

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

THE FORCE OF CREATION

Genesis 1: 1&2 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters".*

Here the Holy Spirit was hovering over the whole creation and at that time there was a deep that was dark. In fact, there are three words used here - it was *without form, void and darkness*. These are words that are normally associated with chaos. Now the word - *without form, void and darkness* speaks of chaos, a very confusing situation and in that situation we would be very panicky but here God was not, and the Holy Spirit seems to specialize in the area where there is confusion. There seems to this key where there needs to be an element of a void without form and not really what we called darkness but a depth that is so deep. It is more the darkness of the creative womb of the universe and it is in that atmosphere that God's Spirit was hovering over that place, that creation came forth.

What was the Holy Spirit doing? Here in verse 1&2 we see that is the Holy Spirit hovering. Let's combine two other scriptures.

Proverbs 3:19 *"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens."*

V20 *"By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew."*
There is a foundation of wisdom and by His understanding He established the heavens.

Wisdom speaks about the foresight of God, the plans and the purposes of God. *Understanding* speaks about His laws that govern the creation after it was created. See wisdom talks about the plan. Understanding talks about the system that is designed after the plan has been accomplished. It is just like example building a \$100 million complex or skyscraper. You have only one part but then you must not forget the other part, how much it will cost to maintain such a building. Imagine the services, how would the building be used - if one part were offices - what kind of needs would the offices have and if the other part of it were condominiums - what kind of facilities and what kind of needs would the people have. All that goes in to maintaining it. You could finish building the building beautifully and if you have no understanding following after that the whole building will be reduced back to chaos. Can you imagine living in the Petronas Twin Towers (the tallest buildings in the world located in Kuala Lumpur) without any system? Before long it would be a pigsty even though it may be beautiful at the opening ceremony.

So when Proverbs 3: 19-20 talks about God founding the earth by His wisdom and establishing the heavens by His understanding, we talk about the laws of preservation operating together with the laws of creation. By wisdom, He creates. By His understanding, He preserves. He has to! Right now this planet earth is spinning round the sun and the sun, and the solar system is spinning on its own power around its very place in the galaxy of the Milky Way. If all the planets were out of synchrony, we would just go straight into the sun and get burn up or if the planets just decide to be topsy-turvy and move any direction they want, we would be hit somehow by another planet and that would have been the end of our whole world. So the system is also designed in such a way that it self-propagates and that's what it means by the heavens established by His understanding.

The third scripture for the introduction in the Book of John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. V2 "He was in the beginning with God." At the beginning of the creation of the universe, I wonder how all these three words fitted together. Since it says the Holy Spirit was hovering over the earth and then it says that in the beginning was the Word? That was the Lord Jesus Christ. By His wisdom He founded the earth. As the Holy Spirit was hovering over the void that was there, the nothingness that was there - there was completely nothing. It was like God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit was there. Every work of creation and everything that God does from Genesis to Revelation, He always does with all three playing a role. There was never a single time in the Bible when one Person does the work where the other two were not involved in anyway. Even when Jesus died on the cross, He gave Himself through the Holy Spirit and God the Father

accepted the sacrifice and Jesus died on the cross. There was still a Triune work at work in our atonement. In a creation three Persons were at work, the Holy Spirit was hovering and that's easy to see.

What was God the Father doing? What was God the Son doing? Surely they were not also floating about or hovering. What were they doing? God the Father must be on His throne. And Jesus, what was He doing? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God." The second phrase gives us the clue and that Word was with God. So Jesus the Son at that time His name was Jesus the Word. The Eternal Word and God the Father were doing something. What were they doing? There was the Holy Spirit hovering in a creative way and God the Father was functioning by His wisdom. By His wisdom, there was something flowing forth. That was like His plans. God the Father has always been a Planner, the Source, the Beginning. Jesus has always been the One who is executing the whole thing and the Holy Spirit has been the One who has always enforce the execution. So God the Father was reaching forth into the depths of His wisdom. He was Wisdom and the wisdom was flowing out from Him. God had to construct the whole universe, the human being. No one could be His consultant according to Paul because He is all wisdom. His plan was been laid out and He was really stretching forth Himself. God was stretching forth His Being.

Sometimes all we have the image of God just sitting on His throne and then He just said, "It would be nice to have the world. "Light Be!" on the spur of the moment, that's what we were thinking and as He was sitting around with the light that He created and then He said, "Let the heavens and the earth separate. Let the water recede to one side and let the land appear as if He just sitting there and at the spur of the moment. Yes, human being can do that because they have a finite mind and we who have finite minds is quite hard to imagine how God works. This is what I could see in my spirit that God stretched Himself. He stretched His Being.

He encompassed His whole creation - the whole beginning of the heaven and the earth, and of Adam and Eve, and the world's creation. The planet Earth was only one tiny part. God is stretching Himself over eons and ages; it covers even the beginning of the angelic age. It covers the time of Adam. God stretched Himself because there was nothing. Gen 1: 1 There was nothing. Gen 1: 2 - One small executive part of the whole plan of God. We only see when we read verse 2. It is just like taking an electron microscope and looking into that just one tiny little molecule and you know how many zillion of molecules there are on the planet Earth

- in the air itself! From verse 2 is one tiny aspect of that so I could imagine God the Father just on His throne stretching Himself forth -- His plan and his purposes.

And what was Lord Jesus doing'? "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God." Jesus was like the executor. He was possibly involved when verse 3 came into being, the speaking of the Word because He was the Word. Jesus was the Word. By verse 3 Jesus was involved. Now He was involved partly in the other ways that we could not comprehend fully but at least for us to see His involvement is very clear. Somehow in that speaking forth of the Word, Jesus was intricately involved when *God said*. Hebrews 11:2 says, *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible*. Jesus, the Word of God, was involved in the framing of the creation while the Holy Spirit by hovering over the formless void was enforcing these forces of creation together.

When we stretch ourselves sometimes our muscles get tired but God does not tire and He does not tire Himself. God neither slumbers nor sleeps. God never feels tired at all. Because He is Eternal and His strength is Almighty. But God did stretch Himself. When God created the universe we must have the picture of God stretching Himself because God rested when He finished. Now if you think about rest the way we think about it, you think that God got tired but it is not theologically sound because God is never tired. He neither slumbers nor sleeps so He is never tired. To think of God getting tired is heretical. The closest definition you can find to why God need to rest is He has stretched Himself. Something from His Being has come forth and by the time He created Adam and Eve He placed a part of His Spirit into Adam and Eve. After He created all His animals, in that six days He created man perfect but there was still no life in him. Only when God took something of Himself and breathed into man that Adam became a living Soul again here. We are showing that He is stretching Himself. So God, we could safely and theologically say in simple layman's term without using any big bombastic word that God stretched Himself. He stretched into His Inner Being and stretched all over. And so when He finished, God stopped stretching Himself. That's what it mean when it says God rested.

God work and when you work, what do you do? You stretched yourself, whether you stretched yourself mentally or physically. Today in our modern civilization, some types of work are more mental than physical. But yet work is work, whether you stretched your brains and

your neurons or you stretched your muscles or ligaments, you do stretch yourselves. As long as your body is concerned the same stretch is there and you need to know how to rest in God.

Genesis 2:2 "And on the seventh day God ended His work...." Imagine God the Father has work and He worked hard. Man has not even discovered the limits of the universe yet. His work was so massive. It is timeless and we cannot even measure it. If we ever measure it, possibly in our time it could mean millions and billions of years. We cannot comprehend because time was not measured yet. There was no man, no Adam, no Eve to measure time. How long did God stretch Himself in human earth's hours or years, we never know. I could only quantify that it could possibly be billions and millions of years stretching Himself in His wisdom. When God finished, in verse 3 "Then God blessed the 7th day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

It is not God the Father who was stretching only. God the Father stretched in Himself and stretched outward in His Spirit. Jesus in Himself stretched to His fullness. The Holy Spirit was hovering over the fullness of nothingness. Good thing the word *God* is plural so it refers to all three Persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit can now say, "It is done." For us we will say, "Praise God!" but they are God themselves and they say, "It is done!" That is why they create all these others creatures to say, "Praise God!" for themselves. What an interesting thing! But truly they have stretched themselves and that is where we are talking of the depths of prayers. In there lies one of the deepest reasons for the success of prayer.

Prayer is a drop in the ocean of experiencing that stretching process of God when God first made the whole universe but it is a powerful force if we understand it. If we understand the force that God used when He created heaven and earth, we would understand that that is the same force of prayer. By prayer I mean every realm of prayer - all kind of prayers. The depths of prayer - Paul in Gal. 4: 19 "*My little children for whom I labor ...* (Greek word for labor is also work.)" Now when he said labor, he is not talking about holding a 9-5 job. He is talking about work, "*whom I labor in birth again*" (Here he used a special Greek word too that includes the picture of a woman giving birth) "*until Christ is formed in You.*" Verse 19 "*My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,*" Three pictures given; 1) Work 2) A woman giving birth 3) from the word, "*Agonia*" agonizing.

The English word for agonizing expresses someone who yields utterly to emotions. Paul said, "I agonize for you until Christ be formed in you." What are we seeing here? Paul was doing some stretching exercise. Where was the chaos? Galatians. The Galatians were not doing what God wanted them to do. They have fallen from grace, Paul said. They have gone back into the works of the law and not by the works of grace. Paul said, "I want to restore you." Restoration is not just by works. Restoration is involved in stretching. This is the law of God. Somebody, somewhere has to do some stretching in order for some progress. No stretching no progress! Somebody, somewhere must pay the price. The stretching process must be done.

The thing about it is this that after the creation God has delegated that stretching to the human race for the human race. That is why it takes so long because we are not that good stretchers. If God would do it again for the whole human race, it would have been fast. The whole world would have been perfected in less than an atomic second. Can you imagine it took Jesus three years and it is enough to finish His whole ministry because He was perfect. He was perfect in His works. He understood the laws of God and He knew how to stretch Himself. Did You notice how much Jesus stretched Himself in Gethsemane? And what does it mean to stretch into that realm of the Spirit - in that realm of prayer? When you stretch and when you give yourself to something, it will involve your spirit, your soul and your body, and by that we mean your emotions are involved. Your mental concentration is involved, your desire is involved, your will is involved. Everything that you could consciously harness is involved, if you really stretched yourself. If you do not, it is not stretching.' You are just doing a hobby and prayer for some Christian is a hobby because they do it when they want or when they like it. If your work has no seriousness of time and discipline allocated, there will be no work done. Of course we learn to enjoy the work done but we know the difference between the work and the hobby. The hobby is something you do if you have the time and when you have the time. But work is something that when you get up in the morning whether you feel like it or whether your body is sleepy or riot, you know you got to get to the office by time. And you do it because of your discipline involved, you are stretching yourself into that.

So Paul said he is willing to stretch himself. And it seems that in the Kingdom of God, nothing is done without stretching. Somebody, somewhere has to stretch. Sometimes certain things take a short stretch, some things take longer stretch. The thing about it is there are many people who are old rubber band too long in the sun and is dried up, and when they are stretched only, they would break!" They are not like fresh rubber bands you could just pull it,

let go and it still remains strong. The ability to stretch forth in the realm of the Spirit is important and we must understand those laws.

And there is a time and a season, and all those normal law of prayers apply. Sometimes the Spirit will tell you, you know what you should do when you give yourself to them. For example if you are planning a missionary or business trip to a foreign country, there are certain things that are very urgent and need to be done like getting the visa from the embassy of the foreign country. You can't just go by "Halleluiah" all the time. Things are not spiritual all the time. Got to be balance. What need to be done naturally, you do it, like passport, permit, phone calls to be made. Right in the supermarket the Holy Spirit may impress your heart to do some stretching. There is urgency. What is stretching? Stretching in this realm of the Spirit is praying for creative force. We have done our previous homework. There are some things that you planned and done, and is carried but there are other things that you need to have a personal touch here and there. We have all the angels been send out very much earlier. The night before the angels were all specially called upon and reminded unto our prayers and everything, and they are dispatched. Unless we do some stretching in the Spirit, there is no miracle or circumstances. **There are things beyond our control physically, you can only do some things to a certain extent physically.** You could do anything legal, do everything within the boundaries of the law legally but we all recognize there are circumstances you cannot control and there are circumstances you can control.

But here is a miracle, when you understand the depths of prayer and the art of stretching in the realm of the Spirit, it is so powerful because the same forces were at work in Genesis 1 and 2. And the power that is inherent in our intercession or prayer in the spirit is so powerful that it literally controls 100% of circumstances. There is no error, there is no accident, and there is no coincidence. Here is something we are talking about that works 100% of the time, there are no circumstances that is hindering you if you are walking in the perfect will of God where you reach the point of maturity whereby you are not one who rushed ahead of God not one who walked behind. Not one who is too fast. You are neither the mule nor the horse. You are a sheep. You matured to that level where you do not desire anything but to serve God and to do whatever God wants you to do. You have died to the lust of the flesh to the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. And you are really doing God's will and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit all the time. This area of stretching becomes powerful. You literally reached a position of being at the right hand of God. Where all, at any time as you draw into the realms of your authority at the right hand of God and the area of understanding how God

stretched Himself in the Spirit, and as you stretched yourself, intercede from that realm, it is a powerful release of a supernatural force. That's the force of prayer.

When Paul was talking about the Galatians Christians he is talking about the same force. Jesus stretched Himself in that area. By that time Jesus finished Gethsemane He actually had finished all the things. The rest is just execution only, walking through, everything has been planned, all like clockwork, there is nothing to be done. Just the understanding part left, all the wisdom has been gone before that. Colossians 4: Our resources are not just our finances, our resources are not just our ideas; our resources are not just our physical contacts and friends. Our resources are not just our talents and gifts. The most important resource we have is

Almighty God and the wonderful thing is that the Almighty God has made us in His nature. And this Almighty God has caused us to be born of the image of Christ. He has made us liken unto the second Adam, Christ Jesus. He has brought us to the position of been seated at the Right Hand of God. And that position of the Right Hand is the position of authority and we exercise the spiritual realm of authority so powerfully that when Christian get back to heaven, they are going to regret that they have not made use of their authority in the realm of spiritual power when they were on this earth. Lot of us when we get to heaven are going to regret that we have not used our spiritual authority and spiritual weapon and we find that many Christians are going to go back to heaven and find that half the time or even three quarter of the time, they are relying on their own strength and not on the strength of God. It's too late. That's not the way God wants us to work.

When there is a tremendous resource the depths of prayer is powerful! Col.4:12 *"Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."* There is a realm of prayer called fervency. James 5 also said that the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. The word "avails much" in Greek speaks of someone stretching himself and drawing every ounce of strength and energy to get the objective to be brought forth in the spirit. Now you understand why a lot of people cannot get what they want in prayer because their energies are dissipated. When they pray they don't have faith, they have fear. Fear takes about half their mental capacity. They meditate on them and perhaps their desires are divided. Maybe covetousness is inside, or maybe selfishness is inside or maybe unforgiveness is inside. These eat up more portions of the emotional strength and their desires. So their capabilities to zoom in and concentrate, their capabilities to concentrate in the Spirit is so divided. It's so divided that the energy of their broadcasting station can only

go one kilometer but actually there are radio stations that have been built to broadcast for example about one hundred kilometers. Part of their energy has been channeled to power a video player here. Another part of their energy has been channeled to operate a Sony walkman or some other instrument feeding a different desire in their life. So their energies are all so divided that when it comes to broadcasting in concentrating on those things that God has commanded them, they had only that little power to broadcast. They do not have much power in their ability to move the invisible realm in the Spirit.

That's why it's important for us to be able to harness everything within us.

No wonder fasting is involved. Do you know that fasting is part of the stretching? Because when you reached the stage that you want something so much and every human being in this life have at certain times got interested in something or were doing something so fervently that they forgot to eat. It could be something in the natural, something in your own work. How much more in the things of the Spirit! This is in the area of stretching and fasting is the drawing, the harnessing of everything within you, your desire for food is also shut out to get those things. Everything is harnessed to stretch yourself completely.

Our ability to stretch and encompass in the Spirit realm is limited. It's tied up to dominion. Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* When all of us think of dominion we only think about a king sitting on a throne, or a soldier having delegated authority or in some form in that area. But dominion covers many other aspects for example, when God gave Adam dominion: 1) That dominion is universal. Universal means that it stretched to cover all area. Sometimes some people are given dominion over one area. But Adam's dominion was given universally. Perhaps we could call it cosmological dominion that was given to him. In other words whatever he does is going to affect a lot of things. For example, if you are head over a whole city - you are the mayor, you have dominion over that city. One error of yours in that city is also going to affect the whole city. One right judgment in that city is going to affect the whole city. Supposing that you were planning that city in that area and you plan for all the housing estates but you forgot the roads. Five years later we all regret because of your mistake but if you have succeeded in your planning over that one city and you have build up such fantastic planning including almost everything foreseeable. 5 years later we taste the rewards of your planning. We are living in one of your housing estate in your city that you are a mayor of. We taste the fruits of your judgment in that area. So a dominion is universal positive or negative.

That's why when Adam fell, the fall affected heaven because God gave him so much authority. The Book of Psalms said that God gave him so much authority that he could easily have approached God. In the Book of Hebrews, when the Lord Jesus Christ died, His Blood was used to cleanse the whole heaven and the whole earth. That is how much dominion Adam had that was there before. When Satan approached God in the Book of Job 1, he approached God based on Adam's dominion. That is how much a dominion Adam had that he gave over to the devil because Satan has no dominion at the creation of Adam and Eve he was already judged - he was zero but when he left the Garden of Eden, he took everything from Adam.

