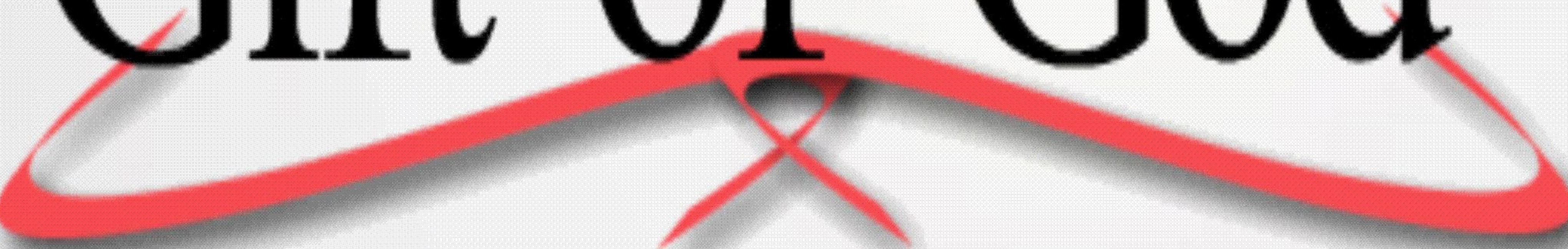




the

Gift of God



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Anthony Acquah Asamoah

Forward: Apostle Kwaku Appiagyei

The Gift Of God

Apostle Anthony Acquah Asamoah

BE WARNED!
THIS BOOK IS OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS MINDSETS.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to Soul Touch Intercessors. You are my real family;
I love you all.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My profound gratitude goes to the Holy Spirit: God with me and in me. Your presence with me has made me complete in all ways. Your leadership, inspiration and presence are priceless to me. Thank you Holy Spirit.

To my beloved Oluwaseun Adeleye Toyin: Thanks for your encouragement and all the roles that you played in the writing of this book. Thank you for listening. Just like this book, you are full of good news as you are good news. You are indeed a blessing. I love you so much. Thank you.

To minister Kwaku Afriyie: your presence in my life is a great encouragement to me in countless ways. You are indeed my brother. I love you so much. Thank you.

To all my mentors and teachers: To Pastor Chris Oyakyilome, Pastor Joseph Prince, Pete Cabrera Jr., Andre Van Merwe, and Rick Renner. Your sacrifice in studying the Word and your boldness to preach the truth even though many are not preaching it inspired me. The hours and hours I have spent listening to you and reading your books has never been in vain. You are real gifts to our generation. I love you all. Thank you all so much.

To all those who helped me evaluate and edit this book: Minister Joel Teye, Frank Tuffour, Beverly Maddy, Kweku Bentil, Ansah Pamfoh, Jonathan Cobbinah, Belinda Akunor and Sandra Abbang. Thank you all.

To all my sons and daughters in the Lord: this book is a result of my desire to teach you the things that I knew were important to your spiritual development. Your desire to grow is a great encouragement that keeps me doing more. I love you all. Thank you all so much.

FOREWORD

Down through the church dispensation until now, God's gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ has been grossly misrepresented by preachers, evangelists, pastors, apostles and prophets. This misrepresentation of God's gift of salvation has led to the misunderstanding and misconception of the whole God's love gift in the Christendom and in the world at large. This has produced wrong believing and as a result wrong living in them (believers) that have received the Gospel.

Salvation is apart from (independent, separate, without) man's merit, performance, qualification and works of righteousness. But this gift of salvation depends solely and entirely on God's own sovereign grace and mercy. This free gift has been believed in, accepted, walked in and sustained by many believers through their works of righteousness (that is perfect obedience to the Law) instead of through faith in the perfectly finished work of Jesus. Because of this self-obedience to merit God's gracious gift in every part of their lives, the real power of God's salvation to radically transform lives has been nullified and neutralized in them (believers) that have received this gift. To many believers, God's gift of salvation is meaningless because they have been trying and working tirelessly to earn, merit, deserve and qualify for the things that are freely given to us of God.

But thanks be unto God for this timely classic book titled, 'The Gift of God'. I strongly believe God has sent this classic book (not to replace the Bible which of course cannot) to the church and the world. The Holy Spirit through Apostle Anthony Asamoah Acquah has explained this gift of grace by combining and interpreting numerous Scriptures (if not the whole Bible) into its possible simplest unit for the consumption of anyone willing to rest and let God work His works.

I have read a lot of books but have not read any book so truth-filled and rich in grace like this book. I personally want to recommend

this book to any believer who wants to experience grace and favor, and also to know that God's gift of salvation is indeed eternal and cannot be lost once received.

Read and study this book and watch your life experience true wholeness, healing, health, deliverance, prosperity, joy, peace, right living, favor, success, victory and fruitfulness effortlessly. You will remain a real blessing as you read and study this timely classic.

Apostle Kwaku Appiagyei (Pastor of Salvation Grace
Outreach Church And Greater Accra Regional
Coordinator for Christian Youth and Students Network
(CYSN) Ghana)

ENDORSEMENTS

I have known Minister Anthony Acquah Asamoah personally for over two decades. And I realized that God has gifted this insightful teacher and author with the ability to communicate the meaning of the gift of God with remarkable simplicity.

In this book, Minister Anthony invites you on a Scripture-filled journey to encounter the fullness of God's Gospel of Grace. This powerful book offers you an eye-opening look into the glorious revelation of God's gift to humanity. The clarity in this book should stir up every saint to the reality of the unspeakable gift and an urgent call to the lost to embrace the gift of God.

I am certain that this book will become a tool in raising up pastors, leaders and church planters all around the world.

Minister Kwaku Osei Boateng Afriyie (KOB) -
Christian Youth and Students Network (CYSN) Ghana,
Eastern region Coordinator

When I want to read a book, I always research about the author to know at least the tenets of his message and to see if his preaching is consistent with the message of the book. If I am not satisfied with my findings then I mostly pass on reading the book.

In the case of 'The Gift of God' and Apostle Anthony Asamoah, I had prior knowledge of the author and his ministry before I read the manuscript. Thus I happily read the treatise because I am well acquainted with his unique teaching of the Word of God. I have been in his meetings several times and I followed up to get him minister in my church. When I encountered him, I knew this was a minister the world has been waiting for; with his uncompromising style of teaching the Word accompanied with the demonstrations of power. When I got the

manuscript, I read it with great enthusiasm and I say to the glory of God that this is the best book about salvation in our world today.

I love to read with enough proven truths from the Bible that our salvation is a priceless and valuable gift from God. I love this book because it declares unapologetically that salvation is in itself a miracle and the most valuable priceless gift from God to us in Christ Jesus. What is described is not just a rare expression but the very power of God if we take time to read and meditate on the truths in 'The Gift of God'. I now read this book wishing that it was presented to me many years ago because it is not only liberating, but carries the wisdom and power of God to transport your life to a higher lever and reasoning in Christ. Without exaggerations, the reading of this book will bring a great and positive impact in your life and ministry if you are a preacher.

I recommend to you without reservation. Read it slowly and thoroughly meditate on the Scriptures given, and your life will indeed be the manifestation of the priceless but valuable gift of God.

Pastor Stephen Miracle (Holy Spirit Greatest Move
ministries Accra, Ghana)

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INTRODUCTION

Before you read this book, I want you to have in mind that this teaching is going to be based solely on what the Bible says. This is because the Bible contains the Words of God to us. That means, whatever the Bible says is simply God communicating something to us. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2Timothy 3:16 KJV)*

Nonetheless, communication is not complete unless what is communicated is understood by the one it is communicated to. For instance, if someone tells me something in French and I do not understand the French language, he may have said something important to me, but so long as I do not understand that language I will miss what he is trying to communicate to me. So communication is not complete unless what is being communicated is understood.

But he that received seed into the good ground IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD, AND UNDERSTANDETH IT; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (Matthew 13:23 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you note what the verse of Scripture above is showing us? It shows that, after the Word of God comes to us, understanding is what is necessary for the Word to bear fruit in our lives.

What God communicates to us through His Word is not just to be read or quoted, but to be meditated upon and understood in its context. That is why in this study, we will be delving into what the various Scriptures mean. So do not worry if you see me bombarding you with a lot of Scriptures. That is very necessary so that you will see that I am not teaching you my wisdom but God's wisdom which is revealed in His Word.

Again, what you read in this book will not be me preaching any church's doctrine, but the Word of God being given to you as it is. I do not preach any church's doctrine. I preach the Word of God: the Gospel.

For I am not ashamed of the GOSPEL OF CHRIST: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16 KJV, emphasis added)

And note that if you are a believer, your authority is the Word of God, not any man of God, doctrine or your mindset. God is the One you worship and live for, and God and His Word are one.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and THE WORD WAS GOD. (John 1:1 KJV, emphasis added)

So you live for God in and through His Word. It is through God's Word that He reveals His will and desires to us. So, let us humble ourselves and allow God to speak to us as we read this book.

This is a book about the Gospel (Good News). It is about the good news of Jesus Christ, what He came to do for us and its implications to believers and the world. Most Christians, whether they have been in the Church for long or recently got born again, go through a lot of struggle with their salvation. They have a lot of questions and fears about the Gospel and the salvation that they have received. Most of these questions and fears are a result of the mindsets and imaginations the person may have had before he came into Christ. Others just assume that things are supposed to run a certain way in the body of Christ, but that may not be so. Also, for the majority, they may have received wrong teachings of the Scriptures which may not be in line with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God wants His people to know the truth about whatever He gives to them so that that knowledge will make them free. Free from the deceptions of the devil and the world, and also free to live for Him.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32 KJV)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6 KJV)

God wants us to know the truth because any area of our Christian lives that we lack knowledge of the truth is an area in which the devil or the world can rule with lies and deceptions.

It is for this purpose that this book is written: To present the truth of the Gospel and salvation in a way that everybody can understand it.

This book is not specifically about marriage, relationships, power, business, healing, and so on. It is about the gift of God: Salvation and what it entails. But as you read, you will notice how God's love and power will touch every area of your life, bring change and wholeness, and unveil God's glory in all these areas because He has made provision for all these in His gift of salvation.

So as you read this book, have in mind that is written to the believer (the born again person) and for the person who is searching for the truth. If you are such a person, then go ahead and read on. Just put aside any religious mindsets that you have and allow God to amaze you with this beautiful gift that He has given us.

Again, if you are new to the Gospel of Grace, you may have some questions when you start reading this book. But do not worry; continue reading on till the end. I believe that most, if not all your questions will be answered as you progress on in reading the book. I presented the book systematically to explain the Gospel from the scratch. So the explanations and revelations in the book are progressive and are meant to give you a complete understanding of the Gospel by the time you reach the end or even middle. So patiently read it to the end. And if you have any more questions afterwards, you can call or email me. My contacts will be at the end of the book.

So let us look into the Scriptures and study about one of the greatest gifts (if not the greatest) that God has given to man: SALVATION.

1. GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV, emphasis added)***

Read the Bible verse above carefully. Take note of the phrase 'it is the gift of God' (capitalized above). What is this verse telling us is the gift of God? Salvation.

For by grace are ye SAVED... it is the gift of God.

That means this verse is showing us that salvation is a gift given to us by God.

What then is salvation? Salvation comes from the Greek word 'soteria' (Greek of the word 'saved' is 'sozo' and has the same meaning as salvation: 'soteria'). This word 'soteria' ('sozo') does not just mean going to heaven (even though that is part of its meaning), but also means: protection, healing, deliverance, preservation and wholeness (*Strong's Greek Dictionary*).

So the word 'salvation' is made up of all these: protection, healing, deliverance, preservation, wholeness, as well as deliverance from hell and going to heaven. So when you see this word being used in this book, have in mind that it does not just mean going to heaven but all the above.

With this understanding, we can better understand the Bible verse above as:

For by grace are you protected, healed, delivered, preserved, made whole, and delivered from hell to go to heaven.

Grace

Let us take a look at another word from the Bible verse above.
... by GRACE are ye saved...

Take note of the word 'grace' (capitalized above). The grace of God represents God's unmerited favor that He gives to man freely. It is unmerited favor because we do not do anything to qualify for it. God gives grace to a person who does not deserve it or do anything for it. *His choice is based on his grace, not on what they have done. For if God's choice were based on what people do, then his grace would not be real grace. (Romans 11:6 GNB)*

So again, grace refers to God's love gifts given to us freely without our qualification or performance. And actually, that is a similar definition for a gift (something given from one person to another person freely without the expectation of payment).

The difference between these two words: 'grace' and 'gift' is that, gifts can refer to either man or God giving, but grace is always God-ward. It is always God who gives grace (grace always comes from God). But both grace and gifts are free. So in other words, the gifts that come from God are actually grace.

GRACE REFERS TO GOD'S LOVE-GIFTS GIVEN TO MAN.

So in this study, you will see me use these words 'grace' and 'gift' interchangeably since we are talking of God's gift given to us which is simply 'grace'.

By grace are ye saved... it is the gift of God.

Law

Again, let me explain another word that will be very relevant to this study. That word is 'Law'. We will be seeing this word used a lot in this study and in a lot of the Bible verses that we will be looking at. For example:

*The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the LAW.
(1Corinthians 15:56 KJV, emphasis added)*

Take note of the capitalized words in the Bible verse above.

...Law...

What law is being talked about here? It is the Ten (10) Commandments and the six hundred and thirteen (613) articles of the Law given to the Israelites during the time of Moses. Note that there were not just ten laws given by God but about six hundred and thirteen of them. So whenever you see the word ‘Law’ used in the Bible, note that it represents not just the Ten Commandments but also the remaining 613 articles of the Law. You can read about them in the books of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy of the Bible).

But this is what I want you to understand: The Law represents God’s standard given to man to reach. You see, if man has to reach God’s standard of righteousness, holiness and perfection, then God has to provide a yardstick to measure man’s performance by. That is what the Law served as. It served as the yardstick to measure man’s level of right standing or perfection with God.

... But no record of sin can be kept when there are no laws. (Romans 5:13b GW)

So the Law is based on man’s works and performance. Therefore, what man gets from obeying the Law is not given as a gift but as a payment.

A person who works is paid wages, but they are not regarded as a gift; they are something that has been earned. (Romans 4:4 GNB)

This payment is directly proportional to the level of the person’s obedience and performance. That is, if the person obeys, he will be blessed and if the person disobeys, he will be cursed or punished.

And it shall come to pass, IF THOU SHALT HEARKEN diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, TO OBSERVE AND TO DO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And ALL THESE BLESSINGS SHALL COME ON THEE, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2 KJV, emphasis added)

But it shall come to pass, IF THOU WILT NOT HEARKEN unto the voice of the LORD thy God, TO OBSERVE TO DO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS and his statutes which I command thee this day; that ALL THESE CURSES SHALL COME UPON THEE, and overtake thee: (Deuteronomy 28:15 KJV, emphasis added)

Just as indicated in the Scriptures above, under the Law, God measured people’s works or performance to either bless them or punish them. They got blessings for keeping the Law perfectly and curses for

breaking even the least of the laws. So the Law is based on man's works or performance. The Law therefore represents man's works, effort or performance to reach God's standard. So under the Law, man's performance and works are measured.

This is the opposite of grace, for grace is unmerited favor. Under the Law, you work to earn your position or qualification while under the grace, the qualification is given to the one who does not work and does not deserve it. That is why it is called 'unmerited favor'. Take note of this. This understanding will be useful as we progress in this study.

Gift

The final word that we will look at from the opening Scripture is 'gift'.

... it is the GIFT of God.

What is a gift? A gift is an object given free without the expectation of payment (*Online Wikipedia-Google*). That means a gift is anything (it can be in kind, an object, cash, and so on) that is given from one person to another person FREE without expecting any payment in return for it. Let us take note of the fact that a gift is given freely.

If it is given freely, then it means that the person who gives it does not take anything back in return for what he gave. The person gives it out freely, expecting no payment or compensation in return for what is given. If he should demand anything back in return for that 'gift', then it is no longer a gift; it was sold. That is why the main motivating factor for giving a gift is love because love is the only thing that will make a person give something to a person freely and unconditionally and expect nothing in return for it. With this understanding, let us take note what the opening verse is telling us again: SALVATION IS A GIFT.

For by grace are ye saved... it is the gift of God.

If the Bible says salvation is a gift, what does that mean and how does that apply to us?

First of all, let us not forget the definition that we gave for a gift above. That is, a gift is given from one person to another freely. So if salvation is a gift, and a gift by simple definition is given freely, then it means God gives salvation to us freely. That means we do not pay anything for it in kind (works). If we have to work for it, then salvation is not a gift after all; we paid for it or qualified for it with our works.

That would mean that God lied to us here. But we know that God cannot lie.

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Numbers 23:19 KJV)

Therefore, we should understand that God does not require any kind or form of payment from us before or after salvation. If we have to pay before or after the gift (salvation) is given, then it was actually not a gift in the first place. It was sold and we bought it. This does not just refer to going to heaven alone but remember that the word ‘salvation’ (Greek: ‘soteria’) has healing as one of its constituents. That means God gives healing to us freely:

...by whose stripes ye were healed. (1Peter 2:24b KJV)

Again, it is not just healing that is given freely but also protection, deliverance, the Holy Ghost and His gifts, power, and so on. That means God does not require any form of payment from us for all these. They are gifts so they are free.

Let me use this example to illustrate: If I should give my child a phone as a gift and after that I ask him to pay an amount for it, then it was never a gift in the first place. I sold it to him. That is the same thing that this verse is telling us. God does not require any work (payment) on our part when it comes to salvation because He gives it to us as a gift. It is a gift given to us in God’s grace.

Again, that means, we are not supposed to WORK FOR salvation because it is a gift. If we worked for it, then it means we are trying to pay for it in kind or with our works. But God would have none of that. Look at what the Bible says about this act:

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. (Romans 11:6 KJV)

For by grace are ye saved...it is the gift of God: NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV, emphasis added)
Now TO HIM WHO WORKS, THE REWARD IS NOT ACCOUNTED ACCORDING TO GRACE but according to debt. (Romans 4:5 EMTV, emphasis added)

But TO HIM WHO DOES NOT WORK but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness (Romans 4:5 NKJV, emphasis added)

Did you see the Bible verses above? They show a clear distinction between what God gives to us out of His grace and what we have to work for. But the line is this: it is either God gives it to us freely as a gift (and in that case our works are not required to get it or sustain it) or we refuse His gift and then go on to work for it ourselves. But salvation in itself is given to us by God as a gift. God in His wisdom decided that for all who will come into Christ Jesus, He will give them all things free, including (or especially) salvation.

The World Does Not Accept Free Things

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS THAT ARE FREELY GIVEN TO US OF GOD. (1Corinthians 2:12 KJV, emphasis added)
He [God] that spared not his own Son [Jesus], but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not WITH HIM ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS? (Romans 8:32 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)
HE SAVED US and called us to be his own people, NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE, but BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE. He gave us this grace by means of Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2Timothy 1:9 GNB, emphasis added)

Read the Bible verses above carefully. They reveal some important truths. The first verse shows us that we (believers) have received the Holy Spirit so that we will know the things which God has freely given to us.

We need the Holy Spirit to teach us those things which God has freely given to us because the world and the normal human nature cannot teach us this or accept it. Nothing in this world is free. The world by its normal nature does not understand or accept the word 'free'. What the world understands is that you have to work for your worth. If you do not work, the world will not pay you. Nobody will give you anything of value free of charge. That is the nature of the world that we live in. The normal human nature understands that one has work before he is paid but cannot understand how anyone could give something of worth to someone without the person doing anything for it or qualifying for it. That is why it takes the Holy Spirit to reveal God's free gift to us because it is opposite to the human or world's nature.

Beloved, it takes the Holy Spirit for you to understand the fact that God has given you anything for free, because the world and even your mind will not tell you that. God knows that. That is why He sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper and help us receive and understand this reality.

... we have received... the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

But somebody may ask: "What is it that God has given to us freely that the Bible is talking about?" or "What are those free things that the Holy Spirit has been sent to reveal to us?" That will take us to the second Bible verse above.

... how shall he not with him also FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?

This verse shows us that God gives us ALL things freely. Take note of the word 'all'. God gives us all things freely. He does not give us some things, or even most things free. But rather He gives us all things free. If God gives us ALL things free, then something as important as salvation is definitely not excluded.

Again, the third Bible verse above shows us that God saved us and called us to be His own people not because of what we have done.

...he saved us and called us to be his own people, not because of what we have done...

If God does not consider what we have done to save us, then what does He consider? He considers His grace (love gift).

...but because of his own purpose and grace...

So this is what the Bible verses above together are saying:

"Salvation as a free gift is against the human nature or world's nature.

But God gives it to us free as He gives all other things to us free.

Because of this, it takes the Holy Spirit to reveal it to us and help us receive it. So He has given us the Holy Spirit to reveal these things to our hearts".

How can this be? How can God give something as important as salvation to us free? And not just that, but also give us all other things free? Well, it became possible because of Jesus Christ and His finished works.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32 KJV)

Because of what Jesus did (He died thus paying the price), it became possible for God to give us salvation freely on a righteous ground.

Beloved, do not forget what the Bible is showing you. That is, we do not do anything to get salvation. God gives it to us freely because salvation is a gift.

A lot of Christians think that God requires some kind of service from them before they can be saved, healed or blessed. Well, that is not what the Bible shows us. If we do any kind of service to get what God says He has given to us as a gift, then it was actually not a gift because we paid for it with that service. But the Word of God is showing us that salvation is a gift given to us by God. That means, it is free and God does not require any form of payment from us before or after getting it. ... *it is the gift of God.*

Beloved do not harden your heart against God's love gift. Open your heart and receive this gift. Rejoice at this good news (Gospel) for that is why Jesus Christ came. Glory be to God.

2. IRREVOCABLE GIFT

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29 NKJV)

We learnt in the previous chapter that salvation is a gift; meaning that it is given to us freely. But there is still more for us to know about gifts. Let us look at one of these. That is:

The IRREVOCABLE NATURE OF GIFTS.

This simply means that when a person gives a gift, he cannot and does not take it back again. The gift is given to the person who receives it free and forever. So the giver does not take it back after he gives it out. Not even when the person who receives it offends the one who gave it.

Let us look at this example to illustrate what I mean: Suppose I give my wife a phone as a gift and after one week she offends me. If I decide to take back the phone (gift) because of what she did, then what I gave to her was actually never a gift at all. It should rather be called a bargain or an object for blackmailing her. I just used that ‘gift’ to trap her. Why? This is because if what I gave her was a gift, then from the time that I gave it to her, it belonged to her. So I should not take it back from her no matter what she does. So that means in giving a gift, the person gives it out completely (out of love) never to take it back.

That is the same with salvation. Salvation is given to us as a gift. So that means God gives it to us completely out of His love. He does not take it back. Not even when we should do wrong or sin. Why? This is because He gave it to us as a gift. The Bible confirms it in this Scripture:

*For the GIFTS and calling OF GOD ARE WITHOUT REPENTANCE.
(Romans 11:29 KJV, emphasis added)*

Did you see the Scripture above? Concerning our topic, it says this:
The gifts... of God are without repentance.

The phrase ‘without repentance’ means that they are not taken back. That means when God gives a gift He does not take it back. Other versions of the Bible put it this way:

For the gifts ... of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29 ESV)

*God ... never decides to take back the blessings he has given them.
(Romans 11:29 ERV)*

God doesn't take back the gifts he has given.... (Romans 11:29 CEV)

Did you see that? All the Bible versions above say the same thing in different words. But the summary of them all is this: When God gives a gift, He does not take it back. It is without repentance. It is irrevocable. SALVATION IS A GIFT. Therefore, the gift of salvation that God gives to us is irrevocable. God does not take it back from us no matter what we do. Not even when we sin.

... are irrevocable.

Do you know how much God wants His people to know this? He wants His people to know this because He knows that this knowledge will make them rest in Him. So many believers think that God is always watching them with an eye of judgment, waiting for any mistake on their part so that He will take away the salvation (healing, protection, gifts of the Spirit, power, and so on) that He has given them. Others think that they lose their salvation when they do something wrong or sin and will need to be saved again before they can make it to heaven or qualify for God’s blessings. Well, if that is so, then God lied to us when He told us that salvation is a gift because God does not take away the gifts that He gives to His people. They are irrevocable.

For God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.] (Romans 11:29 AMP)

This is really amazing. Glory be to God.

By which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL. (Hebrews 10:10 KJV, emphasis added)

When you come into Christ, the blood of Jesus sanctifies you (makes you holy). That sanctification is a proof of your salvation. Now, the Bible verse right above shows us that this sanctification is ONCE

AND FOR ALL because of what Jesus did. The phrase ‘once for all’ means ‘it is done and completed once and forever’. That equally means the salvation gift that you receive is given to you by God once and for all; it is done and completed once and forever. That means God does not take it back but gives it to you forever.

Somebody may ask, “How can God give such a gift to us and never take it back again just like that?” Well, it did not come to us ‘just like that’. It came because Jesus Christ came. Jesus came to do something for us that made it possible for God to do this. And the good news is that, he finished (completed) what he came to do for us.

