

The Audacity Of Faith!

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Father this morning we come to You, we come to You by faith, we come to You because we believe You speak. We are not coming to an idol which has ears that doesn't hear or mouth that doesn't speak, we are coming to the living God who loves His children and loves to speak to His children. For You said Lord, that man shall not leave by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. And today I pray Father, though I am a familiar voice and a familiar face in the eyes and the ears of Your people, I will just decrease and they will be able to hear Your voice beneath my voice, Lord, that You would speak to us, all of us because we have not come to hear from the man. We have come to hear from You, speak different people, different backgrounds, different situation, different problems but one solutions You have oh, Lord, Your Son Jesus. So, Lord speak to us, speak to us, give us hearing hears, seeing eyes, believing heart and a will that chooses to obey. Thank You, thank You Father. Thank You Lord. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Let's turn to Gospel according to Matthew and we will read from verses 22 to 32

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

There is some power packed 13, 14 verses there is so much in these verses. We look at a couple of verses and then get into the meat of the message, verse 24

Matthew 14:24

²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

The boat was now in the middle of the sea tossed by the waves for the wind was contrary. The journey started because Jesus told them, "Go the other side." so they are not disobedient; they are obedient, they are not disobedient. Just because you are obedient that does not mean that there won't be contrary winds on the way. To everyone who is obedient to the Lord and who is facing contrary winds, I speak to you in the name of Jesus, He is on the way, He is on the way, He will meet you, He will meet you. If you are obedient and you are obeying the Lord and the storm is on the way, do not fear. Do not fear! He is on the way! He is on the way. But when they saw Him they thought it was a ghost and He said, "Don't be afraid" and when you see Him don't be afraid, He is a gentle Saviour. He's not a ghost. The Lord who sent you is the One who is coming to rescue you. Go to verse 27

Matthew 14:27-28

²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

This is the transition in that passage. Jesus says, "Don't be afraid, it's Me." Okay? If you have received that Word; that Jesus has spoken to you and you are no longer afraid, what's your response? Peter said, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come. Bid me come." And He said, "Come!" He said, "Come!" They would be eleven who would be there in the boat rowing, struggling. But there would be one who would step out because he asked the Lord a question – "Lord, if it is You, bid me come." And Jesus said, "Come!" Most people will reach the other side, in the safety of the boat but a few people walk on water because they asked Him, "If it is You, bid me come." And Jesus will say, "Come."

For those who are walking by faith you always have two choices - the boat will reach the other side, or you can walk on water, we call it the audacity of faith. And God loves faith, God is pleased by faith to the point He says, 'Without faith it is impossible to please God.' He loves faith. So we go back to the fundamental words connected with faith, there are many verses but Romans 10 and verse 17 says,

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The most important gift God has given us is the gift of faith, most important, greatest is love but the most important is faith because without faith you cannot receive anything else from God. You want love you need faith, you want hope you need faith, you want miracle you need faith, you want healing you need faith, you want Him to be the Way Maker you need faith, you want Him to be Matchmaker you need faith. Whatever you want you receive it by faith. That's why faith is the most important and the entire purpose of the preaching of the Word of God, the entire purpose of the ministry of the Word of God is that faith will arise, faith will arise, faith is that invisible wire that brings power into your life. That's where the connection is made. The preacher doesn't heal anybody. the preacher don't help anybody, it's God who heals, it's God who delivers but only thing you need is faith. It is written when Jesus was preaching the house was packed and the power of God was present to heal everyone. But only one man got healed, why? Because Jesus saw their faith and said, 'Your sins are forgiven, take up your mat and go.'

Faith is seen, faith is heard, faith is felt. God, when the Son of man comes even this morning what is He looking for? Faith, that's the greatest gift, the greatest most important gift God has given. Like I said, love is not a gift, it's a fruit. But faith is a gift. We are saved by grace or by grace through faith, if there is not faith grace cannot come. All the grace in the world that God has cannot reach a man or a woman or a child if there is no faith. So if you have faith grace will save you, save you out of anything. Grace saves but grace even grace cannot save. Even God cannot save a person if he does not have faith, because God gave us the free will to believe or not believe. And the Bible says, for all those who have believed God has given everyone a measure of faith. That's *Romans 12:3* measure of faith

Romans 12:3

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Measure of faith, everybody has given a measure of faith, otherwise you wouldn't be here; you wouldn't be saved. If you are saved you have faith, and if you have faith, use it. But remember *Romans 10:17* this is important

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The basis of all biblical faith, genuine faith, the basis, the foundation of all biblical faith is the Bible itself. Faith comes from hearing but hearing by the Word of God. Yesterday we had this Q & A session and in one of the answers I said, human history changed forever when Moses came down the mountain. Forever it changed. DO you know why? it is because for thousands of years before Moses, all the way from Adam to Moses, people heard, but now he is coming with something that is written, it is no longer 'hear say'. It is written! It is written. The supremacy of Scriptures - it is written! It is written. And what was revealed to Moses was from the beginning, generation to generation had passed it for father to son through word of mouth, but Moses did not receive it from his father or grandfather or great father; he received it from God and God said, "Write it down." And we have from *Genesis 1:1* onwards from Moses written down, '***In the beginning God...***' Now it is written that is the basis and the foundation of our faith. This (the Word of God) is the foundation of our faith. God who inhabits eternity, He's not eternity I mean you don't have adjectives for Him. God who inhabits eternity, He has no beginning He has no end but when it comes to the affairs of men He has bound Himself by what He has spoken. It's here (Bible) the supremacy and the authority of Scriptures. You have to be very, very, careful. Very, very, careful that day everything change. If I am right it's a *Exodus 24:12*, right when He came down.

Exodus 24:12

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

"... which I have written." People pass this Book a thousand times a day, without realizing we have something that connects eternity with the temporal; the invisible with the visible; the intangible with the tangible. The intangible with the tangible. It is here, in this Book (Bible). Do you know what this is? It is written, not by man; God used man but the men were moved by Spirit of God. This (Bible) is the basis; the foundation of our faith - it is written! That's why the Psalmist says in *Psalm 138* verse 2 the second part.

Psalm 138:2

² I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name For Your loving kindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Many will come in His name. Even here I am standing in His name. Everything that I say has to be sanctioned by the Word of God or you can ignore it, reject it. It doesn't matter. 'Oh! My pastor said it.' No! Is it written? Does it agree with the Word of God why? Because He has magnified His Word above all His name above all His name. So, the fundamental of faith, please remember, it comes from hearing but hearing from the Word of God and in the Word of God, *Hebrews 11: 1* will say we know that right

Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things unseen and the elders were commended for that. Why because they know the worlds that we see were framed by the Word of God. How did they know? Because Moses wrote it, they knew in the beginning God created the heaven. You won't get it in your science class. You won't get it. *Genesis 1:1* is not in any science class, but that's the truth. ***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*** So you can write that for an exam or leave that question blank, lose your marks, it doesn't matter, because this things should not stand against us in eternity. How many marks will you lose, if you leave a couple of questions on Evolution? You refuse to answer. You can plead the fifth. Otherwise it will incriminate you. That's called 'pleading the fifth'. "In the court of law I refuse to answer, because if I say, it will incriminate me. So I refuse to answer." The teacher will ask, 'Why did you leave it blank? I repeated so many times. I thought so many times. You didn't understand?' "I understood well but I refuse to answer, why? It will incriminate me. I plead the fifth! What do you mean? What's your answer? In the beginning God the created heavens and earth. He created the heavens and the earth by this *Hebrews 11: 3* says.

Hebrews 11:2-3

² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

The elders were commended why? Because they believed ***the worlds where framed by the word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things by which are visible.*** The things which we see are not made by the things that are visible, they are made by the things which are invisible, and that's basically what faith does. Faith from the visible reaches out into the invisible and partakes of the grace of the power of God. That's why the Bible says ***without faith it is impossible to please God*** because anyone, anyone, anyone who comes to God must believe that He is. But, this (Word of God) is the foundation. So if you want it know who God is, you find Him here, you will find Him here. What did the bible speak about? It speaks about how God is, it speaks about who man is. The Bible gives you. Don't look into the mirror and say, 'This is who I am.' Look into this (the Bible) you will know who you are. So every voice, every dream, every vision, every prophecy has to go through the Word test, it has to go through the Word test. Does it agree with the Word of God? That it is the first law of the faith; faith comes from hearing but hearing has to agree with the Word of God. On Friday when we looked on the temptation of Jesus Christ, the temptation of the Jesus Christ is one of the most incredible. I don't think anybody has ever faced a situation like this other than Jesus, if you look at Matthew 4 and verse 1,

Matthew 4:1

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Here He is in the flesh in the visible okay listen carefully. Here He is in the visible being led by the invisible to be tested by the another one in the invisible, which of the invisible will you believe? The Spirit of God is leading you to be tempted by Satan. Satan is the spirit, he is in the invisible. Here is Jesus going to be tempted and the temptation is nothing like any one of us will

ever go through. He is hungry, He is hungry, like I said many of us do not even know what the hunger can do; hunger can make a man into an animal where it is written in the Bible and also in human history, mothers have eaten their children, that's what hunger can do to you. And in the invisible there is a voice that tells Him, "If You are the Son of God, do this." What does He say? "**It is written...**," I hear a voice, the suggestion is fantastic, actually it meets My need at this hour but there is a problem - it is written. This suggestion that is coming in from the invisible is not generation any faith in me, because it is written and what is written is contrary to what you are saying.