If you make a mistake in your life and you are a family man, it may affect your children and if it is a very big mistake, it *may* affect your children and your children's children. We all come from different backgrounds, some are born with a golden spoon, some with a silver spoon, some a diamond spoon and some with no spoon. Why is that so? Because if our forefathers and we can't blame them. We can work our way up in any situation by the help of Christ. It is not necessary a spiritual blessing because many have died or drowned in silver. We realized where you are physically today is a result of your parents' decisions to certain extent. If you were born, for example in Malacca somehow or rather your parent must have decided to go there. Let's say most of us who are here, your parents migrated from another countries 2,3, 4 generations ago - some of you from India, some of your forefathers came from China. To trace further back is a bit more difficult but we all know it all ends up with Noah. But our been born in this country was the decision of one man long ago who decided to take a step of faith who did didn't know God yet; so it is with human faith that he packed his luggage and at that time luggage was not invented yet. It was a piece of cloth tied on a string climbed into a small fishing boat faced the sharks and the whales, reached this shore safely, worked their way hard, married, give birth and married, give birth. Children married, give birth and there you are. Imagine if they didn't decide to come here, you would have been still in China. Some of the things we do, our children are affected. Inherent in each one of us i.e. in the natural we could see it.

But the principle in the spiritual is even more powerful - very powerful. If one man is right with the Lord, he can influence the world in a different way. We all know it is true of Jesus Christ but the Bible has many of such stories. We just quote a few: because of Abraham and what he saw in his spirit all the time, the rewards were tasted in Moses' time. God met Moses, "I have come because of the covenant. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

We know He could say I am the God of Noah but why did He say, "I am the God of Abraham." Because it started with Abraham, something that Abraham did with God. It was because of Abraham's stretch. A stretch is universal.

Secondly, a stretch is eternal. Adam's dominion was universal and secondly, eternal. That is why it is so difficult that Jesus has to come down in human flesh to undo it because He gave it to man, to humankind. If you do the stretching right in God, it has an eternal quality. It's the Lord Himself who said that the righteous and the wise shall shine as a star. There's an eternal quality about it and we are able, deep within our spirit, we have the ability that was inherent in Adam that is made possible in Christ. We have the inherent ability to eternally and universally affect the planet earth. Of course, through many generations of human race and the fall of sins and the degenerations of sin in man that quality is not realized. Every time Jesus made a statement all things are possible to those who believe, He is pointing back to that quality. Every time Jesus said, All things are possible to him who believe, He is pointing to that inherent quality He has given man. And when Jesus walked on the water, He knew that it was something He could bring into human being. He didn't walk on water because He was the Son of God. He walked on water because He was the second Adam walking with God. To prove that when Peter said, "Called me to come on the water." And Jesus said, "Come!" As long as Peter stretched himself and will not allow one tiny distraction and put all his spirit, soul and body and being into that command "Come", he too ran walked on water. But the moment that concentration was disrupted, he started sinking. There is inherent in man that quality.

That is why when Jesus spoke to that fig tree, "Let no man eat fruit from you ever again!" It died and the next day when they walked by that way they saw the leaves dried up. Peter said, "Master look, the leaves, all dried up." And Jesus made this astounding statement, "If you have faith you could do just what I did." He is again pointing to that dominion that was given to Adam. The God-man, He has created Adam to be. That is the inherent quality of dominion that is inside our spirit. That is what we need to realize that your total success never, never depend on your circumstance. It depends on what's inside of you because whatever is inside you can always move all circumstances when it is channeled in Christ Jesus.

No wonder John screams in his epistles in the spiritual realm with that fervor of the Lord said, "Greater is He in me than he that is in the world." That's inherent in us that is eternal and universal. If you could just live your life, just one month/ year, you absolutely stretched

yourself like God, stretching Himself with the creation of the universe. You could give everything you have to whatever God has desired in your life for you. And you would move with every thought, every emotion and every part of your being into them. That one year would have an eternal effect on all of mankind. We may not see the effect immediately on mankind but they say the work of the righteous follow after them. Works of those who love God follow after them. It could be an achievement you did out there in the secular world by God's help. But the most important thing is to discern God's will, discern what God is saying. And tapped on that dominion that God has given to us, seated on the Right Hand of God is that same dominion that He is referring to but a higher kind. If we could stretch ourselves from that realm of dominion in prayer, we could achieve much.

Paul knew that was the key and the whole success of Paul's ministry lies in his ability to stretch himself. He testifies that he had been faithful to that vision that he saw of the Lord Jesus when He appeared to him in the Book of Acts 26 & 24. I could imagine Paul, day and night, all he could think about is what Jesus has told him to do. In 2 Corinthians 11, the burden of the church was on him and he was always thinking, dreaming, visualizing. All his thinking is the vision, the call; all he wants to fulfill is there. He knew what God's will was and he stretched himself into that realm.

Abraham in the Book of Hebrews 11 tells us he did not look for a city made by man. Inside him, Abraham kept seeing the city of God. When he wandered from place to place, inside him for years and years - what was he doing? He was stretching with an inherent dominion given to man. Every word you say has an eternal effect positive and negative. Every thought you think has an eternal effect positive or negative. Every action you do has an eternal effect positive or negative. Think about how evil the world has been. Do you think the world can be that evil without the help of man yielding to their thoughts and desires? No. How come there's such sin in the world? Because someone somewhere imagined it and brought it into being. How come there are many big places that draw the money of the world into gambling, into all kinds of wrong, illegal games? Because someone dreamt it up, imagined and put everything they have into that. All it started was in the head of somebody - the idea. All the evil in the world is in here.

The thing of the future is not yet. It is still fluid. Even though man may plan, God may dispose but we have to add to that proverbs that now God disposes and preplans with His people. See the future has not yet been lived, the past has been and the present is. The future is now fluid.

Right now as people of God we can rise and change the future not with the works of the flesh, not with the arms of the flesh, not with our hands, not with our own ability and strength. We do it by prayers. We do it by stretching ourselves now like the Holy Spirit hovering over the chaos and we in the Spirit could rise and ascend and stretch ourselves, stretch our vision, stretch our love, ability and compassion that encompass the world. And let our spirit hover in that position stretching, stretching and expanding to cover a city, to cover a nation, to cover the world. It all start as we pray that is the most creative force that you could ever release and the most powerful creative force that God released in the universe.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

GROANING IN SPIRIT

It is the same power, which God released when He created this planet earth. But when we are in prayer we are in line and in tune with God to allow God's creative force to flow through our lives. God can create without us. He does not need us but we need Him. However God has chosen to do creative work through human lives from the time that He has entrusted this earth to man. He has chosen to release His creative power through human beings. And this came to fullness when the Spirit of God came in this planet earth on the day of Pentecost when God released a new degree and a new measure for his people to move into the realm of groaning prayer.

Prayer has a creative work involved. God does not do anything except that there is a release of that creative power before anything happens. John Wesley and other men of God have discovered that unless there is prayer God will not do anything at all. There can be no action unless there is first a release of His creative power. And there can be no change unless the creative power comes forth.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Epaphras labors fervently for the Colossians in prayers that they may stand perfect and complete in the will of God. But Colossians 2:10 says, *And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.* They are already completed. But in Colossians 4 v.12 Epaphras is still praying that they may still be completed. Potentially we are already complete in Christ. Jesus' work is a complete work. The work of Jesus' atonement is complete. There is nothing more you can add to what Jesus has done. But for the perfect work to enter into our lives prayer is the force that must be released. That is why Epaphras prayed. It is not enough to study the Bible in order to grow into this completeness. Bible study and acquiring knowledge has to be mixed with prayer.

Growth in perfection is fundamentally based on prayer life. It is the level and measure of your prayer life that determines true growth. You can't even understand the Word of God unless you pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation. It is only through prayer that you obtain this spirit of wisdom and revelation that enables us to understand the Word of God. Prayer and the Word go together and it is only both of them that is marvelous.

When you lack prayer you begin to falter in your spiritual growth. You cannot depend on others to pray for us all the time. We have to learn to pray ourselves all the time. It is good to have more prayers involved. A part of growth can never come unless you pray. Some people who do not pray or pray very little may be getting more and more knowledge but there is no true growth. Being perfected in Christ can only come in prayer. Prayer is essential.

Galatians 4:19 Paul labors in birth again until Christ is formed in the Galatians. Paul used the word *travail* or the Greek *agonia*. Paul worked for the growth of the Galatians in two ways: he did it through prayer and through the teaching ministry. And both need to go together. Sometimes some people try to reform other people's lives through teaching without prayer, which will never work. It is prayer that determines the effectiveness of the teaching. So both forces need to go together.

In Romans Paul shows us the object of our groaning, that is we groan for our perfection in the fullness of Jesus Christ, we groan for the perfect will of God to be done. And this groaning is a groaning in the spirit. Romans 8: 26 - the Holy Spirit helps us to pray, speaking in utterances and in groanings. Groaning in the spirit touches the creative force of God and it occurs in the realm of the depth of your spirit. It is like your voice box. It can be used within a spectrum. You can bring it down to its lowest level and to its highest level. That is the meaning of using your voice box to its optimum. In the same way groaning in the spirit reaches to the fullness of that which is within your spirit and brings it forth to the Lord. When you pray in the Spirit you realize that there is something from within which is coming forth. Most of what comes forth is actually in the natural i.e. the air and the sound. There is a movement of your vocal cords and the lips.

Groaning in the spirit is praying in the spirit but at quicker pace than when you pray in tongues or in the spirit. When you pray in tongues or in the spirit you release your burdens a little at a time, slowly. But when you got deeper and deeper in the spirit, you begin to groan and then you release all the burdens at one go. It is like a tiger roaring. Sometimes this groaning is accompanied with tears but the end result is that the burden is entirely released out unto the Lord within a few seconds. The groaning process is involved in a creative process that touches the very basis of God's creative force. That is why we may not be able to reach the groaning straight away. You have to build up yourself to know the burden that the spirit is placing inside you and bring it forth.

It is important to realize this because there is a gradual process whereby you build up your awareness of the burden inside you and it is only when you are fully aware of it, when you really feel its weight pressing down upon you that you have arrived at this stage. The reason why some people still pray in tongues or in the spirit is because they are not fully aware of the weight of the burden that has been placed upon them. And because they do not realize how heavy it is it does not bother them that much. Just like a man who carries a quarter of a ton of bricks. He realizes it is heavy and he may be complaining about it. But it does not really bother him because he has the strength or more than the required strength to carry it. But when he really has to carry twice the weight and finds that he has no strength to do it then he lets out a loud cry for help. It is the same here. There will be a burden but it is not that heavy as yet. It does not depress you so much. You have to let the Spirit move in you and increase your awareness of the heaviness of the burden. Then only will you be able to groan and travail for the release of the creative power of God to bring about what God has planned and purposed.

Some people are foolhardy enough to start of their prayer life as if they are set for the grand prix or a 100 meter dash. They release all their energies at the very beginning in praying and groaning but half way through they are already weary and do not appear to have the inspiration or the strength to go on. This happens especially when people want to do night watch. Notice how all these marathon runners start off slowly first. They want to conserve their energy build it up first before releasing it fully so they can run the full distance. And it is not beginning of the race. During the race they have their judgment and discretion. There are certain places where they have to go faster. There are places where they can and should slow down. There is a strategy involved.

So also, in our prayer life, we have to start our engines slowly. It is important to employ the right strategies so that we can move properly into the depths of the spirit. As you move into the depths of the spirit there are certain times when it is easier to groan than others. You may want to groan but you just cannot groan. You must then open yourself to the Spirit and allow the Spirit to build up the burden in your life and place the groaning into you. You will definitely arrive at the stage of groaning. Then it is that you have gone into the very depths of the creative process of prayer. The fullness of it is expressed in groaning.

How do I know that I have reached that stage?

Firstly, there will be a prayer burden that comes upon you. The word *labor* in Galatians 4:19 is *agonia*. Paul literally was saying that he was agonizing for the Galatians (*agonia* means to agonize). Think about what it means to groan. To groan implies pain. Nobody groans unless he is in pain. A groan implies discomfort. Spiritual groaning implies that you have reached the point when the Spirit of God begins to place His burden in you. You may sometimes literally feel the agony of the loss, the agony of the situation, the agony of a person's life or a ministry. So the first sign is that there is an agonizing in pain.

Genesis 2:2 On the 7th day God finished all the work that He had done and He rested from all His work. He rested and that tells you that on the 7th day there was a different operation from the preceding six days. God's Spirit when He creates something He brings it forth in the very cradle of creation that is the very fountain of creativity is operating. And something great is involved. When you reach that creative force you enter the realm where it takes something out from you. Groaning in the spirit is different from worshipping in the spirit. Worshipping in the spirit is something very refreshing. But groaning in the spirit takes from you. You could come out from two three solid hours of groaning and all you want to do is to rest. When you reach that level it can even affect your natural body. The Bible shows us that when Jesus entered into this realm of groaning His body was affected. The very blood that dropped from him in Gethsemane came out in huge great drops. The blood vessels were so affected by what He was going through. He entered into deep groaning because Jesus had to give birth to all of the new creation.

Secondly, there would be tears. There are 2 types of tears - a) tears that are produced by worldly sorrow b) Tears that are produced by godly sorrow. When you reach this stage it becomes easy to weep and cry before God. The groaning affects your whole body and

emotional system so much that it is easy to cry and weep before the Lord. Hebrew 3:7 Jesus offered prayer in vehement cries (groaning) and tears to Him who was able to save him from death. There are some men who because they are of the opinion that it is unmanly to cry, they learn to harden their hearts to keep themselves from crying. They may have experienced something that has affected them very deeply and emotionally like death and in order that they may be protected from hurt and in order to maintain their sanity they harden themselves up. But that is not the way God made man. It is unnatural. And the Bible tells us that Jesus Himself cried and wept. When the disciples reported to Jesus that some of the people thought that he was Jeremiah the prophet, the reason they associated Jesus with Jeremiah was because Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet and very probably there were a few occasions when they saw Jesus weep. He knew groaning and crying and tears in the Lord. It is the tears that express the depth of our involvement in what we are praying for when we are deeply and emotionally involved with a person and that person hurts us we cry. When you are involved deeply in something that you are praying about you can cry about it. You may not cry if you are not so deeply involved. The greater your involvement in the creative process of God, the easier it is to cry.

2 Chronicles 32:24-26 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death and he prayed to the Lord; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign. But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown to him, for his heart was lifted up: therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem. Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

2 Kings 20:1-5 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'" Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord.

It is the same story. Every prophecy of the Lord whether the condition is mentioned or not is subject to the fact of human will. Isaiah the prophet said that the king would die. But every prophecy no matter how authoritative it sounds or commanding or predictive in tone is always subject to how the will responds to it. There are conditions attached and you can change the prophecy if you obey the conditions. Hezekiah turned his face to God and prayed and wept bitterly. And the Lord told Isaiah to revoke the prophecy. This all show that every prophecy is conditional, that it need not happen. When God saw Hezekiah crying, He revoked the penalty. It was not just the prayer but the agonizing tears that moved the Lord to spare him.

1 Kings 21:27 The Lord spared Ahab because of his repentance. Ahab cried and he was the most evil king. But because he wept in repentance the Lord spared him and deferred the disaster to the reign of his son. How powerful are tears when they are brought forth to God in the right atmosphere and rightfully.

Thirdly, there would be an intercessory sensation - where you sense like you are one with Jesus' priestly ministry and where you sense you are one with the object of your prayer. It brings you into a deep level of the consciousness of the Spirit. Romans 8:26-27 *We do not know how to pray but the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.* It is the Spirit who intercedes not just your human spirit that prays when you are in tongues (1 Cor 14:14.). But when you move into groaning and you are so yielded to God that the Holy Spirit prays through you. The Holy Spirit literally takes over and prays through you. That is very powerful. And here there is a difference between praying in tongues and when the Spirit takes over and intercedes. The Spirit prays with groanings that cannot be uttered. He pours Himself forth in groaning. And He makes intercession for the saints. This is what I mean intercessory sensation, that is a taking over by the Spirit of our prayer life and the Spirit just pours forth and breaks forth and you feel like just an observer, not making any effort but allowing the Spirit to take over. When you pray in the Spirit the Spirit is there praying through you. But now the Spirit is praying for you.

And when these three things are happening and the Holy Spirit takes over the creative power of God begins to flow mightily.