It Is Finished

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21 KJV)

Do you see what the Bible verse above is saying? It is talking about the purpose for which Jesus Christ came into this world. That is, the reason why God sent him. It shows that God sent him to save the people of this world from sin. And again, look at what John the Baptist said about Jesus:

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. (John 1:29 KJV, emphasis added)

Jesus came to take away the sin of the world. That was Jesus’ main reason for coming to this earth. That was his mission. That was what God sent him to do. The question we should ask ourselves is this: “Did he succeed in doing this?” For the answer to this, let us listen to what Jesus Christ himself said about this matter:

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, HE SAID, IT IS FINISHED: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (John 19:30 KJV, emphasis added)

Jesus confirmed that he had finished what he came to do on the earth when he was on the cross. And what was that? It was taking away the sins of the people of this earth. What does that mean then? It means if Jesus came to take away our sins and he succeeded in doing it, then our sins have actually been taken away.

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 10:17 KJV)

Did you see that? Because Jesus succeeded in taking away our sins, God says that He will not remember our sins and iniquities any more. Hallelujah! Jesus took away our sins. He carried all of them away on the cross and so God does not remember our sins any more. Glory be to God.

If we understand that Jesus succeeded in taking away our sins, then the other question we have to answer is this: “Till when have our sins been taken away? Is it for a day, a week, a month, a year, or till our next sins?” Let us see what the Bible has to say about this question too: *Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do, we are all purified from sin by the offering that he made of his own body ONCE AND FOR ALL. (Hebrews 10:10 GNB, emphasis added)*

Did you see that? The Bible says we are purified from sin ‘once and for all’. The phrase ‘once for all’ is used when something is done once and completed, never to be repeated again because that thing is finished and done with. If Jesus purified us from sin once and for all, then our sins have been taken away forever.

With one sacrifice, then, HE HAS MADE PERFECT FOREVER THOSE WHO ARE PURIFIED FROM SIN. (Hebrews 10:14 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see the Scripture right above? Read it carefully and meditate on it. We will look at this Bible verse in details later on.

But this is what I want you to understand: What is it that causes men to go to hell? Sin of course. Well, the Bible just showed us that because Jesus Christ did what God sent him to do (that is to take away our sins and save us), we are all purified from our sins and perfected forever (once and for all).

Does this give you any indication that God is planning to take away your salvation ever again? Of course not! If He wanted to take your salvation away, He would not have purified you from all your sins FOREVER in Christ Jesus. Just think about it.

Gifts are irrevocable. God has given you a gift so He will never take it away from you again. He does not plan to. In Christ Jesus, He did everything possible to make sure that you receive this gift free and for eternity. That is why God could say this about us:

"In the time of Noah I promised never again to flood the earth. Now I promise not to be angry with you again; I will not reprimand or punish you. The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will

never end; I will keep forever my promise of peace." So says the LORD who loves you. (Isaiah 54:9-10 GNB)

Did you see the Scripture right above? Read it again and meditate on it. The love of God for us is truly amazing, not so? God does not really need to promise us anything because His words are enough. Remember that His words created this world. But because of how serious He was to show us His love and His dedication to the gift that He has given to us, He promised. And what did He say? He said that He will not be angry with us again or punish us. He is not going to punish us with sickness, failure, poverty, death or hell now that we are in Christ. He promised never to do so. In other words, He will never take away the gift that He has given to us.

Believer, do not let anybody lie to you that God is angry with you or He is going to punish you with sickness, failure, poverty, death or hell. If anyone tells you that, you can be sure that that person is lying to you. Why do I say this? I say this because we just saw in the Bible that God has sworn never to be angry with us or punish us.

Now I promise not to be angry with you again; I will not reprimand or punish you.

If God has said this to us in His Word, how can someone come to me in the name of 'this God' and tell me that that same God says that He is angry with me and going to take me to hell? That will be a big lie. Men promise and they fail but God does not fail. Let us believe in His Word.

This is the greatest gift in the world. And God the giver says that He has given it to us freely and that He will not take it back. What an assurance! Amazing grace; how sweet the sound. What rest, comfort and confidence we can have as children of God because our Father loves us that much.

3. PRICELESS GIFT

Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJV)

We learnt in the previous chapters that salvation is a gift and that it is irrevocable. Now, let us look at something else about gifts. We know that gifts are given to us freely. That is why they are gifts. But do you know that gifts are actually not free? Even though gifts are given to us freely, it does not mean that the gifts are actually free. What do I mean?

Let me use this example to explain: Say it is my wife's birthday, and so I get her a gift. I buy a book, wrap it up and give it to her. That means I gave her the book as a gift, and so to her or on her side it is free. So all the things we have looked at about gifts apply to her in this context. That means I gave it to her freely and will not take it back no matter what she does to me (irrevocable). But note that even though I gave it to her freely as a gift, for me the one who gave the gift, it is not free. I bought it and paid for it. And it may be expensive, because I may not want to buy something that is cheap for my wife's birthday. So that means I bought and paid for it expensively but I gave it to her freely without her paying anything back in return. It is not free on my side, but it is free on the side of the one that it is given to.

Well, it is the same with the gift of God (salvation). Salvation is given to us free because it is a gift. But do not ever think that it was free.

It was bought and paid for by God. And mind you, it was not bought cheaply. Look at the price that God paid for this gift:

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1Peter 1:18 - 19 KJV, emphasis added)

HE PAID IN BLOOD: The blood of Jesus Christ the son of God paid for this gift. The one through whom the whole world was made (Hebrews 1:2) shed his blood to pay for this gift.

But we see Jesus... for the suffering of death... that HE BY THE GRACE OF GOD SHOULD TASTE DEATH FOR EVERY MAN (Hebrews 2:9 KJV, emphasis added)

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. (Philippians 2:8 KJV emphasis added)

HE PAID WITH HIS LIFE (HE DIED FOR US).

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit (1Peter 3:18 KJV)

Though He was a Son, yet He learned OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS WHICH HE SUFFERED. (Hebrews 5:8 KJV, emphasis added)

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 KJV)

HE PAID THROUGH HIS SUFFERING AND AGONY.

Did you see the Bible verses above? Our salvation was purchased with the blood, sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. Look at the price that God paid to purchase this gift of salvation for us. Jesus Christ (the Word of God), through whom the whole world was made, died for us. Divine blood was shed just to pay for this gift. It was not billions of dollars that bought this great gift for us. It was the death of Jesus Christ; the son of God and God that paid the price. Wow! How expensive must this gift be? Look at how much it cost God. It cost God the life of His son. And again because Jesus is God:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH [we know this is talking about Jesus, but the Bible is calling him God], justified in the Spirit, seen of angels,

preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)
But unto THE SON HE SAITH, THY THRONE, O GOD [God is calling the son 'God'], is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

We can say that it cost God His very life. Wow! This is too awesome. God's very life was given to purchase this gift for us.

That means this is the most expensive thing in the universe. If it takes, the blood of the One who created the whole universe; the death of the Giver of life; the suffering and punishment of the Lord of the heavens and the earth just to purchase this gift, then there is nothing as expensive as this gift of God. It is indeed the most expensive gift in the world.

The Price

Somebody may ask, "Why did God pay this price for our salvation when we definitely did not deserve it?" He paid that price because it was the price that men were supposed to pay before they would be free (redeemed) from sin. As the Bible says:

For all have sinned... (Romans 3:23 KJV)

For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23 KJV)

...the soul that sinneth, it shall die. (Ezekiel 18:4 KJV)

... without shedding of blood is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22 KJV)

This shows us that the necessary price to be paid for sin is death. When a person sins, the necessary price that has to be paid before the person is free (redeemed) is death.

Now, from the above Scriptures, you can see that all men sinned. That meant all men deserved to pay that price of death because all men sinned. Thus men were supposed to pay that price physically by; going to the grave, through sickness, poverty, disgrace, failure, and so on, and also spiritually by being separated from God and going to hell. So, every man had to pay this price because all men were guilty of sin.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12 KJV)

But here is this God, who loves us so much because He is the person of love:

For God so loved the world... (John 3:16 KJV)

And yet, with His nature of perfect love, He had to separate Himself from the people that He loved so much and also punish them by sending them to hell. He could not but do this because aside His nature of love, He was also a just God (He was a judge). He did not like watching men die and perish because of sin for He really loved men. But the sins of men could not go unpunished by Him because He is a just God. He had to deal with sin according to His Word and according to His just nature. But yet still, it did not change the fact that God is love.

...for God is love. (1John 4:8 KJV)

But God is not as handicapped as men are. He had a plan; He had a way; that way was (and is) Jesus Christ. So what God did was that He took all the punishment that we should have taken for our sins, put it on Jesus, and Jesus took all of our punishment for us; thus paying the price for our salvation for us. He paid the full price. Through Jesus' agony, death and blood, the price was paid in full. So God paid the full price for this gift of salvation to be given to us free.

For CHRIST ALSO HATH ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God... (1Peter 3:18 KJV, emphasis added)

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 KJV)

For he [God] hath made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

(2Corinthians 5:21 KJV, annotations added)

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14 KJV)

Read the Bible verses above very carefully. Did you see what they are telling us? God made Jesus Christ stand in our place, take our sins and paid the price of death for us so that the gift of salvation could be given to us as a free gift forever. The price did not end with him dying on the cross alone. After he died on the cross, he went to hell:

... HE [Jesus] *ALSO DESCENDED FIRST INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH* [Hell] (*Ephesians 4:9 KJV, emphasis and annotations added*)

Because THOU WILT NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HELL, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. (Acts 2: 27, 29, 31 KJV, emphasis added)

Do you get what the Scriptures above are saying? They are showing us that Jesus went to hell after his death. The days in between his death and resurrection were spent in hell.

Why? How could Jesus go to hell? He had to go to hell because he died in our place. He died carrying our sins. He died as a sinner. Because we were sinners and he came to take our place, he had to die just like we should and also pay the ultimate price the sinner should pay: Hell.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

That is how expensive this gift was. Jesus the Son of God had to go to Hell. The light of the world stepped into darkness because of us. But glory be to God that he did not stay there for long. He came out after three (3) days. He resurrected. He died with our sins and he resurrected without them. That is proof that he had dealt completely with our sins.

Now that Jesus has gone to hell for you, God will not take you there again. That price of going to hell was paid by Jesus Christ. He went to the worst place in existence so that we will not go there again. In the sight of God He sees you as one who has already paid that price: you paid it in Christ. Hallelujah! How expensive this gift of salvation is. How much it cost God. But God was pleased to do this for us. He was pleased to make His son take our place and take every punishment for us so that He will not punish us again but release His abundance of grace unto us.

Jesus went to hell so that we will not go there again. He became poor so that we will be rich.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9 KJV)

He went through pain so that we will not. He was crushed so that we will be healed.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 KJV)

He was wounded and bruised for our sins. The presence of God left him on the cross so that God's presence will never leave us or forsake us.

... Jesus cried with a loud voice... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15:34 KJV)

...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrew 13:5 KJV)

He became the son of man so that we can become the sons of God. He became a lamb so that we will become lions. He became a servant so that we can become kings. He defeated the devil and death for us so that we can live in victory over them.

...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14 KJV)

Jesus paid the full price for salvation ('soteria') to be given to us free for eternity.

Jesus paid the full price for our past, present and future sins:
Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he [Jesus] entered in once into the holy place, HAVING OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION FOR US. (Hebrews 9:12 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

That means God will never take away the gift of salvation from us again after we have received it. IT WAS BOUGHT EXPENSIVELY BUT GIVEN TO US FREE.

The price for your salvation, healing, peace, power, anointing, the Holy Ghost, has been paid. Jesus Christ paid it all. So now, all that you have to do is to receive. You do not have to work for them neither do you have to fast for them. They have been given freely in God's grace. Therefore RECEIVE in Jesus' name!

4. ETERNAL SALVATION

And being made perfect, HE BECAME THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION unto all them that obey him (Hebrews 5:9 KJV, emphasis added)

The word ‘eternal’ comes from the Greek word ‘aionios’. The word ‘aionios’ means perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well). Also means eternal, forever, everlasting, world (began). (*Strong's Greek Dictionary*)

So eternal salvation will mean a salvation that is yours forever; or everlasting; or eternal; salvation that is settled for all time; a once for all salvation; a perpetual salvation; a salvation that cannot be lost.

Now, if salvation is a gift and God never takes it back from the believer but belongs to the believer forever, then it can be called eternal salvation. That means the salvation gift that God gives to the believer cannot be lost. The salvation that the believer receives once becomes his forever. This means:

ONCE SAVED, FOREVER SAVED.

That is so because Jesus saved us once and for all. He will not go back to the cross to save us again. He did it once and for eternity. Jesus saves us once and forever.

I personally never thought salvation was like that some time ago. I had heard so many messages from various men of God on how we ought to be careful not to sin otherwise we would lose our salvation. And interestingly, the more I heard those teachings, the more I became afraid until my life was controlled by fear. My relationship with God

also became controlled by fear. I worshiped God because of fear of going to hell, not because I loved Him. This continued until I got to know about this gift of salvation in the Scriptures. I got to know that Jesus has purchased an eternal salvation for me which I could not lose again because it was given to me as a gift. I could not deny it because I saw it in the Bible. I had to give up my old mindset and yield to what the Word of God was telling me.

Interestingly, it was when I did this that I received grace to live for God more. But all the while that I was living in fear of judgment and going to hell, I struggled to live for God and found myself deep in sin and doing grotesque things that I never thought I was capable of doing. I was living in fear of judgment and of going to hell. And yet still I could not live right. The more I tried, the more I failed to live the life that I wanted to live for God. I became so afraid that my heart jumped anytime I heard anybody preach or mention the name of God. I wanted to avoid God as much as possible because I thought He was not pleased with me and wanted to punish me. I even thought of committing suicide sometimes but I thought I will go to hell if I did that so I did not.

But when I got to know of God's love for me and the eternal gift that He has given me because of His love, the power of sin broke off my life and it virtually made a minister and an evangelist out of me. Yea, the love of God is that powerful.

But you know what? Do not just take my word for it. Let us look at the Scriptures and see if it talks about this. Let us look at what the Bible says about this 'eternal salvation' by looking at a few Scriptures in details:

First Scripture

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL. (Hebrews 10:10 KJV, emphasis added)

Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do, we are all purified from sin by the offering that he made of his own body ONCE FOR ALL. (Hebrews 10:10 GNB, emphasis added)

Read the Scriptures above very carefully. It is the same Bible verse but I have taken different translations so that the meaning of the words will become clearer. Take note of what it says and what it does

not say. Now, let us take the various statements in it and find out what they mean. We are considering the King James Version of the Bible (KJV).

By the which will: This is talking about the will of God. In other words, whatever is being told is us here in this verse is perfectly in line with the will of God. God planned it. Just as you can see in this Scripture:

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN (2Timothy 1:9 KJV, emphasis added)

As the words capitalized above indicates, God planned to give this to us in Christ Jesus even before the beginning of the world. He predestined it. So we may ask, "What is it that God planned to give us in His will?" Let us read on to find out.

We are sanctified: Note that it did not say that 'we will be sanctified' or 'we should sanctify ourselves', but that WE ARE SANCTIFIED. The word 'sanctified' means 'to be purified from sin' or 'to be made holy'. So in other words, we are purified from sin. And note that God had already planned this a long time ago as you can see in the verse right above. So it is not like I am just saying it. God in His own wisdom decided to do it and grace us (believers) with this gift a long time ago. So then, how are we sanctified? Let us read on.

Through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ: Note that we are not sanctified because of our obedience or perfection, but through the sacrifice of Jesus' body. Just as in the OLD COVENANT the people sacrificed lambs to cover their sins yearly:

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same SACRIFICES, WHICH THEY OFFER CONTINUALLY YEAR BY YEAR, make those who approach perfect. (Hebrews 10:1 NKJV, emphasis added)

In the NEW COVENANT, God sacrificed His own lamb on our behalf. That lamb was Jesus Christ. And His sacrifice took away all our sins. *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. (John 1:29 KJV, emphasis added)*

In the Old Covenant, the sacrifice of their lambs covered their sins for a year and after that God remembers their sins again. And so they had to sacrifice again and again to cover their sins year after year.

So their sacrifice was done yearly. But remember that this is the blood of bulls and goats that we are talking about here. The blood of bulls and goats covered sins yearly:

... *THE SAME SACRIFICES ARE OFFERED FOREVER, YEAR AFTER YEAR...* (Hebrews 10:1 GNB, *emphasis added*)

So the question for us is this: What about us? How long does the shed blood of Jesus for us cover our sins or take away our sins? The answer to that is in the statement that follows:

Once and for all: Did you see that? ONCE AND FOR ALL. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ takes away our sins ONCE AND FOR ALL. That means it is an eternal work. The blood of Jesus does not take away your sins till your next sin. No. Even the blood of bulls and goats took away sins for one year, how can we think that the blood of Jesus will take away sins till your next sin (which you have plenty in a day). Is the blood of Jesus inferior to that of bulls and goats? Definitely not! The blood of Jesus does not take away only your past sins. No. THE BLOOD OF JESUS TAKES AWAY ALL YOUR SINS ONCE AND FOR ALL. I explained earlier on in this book that the phrase ‘once for all’ is used when something is done once and completed; never to be repeated again because that thing is finished and done with.

So, if Jesus purified us from sin once and for all, then our sins have been taken away for eternity (once for all). That is the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. It takes away your past, present and future sins all at once.

But it seems like so many believers do not have confidence in the blood that has sanctified them. They have more confidence in their works that they think can save them than they do in the blood that has sanctified them and saved them. But thanks be to God that we have gotten to know that the blood of Jesus Christ takes away our sins once and for all; forever; for eternity. Hallelujah!

If this is really true, then it means God will not look at the sins of a believer to take him to Hell or to punish him again because the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has removed every sin of the believer out of the picture once and for all (for eternity).

Therefore, believer, you ought to go to God in boldness because you are holy and perfect in His sight. God wants you to come to Him with boldness. But this boldness does not come from your works but from the faith in the blood of Jesus that has sanctified you. That honors God because you are showing faith in His power and ability not yours.

Brothers and sisters, because of the blood of Jesus we can now confidently go into the holy place. Jesus has opened a new and living way for us to go through the curtain. (The curtain is his own body.) (Hebrews 10:19-20 GW)

Indeed God has given the believer the gift of salvation and He does not take it away from the believer again. It is given to the believer for eternity. Hallelujah! No wonder God said this about us:
And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 10:17 KJV)

Did you see that? Because of the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God does not see (remember) your sins and your iniquities any more. How come? This is because GOD SAW ALL YOUR SINS IN THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS AND PUNISHED HIM FOR ALL YOUR SINS. The punishment that Jesus went through when he came on earth was not for himself. It was for us.

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God... (1 Peter 3:18 KJV)

CHRIST HIMSELF CARRIED OUR SINS IN HIS BODY TO THE CROSS, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. (1 Peter 2:24 GNB, emphasis added)

Whose sins did Jesus carry? His sins? Of course not! Jesus never sinned. He carried our sins. That means God did not let your sins go unpunished. He punished all your sins. But you were not the one who took the punishment. Someone else did. His name is Jesus Christ:
But he was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of OUR peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? Whose transgressions was Jesus Christ wounded for? OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. Whose iniquities was Jesus Christ bruised for? OUR INIQUITIES. And what He did was ONCE AND FOR ALL.

The sins that you would have committed your whole life has been punished and dealt with once and for all. All your sins: past, present and future has been punished. Jesus did it for you and he will not do it again because it is a finished work; a done deal and God is forever satisfied with it.

God has given salvation to us as a gift and it is for eternity. Glory be to God for grace.

Second Scripture

For by one offering he hath PERFECTED FOR EVER them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14 KJV, emphasis added)

Read the above Bible verse carefully. Now, let us look at what the various statements in it mean.

For by one offering: What is that one offering? It is the offering of the body and blood of Jesus Christ for us.

...who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God (Hebrews 9:14 KJV)

His death for us:

But we see Jesus... for the suffering of death... that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9 KJV)

So what did this offering do? Ok, let us continue reading and find out.

He hath PERFECTED FOREVER them that are sanctified: Did you see that? The Bible is showing us right here that because of the offering of Jesus Christ, God has PERFECTED US FOREVER. Did you notice that it did not say that we should try to be perfect, or that we will be perfected in heaven? It said that God has PERFECTED US FOREVER. That means the perfection process is complete. It is a done deal. It is a present tense reality. We have been perfected forever in Christ Jesus. That means when God looks at any of His children (born again Christians), He sees them as perfect as Jesus Christ is. Not because of anything that they have done but because of everything that Jesus has done. God sees us as perfect as He sees Jesus Christ now.
...as he is, so are we in this world (1John 4:17 KJV)

So God does not look at us, our works, performance or obedience to deal with us. But instead, He looks at Jesus Christ's perfection to deal with us because Jesus Christ came to take our place. So because Jesus Christ is perfect, God sees us perfect as a result. That same way that Jesus Christ who was a perfect person became sin for us, it made it possible for those who were sinners like you and I to also become perfect in God's sight.

For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2Corinthians 5:21 KJV, annotations added)

It was an exchange. Jesus Christ took all your wrongs and imperfections and gave you His righteousness and perfection.

You who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he [Jesus] has now reconciled by the death of his physical body SO THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT YOU HOLY, BLAMELESS [perfect], AND WITHOUT FAULT [spotless] BEFORE HIM [God]. (Colossians 1:21-22 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Did you see that? Jesus presents you and I perfect before God because of His finished works.

Now, how long does this perfection last? It does not last till your next sin or mistake; it lasts forever. That is what the verse above says, not so? Yes, forever.

...He hath PERFECTED FOREVER...

I did not do this, it is God who did it Himself and gave it to us as a gift. It is a gift given to us for eternity, that is why the Bible said your perfection is forever because God does not take back the gifts that He gives to you. Glory be to God for His great gift of salvation. Amen.

Third Scripture

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained ETERNAL REDEMPTION for us. (Hebrews 9:12 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? Take note of the words that I have capitalized in the Bible verse above.

... ETERNAL REDEMPTION...

What do you understand by that statement ‘eternal redemption’? Redemption means to save by paying a price or ransom. So eternal redemption means the price or ransom for your salvation has been paid for eternity. You do not have any debts with God for eternity. The redemption that Jesus Christ purchased for us is eternal. It is not till your next mistake or sin. That blood that washed you when you came into Christ washed you perfectly for eternity. That means after the blood washes a person, God does not see any sin or stain on that person again.

Sometimes when bad things happen to believers, they think that it is because they have done something wrong that God is bringing all those bad things upon them. Well, that cannot be true. Whatever bad

things happen to them cannot be from God because God Himself has paid the price for our sins in His sight for eternity. You do not owe God anything. This consciousness is what releases you to have an ever-growing relationship with God.

For instance, you may have a very good friend, but if it so happens that you borrow money from him and do not pay back, it can interrupt with your friendship for as long as that debt is owed. Your knowledge of the debt that you owe him will not allow you to have the kind of freedom and liberty that you should have around someone who is your friend. You may even want to avoid meeting him as much as possible if you could. Why? This is because there is a debt standing in between your relationship. And as long as the debt remains, your relationship will be interrupted. That was the same thing that happened between us and God. Because we owed God for our sins, we could not go to Him and relate with Him in the liberty that we would have wanted. There was a debt in between our relationship with God.

But thanks be to God that the debt has been cancelled through Jesus Christ and his finished works. And the good news is that the debt is cancelled for eternity. We cannot owe God any more. Jesus' price has covered our account with God for ever. Hence we have been reconciled to God. So now, God wants us to come to Him with boldness because of this truth and understanding.

Brothers and sisters, because of the blood of Jesus we can now confidently go into the holy place. Jesus has opened a new and living way for us to go through the curtain. (The curtain is his own body.) (Hebrews 10:19-20 GW)

When you understand this, you will see the devil's deceptions against you cease right there. Discover this and live for God out of love for Him. That is how powerful that blood that washed the believer is (the blood of Jesus). God sees all believers through the blood of Jesus. And because of that, God sees you holy, blameless and without fault. God can never see you a sinner again because of the blood that has washed you. It has washed you for eternity (once and for all). It is an eternal redemption. All that is left is that you also will see in that line. WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES THE WAY THAT GOD SEES US, THE POWER TO LIVE THAT WAY IS RELEASED.

Your problem is not that you are sinning. Your problem is that you do not know that you are already righteous and holy in the sight of God despite of your sin. Your problem is that you do not know what

Jesus Christ has done about that sin. When you know the truth about this, you will live holy and righteously effortlessly because you are already holy and righteous in the sight of God. You will be able to have an ever-growing relationship with God. Glory be to God.

Fourth Scripture

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. (John 3:15-16 KJV, emphasis added)

This is one of the commonest Bible verses known by believers all around the world. If any believer does not know any verse in the Bible at all, this is the one verse that the person will know off hand. But so many of us fail to see what God is telling us in this verse. So let us study it and find out what it means.

Did you take note the words that I have capitalized in the Scripture above?

... *HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.*

Who is the person that God gives eternal life to? It is the believer. That is the one who believes in Jesus Christ and what he came to do for him. ...*whosoever believeth in him...*

Eternal life is given to that person.

What do you think eternal life means? It means eternal life. The name says it all. This life carries in it everything that the word 'salvation' carries according to the definition that I gave for salvation in the first chapter of the book. That is, salvation does not just mean going to heaven alone but also healing, wholeness, preservation, protection, and so on. Therefore eternal life consists of all these. That means a life without sickness, fear, death, poverty, and so on. It is virtually the life of God living in a man. It is that life that brings the atmosphere of heaven into your domain: where the will of God is done in your life as it is in heaven. That is the life for the saved.

So who is eternal life given to again? It is the believer. The person who believes in Jesus Christ and what he came to do for him (his

death and resurrection). What does the believer do to get this eternal life according to this Bible verse? All that he has to do is to believe.