Faith come from hearing and hearing by the Word of God now if I listen to you and I do what you tell and the stones turn into the bread again power is coming from the invisible but it is not the power of the Holy Spirit, it's a power of sorcery, and I will not let a sorcerer feed me or speak to me. It is written, it is written. Then He is take up to the pinnacle of the temple. Can you believe it? You read the Old Testament and you read the New Testament the hand of the Lord came, the Spirit of the Lord came lifted Ezekiel and took him in the valley of bones and here the devil picks up Jesus and takes Him to the pinnacle. You see the enemy can duplicate things which God can do.

"I was in the spirit," says Apostle John in the book of Revelation, "I was caught in the spirit, in the body or in the spirit," says Paul. Here Jesus is take up in the spirit by the devil to the pinnacle of the temple and the Holy Spirit allows it. It's not the Holy Spirit taking Him, it's the devil taking Him and He says, you know what? It is written, it is written. Powerful temptation, you are hearing from the invisible, you have a spiritual experience and the Word is also quoted. It is written. He is quoting from *Psalm 91* and Jesus says, "By the way, it is also written. You are quoting out of context. That is a safety Psalm; it is not a show-off Psalm. You are telling Me to jump and show off and declare My ministry. You don't understand the Word of God. You are misquoting the Scripture, you are twisting Scripture. It is also written, then comes the most incredible of the temptations: in a twinkling of an eye he takes Him to be a high mountain and says, he shows all the kingdoms of this world and its glory. So it's not a human mountain, because there's no human mountain, not even Everest from where you can see the world's biggest mountain. It is the spiritual mountain in realm two, of the devil. So there is a second realm and there is a mountains in peaks over there from where the devil can give people visions and show them all the world and offer them everything. And he showed Jesus something and said, "All you have to do is bow, worship Me. This is all mine and I will give You authority and I will give You glory." Do you know what He said? "It is written."

Don't forget this, because in the last days Jesus said, "Many will be deceived, many will be deceived. They will hear the voices, they will see visions, they will see dreams, they will receive prophecies. All is there in the Kingdom of God. ***My Spirit shall come upon all flesh.***" That's the last days. They shall see dreams, they shall see vision, they shall prophesy, all these things are there. I will never negate, I myself am the product of all this. I will never negate all this but the foundation of our faith is "It is written" (in the Word of God). What you hear, what you see, what you receive does it agree with what is written? Does it agree with what is written? So beware! Be careful! Be careful because that's the first law of faith - the Word of God. The Word of God. And people are deceived because they don't know the Word of God. It is the Word of God. The Word of God declared who God is. This it who God is, this is His ways, these are His thoughts, this is how God does things. And even if a voice comes and quotes Scripture and tries to make you go in a way in which God doesn't do things, back off. Back off because without faith we cannot please God and we need faith and faith involves hearing and the hearing is always from another realm.

Hearing is not from your pastor, hearing is from the Spirit of God; it is not from this realm. It is from the invisible realm. So elders were commended for it and God is pleased by it and Enoch is celebrated for it because they all heard, they all heard. So once we have acknowledged, on the day to day basis, the supremacy and the authority of Scripture our ears are open to hearing. And we should hear, otherwise I believe in the Word, I accept the authority of the Word of God, the supremacy of the Word of God and I will read the Word daily but I don't hear, I do not hear. Two things happen. One - as the body without the spirit is dead, so are you. For without the Spirit this (Word of God) is dead. What gives this (Word) life? It is the Spirit of God. Two - the letter of the Law kills, the Spirit gives life. Therefore if I am a servant of God who does not hear but has the Word of God when I minister I am ministering death; I am not ministering life. So if I am not a preacher of God, I am death man walking, and all I bring into my ministry is death and more death. Why? It is because the Word of God is living, it is living. Hebrews 4: 12 says you know what?

Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is living, why is it powerful? Why is it sharper than any two edged sword? Because it is living, it's living, it cuts through. It is living. The Bible says that on the day of Pentecost when Peter was speaking they were cut to the heart. Who cut them? Peter? No! The Spirit of God.

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

When the Word of God is covered by the Spirit of God, it becomes a sword. It gets life, it starts cutting through, cutting through, it speaks, it convicts, it convinces, it comforts, it gives courage, it brings faith, because for everything you need faith. They were cut through the heart and said, "What should we do?" So, even repentance is a work of faith. Because if we don't have faith you don't repent. The first thing the Holy Spirit does is, with the Word, is that He touches, He touches. That's how you hear, it's not an audible voice. Sometimes, rarely God speaks audibly also. But it is a voice you hear, the ears of your spirit are open, you hear. So, the *first law* of faith is the foundation is the written Scripture, the second law of faith is that now that you have your foundations you need to hear. You cannot go through the life without hearing, without hearing. When you lose hearing, my mom is losing her hearing very badly, losing her hearing, losing her memory. So I had to tell her many times today, "Amma it is Sunday today I am going to Church." "No, it's not Sunday." I said, "It is Sunday." You have to speak very loudly, my sister called last night and I was on the call with her with mom so I have to repeat into my mother's hears what she was saying.

What happens if you lose you hearing? Faith comes from hearing. That's why the most important organ in your body is your ear. The baby in the womb doesn't see, does not smell, does not eat, does not touch, does not taste, but it hears, it hears. When Mary came and greeted Elizabeth the baby in her womb leaped at the greeting because he heard, he heard. Hearing is the first thing. That's why your children in your womb can hear, they can hear. So be very careful about what you say and what you listen in your house because they can hear, they can hear. So hearing ears, ears and that's should be your prayer every day, "Lord, touch my ears that I hear," because if we do not hear it is the dead Book. You may live well on the earth by applying the principle from the Word of God but when you reach Heaven you will realize that you are empty because to do everything that you have to fulfill your destine on the planet earth wisdom is not enough, knowledge is not enough, understanding is not enough. Hearing is important, hearing.

Every person in *Hebrews 11* heard. They were not very wise, some of them were downright foolish, but they heard. And when they heard, it made all the difference. When Nebuchadnezzar had problem, he called all the wise of the kingdom, but the solution was brought by one man who heard, one man who heard. Wisdom can solve certain problem, knowledge can solve certain problem, understanding can solve certain problem but what none of this can solve, faith solves. For faith has heard from God. And faith will make no sense at all. Faith usually never makes any sense. It is not common sense, it is uncommon sense. Don't lose your hearing. Please understand, the Word of God is living, it is like a sharp two edged sword. That sword never loses its edge, because it's spiritual. Only our hearts get hardened, where the sword is no more able to touch anymore.

So the problem is never with the sword; the problem is with our heart. The seed the sower sowed was always same, the problem was with the field. So when there is the lifting of the Holy Spirit which will finally takes place according to the Apostle Paul in the book of Thessalonians, it is because the hearts of men are getting harden and the Holy Spirit is withdrawing. It is personal and it is cooperate. Personally when the Holy Spirit sees you are not listening any more, He starts withdrawing and after that you sit in the Church like the dummy. It doesn't cut you any more, doesn't cut you anymore. So you need to go back again and say, "Lord I understand with knowledge and wisdom, it is what, "Lord create in me a new heart, Lord. Cause my heart to be tender again that again I don't lose the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to me," because in the last the most important thing is ***those who have hears let them hear.*** That is what the Spirit is saying. So the Spirit and the Word comes it is living; it is a sword, it cuts.

So here is the Son of Man, Jesus of Nazareth, goes to Nazareth in Luke chapter 4 He goes to Nazareth, goes to His home town, goes to His synagogue.

Luke 4:16

¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

So you need to understand His custom. And that should be your custom, that on Sabbath you go to Church and not sleep at home and don't come late. Otherwise by the time Jesus finishes reading you will be coming to Church, He stood up to read.

Luke 4:17

¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

Please also know where the place where it is written. Don't be like the sons of Sceva, 'In the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches, get out,' and if the demons had asked the sons of Sceva, 'Can you please quote me Scripture?' 'Scripture ah? It is in Scripture? I only heard somebody say.' So they came fully clothed and went back naked. That is the ministry of demons. The ministry of Christ is you come fully naked and you go back clothed. That's what God does; first He exposes you your heart with the sword of the Spirit, He will convict the world of sin then turn us to Jesus, to the righteousness of God that is available by faith. Then we go from His presence not condemned but covered. So the Word of God, He stands there, He finds His place and then He reads, this is what He reads, He has got Scripture in His hands and He is going to read the Scripture but this is what He first says, ***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, and He has anointed Me, He has anointed Me."*** The Spirit of God is upon Me and under the anointing I am going to read to you a Scripture, I am going to read to you a Scripture. What is the scripture?

Luke 6:18-21

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." ²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Any scripture you hear today and the Spirit of God comes upon you that Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing you can sit down, because when the Word and the Spirit comes it is done, it is done. "Lord! My son is ill." "Oh! unbelieving generation! How long should I be in your midst? Go! Your son is healed!" He just left, because it was the Word and the Spirit going and the Word of God says, that same hour his servant was healed. You can sit down. We are not able to sit down, we are not able to be relaxed, we are anxious and worried, our mind is all over the place, it's because these two are not coming down. He said, "The Scripture is fulfilled in your presence. You can sit down," and He sat down. There's a fulfilling of Scripture in our lives because we are in Him this is what He said, ***"Behold in the volume of the Book it is written about Me, I have come to do Your will O' God."*** It is written and I have come to do Your will."