Personally I have felt what it was like when I allow the Holy Spirit to take over. It was like a fresh fire that came down. I found myself praying and sighing and groaning and what surprised me that I had done nothing by myself to get into this area of praying. I was aware I was not praying but the Spirit was praying through me with my own lips. I had not lost my free will. I would have stopped it if I wanted to but I chose not to stop it. It was different from praying in tongues because in praying in tongues I could feel the effort that was involved. But in groaning the Spirit literally took over my tongue and He just came bursting forth. I experienced the same thing that happened in Acts 2. That was a mighty experience. A takeover happens in your life. You become just a third party; there is no effort involved. There is a time when you have to stir the Spirit and there is also a time when the Spirit is stirring you. He is like a tidal wave.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS

First of all, let us look at the Almightyness of God. In the book of Genesis 3: 8, “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

One of the first things Adam and Eve could not tolerate or stand was the presence of God after the fall. They would run away from the presence of God. What exactly is the presence of God? There are different degrees of the presence of God. God’s presence was all over the Garden of Eden. Yet there is a greater presence of God that moves like the breeze. From that day onwards man has not been able to handle the presence of God nor have knowledge of the Presence. When we talk of God’s presence we have to look at the internal and the external. Even the ungodly sinners when they go to places of the wonders of nature they feel the awesomeness of the Lord God. This is called the external presence of God and most people fall into this category. For some people the presence of God can only be felt in a Christian meeting (for example in a prayer and worship meeting). Here they feel the presence of God. They can also feel the stronger presence of God when they have fellowship with those who are walking close to God. This is called the external presence of God.

The second category to experience the presence of God is in deep prayer in our private life. This is called the inward consciousness of God. God has always intended man to be aware of His presence. The presence of God in our lives is stronger sometimes than the other times. As we mature the awareness of His presence becomes a reality for twenty-four hours. This is your target to measure your Christian life. If the consciousness of God only comes to you when you are in church with believers and with nature then your knowledge of God is no better than the unbelievers. An unbeliever comes into the Christian meeting he too feel the measure

of God's presence. We need to go beyond this realm. If the presence of God is only felt in the morning as we spend time with God and not throughout the day then our Christian life is very shallow. You could know the Bible yet the true knowledge of God is shallow. A false knowledge of God is that you want to know and know and know but you don't have the true experience. All you have is an empty knowing and you don't have it.

The word *know* in the Hebrew goes further than being intellectual knowing. It goes to the realm of experience. In many Christians' life the consciousness of God disappears in their lightness and joviality and this don't glorify God. A Christian can walk in darkness due to sin and when you walk in the light then you have fellowship with one another. Fellowship is not a formal gathering. Fellowship must not be downgraded. When we gather it is only a meeting of physical beings and minds but this is not a meeting with the spirit and the Holy Spirit. The Bible is very strict in these areas. We walk in God's light or His presence only then we have fellowship. To have fellowship with God is the highest of all fellowship of believers. It refreshes your spirit.

Paul says that the fellowship of believers refreshes him. In the book of Genesis 5: 21 -22 *Enoch lived sixty five years, and begot Methuselah. Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*" Something happened to Enoch before he walked with God. The line of Seth is the chosen line in Genesis 5. When he was 65 years, his first son Methuselah was born. Perhaps it was a time of soul searching. Some go to soul searching from their teens to adulthood. Some as they mature and ask questions of this life. Some in the midst of business, they set time to ask where all their doings are heading to. Enoch decided to walk with God. Perhaps the clue could be the name given to his son Methuselah. Some say Selah means sent. This is a greater possibility to the Hebrew tradition. *Methuselah* means the man that is sent. This implies when Methuselah was born, Enoch sensed the call of God. He sensed a mission coming upon him. Enoch had a spiritual experience when God's presence became more precious to him. Since then he desired the presence of God so much that he decided to walk with God. He did not see or held God tangibly but rather he walked by faith with God. This means walking with somebody who is invisible but experiential (Hebrews 11:1).

The world cannot see or know the Holy Spirit but you know Him for He is with you and He will be in you. Jesus did not say that you will see the Holy Spirit but we know the Holy Spirit by

faith. Enoch did not have any physical voice or image of God daily but he walked by faith. Faith is invisible but knowable and tangible. How did Enoch walk with God? Enoch trained himself to be sensitive to God's invisible presence. He trained and was conscious of His presence. Enoch may have had a spectacular experience, we don't know. Moses saw God at the Burning Bush and at Mount Sinai and thus had communication with God. Moses asked God to show His glory or presence. Everyday it is in the divine will of God that we have His presence. You may not have a vision. But it is your covenant right to experience His presence and go out.

When Jesus came to earth, the angel said he shall be called Immanuel (God with us). God's presence is here tonight. But maybe you are not aware of it. This saddens the Holy Spirit very much. Though He is called Immanuel, yet many know His presence externally. They do not know Him as Immanuel at home, in their offices and wherever they are. This grieves God and this is no better than Adam and Eve. There are certain places God's presence is felt strongly. Mount Sinai is called the mountain of God even before Moses saw the Lord. Jesus always goes to the mountains and from civilization. The most important thing to develop is His consciousness on the inside of you. Many are conscious of the greed and lust but you must be God-conscious. The supreme goal of God is to put His presence consciously in our experience twenty-four hours. Before you can hear God's voice, you must be conscious of His presence. His presence develops your eyes and therefore you will be able to see and know Him.

In the book of Romans 6: 11 *Likewise reckon you also to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Christ our Lord.* Ask the average Christian what does Romans 6: 11 means and they would answer several ways. The answer is only one word: be alive or be God-conscious. This is the positive side of the verse.

1 Corinthians 3: 16 *Don't you know you are the temple of God? The Spirit of God dwells in you. If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him for God's temple you are.* Behind this question, are you not God-conscious in your life? Enoch daily worships God and he will not leave the place until he senses God's presence, then only he goes on his work. When the consciousness disappears, he would leave all things aside and get into the consciousness of God. At the start it was not easy but it will be done unto you as you keep at it. Enoch is of the Old Testament and what a greatness. He did not have Immanuel. He did not have God inside him as we in the New Testament do. Enoch did not have a regenerated spirit. We have more potential than he.

The main reason that we failed in this area is due to distractions. People find it hard to concentrate these days. More distractions have taken our time. You must make a quality decision and say that among all things in life is to guard our time with God and to expand our God-consciousness. Jesus had the same presence of God all the time. He was never distracted by the hustle and bustle of the world. The Father in Jesus does the works, says Jesus. Jesus was God-conscious as recorded in John 14. Therefore in three years He finished all He had to do. The disciples at the start were distracted people but Jesus molded them. In the book of Acts they were always God-conscious. It took only one man like Paul in a short time to turn the world right side up because of God's presence. Jesus said to me, "If My people would treat Me as if I am there by faith always, I will always be there." Men and women lived holy lives with God-consciousness. Joseph said to Potiphar's wife that he would not sin against God though nobody was in the house physically. But he knew God was there. Joseph never lost the consciousness of God. The people of God when facing Goliath were not God-conscious but David was conscious of God.

Goliath was a big distracting figure and David said, "I will come against you by the Most High God." One of the first things we lose in a crisis is the consciousness of God and thus we are defeated. If you lose God's presence you lose all things. It will be written on your forehead "Ichabod – the glory has departed."

Nothing will make you fear when you are God-conscious. The devil cannot face you. The strength of the Church lies in the consciousness of God. It took only a young lad to defeat Goliath. Some people are devil-conscious or spell-conscious and they will lose power with God. You are mighty through being God-conscious and the devil is no match for you. This is the cry of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Even if you don't have money, your God-consciousness will bring you through. Treasure the consciousness more than the Milky Way. All the gifts that Jesus would give you is not worth. Jesus is Worth. It is Jesus we want. You can't see Jesus. You can feel Him. Develop this consciousness. He is here tonight. Train daily and it will be part of you. One day you will be taken up like Enoch. You will have a transfiguration, a transformation and rapture.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

THE REVELATION OF GOD

As we look at the presence of God, we realize that there is the person of God. The person of God is not something that we can know in an instant. We know God progressively. Even if we go to home to be with the Lord, we won't know God all at once.

What we want to know tonight is how such can we know about Him. To what extent we can receive the revelation of God while on this planet earth and if there are any conditions, what will it involve before God reveals Himself.

First Revelation to Abraham

Genesis 12: 1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family, and your father's house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Acts 7:2-3, this is Stephen in his preaching, 'And he said, 'Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, 'and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'

From verse 2 and 3, we gathered that this was a first time that God revealed to Abraham. He said very clearly in verse 2, before he went to Haran, while he was in Mesopotamia. As you look back it Genesis 11:31-32 *And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.'*

So Genesis 12:1 was a revelation of God in Haran. Acts 7:2&3 was a revelation of God before Haran. So by the time we read the story in Genesis 12:1&2, this was the second time that God had appeared to Abraham. God had already appeared to him in Genesis 11 although it was not recorded. But Acts 7:2&3 gives us a background to tell us that God already revealed Himself to Abraham before he reached Haran. Genesis 12:1 is in Haran. Acts 7:2&3 was before Haran. But here is a peculiar thing even though this was a second appearance of God to him; it was a same level of revelation. God did not reveal more of Himself. He only revealed the same measure of His revelation to Abraham. This was just a first measure that God revealed. He was a God of Glory. He revealed Himself to Abraham as a God of Glory, telling him to leave his kinfolds and all his idols and his homeland that he has been familiar with. And go forth into a land that he has never known.

This is a second time that He repeated to him. No fresh revelation, just a repeated revelation. Revelation is progressive. If we do not obey the first revelation, we could have the second encounter with God but it is still the first revelation. Many times people block the revelation God has upon their lives. Sometimes when you examine it very carefully, it is the same revelation but repeated three or four times. Why the repetition? They did not obey God. And God in His mercy repeated the same level of revelation. Now we are talking about knowing God and coming to this knowledge of God and intimate fellowship with God. Apparently, unless we are faithful to one level of God's revelation, we will never progress to the next. Even though a person may said, 'Oh, I have this revelation from Jesus and Jesus repeated this to me the second or the third time. It's nothing fresh! It's just that we possibly have been not obeying fully.

Second Revelation to Abraham

However, the second repetition of the first revelation, Abraham obeyed. He obeyed God. And in the Book of Genesis, Abraham's second encounter with God, there is a progression here. Genesis 13:8-12, *'So Abram said to Lot, 'Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. And Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities.*

Verses 14-17, (This is the second appearance. of the Lord). *'And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from his: 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.'*

This was a second revelation of God to Abram. Notice something peculiar before God revealed Himself. He waited until Abraham obeyed God 100%. Because God's earlier revelation was 'Abram, you must leave your kinfolds behind.' And Abraham possibly obeyed 90"%. He had left his kinfolds of his father's side and he had left a lot of those people he had known but he took with him Lot who was included among those he was to leave behind. If you understand what God was saying to him in Gen. 12, God meant everybody. The only person Abraham was allowed to take was himself and his family. So Abraham's obedience was partial, perhaps 90%. God did not say another word to him nor revealed Himself further to Abraham. He waited and waited. Sometimes, when you obeyed God 90%, the 10% of disobedience will give you enough trouble so that you have to do something about that. Not because God has anything to do with it but because those are the opportunity the devil takes. Any inch you can give to the devil, he will take it. The 10% of disobedience cause trouble until he had no choice but to obey but there was a delay. Finally, he obeyed and God revealed Himself - second revelation.

Third revelation of God to Abraham

This third revelation is interesting in Genesis 14, the condition is based on Chapter 14. To draw analogies here to show that there is an act of obedience before each revelation. No matter how much you prayed for revelation, you could attend a thousand seminars and if you do not obey God, you will not receive much. Even though the seminars could progressively be teaching deeper truths from God, you could sit in a deep meeting and only get 5%. It is not just what we have heard previously that will be based on our knowledge of God but it is based on how much we have obeyed what God is speaking in His *rhema* to our lives. What is He telling us to do? There is a certain blockage that will always be there, even if you go to different meetings as long as you don't obey God. It will cause you to have a blind spot or a deaf spot in your spirit so you can't hear the additional revelation until you obeyed the first.

Before Abraham moved into the 3rd revelation that God brought upon his life, the encounter that God has in Chapter 14, something happened in his life. He had three encounters and two revelations. His first two encounters was the first revelation. What will happen when we don't obey God and attend meetings after meetings? You will notice that the preacher can talk about 100 things but you will only remember the one thing that God is dealing in your life. You could go to a

seminar that talks about prosperity, for example, God is dealing in your life about tithing. You go to the seminar on prosperity and God speaks right to your heart. Your heart is cut like the Book of Acts. The preacher talks about 100 other things but just that one word keeps sounding in your spirit 'tithing, tithing, tithing.' until you didn't hear the sermon. You only hear that word. So you gave up and went to another seminar and this seminar looks good. It is the seminar that teaches about the tabernacle of Moses and you thought who would talk about tithing in that area. So you go to attend the seminar and the preacher could talk beautifully about all the descriptions, the dimensions, all the representations of the gold, silver and bronze and what they represent but there's only one word that keep sounding until you cannot hear the rest. You only hear the word "offering, the offering, the offering." And it is strange the preacher could talk about 100 things but you don't hear anything else. There's something that blocks us from receiving that additional revelation that will helps us to progress in our lives. You give up. So you attend a bit neutral sounding one - Family seminar (They won't touch about money.) But somehow even though, in about 100 hours, the preacher does not touch about money, he touch about every area but just that one word

sounds out, "Finances are important in the family.' So you are hit once again and it's strange how the Lord operates in that one word that even though the preacher may not even emphasize on that, yet that is the one word you catch. And God repeats it in every seminar until it's like a separate encounter with God on the same level of revelation. Finally you give up. You migrate! Hoping that in a different country, God will deal differently. Surprisingly, one of the first things you hear, the preacher could talk about evangelism and at that level, so you have backslidden to a certain extent. Now you are just hearing just evangelical message but then you keep hearing that one word, 'Obedience is better than sacrifice; obedience is better than sacrifice,..... Obey God.' Then you go to another meeting, all you hear is 'Jesus is Lord' Is He your Lord? Is He your Lord?' You are always thinking back, in your mind you keep thinking back on those areas, the rooms in your life that you have not given Him as Lord.

Three encounters, two revelations. Before his 3rd revelation, Abraham moved into something fresh. The first revelation was a revelation that he will be blessed. The reason why God asked him to be separated from his family was because the blessing can only come on him if he gets himself away from all those cursed idols. God refused to bless him as long as he compromised on idols. Terah, his father was an idol worshipper, you can read about that on Joshua 24. God will not bless him as long as he associate with all these idol worship. The first was a revelation that God was going to bless him.

The second was a revelation of prosperity. It's very obvious in Chapter 13 that it's prosperity, 'the length that you look, to the north, to the south, to the east, to the west, is yours. I want you to walk to the land and filled it, that's the land I give to you.' He's talking about thousands, millions and trillions of dollars. The piece of debts, He is going to give to Abraham. Abraham walks about in that land.

The principle of God - you do not receive before you give. So as Abraham walked through the length and breadth of that land, he came to the climax of the second revelation. But Abraham was very rich by then. He was very rich from his encounter in Egypt but you never read about him tithing yet. Finally towards the end, the fullness of his second revelation, he brought forth his tithes. He met Melchizedek, the Bible said in Genesis 14: 20 *Melchizedek pronounced his blessing on Abraham "And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he (Abraham) gave him a tithe of all.'* So Abraham learned the keys of tithing.

Secondly the King of Sodom offered Abraham prosperity in the wrong way. And he said, No, I don't want it. I don't want to receive by your hand lest you said that you have made Abraham rich. Genesis 15:1 said, *'After these things.....* After his experience of tithing, after his experience with Melchizedek, after his refusal of what the King of Sodom offered to him, God gave him the third revelation. God does not reveal Himself to us until you have obeyed to the fullest the previous revelation. The revelation of God is progressive. God said in Genesis 15: 1-2, *'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.'* But Abraham said to the Lord, *'Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'* Verse 4 *And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.'*

Notice the progression now in Abraham's relationship with God. His first revelation, all he heard was from God and he just had to obey. He learned obedience. His second, he learned to be faithful. Faithful with what God had blessed him with but in his third encounter with God, he had become more familiar with God. By this third encounter he dare talked to God. He spoke to God. He told God what was in his heart, which he didn't dare to do in the first encounter, or the second encounter or the third encounter. There's progression. Abraham's relationship with God grew. And he told God something that he desired. He said, 'God, here's my problem. At the moment I as childless.' God gave him more revelation. There is now dialogue. The third stage sure there's dialogue. In the dialogue, God gives additional revelation. God said, "One born of your own body shall be your heir not Eliezer of Damascus but one of your own.' And Abraham said, 'How will I know? This is a tremendous relationship. He now has a response from God. 'How would I know, O God that what You said is true?' He is not the same Abraham that you met at the first occasion. He is not the same Abraham that you met in the second revelation. He is now the Abraham who talks with God. And God said, verse 11 will show you., Abraham asked for an assurance. And God said, I will give you an assurance. Bring that sacrifice!' When he brought that sacrifice before God and God manifested His Presence in what you called a covenant keeping God, God's fire went between the animal in the Old Testament, a symbol of cutting a covenant.

From Chapter 15 onwards, God's relationship with Abraham was on a intimate basis. In other words it was like in the first revelation that God had with Abraham, it was friendship. Just getting to know God. At the 2nd stage, the first stage is like two lovers been friends, getting to know each other still. Second stage now they are engaged. By the time you are

engaged, you're confirmed. What you do is you plan for the third stage - the marriage. So the third revelation was a

marriage. It was like a marriage. It was now a covenant that God had with Abraham. And that Abraham had with God. This is the third revelation of God. Each revelation brings a person to a greater knowledge of God but that's not the end of his relationship with God. After receiving the third revelation, Abraham backslidden. This is the story of some Christians. He is backslidden because he used the flesh to try to keep the things of the Spirit. The works of the Spirit and not the works of the flesh must achieve the promises of the Spirit. And for the next 12 years, which is a long, long time, there was no revelation. God did not speak to Abraham at all. God was not happy. The next 12 years are known among Bible scholars as the 12 silent years of Abraham where he had no more revelation from God. That was when he fell and they got Ishmael and until Ishmael was 12 years old, he never had another vision. It's a long time.