...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He has to believe in Jesus Christ and what He came to do for him. And the Bible says that when he does this, he shall not perish but have this eternal or everlasting life.

It is too simple to miss. In fact, some of these things are so simple that it takes preachers to make it complicated. The Bible just stated clearly here that WHOSOEVER BELIEVES in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Isn't that simple? But we (preachers) say that it is the person who after believing and does not steal, lie, kill or sin that shall have eternal life. But that is not what Bible says. I am not saying that stealing or lying or killing is good. But what I am saying is that we are not under the OLD COVENANT (Old Testament). It was in the OLD COVENANT that they were under the Commandments and hence disobedience to it caused them to perish. But we are under a NEW AND BETTER COVENANT (New Testament) which is based on God's love and grace. And under this covenant, God does not look at your works to deal with you anymore. He now looks at the finished works of Jesus Christ to deal with you.

Why do we want to add requirements to things that God makes so simple? And interestingly, the very requirements that we add are requirements that we ourselves cannot meet.

...now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ... (Acts 15:10-11 KJV)

Isn't man's righteousness interesting? For we pile up requirements and standards upon ourselves and others. Requirements that neither we nor those that we put those requirements on can meet.

... WHOSOEVER BELIEVES in him should not perish but have an everlasting life.

So the believer is given eternal life. The believer has everlasting life. The life of God dwells in the believer. It is an unceasing and unending life. That is the life we will have in heaven; but we have it right now because we are in Christ and He is everything that heaven is about.

Your faith (belief) in Christ Jesus is what saves you and nothing else. And this salvation as we have learnt in the previous chapters is for eternity. Look at what other verses of the Bible say about this:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24 KJV)
But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (John 20:31 KJV)

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (1John 5:13 KJV)

That is it. He that believes is saved. It is your simple believing and faith in Jesus Christ that saves you, not what you do.

If he was put right with God by the things he did, he would have something to boast about---but not in God's sight. The scripture says, "Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous." (Romans 4:2GNB)

Did you see that? Even Abraham was not justified because he walked perfectly before God. But his simple faith in God was what God needed to accept him as righteous (save him).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9 KJV)

The one who believes in Jesus (and hence confess him) shall be saved. It is not your works that saves you. This is too simple to miss. As I said earlier on, I think God makes things simpler than a lot of us make it seem.

Somebody may ask; "But Tony, the Bible says that faith without works is dead?" Yes it did. But understand that your faith in Jesus is not without works.

YOUR FAITH HAS WORKS. ONLY THAT YOU DID NOT DO THOSE WORKS: JESUS DID THE WORKS ON YOUR BEHALF.
And actually, if he had not done those works for us, nobody could have done enough works to reach God's standard. Read this:

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: FOR BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED. (Galatians 2:16 KJV, emphasis added)

If Abraham had God's approval because of something he did, he would have had a reason to brag. But he could not brag to God about it. What

does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and that faith was regarded by God to be his approval of Abraham.” (Romans 4:2 KJV)

Which one would you like to present to God if you should stand before his Judgment Seat; your works (which are imperfect and does not reach His standards) or the perfect finished works of Jesus Christ on your behalf? Of course, Jesus’ finished works. So Jesus Christ has done the works for you; you do the believing.

The Bible says that the one who believes shall be saved. The Bible again says that the person who believes in Jesus shall have eternal or everlasting life. Let us not add requirements to the things that God gives to us freely. Let us take God’s Word as it is and we will be safe. Your believing puts you in the hands of Jesus Christ. And this is what Jesus Christ says about such people:

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37 KJV)

Isn’t it wonderful that God makes things so simple and easy? He does that so that everybody can benefit from it because He loves everybody. Hallelujah. Glory be to God. We have believed in Jesus Christ and His finished works. Therefore, according to the Word of God, we have eternal life even here on this earth.

If you believe in Jesus you have eternal life. You are saved eternally. Glory be to God.

Fifth Scripture

And being made perfect, HE BECAME THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION unto all them that obey him; (Hebrews 5:9 KJV, emphasis added)

When he was made perfect, he BECAME THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION for all those who obey him, (Hebrews 5:9 GNB, emphasis added)

Read the above verses carefully. It is the same Bible verse but I have taken different translations to make the meaning clearer. Let us look at what the various statements in this verse mean:

And being made perfect: That is talking about Jesus Christ. Let us remember that Jesus Christ is that only one who by his works and

obedience was able to meet God's standard for righteousness and holiness perfectly. No man has ever been able to do this by his works or ever will. But all the perfection Jesus attained was not just for himself but for us. It was so that we would receive a gift at the end of all of that he did. And this is what happened. After He became perfect, He became:

The Author of Eternal Salvation: We are being told how Jesus has become the author or source of ETERNAL SALVATION. Do you notice that Jesus did not just become the author of SALVATION but rather He became the author of ETERNAL SALVATION?

THE SALVATION THAT JESUS CHRIST GIVES IS ETERNAL. You can check out the meaning of the word 'eternal' again to really get the grasp of what this verse is talking about. Jesus does not just give you salvation, He gives you ETERNAL SALVATION. It is a once for all salvation. What you do or do not do does not cancel this salvation because your salvation is totally out of God's grace not your works or performance.

FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION hath appeared to all men, (Titus 2:11 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? What brings salvation? Is it your works or striving? No! It is the grace of God that brings salvation. So as eternal and everlasting as God's grace is, so also is the salvation that you receive in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation. Let us look at the next phrase;

Unto all them that obey him: Somebody may say, "Yes Tony, what this verse is saying (about eternal salvation) is not for every Christian. It is for only those that OBEY Him (God). So if someone does not obey him, he does not qualify for this". Of course it is. That is what the verse here is saying not so? But the question we should ask ourselves is this; "What does the Bible mean by that statement 'unto all them that obey him'?" What obedience is being talked about here? Is it obedience of the Law or Ten Commandments (which is based on your works)? Of course not. Why would I say that? Because the Bible says this:

Those who depend on obeying the Law [Ten Commandments] live under a curse... (Galatians 3:10 GNB, annotations added)

Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law [Ten Commandments] have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. (Galatians 5:4 GNB, annotations added)

The sting of death is sin; and THE STRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW [Ten Commandments]. (1Corinthians 15:56 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

FOR NO ONE IS PUT RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT BY DOING WHAT THE LAW [10 commandments] REQUIRES; what the Law does is to make us know that we have sinned. (Romans 3:20 GNB, emphasis added) Yet we know that a person is put right with God only through faith in Jesus Christ, never by doing what the Law [Ten Commandments] requires. We, too, have believed in Christ Jesus in order to be put right with God through our faith in Christ, and not by doing what the Law requires. For no one is put right with God by doing what the Law requires. (Galatians 2:16 GNB)

Did you see that? Read the above verses carefully. I believe they are written in simple English that anyone can read and understand. God does not want us to deal with Him through the obedience of the Law because He knows that the Law will definitely put us under a curse and pull us from under His grace.

Those who depend on obeying the Law live under a curse... (Galatians 3:10 GNB)

Again, *1 Corinthians 15:56* show us that the Law gives strength to sin. ... *the strength of sin is the law.*

Do you think that God would want you live by a law that He knows will give strength to sin in your life? Of course not. And again, God knows that nobody can reach his standards by keeping the law. As *Romans 3:20* and *Galatians 2:16* (above) says. So the obedience that the Bible verse here talked about cannot be the obedience of the Law (based on your works).

So what obedience is being talked about here? This obedience is called the OBEDIENCE OF FAITH. Look at it in these Scriptures for confirmation:

By whom we have received grace and apostleship, FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH among all nations, for his name: (Romans 1:5 KJV, emphasis added)

But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH (Romans 16:26 KJV, emphasis added)

What is this obedience of faith that I am talking about? It is yielding to the gospel by believing Jesus Christ and receiving him as

Lord and savior. This is the very process that makes a person born again. Anyone who receives Jesus Christ by believing in the gospel has fulfilled the obedience of faith. Why? Because the Bible says this: *For as by one man's [Adam's] disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus] shall many be made righteous. (Romans 5:19 KJV, annotations added)*

The same way that Adam's disobedience was credited to the whole mankind and hence all men were called sinners, Jesus' obedience is credited to our account the moment that we receive Him as Lord and savior. What He did is credited into our account. After we receive Jesus Christ, God sees us as OBEDIENT CHILDREN.

AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: (1Peter 1:14 KJV, emphasis added)

God calls every believer an obedient child. Not because we obeyed perfectly but because Jesus Christ obeyed the Father perfectly on our behalf and that obedience has been credited into our account in the sight of God.

...by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Romans 5:19 KJV)

That means the moment a person hears the Gospel, believes in it and declares Jesus Christ as Lord. He has now obeyed God by his faith in Jesus Christ. That is what is called the OBEDIENCE OF FAITH. It is not an obedience which is by your works but by the simple faith in Jesus Christ.

And that is what this verse is talking about.

...ETERNAL SALVATION UNTO ALL THEM THAT OBEY HIM.

So this verse is telling us that Jesus gives eternal salvation to ALL who obey him (who receive him as Lord and savior).

Maybe you are a person who is still saying that the obedience is not the obedience of faith that I am talking about here but rather we obeying God perfectly by our performance. Well, if you are such a person I want to ask you this question: "Are you obeying God perfectly?" Definitely not! "Can anyone obey God perfectly?" Definitely not. Why do I say that? I say that because that is what the Bible says:

If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? (Psalm 130:3 KJV)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES ARE AS FILTHY RAGS; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 KJV, emphasis added) FOR NO ONE IS PUT RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT BY DOING WHAT THE LAW [your works to reach God's standards] REQUIRES; what the Law does is to make us know that we have sinned. But now God's way of putting people right with himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. GOD PUTS PEOPLE RIGHT THROUGH THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: (Romans 3:20-22 GNB, emphasis added and annotations added)

I refuse to reject the grace of God. But if a person is put right with God through the Law [your works to reach God's standards], it means that Christ died for nothing! (Galatians 2:21 GNB, annotations added)

So you will be telling a lie if you said that you were obeying God perfectly because you cannot. God's standards are too high for any man to reach by his performance. So it will be a lie if you say you are obeying God perfectly because the Bible shows us that nobody can do that.

... for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:16 KJV)

And besides, if that verse was talking about our performance oriented obedience, then Jesus could not be called the author of eternal salvation, and the Bible would not have called it eternal salvation here. Why? This is because men will definitely disobey (as we can see in the scriptures above). If that is so, it will mean that we will lose our salvation or be short of salvation the moment that we disobey. What then will be eternal about that; when we are losing our salvation at every instance?

But if you understand what we just saw about the obedience of faith (that is we believe and Jesus' obedience becomes ours as a result), then you can now understand why God could tell us in His Word that Jesus Christ is the author of Eternal Salvation. Hallelujah!

So if Jesus is the author of eternal salvation, then the salvation that Jesus bought for us is definitely eternal. We have eternal security not based on our merit but on the merit of Jesus Christ. We should be thankful to God for this truth. If what Jesus has done cannot save us for eternity, then what else can save us? Is it our works? Definitely not!

But we thank God that what Jesus did was enough and so he is the author of Eternal Salvation. The Gift of God is truly irrevocable. It is eternal. Hallelujah!

Sixth Scripture

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 10:17 KJV)

Read the Scripture above carefully. Do you see what this Scripture is telling us? It is telling us that God will not remember our sins and iniquities any more. This is God's word to us. This is actually a prophecy that was given in the book of Jeremiah by the prophet Jeremiah. This was how he put it:

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, AND THEIR SIN I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." (Jeremiah 31:33-34 KJV, emphasis added)

In that prophecy, God said that He was going to make a New Covenant with His people. And one of the terms of that covenant was that He will not remember the sins and iniquities of His people any more. *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 8:12 KJV)*

We are children of the New Covenant not the Old Covenant. We are the ones that this prophecy was about. That is why it was paraphrased it for us in the book of Hebrews. It means that for us in Christ, God does not remember our sins and iniquities any more.

How can God do this? How can God say that He will not remember His people's sins and iniquities? This is because once upon a time, somebody hanged on a cross, His name was Jesus Christ. And as He hanged on the cross, God remembered all the sins of our entire life time in him. God saw all the sins of the world: past, present and future in him and He punished Jesus Christ for all those sins once and for all. Jesus took our place on the cross and took our punishment as well.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. (John 1:29 KJV, emphasis added)

CHRIST HIMSELF CARRIED OUR SINS IN HIS BODY TO THE CROSS, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his wounds that you have been healed. (1Peter 2:24 GNB, emphasis added)

He carried all the sins of the world in His body and paid the ultimate price for all those sins (death). And after that, God declared that He will not remember our sins and iniquities anymore because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. Well, do you think God meant what He said? Of course He did. He is God. He is not a man that he should lie. He never lied to us. He told us absolute truth.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

We all know that the very thing that would have taken us to hell is our sins. And we just saw that Jesus took away our sins and because of that God says that He will not remember our sins and iniquities again. So, what now can take you in Christ to hell? Nothing! Jesus made sure of that.

WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness... (1Peter 2:24 KJV, emphasis added)

Jesus finished the work. He paid the price for our salvation so that we can have the gift of salvation totally and for all eternity. God is really that good.

Take note of the phrase: ‘who his own self’ (from the Scripture above). Jesus himself was the one who carried all the sins of your entire lifetime in His own body and died for them; thus paying the necessary price for your sins. It was not an angel, a man or an animal but Jesus HIMSELF. So do not go to God with sin consciousness (consciousness of what you have done wrong) because He Himself took your sins and paid for them.

Isn't it interesting that we should go to the One who Himself took our sins and we approach Him in fear that He is going to punish us for all the sins that He Himself took and paid for? Why would He punish your sins when He took all of them and all the punishment as well? Rest in Jesus Christ and His finished works for you. This rest will release you into an ever-growing relationship with God.

God has declared that he will not remember our sins any more. This is good news. Rest in this good news and approach God with boldness because he does not see any sin on you. He will not take you to hell for your sins because you have none in His sight. They are all washed away in the blood of Jesus Christ; Your past, present and future sins. Glory be to God for His eternal salvation.

Seventh Scripture

With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with EVERLASTING KINDNESS I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer. "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. (Isaiah 54:8-9 NKJV, emphasis added)

Read the Scripture above carefully. This was something that God said through the prophet Isaiah about the New Covenant and His grace that was going to come to us. Let us look at this in details, taking it phrase after phrase:

With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment: When did God hide His face from us? He hid His face from us when we were living under the Law or Commandments (or when we were not born again). As the Bible says:

Because the law worketh wrath... (Romans 4:15 KJV)

The Law brings down God's anger... (Romans 4:15 GNB)

When people are under the Law or Commandments, it causes God's anger and wrath to be released against them because He always finds them guilty of sin.

... what the Law does is to make us know that we have sinned. (Romans 3:20 KJV)

But note that even in those times, because of God's goodness, He did not reveal His full anger or wrath against his children. It was just a little wrath.

...with a little wrath

If God released His full anger or wrath against them, none of them would have survived. Let us read on:

But with EVERLASTING KINDNESS I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer: Wow! Isn't God good? He gave a little wrath when His people were under the Law (or not born again), but now, He says that He will have mercy on us or grace us with EVERLASTING KINDNESS. That is an unending kindness. How amazing is that? God is not just giving you a little kindness but rather an everlasting one (an unceasing kindness). That means the kindness that God gives does not end. They are unceasing and without repentance. He gives us eternal kindness. Now, let us look at the next verse:

"For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you: Wow! This is amazing! Did you see the Scripture right above? God says He has sworn to never be angry with us again nor rebuke us. This is too good. God does not need to swear concerning anything because His Word alone is enough. The whole universe was actually created by His Words. *...we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God... (Hebrews 11:3 KJV)*

But did you just see God swear right here? And He said that He will never be angry with us or rebuke us again.

Believer, this is the Word of God to you. God will not punish you again because He punished Jesus for all your sins. God will not take you to hell again because Jesus went there for you. All that God wants to do for you now is to give you His best (everlasting kindness). All you have to do is to open up to His gift. And what was God's reason for swearing as we saw above? Let us look at the verse that follows right after to get the answer to this:

The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end; I will keep forever my promise of peace." So says the LORD who loves you. (Isaiah 54:10 GNB)

Did you see that? Love was God's reason.

So, after God has sworn on His integrity and His love for you that He will not be angry with you or punish you, do you think the salvation that God has given you is not eternal? Do you think God is going to punish you with sickness, poverty, disgrace, failure or send you to hell? Then think again because salvation is God's gift given to us.

I will not have the time and space to go through all the Scriptures in the Bible which God speaks to us about this eternal salvation that we have in Christ Jesus. But I believe these few Scriptures are enough to

prove to you beyond all doubt that God's gift of salvation is indeed given to us free and for eternity.

What Then?

In judging whether a doctrine or message is true, it is important that we do not just swallow everything that we are told 'hook, line and sinker' but we check its authenticity with the Word of God. And one simple way of doing this is by looking at whether or not there more than two witnesses in the Bible confirming the subject. You have to get more than two verses confirming that same thing.

...In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.
(2Corinthians 13:1 NKJV)

When you have that present, then you can be confident that it is something that God really wants His people to know. And the second and most important way is to do 'The Jesus test'. We will learn about that later in the chapter titled 'The Gospel'.

Now, look at how many Scriptures are talking about this same thing: salvation as a gift for all eternity. If God is talking about it this much in His Word, then He really wants His children to know this.

God wants you to rest in Him. He wants you to rest in the perfect finished works of Jesus for you. He wants you to rest in this beautiful gift that He has given you. It is the gift of salvation. It is purchased with the blood of Jesus. It is free. God does not take it back. And it is eternal.

Why This?

Someone may ask, "How can God do all these if He is not just the God of Love but also a Just God who judges and punishes people for their sins?"

Well, God did not just give this gift to us like that. A price was paid for it. It was the highest price: DEATH. Not just death, but the death of the Son of God. Jesus died so that this gift will be purchased by God and given to us free and forever.

And not just that; He gave it to us justly. He did not break any law to do it. He followed all the laws that He had set up and paid for this

gift legally and gave this gift to us legally. That was the purpose of Jesus Christ's coming. He was that bridge that gave God the legal right to bestow His best upon the undeserving (which everybody is).

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest [bridge between God and men] in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17 KJV, annotations added)

God did not just let our sins escape but He punished all our sins. The entire lifetime of our sins was punished. But we were not the ones who took the punishment; Jesus Christ took the punishment on our behalf.

But he was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of OUR peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 KJV, emphasis added)

Check the above verse out. Did you realize that Jesus Christ whom this prophecy was about here was the one who was wounded for OUR transgressions? He was bruised for OUR iniquities. He took the punishment for what we did so that we do not have to take any punishment again because of what He has done for us. He paid the price for eternity. Hallelujah!

Did you note down the verses that we just studied about in this chapter? Did you see that this gift of salvation is clearly outlined in the Word of God? And the Bible says:

God is not a man; he will not lie. God is not a human being; his decisions will not change. If he says he will do something, then he will do it. If he makes a promise, then he will do what he promised. (Numbers 23:19 ERV)

Did you see that? We can trust in God with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. We can be confident that if He says it then it is so. And He said it throughout His Word. Glory be to God for this wonderful gift of salvation.

The Devil's Plan

If God is telling us this in His Word, then I would want you to know that the devil would not want you to know this or to believe it because he is a liar. He is the father of lies.

...there is no truth in him [the devil]. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:44 KJV)
And interestingly, so many believers are falling into his traps and lies. And mind you, he will try to do all that he can to keep you in ignorance and deception. He may do it by using your mind to tell you that you are not saved anymore (or God is not pleased with you) or by using other Christians to tell you that. He can even use 'men of God' to do this (this is one of his best strategies against a lot of Christians because he knows that if he gets the shepherds, the sheep will follow).

... smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. (Matthew 26:31 KJV)

Do you think the devil would want you to rest in God? Or that he would want you to know about the gift of God which will release you to love God more? Or that he would want you to have faith in what God says that He has done for you? Or that he would want you to live in the peace and love that God gives to you in Christ? Or that he would want you to know about the victory that Jesus Christ has bought for you over sin, death, hell, fear, sickness, and so on? Definitely not! He would want you to live in fear: constantly working for things that God has given to you as gifts so that you will not see God's goodness and love for you. He would want you in confusion and continuously going in circles all of your Christian life and never having the boldness to do anything for God.

But God on the other hand wants you to rest in Him and receive His gift;

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God (Hebrews 4:9 KJV)
He wants you to live in the revelation of His love and His finished works; and in that revelation, all fear leaves.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love (1John 4:18 KJV)

He would want you to stand fast in what Jesus Christ did for you.
Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Galatians 5:1 KJV)

He would want you to stop your works and live in His finished works...
For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his (Hebrews 4:10 KJV)

He wants you to live with the consciousness of His grace so that sin cannot have dominion over you.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14 KJV)

He wants you to walk in an ever-growing relationship with Him that cannot be marred by your sins and mistakes.

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them... (2Corinthians 5:19 KJV)

Let us submit to God (through His Word) and resist the devil and his lies.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7 KJV)

Salvation is indeed eternal. Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus for your gift given to me.

5. REJECTING GOD'S GIFT

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because THOU HAST THOUGHT THAT THE GIFT OF GOD MAY BE PURCHASED with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. (Acts 8:20-21 KJV, emphasis added)

Now we know about the gift of God (salvation) and how it is given to us freely even though it is not free for the One who gave it to us. We have also gotten to know that it is eternal. But let us look at something interesting about gifts again.

Why do you think God would give such a gift to us? He gives it to us because of His love for us and He expects us to receive it with joy and thankfulness.

But let us look at this illustration: Suppose I buy a car and present it to my wife as a gift (that means the car being a gift is given to her free even though for me the one who bought it, it is not free) but she rejects it. Well, did I present the gift to her? Yes I did. And what do you think I would have expected her to do? I would have expected her to receive it with joy, gladness, awe, surprise and thanksgiving. That is a similar thing with this gift that God has given to us. God is definitely expecting us to receive it with joy and thankfulness.

But talking about my wife, now that she has rejected it, how do you think I will feel? Do you think I will be happy? Of course not! I will be very sad. And not just sad, I will feel insulted. Why? Because I bought that expensive gift to give to her to show her how much I love

her. So, she rejecting the gift means she is rejecting my love expression toward her. She is rejecting my love.

Well then, how do you think God feels when anyone refuses His gift? God has purchased such a great gift to give to us because of His love for us. It was very expensive but He still went ahead, bought it, and then presented it to us just to show us how much He loves us. And yet, so many people are rejecting it. How do we expect God to feel when we do that? It is like we are slapping His love at His face. Just like a gift that I give to my wife is simply to express how much I love her, and so rejecting it will be just like rejecting my love expression for her, that is how it is with this gift of God. We should know that by refusing this gift, we are rejecting God's love expression towards us. We are rejecting His love.

Somebody may ask, "How can I reject God's gift?" We reject the gift of God when we refuse His grace and decide to work for what He is giving to us freely. Remember that God's love gifts to us are known as grace.

And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. (Romans 11:6 KJV)

So by trying to work for God's gift (by trying to get God's approval through the Law), we actually refuse it. In other words, we are saying that we want to pay for it instead of receiving it as the free gift that God has made it to be.

Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. (Galatians 5:4 GNB)

What I just illustrated here about refusing God's gift has two relations: to the world (unbelievers) and to the believers. Let us look at how it applies to each group:

Unbelievers

For unbelievers, refusing this gift means that they are refusing to receive the salvation that was purchased for them.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV)

For these people, by rejecting God's gift of salvation, they are condemning themselves to an eternity in hell. And for them, despite how much God loves them, He cannot forcibly take them to heaven. By their choice of rejecting salvation, they have affirmed their judgment and damnation.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: (Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV)

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:29 KJV)

Of sin, because they believe not on me (John 16:9 KJV)

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. (1John 5:12 KJV)

This means, not believing in Jesus is what causes people to perish. They reject God's gift of salvation and so they are to perish for that. What actually happens when this gift is rejected is that they would have to work for their salvation. When God gives man a gift and he refuses it, he has to find a way to get what God was giving him freely by himself (by his works).

Now to someone who works, wages are not considered a gift but an obligation. (Romans 4:4 ISV)

But note that by so doing, that person has rejected the grace of God. In other words, he has refused God's love gift. So that person has to work his way in. And if he can do that, God will have to reward his works with salvation as a just God. But that will no more be grace (love gift), but rather the person's performance purchasing it.

... to someone who works, wages are not considered a gift but an obligation

But the thing is this: No man can do this. No man can qualify for salvation with his works. The standards of God are too high for any man to reach by his works. His standards are represented by the Law. The Law represents God's standards given for men who want to reach His standard. And the Bible shows that no man can reach that standard.

For no one is put right in God's sight by doing what the Law requires; what the Law does is to make us know that we have sinned. (Romans 3:20 KJV)

NOW, IT IS CLEAR THAT NO ONE IS PUT RIGHT WITH GOD BY MEANS OF THE LAW [performance or works], because the scripture says, "Only the person who is put right with God through faith shall live." (Galatians 3:11 GNB, emphasis and annotations added)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 KJV)

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Galatians 2:21 KJV)

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? (Psalm 130:3 KJV)

The Law represents God's absolute standard for those who want to reach Him by their performance. And the Scriptures above just showed us that no one can be seen to be righteous in God's eyes by trying to obey the Law. This is because God's standards are too high for any mortal man to reach. That is why we needed a savior (Jesus Christ). He worked for our salvation for us and put it inside us (those who receive him). He was the only one who was able to keep God's standards perfectly. But after doing that, he gave that perfection to us and he took on our imperfections.