And every time Scripture and the Spirit come down, you know what each one of us do? We fulfill Scripture. That should be our life, it is written, I have believed, the Spirit has spoken, the Spirit has done. I am fulfilling Scripture. It is written about me also in the volume of the Book because He is the head and I am part of the body I do not have a destiny separate from Him. I am not here to live my life, I am here for Him to live His life through me, I am not here to use Him to fulfill my desires. No. I am here so that His desires can be fulfilled through me because we share one life, not two lives that is faith, it is faith. So faith foundation is the Word of God, it comes by hearing, but when you hear you have to be convicted, you have to be convinced. It doesn't come overnight. It comes with much hearing, comes with much hearing because every time you hear we are declaring how God is. The Word of God declares - who is God?

These are the questions great man asked, Moses asked the question you are telling me go there I'm being a shepherd for 40 years, the greatest nation on earth, bring my people. But when I go to them, who do I tell You are? He says, "I AM that I Am." So God gives him a free cheque, a blank cheque, signed the cheque and he asks, 'What is the limit?' No limit. You can take it and cash it, according to your situation, "I AM who I Am." That's who I Am."

One of the ways we understand who God is through the revelation of His names in the Bible - this is who God is. How can you take the eternal God and put Him into this and say, 'This is who He is.' So He give names and says, 'This is who I Am, this is who I Am, this is who I Am, I Am who I Am.' Who is He? ***Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is.*** And I am telling you, the knowledge of who God is, is the knowledge between life and death. People die because they do not know who He is, when help just a breath away. The winds were contrary, they are rowing with all their strength, help is on the way. They think it's a ghost and Jesus says, "It's Me. It's Me." And the next one says, "Lord, if it is You bid me come." Jesus says, "Come, come." People die and go to hell because they don't know who

He is and those who know Him perish in their situations because they do not know who He is. One day on that mountain or in the tabernacle or in the tent of meeting Moses asked God this question, "Can I see Your face? Can I see Your glory?" God says, "You can't see My face. If you see My face you will die. But I will show you My glory." And listen to what He says.

Exodus 33:18-20

¹⁸ And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

And then He shows His face, His glory.

Exodus 34:5-7

⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. A Person identity. It is not like us, but in Hebrew culture, that's the culture that descended from the Kingdom of God; the name is the identity of the person and God's declared. ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

What's the first thing? *Merciful, gracious, long suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the father's upon the children and the children, children to the third and the fourth generation.* Did you see that? But how does He introduce? *Merciful, gracious, long suffering, abounding in goodness and then He brings iniquity over there. The mystery of God's mercy and the mystery of man's iniquity. The one who discovered this mystery, 'Who am I?' It's the mystery of iniquity. Who is God? He is the mystery of mercy. In Psalms 51 verse 5 David after all mess he made of his life discovers this, the mystery who man is.*

Psalms 51:5

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Do you know what iniquity is? Iniquity is the wrapped nature of the fallen man, the bent nature of the fallen man. God judges us by not what we have done, but by what we are. The only reason we don't do certain things is because we did not get the situation, the comfort, the power to do it, that's all. But given a choice everyone would do the same thing. And David is standing there and asked himself, "How did I end up here? I who loved God, who thought he loved God, 'how did I lie? How did I murder? How did I commit adultery? How did I covet? How did I end up like this?' Then he realized - this is the nature of man. This is the nature of man. Everyone would do the same thing; we would lie, we would kill, we would commit adultery, fornication we would do everything if it the situation circumstances where right. That is why I said, when women and men were hungry, the little baby mama suffered to put to sleep, they ate it. Why? That's the nature of man; preservation of self; the idol called 'self' feed it. This is the mystery of iniquity. This is what we all are, the old man in us. Our struggles are with the old man, this is the nature of iniquity and the Bible says 'His mercies are new every morning.' Not just towards His children, but towards the whole of creations; all of mankind God does not judge anybody by who is he, or who he can become; He just covers us with His mercy. This is who God is, this is who God is, mercy, mercy, mercy. Jonah discovers it, when does he discover it? When does Jonah discover this? When he is there in the bottom of the sea.

Jonah 2:5-8

⁵ The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.⁶ I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.⁷ "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple."⁸ "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.

Do you know what he said? Those who regard worthless idols... We carry worthless idols in our hearts. One of the worthless idols we carry in our heart is offence, offence. Worthless idol we carry in our heart is unforgiveness, offence. When God told this prophet, 'Go to Nineveh and preach to them.' He was offended. You mean to say, 'I

should preach to those people, who are enemies of my people? I'm not going.' He was offended, 'Even if You forgive them I am not going to forgive them.' These are idols we carry in our heart. And you know, to break that idol he had to go down to that level and from there he gave up and he cried out for mercy and he realized that this is who God is; a merciful God. The idols we carry in our heart. That's what I said, if you do not know who God is, we just die. He didn't want Nineveh to have mercy, but both Israelites and Ninevites lived on mercy, both the gentiles and Christians live on mercy, because He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor our iniquities. Do you understand that? If you do not know who He is, this is who really God is - God is a merciful God, gracious God. God says, 'Would you come to Me? Would you just turn to Me? What all should I do before you turn to Me? In *Genesis 4:10* God comes and speaks to the third human being.

Genesis 4:10

¹⁰ And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

He is asking Cain who has killed his brother, no remorse nothing at all, but God asks something, 'What have you done? What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. What have you done? What have you done?' Blood, life is in the blood and it cries out.

If you go to James chapter 5 verse 4.

James 5:4

⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. There is a cry that constantly goes from earth to Heaven, what is it crying out? People who are not able to really live their lives because they are defrauded by those who are over them, their blood is crying out, 'Lord have mercy! Lord! Lord, deal with me! Lord change my life!' the cry is going out because blood has voice. Everything has a voice; rocks have voice, trees have voice, He says, '*If you don't praise Me, the rocks will.*' They have voices, they have ears. So it is the voice that cries out and the voice is crying out for God to intervene. What is the voice crying out, the voice of very person crying out? It is the voice of our iniquity. What is Abel crying out? Iniquity of Cain, it's crying out. And what does God say?

Genesis 4:13-15

¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!" ¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

God said, 'Cursed you are of the ground; the ground is cursed.' He pronounces even more curses. When the curse is pronounced, this is his reaction. Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bare.' Do you know what the word for 'punishment' there is? It's iniquity. He says, '***My iniquity is greater than I can bear.***' ***And he says, 'You have surely driven me out this day from the face of the ground. I shall be hidden from Your face, I shall be a fugitive and vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.'***

Look at the response - ***and the Lord said to him therefore whoever kills Cain vengeance shall be taken on him seven fold and a Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.*** Do you know what that is? It's not a mark on his physical body, it's a spiritual mark. So it is the first time a man prays; Adam never prayed, Eve never prayed. The first time a man prays is a man who murdered his brother and when he prays, 'Lord, my iniquity is too much for me. The way God response, He is gracious and merciful, He says, 'Nobody will kill you, I will put a mark over you.' That is who God is, that is who God is; He says, 'You will not die, you shall live,' He puts a mark on him.

Do you know why we live and we don't die because He put a mark on us - the blood of Jesus Christ for us, it speaks on our behalf, when the voices of whom we have humiliated, the voices whom we have ignored, the voices whom we have harassed, the voices whom we have defrauded, when those voices go up and we go to God and we just pray a prayer, the voice of the blood of Jesus says, "Lord, mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy!" and God shows us mercy, mercy. That's why we live. That's why the psalmist says - ***His mercies are new every morning.*** We are alive because of His

mercy, we are sitting because of His mercy, do you know why? It is because the blood of His Son speaks for us, the blood of His Son. That's the mystery of mercy; this is who God is.

1 Samuel 30:6

⁶Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

When every man's hands is against him, he has lost everything to the Amalakitites, he has never faced a day like this ever in his life, David, he has lost everything, everybody who is with him, 600 men, picking up stones to stone him. He is all alone and the Bible says ***but David strengthen himself in the Lord his God***. The question is - how did he strength himself? On what basis did he strengthen himself only on this - "I know who You are; You are a gracious and a merciful God." "David where were you past 16 months?" 'Philistine territory.' "Whom did you serve? Me?" 'No Lord, Achish the Philistine king.' "What did you do?" 'I went into all these territory, gentile territories, killed every man, woman and child, so that nobody would survive and go back and tell Achish that I am killing them, but I went and told Achish that I'm killing the people of Israel. So, Achish was very happy thinking I am killing my own people. That I have made myself an abomination to the Israelites.' But on the other side he was killing others, he murdered, he killed, he looted and he covered in his lies. That's how he lived for 16 months and then when you turn to God in mercy, God says, "Forgiven."

If you do not know who God is, it is a difference between life and death in your situation. You cannot go as far back in your walk of faith; you are at the edge, tipping point of perdition, and from there he comes back. Everytime when he at the tipping point of judgment, he comes back, even in the case with Bathsheba, when the prophet says, 'Your sin has been removed, you shall not die.' Meaning you are at the verge of death. But you didn't die, do you know why? Because you understood who God was - 'My God is a merciful God, my God is a merciful God.' That is by faith we understand these things; even in your worst day don't run away from God, run to God, don't run away from God, run to God. If you do not know who God is. Our God is not like the gods of this world; fearsome with 16 hands and a sword and a spear. No. Look at the Cross, that's who He is. Do you know what He saying on the Cross? ***"Father, forgive them, they don't know what they doing.*** They don't know what they are doing, forgive them."