Fourth Revelation of Abraham

In Genesis 17:1, 'When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him. This is the first occasion when he used the word like *'the Lord appeared to Abram.'* Before that you have words like 'the Lord **said**', 'the Lord **said**', 'the Lord of Glory **said** to Abraham' and now it's 'the Lord **appeared** to him'.

It's a different level.

At the fourth revelation what did Abraham do to deserve it like he did the other three times? Nothing! It was God remembering the covenant. Did anything happen in Abraham's life? Yes. During those 12 years, the works of the flesh died. There was no way in the flesh you could fulfill God's promise anymore and God waited until he reached that stage. If you compare all the New Testament scriptures it is very clear that God waited until he reach that stage. Romans 4:19, *'And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old) and the deadness of Sarah's womb.* Abraham's body was completely dead. He was sterile when he was 99, which was about 100 years old. Before that he had Ishmael. That is proof enough that by the time he reached 99 years old, he was not reproductive anymore. That fellow was still capable of producing children but God said, 'Alright, since he want the way of the flesh, he will wait.'

When Abraham was 99 years, his whole reproductive system was “knocked” out. God said, 'Now, I will show you.' God said, 'Hello, Abraham!' Now Abraham, old man said, 'Hi, God.' God said, 'Are you ready now?' 'Yes, Lord.' Finally. So sometimes you wonder. Before each revelation something happened either in obedience or you reached the point where you realized you need Him. Which is why sometimes God delayed showing Himself to people because we are too capable in our own ways. We say, 'God, we can do it.' God said, 'You can. Alright, I don't have to come down.' So God waits until we reached to the end of the flesh, the end of our intelligence, the end of our mind.

Do we need to do that? No, if we learned how to acknowledge God in all of our ways like David, to acknowledge that God is our strength, to acknowledge that God is our source. We don't have to reach that stage. When we reach that stage of not relying on the flesh anymore, God shows up. Abraham had nobody to depend on but God. By this time God appeared in Genesis 17:2, '*And I will make My covenant between Me and you, (God remembers the covenant) and will multiply you exceedingly.*' This was nothing new God already told him that in the third revelation. But you could see that the third revelation did not really catch a hold on him because when Abraham heard, 'You will multiply me,' Abraham laughed, 'Ho, ho, ho, ho! And he did not laugh because he believes. In Genesis 17: 3 *Abraham fell on his face* - not under the power but under laughter. When God said that to him earlier in the third revelation, he did not laugh but when God showed the fourth revelation that He is going to do it now, Abraham laughed because he knows that it is impossible. Totally impossible! And then God told him in verses 9&10, '*As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised.*'

So because Abraham did not fully fulfill the third revelation when God appeared the fourth time, He had to repeat something in the third and gave him an act to show his obedience. God said, 'Alright, I want you do this part of your covenant,' to show his obedience to God. When God spoke to Abraham in these areas or circumcising all the male children, this time Abraham obeyed God. When he obeyed God, immediately in Genesis 18, you have the fourth revelation again. Actually the fourth one you saw was the third repeated, we are a little bit at the 4th. God did not go any further; He just repeated the covenant. So even though you see the fourth, it was still the third. He repeated about children; He repeated His promises but He did not mention any thing deeper than that.

Then now in the next chapter 18, which was supposed to be the fifth revelation but it is still a repeat of the fourth revelation. Abraham appeared, this is the 4th and he really moved deeper. Verse 1, *'Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door.'* Now is different, Abraham had obeyed God. There's something different. There are a lot of things that Abraham had done. He had changed his name. He had circumcised the male children as the Lord told him. He had changed Sarai's name and that was a very difficult thing for them to do when you are old. It's understandable when you are young, you are just about to launch out in life. You changed your name; you don't like Tan Ah Kow so you changed to Tan Ah Tee or something like that. It's understandable when people changed their names when they launch into a career. They take on a name that they feel it sounds better. Or when a person is already old and everything is under their old names. Their servants know them by that name and he must have a hundreds of servants and he has to tell them, 'Well now, my name is changed.' It's not something easy that God gave him to do. God gave him a hard job to do. But God has to test him and prove him now.

Why does God require that? Abraham was not fully faithful to the 3rd revelation, so it was repeated until he fulfilled it. When he fulfilled it God appeared very fast. This time when God appeared there was something extra. In verse 6, *'Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."* He quickly welcomed the Lord in. He's a different man now. He got everything ready. In verse 10 *God repeats the promise about their child, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son."* (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) Verse 12, *Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"* Sarah was still laughing, her faith was not developed yet and God said in verse 14, *'Is anything too hard for the Lord'*

Here is something extra in the fourth revelation, V17, *'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?'* This is a new relationship that God has with him. God was on a project, executing one of His acts of judgment and He happened to be with Abraham and He said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I want to do? No, I won't.

I will let Abraham into what I want to do.' In other words God is saying, I will tell Abraham some of My secrets. Some of the things I will not normally tell.' There's a progressive revelation of God. Now Abraham's walk with God had reached the fourth stage. The fourth revelation has grown and the relationship he had with God is now very much deeper, after his lessons.

And God said to Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah in verse 20, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great.' There are few other things that God mentioned too about Abraham. Verse 19, *'For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.'*

In other word, God said that I know Abraham. What kind of person he is. He will instruct his children all after Me. God knows Abraham and Abraham knows God. This is the fourth level of revelation. God said, 'Abraham, by the way, these are some things I am going to do.' Notice that in the prophets, it tells us that God shows His prophets what He wants to do. Why should He? He's not talking about any common prophets. He's talking about people who walk with Him after the 4th revelation. You won't get into the secrets of God until you walked into the fourth revelation with God, where you obeyed God to a certain extent, kept His word, kept His promises and God reveals Himself.

By now Abraham also had more authority to function. It is in this very chapter that you see Abraham interceding and praying. "God, what happened if there are 50 righteous, would you spare the city?' God said, 'Yes.' And Abraham went down the line in his intercession until he was left with 10. While all this thing was happening, something else took place. The revelation of God, all the time is progressive.

Even the Apostle Paul himself realized that the revelations of God are progressive. Towards the end, a certain part or time of his ministry, he said in the book of Philippians that he may know Him and the power of His resurrection. In other word, there is so much more to know about Jesus, so much more to pursue about God. He realized he does not know everything about God. There is so much more and the book of Ephesians 4:11-13 tells us that the 5-fold ministry perfect the church for the fullness of the knowledge of Jesus Christ to grow to the full stature. That means that we are progressing to the full stature and the full knowledge of Him. Knowledge is progressive but it is not automatically progressive. It's progressive individually. That is why when some people come to know God and obey God, they seem to grow at a faster pace than others.

It doesn't mean that you all come to know Jesus Christ in 1970 and by 1980 everyone will grow at the same level. At the end of 1980 some may still be in first stage or some maybe in fourth stage. Every one of us have a progression. There is a timing that God reveals Himself and God may delay the revelation of Himself if there is disobedience, if there is a lack of faithfulness, if there is a lack of the application of the previous revelation that He has given to us. It will delay because He cannot give anymore. Just like Abraham, obeying 90%. God won't do anything until the 10% is adhered to. A 100% obedience must come forth and that is one of the reasons why very few people see visions and revelations today even though the Bible prophesied that the Holy Spirit will pour upon all flesh and it should be as common to people and among Christians as it was in the Book of Acts, as it were in the time of the Prophets. The vast majority of people still are struggling at either level 1 or level 2 and they are not obedient to God.

So God never reveal more of Himself. So is there any limit? There's a certain limit you can know of God. How did Elijah reach that stage? Not immediately! Elijah also had progressions. The first stage of Elijah, he was just a man of prayer but Elijah walked so much with God, he progressed in revelation with God and he walked so closely with God that being with God and seeing God was a common thing to him. It was as if he was with the angels of God. When it was close to the time that Elijah was about to go home, he had reached such a progression of revelation of God that it was even dangerous what he said. When the soldiers came for him, they said, 'Man of God, come down.' He said, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down!" And they were burnt. He didn't even pray. He walked so close with God that what he said just came to pass and it seems that he was conscious. I could visualize in my spirit that he was conscious of the angel with him. On the third occasion the angel said, "Go down." Then only he went down. Even before that you hear his made statements that he is Elijah who stands in the Presence of God. So he had reached such a progression of revelation of God that he just fully launched into it. He just loved God's Presence.

That's the stage that we will reached where the dimension of the things in the Spirit are common to us, where the dimensions of the things of the Spirit are easily entered into so that almost every time you pray, you are in the Spirit realm. I am not talking about things that should be strange to us. If you talked to people like Agung Bangau, you asked him when he prayed does he see God? He will tell you, 'Yes.' You asked him, 'Does he see visions all the time?' He will tell you, 'Yes.' If you ask him whether the voice of the Holy Spirit is audible or not, he will tell you, 'Yes.' Because it is actually inside his spirit but it's so strong that it sounds audible and so to him it's audible. There are people who do walk with God to that extent.

There are people who walked that close with God. And we need to understand that it all comes by progression but the closer you walked with God, the more threat you are to the devil, the more dangerous you are too. And the more you withdraw from people.

How could I tell how close a person had walked with God? The first thing is I watch is their mouth. The bible tells us that true spirituality has control of the tongue. The more you walked with God, the less you talked. Now, don't jump to the conclusion yet, doesn't mean therefore the less I talk the more I walk. Strangely the opposite is not true because a lot of people are quiet, they could be still water that runs deep. They are quiet because they got problems but there is a difference. If they ever let out, it's an explosion. They are quiet only at times, other time it's explosion. What I am talking about is a kind of serenity that's in a person's life. I don't enjoy fellowshiping with people when you sit on a table and all the time they are doing the talking. To me that person is only at level I revelation with God. No matter how much knowledge that person has on the bibles that's still level I revelation. Because when a person really entered the first stage of revelation, the person is more contemplative. The person doesn't prove any thing anymore. He has reached a point where he doesn't have to prove anything.

You notice that at the first level, you got to learn how to break the ties in your life that you are no more a child of the soil, you are child of the Spirit. You learn to differentiate between the things of your flesh, your kinsfolk, which are your flesh and the things of your spirit. At the second level you learn to handle the things of this life, the land is given to you and that's the skill we have to learn. The first thing we have to learn is that we are spirit and not flesh. That's hard for people to take. We are spirit, we are born of the Spirit. The flesh is nothing and you leave all the things of the flesh behind.

The second level of learning is learning how to handle the things of this life and yet without becoming worldly so that the things are used but they are not possessing your life, your soul, like pulling you down. It's gravitational force pulling down back into this earth. A lot of people failed even at the second stage.

The third level is where you have a special covenant and contract with God. The third level is when you discovered God's perfect will for your life. You know it like the back of your

hand. A covenant relationship implies you know exactly what God wants you to do. Then it's a covenant; you know what is God's full plan for your life. So you entered into the third level and you know like the back of your hand - what is your destiny. Abraham knew his destiny by the third stage, it took him some time but he discovered the third stage.

By the fourth progression, your knowledge of God is such that God shows you mysteries. Mysteries because there are a lot of things that are not for this earth, not even for sharing but personally for you. Now if God does that to a person who only is on a second level of revelation, the person would go about boasting, 'Hey, you know what happened lately?' and they will use it to build themselves up or they use it as an ego trip. To me, there is something wrong. Usually then it's a false revelation somewhere behind because when God actually does that - He shows you things, He shows you His secret, like Paul said, you are not allowed to share. God said this is P & C, private and confidential between you and God. But strangely you can do some negotiations with God for others. But you cannot share. Definitely by the fourth stage you are no more loose lips, you are very tight-lips, a man of few words. I like people of few words. People of many words, something is wrong with them. Obviously wrong. You judged a person's spirituality that way.

So the fourth revelation, a lot of things also start taking in Abraham's life. His physical body starts changing. It never changed in the first stage, second stage and third stage. At the fourth revelation, his physical body takes on a new dimension. We all know that in the Book of Genesis 17, he was still an old man, sterile, half-dead. The Bible itself said, his body was dead. So he was a walking coffin. Romans 4. But somehow the revelation of God transforms his body. See there's something about this fourth stage of revelation that it does something to your physical bodies, where your body is on the way of perfection.

Moses also had all those levels. The first level of Moses' revelation was when he was in Egypt. Moses knew deep in his heart that he had some thing to do with the destiny of the Israelites in setting them free. In the Books of Acts 7, we are told that Noses killed the Egyptian supposing that the Israelites will know that it is by his hand that they will be set free. It was not so such a direct revelation of God but an inner knowing of destiny that God has placed him where he is for a special task and a special purpose. He knew he was special. He knew to a certain extent his direction although he does not know the specifics. He knew he was consecrated and separated like Abraham called out of Ur. He was called out of the river. His own mother brought him up even though the princess adopted him. So he must have learned

the story about his own special destiny. How he was called out separated. He was different from the Israelite. None of the Israelite had ever been brought up under Egyptian's schools and treated like a prince. He was definitely special. He knew he was called out – that was the first level. It was 80 years later. After 40 years, when he was 40 years old, he killed the Egyptian. By the time he was 40 years, he had discovered the level 1. And then by the time he reached another 40 years when he was 80 years old, God spoke to him at the Burning Bush. The rest they say is history.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

Rev. 19:10 The apostle John after his series of revelations says; And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Now just a side line before we go to the main topic. You notice that the person who was with John from the beginning was introduced as an angel. Yet at the end, he introduced himself as one of the redeemed saints. *I am of your fellow servant and of your brethren.* In other words the angel was saying that I am one of you. In other words this is one of the former saints who have died in the Lord, gone to heaven and he is serving God as an angel, with many other former saints.

Isn't it wonderful to think that your loved ones right now could be serving God as angels? That depends of course on their spiritual lives. So some men of God who have gone there may be today serving God as angels. Your parents who have died may be around serving God as angels. Some of you have lost your children when they were little babies. By now they have grown. They may be serving God as angels. Of course there are special angels who are assigned to do special work.

That is not our message tonight. But what we want to see is the second sentence there he says. *Worship God for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.* The word testimony is from the Greek word *marturia*. The different derivations of this word are words like *marturion* and *martureo*. They mean witness, to witness, to testify. And here it is a noun. It means a

testimony. With that in mind the word *marturia* is where we get the English word *martyr*. A martyr is one who bears witness. Today the meaning has expanded to mean one who is willing to die for the Lord. So it says the testimony, the witness or whatever you call it the evident of Jesus.

See a testimony is evidence. When you go to court as a witness, what are they asking for? Evidence. They are not interested in a second hand witness. They want a first hand witness. They want you who have come from the scene to say what did you see. They want evidence by which they could establish a fact. And that is what they are saying here: the testimony of Jesus Christ, the evidence of Jesus Christ being present, the evidence of the Spirit of Christ being present here is the Spirit of prophecy. That is a very powerful statement. That classified every revelations of Jesus Christ to be prophetic. That means every of the manifestation of Jesus Christ is prophetic.

Here the word prophetic seems to point to the predictive element of Jesus Christ. He has the ability to know the future. He knows the past, the present and the future since He is the Alpha and the Omega. That is Jesus Christ. Since He is Almighty God He knows everything except His coming, which was reserved by the Father. The Father knows all things. He is God. The devil doesn't know everything. But Jesus Christ knows all things. So the testimony of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of prophecy. It's the ability to know to understand what we consider the future.

We want to see a topic that we will call the art of seeing into the future. We are not a cult. We are not going to talk about fortune telling. The art of seeing the future is not going to enable you to know which lottery numbers will strike. That's not what we are talking about. These things make you lazy. They destroy your character. It harbors greed in your life. Anything that is from God will bring you into His nature, into His character. God will not do something that is contradictory to His nature. But we are talking about the art of seeing into the future. We are talking about the predictive, prophetic element of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

To establish that point, we need to look first at the gospel of John 14: 26, *But the helper the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name. He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance that I said to you.* That is talking about all things that you need in the present and all things you need in the past. So you have the present and the past. Then in John 16: 13, *However when He the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth. For*

He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak. And He will tell you things to come. Now here is a promise that is not just for a prophet. Here is a promise to all believers. The Holy Spirit will show you things to come. Things to come refer to the future. You could put the phrase there and he will show you the future. When the Spirit has come He will show you the future.

That verse is the harmony and the interpretation of Revelation 19: 10 where the testimony of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of prophecy. The witness of Jesus Christ is the same spirit of prophecy. For when the Spirit come didn't the bible say they shall see visions and dream dreams. What elements are they talking about? They are talking about revelations of things to come. God has a plan and He is interested in us knowing that plan, understanding that plan and become part of that plan. That's why when the Spirit of God comes He shows us things to come. He shows us the future. He shows us His plan for the general earth and heaven. And He shows us His plan for your life. He shows you His plan for your nation. He shows you His plan for your family. He shows you His plan for your ministry. He shows you His plan for all things. In other words He shows you the future.

So at this point of time we would have firmly established the theological truth and fact that God does shows us the future. It is firmly established. You go trace through the whole bible and show even for the experience of the people who had known God, that every man who had known God in the bible has always been told things of the future. It has been established a theological fact. So we may even titled this message as the art of seeing into the future.