What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did. He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin. (Romans 8:3 GNB)

So this gift of God is actually the only way out for every man because no matter the works of a man, he cannot reach God's standards.

Sadly that is what religion is trying to do. All the religions in the world are trying to reach God's standards by their performance or good works. But that cannot work at all with God because no matter the level of good works they attain, they still cannot reach God's standards. They will always be lacking one way or the other. They may offend either in word or omission or commission or thought.

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? (Psalm 130:3 KJV)

...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity... (Psalm 39:5 KJV)

That is why Jesus came. He came to give us rest from our dead works and bring us into the rest and presence of God. Any unbeliever who does not receive Jesus Christ refuses this gift of salvation and

condemns Himself to an eternity in hell because he rejected the payment of Jesus Christ on his behalf.

That is why God sent us to go and preach the Gospel (good news) to them so that they too can hear and believe.

For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:13-15 NKJV)

Believer, this is one of the greatest privileges you can have on this earth. That is, to go out and tell those whom Jesus came for about what Jesus came to do for them (about the wonderful gift of God).

I have had the opportunity to preach the Gospel to a lot of religious people. I have preached to Muslims, to Buddhists, to people practicing Hinduism. And in all those cases I felt so much compassion for them. Because I realized that these were honest people who really wanted to reach God. They really want to please God. But the sad thing is that they missed the way: Jesus.

In communicating with them, I found out that, they knew in themselves that they had sin in their lives. They knew that there was something wrong on the inside of them but they do not know what it was. They knew God was holy or righteous and that they are not holy enough to reach God's standard.

But where is that believer who will go and tell them that all their religious works, prayers and obligations are not enough because God's standards are too high for them to reach? Where is that person that will go and tell them about God's gift? So millions of them are born into this religious works-circle of trying to reach God, and millions die in it. And yet still they still do not realize that is not enough. They die without ever reaching 'this mysterious God' that they are trying to reach by their religious performance.

If you are such a person and you are reading this book, I want you to be honest with yourself. You know that you are not perfect. You know that your works are not enough. You know that you have sin in your life. You know that you cannot reach God's perfect standards by your performance. So why don't you give up on your works to get these

things and put your faith and trust in Jesus who came to do for you what you could not do for yourself.

God loves you too much to watch you suffer, die or go to hell. And He proved that love for you by sending Jesus Christ to come and take your place, carry your sins, die for you and resurrect so that you can have eternal life. God's gift is available to you.

Jesus is not one of the options for you. He is the only option if you want to live. Jesus is the only way out for you. Receive him as Lord and savior and have life.

Believers

What about the believer? What happens to the believer who after he has received Jesus Christ as Lord and savior, lives with the mindset of trying to qualify for salvation even though Jesus Christ purchased it for him? By so doing the person is actually rejecting the grace of God. *Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. (Galatians 5:4 GNB)*

But because the person is already born again and is a believer, doing this will not take away his salvation (remember that God does not take away His gifts; they are irrevocable).

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (Romans 11:29 KJV)

If that is so, then what happens to those kinds of believers? This is a list of what happens

First of all, they stop the benefits of the grace of God from working in their lives.

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE. (Galatians 5:4 KJV, emphasis added)

Remember the opening Scripture:

...By grace are ye saved... (Ephesians 2:8 KJV)

By trying to reach God's standard, that person cuts off himself from the grace of God; the very thing that saves him. That person therefore prevents the benefits of salvation from working in his life. The benefits of salvation like healing, protection, preservation, wholeness, deliverance, the Holy Spirit and His gifts, and so on, will not work in his

life as God has ordained it to be. He prevents all these from working in his life on this earth. But remember again that it does not change the fact that his salvation is eternally secured.

Actually, all this while, the salvation which he has along with every benefit it carries will still be in him (his spirit). But because of his lack of knowledge and understanding of the truth, he will not see the life of God at work in his life. And because of this, he will struggle on this earth all his life and not enter the rest of God.

For we which have believed do enter into rest... (Hebrew 4:3 KJV)

But what God wants for His children is that their lives and journey on this earth be full of joy and rest. You see, God wants us to live in His rest. It is in His rest that we rely on what Jesus Christ has done and flow in our walk with God from that perspective. In that rest, we rely on the perfect finished works of Jesus and do not spend our entire lives trying to finish the finished works of Jesus.

... he said, IT IS FINISHED... (John 19:30 KJV, emphasis added)

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. (Hebrews 4:10 NKJV)

So for such believers, struggles, sicknesses, stress, attacks, and so on, become a common phenomenon in their Christian lives. This is because they have short-circuited the grace of God from working in their lives through their wrong knowledge and mindset.

Secondly, the believer who does this will live in constant fear; fear of Judgment and of going to hell. But God does not want that for the believer. He wants His perfected love demonstrated for us on the cross to cast out all fear.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1John 4:18 KJV)

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Timothy 1:7 KJV)

God does not give the believer the spirit of fear. But the believer who does not live with the understanding of the gift of God lives in constant fear; fear of doing something wrong, of going to hell, of being punished by God, not being accepted by God, and so on. This constant fear is a proof that that believer has found himself in a territory that God does not want him to be in, because God called us to live in His love, joy, peace, and so on, but not fear. This fear is the perfect medium that the devil can work with his lies and deceptions. But that believer who lives with the

understanding of the grace of God lives in perfect peace because he knows that God is for Him, not against him because of what Jesus Christ came to do.

Again, that believer will not have confidence to approach God even though God would want that one to come to Him with boldness.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus... (Hebrews 10:19 KJV)

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16 KJV)

And because of this, that believer cannot have a relationship with God. This is because sin consciousness will open up that person for the devil to kill his relationship with God with his accusations and condemnation. That believer will be one of those who think that the Holy Spirit (presence of God) leaves them the moment they sin and returns when they ask for forgiveness. But that cannot be so because the Bible says:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter

[The Holy Spirit], **THAT HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER**

(John 14:16 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

...for he hath said, I [God] will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

(Hebrews 13:5 KJV)

God (the Holy Spirit) said that He will NEVER leave us nor forsake us because we are forever perfected in His eyes in Christ Jesus. So in the mind of that believer, he may be thinking that God has left him, when in reality God's presence is still actually there in him and with him. Believer, the Holy Spirit does not leave you when you sin. How can you have a relationship with a God who leaves you any time you do something wrong (if God looks for wrongs, He will get a lot on every one)? Which woman can stay with a man who leaves her the moment she offends him? Even human beings do not do that. Why then would we accuse God of such an act? Believer, have faith in the Word and love of God. God is faithful to His Word and the Word says that He abides with you forever. All these are lies that the devil will try to make that person believe because he has the mindset of working for his salvation.

The fourth thing is: that believer will be unproductive in the body of Christ. This is because the time, strength and effort that God would want him to put into fellowshiping with Him and preaching the Gospel will be spent trying to reach God's standard which he can never reach. That is the very standard that Jesus Christ came to reach for us.

Such people are the kind of believers who spend their whole life trying to finish the finished works of Jesus Christ.

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. (Hebrews 4:10 NKJV)

Again, that believer will not have faith to pray for the sick or to receive anything from God because he may think that he is not qualified to do those things when actually, Jesus Christ is His qualification before God. And that person will not even dare to function in God's power when it is actually residing in Him.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you... (Acts 1:8 KJV)

This is because the person's focus will be on himself but not on Jesus Christ who is that power of God manifested to us.

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD... (1Corinthians 1:24 KJV)

The sixth thing that will happen to that believer is: that believer pulls himself from God's covering because the covering of the believer is in the grace and rest of God.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1 KJV)

Because of this, that person will suffer the attacks and the plagues that the world suffers from even though that is not supposed to be so for a believer.

When the Israelites were in Egypt, the angel of death could not touch them because of the blood of the lamb that was on their door posts. Without the blood, they would have been as vulnerable as the Egyptians. The lamb represents Jesus Christ. Living with the consciousness of the perfection and gift we have because of the blood of Jesus exempts the believer from all plagues and attacks that affects that world.

Finally, that believer will live in sin.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14 KJV)

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (1Corinthians 15:56 KJV)

Sin's dominion in the lives of God's people breaks when they are no more Law conscious (trying to reach God's standards through the Law) or performance focused. Therefore, the believer who lives with the consciousness of the Law or his performance will definitely be bound by

sin because sin gets its power from the Law as the Bible verses above indicates.

If you see a believer who is bound by sin, the person is most probably ignorant of the grace of God because in the grace of God sin does not have dominion over the believer. But note that for all these to be remedied in the life of the believer; all that the person has to do is to KNOW about God's gift AND BELIEVE in it.

... through knowledge shall the just be delivered. (Proverbs 11:9 KJV)
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32 KJV)

That is all. The knowledge, understanding and consciousness of the truth about the gift of God is all that the believer needs for his total liberty.

Paying For God's Gift

Let us look at another illustration here. Imagine if I buy a car for my wife and present it to her as a gift. She receives it but tells me that she will pay me back the money that I used to buy the car. How do you think that will make me feel? I presented the car to her as a gift, but by deciding to pay for it, she will actually be implying that she does not want that gift from me. And so she will actually be rejecting the expression of my love for her. She, in that sense, may be implying that she does not see me as being capable enough to give her a gift like that; or that I do not love her enough to spend that much on her. That will also mean she does not see me as rich enough. She sees me so poor that I cannot afford to give her a gift like that. She again may be implying that I do not love her enough to be able to provide such a gift for her freely.

And that would be an insult to me. What I would have expected from her is that she looks at how expensive the gift may be and see how much I love her and how valuable she is to me. But by asking to pay, she has rejected the gift. She has taken it out of the class of gifts and has brought it to her works.

For many Christians, this is what is happening with them and God's gift. They have pulled the gift that God has given them into the class of works (their works). In that, they want to pay a price by working for what God has given to them as a gift. What they do not know is that

by so doing, they are actually insulting God. They are insulting the God who gave it freely, out of love and to show how expensive they are to Him. They are actually slapping God's gift at His face. And they are refusing the love expression of God to them (which is His grace). They are implying that they do not believe God loves them that much to give them such a gift. They are implying again that God is not rich enough to pay for that gift and give it to them freely; hence they trying to pay for His gift with their works.

The question we should ask ourselves is this: "Is salvation a gift from God or not"? Of course it is.

... it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8 KJV)

So why then do we want to bring salvation to the place where we are supposed to pay for it or work for it when it is free? Some believers think it is their obedience to God that will save (heal, protect, deliver) them. That means their obedience is the works that they are using to pay for the gift of God. Others think that it is their fasting or religious activities that will save (heal, protect, deliver) them.

But look at some of the things that God says about this act:

Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law [the Law represents peoples works and performance to reach God] have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. (Galatians 5:4 GNB, annotations added)

They have not known the way in which God puts people right with himself [that is God saves people through Jesus Christ], and instead, they have tried to set up their own way; and so they did not submit themselves to God's way of putting people right. For Christ has brought the Law to an end, so that everyone who believes is put right with God. (Romans 10:3-4 KJV, annotations added)

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because THOU HAST THOUGHT THAT THE GIFT OF GOD MAY BE PURCHASED with money. (Acts 8:20 KJV)

In other words, God sees man's effort to pay for His gift as a way that they fall from His grace given to them through what Jesus Christ did.

For believers, it does not mean that they have lost their salvation. They are still saved because everyone who is born again has actually received this gift of salvation which is eternal. But the mindset that their works is what will keep them saved will 'short circuit' the grace of God in their lives because they are implying that they have to pay for God's

gift with their works. They push what God has given them as a gift into the class where they have to work to qualify for it.

Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. (Galatians 5:4 GNB)

By trying to be put right with God through the Law or your works, you are actually implying that you have to do a work or pay a price to become righteous or qualify for God's blessings when it is actually included in the gift of God. That believer therefore pulls himself from God's covering in his mind. That is when you see that believer live in and suffer from things that Jesus had actually already dealt with for him in salvation. And did you note that the verse above said that by the person doing this, he is cut off from Christ and outside of God's grace? ...*You are outside God's grace.*

How can that be? It is because by so doing, the person is rejecting God's gift given to him. No wonder we see so many believers living such beggarly lives. They suffer from things that Jesus Christ has already saved them from. Why is that so? This is because they do not know about the gift of God. They do not know that all that they have to do is receive and yield to God's gift by faith. So they are perishing for their lack of knowledge.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6 KJV)

But thanks be to God that we know the truth and the truth has made us free.

6. LOVE, GOD'S REASON

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love... (1John 4:16 KJV)

We have gotten to know in the previous chapters that salvation is the gift of God. We have also gotten to know in the previous chapters that it is irrevocable and that refusing it is an insult to God. Let us move on to the next thing about God's gift.

Let us ask ourselves this question: "Why would God give us such a gift?" Well, it is because of His love.

For God SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? God gave His son who represents His gift to us.

Jesus answered and said unto her, IF THOU KNEWEST THE GIFT OF GOD, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. (John 4:10 KJV, emphasis added)

God gave us the gift of salvation because of His love for us.

... for God so loved the world...

Or despisest thou THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS AND FORBEARANCE AND LONGSUFFERING; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Romans 2:4 KJV, emphasis added)

From the above Scriptures, we can see clearly that the reason why God gave us salvation as a gift is because of His love for us.

I think the main reason why people may have a hard time receiving this message is because they do not understand how much God loves us.

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge... (Ephesians 3:19 KJV)

When we understand the love of God, we will also understand and receive this truth: That God has given us His best free of charge.

It is time we stop seeing God as a God who is looking for every little mistake with us to take us to Hell or push us away, and start seeing Him as the God who loves us so much that He is looking for every little excuse to take us to heaven, bless us, protect us and heal us. And if we give Him that excuse by receiving His gift, He will not reject us.
...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37 KJV)

Greater Than A Mother's Love

Let me ask you this question, "If you were a mother and had a child and the child goes out to play so much that he comes back home dirty and stinking, will you reject your child because of that?" Of course not! Does the stench on the child cancel the fact that he is your child? Of course not! No matter how dirty the child gets, you still know that he is your child and treat him that way. What would you do? You would wash the child as many times as he gets dirty. So you will accept the child despite the dirt and stench on the child.

Let us consider this too: What if your child does something naughty that you told him not to do? Will you reject your child because of that? Of course not! Despite what the child does, you still know he is your child and still love the child.

Now, the examples above are just talking about man's love for their children, which is imperfect and selfish. If a man can love his child like this, how much more God? How much does God love His children? Which one is greater; man's love or God's love? Of course it is God's love. With all this love that a man will have for his child, he will not dare die for that child. But 'this God' died for us even we were not His children.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. (Romans 5:8 KJV, emphasis added)

This shows the depth of God's love for us. So if human beings are showing this kind of love and acceptance for their children despite their imperfections, how much more will God accept His children despite their imperfections? How much more will He wash them and perfect them? How far then will God go for His children? Just think about it. If men are going that far for their children despite their imperfect love, how far will God go for His children with His perfect love? So many parents are working the whole day for years just to take care of their children. And yet, their love is not perfect. It is man's love; it is imperfect love. So what about God's perfect love for us?

But do you know what? God loves us more than we can ever imagine. And He proved it: He died for us and even went to hell for us. Do you know that when Jesus died on the cross, it did not end there? He also went to hell for us. Yes he did. It was all part of the price that He had to pay for us. He took our sins and so He necessarily had to take the punishment that the sinner deserved, even the punishment of going to hell.

... HE [Jesus] ALSO DESCENDED FIRST INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH [Hell] (Ephesians 4:9 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Because THOU WILT NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HELL, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. He seeing this before SPAKE OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, THAT HIS SOUL WAS NOT LEFT IN HELL, neither his flesh did see corruption. (Acts 2:27, 31 KJV, emphasis added)

You see, Jesus took our judgment with included going to hell. Jesus Christ went to hell for your sake. He did not sin but because you sinned and He carried your sins, He had to pay the price every sinner should pay including going to hell. He did this just because of his love for us.

Crazy Love

Now, let us remember that Jesus is God. That means it was actually God who went to hell for us. God left heaven to go to hell for you and me. What kind of crazy love is this? Would you do this? That is, leave heaven and go to hell for people who do not even appreciate you? But God did it.

How many men can die for those that they claim to love? Okay, let us suppose that a man may dare die (physically) for someone that he loves. But how many men could decide to spend a minute in hell for a loved one? No man can ever knowingly decide to go to hell for anyone. But God did that for you so that when you come into Him, He cannot condemn you to hell again because Jesus went there for you. Hallelujah! Glory be to God!

God never liked sending any man to hell. He never liked punishing any man because He loved men so much. But He could not help it because aside He being a God of love, He was also a just God and He had to punish sin. So to settle this matter between His justice and love nature forever, He sent Jesus to take our place, die for us, and go to hell for us, thus paying every price for our sins for eternity so that God's justice will be satisfied forever. And now, He can righteously show you His love and take you to heaven to be with Him without compromising His nature as a just God. Again, He can now show you His grace, blessings, healing, protection, power and kindness no matter your imperfections without compromising His nature as a just God. He can now do all these for you and be righteous in doing them because of what Jesus did.

That same way that the righteous and perfect Jesus became sin and went to hell because of you, you, as imperfect as you are now, carry Jesus' perfection and now qualify to go to heaven because of Jesus. *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Corinthians 5:21 KJV)* Believer, God will not send you to hell again because Jesus Christ took your place and went there for you. You actually went there in him. If God sends you to hell again, that will be unrighteousness on God's part because He is making you pay the same price twice. You paid once in Christ Jesus and you are not supposed to pay again. But we all know that

God is righteous and just. Rest in God, fall in love with His love and you will live for Him effortlessly.

For Christ also HATH ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (1Peter3:18 KJV, emphasis added)

The Good News Of God's Love

What manner of love is this? That my Lord should die for me. It seems too good to be true huh? Well, that is it about the love of God. It sounds 'inhuman' because it is inhuman; it is divine love.

May be able to COMPREHEND with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST, WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? God's love is so great that it virtually passes knowledge. It is almost too good to understand or too good to be true. Because of God's love He died for me. A whole God died for me. The creator of the heavens and the earth died for me. That's great. God loves me that much.

This is the Gospel (good news). It is about the love of God proved through Jesus. When we go out to preach the Gospel, all that we are supposed to do is to tell people about how much God loves them. God loves us so much and Jesus is the proof of that love. Knowing and believing in this love is the key to your peace and rest in Christ. It is the key to your relationship with God. Believe that God loves you. He loves you too much to take you to hell and He sent Jesus Christ to make sure of that.

Hell is real, just as sickness, poverty, curses, disgrace, and so on are real. But even more real is the love of God for you. So sickness, poverty, curses, disgrace, fear and so on, are not for you as a child of God. God loves His children too much to put them through any of these. *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love... (1John 4:16 KJV)*

This should be your mindset as a Christian or a child of God: That God loves you too much to watch you not enjoy any of the benefits of salvation (health, wholeness, protection, heaven, and so on). If earthly

parents want the best for their children, then our heavenly Father will definitely want no less for us.

Believing in God's love is real faith in God because God is love. Jesus is indeed the proof of God's love for us. He experienced God's worse so that we will experience God's best. He experienced hell so that we will experience heaven. He experienced pain so that we will experience joy, love and peace. This is indeed good news. I am radically loved by God. Hallelujah. Glory be to God.

7. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFT

*For by grace are ye saved **THROUGH FAITH**... (Ephesians 2:8 KJV, emphasis added)*

We have learnt about the great gift that God has given to us in the previous chapters-- how it was bought expensively but given to us free because of God's love for us.

Now, let us ask ourselves this question: "What do you think a person who gives a gift would expect from the person that he gives the gift to?" He would definitely expect that person to **RECEIVE** that gift. That means if God gave us salvation as a gift, then God expects us to **RECEIVE** His gift.

Faith

If God expects us to receive His gift, then we have to know how to receive it. So, how do we receive God's gift? Let us remember that God is not a man.

God is not a man... (Numbers 23:19 KJV)

He is not flesh and blood. God is a spirit being.

God is a spirit... (John 4:24 KJV)

So it is not like we are going to see Him or the gift that He is giving us with our physical eyes in order to receive it. So then, how do we receive God's gift when we do not see God or the gift with our eyes? The

answer to this is found in the theme verse that we are using for this study.

For by grace are ye saved THROUGH FAITH... (Ephesians 2:8 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? Take note of the capitalized words above. The Bible tells us here that salvation is received through faith.

... saved THROUGH FAITH...

It could not have been clearer. This shows us that the gift of God (salvation) is received by faith.

Therefore BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also WE HAVE ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2 KJV emphasis added)

Did you see that? We have access by faith into the grace (God's gift).

This is what it means:

SALVATION IS GIVEN FREELY BY GRACE BUT RECEIVED BY FAITH.

So, what does the Bible mean by the statement 'through faith'? FAITH IS SIMPLY SEEING IN LINE WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 KJV)

But let us remember that Jesus is the Word of God:

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 KJV)

So seeing in line with the Word of God is seeing in line with what Jesus Christ came to do. When that happens, we see, believe, talk and act according to the finished works of Christ Jesus.

Faith And Confessions

That IF THOU SHALT CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH THE LORD JESUS, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION. (Romans 10:9-10 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? Take note of the capitalized words above. Did you see the criteria the Bible has given for salvation? What criteria did the Bible give for receiving the gift of God? Believe and confess. This is the faith way (Isn't this simple? God makes things so simple. It takes preachers to make the things of God complicated. But do you know something? The more we grow in the ministry, the more we should learn to present the Gospel in a simple way to people so that everybody can understand and receive it. But for God Himself, He makes it simple so that everybody can partake of it). The way to receive the gift of God is to believe in what Jesus did for you and then confess it.

That IF THOU SHALT CONFESS with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, AND SHALT BELIEVE in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED. For WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH unto righteousness; and with THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION. (Romans 10:9-10 KJV, emphasis added)

Look at the Scripture above. It says everything plainly right there. Take note of the capitalized words. They say:

*...if thou shalt confess... and shall believe... thou shall be saved.
...with the heart man believes... with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Did you see that? It simply said 'BELIEVE AND CONFESS'. Believe in the resurrection of Jesus (of course you cannot believe in His resurrection when you do not believe in His death; so His death is inclusive in this) in your heart and confess; and the Bible says that salvation shall be yours. It said, 'confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus': That is to declare Jesus Christ as your Lord. Then believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, and you shall be saved (healed, protected, delivered, made whole, and so on). This is so simple.

That means you believe that Jesus died for you. He died to carry your past, present and future sins; paid the price for them and resurrected without them. Meaning that your entire lifetime of sins has been paid for and taken out of the picture by what Jesus did. And then he resurrected so that you can have eternal life. God wants you to believe this and then confess it.

But let us remember again that salvation is not just about going to heaven or deliverance from sins, but also includes healing, preservation, protection, provision, wholeness and so on. That means, when you need any of these at any time, believe that Jesus paid the price for these to be yours and confess it with your mouth.

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I BELIEVED, AND THEREFORE HAVE I SPOKEN; we also believe, and therefore speak (2Corinthians 4:13 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? From the above verse, we can see that when you believe, you will definitely speak. Your words will always give away what you believe. Your words are a proof (evidence) of your faith. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth will speak. Therefore the consummation of your believing in Jesus Christ and what he came to do for you is your utterance of those things. By your speaking, you are located in that arena of faith and hence you receive. That means: GOD GIVES, BUT FAITH IS THE HAND THAT RECEIVES WHAT GOD GIVES.

That is why without faith it is impossible to please God.
But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]... (Hebrews 11:6 KJV, annotations added)

Why is it impossible to please God without faith? This is because, you cannot receive the gifts that He purchased to show His love for you; because the only way to receive from God is by faith.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering ... For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (James 1:6-7 KJV)

Faith is the arm that receives from God. Nothing else can move God. Nothing else can receive from God except faith.

Receiving

So if you are sick, you can receive healing in the same way that salvation is received: Believe that by His stripes you were healed, and confess that healing (*1 Peter 2:24*). Then thank God for His healing. And by so doing you will receive the gift of healing that God has for you. But it is not just about healing; you can receive everything that salvation supplies to you. Simply believe in Jesus Christ. Believing in Him is believing in the Word of God, for Jesus Christ is the Word of God. Believe that He actually did concerning your situation what the Word says that He has done about it. Then begin to confess them and thank God for them.

Somebody may say: "How can someone just utter some words and think God will save Him just like that?" Well, that is what the Bible

says here, not so? But do not forget that God created that world with words. So that same law of the spirit that God used in creating the world is what comes into operation when you also believe in Jesus Christ and confess him as Lord.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. (Matthew 12:37 KJV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (Proverbs 18:21 KJV)

So when you speak, it is not 'just words' that come out of your mouth. Spiritual power and reality is released as you speak or confess those words.

That is the realm in which God operates: Faith. God is a 'Words God'. He functions with words. His currency is words. He moves in words; he saves, delivers, touches, heals, strengthens and loves, through words.

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. (Psalm 107:20 KJV)

So when you also begin to confess what Jesus did for you (salvation) you are moving in perfect sync with God. And God honors that.

Confess Jesus' Lordship over your life. Confess His healing. Confess His provision. Confess His deliverance from every power of darkness. Confess the authority that He has given you over the world, the devil, limitations, sicknesses, demons, poverty and lack.

And note that you are not confessing them for them to come to pass. You are confessing them because they are true. Jesus did it for you. Then start thanking God for being faithful to His Word. Thank Him because He has already done it all. See Jesus' finished works in whatever you need and confess them all. And by so doing, you will see God at work in your life mightily.

