He says, 'Speak that out! shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."**

The Christ in you wants to speak. The Spirit of Christ in us wants to speak. That is why the Bible says – *meditate upon the Word day and night.* Think on the Word; understand the fundamentals of the Word, the principles of God's Word. Get it into your heart because Jesus said, 'Out of the heart come issues of life,' and the list is given. What is the first in the list? Evil thoughts, not other things. First in the list are evil thoughts. He says that out of the heart comes evil thoughts and then you speak it out. And the devil says, 'Thank you very much I was waiting for this.'

So He says – '*My Spirit who is upon you and My Word which I have put in your mouth...*' and it doesn't matter who it is.

#### **Luke 1:41-42**

<sup>41</sup>**And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.** What did she do? She spoke. <sup>42</sup>**Then she spoke out with a loud voice and**

*said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Now she is not speaking, she didn't know that. But what happened is that she is filled with the Holy Spirit and God immediately puts words in her mouth.*

It can happen the other way also, whether it is the spirit of heaviness, the spirit of fear, the spirit of poverty, all kinds of spirits are hovering around and when that spirit comes upon you, you will speak. 'My head is splitting!' take a Tylenol and speak right. One is for the pain and the other is for the spiritual realm. Do you see that?

#### **Luke 1:46**

<sup>46</sup> *And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,*

Two Spirit-filled women are having a fellowship. Are you getting it? You see that is why the Bible says, 'Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. And He was filled with the Word. And when He open His mouth and spoke things happened.

#### **Ephesians 5:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,* <sup>19</sup> *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

What happens when people get drunk? They speak the truth. The Bible says – don't get drunk. But if you get drunk, don't speak. For when you speak there are spirits waiting for your words. Don't speak. Instead be filled with the Spirit. When you are filled with the Spirit what is its result? Speaking. That is why the Bible says that whenever they were filled with the Spirit they spoke; they spoke in tongues and they prophesied. They spoke. We are stewards of God; priests and kings. What do priests do? Function of priest in the Old Covenant? His job was to offer sacrifice and his job was to pray. In the New Covenant what is the job of the priest? It is to offer the sacrifice of praise and to be an intercessor. All of them involve words. Do you realize that is it all words? How do you function as a priest? By standing in the gap and interceding and first offering God a sacrifice of praise. Remember this, worship leaders – whenever you pick songs for Sunday service, for 20-25 minutes, the order is this – thanksgiving, praise, worship. You begin with thanksgiving and you end with worship. That is God's order. You can shift order but don't do it, because God's order has power. *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.* And you will end up with worship. Remember that even in your personal time with God, because God's order has power. There is power in order. Get these pictures in.

#### **Proverbs 16:32**

<sup>32</sup> *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

So God is not saying rule over Hyderabad, rule over Secunderabad. He says, 'If you are a king rule over your spirit. Rule over your words.' Are you a king? Are you a queen? Do you want to exercise dominion? Rule over your spirit.

#### **Proverbs 25:28**

<sup>28</sup> *Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.*

What happens if the wall is breached? The serpent bites. It is all there is Scripture. Let me tell you, especially married couples, homes. Let me honestly tell you by the authority of God's Scripture. Almost 99% of your problems are not because of lack of income, though that may be there, but it is the words that you have spoken against each other. All the problems you have in your home are relational problems. God is my Healer, God is my Provision, God is my Glory, He is the lifter of my head. He is all that, but He can't become that until you get certain things right. All the issues that you are facing have got to do with the words that you have spoken and those words are deep-rooted. It is hanging over there. You are either not willing to let go or you are not willing to put it right.