By faith we go back to God, by faith we receive the mercy of God but don't stop there, don't stop there, because the Word of God says - ***come boldly confidently to the very throne room of grace and receive mercy.*** Because you first need mercy because our iniquity speaks against us; our iniquity is too much for us to bear and the nature of iniquity is it has to bring judgment, it is too much for us to bear, so we call out for mercy and we receive mercy but don't stop there. The Bible says, go further and receive grace, grace. Grace is not mercy. Grace is what saves us out of situation, grace is what gives us power to overcome, grace is what becomes victorious. We are saved by grace because we are forgiven by mercy, now we are saved by grace. And those who are saved by grace God speaks over them and says, "You're more than conquerors, you're not defeated; you're victorious." Because that's what grace does; it gives you victory.

So in verse 8 David says,

1 Samuel 30:8

⁸So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue? Shall I overtake?" God comes and says, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

Do you know what that is, that's not mercy, that's not mercy, that is grace; the power to stand, the power to pursue, the power to overcome. That is the mystery of the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus speaks mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy. And by mercy we are justified. And the Bible says over and over, four times in Scripture, - ***now My just who have been justified by the blood of Jesus shall live by faith.*** They shall live by faith and what does faith do? Every time find faith, if there is faith there is grace, if you don't find grace there was no faith. That's the nature of faith. Faith always taps into the power of God. By faith we stand in the grace of God.

Romans 5:2

²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Faith always touches grace, grace is the power of God. If you say that you have no power, you have no faith because faith will always bring you to grace; the power of God. "Bid me come. If it is You bid me come." He stepped out and

suddenly he's walking on water because faith will always make you stand above your situations, because the power of God comes into that situation. Never, never question grace, just examine your faith, the Bible never say, 'Examine God's grace.' It say - *examine your faith, whether you're in the faith or not. Test yourself whether Christ Jesus in you or not.* That's the simple test. Don't question grace; check your faith, why? To overcome we need faith. There is only one life possible of overcoming. Romans 14: 23 says

Romans 14:23

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

Whatever is not of faith is sin. Rewrite the sentence - whatever is of faith, is not sin. Whatever is of faith is not sin because it cannot be sin because the nature of faith is that it takes the power of God over there, and God's power never empowers sin; it overcomes sin. Whatever is of faith is not sin. Simple way to live a life overcoming sin. the foundation is the Word of God, hear, believe, obey; live by the Word hear, see, obey.

Proverbs 20:12

¹² The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both. It doesn't say, the ear and the eyes the Lord has made them both. No. Everybody has ears, do you hear? Everybody has eyes, do you see? The hearing ear and the seeing eye. That is faith - the hearing ear and the seeing eye. Do we hear? Do you ask simple questions? When you read Scripture, when you are doing your daily devotions, (I hope you do your daily devotions), you're reading Scripture, you're listening to your message, are you able to hear? Are you able to see the Kingdom of God? How the Kingdom of God works? The Kingdom of God is not random. Like the world is not random; everything is built on laws and principles. Are you able to see? Are you able to benefit from something? Let us look at one of the most important verses in the Bible, personally and for all of us very important verse.

Matthew 22:36-38

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

Do you know what Jesus said? ***This is the first and the great commandment.*** Can you think about it? There's no greater commandment more important commandment than this. What is this? ***Love God with all your heart with all your mind with all your strength.*** And the question is - do we struggle? Do we serve? This is the most important thing in a believer's life - to love God with all your heart with all your mind, with all your strength. First solution is, 'Lord how do I love You?' Answer is a prayer.

Deuteronomy 30:6

⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

So how do you pray? Suddenly you hear, you understand, you have a revelation of what Lord is telling you. This should be my prayer, "Lord, there are so many things in my heart, would You take it out. It doesn't matter how painful it is, circumcision is always painful. Lord, take it out so that I love You with all my hear, with all my mind, with all my strength." So when we read that commandment, did we see? Did you hear? Benefits of loving God - Romans 8 28, now you have to look at it because this is the most important thing.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

All thing don't work for everybody's good. Don't get it wrong. It doesn't say that. God's Word says - *all things work together for the good of those who love God.* It didn't work well for so many people, but those who loved God it worked for them. So there is a benefit of loving God with all your heart. Even your mistakes God will turn it around. Loves covers a multitude of sins. Lord, David did this, David did this, David did this, David did this. Why did You cover him? "Because he loves Me, because he loves Me." God says, "I love you, but you don't love Me. But with David there's a difference. Do you know what I told about him? I saw him as a young boy and I made this proclamation

about him – *‘This is a man after My own heart,’* this is a man who loves Me and you know whatever he does I’ll beat the daylights out of him but I will see that everything works for his good because he loves Me.”

Do you know the benefits of loving God? The benefits of loving God - **All things work together for the good of those who love God, and are called according to His purpose.** So God says, “Love Me.” ‘Lord, I find it difficult.’ He says, ‘Ask Me. The secret is there. I will circumcise your heart.’ ‘Lord, take everything out of my life that stand between me and me loving You. I want to love You.’ And God says, ‘I will answer your prayers.’ All things start going crazy in your life because it’s an answer to your prayer. But at the end of it, all things start working together for your good.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

⁹But as it is written “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” ¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Has God revealed thing to you? I told you, I know the door of my house in Heaven. I know the stones with which they have studded. Forget your future, has He shown you the eternity? The simple thing is not seeking revelation; just love Him, just love Him! He will show you who you are, where you need to change and He will also show you your days. Only the Spirit of God knows everything that God has for each person. The question is for Him to reveal it God says, “Do you love Me?” Solomon built that great temple, he got all, but who had the plans? What did Solomon do? Supervise, that is all he did. Who got the plans in dreams and in visions and everything? The man who loved God, God gave him the plans. The man gathered everything saying, ‘My son is very young, he can’t do all these things, so let me do it all for him.’ God said, “You cannot build,” but He did not say ‘you cannot plan,’ He did not say, ‘you cannot gather’ so I will do everything else. “Lord revel to me,” and God reveled it to him. DO you know why? Because God loved him and he loved God. And then God comes and prophesies where can I dwell? Do you know what? Then He comes and says, in the New Covenant, ‘I will rebuilt the broken tabernacle of David, because for thousands of years, sacrifices, worship, all took place but I remember the man who dance before Me, that is one time I enjoyed worship. I want to build his temple because he loved Me. Others where just making moves. But this guy moved Me.”

The benefits of loving God - all things work together, everything, the good, the bad, the ugly, everything God will turn it around for you, simply because, He says, “That man, that woman, that child loves Me.” And second, God’s Spirit will start reveling things to you, simply because you are not that great, you’re not that wise, you’re not that knowledgeable, you don’t have those degrees, you don’t have any status in society but you know, because He speaks to you and what’s the only qualification? You love God. See, the world goes after all these things. God’s Word itself says - **let not the rich man glory in his riches, the wise man in his wisdom, the strong man in his strength. If any man boast let him boot that he knows Me.** You know what? David knew his God, “My God is merciful, my God is gracious, my God is strong, my God is powerful.” You look at his Psalms, these are the revelations of who God is, who God is.

James 2:5

⁵Listen, 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?

Are you poor today? **Blessed are the poor in the spirit** or even otherwise poor, **for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven,** for God has choose the poor today , even today in this place, those who have come acknowledging and knowing their poverty that without God I cannot do anything, that is David always; he has two confession, “Without You I cannot do anything” and “with You I can do everything.” Both has to be there – “Without You I cannot do anything,” that is some people’s confession, “and with You also I can do nothing.” No! That is not his confession. That’s not. He knew his God. Those who are poor God has made them rich in faith. Read the next part - **and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?**

That’s one of my assumption when Jesus comes to rule for a thousand years, that David will come with Him, because Jesus is going to sit on the throne of David. Did you see it? These are benefits of loving God. This is where we need to have hearing ears, hearing ear. ‘Lord, when I read I want to know You. I am looking.’ That’s what He told the disciples, ‘You of stiff ears and blind eyes, what were you searching in the scripture for? The Scripture is all about Me. You are looking for knowledge, wisdom. I Am it all, I Am it all. You are not looking for Me. You are looking for something that is outside of Me.’

The blessing of hearing, the blessing. Because if you don't hear you will not know. The first thing is that you need to hear, you need to hear and what you hear you need to believe. If it is sanctioned by Scripture you need to believe, you need to believe and once you believe it starts.

Luke 1:26-28

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. This is usual format there is God, there is an angel and the angel is sent to a person. So even it is a vision or actual appearance of an angel or it is the Word of God, it has to proceed from God; the Author of faith is God, faith comes from hearing. So from God comes an angel to a young teenage girl and he comes and tells her. What does he tell her? **²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"**

Why is she blessed? Because she heard. Everyone who hears is blessed. There were many young girls in Israel, but nobody heard. One heard. The first blessing is the blessing of hearing. You are blessed, you are blessed. What she heard was very troubling. She is not like Zechariah, John the Baptist, her case is different. Zechariah did not believe what he heard. So he was made dumb before he opened his mouth and put his food there God said, 'Don't speak for nine months.' Okay. If you hear something and you are not able to believe shut your mouth, learn from Zechariah and after nine months when you open your mouth say, 'John.' Because we hear it with our ears and lose it with our mouth. We are not strengthening it with our mouth; we'll lose it with our mouth.