Salvation is given by grace but received by faith. Your faith is always seen by your words or confessions. So you receive everything that salvation supplies by seeing what Jesus has done, believing them and then confessing them.

We believe and therefore we speak. Glory be to God.

8. THE GOSPEL

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8 KJV)

Have you noticed that from the beginning of this book all that you have been reading about is good news? That means you have been hearing the Gospel.

Good News

The word ‘gospel’ comes from the Greek word ‘euangelion’ which means ‘good message’ or ‘good news’ (*Strong’s Greek Dictionary*). The word ‘gospel’ therefore means ‘good news’. So wherever you see the word ‘gospel’ in the Bible, you can replace it with the phrase ‘good news’ because that is what it means. What is this good news about? This good news is about God’s Son Jesus Christ. *From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and CALLED BY GOD TO PREACH HIS GOOD NEWS. The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures. IT IS ABOUT HIS SON, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David. (Romans 1:1-3 GNB, emphasis added)*

The Gospel is about Jesus Christ, what he came to do for us (paid the price for us and presented the gift of salvation to us) and its

implications to world and believers. From the Scripture above, you can see clearly from the capitalized words that the Gospel is about Jesus Christ...

...called by God to preach His good news...it is about His son, our Lord Jesus Christ...

Did you see that? The Gospel is about Jesus Christ our Lord. Just think about all that you have learnt about the gift of God so far. It was bought expensively but given to us freely because of the love of God which was demonstrated towards us in Christ Jesus. This indeed is good news.

When we think of the truth that Jesus died for us and in our place; He went to hell for us so that we will never go there; He became sin for us so that we will become the righteousness of God; He made us just as he is. And we did nothing for all these things. He did it all. All that we do is that we receive it with thanksgiving and faith. This is indeed good news.

So when Jesus sent the disciples to preach the Gospel...

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE. (Mark 16:15 KJV, emphasis added)

What he meant was this:

...GIVE THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE. (Mark 16:15 BBE, emphasis added)

Beloved, you have been sent to preach the Good News: The good news about Jesus Christ and all that he came to do for the world; the good news about the gift of God given to men. The Gospel or Good News is indeed all about Jesus Christ.

That means any message or preaching that does not have Jesus as the center, show the Lordship of Jesus or point people to Jesus is not the gospel. How can it be good news if someone tells you to try and try with all your might to get saved when you know that your efforts cannot be enough? How can it be good news when someone tells you that God is watching you; and if He finds any fault with you, He is going to curse you? That is definitely not good news.

Jesus sent the church to preach the Good News. This good news is about Jesus Christ and his finished works for us. He saved us. He paid the price for us. He took all our punishment. He went to hell for us. He defeated the devil for us. And he has given salvation to us freely. The Word of God for this generation is a person: Jesus Christ.

But WE PREACH CHRIST crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both

*Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
(1Corinthians 1:23-24 KJV, emphasis added)*

*And he [Jesus] was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and HIS
NAME IS CALLED THE WORD OF GOD. (Revelations 19:13 KJV,
emphasis and annotations added)*

Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is our message. Jesus is the Good News. He saved men. Through his blood the New Covenant (which believers are under) came to be. He brought eternal life to us. So it is all about Jesus.

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US THROUGH HIS SON. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end.
(Hebrews 1:1-2 GNB, emphasis added)*

*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the
GRACE OF CHRIST UNTO ANOTHER GOSPEL (Galatians 1:6 KJV,
emphasis added)*

The Gospel is about Jesus. He is the proof of God's love and grace to us. And we have been called into the grace of Christ. Any other message, preaching or revelation is not for us. Any message that does not focus on Jesus is not the Word of God for us because the Word of God for us is Jesus.

...in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son...

The Bible And The Word Of God

Believer, there are so many things that are written in the Bible, but it is important that you have this understanding otherwise you will be deceived even as you read the Bible. Do not get me wrong. Everything that is written in the Bible is true. There is no book that is as true, concise, scientifically accurate, and historically accurate, feeds the spirit, soul and body of men and full of reality as the Bible. The Bible CONTAINS the words of God.

Even though everything in the Bible is written for our learning: *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4 KJV)*

The Word of God to us is Jesus Christ.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 KJV)

And he [Jesus] was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and HIS NAME IS CALLED THE WORD OF GOD. (Revelations 19:13 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Jesus is the Word of God. He is the Word of God made flesh. So, how can there be a Word of God without the Jesus (the Word of God). What do I mean? This is what I mean: Until we have seen a statement, or had a revelation, that is in line with the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us, we can be reading the Bible but still not gotten the Word of God to us yet. Let me simplify it this way: the Word of God is when we see Jesus in the Bible. The Word of God is when we allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to us in the Bible.

It does not matter if we are reading the Old or New Testament portions of the Bible, it is all about Jesus. We ought to see Jesus in all of the scriptures. The Old Testament, its stories and prophecies are all about Jesus.

In the Old Testament, Jesus is hidden in the shadows so we have to draw close to see him clearly. But it is still about him. In the New Testament, Jesus came in the body for everyone to see him and see God just as He is. Jesus is the Word of God.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES [what Jesus called the Scriptures is the Old Testament]; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME. (John 5:39 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Did you see that? Jesus explained to the Pharisees that the Old Testament is all about him. Yes it is. How can it not be about him when he is the Word of God?

There are many moral lessons that can be learnt in the Old Testament portion of the Bible but be careful not to make that the thrust of your Bible studies or Christian life. The thrust of your Bible studies or Christian life should be in seeing Jesus in those Scriptures and walking in his reality. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). In other words, “live your Christian life from my perspective because I am the way to God, the truth you need and life you should live by”. All the stories in the Old Testament talk about Jesus. It is all about him.

After Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to a couple. They were talking about Jesus on their way to their house. When they saw him, they did not recognize him. He walked with them, listened to them for a while and afterwards began to explain the Scriptures to them:

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [Jesus] EXPOUNDED UNTO THEM IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF. (Luke 24:27 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Did you see that? Jesus started from Moses (that is Genesis to Deuteronomy) to the prophets (that is Ezekiel, Daniel, Malachi, and so on). He explained to them that all the things that were written there were about him. Every story in the Bible is about Jesus. Every lesson is about Jesus. Every prophecy has a connection to Jesus. Why? This is because Jesus is the Word of God.

Adam's story is about Jesus because Jesus is the second Adam. He came to restore the glory that the first Adam lost and more. *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45 KJV)*

Noah's story is about Jesus because Jesus is the ark. Meaning that, just like everyone outside of the ark died in the time of Noah, so is the whole world living in death. But those in Christ are saved and have eternal life. No matter how the waters in the world rise, for those of us in Christ, it cannot touch us; it will just lift us up more and more.

David's story is about Jesus: David means beloved in Hebrew, and Jesus is also the beloved son of God. David defeated a giant for the Israelites; a giant that none of them could defeat. David's victory was Israel's victory. Because David won, Israel won; if David had lost, Israel would have lost. That is a picture of Jesus because Jesus came to fight the giants of our time for us. He fought the devil, sin, sickness, death, and so on, and he won. Now, that same way, his victory is now our victory. We now have victory over the devil, sin, sickness, death, and so on. Because Jesus won, we also won.

Moses and Joshua's story is about Jesus: Joshua is actually the Hebrew word for Jesus: 'Yeshua'. Moses was not able to take the Israelites to the Promised Land. It was Joshua who did that. Moses is a picture of the Law because *'the law was given by Moses'* (John 1:17). But Moses or the Law could not take the Israelites to the Promised Land. This means the Law cannot save you. It was Joshua who was able to

take them to the Promised Land. This means it is ‘Yeshua’ (Jesus) who can save you. And he did. Hallelujah.

I can go on and on with every story in the Bible. But the point is this: the whole Bible is about Jesus. God found pleasure in hiding His son in the shadows in the Old Testament so that we will have to search before we find him therein.

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25:2 KJV)

But in the New Testament, Jesus came in the body, no more hidden. He came as a man. The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among men.

Just like the stories in the Old Testament portions of the Bible are about Jesus, so are the prophecies. Bible scholars have discovered that there are more than 365 prophecies in the Old Testament that were about Jesus. And he fulfilled them when he came on this earth. They are called ‘Messianic Prophecies’. I will not have time to share them with you in this book, so you can do a research about them.

But the reality is that the Word of God indeed became flesh and walked among men. Jesus is that Word. He is the Good News. He is the gift of God. Hallelujah! Glory be to God.

The Jesus Test

The Spirit of God always comes to give a testimony of Jesus because Jesus is the Word of God.

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, HE SHALL TESTIFY OF ME [Jesus]: (John 15:26 KJV, emphasis added)

But it takes our eyes to be opened by the Holy Ghost to see this because the devil is in the business of blinding people to the Gospel which is about Jesus Christ. Look at how the Bible put it:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2Corinthians 4:4 KJV)

Their minds, indeed, were closed; and to this very day their minds are covered with the same veil as they read the books of the old covenant.

The veil is removed only when a person is joined to Christ. (2Corinthians 3:14 GNB)

Our prayers should be that God should open our eyes so that we will see Jesus in the Scriptures. That is when you are truly receiving the Word of God for you because Jesus is the Word of God (Gospel). But unfortunately, it is not every believer who knows these things that I am sharing with you including a lot of preachers.

I personally got to know these things later on in my Christian life after a lot of ‘try and errors’. I had lived my Christian life based on just any information that I got. I wanted to do my best for God. And I thought anyone who comes with the title ‘pastor’ or ‘man of God’ preached the true word of God. I thought anything that they said was correct. I thought that so far as they quoted scriptures from the Bible, they were preaching the Word of God. It was later on that I was blessed to encounter true men of God who did not preach their experience, wisdom or laid down traditions but preached the Word of God. These were men of God who rightly divided the Word of Truth. My Christian life changed tremendously. I stopped moving in circles and finally found the way: Jesus.

That was when I noticed that very few ‘men of God’ are actually preaching the truth: Jesus. Most preach their wisdom or just laid down religion. And that is not enough because God’s Word alone is His solution and release for His people (and Jesus is His Word). That is why He gave us a stern warning in the Bible that we should not believe every ‘man of God’ or ‘prophet’ but we should test the spirits to see whether they are of God.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1John 4:1 KJV)

Did you see that?

We are not supposed to believe every spirit (or man of God) but to try them and see whether or not they are of God. Why?

This is because many false prophets are in the world. This is not talking about those who give prophecies alone but about anyone who speaks the Word of God because prophecies are God’s words to His people. In that line, we are also supposed to watch out for ‘false preachers’ or ‘false teachers’ who are in the world.

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be FALSE TEACHERS among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them... (2Peter 2:1 KJV, emphasis added)

There are some preachers who have found themselves in the category of ‘false prophets’ because they honestly do not know these things that I am sharing with you. They may have never been taught all these things. So in their hearts, they honestly want to help people, but because they lack the knowledge and understanding of these truths, they err.

... Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? (Mark 12:24 KJV)

So what they do is teach what they learnt from those that they thought should know the truth.

There are also others who are in preaching or prophesying because of riches or fame. And for such people, the Bible calls them wolves...

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. (Acts 20:29 KJV)

So there are those who are false prophets (teachers, preachers) because they are ignorant of the truth and so misrepresent God. And there are others who are false because they are cheats. But both of them produce the same results: They keep believers in bondage due to ignorance. They take the eyes of believers off Jesus Christ. They keep the gift of God away from those that Jesus Christ laboured to present it to.

THAT IS WHY THE BIBLE ADMONISHES US TO TEST THE SPIRITS.

And how do we test them? What is the test? Look at what the Bible says about that:

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God... (1John 4:2-3 KJV)
Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. (1Corinthians 12:3 KJV)

Did you see that? IT IS THE JESUS TEST. The way by which you can know if a man of God or preacher or prophet is speaking the truth is to test them with the ‘Jesus test’.

**EVERYBODY CAN PREACH A MESSAGE BUT NOT
EVERYBODY CAN EXALT JESUS IN HIS MESSAGE. IT TAKES
THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.**

That is the test. The question you should ask yourself is: “Does that message focus on Jesus, his coming, all that he did for us and its implication to us and the world?” If it does not focus on any of these then you can be sure that that message did not come from God. That man just preached his wisdom or yielded to another spirit.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God...

It takes the Holy Ghost for Jesus to become the center of a message; not men’s works, efforts, failures, and so on, but Jesus.

...no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost...

It takes the Holy Ghost for the Lordship of Jesus to be established in a message, word or prophecy. That Lordship can talk about how Jesus came to this earth, defeated the devil, sin, sickness, poverty, and so on, and won the victory for us. It can also talk about how Jesus Christ took our place so that we will take his place and reign with him now in heavenly places. Or about the new life and Covenant that we have in Christ; how he saved us once and for all; how he paid the price for God’s gift to be given to us freely, and so on. That kind of message definitely shows that Jesus Christ is indeed Lord.

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God...

Any message that does not show you these things but tends to tell you that there is something else for you to do to defeat the devil when Jesus defeated him; that you have to force your way to be saved when Jesus saved you; that you are a sinner when Jesus is your righteousness; that you deserve to be punished when Jesus was punished for you; that you have to live by the Law when you are under grace; that you have to pay for the gift of God when it is simply a gift, and so on cannot be from God because it just took Jesus out of the picture and cancelled what he came to do.

...no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed...

This understanding is very important. This is what makes the difference between a mature Christian and immature one. The immature Christian swallows everything (message, prophecy) that is presented to him, while the mature one tests the messages to see if they are in line with what Jesus came to do.

Believer, God does not want you to be deceived. He does not want you to suffer and struggle all your Christian life. What you hear

and allow entry into your heart is very important. So you have to be careful what you hear...

Take heed therefore how ye hear... (Luke 8:18 KJV)

Test the spirits so that you will not be deceived.

...THOU HAST TRIED THEM WHICH SAY THEY ARE APOSTLES, AND ARE NOT, AND HAST FOUND THEM LIARS: (Revelations 2:2 KJV, emphasis added)

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (1Thessalonians 5:21 KJV)

Beloved, God as a loving Father does not like it when you struggle in your walk with Him. He does not like it if you are shaky and weak in Him. That is why He provided you His Word revealed in the Bible. Jesus is that Word. Stay in the reality of Jesus and his finished works and you will never make a mistake. In the arms of Jesus you are safe.

It does not matter how many different churches there are in the world. It does not matter the different doctrines there are. But the one thing that should be common about all of us is the focus on Jesus. We all ought to keep our eyes on Jesus. We will never sink doing that. You can trust in him that he is indeed able. That he is indeed the Word of God made flesh. Trusting in him is trusting in God because they are one. Be bold in him and what he came do for you. That honors God.

May you be strengthened by the Holy Ghost in your inner man so that you will be unshakable and unmovable; always abounding in the God's grace; being rooted and grounded in Christ Jesus.

The New Testament Test

As I stated earlier on, seeing the Jesus connection in the Bible is seeing the Word of God. And again, there are a lot of things in the Bible, but it is in seeing how those things connect to Jesus and what he came to do for us that we receive the Word of God for us (the Gospel).

Know that one of the main things Jesus came to do for us was to establish a New Testament or Covenant. This New Testament is not like the Old Testament. The Old Testament was based on the Ten Commandments and the other articles of the Law. But the New Testament is based on Jesus Christ and his finished works for us. The Old Testament focused on men, their level of obedience and right

standing with God. But the New Testament focuses on Jesus, he becoming our life, our righteousness, our wisdom, our intercessor and everything that we are supposed to be in the sight of God.

The Old Testament is about men trying their best to reach a God who is so far away. The New Testament is about our loving God who became a man just to bridge the gap between Him and us and reconciled us to Himself. Let us look at what the Bible says about the two covenants.

But now, Jesus has been given priestly work which is superior to theirs, just as the covenant which he arranged between God and his people is a better one, because it is based on promises of better things. If there had been nothing wrong with the first covenant, there would have been no need for a second one. But God finds fault with his people when he says, "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will draw up a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. They were not faithful to the covenant I made with them, and so I paid no attention to them. Now, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel in the days to come, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. None of them will have to teach their friends or tell their neighbors, 'Know the Lord.' For they will all know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive their sins and will no longer remember their wrongs." By speaking of a new covenant, God has made the first one old; and anything that becomes old and worn out will soon disappear. (Hebrews 8:6-13 GNB)

Read the above Scripture carefully. I could not have put it in better words than the ones above. God found a problem with the Old Covenant because the focus was man and his works not Jesus. And He drew up a New Covenant that had Jesus and Himself as the focus. This is a much better covenant because Jesus is the author of this covenant. And because of that, we cannot break that covenant because we did not cut it; it was Jesus who did and he is not going to break it. So the New Covenant is not based on man and his effort but on Jesus Christ and his finished works for us.

... for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14 KJV)

Every believer is under the New Covenant. The day you became born again, you came under the New Covenant: the covenant of God's

grace and kindness. So you have to read the Bible with the mindset that you are New Testament Christian so that you can rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. (2Timothy 2:15 KJV, emphasis added)

A lot of people are wrongly dividing the Word. But we have been admonished to rightly divide it. That is what I meant by the statement, ‘everything in the Bible is written for our learning but not everything in the Bible is written to us directly as New Testament believers’. For example, look at these verses:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. (Deuteronomy 28:1, 3, 15, 16 KJV)

Upon reading the Scripture above, it seems to tell us that God will bless us if we obey the Laws and curse us if we disobey the Laws. And any preacher who does not really understand the Bible in the right context can take this Scripture and preach it to other believers who will believe that message and end up in bondage because of the lack of understanding of the Scriptures. What do I mean? Okay, check out this Scripture too:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, WHO HATH BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in heavenly places in Christ: (Ephesians 1:3 KJV, emphasis added)

Do you see this Scripture? This one is telling us that God HAS ALREADY BLESSED US with ALL spiritual blessings. Now, this is opposite to what the verse in Deuteronomy 28 says. For that one, there was a condition to the blessings. That is ‘IF you obey, you will be blessed but IF you disobey you will be cursed’. But the verse above just told us straight forward that God has blessed us ALREADY with ALL spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

Did you see that? Is the Bible contradicting itself? Of course not! The Bible does not contradict itself. Anyone who thinks as such is ignorant of the Scriptures.

So what is the Bible telling us here then? That is what I just explained about the two covenants. What we saw in the book of Deuteronomy 28 is actually for those who were living in the Old Covenant. That is the covenant that is based on man's obedience. That is why God measured their level of obedience to the Law to either bless them or curse them. But the Scripture in Ephesians 1 is about those of us in the New Covenant. For us, we are already blessed with all blessings because we are in Christ. For those of us under the New Covenant, God does not curse us. We cannot be cursed because Jesus Christ became a curse for us...

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14 KJV)

Did you see that? For those of us in Christ, because Jesus became a curse for us on the cross, we cannot be cursed but rather we inherit Abraham's blessings. And again, the obedience that Deuteronomy 28 is requiring has been fulfilled for us in Christ Jesus. The moment you become a believer, Jesus Christ's obedience is credited into your account. As obedient as Jesus Christ is; so does God see you to be because you are in Christ. God calls us obedient not because we personally obeyed all the laws but because Jesus Christ obeyed.

*AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN... (1Peter 1:14 KJV, emphasis added)
... as he [Jesus Christ] is, so are we in this world. (1John 4:17 KJV, annotations added)*

Jesus Christ kept all the Laws of God on our behalf (we could not have kept it anyway). He took the curses for our disobeying those laws, so all that is left for us is the blessings because we are God's obedient children as seen in Ephesians 1. So if a believer reads Deuteronomy 28, the attitude that he should have should be that of joy and thanksgiving because all the blessings that are outlined therein belongs to him and none of the curses can come to him because of what Jesus did. Do you get it?

So now, imagine if a preacher goes to a church and preaches from Deuteronomy 28 and tells those believers that if they do not obey

God, they will come under curses. That will be a blatant lie. But do you notice that that lie could only be possible because they did not connect that Scripture to Jesus. Unless the preacher can make a connection of that Scripture with Jesus Christ, he will confuse himself and all the members of the church. But after this simple explanation, have you seen how this scripture has come to light: How you can now see the good news in it?

So as I stated earlier, do not just receive anything that you are told just like that: Check it with Jesus to see if it lines up with what he came to do for us and the New Covenant. Jesus is indeed the Word of God.

The Spirit Of Antichrist

It is for this same reason that when the antichrist comes we will know his name and function. And what is his name? ANTI-CHRIST: which simply means ‘against Christ’. Even though the person of the antichrist may not yet be around, the spirit of antichrist is around. That is what the Bible says:

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and THIS IS THAT SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, whereof ye have heard that it should come; AND EVEN NOW ALREADY IS IT IN THE WORLD. (1John 4: 3 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? Look at the last statement of this verse again...
... *AND EVEN NOW ALREADY IS IT IN THE WORLD.*

The spirit of antichrist is already in the world. It has been in the world from the time of the first apostles and is still around now. It is this spirit that seeks to pervert everything that Christ Jesus came to do in the minds and lives of believers and world as a whole. The spirit of the antichrist comes to pervert one thing: Christ. It comes to pervert the revelation and understanding of what Jesus Christ came to do for us and what it should mean to us. Note that it does not even come to pervert the revelation of God, but rather the revelation of Christ.

IT IS NOT THE SPIRIT OF ANTI-GOD; IT IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST.

So it comes specifically to pervert the revelation of Christ. Why? This is because the revelation of God alone is not the problem. So far as people get to know ‘a God’ without connecting Him to Jesus Christ and

what he came to do, it is okay for this spirit. Why? Because it is Jesus Christ who is the picture of God's true nature revealed to us.

Who being... the express image of his [God's] person. (Hebrews 1:3 KJV, annotations added)

No man has seen God at any time; the only Son, who is on the breast of the Father, he has made clear what God is. (John 1:18 BBE)

It is in seeing God through Jesus that we see our God as the God of grace and love. Outside of that, we will see God as someone who does not love or care for us; Someone who is happy with us one time and angry with us another time; Someone who is always looking for mistakes with us to punish us; Someone who does not want to have a relationship with us and wants to distant Himself from us.

As long as people just know 'a God' that they ought to be afraid of when they should love Him and draw closer to Him; As long as they know 'a God' that is a judge, instead of seeing Him as the God of love that He is; As long as they know 'a God' of punishment instead of seeing Him as the God of all grace (*1 Peter 5:10*); this spirit will be gaining grounds because people will never get to know God as He truly is.

Every revelation of God outside of Christ is wrong and will lead men outside of the grace of God. But it is in Jesus Christ that we see God as He truly is: A God of love who desires to have a close and intimate relationship with us so much that He left heaven and came to die to remove all the stumbling blocks that hindered that relationship, so that everyone can come to Him just as they are, knowing that God will accept them despite their mistakes or sins because of what Jesus did. **THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST IS TRYING TO DO: TO CAUSE PEOPLE TO SEE GOD OUTSIDE OF CHRIST.**

It seems to me like he is doing quite a fine job there because he is actually getting a lot of Christians to believe his lies. Some preachers have already fallen to his lies. So now, when people get sick, they say it is God who put that sickness on them because they may have sinned. They do not know that God loves them too much to do that to them. But it is not just about sickness. It is the same thing for so many other areas: Death, disasters, accidents, plagues, failure, and so on are things that God does not punish His children with. But so long as men do not see God through Jesus Christ, they will think that it is God who does these things.

"To me [God] this is like Noah's floodwaters, when I swore an oath that Noah's floodwaters would never cover the earth again. So now I swear an oath not to be angry with you or punish you. (Isaiah 54:9 GW, annotations added)

But my point is this, the spirit of antichrist is in the world and he is trying to take people's eyes off Jesus Christ and what He came to do for us. Let us not fall into his lies. But let us keep our eyes on Jesus for He is the reality.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith... (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)

Jesus And God

Who [Jesus] being the brightness of his [God's] glory, and THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON... (Hebrews 1:3 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Did you see that? The verse directly above is talking about Jesus Christ. It said that Jesus Christ is the brightness of God's glory and THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF GOD'S PERSON. The phrase 'express image' is actually a single Greek word 'character' which means 'exact copy'. Jesus is the exact copy of God. That means if you want to see God, just look at Jesus. He is the EXPRESS IMAGE OF GOD'S PERSON. If you want to see how God deals with situations, just look at Jesus and how He dealt with those situations.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH [we all know that it is Jesus Christ that manifested in the flesh], justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Who is the verse above talking about? How and when did God manifest in the flesh, preached to the Gentiles, received up to glory? Who is this person that the Bible is calling 'God'? This is talking about Jesus. And note that the Bible said *GOD WAS MANIFESTED*...And it was talking about Jesus because he is the one that was received up to glory after his resurrection. Again look at this:

But unto the Son [Jesus] he [God] saith, Thy throne, O God [God is calling Jesus 'God'], is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8 KJV, annotations added)

Did you see that? This verse is showing us that God called Jesus ‘God’.
... *the Son [Jesus] he [God] saith, Thy throne, O God ...*

Isn't this amazing? The Godhead is truly a mystery to the human mind. The Father and the Son are different but yet still they are the same persons. Yes. It is confusing to the human mind but that is the reality. Somebody may ask: "How can they be different and yet still the same?" Well, this is God we are talking about. He is not man. He is God. It is possible with Him. But I am not foolish. If God called Jesus ‘God’, then why should I to call him otherwise? Not forgetting the fact that Jesus said about himself that he is God.