God tells the men, 'You when pray it doesn't go beyond the roof-top because there is an issue between you and your wife. And if you are a dominating wife again there is an issue. I mean it looks ridiculous, the God of the universe who says, 'The silver and the gold are mine. Cattle on a thousand hills belong to Me. I am your peace, I am your joy,' etc but you are always struggling. Why? Why do you struggle? Where is the issue? Issue is with words. What has been said with words can only be taken back with words. The wounds that have been caused by words can only be healed by words. If we don't do these things, the reason is that pride has set in. Abraham was not proud at all. He went to Lot, his nephew,

and said, 'We are brethren. What is happening is our community? Lots of words being exchanged. My servants are shouting at yours and your servants are shouting at mine. Words, words, words. Canaanites are listening testimony is gone. Neighbors are listening to the shouting, screaming, calling names. Our testimony is gone. So let us have peace.' He humbled himself. "Let us have peace. What is that you want? You take the first choice."

You see this? Everywhere it is words.

### **Matthew 15:10-20**

***<sup>10</sup> When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand: <sup>11</sup> Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."***

***<sup>12</sup> Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"***

***<sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."***

***<sup>15</sup> Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us."***

***<sup>16</sup> So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? <sup>18</sup> But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. <sup>20</sup> These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."***

Out of the heart proceeds, first, evil thoughts. That is what defiles. Heart is the deepest part of yours and that is why God says, 'Love Me with all your heart. Fill your heart with My Word so that when you speak you will speak in accordance to the Word and the Spirit, because remember, your words have power. I've heard someone say that a 11 year old child committed suicide. And what did the child write in the letter? 'Mommy I am giving you a birthday gift because you always said that you never wanted me.' Well she got it. 11 year old child – 'You didn't want me. Here is your birthday gift.' And she killed herself. So be careful.

This morning even as we go to the Lord's Table, remember it is the Lord's Table. It is an altar where the Blood speaks. This is what Apostle Paul said through the Spirit

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

***<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."***

***<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.***

### **Communion prayer**

*Father this morning we come to You. We come with boldness through that way You have made for us; the Blood of Your Son. That is the only thing that gives us boldness. The Blood, the Blood, the Blood. For the Blood speaks of us better things. When the blood of Abel cries out for revenge, the Blood of Jesus speaks for mercy. And that is why we can come to the Throne of grace because the Blood has gone before us and speaks for us, 'Mercy! Mercy! Mercy!' Thank You for the Blood. Thank You for the Blood of Your precious Son that speaks for us. And this morning Father, I pray, as we part take of the emblems of Your broken body and Your shed Blood we will receive healing, we will receive strength. There will be restoration, there will be a quickening, an awakening in the body of Christ and in every individual, O God, because that is what Your Blood does. For it has broken the wall of separation between God and man, between Jew and Gentile and made us one man in Christ Jesus. And I pray that there will be reconciliation in lives and in homes O Lord, through the Blood of the Lamb of God. Thank You Father, in Jesus' name I pray.*

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> month. If you feel that you have failed the first 10 months as you part take of the emblems of His body, believe that you will rise. First 10 sons of Jacob failed, but the 11<sup>th</sup> one rose and brought redemption. Let us part takes of the emblem of His broken body, the Bread. And the shed Blood for the remission of our sins. That is why the Word of

God always tells us to guard our hearts and David understood that the issue was the issue of the heart, that is why he says – *create in me a clean heart, O God. For out of the heart proceed all the issues of life.* The first things that proceed are thoughts and then words and then actions.

One of the most powerful books in the Bible concerning the love of God for His people; a miserable, wretched people, is the book of Hosea. This is a prophet who is asked to marry a prostitute and then redeem her after she backslides again.

### **Hosea 2:14**

<sup>14</sup> ***“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her.***

How does God do the work of redemption in Israel’s or the Church’s life? It is by speaking; He speaks comfort. Words are important. That is why the Bible talks about Jesus saying, ‘A smoking flask I will not put off and the bruised reed I will not break.’ He will not shout in the streets. He will allure her with her words. I wish there were audio recordings of the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. He will speak comfort. I know there was no screaming, shouting. He told her, ‘I know you had 5 husbands and you are living with the sixth one...’ ***I will allure her with words.*** Do you know how that book ends? The book ends with God talking to Israel and God talking to us.