She heard and Zachariah heard, but Zachariah did not believe but what's your problem? Can you check your Scripture? Isn't there a precedence? Sarah was barren, Rebekah was Barren, Rachel was barren, Hannah was barren, haven't all these people conceived? So what's your problem? Has the God of Israel changed? Your problem is your busy with the rituals in the temple but there's no faith. You're not able to believe, you think God has changed. God has not changed; the God of 21st century is the God who created everything. Nothing has changed. He is still the same. So Zachariah didn't believe.

With Mary the problem was, she said, 'But how is it going to be? There is no precedence in the Bible. No virgin has ever conceived.' She did not know that there was the prophecy that a virgin would conceive and she did not know that she was the virgin but there is no precedence because she is hearing something and she probably going through the Scripture, 39 books. There has never been a situation like that because every case Sarah conceived Abraham was her husband, Rebecca conceived Isaac was there, Rachel conceived Jacob was there, Hannah conceived Elkanah was their but me? I'm only engaged I am not married.' And the angel said, 'The power of the Holy Spirit shall come upon you and overshadow you and the child which you bear which shall be called the Holy One.' Does anybody understand any of those things? No, but she believed. She said, 'Let it be unto me according to your Word.' According to your Word. The simple thing is that - have you believed? Blessed is the one who hears. The question is - faith is just not completed by lacked, for faith to be completed when you hear and when you believe, there is an action, there is an action. In that entire discourse which angel Gabriel makes, he mentions one name. He says, 'Your cousin, you know your cousin Elizabeth, in her old age she has conceived and she is in her sixth month.' Do you know what verse 39 and 40 says?

Luke 1:39-40

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. Look at this. She has many people, she has her father and mother, she has Joseph to whom she is engaged, the local rabbi is there. So many people are there. Where did she go? The only other person who was mentioned is the one who also has conceived by faith. When you hear something that is of God you don't go like Joseph and speak your dreams out to people who don't believe, people who do not have an experience of hearing from God. She went straight not to her father and mother, honorable people. Not to her engaged fiancée. No, she went to Elizabeth. Because only iron sharpens iron; only those who have experience of walking by faith hearing by faith and experiencing the power of God by faith can also lift your faith. So the entire conversation between Elizabeth and Mary is a conversion of faith. It's not a conversation of flesh. Look at the words that come out of Elizabeth's mouth in verse 45

Luke 1:45

⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

Blessed is she who believed. It's not 'blessed is she who heard.' You heard, good, you are blessed. There were many women in Israel, you are the only one who heard you are blessed. Now it's more than that, you have believed. ***Blessed is who heard, blessed is she who believed because blessed is she who believed for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.*** If you have heard, if you have believed and shown in your action Elizabeth says, "It will be fulfilled." There's a fulfillment, there is a performance of the things which you have believed. That how faith works, that's how faith works. So you always should look for, like the scientists have been wasting millions and millions of dollars looking for the missing link between the ape and the man, they will never find it. If they want to find it they have to look in their own face, in the mirror okay. It's like the boy who came back to his mother and said, 'Mom, Sunday school teacher says that we are from Adam. God made us. But daddy says that we evolved from monkeys.' So the mother said, 'Daddy is talking about his side of the family, and I am talking about my side of the family.'

Okay, so there are looking for the missing link. In the same way if something is not happening in your life, look for the missing link - what completes faith? You heard, you believe but did you act on it? Did you act on it? They have run out of wine! "Fill the jars." They filled the jars to the brim. "Take a cup and take it." Can you imagine the heartbeat of the poor servant? This is the water used for washing feet, but he obeyed. He obeyed and the action completes it. The missing link. You need to look in your life, what is the missing link?

What is the missing link? Have I missed something here Oh Lord? I heard, I believed but did I act on it? Did I act on it? Remember the feeding of 5000? God asked the crowds to do only one thing. What is that? Sit down, what did he tell them? He said, "Tell them all to sit in groups of 50 or 100." He told all of them to sit down. Go read the Gospels today, it is there in five Gospels. Do you know what it is written? It is written that all those who were sitting were fed. That's why we give you chairs when you come to church, so that you can be fed the Word of God. Sit! It means to be without worry, without anxiety, without fear. He said, 'Sit down,' they sat down. One thing Jesus told Martha that will not be taken from Mary, 'She has done the right thing; she is sitting.'

We sang that today, we heard from the Gospel, 'Sit!' One thing. That one thing is blocking. The miracle is so close but anxiety, fear is blocking it. It is not the atmosphere of faith, faith needs an atmosphere to come in and anxiety is blocking it, fear is blocking it, worry is blocking it. So God is not giving us suggestions He's talking about the principles of the Kingdom of God - Do not fear, be anxious for nothing, do not worry. And this doesn't go away, you have to learn to practice it by faith. You have to handle it by the Word of God. That is David. You know God, you know what is written? And David's Psalms are there, 'Oh my soul why are you anxious? Why are you anxious?' He will speak to his soul, change the nature of soul and then confess faith.

Mark 11:24

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

I am praying. Prayer is asking, right? You are asking. First, what are you asking for? Is it according to Scripture? There is a funny story, let me see if I have time to tell you that. Okay I'll take 2 minutes. There was this man, some of you guys know that one. There was this man he used to go to this restaurant and there is this emu or ostrich that always followed him and emu could talk okay. So he'd go to this restaurant, he would order, then ask the emu, 'What do you want?' and the emu used to say, 'The same thing, honey.' And then he'd put his hands in his pocket and the waitress would say, 'Five dollars, twenty cents,' and he would take the exact amount and give it and this used to happen constantly and one day the waitress asked, 'Sir, I have this doubt. Every time you come, the emu comes. It always follows you and can talk. Whatever you order is what the emu also wants and every time when you have to pay, you have the exact change in your pocket. What is it?' He said, 'Long ago I found a lamp and when I rubbed it a Genie, came out and Genie said, 'I give you two wishes,' he said, 'My first wish whenever I need something I need to buy when I put my hands into my pockets I should get the exact money,' and the Genie said, 'Yes,' 'and second thing I want a chick with long legs, who will always follow me and agree to everything I say,' and I looked around I got this emu.

So you should be careful about what you ask, make sure it is according to Scripture, it should be according to Scripture. Lot of people, their prayers never get answered. It doesn't even go beyond your roof, because there is no scriptural backing for it. I still remember an old, old, friend now in their 40's 50's when she was marriageable age, she sent me a list of 33 qualities she is looking for in a man. She is still a spinster. I told her, I told her then, 'Honey, the only man who could fit in this is Jesus. And He's not available now, you have to wait till rapture.' She is still a spinster. So when you ask something, for you to believe, first thing let it be according to Scripture because the Bible says, if we ask according to His will we have the confidence that He will answer us. Second thing, when you ask do you believe? That's what the Bible says - you believe. Do you believe? Do you believe? Anything, don't think about the things, don't think about the things, because sometimes we don't need things, we need something which things cannot handle; we need something more than things. In 1 Samuel 30 verse 6 David needed mercy. Do you believe? That's what I said, it is important that you know God. In Isaiah 41 and verse 21,

Isaiah 41:21

²¹ "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob.

Present your case, says the Lord bring forth your strong reasons says the King of Jacob. When you pray, can you present your case? Can you present your case? Can you bring forth strong reason? That's what David presented; he strengthened himself in the Lord. He says, 'I know this is what I did for 16 months, I didn't pray, I didn't read my Bible, I didn't praise, I lived in Philistine territory. I did every abominable thing. I am not coming based on anything I have done. I'm coming to You based on who You are; You are a merciful, gracious God. I am not asking for anything. I am asking for mercy based on who You are.' It was a very strong reason. Nathan came and said, 'You are that man!' 'Agreed!' hands up, 'I agree I am that man, I am standing before God appealing on His mercy.' God says, 'Your sin has been removed.' Do you know if you know God the mercy of God, the unconditional mercy of God, it is a very strong reason? And people die and go to hell because in their pride they won't turn to God. It is a very strong reason. The prophet Isaiah comes and tells Hezekiah, 'Put your house in order. This sickness is unto death, you're going to die.' Do you know what he did? That's earlier words we saw Isaiah 38 and verse 3.

Isaiah 38:3

³ and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

He turned to the wall, he turned away from the prophet, turned to the wall and one on one with God and says, 'Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight,' and Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Do you know what he is presenting a good reason, a very strong reason. He says, 'Lord, it is written, it is written in Your Word that if I obey Your voice and I follow Your commandment my days shall be like the length of days because God Himself is my life. I have walked in Your ways and You are coming and telling me to die, why should I die? Why should I die? Why should I die?' One is appealing on mercy; this is who God is. The other is appealing on God's righteousness because that who He is; You are a righteous God, You won't slay me if I have walked according to Your ways. Another man has nothing to stand on, he says, 'I am an unrighteous man, You are a merciful God. He is not appealing to God's righteousness; he is appealing on God's mercy. Strong reason. That is how faith comes because faith is connected with the Person, and Scripture has to reveal that Person to us otherwise we have missed Scripture.

