

BIBLE STUDY NOTE

VOLUME 1, WEEK 6



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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.

MAKING THE MOST OF THIS STUDY NOTE:

- 1. Be open to learn.**
- 2. Get your study materials: Book, Bible, Pen and Note.**
- 3. Take your time to study and understand.**
- 4. If you have any questions, contact the author with the details in the previous page.**

STUDY TEXT:

Psalm 68:1

Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

WHY THIS STUDY?

1. To lay a foundation on the New Covenant.
2. To clarify who our real enemy is.
3. To lead the individual to exercise his authority in Christ.

STUDY

After salvation, the next need of the believer is knowledge. Not just knowledge, but right knowledge; accurate knowledge. The believer needs to grow in the knowledge of his faith. He needs to have accurate knowledge about Christ; His life; how His death, burial and resurrection has positively affected him (the believer). A lack of this knowledge will hinder the growth of the individual who has believed. He will remain a babe in Christ instead of growing into maturity which is God's desire for him (the believer).

And guess what? You can work miracles and still be a babe!

Mark 16:17-18

17 And **these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils;** they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

Who do signs follow? Them that **believe!** For example, you preach the Gospel to an armed robber and he is still with his gun in his hands and he believes the Gospel, right there and then, signs and wonders follow him; he can cast out devils; if he lays those hands on the sick, they will recover. Why? He has believed and signs accompany ALL who believe. We have the name of Jesus Christ as ours and once we stand on the authority in the name signs follow. See Peter in the book of Acts.

Act 3:11-16

11 And **as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John,** all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 And **when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people,** Ye men of Israel, **why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, **hath glorified his Son Jesus;** whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And **his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong**, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

The preceding verses tells us how Peter and John ministered to the lame man at the gate called beautiful and he began to walk. So the people came into the temple greatly wondering at what had taken place. And see how Peter responded, "...**why marvel ye at this?** or **why look ye so earnestly on us**, as **though by our own power or holiness** we had made this man to walk?" He said to them that why are they surprised as if they did it of themselves. He instead points them to Jesus; faith in his name as the reason for the healing. Faith in His name? Yes! And every believer has exercised faith in the name of Jesus. So every believer can see healings, miracles, signs and wonders accompany them! Glory to God!

So we have seen that every believer including the one that got born again now; the babe in Christ can work miracles. What then can we point to and say, this believer is growing up.

Ephesians 4:11-14

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For **the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith**, and of **the knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a **perfect man**, unto **the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**:

14 That we *henceforth* **be no more children, tossed to and fro**, and carried

about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

So the primary reason we have ministry gifts; ministers of the gospel is for the perfecting of the saints; the complete furnishing of the believer till we all come in the unity of the faith. What is the unity of the faith? Is it when all believers hug each other no matter their different denominations? That's important, but that's not the unity of the faith. The sentence continues. The word '**and**' in **verse 13** in the original Greek is the word '**kai**' which in this context will be better understood as '**which is**'. So, we will better understand this verse as, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, **WHICH IS** of the knowledge of the Son of God."

So the unity of the faith is in the knowledge of the Son of God; Christ. That is, every believer in every nation of the world having accurate knowledge of Christ. And what will be the result of this knowledge? "...unto a **perfect** man, unto **the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.**" That word '**perfect**' speaks of **growth; maturity**. The result of the believer having the accurate knowledge of Christ is that he will grow up; he will mature! Observe these words in **verse 14**, "...**be no more children, tossed to and fro...**" The believer will no longer be a child, he will grow up as a result of this knowledge—the knowledge of Christ.

Philemon 6

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the **acknowledging** of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

The word "**acknowledging**" in the original Greek is the word "**epignosis**" which speaks of **precise; correct; full knowledge**. So the believer needs to have precise knowledge; full discernment of every good thing which is in him, in Christ as regards to salvation. We must be settled in the knowledge of all

Christ has done, what we have received in Him, and who we are because of what He has done.

The Bible speaks of two covenants. The old and new covenants. The work of Christ through His death, burial and resurrection ushered in a new Covenant. The believer (in Christ) needs to understand what the new covenant entails. The presence of the new covenant means the old covenant is no more in existence. You can't keep both. We are under the new covenant alone!

For example, in Lagos, Nigeria, we have places where there were no foot bridges in the past and you were permitted to cross from one end of the road to the other. But since the installation of foot bridges in those same locations, you are now required to make use of the foot bridges, not cross the road. So there was a time when you were allowed to cross the road in a particular location, but now if you do so there it will be an offence. You are not allowed to do both. You are now only allowed to use the foot bridge.