I and my Father are one. (John 10:30 KJV)

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:9 KJV, emphasis added)

So God and Jesus Christ both called Jesus God. Well, then I have to agree to the fact that Jesus is God (one with God) because I have two witnesses, God and Jesus. So that means seeing Jesus Christ is seeing God. If you want to see how God deals with sin, sickness, death, disasters, and so on, just look at Jesus.

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. (John 5:19 KJV)

Did you see the verse above? Jesus is telling us here that whatever we see him doing is actually what the Father (God) would have done in those same situations (or is doing since he is God).

...for what things soever he [God] doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

So, with this understanding, let us ask ourselves these questions: How many people did Jesus kill when He came on earth? How many people did Jesus punish for their sins? How many storms did Jesus bless or direct to a land to destroy it? How many earth quakes did Jesus bless? How many sick people did Jesus refuse to heal because of their sins? How many rich people did Jesus take their money from them? How many people in sin did Jesus turn away or condemn? NONE!

Well, if Jesus did not do those things when he came on this earth, it shows us that God also does not do those things because Jesus is one with God. Jesus will not do something that God himself will not do.

Meaning that in all these areas, if we thought otherwise then our revelations of God in those areas was incorrect. So if God is not the one who does those things, then that means the devil is the one who does them. But if we do not see God through the eyes of Jesus and His finished works, we will not know.

What a great deceiver the devil is. That means the devil does those things, and then causes men to believe that it is God who does them so that we will draw away from God. This is real deception, not so? And that is so much like that devil because he is a liar and a deceiver. But in Christ Jesus we can see God clearly as He is. For God is love.

As we saw earlier on, Jesus said “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father” and that “Everything that I see the Father doing is what I do”. So that means everything that Jesus did was a revelation of what God would do or would want to do for men in all those areas. So Jesus Christ dying for men, saving men, healing men, forgiving men, becoming friends and brothers with men is a picture of what God had always wanted to do and was finally doing in Christ Jesus.

Jesus healing people is a picture that God wants to heal people and not put sickness on them. He forgiving sins is a picture that God wanted to forgive sins not punish them. He not condemning sinners is a picture that God does not condemn sinners but gives them forgiveness. He raising the dead is a picture that God does not kill but gives life. He stopping the storm is a picture that God does not bless storms or any other natural disasters but wants to stop them. He loving men to the point of death is a picture that God loves us that much. He saving people is a picture that our God is in the business of saving people.

And again we did not see Jesus kill people, push sinners away, refuse to heal people, punish people, and so on. That means God also does not do all those things.

God wants men to know and understand this. That is why He sent you and me into the world to preach the Good News to people. Therefore let us preach the Gospel which is about Jesus Christ. It is when we do this that we are actually showing people about our God and His heart of love for them. It is when we do this that we are presenting God’s Word to people.

Preachers

Dear preacher (pastor, evangelist, apostle, missionary, prophet, teacher), are you preaching the Gospel?

If you are not preaching the Gospel about what Jesus Christ came to do and its implications for the world and believers, then what are you preaching?

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; AND HATH COMMITTED UNTO US THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION. (2Corinthians 5:19 KJV, emphasis added)

The Good News (Word of Reconciliation) has been committed into the hands of every believer including (or especially) ministers. Are your messages good news? If they are not, you will have to correct your messages. Why? This is because every believer (including preachers) is sent to preach the Gospel (about Jesus and God's love).

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15 KJV)

Nobody was sent to preach any other message but the Gospel (Good News). Jesus Christ preached the Gospel, Paul and all the Apostles preached the Gospel. Jesus sent the Apostles with this very message. Why? This is because God wants the world to hear of the good news of His grace and His radical love for them.

No wonder Apostle Paul placed a double curse on anybody who preaches any other gospel apart from the Gospel (Good News) of Grace (God's gift):

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

(Galatians 1:8-9 KJV)

Read the Scripture above carefully. Did you see that? Paul definitely took this 'gospel thing' serious. Serious enough to pronounce a double curse on any one who preaches anything that is not Gospel (good news). He later on admonished one of his Pastors (Timothy by name) to stop anybody from preaching any other message in his church.

As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine (1 Timothy 1:3 KJV)

Why? This is because that is the very message that the church was sent to preach by Jesus Christ. That is the Word of God. Anyone who preaches any other message is not preaching the Word of God.

And THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14 KJV, emphasis added)

That is the very message Jesus sent His disciples to go and preach. Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, *SEPARATED UNTO THE GOSPEL OF GOD...* (Romans 1:1 KJV, emphasis added)

And this is the very message that Jesus Christ Himself came with: *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (Matthew 4:23 KJV, emphasis added)*

If all these great men of God preached the Gospel which is about Jesus Christ, what makes you think that God sent you to preach any other message? Dear believer or preacher, note that it is either you are helping people to receive the gift of God or you are keeping them away from it. Which one are you doing? The Gospel is the truth.

In whom ye also trusted, after that YE HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13 KJV, emphasis added)

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in THE WORD OF THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL (Colossians 1:5 KJV, emphasis added)

The Gospel is the truth. That is the truth that God sent to His people to make them free. Let us preach the truth. Any other message will make people focus on themselves and their performance which actually pushes them into a circle of failure, bondage and finally pushes them away from God and His gift. The Gospel is the truth. And it is the truth that makes the people of God free. Any other message will put the people of God in bondage.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1 KJV)

Yield yourself as a vessel through which God will make His people free.

Angel?

There is something about this Gospel that no matter how many times you hear it, you want to hear again. You do not get tired hearing it because it is good news. It is about Jesus. It is the Word of God. That is the reason why I can spend hours and hours in Scriptures and never get tired. That is why I could listen and listen to teachers of the Gospel and never get tired.

It was not always this way for me. Sometime ago, I did not know all these things that I am sharing with you. Even though I did not know them, I was still very active in my church. My pastor noticed that I had a grace to preach and teach the Bible, so he immediately started using me in the church. I found myself leading most of the prayer meetings in the church and finally found myself as the prayer secretary and evangelism secretary for the church at the same time. At that time, I was also a leader in a ministry at my institution. I had a lot of people coming to me to commend me on the way I could preach and teach the Scriptures. I even had quite some testimonies of things that the Lord was doing in the lives of people through my ministrations. Everything seemed to be going fine until I was exposed to the gospel of grace.

That was when I began to understand a lot of things in the Bible. And through that understanding, I realized that most of what I had been teaching was wrong. What I taught sounded wise and biblical but still did not focus on Jesus Christ and what he came to do for us.

As I begun to understand these things, I personally noticed a change in my walk with God. I realized that the very things that had been interrupting with my relationship with God were the things I did not know about Jesus Christ and what he came to do. So knowing them released me into a beautiful grace walk and relationship with God. I was released into an ever-growing relationship with God. And not only that, every other area of my Christian life also changed greatly for the better.

I wanted to teach my church about the new things that I had learnt. They were so beautiful that I wanted everyone to know them. But I had a very big problem. My pastor did not preach that message. He did not preach the Gospel of Grace. It was not just him alone that did not

preach it in the church; none of the pastors in the whole church preached it. From the general overseer to the regional pastors; to the branch pastors; to the elders; to the members of the church; none of them preached the Gospel of Grace. And actually, most of what they preached was directly against these beautiful truths that the gift of God is about.

But after being exposed to both messages, I realized that the Gospel of Grace was the truth. Even while I was preaching the wrong message, I felt there was something that was lacking. I felt there was something more. And I had found it in the grace of God. “So what do I do now”, I thought.

I later concluded that even though I knew that the grace was the truth, I was not going to preach it in my church. I did not want to be rebellious against my pastor or the church and I did not want any trouble with my pastor. I decided that I will just preach what will make my pastor happy so that I will not have a problem with anybody.

So that was what I started doing for some time. And I kept receiving commendations from my pastor as well as those that I ministered to. But I could feel something nudging me on the inside, telling me to preach the Gospel and not what men would approve. I kept ignoring that nudging in my heart for some time. Until I discovered this Scripture:

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
(Galatians 1:8 KJV)

I started struggling on the inside with this issue. I found myself thinking about this over and over again; “What do I do now? Do I preach the Gospel of Grace or what my pastor and the church expect me to preach?”

This struggle continued until that faithful day in July 2011. My church was in a season where we fast and pray for a whole month. After I fasted for a week, this is what happened: I had ministered at a prayer meeting in the church. That day, I felt a very strong nudging on my spirit; telling me to preach the Gospel of Grace. But as usual I ignored it and preached another ‘powerful sermon’ in the church. It seemed like the whole place was set ablaze by the message I preached and the prayers we prayed. But I felt seriously dry and bad about what I preached even though my pastor and the church were very pleased.

Well, after the prayer meeting, I decided to spend the night in prayer so I went to my office to pray there. After praying from 9pm till

3am, I decided to rest for a while. So, I lay on my back on the floor to rest. After lying down for about five minutes, an angel just appeared at the left side of my body. He had bent down by my side and was so close to me that his head was just a few centimeters from my face. I could not even see his whole body but I could see his face and some other parts of his body. I was shocked. “An angel?”, I thought.

This was the second personal angelic visitation I had since I became a believer (I have had many more now). This one was quite different from the other experience had. With this one, I was not asleep; I was totally aware of myself and my surroundings. Plus my eyes were opened. It is just like an actual person standing by me.

He had an angry expression on his face. I wanted to say something but he did not let me speak. Then he said “A word of caution, preach the Gospel” in an angry and commanding tone. He paused. At that moment, I wanted to say something but I could not since he interrupted me again. He said again “I will say this again; preach the Gospel” in an angrier tone than the one he used at first. I did not say anything. I just nodded my head. Then he vanished. And I came back to myself.

I did not need to ask any questions. I knew what he was talking about. The Holy Spirit had been trying to get my attention to that all along but I was refusing to listen because of church traditions and fear of persecution. It was at that moment that I decided that that was the last straw. I decided that I was going to preach the Gospel even if I get stoned for doing that.

From that time I started preaching the Gospel and almost that quickly, I started having problems with my pastor because he did not like most of the things that I taught in the church. Most of the time, I tried to make the messages as simple as possible and give as many Scriptures about it as possible so that they could understand, but the church’s mind was already set towards something else and so it ends up like water beating against a rock.

But I thank God that I took that step. And I thank Him more that He helped me to take that step even though I was stubborn at first. *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10 KJV)*

And even though I have enjoyed my fair share of challenges and persecutions because I decided to step up for the Gospel, I still thank

God for all that because I am now preaching the truth of the Word. I am preaching what Paul and the other apostles preached. I am preaching what Jesus Christ preached and told the church to preach. And God has always been confirming this Gospel with signs, wonders and miracles. The miraculous has become as common as breathing; not just for me but for all those who receive the message that I preach to them.

But yet still I have not preached the Gospel as I ought to yet. I am going to preach it until Jesus is exalted far above all things on this earth.

Jesus preached the Gospel until the Pharisees of his time plotted to kill him. The Pharisees were the religious people of that time. They were the people who believed in the Law and their ability to keep it. You will come to understand in your preaching of the Gospel that your greatest opposition will not be ‘sinners’ but rather ‘religious people’ who are confident in their works that they feel can save them. Sinners will actually receive the Gospel quicker because they are aware of their sinful conditions and recognize their need for a savior. But most religious people will not just refuse it but they will also oppose it. When in reality, they are as much sinners as any sinner out there and hence they also need the grace of God.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:18 KJV)

After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. (John 7:1 KJV)

Hallelujah. Just think about it. Jesus just preached and the Pharisees wanted to kill him. Wow!

That means, people who are religious and works centered will definitely not agree with us and even try to find means to stop us from preaching the Gospel.

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (John 17:14 KJV)

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (John 15:18-19 KJV)

Those that Jesus termed as ‘the world’ in the Bible verses above were the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes of that time (the religious

people). Did Jesus give up on preaching because of that? No he did not. Neither did Paul, or Peter or any of the apostles. They preached even more.

In these days, we have our own modern day Pharisees, who are also ready to 'stone us' or 'kill us' for preaching the truth. They are ready to persecute us for preaching Jesus and making nothing of men's works and efforts to be saved, be righteous, and so on. But I am not afraid because I am in the right place. Jesus, Paul, Peter, and the early Christians all faced these things.

Believer, preacher, I shared this story to encourage you. You now know the truth. You know that salvation is a gift (The gift of God). You know that it is all about Jesus and that he is the Word of God. Are you also going to resist the Spirit's plea for you to proclaim this good news to the world? Or are you going to step out there in boldness and in the name of Jesus and proclaim what Jesus has done? The choice is yours.

I can see that in this generation; God is raising up radical preachers of the Gospel; people who carry the banner of Jesus Christ and His finished works wherever they go. Those who know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I pray that you are part of this end time army. I declare that I am one of them; wherever I go, Jesus Christ will be seen and exalted; exalted above men's mindsets and works. I am putting my life and my faith in the perfect finished works of Jesus Christ for me. I refuse to put my faith in my works and my efforts but in Jesus Christ who is the Word of God because faith in Jesus Christ and His finished works for you is faith in the Word of God. Thank you God for this grace.

9. QUESTIONS

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32 KJV)

As I stated earlier on, I know so many believers will have a lot of questions concerning this message. I also had questions when the Lord started teaching me these things. So I do not blame others for having questions. A lot of people have been taught in a certain line from their childhood so changing their mindsets may be challenging. But note that whoever your teacher or pastor is, He is not God. We are not supposed to move with any message apart from the Word of God, and that is what the Gospel is to us.

The Word of God for this generation is good news because of what Jesus Christ has come to do. Because Jesus came, everything changed. God on the other hand did not change because He cannot change. But what happened was that through Christ's coming, He can now relate with us from His true nature: the nature of Love. So the Word of God to us in this generation is good news (gospel). And the Good News is about God sending Jesus Christ for our sakes. The Good News of Jesus Christ is God's word to you.

Personally, I am very excited about this chapter because in this chapter, your questions are going to be answered. I believe that true growth results from we having our questions answered concerning an area or subject. And when you can get to the place where you have no more questions, then you are a master in that field. At that time, you do not ask any more questions but you begin to answer other people's

questions for them. You do not stay in confusion there anymore but you produce results and prove your knowledge in that field for others to learn from you.

So I have sampled a few questions that I believe you may have asked yourself when reading the book, especially if you have been exposed to the Law and Commandments for a long time or your church is such a one that emphasizes or preaches the Law.

I personally asked these questions some time ago and getting the answers to each of them pushed me deeper and deeper into God's love and the realities that are available to me in Christ. But in you receiving your answers, let us establish the fact that the Bible is our authority. No man is our authority; no pastor is our authority; the Word is our authority. So no matter what you may have been exposed to before, open your heart now and hear God speak to you through the Scriptures. And see as wave after wave, the Father wraps you up in His Word and love for you.

So let us deal with the common questions that you may have asked as you read this book. I have already answered some in the previous chapters so I will deal with the others here in this chapter. So let us move to the first question:

1. Won't This Message Make Believers Live In Sin?

This was one of the questions that I asked when the Lord started revealing this message to me some time ago. Are you also asking this question? Well, I believe that it is a question that every well meaning Christian will definitely ask after hearing this message (the Gospel) for the first time. So, let us find out the answer to this together. Okay?

First of all understand that this message does not give people a license to sin. Why? This is because people will sin anyway. So it is not this message that gives them this license. Whether there is a license to sin or not, people will sin.

In the Old Testament, God told the people that if they sinned, they would be punished (*Deuteronomy 28: 15-68*). Did they stop sinning after hearing this? No, they did not! They even sinned more (*Romans 3:10-12*). Men sinned even though they knew of God's judgment and punishment. So that definitely shows that it is not this message that makes men sin but that they will sin anyway.

Okay, let me ask you this question: “You the one asking this question, have you stopped sinning?” If you have not stopped sinning whiles you did not know about this message, then what makes you think that it is when people get to know this message that will make them sin? Not knowing about how good God was and that He would not take your salvation away from you or take hell did not stop you from sinning. You still sinned despite knowing the possibility of God taking you to hell (now we know that is not so). Knowing about God’s judgment did not stop you from sinning. Now, why don’t you try God’s goodness and see.

On the contrary, what this message does is that it shows men God's love and acceptance even when they sin. So that, just like the prodigal son, no matter how far they go, they will be able to return to God and live for Him.

Or maybe you are saying to yourself “I am trying my best not to sin; but others will use this message as an excuse and INTENTIONALLY go on sinning”. Well, this is what I have to say to that: First of all, understand that every sin is intentional. Are you going to tell me that you fornicated unintentionally? That you taking off your clothes and doing all those things with the guy or lady was unintentional? Or that you did not know that you were stealing when you were stealing? Of course you knew. That is what makes it a sin; you knew it and still did it.

So whoever you are asking this question, you are no different from whoever you are describing as ‘sinning intentionally’. You need this gift of grace as much as that person does. You need as much grace as he does. But you know what? Let us check out the Scriptures and see what God’s Word says about this:

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world (Titus 2:11-12 KJV)

Read the above Scripture carefully. Do you notice what it is telling us?

The grace of God that brings salvation...

This is showing us that it is the grace of God that brings salvation, not our works. Look at the verses 12:

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Did you see that? What teaches men to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts according to this Scripture? THE GRACE OF GOD. What teaches

men to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world? THE GRACE OF GOD. It is so clear here.

That means God does not agree with all those who say that this grace gift of salvation will make people sin. God is the one who is rather saying that this gift of grace will lead people to live righteously for Him. So, who are we to deny this when God Himself says that His grace will lead men to live godly lives? Are we wiser than God? Of course not! And He says that His gift of salvation will lead men to live for Him.

Note again that this was not the way God dealt with the people of the Old Testament or Covenant. For them, God required perfect obedience before they could be saved, blessed or come close to Him. Anything short of that resulted in God judging them (*Deuteronomy 28:15-68*). But yet still, that did not lead them to live godly lives. Instead they could not help but sin. It was like sin got power and authority over them as a result. Look at how Paul put it:

...If the Law had not said, "Do not desire what belongs to someone else," I would not have known such a desire. But by means of that commandment sin found its chance to stir up all kinds of selfish desires in me. Apart from law, sin is a dead thing. I myself was once alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life, and I died. And the commandment which was meant to bring life, in my case brought death. Sin found its chance, and by means of the commandment it deceived me and killed me. (Romans 7:7-11 GNB)

The sting of death is sin; and THE STRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW. (1Corinthians 15:56 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? The Law represented the standard for their obedience to God; and here they were, even though God had given them those standards, they could not keep them. It was like the more the Law told them not to do those things, the more they felt like doing them.

... If the Law had not said, "Do not desire what belongs to someone else," I would not have known such a desire. But by means of that commandment sin found its chance to stir up all kinds of selfish desires in me....

Sin grew in the people the more they got to know the things that they were not supposed to do. The more sin conscious they became, the more they sinned and could not help it.

...and sin gets its power from the Law.

Did you see that? Sin gets its power from the Law. So unlike what so many people think; that when we become conscious of God's Law and

try our best to obey, we would not sin, it is not so. Actually, it is when men become conscious of the Law and try their best to meet God's standard and obey that they sin even more.

...and sin gets its power from the Law.

Many preachers think that it is when they preach against sin that people will stop sinning. Well, look at how much 'sin' is growing in the church despite their many preaching against sin. Look at this:

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, NOT IMPUTING THEIR TRESPASSES UNTO THEM; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (2Corinthians 5:19 KJV, emphasis added)

God does not want us to go and show people that they have sinned. He wants us to show people what He has done about their sin. After all, the people already know that they have sinned. Their conscience and the devil will always do a good work of condemning them and telling them that. But it is when they get to know of God's grace (gift) and understand God's love, that sin loses its power over them. God knew that sin gets its power from the Law. That is why He sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from the Law:

But now WE ARE DELIVERED FROM THE LAW, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit [grace], and not in the oldness of the letter. (Romans 7:6 KJV, emphasis and annotations added)

Remember that the Law represents the standard for our works. So that means through Christ Jesus, God has delivered us from our works (our works to reach His standard which we could have never reached). So that now, there will be no more standards for us to meet before we can reach God. We rather met God's standards in His grace through the finished works of Christ. And it is in the grace of God that sin loses its power over a person.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14 KJV)

It is when men get to know of God's grace and love for them that they are released into a life of love for God that makes them want to obey God and live for Him.

...the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance (Romans 2:4 KJV)

When people get to know of 'this God' that loves them unconditionally and has given them this beautiful gift, they are released to love Him from their hearts just as they are.

In the Old Covenant, the issue was this: ‘obey God or be punished’. So the people tried to obey God but it was out of fear of being punished. In the New Covenant the issue is this: God says, “I will not punish you for your disobedience because I punished Jesus Christ for you. Now live for Me out of your discovery of My love for you”. So we have two covenants. One is motivated by the spirit of fear and the other by the spirit of love. Which one are you under? Which one do you think God has pleasure in? The Covenant of God's Grace and Love of course; because God is love.

Is your question answered? If you still have doubts. Then listen to this testimony.

Homosexual?

This guy was called Bob (I changed his name to protect his identity). He was a Christian who really loved God. You could see it in the way that he went about doing the things of God. But he had a serious problem. He was a homosexual. Nobody knew it, and you could never suspect that such a nice looking guy had this serious problem. He was introduced to it while in the secondary school and had been in it ever since.

One day, he came to me in my office and confessed this to me. He told me that he had tried to stop that practice so many times but could not because he always found himself going back to it. He told me that he felt so condemned and that he knows that if he dies he will definitely go to hell. Well, what did I do?

Any unstudied ‘man of God’ would have tried to show him that what he was doing was seriously wrong and that if he does not stop he will go to hell. Some would suggest serious prayer, fasting and deliverance for him. But I did not do all those things.

I started by asking him whether he knew that he was as righteous as I was in the sight of God? He said he could not be, because of the reason stated above. I took the Bible and I started showing him in the Scriptures about this wonderful gift of salvation. I explained to him that God loves him unconditionally and has paid the price for all the wrongs that he has done and will ever do. And that God will never take this gift away from him. He found it hard to believe but he could not deny it since he was seeing it in the Bible.

I did not even tell him to stop what he was doing or that it was wrong. Of course he already knew that it was wrong. He did not need

me to confirm that. He has heard about how wrong homosexuality was all his life and he was still in it. So it was not he getting a confirmation from me that it was wrong which was going to help him. He needed something else. He needed an encounter with the love of God. And that is just what he got in his meeting with me.

I saw light came to his heart. He understood. He understood how God loved him so much that He had paid the ultimate price for the very acts that he taught was going to condemn him to hell. He came to a realization of the gift of God and its fullness.

And I watched as tears started flowing from this man's eyes, and he said that he will never ever do that again. Hallelujah! I did not tell him to stop. He decided right there to stop by himself. What do you think made him make that decision? The love of God. And I say to the glory of God that I have been in contact with him and for more than a year, he has not gone back to homosexuality again. He is currently in a relationship with a nice lady which I believe is leading them into marriage.

This is just what I am talking about. The goodness of God leads men to repentance. What made him free from this bondage of homosexuality? His efforts? No. He knowing that it is wrong? No. He knowing that God will judge him and take him to hell? No. But 'his heart melted' the moment that he discovered the gift of God. And not just that, he also received grace that made him a master over that sin.

This is just one example of the many encounters I have had with people who were involved in very 'nasty acts' and the grace of God always made them free. I have had a lot of encounters with people who were involved in masturbation and God's grace and love made them free. Not forgetting my own life story and encounter with the grace and the love of God. But the story is the same everywhere. This gift of God always releases people from sin into a vibrant love relationship with God, not the other way round.

Don't you think that the devil knows this? Of course he does. So what do you think he will try to do? Of course he will try to breed lies about the love of God. And he will try to do it anyway that he can. He can even give people revelations from the Bible which opposes this message of God's love. He may try to discredit the men of God who are preaching the truth which releases God's power into the lives of people. But we are not ignorant of his schemes and devices.

So this message of God's love and grace does not encourage sin but robs sin of its power and stops it from its roots. Praise God for His grace.

II. Won't This Message Make Believers Lazy?

I asked this question sometime ago. At that time, I believed that as Christians, we ought to always be working for God otherwise we will not make it to heaven, be blessed or receive anything from God. What a shock I had when I learnt the truth.

Interestingly, the times that I focused on working for God to make it to heaven were the times that I really struggled with doing the things of God. I really struggled to pray, study the Bible and could barely evangelize. And all the while I had not heard of God's gift of salvation given to me freely.

But interestingly, it was when I got to know of the gift of God that I saw myself doing the things that I had wanted to do for God effortlessly and I did not even notice that I was doing them. It was like I was flowing in doing all those things from inside of me. I found myself praying almost the whole day. I even prayed while walking on streets. But when I did not know about this gift, I had set prayer times for myself to keep me praying. But I could not keep them and always felt guilty that I was not able to perform.

It was the same with my Bible studies. Before I knew about grace of God, I really wanted to study the Bible but I could not. So many things seemed to be more interesting to me than the Bible. It was not that I did not have the time to study, but I would rather do other things than to read the Bible. Meanwhile I knew that it was good to study the Bible. I had also heard that when you read the Bible, you get to know God more and become really blessed but I still could not. I found myself dozing off time and time again in my efforts to do so.

But after I got to know of the gift of God and understood that God gave it to me to show His love for me, I found myself studying the Bible hours upon hours and I did not get tired doing that. The Bible had taken on a new image for me. I wanted to see more of this great gift being presented to me in the Word. And the more I found, the hungrier I became. I was now seeing the Bible as God's love letter to me, not a

stack of commands that God has given me to measure me by to see whether or not I should go to heaven.