That's why Jesus was upset even with His disciples, He said, 'Don't you? What are you looking for? What are you searching all over? These Scriptures talk about Me and I have come to reveal the Father. If you have seen Me you have seen Father. I Am exactly like the Father.' and everywhere one word is written, it says - Jesus looked at the crowd and He had compassion on them. Multitude were fed because of compassion, sick were healed of compassion, demon possess were delivered because of compassion because that's who God is. Do we know God? Do we turn to God that way? "Lord, this is who You are. I am appealing on Your mercy. Now I want to walk by grace or if it is other way, 'Lord, I am putting my life before You. If I have gone anyway wrong show me, but this is my situation. Lord, deal according to Your righteousness, because You promised, 'If you do this, you do this, you do this, you do this it is written *these blessings shall pursue you and overtake you all the days of your life*. You go to the city you are blessed, you go the country side you are blessed, you are going out you are blessed, your coming in you are blessed. This is what is written - *you are the head not the tail*. Any place you go, it doesn't matter, you create an influence. That is what You said and Lord, I am giving You the very strong reason to the best of my knowledge ability

I obeyed You and You are not a liar. You are not a man that You should lie; You are a God of integrity, You are a God of righteousness, You are the God of power.”

That’s what Elijah said on Mount Carmel. The things which God asked him to do the last three and a half years, would have broken any normal man. Then on the final day on Mount Carmel God is asking him to do everything opposite to sight; Dig a trench, fill it with water until the water is all overflowing, the sacrifices is done, everything is kept over there, then he steps backward and you know what he says? *“I have done everything according to Your Word. Now prove Yourself.”* Very strong reason. Elijah can’t bring the fire from Heaven but God can bring fire from Heaven. “But everything that I have done, Lord, for fire to come is according to Your Word.” Bring forth your strong reason. Present your case before Me. And we can go. That’s why God says, ‘Come boldly, confidently. Why? We go through the Blood; very strong reason the Blood of Jesus does not speak against me; the Blood of Jesus speaks for me. I am not coming on my righteousness I am coming in the righteousness that comes by faith and I can back up, Lord, what I am asking because it is written, it is written, it is written.

That’s what Peter said, ‘Lord, if it is You bid me come. Bid me come.’ Why? ‘Because I have already experienced You. If You can walk on water, then if You say I can also walk on water. Bid me come.’

So this morning are your ears open? Can you hear? Have you got rid of offence? Children, are you offended with your parents? If you are offended with you parents you are not going to hear anything. Because if you look at the children whom God used in the Word of God, they should have been the ones who should have been offended. David should have been very offended with his father and mother, ‘You never called me. You got everybody ready, washed them, anointed them, kept them ready you never called me,’ he wasn’t offended. Joseph should have been very offended, ‘You took it for granted when my brothers said that I am dead. You never even looked for me.’

You see, none of them were offended. If you are offended your ears get blocked, unforgiveness is the block, ignorance is a block, pride is a block. Pride is the most subtle of blocks. This is how the devil does things, okay, if you look into Genesis 2 and all you will see. First he will cause you to disobey one way or other, once you disobeyed you will never take blame, you will always blame the other one, then guard your heart with a nice wall of pride, you never will accept that you are wrong, ‘I am not the reason for this, it’s because of her.’ She says, ‘I am not the reason, it’s because of him.’ The wall of pride. Do you know what has happened? Now it’s very difficult to restore you. It is very subtle. That’s why the first rule in the marriage is, *Ephesians 5:21*.

Ephesians 5:21

²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Submit to one another, that is the first rule. The second rule is - submit to your husband, that’s second rule. First rule is this - submit to one another, in what? In the fear of God. So there are no clogged hears because you know what? Between life and death stands one thing - can you hear? Can you hear?

Proverbs 20:12

¹² The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

The hearing ear and the seeing eye, who has made it? The Lord. Sometimes it is not enough that you hear, the hearing hear can only take you this much. And still you will get struck. He heard, he heard fully, but obeyed partially. That is father Abraham; left the Ur of the Chaldeans, got struck in the Haran, eye is off God, eyes are on his father and he stayed with his father till his father died. Then God comes again and says, ‘Move,’ he heard, obeyed, Lot went with him. Things are happening; famine came, did not hear, went and sold his wife, did all kind of crazy stuff. God rescued them and brought him out. Now there is conflict between Lot’s herdsmen and Abraham’s herdsmen.

All conflicts are not from devil; some conflicts are from God to separate people. People who have a call, people who have heard and others have just followed without hearing and they have to be separated, otherwise the one who has been called will never reach his destination because he’s clinging to this one. So the Bible says that when there was this conflict Abraham went to Lot and said, ‘We are brothers. You choose first. If you go to the right, I will go the left. If you go to the left I will go to the right.’ Hearing the voice of man Lot lifted his eyes and he looked. When you don’t hear the voice of God your sight is different; you see this boy is handsome, you see that girl is beautiful, you see this job is great, you see this car is good and at the end of the day you will sit in ruins because you heard and saw not because you heard the voice of God, but because you hear the voice of man. The Bible says that Lot lifted this

head he saw, he choose, he went towards Sodom. You know the end of his story. But turn to Genesis chapter 13 verse 14.

Genesis 13:14

¹⁴And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

The Lord said to Abram, this is important, ***after Lot had separated from him*** what did He say? First thing is that he hears. ***The Lord said***, so Abraham can hear, he's got a hearing ear and what did He say? ***lift up your eyes and look***. What are You saying, Lord? I have been living in this land for the past seven, eight, nine, years. What look?' But these eyes are different, when the Lord says, 'Look' he sees the difference. He sees this land, look to the left to the right south north east, take a look around, do you see? What does he say? Look southward, eastward, westward,

Genesis 13:15

¹⁵for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

"How far can you see? Open the eyes of your spirit, Abraham. How far can you see? Stretch your boundaries, how far can you see? As far as you can see I give it to you." Now it is not just the hearing ear, it's the seeing eye. Immediately life changes, next thing you know what he does? Packs his bag and starts moving. For the next 80-90 years of his life, do you know what Abraham does? He is moving, he is moving, he's moving, do you know why? Not because he has heard, but now he has seen. 'I have to move and claim this land for my descendants.'

There is a war in Genesis 14, there is a war, two groups fighting, Lot it taken captive, we know all that story, Abraham went, fought, rescued Lot, brought, blessed, everything, all that is over, he is sitting there outside one day behind the tent, and the voice of the Lord comes and says, "Abraham, I am your exceedingly great reward, you're your Shield." He heard very clearly, but could not see. He said, 'What is the use? All these things that You are promising. I am childless and this Eleazar the Syrian will take it all.' God says, 'Come here, come here, lift up your eyes. Can you see? Can you count the stars? No, your descendant will be like that'; the hearing ear and the seeing eye.

Can you see? When you see the Word of God and when you see God speaking to you about you, can you see? It strengthens faith like nothing else; it sees. The book of Hebrews talks about all those who had died in faith, why? Because from distance they saw the City whose builder was God. When he came of age, the Bible say about Moses, he refused by faith, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but, the Bible says, that he endured the wrath of the king. How did he endure? He endured because he saw Him who is invisible. Every time he has to go with that stick alone most powerful man of earth, the greatest army on earth, he was not afraid because he had seen Him who was invisible.

That's what the seeing eye does; that's what the hearing ear and the seeing eye does. That's what God is talking about, the hearing ear and the seeing eye. There is this invisible realm and there is a this visible realm, in the invisible realm is God and the devil, and you have to be careful about what you hear and what you see, that it is from God, authorized by Scripture and your life is according to the parameter of the Word of God, that you are following what is general will of God and we have heard and understood the specifics will of God. It's all falling into the place and then your eye starts opening. Because if your eyes don't open you will not be able to see and you will be wasting your time and your energy. 'Let us go the other side,' did Jesus say? 'Let us go to the other side,' and he went to the back of the boat and went to sleep. And there is a squall or a storm, the boat is filling with water, they are struggling, finally panicking, they come and shake Him up and what are their words? 'Lord, don't You care? We are perishing.'

What does he do? He rises. And what does He say? He rebukes the wind. The question is - the storm is made of two things; the invisible and visible. The visible is the water, the invisible is the wind. Can you see the wind? Can you see the water? Yes does He deal with the water first? No. He doesn't deal with the water. We are always dealing with the visible, without realizing what is making this visible act like this; there is something invisible. When Jesus is talking about the Cross and wanting to go to the Cross and everything, Peter comes and says, 'Lord, let it not be!' Jesus says, "Get behind Me, Satan!" "You think it's compassion, but your heart is moved by the devil, no by My Father." He didn't address the visible first, He addressed the invisible first. He rebuked the wind. This is the fundamental things about faith. The faith is able to see the invisible, sight sees only the visible. So you fight with the visible; throwing water out, throwing water out, rowing, rowing, rowing, because you are not handling the invisible.

'I have applied for so many jobs and I still haven't got a job.' What's blocking you? 'I've been married for 20 years I'm still barren.' What's blocking it? You think bareness is visible? No. It's invisible; it's something that is from another realm blocking it. Abimelech took Sarah and what does the Word of God say? God shut the womb of the every woman in his house. The Devil can open wombs, devil can shut womb. God can open wombs, God can shut wombs. You have to be able to see the invisible and find the reason what is behind this. When God saw Jacob did not love Leah He opened her womb and He closed Rachel's. There is nothing that happens in the visible which is not controlled by the invisible and it is faith that goes into the invisible, and hears and sees and starts tackling with the invisible so there is a perceptible change in the visible. Otherwise you, through your efforts, make changes in the visible it will not last; all your life will be battling storms. It will not last. You have to. Every storm.