### **Hosea 14:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>***O Israel, return to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity;*** <sup>2</sup>***Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.”***

***Take words with you,*** don’t go silent. Take words with you. Words matter. For is the image in which are created and that is why animals don’t talk, therefore they don’t create. They don’t decide their destiny, they don’t have power over the realms because they cannot speak. One of the facets in God’s image is that we speak. And we speak from the abundance of our heart. That is why their heart has to be guarded.

### **Psalms 19:14**

<sup>14</sup> ***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.***

It doesn’t start with words in your mouth. It starts with words in your heart. When the Bible talks about the peace of God guarding our hearts and mind, in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4-8), immediately it talks about what to think on. For what you think in your heart will result in whether you keep your peace or you lose your peace. Thoughts matter, words matter.

*Colossians 3:1-3* it says if you have been raised with Christ Jesus, then think on these things that are above and not below. How did David survive, considering that the king was after his life, trying to cut his head off, chasing him for 14 years? How did he survive? By meditating on his Savior. He thought on his God. You know what, because of that he always came through; he always came through because he managed his thought life. He meditated upon his God and the goodness of God. That is what you have to think on. At the end of the day of course there will be attacks, of course there will be problems, but how do you revert back? You revert back first in your thought-life. You go back and think on what God has said and what God has spoken. That is how we overcome. For the Word that can save you is very close to you. Where is it? It is in your heart. And it has to be spoken from your mouth. It has to be spoken from your heart and through your mouth.

I tell people that people die with 2-3 inches from salvation. They carry the Bibles in their arms all their lives, but if the Word of God had gone into their hearts then they would have been delivered. It is just 3 inches away between the arm and the heart. Can we at least decide today to speak kind words to one another? Be kind, tone down, you don’t have to shout, speaking softly to one another. Don’t skirt issues. Please, I don’t mean that. Issues have to be addressed, because only the truth will set you free. We are not talking about compromise. We are talking about dealing with truth in a proper way. If you skirt truth you will die. You will go in your captivity and die in your captivity. So I am not talking about that.

### **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.***

What is the first manifestation of faith? Words. That is why Jesus says, 'You shall either be acquitted or condemned by your words.' The first manifestation of your faith is what you say. I'm not asking you to deny reality. You accept reality, but you raise the truth of God above it. That is faith. You don't need faith if you are not facing a reality. In heaven you don't need faith because Heaven is your reality. On earth our reality is different. We are facing all kinds of issues in life, oppression and all kinds of trouble that is your reality. So you are not negating reality. But you are raising something above that reality. It is what God has spoken? What did God say?

Sad thing is that a huge chunk of good christendom have denied one reality.

### **1 Corinthians 14:2**

***<sup>2</sup> For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.***

That is another mystery which you also don't know. Like Paul, I can tell you, I probably speak in tongues more than all of you. He says that. One thing you need to realize is you can talk to God. Do you know that you can talk to God? *He who speaks in tongues does not speak to men;* he/she speaks to God. And so many of you have the gift of tongues, but you don't use it. Personally that is one of the most important gifts God has given the Church, for individual use. The most important gift He has given us is the tongues. And He says, 'You can speak to Me mysteries.' I love it when the mystery is revealed. Like sometimes during our online prayers through the week (Mon, Wed, Fri) I pray in tongues and I get the interpretation from Canada or Afghanistan or USA, I would be like, 'Wow! I didn't know I was speaking this psalm.' It was a mystery to me but revealed at the other end of the world. Speak! Speak, but speak right.