And you yourself can see the fruit of it in the book that you are reading. Have you noticed the many Scriptures I am using in this book? How do you think I got to know them? How is it that for each topic I can get so many confirmations from the Bible to explain it? I can even preach this message and quote all the Scriptures that I have given in this book without looking into the Bible (I say that to the glory of God). It all came from this constant desire I have had for the Word of God as a result of my discovery of God's love gift for me. And it is not just me that this is happening to. Everyone that I have mentored and taught about the gift of God and understood it automatically functions like that.

And do you know something? This is not the only book I am writing. Currently, I have more than thirty books that I have listed down to write. I just get the titles from my spirit and immediately the title comes, it is like I already know what I ought to write and how it is going to turn out to be in my spirit. I already know all the Scriptures that the Lord would want me to use. It is like I have the books inside of me. The only thing that is left is to just actually write them. And I give glory to God that all this just came out of knowing about this gift. Indeed the truth makes us free.

Evangelism became my normal life after I got to know of this gift. I found myself talking to people about what Jesus Christ has done for them without even thinking of it. I found myself barging into people's conversations just to explain the Gospel to them. I even found myself preaching in buses (I still do) through which so many souls were won into the body of Christ and are still being won.

Healing has now become a normal occurrence for me as I minister to people. It is like when people open their hearts to this gift of God, it always stimulates the Spirit of God to move, heal and touch their lives in a miraculous way. And again it is not just me that is doing this; all those whom I have personally taught and have understood about this gift are people who are also walking constantly in the evangelistic life, the miraculous and healings. You cannot come around them and leave without hearing the gospel or being healed. It is almost like an encounter with them is an encounter with Jesus Christ.

This simple understanding has lifted me from being an addict to pornography and doing grotesque things to being a man of God, and a father of so many people. Does this look like a lazy person to you?

Let us look another person. Let us look at Apostle Paul. This guy believed in the Law so much that he killed Christians for not being under the Law of Moses and believing in Jesus Christ. This man killed so many Christians but had an encounter with Jesus Christ (God's gift to the world). And look at what he said later:

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
(1Corinthians 15:10 KJV)

Did you see that? What enabled this guy who sometime ago was killing so many Christians to become one of the most celebrated apostles in our time? What enabled this guy to write two thirds of the New Testament portion of the Bible? What enabled this guy to establish the many churches that he established for the Body of Christ? He said it right here.
... **BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM...**

Did you see that? The grace of God is what enabled him. Knowing, understanding, believing and yielding to this grace (God's love gift) released him to do all those things that even the most celebrated apostles could not do. It was not his works or plans or ability, but the grace (God's love gift) that enabled him to be and to do. And did you notice what follows?

... his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; BUT I LABOURED MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN THEY ALL...

Did that grace of God make him lazy? NO! He said that the grace enabled him to labour more abundantly than they all. The grace, instead of making him lazy like we think, rather made him more active and productive than all the other apostles put together. How come? Because in the grace of God, you cease from functioning from your own strength and function by the strength of Christ. Because he becomes everything to you; including your ability. And guess which is greater? Your strength or God's strength? Of course, God's strength is greater.

Dear believer, are you also struggling in your Christian life? Are you struggling to pray, study the Bible or evangelize. Or are you struggling with sin? Then, stop your efforts to please God and see that God is forever pleased with you because He sees you in His beloved son in whom He is well pleased. God is pleased with you because He is pleased with Jesus Christ and He sees you in Christ. So stop trying to please Him and rest in the finished works of Christ. And again, do not think that it will make you lazy. Rather, it is the way to connect to God's

unceasing flow from His Spirit and be able to function effortlessly in Him.

... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6KJV)

Finally, how can you do the work of God properly and wholeheartedly when you do not even know you are saved? How can you evangelize, preach, worship, pray, and be productive in the Kingdom of God when you do not know you are saved? Do you know that this is the reason why so many believers are not productive in the Kingdom of God and their respective churches? Why? Because they do not know they are saved and so they are so busy trying to get saved to focus on the work of God. After all, why should they think of going to save someone else when they themselves are not sure they are saved?

So many Christians find themselves in this trap: where they spend all their lifetime trying to do things to please God and get saved that they never actualize to anything great in the Kingdom of God. And such people are those who will get old and realize that they never led a single person into the Kingdom. They fell right into the devil's trap. Because the devil could not stop them from getting saved, the only other thing he can do not is to lie to them so that they cannot be productive in the Kingdom of God.

It is for this same reason that those who know about the salvation gift of God are the most productive in the Kingdom of God. This is because these people do not spend their time trying to work for their salvation because they know Jesus did that for them. They spend their time in worship and soul winning. They can be productive in the things of God because they have no burden of sin weighing them down.

That is why churches which focus on the grace of God do not have a problem with membership. Because the members cannot keep the good news that they have been hearing to themselves. They keep telling others about it and keep coming back to hear more. But churches which do not focus on the grace gift of God always have a problem with their membership. They have fewer and fewer members. Another thing about these churches is that you will find that their evangelism departments have the least number of people in it as compared to the other departments.

The reason is simple. If people do not know they are saved and secured in Jesus gift for them, they would rather want to spend the rest of their Christian lives trying to get saved instead of focusing on saving

others. But when you have Jesus as the focus, you become a preacher of the Gospel wherever you find yourself because you cannot keep the good news to yourself. Hallelujah!

Indeed, when Jesus is the focus, right doing becomes effortless. It worked for Paul, it worked for me and all the others who yielded to God's grace. It will work for you because God's Word does not fail. And His word is His grace. Open your heart to God's gift and you will see yourself flow from His abundant grace to accomplish all that you could not do before.

So as you can see, the gift of God does not make people lazy. On the contrary, it releases them to connect to God's unceasing flow to function effortlessly in Him.

III. Work Out Your Salvation With Fear And Trembling

This was one of the first questions that came to my mind when I heard of this message.

I was like "What about the Scripture that says, 'work out your own salvation with fear and trembling'?" Did that same question come to your mind? So you may be asking, "But Tony, didn't this same Bible say that 'work out your salvation with fear and trembling'?" How does that reconcile with what you are teaching?

Well, before I talk about this, I want you to understand this: Do not just quote the verses in the Bible. You have to understand them. You have to understand the message the writer was presenting and what God is communicating. You have to understand who the writer was writing to and reconcile it with what Jesus Christ came to do. This is very important since Jesus is the Word of God (remember what you learnt in the Chapter titled 'Gospel' about 'the Jesus test'). So we ought to reconcile every revelation in the light of what Jesus Christ came to do. Otherwise God and the Bible will seem confusing to us when they are not supposed to be. Or you will miss what God wants to communicate to you totally and may even get the opposite idea about what God wants to actually communicate to you.

So let us not just READ the Bible. Let us STUDY. If we do not study but read, we will take Scriptures out of context and miss the message that God is presenting to us. You can misunderstand if you just

read, but when you study with Jesus as the focus and you open your heart to the Holy Spirit you will definitely come to the knowledge of the truth. So let us go to the Bible verse that talked about this and study it: *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING...(Philippians 2:12 KJV, emphasis added)*

Did you see the Scripture above? Do you notice the part that I have capitalized? It says:

...WORK OUT your own salvation...

Please take note of what this verse says and what it does not say. This verse is telling us to WORK OUT our salvation not WORK FOR our salvation. So what does that mean and how does that apply to us?

Well, to summarize the whole thing, let us understand that nobody can WORK FOR his salvation. That is why Jesus Christ came. He came to work for our salvation for us. He worked for our salvation for us and put it inside of us.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US...(Romans 8:3-4 KJV, emphasis added)

He finished that work, put it IN US so that what God is expecting from us, is for us to WORK OUT that salvation that He has put inside of us. That means salvation is already given and inside of us and all that we ought to do is to WORK IT OUT for all to see.

Take note of the Scripture that is directly above. Do you notice that it said that the righteousness of the Law is fulfilled IN US not BY US.

...That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled IN US...

Why? This is because we could not have done it ourselves. That is why Jesus came to do it and put it in us. Well if you do not get it, let us look at the verse that follows the verse in question.

For it is God which worketh IN YOU both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? This is the very next verse after the one that we are studying. Did you notice that it said 'it is God which worketh in you'? God works it in you (your spirit), you work it out. So all together will read like this...

... *WORK OUT* your own salvation with fear and trembling... for it is God which *WORKS IN YOU* both to will and do of his good pleasure. So God through Jesus Christ worked for our salvation for us and put that salvation in us (our spirits) and we work it out for the world to see that salvation that is inside of us. So we are not trying to get saved, we are saved already by the perfect finished works of Jesus Christ. *WHO HATH SAVED US, and called us with an holy calling, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (2Timothy 1:9 KJV, emphasis added)* And all that we do is that we cause everything salvation represents to come out for all to see.

Again, as we saw earlier, salvation also means healing, deliverance, wholeness, and so on. So that also means through the finished works of Jesus Christ, healing, deliverance, wholeness, and so on, have been put within us; and so we have to work out all these things (by faith) so that they will show for everybody to see it working in your lives to the glory of God. That is what that Scripture is talking about.

Did you see that? So that Scripture does not oppose this message. It actually supports it. It is the lack of understanding that will make a person see that Scripture any other way. The whole Bible is a unit. Every verse and chapter points to Jesus, what he came to do for us and its implications for us and the world.

So that means Jesus Christ bought salvation and gave it to us by putting it into our spirits.

And that ye PUT ON THE NEW MAN, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:24 KJV, emphasis added)

You see? The new man mentioned in the verse above is our recreated spirits. So we are already saved in our spirits. We have the gift of salvation already in our spirits. So all that we ought to do is to put him on by faith. That is, we walk in the new life that has been given to us in Christ by faith.

The first step to work out your salvation is to know the truth that you are saved and know what this salvation entails. Then believe. Believe that you are who God says you are; that you have what God says you have, and you can do what God says you can do. Then you confess it and then act it.

IV. Be Perfect

When Jesus was talking to the Jews in the book of Matthew, he told them that they should be perfect as their heavenly Father is perfect. *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48 KJV)*

It sounded like a noble thing to try to attain. But the problem was that it is impossible for a man to reach that standard or to do that. No man can be perfect. And note that they were not told just to be perfect but to be perfect as God is. How can a man be as perfect as God? Can you? Perfection means that thing cannot increase nor decrease in state; it is complete in all ways. It has reached a complete and inert state. Perfection is the nature of God.

And how can man get there by their works? And God Himself had said this about men...

... verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. (Psalm 39:5 KJV)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES ARE AS FILTHY RAGS... (Isaiah 64:6 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? God said that man's best does not come a bit close to His standard; it is still vanity before Him. How then can we be as perfect as He is?

So you may ask: "Why then did Jesus tell them to be perfect if He knew they couldn't be perfect?" Yes, Jesus knew that they could not be perfect but they did not know that they could not be. And that had been the problem with man all the while. He was confident in his self righteousness. He was confident in his ability to reach God's standard by obeying the Laws of God. But God knew better. He knew that every man by nature was a sinner and could never by his works or obedience reach His standard. He knew that men needed His grace and mercy. *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Romans 3:10-12 KJV)*

But men were so focused on their strength and effort to reach God's standard that they had reduced the standard of the Law and God's commands to a state where they could live and feel like they were keeping it.

So, then came Jesus (the person of grace), so full of grace and desiring to give the people God's grace. But he could not give grace to men when they were still holding on to their works, performance and self righteousness.

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Galatians 2:21 KJV)

Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. (Galatians 5:4 GNB)

This is because the very thing that hinders God's grace from flowing into a man's life is the person's performance and holding on to his ability instead of giving in to God's ability. So before Jesus could give them this grace, He had to bring them to the end of their works and self-righteousness so that they will realize their inadequacy to reach God's standard and humble themselves under God's arms to receive His grace.

That means as long as we are confident in our works and ability to reach God's standard, we are not ready for the grace of God because the grace of God is for the unqualified. It is for the undeserving; it is unmerited favor; if you try to merit it, you are rather rejecting it.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10:3-4 KJV)

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. (Romans 11:6 KJV)

Jesus wanted to give grace to men. But before he could do that, they had to come to end of their works. So, Jesus started preaching messages that will bring men to the end of themselves so that they will give up on their works and receive his grace. To do this, he brought the watered down Law (Ten Commandments) back to the place that God had made it to be. So as to show men that they could not keep or reach God's standards and that they needed God's mercy and grace.

Now therefore why tempt ye God, TO PUT A YOKE UPON THE NECK OF THE DISCIPLES, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. (Acts 15:10-11 KJV, emphasis added)

That yoke is the Law.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED, AND ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:19-20 KJV, emphasis added)

That is why we saw Jesus on the mountain preaching about the Law. He talked about what the Law said about adultery and so many other areas. About adultery he said:

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28 KJV)

He said again that the one who is angry with his brother without a cause is guilty of murder; that the one who insults the brother is guilty of judgment and hell fire and so on (*Matthew 5:20-48*).

Why was he doing that? He was actually showing the people that they could break the Law without even doing the actual thing (physically). They could break it in their minds.

He was just trying to tell them that they thought they were keeping the Law (reaching God's standards) but they were not even coming close to keeping it because they were already guilty of breaking it in their hearts. So that they will give up on their self-righteousness and open themselves up to receive God's grace. This is because like the Scripture above says, the Law was a yoke that neither they nor their fathers could keep. It was at the end of Jesus' attempt to do this that He made this statement which summarized the whole message:

"be thou perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48 KJV)

They were supposed to attain God's perfection. And we know that that is impossible for men.

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? (Psalm 130:3 KJV)

But for those who have been born into Christ Jesus, the perfection that people were supposed to attain which they could not, God gave it to them free in Christ Jesus.

For by one offering HE HATH PERFECTED FOR EVER them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14 KJV, emphasis added)

We are been perfected forever by the offering of Jesus Christ for us. God by the offering of Jesus Christ made us perfect. In the Old

Covenant, the people were asked to be perfect. But in the New Covenant, God provides perfection for us freely in Christ Jesus. We are therefore perfect in God's sight. Because God sees us as He sees Jesus Christ:

... because as he is, so are we in this world (1John 4:17 KJV)

Therefore, as perfect as Jesus Christ is, so are you. Believer, do not try to attain perfection. You are born again into God's perfection. Be conscious of this, live in that reality and you will see yourself function in a perfection that you could never have functioned in by your own effort and strength.

V. Hebrews 6: 4-6

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6 KJV)

Did you see the Scripture above? Read it carefully. At first glance, someone may think that it is a total contradiction of everything that I just taught. Because it looks like it is saying that a child of God is capable of losing his salvation; and not just that, but lose it such that he cannot return to salvation again. Is that really so? Did Jesus die so that you can lose your salvation that easily and not be able to return to repentance again? If this is so, then does it cancel the many Scriptures in the Bible that talk about God's gift?

But I want to say this again: "Believer, study the Word. Do not assume that you know. And do not just accept everything that anybody tells you because you think he may know the truth. Search the Word and see if what they are saying is really true. Again, do not try to interpret the Word of God with your minds (carnal minds) but allow the Scriptures to interpret itself and allow the Holy Spirit to teach you. Otherwise we may allow the devil to deceive us even when we are reading the Bible". So let us delve into this Scripture and see what it was talking about.

I have so much to write about these verses but I do not want to bore you so let me just explain the main clauses in it. After that you will understand it in the light of the Word.

...For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come...

The verse right above is a description given about a particular group of believers. Now, what are they guilty of? Let us read on:

... if they shall fall away...

Did you see that? What does the Bible mean by the statement ‘if they shall fall away’?

So many Christians will see this and assume that the Bible is talking of ‘falling into sin’ here. Well is it? If the Bible was talking about falling into sin then how many of us will be in this category already? Remember that God is no respecter of persons.

For there is no respect of persons with God. (Romans 2:11 KJV)

If God were looking at our works to see whether we have sinned or not, no one will be exempted from sinners.

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? (Psalm 130:3 KJV)

That is why God said this about the New Covenant:

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 10:17 KJV)

Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do, we are all PURIFIED FROM SIN BY THE OFFERING THAT HE MADE OF HIS OWN BODY ONCE AND FOR ALL. (Hebrews 10:10 GNB, emphasis added)

So if God says He does not remember our sins and that we are purified from sins ONCE AND FOR ALL by the offering of Jesus Christ, that Scripture could not be talking of a fall into sin here because Jesus Christ has taken care of that. So what is the Bible talking about then? Good question. Let us look into the Bible to find out what the Bible describes as the fall of a believer:

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE. (Galatians 5:4 KJV, emphasis added)

Did you see that? What fall is that? IT IS A FALL FROM THE GRACE OF GOD. That is the only fall for the believer because the believer is under the Covenant of God's grace and kindness (*1 Peter 5:10*). The grace of God is all that makes us as Christians. We would be nothing without the grace of God.

What qualifies you to come into God's presence? Your works? No. It is the grace of God. What exempts you from God's judgment despite your many errors or sins? It is the grace of God. What brought you into Christ and keeps you in him? The grace of God. What makes you holy, righteous, and perfect before God? The grace of God. The grace of God is everything for the Christian. Without the grace of God, the Christian is nothing. Without the grace of God, the Christian will be just like the people in the world or other religions.

So the only actual fall for the Christian is a fall from the grace. How does this fall from grace come about according to the Scripture above? Let us read on:

...whosoever of you are justified by the law...

A person falls from grace by trying to be justified by the Law or his works after what Jesus Christ has done for him. Did you see that? When you try to qualify for God's standards which He has already made you qualified in Christ Jesus, you fall from His grace (Remember what I taught about paying for God's gift). Okay, let us look at other Scriptures which confirm this:

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Galatians 2:21 KJV)

Did you see that? Read the above Scripture carefully. According to the Scripture above, what renders the death of Jesus Christ as vain? If we try to get righteousness by the Law. That means by trying to get justification (or salvation) by the Law, we are actually crucifying Jesus to the cross afresh. We are making his death be in vain as you can see in '*Hebrews 6:6*'. So the statement 'if they shall fall away' in Hebrews 6 is talking about a fall from grace. So, that part of the verse can be rendered this way:

If they shall fall away from grace...

Or

If they fall from grace into the law...

Remember that we were delivered from the Law by what Jesus Christ came to do.

But now we are delivered from the law... (Romans 7:6 KJV)

So when those Christians move back into the Law, they are returning to the place or state where they were delivered from. They are returning to the state they were in for which Jesus Christ hanged on the cross and became a curse for them. That is the picture of the fall. That is what this verse is talking about. So what happens when they fall away from grace? Let us read on to find out.

... to renew them again unto repentance...

Did you see that? It said here that for those ones who fall (from the grace back into the Law), it is impossible to renew them again unto REPENTANCE. The word 'repentance' here comes from the Greek word 'metanoia'. This means 'change of mind'. So the word 'repent' means to have a change of mind. So when you see the word 'repent' used in the Bible, have in mind that it means 'to change your mind'. So in other words the Bible is saying that it is impossible to make those people change their minds. Whoever those people who are being talked about here are, the Bible is stating that if they fall from the grace of God back into the Law, it is impossible to make them change their minds again. How come?

We can understand that by looking at the kind of people who are described here:

...For it is impossible for those who WERE ONCE ENLIGHTENED, and HAVE TASTED OF THE HEAVENLY GIFT, and were made PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY GHOST, And have TASTED THE GOOD WORD OF GOD, and the POWERS OF THE WORLD TO COME...

Did you see that? Look at the believers that are being described here. They are:

Enlightened: These people were enlightened. That is, they have knowledge of this Gospel and gift that I am telling you about.

Have tasted the heavenly gift: What is this heavenly gift? Salvation of course. That is God's gift to men.

Partakers of the Holy Ghost: Actually when you understand the Gospel and salvation, you automatically open up and learn to walk with the Holy Ghost.

Tasted the good word of God: This represents understanding salvation and enjoying the benefits in it. (*Psalm 34:8*)

Powers of the world to come: That is the power of God given to us in Christ Jesus through the Holy Ghost (*Acts 1:8*).

So now, these people have all these. They have the understanding of the Gospel (gift of God) and yet still decide to live and

relate with God according to their works of the Law. They decide that what Jesus did is not enough to save them and that they have to earn salvation on their own. They live with the attitude of qualifying for God's blessings which Jesus Christ qualified them for.

The Bible is saying that for these people, it is impossible to get them to change their minds. Why? Because they already know all that you are going to tell them. They already understand what Jesus came to do and have decided to still live with the mindset of the Law and works. So you cannot change their minds again. Do not be surprised that such people can exist because there are a lot of people like that already in the body of Christ now. That is: those who know all about what Jesus Christ has done for them and yet still, they insist that it is their works of the Law that will save them, not the gift of God.

What the Bible is telling us about these people is that it is impossible to get them to change their minds. Again why? We can continue reading:

... seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Did you see that? Jesus Christ came to take away our sins and delivered us from the Law. So if these people say that what Jesus did not completely deal with the sin problem, and that we have to deal with that again, what they are doing is actually nailing Him back to the cross. That is to say that what Jesus Christ did was not enough so they have to add their works to be saved.

For such people, they are returning to the state they were in for which Jesus Christ hanged on the cross and became a curse for them.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (Galatians 3:13 KJV)

Did you see that? Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us on the cross. After Jesus Christ has successfully done this, if a believer holds onto the Law that Jesus Christ hanged on the cross to deliver us from, then what that believer is doing is that he is nailing Jesus back to the cross.

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (Colossians 2:14 KJV)

On the cross, Jesus Christ nailed all the handwritings of ordinances which were against us. What were these handwritings? The Law and Commandments.

But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held... (Romans 7:6 KJV)

Jesus delivered us from the Law and its requirements by being nailed to the cross. By them going back under the Law for their salvation, they are actually nailing him back to the cross.

That is, with the knowledge that these people have, if they go back to keeping the Law for their righteousness, to reach God's standard and to be saved, they are actually nailing Jesus Christ back to the cross because they are negating the work of the cross to themselves. They decide that what Jesus did is not enough to save them and that they have to earn salvation on their own.

So the Word is showing us that for people like that, it is impossible for us to change their minds (repent) because TO THEMSELVES they have crucified Jesus Christ to the cross again. They are making what Jesus Christ did for them come to naught. *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Galatians 2:21 KJV)*

Like the Scripture above is showing, when we try to get righteousness or salvation by the Law, we negate the grace of God and we make what Jesus Christ came to do for us in vain. They are trying to pay for God's gift and so forfeit it.

Did Jesus Christ come to carry our sins and die for us? Did He meet God's requirements for us? Of course he did. Then we ought to live with that mindset. Otherwise we will be implying that what He did was not enough. And by so doing, we are putting him to an open shame. We will be saying that Jesus is just like any other religious leader with no eternal powers to take away sins once and for all. *... and put him to an open shame*

You do not put Jesus to shame by sinning because that is why he came. He came to pay the price for those sins. He came for sinners. But we put him to an open shame when we say that He did not finish the work so we ought to finish it after he cried "it is finished".

I hope that you are not one of these people. If you are, repent (change your mind) right now. Give up on your works and give in to God's love which He expressed by giving us this gift. So make a decision right now. Decide to live in and by and for God's grace. Cease

from your works and rest in Jesus' finished works. Stop believing in your efforts and believe in the love of God. Receive the gift of God.

Now we can go back to Hebrews 6:4-6, read it and see as light now shines on the Scripture for you. I am adding annotations from what I explained in this chapter to it:

*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,
5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, [those who have understood and experienced the gift of salvation]
6 If they shall fall away [if they go back under the law and try to live by its standards and obligations for their salvation], to renew them again unto repentance [to change their minds]; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh [they nullify what he came to do for them], and put him to an open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6 KJV, annotations)*

10. CONCLUSION

And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WE SHALL BE SAVED, EVEN AS THEY. (Acts 15:1-2, 5-11 KJV, emphasis added)

The Argument

I would like to conclude by bringing to light something that happened in the church of old. And in that line, I want to say this again; “Believer, study the Bible. Do not just read or quote but study”. Why am I saying this? I am saying this because we see too many people arguing about a lot of topics from the Bible; and whenever I see something like that I know that one or both of them have not really studied the Bible to find out the truth. One or both of them have not really listened to the Holy Spirit. Because if we all study the Bible or listen to the Holy Spirit, we will all come to the same truth about God’s grace and love. We will all get to the place where we have no more arguments or questions but rather rest and share in God’s grace and love.

In that line, let us go ahead and take a look at an argument that erupted in the church in the time of Paul and the other apostles concerning everything that we learnt. What saves the believer? Is it the grace (gift) of God or the works of that believer (which is summarized by perfect obedience to God’s Law)? Please read the opening scripture very carefully. We will study it by taking the verses one by one and explaining them.

And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

Did you see that? These were fellow believers who were teaching other believers that they cannot be saved unless they are circumcised according to the Law of Moses. Now understand this: according to the contract that God made with Moses about the Old Covenant, the way to come under the Law or Old Covenant was through circumcision.

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. (Genesis 17:10-11 KJV)

That means if a person is not circumcised, he cannot be under the Old Covenant and its laws. So that was what these people were implying with that teaching. They were actually saying that unless the new converts come under and live by obedience to the Law (Ten

Commandments and 613 laws) they cannot be saved. Now let us look at the reaction of Paul and Barnabas to this:

When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Did you see that? Paul and Barnabas certainly did not agree to this. They actually argued with them. And the argument was so great that it had to be taken to the elders and apostles for clarification. So when they got there, the question was put before the apostles:

But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to CIRCUMCISE THEM, AND TO COMMAND THEM TO KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES.