Okay, if you say, "I bind you in the name of Jesus." It doesn't stop, why? because the storm was caused by God. Jonah was also in a ship and there was a storm and if the people have said, 'In the name of Jesus of Nazareth I rebuke this way,' nothing would happened, it will only get stronger. You need to realize. They're all calling upon their gods, did the storm stop? No, it started by the God of the storms, where can it stop? Other gods cannot stop it if it's from our God. So finally they do their tantra, they do lots and said, 'Arey! There is a fellow sleeping downstairs, he is the reason.' How did they find out? Jadugar, they went to the jadugar, 'Let us see who it is?' Jonah? That fellow who is in downstairs. 'Hey! What did you do?' He is sleeping happily.

'There is a storm in my house, there is storm in my Church, there's a storm in my office I am the reason.' What are you doing? 'Sleeping.' Can we stop the storm? 'Yes.' What should we do? 'Throw me down,' by the time this fellow is discovered and thrown out they have lost half their trade, everything in the ship has been thrown out. Do you know that? They lightened the ship by throwing all their merchandise out because the problem is still at the bottom. But once you throw him out the storm stops. So through jadu they found out, but by faith we never find out. The visible and the invisible, if you don't deal with these things. That is what prayer is. What is prayer? What is the prayer of faith? It connects us to God and God reveals, 'This is the reason.' Either He says, 'There's no issues. Wait! Time hasn't come in yet, you have to wait.' Or He will say, 'This, this, this, is wrong. Put it right. You're knocking at the wrong doors. I shut those doors. You are saying, 'In the name of Jesus open,' Jesus says, 'I shut it.' But why did You shut it? 'Because long time ago in the height of emotion you said, 'Lord I surrender,' and I took you seriously.' But I was just joining the choir. 'No, I took it seriously; by the words of your mouth you shall be either justified or acquitted. You sang, 'I surrender all' then you knocked the door, I shut it.' Why? 'Because you surrendered and that's not the door I want you to go through.' You think God won't take words seriously, when He created everything by the Word of His mouth and He says, 'life and death are in the power of the tongue. You choose'? You may speak and I may speak carelessly, but God listens carefully.

Genesis 19:11

¹¹ And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

Do you know where it's happening? Sodom and Gomorrah, okay. This is a principle; Sodom and Gomorrah, the people who wanted to sodomize the two angels who came there. And what did the angels do? They pulled Lot in. ***And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so they become weary trying to find the door.*** Do you know how many people are weary in the Kingdom of God trying to open the door? It is because they cannot see. This is of course for the wicked reason, but the principle is there; if you don't see you will not see the door even though the door is right there. Door is right there but you are not able to see. The seeing eye, the hearing ear. Hagar is send out, the boy is send out, she is sitting there and crying, water is finished, she can't see her son die and God heard the cry of the son and answered Hagar. And do you know what is written?

Genesis 21:19

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

And God opened her eyes, it was right there she didn't see. You know how many of us missed blessings which was right there because we didn't see, it's right there you never saw. That's why Paul's prayer, 'Open the eyes of my understanding, give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, open the eyes of my understanding that I might see the incredible glorious riches of Christ in the saints. Open my eyes, O Lord.' It's a progression that we are able to see God

who He is. That is the God who is kind gracious, merciful who wants to bless, who wants to exalt, He wants to, but He says, 'Are you able to see what the blocks are?' What are the blocks? If anointing is not flowing, what is the block? 'I read the Scripture, I don't hear.' Why don't you ask Him? He knows it all and He's not mad at you, He is not mad me. He is not mad at anybody. These are all principles in the Kingdom.

Matthew 1:18-19

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Who was he? Handpicked man to become Jesus' foster father. Is he a good man? He's is such a good man, he's a righteous man he wants to put her away secretly, why? Because he hasn't heard or seen, because he hasn't heard or seen, this righteous man would abort the plan of God in his life, because he hasn't heard or seen. The only thing that stops there between Joseph missing his destiny is one thing - will he hear or not? The Word of God says there, in verse 20

Matthew 1:20

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

If he hadn't heard, the man has missed his destiny. Do you know why? He was a just man who missed the plan of God in his life because he did not hear.

Matthew 1:18-19

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows after His mother Mary was betrothed; she is engaged to Joseph; engagement is over and she is pregnant. Imagine this man's state of mind, 'What should I do?' But he's a righteous man, 'I don't want to make her public, they may kill her and do all kind of things. I'll just put her away secretly.' Then he hears from God. What does verse 24 say?

Matthew 1:24

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

Did you see? He would do the opposite of what man has said. He immediately went and told the father, 'Fix the marriage I am getting married to her tomorrow.' 'Why do you want to get her tomorrow?' 'You don't have to know. I heard.' 'What did you hear?' 'She is pregnant.' Before the dream he wanted to put her away, after the dream he wants to marry her. What made the difference? He heard. Even good men, good men, abort the plans of God in their life because they do not hear. Are they good men? Yes. Are they just men? Yes. Are they righteous? Yes. Do they have wisdom? Yes. Do they have compassion? Yes. Do they have mercy? Yes. Do they abort the plans of God? Yes. Why? Because they do not hear. It is because they do not hear. Are we getting the picture? Job 22 and verses 28 the fundamental principles connected with faith.

Job 22:28

²⁸ You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

This is how you complete your faith; you have heard, you have seen or you have heard, you have believed, you have acted, but still something is not happening. May be there is a missing link. *If you believe within your heart, confess with your mouth.* Something missing; you haven't spoken about it. You haven't spoken about it. Because the heart speaks; the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. If you believed in your heart you will speak it. But every time you open your mouth you speak contrary to what you have heard. Have you spoken about it? You shall decree a thing. Have spoken about it? That is why David's Psalms are so important. The songs we sing. The simple songs, You are my hiding place, You fill my heart with songs of deliverance. You fill my heart with songs of deliverance. You are my

hiding place and therefore I shall not be afraid. You are the glory and the lifter of my head. Do you know what? His heart and his mouth they agree. You shall decree a thing. ***You shall decree a thing and it shall be established for you.***

So what happened? In your darkness suddenly you will see light. Things are becoming clearer, because faith is being completed. Faith is being completed. You have heard, you have believed, you have obeyed, you have checked out all the blocks, removed everything, but Lord what is the missing link again? Something is missing. He says, 'You don't speak about it. You don't speak about it.'

Roman 4:17

¹⁷(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

How does He call? He calls things from the invisible realm; the realm where it does not exist or nonexistent things He calls it to life. So how did He do it first? You don't believe right? It's okay. 'Your name is Abram,' Abram married for how many years? Many years. What does your name? Exalted father. Hello. What is your name? Abram. Where are your children? They will come. He went and created one Ishmael. God says, 'You know what, I need to boost your faith. This is not the one, another one is coming. Through him the nations will be blessed. I am changing your name. What's your name? Abraham. What is your name now? Father of nations. What's your name? Abraham. Where are your children? Look up! There are my children; it'll be like that. Even his mouth, his name when he uttered was a confirmation of the promise God had given him. God has given him a promise, he has believed, he has obeyed and he's waiting now. And what is his confession? My name itself is confession. What's your name? Abraham.

Our confession matters. I am not talking about the word of faith movement; simply picking everything and confessing. I am not talking about that. I am talking about what God has spoken to you. What you have heard in your prayer closet. What is conformed and ratified by the Word of God. You have to be sure. Then that becomes your proclamation. Okay, that's why these things are important, because the devil is after your confession. He is after our confession. That's how he will cause all these things to turn against us and then you open your mouth and you will say, like Naomi, 'Everything is against me.' While God is for her. Ayo! Naomi change your confession. 'No! Everything is against me; I went full and I came empty.' What can you do with her? God passes over her and finds a girl whose confession is right. Her name is Ruth. Is Naomi a good woman? Yes! She knows Scripture; she is the one who is advising Ruth, 'Do this, do this, do this, do this. Every advise is coming from Naomi, but she can't be used, because her confession is wrong.

Think on those things. Can we see? Can we hear? What do we say? Do you know one of the fantastic miracles of Jesus, of the seven miracle before the resurrection in the Gospel according to John and one after resurrection, the greatest of course is Lazarus, right? He comes four days late. What will you do if Jesus comes into your life four days late, after what you wanted alive is dead? Think about it, it's dead, it's gone, buried and Jesus comes and Martha is weeping and crying and He says, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.' He doesn't say, 'I am the life and the resurrection.' He says, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Even if a man he believes in Me and dies, he lives." And He asked this question, "Do you believe in resurrection?" The most important question God asked, because many of the things which we need are dead. And because they are dead that doesn't mean that they cannot come back to life.

The prodigal son's father said, 'My son was dead but now he's alive,' because that is the fundamental principle of the resurrection - our God brings back to life things which are dead and things which are lost. But the question is - do you believe? She said, 'I believe!' A little later they go down and they are at the grave, and He says, 'Remove the stone.' She said, 'Lord, he's been there for four days. The body stinks.' He says, 'Martha, Martha, what did I tell you?' Your confession is changed. A little earlier you said, 'I believe' now you are saying, 'he is dead.' Make up your mind - what do you believe? What did I tell you, Martha? If you believe you will see the glory of God.' That's what He asked her. It's a very important thing over there about faith. He says, 'I told you something, and you said that you agree but now when you're faced with the reality you're changing your confession again - 'he is four days dead. He is stinking.' Didn't I say that if you believe you will see the glory of God?