There are four basic elements of seeing into the future in the bible. And they grow in degrees of powerfulness. They grow in degrees of intimacy. The first is the lowest and the fourth is the highest. The first is what I call the seed form ability to see into the future. All these four we are talking about abilities that come from God. You can see an aspect of the seed form in the natural. It's very hard for an average person to just judge from a seed, unless you are familiar with the fruit. Here is where when you see a seed in the natural, you could sort of visualize the plant because of your experience. So from the seed you could tell the future of the plant. And then you could take the seed and sort of say it will produce a good plant, a strong plant or a bad plant. That is why when farmers want to plant, they select the best seeds. They don't take the skinny seed that has a genetic effect. They don't take those defective seeds and plant them because defective seeds will produce defective plants. So to a certain extend you could tell the future of the plant and what it would be like from the seed.

Now all of us started as a biological seed. But there are other areas where the ability to see into the future is what I call the seed form method. Where when you look at a child, under the Spirit of God in the first method, you could sort of tell what kind of child this will be. Through a few months spending your time with that child, you would know that this child is going to be a musician. Or if the child has a voice that sounds like a train taking off from a railway station, you could say probably this child could turn out to be an evangelist. So in a certain way there is a wisdom of God there is a truth and Spirit of God involved that gives you the ability to see the future through certain acts.

Let me show from the bible in the book of Hebrews 11: 23, *By faith Moses when he was born was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's command.* You read the Old Testament story when he was born they sensed something special about him. The ability in a very small way is manifested when you grow in experience. And in adult life you could tell a person character by their face. You could tell a kind face or a hard face or a soft face. I am not talking about the thickness of their skin. I am talking about the expression on their face. In the natural for a few moments you could tell an angry face from a friendly face. When a person is angry you can't hide it. So you could from the face without a word what kind of character that person has. If you begin to develop the right character your face does change. That is why sometimes you see a hard nut criminal come right to the altar and he cries, "Jesus come into my life." After three months you can see the softness in his face. So you could tell to a certain extent in a very small way by natural knowledge and experience a person's future, a person's reaction on certain things by the way they look. And also by the way they walk; by the way they drive the car. Do you know that the way you drive the car reflects your character. If you drive the car very fast you know this person lack patience. The way he drive the car is the way his character is. You can't hide; it just comes out naturally. You want to pretend also cannot since smoke comes out. You can't help being yourself. This is what I call the ability to tell the future of a person by the seed form.

You work with someone for a while you sort of know their future. When you talk to people who just started in life, you could tell from your knowledge of them how successful each one will be. This kind of prediction is quite inaccurate. And the accuracy is dependent upon your own wisdom. This is the aspect of discernment, discerning a person's future, discerning a person's character. We are not talking about the word of wisdom yet. We are talking about normal knowledge in that. So there is a powerful spiritual aspect of the natural ability.

We look at Moses in the book of Exodus when he was born. Exodus 2: 2, *So the woman conceived and bore a son. And she saw that he was a beautiful child.* Now Hebrew word *beautiful* conveys a lot of meanings. It conveys that there is brightness of a future they see in that child. And no doubt that child is going to deliver the whole nation. So there was something they recognize. Now Moses didn't come out from the womb and say let my people go. But they could discern his future and his calling just by looking at him. This is the predicted element that comes from the seed form method.

Jacob expresses an aspect of that. Towards the end of Genesis you read the predictions of Jacob. Jacob was not a prophet in a sense. Gen.49 Jacob was predicting all his twelve sons. We are talking about the future. He is talking about his children's descendants. The question is how did he predict the future? What elements did he use? Of course we know it is the spirit of prophecy.

But the spirit of prophecy flows in four rivers. It flows through the predictive element of what I call the seed form method. Notice what Jacob said. And then you have a few keys here. It says in Genesis 49: 1 he was telling them their future, *And Jacob called together his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days."*

In Gen. 49:3 *Reuben you are my first born, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellence of dignity and the excellence of power. Unstable as water you shall not excel because you went up to your father's bed, then you defiled it you went up to my couch.*

That doesn't look like a blessing. Jacob was not blessing anything. If you look carefully you are not sure whether it is because Reuben defiled his father's bed that the judgment and curse came on him. Or that Jacob tapped into the seed form method and uttered that prophecy based on the ways of Reuben. Jacob sort of knew the kind of descendants that will come forth from Reuben from just a few special acts that Reuben made. You know in your lifetime you did a lot of things. You said a lot of words. But there are some words that stand head and shoulders above the others. There are some actions in your life that stand head and shoulders above all the rest that you remember. And in the whole of Reuben's life this one bad act of his stood head and shoulders above the others. This form of predictive element looked at that

action of Reuben that stood head and shoulders above his other actions. Somehow that action of defiling his father's bed was an expression of his entire future. And through the seed form method Jacob could predict the kind of future descendants of Reuben will be like.

Almost every one of Jacob's children there were some elements in their actions. You may be puzzled between two things. Whether it was their action that brought the judgment or the blessing. Or it was what we are studying here the seed form method where they could discern through their work, through their deed, seeds of the future. As you see the seed of Reuben, you will find that Jacob's prophecy was applicable and accurate. As you see the seeds of Judah or Ben or any other tribes you will also find the Jacob's prophecies were applicable. So it goes on to the others like in verse five, *Simeon and Levi are brothers, instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling places*. Here of all the things they have done, the way they have treated others in anger and cruelty stood out. Notice how the anger came out through their lives. In verse six it says, *For in their anger they slew a man and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce*. Now of all their life the one seed element that came out was their anger. So Jacob said this will be what your descendants will be like. They will be a bunch of angry cruel people.

These children of Jacob have grown up and they were fathers and maybe even grandfathers. Of all the many things they did, there was some thing they did that stood head and shoulders and was the expression of their future. There was a special seed in each of Jacob's children that stood apart. So by looking at that special seed Jacob was able to tell what will befall their descendants.

It's just like today they are trying to invent, modify and make a new rose. They try to alter the seed. They take a blue element from another different plant. The gene that causes it to be blue and attached it to the seed. So by looking at the seed under the microscope you could tell what color it will turn out to be. Analyzing the chemicals in that gene, if I see certain chemicals there, I know it will produce certain colors. So by the seed you can tell the color of the rose.

Looks like a curse but we know that Levi was blessed. They became the very people that were chosen as priests. So he is not just talking about a curse. He is talking about predicting the

future. And in no way could you predict in a natural way their future just from their anger and what they did. Because there might have been other things he said which were not recorded. In verse seven, *I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel*. How can you tell? Just because of the way they treat the ox. And Jacob said, “O they will be scattered all over Israel.” Which was true. The tribe of Levi was scattered over all Israel. They don't have a whole state to themselves. They were scattered to all the Levites cities. He predicted the future from the seed that he could see in their life.

In verse ten, *The scepter shall not depart from Judah*. Then he remembered something Judah did in verse eleven, *Binding his donkey to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine. He washed his garments in wine and his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk*. Now Jacob must have seen something in Judah that speaks of his noble character and his caring attitude. Perhaps Judah this may be the actual truth. Perhaps Judah when he was a little baby had teeth whiter than anything he had seen. So by looking at them he said this is a leader.

There is no natural way you could predict.

Now these are not truths that you grab independently of the Spirit of God and then go out and start predicting. We are talking about something that took place under the anointing of the prophecy. The spirit of prophecy must anoint you first. But when the spirit of prophecy anoints you, you must know how it can flow. Otherwise when the spirit anoints you, you are thinking and trying to hear, “Thus says the Lord.” You cannot hear that if it comes in a seed form. All you do is a sort of spiritual recognition. There is a spiritual recognition that you see and you know. That is called the seed form method of prediction.

And it tends in the natural and in the spiritual growth to be stronger the older you grow in the Lord. When the prophet Joel prophesied that old men shall dream dreams, we must understand that there are two different Greek words for *dream*. There is a special word for *dream* that is used there. It talks about seeing into something. So it is not the normal word for *dream*. So it was talking about those who are old in the Lord who are able to exercise these elements called the seed form method of prediction. That is why you found that when these people are old like Jacob, he could predict the outcome of his children's descendants by looking at his children's most outstanding actions. He couldn't do that when he was young. But towards the end of his life he laid hands and he could predict. That's how even under

normal growth in the Christian life, if you really have walked with the Lord by your natural growth in God, you grow into the seed form method of prediction. The older you grow you develop that quite naturally spiritually. See the more experience you are in the Lord, the more you have this first method when the spirit of prophecy comes on you.

Now the second and the third go very closely together. Look at the book of Numbers 12: 6-7, *Hear now my words: If there is a prophet among you I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision and I speak to him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face even plainly and not in dark sayings and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses.* You will hear the words dark sayings coming again in the book of Psalms.

You see the second and third method here. The second method when the spirit of prophecy which is the Spirit of Jesus Christ when He comes on you in the predicting and seeing in the future is what I call in the second method enigmas and mysteries. Enigma is something of what we call a dark saying like a parable. It is given to you but you don't quite understand. God was trying to tell Miriam and Aaron here saying that is how I normally treat my prophets. Line upon line, precepts upon precepts. I give them dark sayings, mysteries that they themselves don't understand. They can only yield to the Spirit of prophecy and prophesy. They prophesy things that they do not understand. They speak of things that they themselves don't understand. That is called an enigma. Normally we speak what we understand. But in prophecy the second method of prediction you speak what you don't understand.

You remember the high priest where Jesus was brought before him. He talked about how a man must die for the sake of the nation. He meant it as a judgment to Jesus. But by virtue of his position as a high priest, it was a prediction that Jesus will die for the nation. I don't think the high priest meant it as a prophecy. He meant it as a judgment. But he speaks what he knows not. When he spoke it, he was no prophet. But the bible in the gospels record it and say that is the prophecy of Jesus die for the whole nation.

In the book of Second Peter 1: 20-21, *No prophecy of the scriptures is of any private interpretation. For prophecy never came by the will of man.* There it tells you that you cannot predict just because you want to predict. You cannot predict just because you look at the

crystal ball, that is unscriptural and demonic. You don't predict the future by seeing the shape of the tea leaves in the tea cup. These are demonic but there is another element of prediction. You cannot predict by the will of man. It has to be the Spirit of God coming upon you. It says here *for prophecy never came by the will of man but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Lets look at First Peter 1: 10, *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently who prophesied of the grace that will come to you, searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ who was in them indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.* Now here it says they prophesied certain things that they themselves were searching what the meaning was. So what we are saying here is the second method an enigma.

Now enigma can only happen when you are very yielded to the Lord. Where the Spirit of God just flow out of you so supernaturally that sometimes you are not even aware of what you say. Like some of you when you begin to tap into the spirit of prophecy, you start with a sentence or two. As you begin to say it suddenly a gust of other things come forth. And then more and more things come out from you. And you say things that you know not. Now under normal circumstances if you say what you know then you should shut up. But here under a prophetic anointing because the Spirit of God wants to bypass our minds and you began to speak enigma and parables that you yourself does not understand. Now this second and third are closely linked.

The third is powerful. The third is the prediction of the future like God telling you directly. It is called the fellowship method. Of course the seed method is a low profile type, which is the main thing. Some of these old people just taste it before going to die. Jacob laid hands and predicted the future of his children's descendants. He only tasted the trickle of the spirit of prophecy. It was the first taste, first level. You haven't move into second floor, third floor. So old Jacob just about to die and he tapped into the spirit of prophecy. He prophesied and died. A lot of people live and die without tapping the second level. They never move into enigma.

Now enigma is not only for the prophets. Normally the prophet function in second and third because the spirit of prophecy is especially prominent among the prophets. And some

prophets don't move into the fourth at all, which is the most powerful. So the second and third are closely related. It has to do with a special anointing that come even though you may not be a prophet. It can still come upon you. It can come through visions, dreams or through whatever vehicle that comes. You don't understand it. It is like a mystery. It can be like a parable form. But it predicts your future. It predicts the nation's future. It predicts the world future. It needs interpretation. It is a mystery and enigma.

The second is powerful fellowship. God told Aaron and Miriam off because they felt a bit passed by in their positions. They said, "Moses we are the same like you. Does God only speak to you and not to us?" God replied, "I speak to the prophets through visions and dreams. But to Moses is face to face." God was making a difference. Obviously if you read Numbers 12, God was talking about two levels. Moses has moved from the second level to the third level. And Aaron and Miriam were still on the second floor. So prophetic move was entering that lift. Some people enter that lift. Some don't even enter that lift. They were outside the lift. Aaron and Miriam have gone into the lift of prophecy. They press the button up but the lift open only at the second floor. They think they are very big already. What they didn't know was Moses already knew what second floor was like. Moses was living on third floor. Third floor has different furniture. At the second floor the furniture are all covered in mysteries. You don't know whether that is a chair or table. You just say furniture. Third level God comes right down to you and say this is going to happen in the future. Under the third level it comes at your level and your language in ways that you completely understand. No mystery not even a vocabulary problem. If your vocabulary is elementary five that will be the level God will come to you. That is the third level it is called the fellowship level.

An example of that you can find in the book of Genesis 18: 17. The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?" Now God is going to reveal something to Abraham. But He is not going to reveal it in the seed form or in His dreams. Abraham would have to interpret it if the revelation came in seed form or in his dreams. God never, God chose to fellowship with him and God said I tell you what I want to do. When you move into the third floor or prophecy, you don't even need to interpret. He means what He says and He says what He means. And it come to pass precisely exactly according to what He tells you. He came to Abraham and said, "I am bringing judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah." You don't even need to interpret. "Shall I hide from Abraham?" God asks. He will not because Abraham was a friend of God. And Moses was a friend. Moses has moved onto the third floor. God could just say Moses what do you think? I am going to do all these things. Remember God had told Moses, "Moses move aside I want to destroy these people." Moses said, "No Lord, what will the heathen think of

You?" Remember Your promise and Your covenant. From that day onwards Moses entered the third floor of the spirit of prophecy. So from that onwards God tell Moses what He wants to do. He tells Moses the secret things. O what fellowship. That is a powerful predictive element. God just tell you this is going to happen.

These are the different levels of the spirit of prophecy that you move into. At the first level only your ankles get wet. At the second level is right up to your chest. At the third level you are able to float in it. But at the third level you are floating in it. And if you sink you are swimming in it. There is no current yet. The waters are still. Fellowship is face to face. And the fourth level you move into the current. It becomes a river. The third level you are just in the swimming pool of God. It is the place of fellowship. At the third level the divine flow is more powerful.

Before we move into the fourth level lets give more scriptures for the relationship between the second and third level. You must understand the movement between the second and third level. As I said these two are closely related. Look at the book of Daniel 7: 1-2, *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions on his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came out from the sea, each different from the other. And then he described what each animal did. So Daniel moved into the second predictive element. Here was the predictive prophecy that revealed the future. But it came on the second level. It was enigma and mystery. You need an interpretation at stage two.*

And notice what happens after he had received all these things, he wrote them down. And some time had passed by. Verse 15, *I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. So Daniel had received at the second floor of prophecy. He moved into the prophetic lift and he was welcomed into the second floor. He moved out and he saw all these visions. He went back into the lift and he could not understand what it was. And as he was grieved and praying and praying, God spoke to an angel and said go down and bring Daniel up to third floor. So the angel came down brought Daniel to the third floor and that was fellowship. God saw the pain in Daniel's life when he didn't understand something. Daniel was someone who wanted to understand. He couldn't stand something he couldn't understand. And so God saw his condition and said bring him over to the third floor. And in verse 16, "I came near to one of those who stood by and asked him the truth of all this. So he*

told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things.” And then in fellowshiping with the angel, the angel explained everything to Daniel.

You could see how Daniel moved from the second floor to the third floor. And it was the third floor that he understood. How did the understanding come? How did the prediction come? It came through fellowship. He was just fellowshiping with an angel. That's not the only time. In chapter eight the same thing happened again. In Daniel 8: 1 he received a predictive prophecy at the second floor of prophecy. And of course he didn't quite understand. Verse 15 *Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen a vision and was seeking the meaning.* Now he got into the habit of seeking for the meaning. He was not satisfied to remain at the second floor. Do you know a lot of people will be happy with second floor? People who are not satisfied with second floor are those who love to pray. Those who received a precept and a line and they said Lord I know there is another precept and a line following it. But the average Christian will just taste the seed form and they are happy. Just like some Christians being baptized in the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues for an hour. They think that is a big deal. You don't know what praying in tongues is yet until you have prayed for six to eight hours per day.

So we have here those who move into the second level and they receive visions. But they don't understand the vision. They forgot that they are only at the second floor. And so it is only those who are extra hungry like you here tonight. Some of you have received a lot of things in your home at the second level. You don't understand that is why you come for overnight prayer. Like Daniel you come to seek the meaning of what God had spoken to you. Sometimes you come for overnight prayer and you are saying God I want to hear You. This is not the only place He speaks to you. He speaks to you in your home. He speaks in your private life. But there are some things He spoke to you at the first level. Something He spoke to you at the second level. And there is no way you can get into the third level unless you fellowship with Him. By fellowship I mean you really spend time with Him. You give six hours to Him you give eight hours. You take the whole day off and the boss asks, “Are you sick?” “No boss, I want to spend time with God.” What do you do? All I do is to get into the room get on my knees and pray until the next day. That is spending time with God. So we are talking about people who are hungrier for God. Then you must be in the third floor.