Likewise, because there is a new covenant, you are not under the old covenant. There is only one covenant now and that is the new covenant. It is key that the believer knows this.

Mark 2:21-22

21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

Just like we won't use an old cloth to add to a new material, we are not to add or mix the old covenant with the new covenant. We can't practice both. The old has been done away with and the new has come. The new covenant has replaced the old covenant. And this affects how we worship, pray, conduct our services, the kind of songs we sing, our vocabulary, etc. We can't afford to mix both; we are to stick to the new covenant alone. Any attempt to mix both will be like mixing one bad egg with four good ones to

make an omelet. In the end, the egg mixture will be bad. (We will address the New Covenant in detail in a future study).

Now, to our text for today.

Psalm 68:1

Let God arise, **let his enemies be scattered**: let them also that hate him flee before him.

Every time the individuals in the old covenant used the word 'enemy' they were referring to human beings. Why? It is because their mindsets weren't enlightened by the light of God; Christ! So they always saw enmity in men. They always handled men as enemies. They continued killing men as their enemies, but the enemy remained the same. He was somewhere having fun! The enemy was never taken care of until Jesus died—yet they kept fighting and destroying men.

Every time men came up against Israel, they focused on them. They fought and killed them. So you couldn't mind how they used the word 'enemy'. Their vocabulary was based on their understanding. We can't know what an enemy is by what Moses or David said about it. We will have to understand it in Christ. Our focus is not on man.

1 John 3:12

Not as Cain, *who* was **of that wicked one**, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

If you only read Genesis 4, where the account of Cain and Abel is recorded all you see is Cain killing Abel. But when you come to the Epistles (the writings of the Apostles), where we have the explanations of the Old Testament books of the Bible (see Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:3-4) we see that "...he was of that wicked one..." the devil. In the explanation of that event, we see the wicked one. Jesus also affirmed this.

John 8:44

Ye are of *your* father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He **was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Did you see that? “...**the devil...who was a murderer from the beginning...**” Where is the first record of murder in the Bible? Cain and Abel. And who did Jesus credit it to? The devil. The very first death was of the devil; the wicked one. Death is of the devil. There is no death in God, He DOESN'T KILL! So the believer (in Christ) ought to see with the lenses of Christ. The way we study the Old Testament books of the Bible has to change. We study in Christ. We can't keep seeing men as enemies. No!

Ephesians 2:1-2

1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

The highlighted portion of the verses above reads, “...**the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...**” There is a spirit at work in them. So we see David kill Goliath, but the enemy was still alive holding men in captivity. We see Elijah call down fire on the prophets of Baal, but sin still reigned in the earth. But now in Christ, the veil is taken away and we can see the devil—our adversary!

Psalms 110:1

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, **until I make thine enemies** thy footstool.

When David said this, he probably would have had men in mind—the Philistines; Amalekites, etc. But we get to the book of Acts and Peter teaches

from this and doesn't speak of men. Instead, he says the fulfilment of this text happened when Christ rose from the dead.

Acts 2:31-35

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, **The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,**

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

None of the enemies is physical, they are spiritual. We see things in light of Christ.

Matthew 5:43-44

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Observe the phrases, “**ye have heard that it hath been said...**” and “**...but I say unto you...**” Jesus here directly contrasts what Moses said. Moses said, “...thou shalt love thy neighbour, **and hate thine enemy...**” Jesus said, “**...love your enemies...**” Notice He didn't say love the enemy. He said love your enemies. He said pray for them. That is, those that curse you, hate you, persecute you. Pray for them to come to the knowledge of Christ.

So we focus our enmity on the Devil and Demon spirits that influences men. Men can choose to hate, curse, persecute us, but Jesus says we should love

them. In dealing with men influenced by the Devil and Demon spirits, we address the Devil and the Demon spirits, not men. We stand in our authority in Christ over the Devil and Demon spirits.

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.**

We stand against the wiles of the devil, principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places when we are conscious we are not against men and stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might; our authority in Christ.

So friend, know and stand against your real enemy from a place of authority in Christ. Your enemy is not that old woman in your village or that woman or man, your enemy is Satan and you have authority over him in Christ. Exercise your authority today. Stand in your authority in Christ. Make a demand in the name of Jesus. Victory is yours already! You are blessed. God loves you. Yes, you!

Affirmations

I have authority in Christ.

I have authority over Satan and Demoniactal powers.

I exercise my authority always.

I am victorious always because I am in Christ.

OUR MISSION

We believe that a published material will go where one may not go physically. And that is why our mission is to see the Gospel of Christ published in all nations through our various publications.

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