Do you know that some things have been lost or dead in your life for the glory of God? Everything is not for your shame, some of these things are for the glory of God and for your exaltation. Even the disciples said, 'The one You love,' He says, 'No, it is for the glory of the God.' Don't assume everything in your life. Hear from God, 'Lord, I lost this thing in my life. Why? He says, 'Wait! It's for my glory. I'll be glorified when this is restored in your life. I will be

glorified,' and He says, 'Remove the stone!' And they took the stone out. Nothing is happening, stone is removed, nothing is happening. Do you think Lazarus is going to come out? No, he's not going to come out, because there has to be a decree. There has to be a decree. After having heard and believed everything, have you stood before those dead thing in your life and called it out and said, 'Lazarus come forth!?' 'Let my marriage come back!' 'Let my children come back!' 'Let my career come back!' 'Let my lost anointing come back!' 'Let my lost gifts come back!'

Have you made the decrees? If you know what is lost, have you called it back? Abraham called it back. Because our God is a God who calls those things that are not as though they are. There is a process you have to go through and it starts coming back. You will see your restoration taking place, because we are living in the promise of this year, **'I shall restore all the years the locus have eaten.'** Are you calling those things back? Like we said last week, from science, that nothing is ever lost; it just changes its nature. Nothing is ever lost. That's the nature, how God has created. Nothing is lost. I gave you the example, right? Of all place if you die in the sea, your body is thrown into the sea or you drowned in the sea, 1500 fish eat, other fish eat those fish and other fish eat those fish, you are scattered all around the ocean, your bones have been gone all around over there and in *Revelation 20* God says, **'Let the sea give up the dead!'** How did you come back? So nothing was ever lost. If people, all who drowned in the floods in Noah 5000 years ago and their body was eaten and scattered all around when God says, 'Rise!' everybody rises. That means nothing is ever lost, nothing is ever irredeemable if it is the will and destiny of God for you. And that's where you have to believe. Marriage is of God. If your marriage is on the rocks, say, 'Lord, my marriage is on the rocks. Restore it and let the marriage be now on the Rock. You're the God of restoration.' 'My children are gone haywire, Lord, they don't listen to anything I say. But Father I heard and I believe that my son was dead but he is alive, my son was lost, now he has been found and You have said in Your Word that all our children, not some, I go through the scriptures, Lord I see promised after promise after promise after promise for children and I am standing on Your promises because I realize that You are a God for children, and my children shall come back. They are out of my hands, Lord; they are not young, they are adults, I have no more influence over them, but that does not mean that You have no influence over them.'

The father must have stood there in the gap and prayed, 'My son is gone but he will come back, Lord. I just want him back, in the House, in Your will, in Your purpose. Let him come back.' And suddenly something changed in his life, the money ran out, friends left, famine came, he couldn't get a job, reached the pigpen and he came to his senses. You didn't know that God was working behind the background because the father and a mother refused to give up, because when he saw the son coming back from far away, the father was watching. That means he was watching every day.

When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith? Like Churchill said, 'Never, never, never, never, give up.' Those things are written, they are written forever. You don't quit on those things. You don't quit on family, you don't quit on children, you don't quit on your church, you don't quit on your destiny, you don't quit on the gifts God has for you, you don't quit on your anointing, even Samson got his anointing back. 'One more time Lord! That's all I ask, one more time. Lord what do I need to get my anointing back?' He is not asking, 'Lord, will I get my anointing back? The Bible says, 'When his hair grew back.' I have a feeling, he is in the Philistine camp working for them and there must be somebody over there, or he must have told one of them, the servant maids or something, 'Can you do me a favour?' Yes what's that? 'Can you plait my hair?' Yes, how many? 'Seven locks.'

Think! You have to think. You not only hear, you have to see. Something is probably happening over there. There is a Philistine girl, when he is resting, plaiting his hair and little later there are seven locks over there; consecration has come back. One prayer – 'Restore my anointing. Restore my anointing.'

You read the Word of God; you have to hear, you have to believe - this is who He is; merciful, gracious God who wants to bless you, who wants to restore you, who wants to give you the increase He had promised.

So this morning, if you believe stand up. If you believe stand up. Let's have my favorite song – 'I love Thee O Lord, Thou art my Rock...' How did He become his Rock? How did He become his Shield? How do He become his Fortress? You know why? 'Because I (he) love You.' The blessings of those who love God. It doesn't begin, 'You are my Rock,' he says, "You know, Lord, I love You, I love You."

How many times have I told you from this pulpit, say every day, "Lord, I love You." because certain things have to be said. You have to say it, because that's part of faith, that's a part of life. We speak, animals don't speak, we speak. Tell, as many times as you can, to yourself and to God, "Lord, I love You! I love You!" Yes. This time sing from your

heart. Can you close your eyes we know the lyrics close, close your eyes, tell it to God, let us be one on one with God. We are not singing just as a congregation; just sing to God. The blessings of loving God, confessing your love to God yes.

Closing prayer:

Father this morning we come to You, the Shepherd of our souls, the Father of our spirits, the everlasting Father, we come to You Father as children, broken children, wavered children, children with very little faith or no faith but we come to You as Your children. To our Father we come. Some of us may be coming back just as a prodigal son, nothing, hands empty, lost everything, have no resume, nothing to boast about, instead have everything to be ashamed of, but we come by faith knowing that when we come to You, You will not condemn us, You will cover us. You will restore peace in our lives, You will restore the authority we had as Your son, as Your daughter. We are coming back Lord, all those who are weary and heavy laden come, all those who are thirsty come. Lord. if it is You. the wind is raging, the waves are rising, my friends are struggling, but Lord if it is You, bid me come! And Jesus said, 'Come!'

I pray Father today, not tomorrow, starting today, let there be a transformation for somebody, that they will learn to walk on water, they will learn to walk at Your call, they will learn to hear Your voice, they will learn to obey Your command. Oh Lord, what manner of Man is this! is what the disciples said, 'even the winds and the seas obey His command.' What manner of man are we if we don't obey Your command? The winds obey, the seas obey, all of nature, creation obey. I too will obey. Bid me come and I will come.

We bring our strong reason today and the strong reason is that You are a God of mercy, gracious. I look into myself and I see my iniquity I was shaped in iniquity, conceived in sin, that is who I am. Like Apostle Paul we too confess there is nothing good in us. If there is anything good in us it is You; the Christ in us. So we will lift up Christ today, we will magnify Christ today, we will glorify Christ today. We come and ask for mercy and we ask for grace, whatever the need of Your people are, I pray Father, meet them at their point of need. I speak healing into the sick bodies, I speak strength into tired souls, tired, tired, tired and for those who have been waiting I give them a Word of encouragement - those who wait on the Lord they shall renew their strength, they shall sore up like eagles. Those who have been waiting you will not be disappointed. What you have been waiting for will come looking for you. 13 years of waiting, suddenly Joseph was out of the dungeon and was standing before the king; morning he was a prisoner condemned to die in prison, by afternoon he was prince of Egypt. David was in the wilderness but the anointing came looking for him. Is there anybody left? Then the father remembered.

And I pray, everybody who has forgotten you, the God of remembrance will bring you to their remembrance today that you will be brought back so that you can be anointed. For there is a God who brings things to remembrance; his father and mother remembered him. The baker who had forgotten him, the cup barer who had forgotten him he remembered Joseph. There are my people who are connected to your destiny, they have forgotten you but I pray, Father, those people will remember that your destiny may be fulfilled. Elisha was just a farmer's boy taking care of his father's farm, the mantle met him, he didn't go to meet the mantle. Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. Don't lose heart, don't lose heart, whatever God has promised for you is waiting for you, it is there, it is there, it is not lost, it is not lost. It is just waiting for the right moment, for He makes all things beautiful in His time.

Restore Lord, homes, restore marriages, restore children, restore the jobs that have been stolen, the promotions that have been denied, the increase that was waiting. O Father the God of restoration restore, restore, restore Father. We don't look at what's happening in the world, the pandemic, the war, the famine. We are not constrained by any of this things because of our God is not constrained by any of these things, because it is was in the famine that Isaac prospered because the Word of God says - the Lord blessed him, because that man heard, that man obeyed and that man was blessed by God. So we don't look at the job reports, the inflation reports, the war rumors, we don't look at any of this things. Our eyes are fixed on You because Heaven is not controlled by what happens on earth, but earth is controlled by what God dictates. Therefore we stand here and we make this decree Lord according to Your Word as we hear and as we obey wherever Your children go, may be student in a class room or a worker in a office, their influence will make them such they will know they are the head there and they are not the tail. They are the head and not the tail. Joseph was the eleventh but he was always the head; the first born anointing was waiting for him always. And we are born of the Firstborn. Touch Your people, let confidence come, let boldness come, let them have a strong reason when they pray, let them make their promises and proclamations. The God of restoration will restore everything because it is written - the thief comes to steal, to kill, to destroy but I have come to give you life and life in abundance. That is what we ask and that is what we will have.

Thank You Father, thank You. We are now believing that you have heard us, we lift up holy hands and we bless Your holy name, we bless Your holy name, Lord. Standing in Your house, in Your presence, we declare - Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. And all God's people say, 'Amen, Amen.'

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