Tonight it is possible for you to move into the third floor. Whatever God has shown you thus far, you only have half a precept. Get the other part. Get into God like Daniel who hungered

after God. God will move you into the third floor and fellowship with you. It is so clear it is just like God's voice telling you. This is what going to happen in your business.

The fourth stage is what I call the most powerful. It is called the mind of Christ. It sounds like the first stage but it is more powerful. At the third stage you are fellowshiping with God. At the fourth stage you are like God. You function like God. You think like God. You see like God. You predict like God. Can you imagine if tonight if you have the mind of Christ, you are totally a different person? Can you imagine thinking like Christ? If you think like Christ of course you see like Christ. And of course you know like Christ.

Let me show here in the book of First Corinthians 2: 9. He is talking about deep things of God. He says *eyes has not seen nor ear heard nor has entered into the heart of man*. See fourth floor seldom entered. He is talking about a spiritual ethic that very few know even exist. *Eyes have not seen nor ears heard nor has entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love Him*. And the word *love* in the Old Testament was the word *wait*. The corresponding verse is found in Isa. 64:4. It goes on in verse ten *but God has reveled them to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things even the deep things of God*. He is talking about really the deep things, the depth of God, the knowledge, the wisdom and the richest storehouse. He talks about knowing things that nobody else knows. That is why in verse eleven the context is still there. *What man knows the things of a man?* Now the things of a man the way the bible use it is always refer to past, present, future. It refers to everything about a man, everything about a person's future, everything about the future of the nation and everything about the future of this planet earth. It says *what man knows except the spirit of man?*

This fourth floor was never possible in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament your maximum was third floor. In the New Testament you could go to first floor, second floor, third floor and fourth floor. Here it says *now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God*. Look at what he is saying here. *That we might know the things that has been freely given to us by God*. Your future, your life, everything that is recorded in God's book. The future of your business. The future of your ministry. All your future is there. But this is where the bull's eye is given to you in verse sixteen, *Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him. But we have the mind of Christ*.

See the secret is the mind of Christ. When the mind of Christ comes into your life you move into the level that Jesus moved into. Do you know that when Jesus was on this earth He knew everything that was to happen? There was nothing that happened that He did not know. The fact that He knew the night He was betrayed He says someone is going to betray Me. He knew everything. He says the Gentiles will hand Him over to be crucified and three days He will rise up again. And Peter says, "O Lord everyone will depart but not me." He says, "Well in your case you will deny Me three times before the cock crow thrice." He knows all things. He looks at Nathaniel and says, "You are an Israelite in whom there is nothing false." He knows all things and that is the mind of Christ. He knows the future and he was just a perfected man. He came to show us what Adam could have been like. Now we are talking about the Adam's nature before the fall. Do you know Adam moved into the first level? When he saw the animals he knew what it was like. He could see the animals and he could see and he knew what its name was. See that is the first level. Then later the second and third level was revealed in the Old Testament.

But only when Jesus came, the fourth level was revealed. Through the Spirit of God He knew all things. That is the mind of Christ. Here is how it relates to us tonight in Romans 8: 26-27, *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.* Of course it includes tongues. Now how who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is. You must understand that the mind of the Spirit is the mind of Christ, is the mind of the Father. And that is the mind that is promised to us. If you have the mind of the Spirit you have the Holy Spirit because the Spirit knows all things. How does Jesus know all things because the Spirit reveals all things and searches all things. And it turns back into the mind of Christ for us.

Look at the next word in verse 27 in case you have never looked at it carefully. *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* Do you notice the word *because*? If you look at it in the English it doesn't tally. The word *because* gives you the reason for what comes before the *because*. If I say, "I am here because of this meeting," it is because of this meeting that I am here. If you say I am going by train because the bus broke down. So anything that follows *because* is dependent on what came previously. Anything that comes after the *because* explains the previous sentence. In verse 27 it says *Now He who searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit.* He is telling us how he got into the mind of the Spirit. He is telling us that he is moving into the mind of the Spirit. The searcher of our hearts and the searcher of the mind of the Spirit. The searcher who knows about the mind of the Spirit. He is

talking about knowing the mind of the Spirit because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

So I could simplify it this way. Knowing the mind of Spirit or the mind of Christ because of intercession. It says knowing the mind of Christ. We know the mind of Christ. He knows the mind of the Spirit because he makes intercession. And if you study the sentence it doesn't make sense. Of course he knows his own mind. When he talks about the Spirit, he talks about the mind of the Father. He talks about the Eternal Mind that created all heaven and earth. And he talks about how the Spirit of God knowing the Eternal Mind because the Spirit of God makes intercession. So the simple principle is I know the mind of Christ, I know the mind of the Spirit because I make intercession according to the Spirit flowing in me for myself, for the saints. That means this because of intercession you know the mind of Christ. Therefore the more you intercede the more you get into the mind of Christ. Because of prayer you tap on the mind of Christ. You tap on the mind of Christ the more you pray. The less you pray the less you will know of the things of Christ.

You could apply the truth in many ways. Based on that therefore the less you pray the more dangerous you are. You will depend on your past and your present analysis. But the more you pray you will move into the ability to tap into the future. It will make your decisions smarter and sounder. So don't stop praying. The day you stop praying is the day you go back to your old ways. You are going to do things in your old way by your past experience to your old world. There is only one person who knows the future. Even the devil doesn't know. He doesn't know what is going to happen. The bible says if the devil knew what is going to happen he wouldn't crucify Jesus. Sometimes he couldn't make up his mind. Through Peter he didn't want Jesus to go to the cross. Then through Judas he put Jesus to the cross. He couldn't even make a decision.

And that particular passage talks about praying in the Holy Spirit. Now you see another important benefit of praying in tongues. The longer you pray in tongues the larger the mind of Christ is manifested in your life. Because when you pray in tongues you speak mysteries. Your spirit taps on to the mysteries already and it is a matter of time before the mysteries get into your soul and your intellect. That is why we are gathered together to pray in tongues. So that tonight you can move into the fourth level the mind of Christ through praying in tongues. So that you could be in tune with God and tap into the mind of God.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

PRAYER BETWEEN PHASES

Lets turn to Luke 6:12-16 Now it came to pass in those days that He went up to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Him. And from them he chose twelve whom He also named apostles. Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

Now this is one of the first records of Our Lord Jesus praying an overnight prayer. Although I believe He probably has prayed several overnight prayers before that. Our Lord Jesus Christ is praying an overnight here because He is moving from one phase of His ministry to another phase of ministry. See when He started His ministry He was alone. The gospel of John records the first part of His ministry when He was alone. And the disciples had not followed that closely yet. He had a lot of followers. But there was none that was what we may call confirmed to be with Him. So Our Lord Jesus Christ seems to sense a different direction. I believe He was seeking God regarding who the twelve apostles were to be. But of course He does not need the whole night to just do that. All He needs is to pray for about ten minutes and say, "Father who are the twelve whom I am to select." And the Father will say, "Select this and this and this." If that was so why then He had to pray an overnight prayer? It was directional but more than that.

There was more than just direction that was involved. It was something He seems to be pouring forth before God in order to be able to continue the whole night. And as we realize you have to have quite a lot of things to pray if you want to pray the whole night. Thank God for tongues. I wonder what we are going to do without tongues. Can you imagine praying the whole night without tongues? Thank God for tongues where we could just let go and let God to pray through us. Now here is something happening in Jesus' life where we believe He was also praying regarding the apostles.

And here is where some clues come. See Jesus Christ does a lot of sowing in prayer. Jesus Christ does a lot of travelling in prayer. I personally believe that before Jesus did any thing He has already got the whole result in the spirit realm, especially during times when we are what we call between phases. We are changing from one phase to another phase. For example, you could be changing a phase in the natural. There are many phases in the natural in life that we go through, like the phase between schooling and working life; the phase between working as an employee and becoming your own employer. That is all natural phases.

Then there are spiritual phases that we go through. There is a phase that you go through perhaps when you just began to discover your spiritual gifts and position. And then there is another phase that we go through when we began to move into a area of spiritual ministry where we realize who are to be involved in the ministry. So there are different phases in the life and ministry in Our Lord Jesus Christ. Before this time in Luke six Jesus used to travel all over the place. And everywhere he went the kingdom of God was announced. He had many, many multitude of people following Him. But He had not selected any apostles yet. And here is the time when Jesus is going to change. Not change in power, changed in a sense of His ministry because He is still going to preach and He is still going to heal. He is still going to cast out devils. He is still going to do basically the same thing. But His privacy is going to be invaded by twelve fellows. He is never in a sense going to be alone again. Wherever He goes He is going to have these twelve guys follow Him, whether they fully understand him or not. But these twelve fellows are going to be right behind Him. Sometimes quarrelling, sometimes fussing, sometimes becoming His great defenders, sometimes doing the wrong thing. Here is where His privacy is going to cease to a certain extend. Of course for these twelve people it would also be a commitment. It would be following Him for three years.

As we read just in one or two sentences the whole thing was over. Jesus prayed overnight, the next day He came and everything was over. But mind you there are a lot of decisions making.

There are so many things that are involved when you are going to make a decision in life, things are going to be different. So we realize here that Jesus was going through a different phase. His whole life is going to be affected by these twelve fellows. Where from time to time they may disappoint Him. He goes through everything that every normal relationship we go through. There were times where they probably disappointed Him. There were times where they encouraged Him. Yet there were a lot of investments that the Lord Jesus made between the phases. This is not the only time He did it. Every time there was a

significant movement or change, you will always find the Lord with you, especially in an overnight prayer like this.

Turn to Matt. 14:22-23 after the feeding of the miracle of what we call feeding the five thousand men. In verse 22-24 *Jesus immediately made His disciples to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray. And when evening has come He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves. Verse 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.* The fourth watch means it is between three to six in the morning. And Jesus went up immediately after the feeding of the five thousand, which was probably about six or seven in the evening. And He was there the whole night alone spending time with God. And then the next morning He had not slept a wink yet. He comes down and walks on the water. Understand the time and the context from Matthew.

Then let's look at the gospel of John chapter six. There was actually an event that was going to take place, which the other gospels did not record. John 6: 15, *Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to a mountain by Himself alone. And when evening came His disciples went down to the sea.* That is when we see the walking on the water incident. So it is in the same context of Matthew 14, except John gives us more details. John 6 says after the feeding of the five thousand. These five thousand wanted to take Him by force to make Him their king. Now Jesus of course knows the hearts of men. And He knew that they are going to make Him king not because they believe in His miracles. It seems that He doesn't even mind if people believe Him just because of the miracles. But it was more than that. See in John 6: 26, *Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly I say to you. You seek Me not because you saw the signs. It seems as if seeking the signs was okay but He says, "You seek Me because you ate of the loaves and were filled."* In other words they're going to make Him king because He is now going to provide their bread and their butter. They don't have to work any more. The king is going to supply from His table.

They were seeking Him because their stomachs could be filled. Not because of the signs, which He doesn't seem to mind because the signs will lead you to Him.

Now Jesus seems to perceive something else that was not apparent. There is a great event, a great test that was about to happen and Jesus must have picked it up in the spirit. Sometimes we cannot pick up a great test coming because it is hidden by physical event. But the next day an important event was about to happen. Probably the Lord Jesus perceived it. There was something significant, which the world would call a failure. Read on in John 6 the same day Jesus taught them about Him being the bread of life. In verses 59 – 60, *These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of his disciples when they heard this, they say this is a hard saying. Who can understand it? When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples murmured about this He said to them, "Does this offend you?" Then in verse 66 from that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.* He didn't say a few. That could have been an exodus in a reverse sense. Something significant was going to happen the very next day. The day before they were going to make him king. The day after there was going to be a test for the people. Jesus was going to reveal more of Himself. When the bible says many it is not just a dozen. Suddenly almost everybody leaves. And you know how crowd psychology is like 90% of the people don't do the thinking, they do the following. If you say something wrong but if you put enough people in the crowd to say the amen and clap hands, the rest will follow. It is a natural flow.

So here many left and our Lord Jesus in verse 67 He turned to the twelve and asked, "Do you also want to go away?" At a point like this as the most encouraging statement came from Simon Peter, of all the people. Sometimes he says the wrong thing. But this time he said the right thing. This was one of the few times he engages his head before his mouth. He said, "Lord to whom shall we go" You have the words of eternal life." If you experience what Jesus went through here, it is not something easy to take emotionally. It is not easy to take it emotionally when people leave you. Here is the Lord Jesus is facing the pressures on the human soul. Now there is going to be a different phase in His life because some are going to drop off. He is going to a time of testing. He picked it up the night before. The whole night He prayed. That was when He walks on the water.

We realize that both the physical life that we are living and the spiritual life come in phases. It is not just one flow. Life is like waves. When the waves are over there is a period of calm. Then comes another wave. Then comes another phase. It is unending. There are different

times of testing. Different times of growing. Different times of moving. But the most important time is between the phases. It is where you make it or you don't make it. You break or you make it. In between the phases is one of the most significant points of time where the devil loves to attack between the phases. The weakest link in the whole flow of your life is between the phases. And of course where it is weakest we pray the longest. Where it is hardest we travail the deepest. That's where our Lord Jesus prayed overnight.

I am sure there are several other occasions that the bible did not record that much. But of course the greatest point of time was when He faces the cross of Calvary. That is something that none of us could comprehend. None of us could even sense a portion of what He went through. The bible tells us in the book of Hebrews 5: 7, *Who in the days of His flesh when He had offered up prayers in supplication with human cry and tears to Him who was able to save him from death and was heard because of His godly fear.* Now we realize that this sentence talks about His entire life. But there is also an emphasis on the point of time before Calvary.

Luke 22:40 says When He came to the place He said to them pray that you may enter into temptation. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone throw. And He knelt down and prayed saying, Father if it is your will remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless not My will but your be done. Then an angel appeared to him from heaven, strengthening Him and being in agony He prayed more earnestly and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Although it is not mentioned here we realize that He prayed throughout the night. And it was in the early hours of the morning that they came for Him. That was when they took Him to that priest's house. And when Peter was there the cock crew. So it was towards the morning by the time everything was over. Isn't it a great thought to think that the last night out Lord Jesus experience before the cross was a night spent without sleep? It was an overnight. The last night spent was significant. He travail, He prayed, He cried. The reason we put this pattern in Jesus life is to show us that our Lord Jesus Christ picks up in the spirit the things that are to come. See as you near the end of each phase you could sense it. It is just like surfing. The person who does surfing have to sense correctly the end of each wave comes. When they surf they are going by the energy of the waves. The waves would carry them. Then when the waves come down the momentum still continue. When there are not enough waves they paddle a bit. So the skill of surfing rests on the fact that the person who does surfing must be sensitive to the waves when it comes and the waves when it ends.

When you ride a two-wheel vehicle you will realize that when the momentum is there it is easy to balance. The thrust of the vehicle carries you and keeps you straight. But whenever you come to a red traffic light, you have to put your legs down. Have you seen a motorbike rider who reaches a traffic light and he is balancing. So we realize that there are certain situations like a two-wheel vehicle unless there is a movement it is not easy to balance. The moving makes it easy to balance. In the same way we realize that when the waves are there it is easy because you have a certain thrust involved. But when the waves are not there it is not easy to balance. And so the times between the waves in a sense are more difficult. In fact the joy of surfing is to get on the waves. You don't go surfing when there are no waves. You don't enjoy it. The joy of it is that the waves are carrying you.

And so in the same sense there is what I call a phase and different phases in life. And some of those phases are when they literally twist and turn your character to squeeze out the best in you. Where they twist and turn your emotions and squeeze out the best in you. They squeeze and turn you until you know your energy level in the physical, in the soul and in the spiritual between each phase. See the next phase will not start until you are faithful to the fullness of your previous phase. Unless we are faithful to our previous phase we cannot move to the next phase. That is God's order. If you are not faithful to what God has revealed in the first phase, you will never move to the next one. God will let you reach the maximum capacity possible within the boundaries of that first phase. Unless you have stretched yourself to the fullest you cannot go to the next. He that is faithful in little will be faithful in much.

So the points between each phase are really pressurized situations where it brings out the best in you. Which is why I believe that every person must push himself or herself to the limit to know at least where their limits are. And the rest of the way, ask God for grace. I know what it is like. I have gone for three days without sleep to push myself through. When you have gone through it you can know how you can push yourself through. Those who have not stretched themselves to the fullest do not know the limits of their ability. Sometimes we don't know what we can do unless we have done it. It is just like the disciples in the book of Acts. They were growing stronger but without knowing it spiritually they may have been growing a little bit overweight until the great persecution arose. In Acts 8 all the disciples fled from Jerusalem. As they went forth they preached. And lo and behold there were great results. We know not what we can do until we are put in a situation.

Think about how Reinhard Bornke started. In South Africa he used to plan crusades for others. He was an evangelist to a certain extent. But he was not well known. His ministry didn't take off. One day he planned this crusade. The speaker didn't turn up. All the people turned up except the speaker. So the most logical thing to do was to take over. He took over and the results of the anointing were so powerful that the people started coming back. It seems like overnight his ministry took off from one incident. There are a lot of situations like that. Oral Roberts was virtually unknown. There are hundreds of people like Oral Roberts in the healing revival. But one day somebody took a gun and tried to shoot him. And he missed but Oral Roberts's name came on the headlines. Then everybody ask, "Who is Oral Roberts that people want to shoot him?" And suddenly the graph of his ministry shoots up. I do not recommend that be your method. You never know when the next phase actually begins. You could pick it up in your spirit but it does not flow in a logical manner sometimes as the secular realm because the ways of God are higher than our ways.