Jesus said, *'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me, even if he dies he lives.'* *'Remove the stone!' He said.* And Martha spoke, *'Lord, he's been dead for four days. His body stinketh.'* Jesus said, *'What did I tell you? If you believe you will see the glory of God.'* And they removed the stone. Nothing is going to happen until He speaks. Nothing is going to happen until He speaks. And He said, *'Lazarus, come forth!'*

*Prayer:*

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I speak over Your people. Everything that is of You which is dead in their lives I pray it will come back. It will come back in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.*

*There was a father waiting for his son and when the son came to his senses he came back. And the father said, 'My son was dead but now he is alive.'*

*There are many things, many things in their children's lives, Lord, here. In the name of Jesus, by the authority vested by the office that You have given me, I call those things back; things that are of You. Mysteries that have died, anointing that have died, relationships that have died, children that have died, gifts that have died, come forth in the name of Jesus!*

*I pray, what has not been seen in 10 months, it will be manifested in the coming two months, because you gave us a promise – 'I will restore.'*

*I pray finances will be restored. Health will be restored. For You are a God of restoration. We speak it in the name of Jesus. We speak it in the name of Jesus. And I pray Father, forgive us. Many were the multitude of sins in our words. We pray Father, cancel it all out. Do not allow the enemy to work on those words. We take it back in the name of Jesus. Everything negative, everything that brings loss, everything that brings death, everything that brings destruction, we take it back, we call it back in the name of Jesus, we cancel those words and we speak life. I speak life into families, in husbands and wives and children. Life into bodies. Be healed in Jesus name. Be made whole in Jesus' name. I speak peace into your soul. May the peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. To every power of darkness which said 'you shall fall' I say, 'You shall rise!' to every word that was uttered 'you shall go backwards' I stand on the authority of God's Word and I tell, 'Children of Israel you shall go forward and not backward. Your business shall go forward, your career shall go forward, your destiny shall go forward, always forward and never backward. Because the Word of God*

*says, 'if you go backward My soul will not be pleased with you.' 'I will be pleased with you,' says the Lord, 'Go forward! And never backward.'*

*'All the battles you are facing,' God says, 'be still! Hold your peace. For the Lord shall fight your battles.' Therefore confess with your mouth – "The Lord shall fight my battles and I will stand and see the deliverance of the Lord. The Egyptians that chased me all these months and years, I shall see no more."*

*Rekindle the fire in the lives of Your children, O Lord. Let every captive be set free; captives of addictions, whatever addiction it may be, O Lord. Be set free in the name of Jesus. For it is written – 'The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to preach deliverance.' We preach deliverance in the name of Jesus. I speak peace and I speak joy in homes. Kindness in homes, tenderness in homes. Compassion in homes.*

*Cleanse our lips, anoint our lips. As it is written about You, let it be written about us. For it is written – 'As You are so are we in this world.' Let grace be poured from our lips. Touch Lord, touch Your people. Touch us. Let healing flow, let deliverance flow. O, Let the blood of Jesus flow, O Father, touching every person from head to toe; cleansing, sanctifying, purging our consciences by the Blood of Jesus. Purge, cleanse, sanctify. Let the fire of God cleanse, burn anything that is left; the dross that is left. Let the fire of the Holy Spirit burn and take it out. Let our hearts be on fire for God. Touch Lord, touch us. Touch our ears with the Blood to hear and our eyes with balm to see and our lips cleansed to speak the words of the Lord. And whatever Your children do, as students or workers, when they speak it will be said of them that he/she speaks with authority. The authority of a priest, the authority of a king and wherever they go they will carry that spirit with them and exercise dominion over the powers of darkness. For what is written we speak – 'Behold I give you power over the all powers of the enemy. You shall trample upon snakes and scorpions and they shall by no means harm you.' I believe therefore I speak. I believe therefore I speak – the powers of darkness have no power to harm me, for I am under the Blood and I have been anointed by His Spirit. And when the Spirit fills me I will speak, when I speak it will come to pass. Thank You Father, thank You Lord. Help us never to forget who You are and whose we are. We are children of a living God. When all these things happen in the world we will lift up our heads for our redemption draws nigh.*

*Thank You, thank You Father. By faith we stand in Your house, we lift up holy hands, we bless Your holy Name. And we declare with our mouth – Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. God's people said 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.*