So as I explained earlier, the argument was about whether it is the obedience to the Law of Moses that saves believers or the grace of God. Let us read on:

And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And WHEN THERE HAD BEEN MUCH DISPUTING, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Did you see that? The argument continued even among the apostles and elders. Wow! This topic was that sensitive and important. But the whole argument came to a close when Apostle Peter spoke by the Holy Spirit. Let us listen to what he said:

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Take note of the verse 10:

Now therefore why tempt ye God, to PUT A YOKE upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Peter said that they should not put a yoke (burden or obligation) upon the neck of the disciples that they nor their fathers could bear. What yoke was that? The Law. So in other words, Peter explained that

the Law was a yoke. And not just any yoke but one that no man could carry. No man can keep the Law to the extent that God wants it to be kept. Only Jesus Christ did that... and he did it for us. And now check out the final statement that Peter made:

11 But we believe that THROUGH THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WE SHALL BE SAVED, EVEN AS THEY.

Hallelujah! Glory be to God! Did you see that?

He said; “*through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we* (talking about the apostles and elders) *shall be saved even as they* (the Gentiles)”.

That means:

IT IS THE GRACE (GIFT) OF GOD THAT SAVES ALL OF US; NOT OUR OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OR OUR WORKS BUT THE GRACE (GIFT) OF GOD.

That settled the argument. The argument was settled, and the end of it all was that it is the grace of God that saves men. And as we have seen already throughout this book, it indeed is. How powerful the grace and love of God is.

FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION hath appeared to all men; (Titus 2:11 KJV, emphasis added)

That equally means this: The grace of God that brings healing has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings wholeness has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings protection has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings power has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings the gifts of the Holy Ghost has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings riches has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings joy has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings peace has appeared to all men. The grace of God that brings prosperity has appeared to all men. The grace of God that gives life has appeared unto all men. This is because salvation is a package that contains all these.

But isn't it interesting that this argument that popped up in the church of old and was so nicely concluded is still going on in the body of Christ today? I see it everywhere I go. It is so sad. How can this argument still be going on when the people use the Bible as the authority for those arguments? When all that they would need to do is to look into the Bible and find out the truth for themselves.

The answer is very simple. They do not study the Bible. Some may read (as a religious act) but not really study. And most Christians, take the Holy Spirit out of their studies and put their mindsets and

ideologies in His place. Those people have already reasoned out how God and Christianity should be like, so all that they try to look for in the Bible is proofs to their ideologies. Instead, what they should have done is to go God and humble themselves for Him to teach them. I realized a long time ago that God knows best, and so it is better for me to put aside my mindsets and ideologies and just go to Him empty for Him to fill me with His truth.

So believer, as Peter said so do I say to you: “I believe that God has purified your heart by your faith in Him; and through the grace of God, you are saved”. This is very simple. If grace cannot save us, no works that we do can save us. But Glory to God that His grace is enough.

Spiritual Experience

This book will not be complete if I do not share this experience I had with you. I had this experience at a time that I had understood the gift of God and all that the grace of God meant to me. I did not note down the date, so I cannot tell you the exact date that it happened but it was late in the year 2013.

It was a normal day like any other for me. After ministering in Accra, Ghana, I had gone back home to Koforidua in the Eastern Region of Ghana. I was tired after the journey so I did not go outside. I just stayed inside and meditated on the scriptures till evening. Then I went to sleep. That was when I had this experience. I do not know whether to describe it as a dream, a vision or trance. What I know is that it happened. It was more real than the keyboard that I am using to type these words to you. This is what happened:

As I slept, I felt I had died. It was more than a feeling. These are the best words that I can use to describe it: ‘I KNEW I HAD DIED’. I saw myself (my spirit) leave my body. I saw my body laying there lifeless as my spirit left the body. I had shifted to the side of the bed which was by the wall as I normally do when it is hot so that the cold wall will cool up my body. And now, I was leaving all that behind. I was dead, and I knew it (at that time).

But it was not just me leaving the body (dying) that was the issue. The other issue was that when I was leaving the body, I felt, no, I should rather say “I knew” I had fornicated. I HAVE NEVER REALLY FORNICATED IN THE BODY BEFORE (and I will never do that

because I am the righteousness of God). But that was what I felt. And it was like I knew I had done it. At that time, if someone had told me that I had not really fornicated, I would have actually argued with that person that I had done it (the Holy Spirit explained why I felt that way to me later on. I will share that with you after I finish sharing the experience).

So just imagine it: I was just like a Christian who had died right after committing the sin of fornication.

Another thing that happened was that while I was leaving my body there was another person who at that moment was also dying. He (his spirit) also left his body around the same time I did. I did not know who that person was and why he died but I just knew that we died at the same moment. Our spirits left our bodies at the same time.

I remember how I felt when I realized I had died. I remember the thoughts that went through my mind at that moment. I remember them as though I was going through it just today. These were a few of the thoughts were going through my mind at that moment: “Wow, how could I die as young as I am? (I was shocked). Did I even complete the assignment that God gave me to do on this earth? What are my parents going to do? They are not going to see me again: They didn't even see me get married. What is my beloved going to do? (I had just entered into a relationship) How is she going to feel? What are the members of Soul Touch International (my ministry) going to do? (I had been teaching them that death had no power over Christians and we can choose when we want to die: and I had definitely not chosen to die at that time)”.

These and a million other thoughts were going through my mind at that time. But I knew there was no going back. My time on the earth had ended. But the very disturbing thought that was ringing in my mind was the thought that I had fornicated, did not have the chance to ask for forgiveness of sins and I died.

Then I saw as I was warped through ‘a space’ with a lot of different colors of light, along with the other guy. He was right in front of me. I could not control my movement; I just floated like the wind. Before I could make anything out of what was happening or where we were going, we were both standing in a very large hall almost the size of a football field.

I saw two angels. One stood in the middle of the hall with a large scroll in front of him. The large scroll was supported by two stands, one on each side of the scroll. And there was a bar that connected the two stands on which the scroll hanged so that it could roll freely. The other

angel stood by the wall of the building with his hands behind his back and just observed us just like a security man. The angel standing in the middle of the hall was not very tall. He was about the height of a normal man but the other angel by the wall was very tall. He (the angel by the wall) did not say anything during our whole period there. He just stood and watched us until the angel in the middle told him what to do. When I got there and saw all these, my heart started beating very fast (remember that I was standing there as one who fornicated right before dying).

The guy that I went there with stood right before the angel that stood in front of the scroll and I stood a little farther behind him. The angel started looking through a list on the scroll for his name. After a while he found it. He said something to the other angel after which he came for the guy and led him to the end of the hall and opened a door at the end of the hall (the door was no bigger than the normal doors that we use here). When he opened the door, I could not see what was behind the door but I saw a very bright and glorious light emanating from behind the door. I did not need anybody to tell me that that door led to heaven.

But do you know something? When the guy was standing in front of the angel as he looked into the scroll for his name, I was waging a war on the inside of me. There I was, I had fornicated and died. And I found myself before judgment. These were the thoughts that were going through my mind: "If the gospel of grace is not true, I am done for (I am going straight to hell) because I have committed one of the 'biggest sins' and did not even have the chance to ask for forgiveness and here I am standing for judgment".

On the other hand, I was finding consolation in the truth that Jesus Christ came to take my sins, went to hell for me, so that I should not go to hell again. That it is not what I do right that will take me to heaven but what Jesus Christ has done that will take me to heaven. So once I have believed in him I am saved. But then again, I could not shake off the feeling of inadequacy because I felt like I have fornicated. Everything was too sudden and too much of a shock to me.

So which is which? If the grace message that I had been preaching to people was true then I am going to heaven in spite of the fornication because Jesus finished the work for me. If not then I am definitely going straight to hell because I just committed one of the biggest sins and I died right after.

I was soon to find out as the angel that stood in front of the scroll beckoned me to step forward. I did. He did not ask for my name; he just started looking for my name in the scroll straight forward as though he already knew my name. The moment of truth had arrived. I do not know whether I had a heart there or not; but whatever I had, if it were a heart, it was pounding so much that it could have caused an earthquake on earth. I did not know whether I had sweat glands there or not. But whatever I had if they were sweat glands, my sweat alone could have caused a flood in that large hall.

I do not know how long it took for the angel to go through the whole list; but to me it took eternity. And I watched as the angel went through the whole list, looked at me and said the exact words that I did not want to hear: "I am sorry, your name is not here; you will have to go to the other side".

.....
"Huh?" I exclaimed. My mouth and eyes were wide opened in shock. I could not say a word. But these were the thoughts that were going through my mind: "Am I going to hell? It is too bad to be true. Is this a nightmare? Then I wanted to wake up right now!".

One part of me understood that I deserved to go to hell. Why not? I fornicated right before dying. But another part of me was yelling out. "What about the grace of God? What happened to the grace of God? Isn't it the grace of God that saves? What happened to what Jesus came to do for us? Didn't he finish what he said he finished? Didn't he pay the price so that I can go to heaven?"

Again I started thinking of those on earth. I thought: "If this is so, then it means that so many people on earth are already doomed; especially those that I preached the Gospel of Grace to; because if they are following me and I am going to hell then they are also definitely going there." I wanted to beg the angels there to allow me to go back and tell those that I had been teaching of the grace of God (about the gift of God) that all the things that I had been teaching them were not true. But I already understood the Bible enough to understand that such liberties are not granted to those who have been condemned (as we see in the story of Lazarus and the rich man).

But again, I could not shake off these thoughts: "But I am born again; but I am one with Christ; But Jesus already went to hell for me; if grace cannot save, who then can be saved?" These and other millions of thoughts were going through my mind each second.

My heart was pounding. I could not think of myself going to hell. I was already imagining the fires and torments that I will be going through there. I had read a lot of books about it and I knew that hell was the last place I would ever want to go.

I do not know how long I stood there with my mouth and eyes wide opened (in shock) and thinking these thoughts. But the angel just stood there and watched me as if he could read the thoughts that were going through my mind. Well, the silence ended when he spoke up; “Okay, let me look through the list again”. I did not know what to make of that, but I was too dumbfounded to even reply. He went ahead and looked through the list again. And then... Viola! He found my name.

My name was on the list. My name was actually the very first name on the list. And not just that: I looked at how the names were arranged on the list: They had just been listed as if with ink, each on a row. But my name was not like that. It was like my name took a whole page along with a design on the background. The background had a picture of a lush green field with flowers on it. It was beautiful. And my name had been written right on top of the background.

The angel then looked back at me and spoke with an apologetic tone: “I am sorry for the mix-up: your name is right here”. I did not know what to do when he said that. I cannot describe how I felt when he said that. I thought: “Like seriously? I am not going to hell? I am going to heaven?” Glory be to God.

Now, I had more thoughts going through my mind than before. But they were all confirmations now. “Wow!” I thought. “That means the grace is the truth as I have been telling people all the while. Jesus did it all. Jesus really saved us and saved us to the uttermost”. Hallelujah!

Then the angel looked at the other angel who stood like a guard and said: “He is one of those on a visiting tour, he will be going to look around but he will not stay; he will go back to the earth and tell the people of the earth what he saw”. And the manner with which he said it was as though I am not the only one coming for such a tour; like I am one of many; like it is normal. How cool is that?

I was going on a tour to heaven. People get excited just to go for tours at certain places on this earth. Well, I was going for a tour in heaven. Now, this is too good to be true. What a turn of events. From being someone who was supposed to go to hell because of fornication to being someone who is going on a tour to heaven because of the grace of

God. I had already started imagining what I will be seeing there. Above all, I could not wait to see Jesus; my mighty savior, Lord and brother.

So the angel beckoned to me to follow the other angel as the other guy who went ahead of me did. I did. But all the while, I had not recovered from the shock I went through when I was told I will be going to hell. My heart was still beating rapidly. But now, it was not just because of the shock of going to hell alone but also in anticipation of what is going to happen next. So I followed him.

We reached the door that the other guy went through. The angel opened it for me. As he opened it, again, I saw great brightness that I cannot describe. It was a brightness that you could also feel. I think the best word that I could use here is ‘glory’ instead of ‘brightness’. My heart was pounding in anticipation to what I will be seeing there. Then I stepped through the door.

.....

Right after that I woke up back in my body on my bed. My heart was still pounding from the whole incident. I was confused, shocked and happy at the same time. I had to talk to someone. I picked my phone and called my beloved. She did not pick at the first time. I thought; “please pick up, I have to talk to you”. She picked on the third time. “Hello baby” she said. I said “hello baby, can you imagine what happened to me right now?”, “what is it?” she asked. And I told her the whole story.

Glory be to God for this. Now, I think you will understand why I said at the beginning that I did not know how to classify this: whether it was a dream, vision or trance. But what I know is it was more real than this keyboard that I am using to type this for you to read.

In view of this, let me give you this advice: “Believer, do not let any vision, dream or spiritual experience from anybody be the authority for your Christian walk. The Word of God is what should be your authority not those experiences no matter who had the experience or what he experienced. You are not supposed to take anything just like that. You have to check it with the Word of God (Bible). You have to do the ‘Jesus test’ (you will find the ‘Jesus test’ in the chapter entitled ‘Gospel’ of this book). If it is not in line with the Word of God (Jesus test), discard it. It will not benefit you. Otherwise you can easily be deceived.”

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1John 4:1 KJV)

I have read a lot of divine experiences that so many believers have had (early on in my Christian growth) but I never let any of them come before the revelation of the Word of God. If I read any and they were not in line with the Word of God, I just discard them. They could not be from God because God and His Word are one and every experience from God will be in line with His Word (what Jesus Christ came to do for us).

I do not doubt the fact that those people may have seen something but what I am saying is that we have to judge and check those spiritual experiences with the Word.

*Let the prophets speak two or three, and LET THE OTHER JUDGE.
(1Corinthians 14:29 KJV, emphasis added)*

Just as I have read a lot that were not in line with the Word of God, I have equally read a few that are totally in line with the Word of God. And those ones really blessed me. But note again, that it was not the vision that was the authority, the Word of God was. If that vision did not confirm the Word, I would not receive it; if it did, I received it.

That is why I made sure to share this spiritual experience at the end of the book. I do not want you to take it as the authority for yourself. I do not want you to believe the Gospel of Grace because of this vision. Believe this message because that is what the Word of God is saying. And every other thing will just be a confirmation. And anything that is not in line with the Word is just a lie and has to be treated as such.

Well, later on in the day, I talked with the Holy Spirit about it (I talk with Him about everything). And He explained the various clauses in it to me. He first explained the reason why I felt like I had fornicated when I had not actually. This is what He said:

“I made you feel that way because I wanted you to go through this not like a Christian who has got his act all together right; But as one who has imperfections in his Christian life. So that in sharing this with people they will understand that it is My grace that saves them no matter how imperfect they may seem to themselves; not their works. Not even their asking for forgiveness of sins. It is all Jesus; none them”

Hallelujah. Isn't that amazing? And again, He explained why I did not see anything when I entered into the gate that led to heaven. He said:

“The reason why you didn't see anything when you stepped through the gates of glory was that you have already seen those things. You see them

every day in My Word. The realities that I show you about My Kingdom in My Word that you have been teaching my people are actually realities that I show you to show My people more about heaven. What you see in My Word are like tours that I take you through in heaven, so that every time you teach My people, you are showing them pictures of heaven so that they can enjoy the heavenly life on earth. What you see in My Word is not inferior to what you will see in heaven because I Am one with My Word."

Hallelujah. Isn't that beautiful? He further said:

"When you tell my people, I want them healthy and that my healing and health is available for them on this earth, you just showed them a picture of heaven because there are no sicknesses in heaven. When you show them that they should not be sin conscious because I dealt with sin on their behalf, you just showed them a picture of heaven because in heaven nobody is sin conscious; everyone is conscious of Me. So I have actually been taking you through heaven all the time that you have been going through My Word so that you will show my people. And from now onwards I will be showing you more and more so that you will show My people pictures of heaven for Me because I want the best for My children and My best for them is heaven. Even though they are living on earth, they can live the heavenly life".

Hallelujah! Isn't this great? Believer, you can live the heavenly life now. A life of no struggles; a life of no fears; a life of no sickness, poverty and so on. You can live a life of victory and rest in God's presence.

All that you have to do is to receive the gift of God. Jesus truly loves us radically. You can begin to worship God now for the pictures of heaven that He has shown you in this book.

Thank God for the amazing gift of God.

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.] For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]. (Ephesians 2:8-10 AMP)

Amen!

11. PRAYERS

Ministration

Now, you can begin to live your Christian life in the liberty and joy that God has made it to be (*Galatians 5:1*). Now, you can have a relationship with God just as you are; knowing that God does not judge, condemn or accuse you (*Romans 8:1, 2*). Now, begin to live the life of no condemnation that God made for the Christian to live. Begin to rest in God concerning your family, your relationships, your ministry and your service to Him, knowing that He loves you radically and sees you perfect (*1 John 3:1*). Receive this gift of God by faith and reign over sicknesses, stress, depression, lack, fear, addictions, sin and all its effects and see God move into all those areas and work things out for your good (*Romans 5:17*).

The gift of God is your release. It is your empowerment. It is your key into an ever-growing relationship with God. It is the open door for a relationship with God that is living, active and vibrant. In it you reign over the devil, demons and every activity of hell. In it the life of power and miraculous becomes a common phenomenon for you. Maybe you are reading this book and you are struggling with your Christian life to serve God and to please Him; this is what the Lord is telling you:

"Rest in Jesus' finished works for you, for in this rest you will be able to flow with Me effortlessly".

Ministry

Or maybe you are reading this book and have a desire to do the work of the ministry. This is what I want you to know: Rest. For when you rest God can use you beyond your wildest imagination. When you rest, God works; when you work He rests. So rest and let Him work. You will see His ability at work in you when you do that. Unlike what so many of us think, you become productive not by striving but by resting in what Jesus Christ did for you. For in that line, you will be like the burning bush... you will burn but not burn out. The anointing, the boldness, the gifts, the knowledge that you need are all wrapped up in this single gift that God gave to you. Receive the gift of God; be bold in it and flow in your ministry.

Relationship

Maybe you are reading this book and you are seeking for an intimate relationship with God. But you keep on trying to get it but always failing. This is what I want you to know. First of all understand that between you and God there is no sin because Jesus dealt with sin for you. Sin is the only thing that can separate you from God. So without your sins in the picture, there is nothing that can separate you from God now. You can now go to the throne of God in boldness through the new and living way: Jesus.

And secondly, understand that God doesn't judge you. He adores you. You are the beloved of the Lord. He is not looking to punish you for your sins. In fact how can you have a relationship with someone who is looking for any little mistake on you to punish you or take you to hell? No, God is not like that. If you have that mindset then it should have changed after reading this book to this point because so far as you have that mindset of God as a judge, you will be far away from Him in your mind.

But see Him as a God of love; who loved you so much that He died for you (*John 3:16*). He made Jesus take all your judgment and punishment so that all that will be left between you and Him will be life

and love (*Isaiah 53:5*). See Him as a God of relationship; who desires to have a relationship with you so much that He reconciled you to Himself even when you were still in your sins and then said that He will never leave you or forsake you (*Romans 5:8, Hebrews 13:5*). See Him as your husband; the man you are married to (*Romans 7:4*). Who loves you so much that He can't bear to see you far away from Him.

Now, in seeing Him this way, you can now draw near to Him with a true heart in full assurance of faith and not have anything in your conscience budging in (*Hebrews 10:19-22*). So by faith, you can begin to practice the presence of God for He is right there with you. So go have that relationship with God; for that is what Christianity is about: Relationship with God. In that relationship you will effortlessly do all those things that you struggled in doing. You will effortlessly study the Bible, you will effortlessly pray, you will effortlessly live the life that is yours in Christ because Jesus becomes your focus. And he is everything you will ever need.

Addictions

Or maybe you are reading this book and you have an addiction. You have been trying countless times to stop it but you keep doing it over and over again. This is what I have to tell you: First know that you have taken the first step to your liberty. By getting to know what is in this book... that is God is not judging you or going to take you to hell. He rather is your justification. He rather covered that sin for you. He rather made the payment for that sin for you so that you can come to Him in boldness.

Now, that you know the truth, that power of addiction is broken off your life. That addiction only had power because you did not know the truth of God's love for you (*Isaiah 5:13*). You thought God was mad at you and is going to judge you. But now that you know the truth; you are freed from that addiction (*John 8:32*). His love is your liberty. Go and reign with God in His love and righteousness. You are free from any addiction. Begin to declare it and walk in that reality. You are the righteousness of God; you are radically loved and blessed by God.

Problems

Or maybe you are reading this book and you are suffering from a sickness, or a problem. This is what I want you to know: First of all understand that God cares about you. He cares about even the littlest things about you. He even numbers your hairs on your head (*Matthew 10:30*). I mean, God is obsessed about you. I mean look at this marvelous gift that He has given to you. He gave you salvation. He gave you His son. He gave you the best of heaven. He that did not spare His son for you, how shall He not also with Him freely give you all things (*Romans 8:32*). Do be afraid to talk to God about those problems no matter how minute you think they are. He is willing and able to help.

Much more than that, do not be afraid to use the power that God has given to you in Christ; He has given you power (*Acts 1:8*). It is part of the package of salvation... God gave you that power so that you will not be helpless or be taken for a prey by the devil or the world. He gave you that gift so that you can reign with Him in this life. So reign. Begin to speak to the problem. Call the problem by name and tell it to go in Jesus' name. Tell it to die. Tell it to change to become what you want it to be. And then, begin to thank God for it because it is done.

Sick?

If you are sick and are looking for a miracle, I want you tell you something that the Lord told me... He said "*son, this is the first thing that you have to do before praying for any sick person; get them to understand My love for them; If you can them to understand how much I love them, what I did for them and what I am willing to do for them, they will be able to receive their healing effortlessly because that understanding of My love is the actual healing that they needed*"

That is what the Lord told me. And I say this to the glory of God that as many as I have ministered healing to who were able to understand and receive the love of God for them, received their healing from any sickness or disease that they were suffering from. I have countless testimonies in that line. So that means, now that you have heard about this amazing gift that God gave us to show us His love; you are ready to receive your healing. So put your hand where that sickness is (if it is your whole body put it on your head if you can). If you can't move your

hand, do not worry; God can move His hand; and He is the one who is touching you right now...

“So in the name of Jesus Christ, I command every sickness in the body, blood, bones, nerves and mind to go right now; I command devils of sicknesses to go; pain to go, disease to go; and I COMMAND YOU TO RECEIVE YOUR HEALING RIGHT NOW IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

Now begin to thank God for your healing. Keep thanking Him for it. For you are healed. Call or email me and share your testimony with me. Many are already sharing theirs and I would love to hear the great things that the Lord is doing for you too.

Truth

Or maybe you read this book because you were searching for the truth. Well, you have found the truth. Jesus is the truth. And you can receive him into your heart right now by praying the prayer that follows. By so doing, you receive the gift of God and release yourself into a walk with God that is beyond anything that your mind could have comprehended. If you are such a person and you prayed that prayer (if you are already a born again believer, you don't have to pray that prayer again), call me. My contacts will be available at the end of the book and let me hear the good news of what God has done for you.

Finally know that whatever the case may be, your heavenly Father has already provided a solution for you and has put all in this one single gift: His gift of salvation

Prayer

If you are a not a Christian and want to receive the gift of God (SALVATION), pray this prayer:

God, I have gotten to know about this love gift that you have given me through Jesus Christ. Today I declare that I believe in your love; I believe in Jesus Christ and what you sent Him to do for me. That he died and resurrected for me. So I declare that Jesus Christ is the

Lord and savior of my life. I receive your gift of salvation for me today in Jesus' name. Thank you Father for this gift and everything that it carries in Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

Hallelujah. If you prayed this prayer, you are born again. God is now your Father. You have received the gift of God. Call or email me and share your testimony with me.

Father God we thank you for your gift of salvation. We thank you for giving it to us freely in your grace. We thank you that you gave it to us out of your love. We thank you that you gave it to us even when we did not deserve it. We thank you for the assurance that you will never take this gift away from us; that you gave it to us freely. We are forever grateful for this great gift. We are in love with your love. That is why we cannot but live for you because you are so good. That is why we cannot but worship you because your love overwhelms us. Glory be to your name; Praise and honor be to you.

Amen

Thank you Daddy God for your gift. I love you.

JT JS FJNJSHEB.

I will be grateful to receive your feedback after reading this book through:

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Watch out for more books from Apostle Anthony Acquah Asamoah:

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- *Are you living in fear?*
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In The Gift of God, Minister Anthony invites you on a Scripture-filled journey to encounter the fullness of God's Gospel of Grace. This powerful book offers you an eye-opening look into the glorious revelation of God's gift to humanity. This book declares unapologetically that salvation is in itself a miracle and the most valuable priceless gift from God to us in Christ Jesus.

This book is not about relationships, power, healing, gifts of the Spirit, and so on. But as you read, you will notice how God's love and power touch every one of these areas, bring change, remove fear, and make you whole, because He has made provision for all these in His gift of salvation.

ABOUT AUTHOR:

Minister Anthony Acquah Asamoah resides in Ghana. He is an author, business man and investor. He is the founder and president of Soul Touch International ministries with its main branch in Legon, Ghana. He is a missionary and a passionate teacher of the Scriptures, with the passion for soul-winning and equipping believers with the truth of the Gospel of Grace.

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