I remember how my ministry took off. I was virtually unknown just a Baptist black sheep trying to do his best. Then it so happen that one day God opens the door. Just one day, just once, you have only sometimes you got only one chance. You either make it or you blow it. Just once, I had the opportunity to minister just once in a public meeting in Kuala Lumpur. I was based in Penang. Before that we were already moving in gifts to a certain extent in small, small groups. So when they put me up in a public meeting that was in ALC (Abundant Life Center), I operated the gifts. So people asked, "Who is this guy? From where does he come from? Local person operating the gift." That was when suddenly every meeting I went to after that was packed. The next meeting I went to was in a home. And from that time onwards it just shoot up. And of course together with the cheers are the jeers. There are people you make very glad and there are people you make very mad. As I grow experience in God it seems like a graft. If you take your muscle and press one part, the other part comes out. It seems that this is true in what I call society in partly spiritual realm. Before you are exalted you are humbled.

David seems to understand that. He made mistake one time and his own son was throwing him out of Jerusalem. On his way out there was one guy who was cursing him. His soldiers could have just killed that guy. But he said never mind. Perhaps God who hears this will repay me. He was being humbled. He was being cursed. And he was saying if somebody curses you, somebody else will be made to be your blessing. It is proportional. Before every exaltation there is a humiliation. There is no half, half. For exaltation to take place there must this going down. There is this realm that is operating all the time. I see it so often that it looks like a

pattern. Every time where there is something good, where people are drawn to you like David's mighty army, at the same time there were others will begin to reject you more than ever before.

Your life becomes like a ruler. God uses you as a standard. God puts you in the midst to separate those who are for Him and those who are against Him. As you walk closer and closer with God that literally what Jesus says takes place. Whoever rejects you rejects Him. Whoever accepts you accepts Him. You become the trademark of God. God measures and judges by you. Your life becomes 100% yielded to God. You become the yardstick by which God measures how people accept Him.

There is this law of God that operates in what I call the between the phases. So knowing all these things helps us to prepare for the trails and the testing. You don't have to pray for it. Some people pray God give me more tribulation. There is not a single prayer in the bible that asks us to do that. Instead the prayers in the bible ask for deliverance out of tribulations. The reason you don't have to ask for it is because it does not come from God. It's the devil who is doing it. Instead we should pray for God's deliverance and learn how to come forth, wisdom to come forth. And here are some principles as we see between the phases.

What to do between the phases? Number one we should spend quality and quantity time with God. If you are about to leave a job to start your own business, don't only apply natural principle of research. Perhaps I would suggest to you to go on a three day fast. So it is important to seek God not only in quality time. But during times like that please add quantity. We need to sow into that which is to come. We need to put in intercession for what is to come. Then there is the need to have quality and quantity time; long quantity of time spend in God. And it seems that God always moves in His grace when you do that. He takes what you invest into consideration. And at the next phase as you enter it looks very easy. In fact I would say it is possible to move in a Christian life like this up hill graph all the way. But that is because there are a lot of things holding you up at each phase. And in Jesus' life you see Him in spite and despite of what the response was to Him He just move on in what the Lord asked Him to do. So No.1 there must be quality and quantity time spend in between those phases. It may mean you may need to take a break to go somewhere and be alone with God. What ever it takes you need to have what the bible says alone with God. That is why overnight prayer we do different from 24 hours praying. Overnight night prayer we switch off the lights so that you have a sense of aloneness.

Number two in between those periods there must be what I call a depth, a outpouring, and a full expression of all that is within you. Sometimes it may mean tears. See tears can be good, can be bad. Not all tears are good. Some tears are good and some tears are not good. In the book of 2 Cor.7: 10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted, but the sorrow of the world produces death.* So the bible tells you there are two types of sorrows. One sorrow from the world another sorrow from God. The reason we have to differentiate the two types of tears is this. I know people who have gone through a crisis. Perhaps the death of their loved ones. Perhaps a crisis that means a separation. And the tears come forth unendingly. And they never get away the rest of their lives. The scar they allow to come into their life is so deep that they literally do what they should not do. They allow their past to rule their future. Not only rule, to ruin their future. And so sometimes there are grief and sorrows that we must not allow into our life. Sometimes you do weep and cry but don't let it last long. So there certain sorrows and grief that we should not allow to grip into our life. Some people sometimes they cry over some physical crisis and after that it stays. And they do not allow it to be lifted off. They allow it to come into their life; it is like death coming into you. A person's character can change. A person character can change. A person loses their joy of living. Death starts taking place in their life. It is first death of their social life. They are not the same any more. They cannot have a very loving relationship with people. They become withdrawn to themselves. Then death comes to the own character. They are no more the same. And then finally comes the whole death of their soul. Their souls are no more the same. Their eyes lose the brightness of life. So there is sorrow that we must not allow to dominate our life.

There is another sorrow that comes as a result of travail and being contrite in heart. And that is the type of sorrow that Psalms 126 talks about. Ps.126:5 those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping bearing seeds for sowing shall doubtless come again with rejoicing brining his sheaves with him. Notice the seasons that he talks about. We realize there is season to sow. There is a season to reap. The season of sowing is in between the phases. So the period between the phases is a sowing for the next phase. That is a time for sowing and there is time for reaping. There is a time and place for everything under the sun. So during the sowing there are tears. During the sowing there can be great travail.

I remember after some time of public ministry among the businessmen, because I was a faith preacher, I preach the word of faith without compromise. It was a very controversial thing to say that God wants you to prosper. To say that you can confess what you possess. It is not

easy to preach those truths in those days. But I never believe in compromise because it was a part of my life. So I took a stand on faith. And the controversy was worldwide. Even Kenneth Hagin himself was heavily persecuted. And great big denominations wrote articles, theological thesis against it. It was very hot in those days and heavy. And I remember a decision has to be made whether to go on or not. Finally when the decision was made, I found one chapter closing and another chapter opening. When you read a book sometimes the end of a chapter makes you look forward to the next chapter. In life you do not know what the next chapter is going to be. Who are going to be with you? Who are not going to be with you? I remember in one of the last meetings there. The tears flow forth like a fountain. I understand what Jeremiah says when he says that his eyes were like a fountain.

There were a few friends with me. One of them is a medical doctor. After the meeting I stayed back and knelt at the platform and poured my heart to God because I do not know I where my future lies except in Him. What was to be my next step? I remember I was kneeling at the platform weeping out my heart to God. By the time I finished there was a pool of water, which was my tears. He was the last one there and he came and knelt next to me. When he did that the spirit that was on me came on him. And he said, "I never felt like that before." I said, "Now you understand what travail is like."

People think that ministry is glamorous being in the public life. They are living in a glass house. So after that period there was great relief. I remember three weeks before that there was also another heavy period. I was accused of things that I never did. I was accused of things that I never said. I went through a sort of trial. We had a group of people there asking questions. And I came out from there grieved. I cried for one whole day nonstop. So those who sow in tears, I know what it is like to sow in tears. I know it is like to be broken and crushed until there is nothing left. But it is at that point where God takes you and began to form what He wants out of your life. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. Now that is only part of a life. As I said the normal Christian life is a life of joy. But in between the phases you sow in tears. There are also times when you look back and that are what I call bringing in the sheaves. When the times come for bringing in the sheaves there is joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. When you sometimes see the result of the price you pay. When you see the results of God's grace. There is joy unspeakable and full of glory. And they out-weigh whatever you have ever paid. And you look at it all and you say it is worth it. So there two things when you go between the phases. One is to give quality and quantity time. The other is death. By death I mean spiritual death, emotional death, character death, physical death.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

The message of Jesus to the Laodicean church. Rev.3:14 *And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans. Write these things says the Amen, the faithful the true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish that you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will spit you out of my mouth. Because you say I am rich have become wealthy and have need of nothing. And do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire that you may be rich in white garments that you may be clothed. That the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed and anoint your eyes with eye salve that you may see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on my throne as I also overcome and sat with my Father on His throne. He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Jesus' message to the Laodicean church was that they lack zeal. If you study the book of Revelation and your interpretation is on the seven church ages, you will realize that the last church the Laodicean church points to the church in the last days which is in our times today if you believe that we are living in the last of the last days. Therefore this message is significant as we look into what Jesus ask our modern church to have. The modern church has a tendency to be a take-it-easy kind of church. Our modern civilization is built upon that kind of take it easy concept. It is built on making things as easy as possible. It caters for the pleasure and the ease of life. And the average person living today has the luxury that even kings do not have hundreds of years ago. So this is our time. And this kind of attitude can creep into the church.

Jesus defines the modern church and the Laodicean church the necessity to have zeal. We are continuing the series on the depths of the Spirit. We want to talk about the deep things of God, something that is necessary to move into the fullness of His plan for our life. How do we define zeal? What is zeal? What does the bible define zeal as? When you say that someone is zealous for the Lord, it can mean different things to different people. When a pastor says that church member is zealous, it depends on the pastor what he means. Maybe he means that church member attend church seven days a week. Maybe he means that person is active in twenty departments. Maybe he means that person does overtime for God in his own spare time. That would be one definition of zeal.

But what does Jesus means when He says that the church must be zealous for God. Taking that as an important message to the last days church, we want to talk about the intensity in the spirit world. I define zeal to be intensity in various areas. We could have intensity without spirituality and that would be mere works. Now the intensity that God wants has to be in spirit, soul and body. There are five areas that we show intensity to God.

Whenever God wants to do something He requires human beings move intensely in him. There is no halfhearted business with Him. Those who are halfhearted never receive anything from God. The halfhearted people are people like king Saul who just put up with things. Or some of the kings in the bible in the book of Kings are just halfhearted kings. They didn't receive God's best. They only received a little portion of God's blessing. But there are people who really move into God, whom we would classify as being zealous for God. Elijah, Elisha, Abraham and many others were zealous for God. Paul was another guy who was zealous for God. How do we define spiritual zeal without going into the works of the flesh?

Fasting

There are five primary areas that we define as spiritual zeal. Number one is fasting. Fasting shows your intensity before God. To me if a Christian have never fasted before, they do not know what spiritual zeal is. The modern Christians may not fast.

But long ago in the book of Acts when the church first started fasting it was a part of a Christian life. Unbelievers also fast. Let me talk from the unbelievers' point of view first. Fasting seems

to give intensity to a person's destiny and motivation and goal in their life. Unbelievers like Gandhi went on a protracted fast. Before he went into the fast, the desire to do something for his land and nation was there. But after he went through it in the natural, he came out of it knowing that was his sole purpose in life. He will live and die for that goal. Before that he had a goal. After that, that goal was his destiny. Fasting seems to intensify a person's desire and focus it. It is just like the rays of the sun. You could channel the rays of the sun through a magnifying glass and focus on one point. That one point becomes intensely hot. The heat is already in the light. But when the light is focused the heat becomes intense. And in the same way fasting brings an intensity in our lives.

Now these five areas are inter related to one another. If you succeed in one area it will affect the other areas. So I am only talking about fasting as number one. But they are not number one in a sense of steps. There are 1,2,3,4,5 so that we could see there are five different varieties. You could connect all these things together. Now fasting is the prime area to focus spiritual zeal. As far as the modern church is concerned, it is not used to fasting. Modern life styles do not promote fasting. Intensity of the fasting is necessary.

Lets look at Mark 9: 28-29. When Jesus had come into the house the disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast the demon out? So He said to them this kind can come out by nothing but by prayer and fasting. Cross-reference to Matthew 17 and we realize that it was an answer to verse 19, *The disciples said why could we not cast him out.* And Jesus said something else in verse 20, *Because of your unbelief.* What is unbelief? Unbelief is an inability to apply our faith to something that we know about. Unbelief is not non-belief. Non-belief is complete ignorance and a lack of information. You don't even know about it. But unbelief is when you have received information and you are not able to apply your faith to accept, to utilize and to bring forth the fullness of what that information is supposed to bring in your life. So when the disciples were in a stage of unbelief it means that they had the information, the authority, the principles, they knew according to Matthew 10: 1 which is before Matthew 17 that they had received power and authority to cast out demons. But somehow that information could not be brought up intensely in them. It is just like having the sun and knowing that there was a tremendous amount of heat in the sun but being unable to tap the heat of the sun to our benefit.

You see fasting doesn't do anything to the demons; fasting does something to us that bring forth something out of us that create a pressure on the demons. When Jesus said this kind

does not come forth except by prayer and fasting, He is talking about intensity. If you deal with demonic powers, you will realize that there are stubborn demons and there are lazy demons. There are all kinds of demons out there. Now Jesus is not saying that by fasting something is going to happen to them. He is actually saying that when the disciples fast and pray, something will happen in their life. There will be intensity that will create pressure on the demons. In a state of fasting and prayer, it will not only be the tone of their voice but it is the spiritual intensity that their voice carry that will drive the demon out. Before that they already commanded the demon. Why didn't the demon obey them? It is because they were not focused. There is a difference between a person who has not heard from God and a person who know in himself a hundred percent that he has heard from God and there is no such thing as failure. You have heard from God and it will come exactly to pass. You commanded, "Be healed; get out from your wheel chair." Then another person coming and seeing the condition and say, "O Father God have mercy." It is totally different. One has heard from God, one has not.

Maybe while you are praying a measure of healing takes place. So as a result instead of getting healed they get half healed. The bible never says that they shall lay hand on the sick and they shall be half healed. The bible says they shall be healed but the intensity is not coming out. There is too much doubt and unbelief. It makes a difference between a miracle and a failure. It is just like Peter walking on the water. As he walked on the water just the doubt caused by the waves and immediately he started sinking. He saw the waves and in his mind he remembered what the waves could do. Just that difference. In a public meeting there is difference between an atmosphere of faith and an atmosphere of doubt. That is why if we want to minister with signs and wonders, we have to completely create an atmosphere where people come with a hundred percent faith. Why is it a hundred percent of the people who come to the meeting don't get healed. There is not a hundred percent atmosphere of faith. Let me tell you if there is ninety atmosphere of faith, ninety percent of the sick people will be healed. If there is sixty percent of the atmosphere of faith, sixty percent will be healed. But if you come to a state where there is a hundred percent of atmosphere of faith, you have hundred percent of the people healed. Even in Kathryn Khulman's meeting not everyone is healed but quite a number healed even though the atmosphere there was intense in the presence of God. Yet unlike the intensity that Jesus brought forth.

So one of the things that brings forth intensity and zeal is fasting. Have you ever notice that every time when God wanted to move or when the disciples or people of God were away from God, God said you must come to Me with fasting and prayer.

In a sense He was saying if My people were to humble themselves and pray. Implied in it is fasting because you see them coming back we always see them fasting and praying before God. Such that even a person like Ahab when he humbled himself before God, God says the judgment will not come on him but come on in the next generation. There is a certain intensity that comes out when a person fast. And that will come out of your life when you begin to fast over certain things. I guarantee you that when you began to fast and if it is not of God it will drop off. If it is of God it becomes so much a part of your very blood cells that you cannot differentiate between your own objective and God's objective for you. God's will and your will become one.

So fasting is the number one way to intensify and increase in intensity of what God wants to do in our lives.

Tears

The second is tears. People cry because they are affected deeply. If right now we begin to dim the light and play very soft music, and I were to tell a very sad story, it can bring tears to some of your eyes. Or if an atmosphere that reminds you of some tearful event, it also brings tears. Now people cry and the tears come out because they have grief or sometimes out of abundance of joy can bring tears too. I have seen people laugh until their tears come out. That's the opposite extreme but there is intensity also but it was a positive intensity. Tears are important in the bible. It is the intense people in the bible who bring forth accomplishments. In modern life we are trained to suppress our tears. We don't realize that they are a part and a parcel of the development of our emotion.

Turn with me to Hebrews 5: 7, *Who in the days of His flesh when He had offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him.* One of the pre-conditions of Jesus being fulfilling His call and having the answer from God and the assurance from God was that Jesus came intensely to God. None of us has possibly come to that kind of intensity that He has come through in the garden of Gethsemane when He was so intense that His blood vessels broke and blood came out. But every time when there is intensity involved the things that moves you are those things that moves you to tears. And whenever you are not able to shed tears, you have become lethargic in the things of God. I am not saying that

always when you come to God you must mourn and cry. But I am talking about tenderness of heart that must always be there.

When I come to the presence of God there are different degrees of His presence. But there is a certain experience of His presence that moves you to tears. But if over a long period of time I have not shed tears, I will say, "God my heart has become too harden; soften it again." I need my heart to be what the bible call soft and tender. If in your prayer life you have not cried for sometime, you better check your life whether it has gone too hard. Usually backsliding and hardness of heart come together. Whenever you have done something wrong you cannot weep before God, then that is how hard your heart has become. Whenever you sense a presence of God you feel joy but there are times that you so moved but the tears cannot come out, then there is something wrong also. Perhaps the dullness of the world has crept into your heart so that you could not be moved anymore.

A harden heart is an enmity to being led by the Spirit. The easiest way to be led by the Spirit is being tender hearted. There are a lot of people who want to be led by the Spirit. But they are not contrite enough for the Spirit to lead them. They don't realize how gentle the Spirit is. He is so gentle that if your heart is just slightly hard, you cannot feel Him anymore. But He is so gentle that only a heart that is tender hearted according to the tender heartedness that is qualified in the bible then you could feel His move. You could discern His leading. Tears are an important element of intensity. A person who can cry is someone who will be very intense in other things that they do. And people who cannot you find that they lose some sort of intensity in their life. You have become satisfied and complacent with just getting along.

The second area of tears deals with your emotions. When your emotions can no longer be touched, you have lost some level of intensity. Sometimes intensity starts with one of these five areas. You could see some people who are normal Christian (by normal I mean not in the bible normal but the normal of the modern world which is usually below God's standard) just come to church go home and have a normal life and everything normal. Don't get too zealous and don't be backslidden. Just be somewhere barely getting along. Don't do too much don't do too little. Just get a ticket to heaven. That kind of normal. And then suddenly one day that person is touched by perhaps the presence of God or a word or a book or something that moves a person to tears. You see that one area begins to attack the rest. And because of that one incident that person starts repentance seven days a week. These are five different areas. If you could be touched by one of these areas the intensity will flow to other areas. Perhaps a

nominal Christian hears a message on fasting. He has never attempted a fast before but for the first time begins an attempt. Then after a period of three days fast or seven days fast something does happen to that person. Intensity comes into the Christian that was never there before. Anyone one of these areas can bring the intensity and the zealousness back to the Christian.

Rejoicing

The third area of intensity is what I call a rejoicing. We will look at the book of Second Samuel 6: 14, *Then David dance before the Lord with all his might* and David was wearing a linen ephod. It says David danced with all his might. Now that is the third form of intensity, being able to rejoice and being expressive in intensity. That looks like in the area of emotions but it is more than that. It is an area of the will. You see intensity of your fasting deals with your spirit. Although it deals with your flesh too but basically it comes from your spirit. The only thing that can sustain you in any spiritual fast is your spirit man inside you. Any just normal natural discipline of fasting for diet reason or whatever is different. But the spiritual intensity of your spirit can sustain any length of fast.

The third area is what I call the expression of joy. Expression of joy has to do with intensity. Someone who could worship God freely like David who couldn't care what people think of him. His own wife commented on how he dressed. He says I worship God the way I want. He was so caught up with that joy that he couldn't be bothered about trying to be a dignified king. He just wanted to rejoice in the Lord. In the same way you just feel the joy of jumping and dancing as you are worshipping God, you have a shy nature so you control yourself. After about ten of years of control, there is some intensity that you lost. Finally something happened and you couldn't control any more or rather you let go. And so for the first time you really released yourself and danced to the Lord. Perhaps you started in your own bedroom. You really rejoiced before the Lord. Something clicked inside you. Its like the scales dropping from you. Its like the fetters and the chains that are holding you dropped off from you. I will guarantee you if you reached the stage where you are willing, ability is no question, because dancing onto the Lord don't need any training except your joy in the Lord. Nobody is going to tell you to dance three steps forward two steps backwards. Dancing to the Lord doesn't deal with your ability. It deals more with your choice. Then one day you couldn't care any more. You just choose to rejoice before Him. And you let go of yourself freely. From that day onwards it moves into other departments of your life. You began to be more zealous for

the Word. You see when you do something it has some intensity after that. Why, you are like David you worship God with all your might.

The third area deals more with your choice although you will think it is emotion. All you have to do is to make a choice. Once you make a choice you go ahead with that intensity or worship. Something breaks from you. We don't necessarily worship God because we feel good. We worship God because we love Him. And we want to rejoice before Him. Like I may wake up in the morning, my feelings may not wake up yet but my spirit wakes up. I would want to worship God. I would stir my soul, like David says bless the Lord O my soul. You begin to worship God intensely. The sad thing is that many people can only do that in their bathroom. In the bathroom they will sing Bless the Lord O my soul until the door rattle. But when they come to the church they sing very softly. What happened to that intensity? You know why people can do that so easily in their bathroom? Because that's when they are most relaxed. Sad to say that when they come to church they are very tensed up. Who is watching me? The deacon is watching me; the pastor is watching me. So in the end they cannot worship God because everybody is watching them. They shut off and the intensity disappears. They couldn't make that choice. It has to do with the choice when you decide to worship God.

Discipline

Fourth area that develop zeal is what I call discipline. Discipline is ability where you develop habits. I think Daniel would be an exemplary guy in discipline. In the book of Daniel 6: 10, *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home and in his upper room with his window open towards Jerusalem he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as was his custom from early days.* I would say that even if a person could regularly do something. Even though the person missed out something on the other three areas where they don't have tears, they don't fast and they are not very expressive in their joy, and they develop the fourth area it does produce intensity in their life. Because no ordinary person without some form of training will be able to develop a habit continuously like Daniel until he was an old man. By king Darius' time, Daniel was an old man. He lived under Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar's son and grandson. The last king was his grand son. Although in the bible they have a favorite way to say that the son of Nebuchadnezzar. Even great grand father they also call son. Jesus was called the son of David although David and Jesus were so far away in genealogy. If you read bible history you will realize that he lived quite long. And this was in his old age. Yet Daniel has a very disciplined habit.

For example if somebody tells me that for forty years they have been getting up at four in the morning without fail except for a few times and prayed for forty years, I will say that guy has zeal. But what area of zeal? It is in the fourth area in discipline. Cornelius who did not know the Lord yet had that in Acts chapter ten. He frequently pray, fasted and gave alms. He even did the first area of fasting. These are expressions that develop zeal in a person life.

Now this fourth area discipline and habit if you examine it very carefully has more to do with the mind. Without a mental discipline you cannot have a social discipline. Or habit discipline in your life. A person who gets up at four every morning like John Wesley throughout his entire life and ministry has a very disciplined mind. He sets it as a custom and a habit. You may have a different discipline. Some people have a discipline of praying one hour in tongues every day. These are all disciplines that you develop and incorporate in a person's life. It is a discipline of doing something. You will notice that it has to do more with your mental habit. You have ingrained it into yourself. Going to church regularly also is a discipline. It has become such a habit that your don't even think about Sunday. You straightaway go to church. But do you know not going to church is also a bad habit. All you have to do is to miss one Sunday. And you find a few things to do on that Sunday. Then the second Sunday you miss it again. And by the third or fourth Sunday it's a habit. You got things to do for the Sunday. So it becomes a bad habit on the reverse. Going to church is a good habit. So wherever you go anywhere on this planet earth and if it was a Sunday, you will be looking for a place to worship. If you cannot find you probably get down on your knees and worship God wherever you are. Because you are so used to giving God that Sunday to worship. It's a discipline that builds zeal. Without zeal you cannot have God's best.

No one from Genesis to Revelation has ever got whatever God has best for them without zeal being demonstrated. We are not talking about getting the good things. We are not talking about getting the better things. We are talking about getting the best things from God. And if you are one of those who want the best that God has in your life, there need to be a demonstration of zeal before God. You want to live at the level that you could consider super and not just getting along. Before you heard this message probably you have heard that Christians must be zealous. But you don't know how to be zealous. What does he mean by being zealous? We do more good works. As a result when Christians hear, "Be zealous," they go back and do more good works. To them that is zeal. That's not the bible definition of zeal.

You demonstrate your zeal by developing these areas. Number one fasting, number two tears, number three rejoicing before God, number four discipline a spiritual habit and number five is endurance. It looks like the same as number four but its slightly different because number four is a habit that comes forth first from the development of your mind. That is why a person with a weak mind cannot be very disciplined to make a quality decision and carry it through. A weak minded person will be weak willed and they cannot carry it out.

Endurance

But the fifth area is interesting. I call it endurance and it has to do with physical endurance, physical stamina. It is to be able and willing to push physically to the limits. Now you cannot do that perpetually and get away with it. But there is a certain time and certain place that is permissible in God. For example if I am involved in a project and it is not completed in a time schedule I will give up sleep to finish it. I will push this body as much as I can and after that I know how to get a good rest. But sometimes I work together with others and I find they don't have this kind of zeal. A project is due and I know according to my calculation if we don't do twenty hours of work on that and cut it down to four hours sleep, I know we cannot do a very good job. We can only get by. Yet when I began to work closely and fellowship with people, I realize that these people are still stuck to the eight hours of work. If they finished the eight hours that's it close shop go home. You know what it is. These people have no zeal.

If Jesus kept to eight hours job we are all finished. That is why the life of a minister is like a doctor on call. In a sense you have your discipline where you realize you must have your priorities right. But yet at the same time you realize that souls are at stake. You know that if you give yourself to one thing like for example some people go to the extreme where they are constantly visiting, visiting and they don't have personal time with God. So their ability to minister to people while they visit lessens. Why, they don't have enough time with God. So their spiritual power and presence of God drops. Where normally it would take them half an hour to minister to a person with spiritual result, now it takes them four hours.

The other extreme is they spend so much time with God and they don't fellowship with human beings any more. They are just with God. The only difference they don't talk with people. So as a result their spiritual nature is developed but their social nature is not developed. These

people tend to have problems in their personal life. They may not be very good in developing their family life because that takes a social skill. They may not be very good at making business decision of life. They may have tax problems; they may have financial problems. But they are fantastic in spending time with God. You may say wouldn't God take care of him because he spend so much time with God. No, God doesn't excuse you for laziness. God is not going to fill up your income tax form for you. Even if you fast and pray for fortyeight hours, all God does is to give you the skill to do it.

I remember this young man in the Lord who had a vision of Jesus in his living room. And Jesus told him about his ministry. Then he changed his direction and did something that Jesus told him to use. While Jesus was in the room his tape recorder broke down. He asked Jesus, "Since You are here, why not You repair my tape recorder too?" Jesus said, "I can only do it through you." Do you know what Jesus is saying? If you really want Me to do it, you must listen to Me and tap on My wisdom and I give you the ability and then through your hands I will do it. So in that sense we are looking at this area of endurance where there is a balance that is necessary. Some will spend all their time in the world. Some will spend all their time with the Lord. And they need to balance the two to be a balanced person in God.

In the 1950s revival there were a lot of small little children who received powerful anointing and call of God. Some of the six years old stand on the chair lay hand on the people and getting the blind healed. By the time they grew up to be teenagers and they are in their twenties they forsook the Lord and went into the world. Even though they are now in their thirties none of them are with God. What was the problem? The problem was that whoever their parents were develop their spirituality without developing their soul. So they grew up never knowing what childhood was. They grew up never knowing what the requirements or the choices of life as a teenager. All those are involved to make intelligent choices. In other words their spirit grew but their soul never grew. And by the time they grew up and as an adult you got to face the world. They have nothing to draw from. So they couldn't take it and they left. And not a single one of them today are around. That is why a teenager can receive an anointing from God and be powerful. But they are like a little firecracker instead of being a rocket that has a continuous fuel. Why because they have the spiritual capacity but they don't have the soul capacity. When you begin to move into the things of God, you realize that without a balance you cannot survive since God made you spirit, soul and body.

Now here we are talking about the last quality endurance. There is something about a person willingness to push themselves to the limit. Its just like you have bought a new car. See any

new car need a period of what I call breaking in if your car has gone to the maximum, and then you go to the minimum speed. Once it has broken in, it is very nice driving. All the time you are always driving your car at 50 km per hour. Somehow your car has not been pushed to the limit. But if all the time your car is only 50 km per hour for ten years, that car have never been broken in and by that time it is very hard to break in. Even like a horse. You know those horses that people ride today so nicely. That horse has to be broken in. And that breaking in process is what I call endurance. If you are ever in anything for the Lord and you have never known what is to push yourself to the limits you don't know where your real norm is, I don't recommend that you do it all the time without the leading of the Lord. What do you mean by real norm? Sometimes your friends, your parents and your own mind tell you what your norm is. But you never realize what you can do for God. Sometimes God is merciful and He permits something so that He pushes us, and you say, "I didn't know I could do that." Then after that you became comfortable with it. Why, you are pushed to do it. Which is why a lot of people their talents are discovered by accident because they happened to be the replacement.

I am sure like Philip and Stephen, Stephen died but Philip was one of those deacons carrying things for the widows, serving them in Acts eight. Nobody knew that inside that guy who was like a waiter all the time was this big time evangelist who in a few days can turn the whole city upside down. Who will ever dream that some of you guys what is inside your spirit right now? You may say who is that skinny little guy who sits on the second last row. What good can come out of Nazareth? You never know one day when you are just chosen and just happened to be a replacement for somebody else. All of a sudden all these fantastic things come out. And people say where do you come from. It was inside you all the time. The big time evangelist was inside all the time. But their own minds have set their own limits.

It is just like they take this huge big elephant and tie it to a small little stick. And the elephant will just remain there. But actually the elephant could easily pull that stick out. But what happened is they have taken and tied it to something strong. The elephant has been pulling and pulling for months until the elephant thought that there is no way it can get out of this thing. So the elephant's mind clicked and accepted the fact that it can never pull that chain out. The elephant has been broken in. After that the elephant trainer can tie the elephant to any stick. Anything that even a human being can just pull out. But the elephant just feel a slight pressure and say I know no need to try.

It is important for us to understand this principle of endurance. You do not know your true capacity until you have reached the limit. Its just like people who don't push to the endurance to the limits. They are like the Israelites before they enter and fight. They haven't even fought and they say we are defeated. Just because that guy is a big bulwark they say sons of Anakim are tall we are like grass hoppers before them.

I remember Jerry Sevell telling this story. Jerry Sevell is a very small size guy. In school he was always among the smaller size. There was this big tough school bully. He was bullying all the other kids in school. One day this bully came after this Jerry Sevell. So Jerry took one look at him and surrendered everything. No need to fight. Do you know gangsters who ask for protection also use this kind of psychological warfare? No fight they just say you know me. Just like the devil. You know what will happen. Just the element of fear is enough. They haven't even tested. And so this bully took Jerry Sevell's money. When Jerry came home, the father asked what happened to all the money. His father gave him a beating. The father says you get everything back or else. Now here is Jerry being stuck between his father's belt and the big bully. If he doesn't face the bully he has to face his father's belt. So the next day he came to this bully. Again this bully wanted to get some more things from him. But it is like some of us. We don't want to move until we have a choice of two evils. When you have a choice of good and evil, you don't want to move. A choice of two evils then you say let me take the lesser one. So here he is facing this bully. He says as he was standing before this bully and remembered the belting he got from his father, a thought strike him. Nobody had really fought this bully before. All he had is his big size and he just walked around. Everybody was scared. In fact he said that nobody in the school had ever fought that bully before. And by that time he was in a sort of terrorized anger. Before the bully could say anything, this Jerry Sevell small as he was, was all over the bully. He was surprised that the bully went down. He said after that the bully was his friend. But this is where he has not reached his limits until that fight.

It just like you have your old car. Even though the speedometer may show how many miles you can go you don't really know. There is no way but to test it out. So you went on the highway and by ninety it was shaking. Then you know ninety cannot. So you go down to eighty. At eighty km per hour the window just shake. So you also say eighty cannot. So now you go down to seventy and it just nice. So now you have discovered the endurance of your old car. Your body is your car that your spirit is in right now and your soul is driving it. And there are limits in all areas. A lot of people accept it as a fact of life without testing it. People say you can only do in one area. You can be a Jack-of-all-trades and master of none. But never accept

a limit. I rather test it out myself and find out my own limit. You know your limit in some areas. Physical limits like prayer. How long you can spend your time in prayer or getting up early in the morning. Some people have a physical limit some don't. Some people get up at four in the morning. They heard the message about seeking God in the morning. Early will I seek thee O God. But their usual time of waking is nine a.m. So they get up at four a.m. by the third month their eyes were bloody and black. Then you know that somehow they are rushing it. Do you know that your body also has to be trained to get up early? If you have been getting up at nine in the morning and suddenly you get up at four in the morning your body may not take it. So we have to test our physical endurance.

I am talking about working for the Lord in some areas you got to test it out. Some of you heard people say normally you can never go longer than so many hours praying in tongues. You have never tested it yourself. Until you tried it you don't know your real limits are. Some of us have not pushed ourselves for the Lord's work to the limit yet. Because you have not done that you cannot move back to your norm. If I buy an old car and I know that at 70 the windows are shaking at 80 the whole car shake, then I will probably drive at 60. When you overtake a car you drive at 70 but you find you cannot overtake that car so you come back to 60. You know your limit and you come back to your norm.

Your endurance is not your norm. Your endurance is your maximum capacity. We have to discover our maximum output. I know my maximum I can go for three days without sleep. After your body has been tested it has been broken into. In other words your body began to accept. Spirit you are the master before that the body wants to be master. So when your spirit wants to do something your body says no. You want to pray in tongues for two hours, your body says cannot one hour will do. So your body fights with you. And you push your body and finally you push your body to eight hours tongues. Then you come down to four hours it is nothing one hour is peanuts. See you have pushed to your endurance.

Same like fasting. Some people find it a struggle just to fast one day. But they have never pushed their bodies to the limit. Now this area you got to be very careful not to destroy your body since we are talking about a highly stress situation. But I am talking about once in a while when there is an opportunity. When you know that there is something that is required of God. Once in a while I get into that kind of situation where I have about five things to do. And they all have a time schedule. I push myself to the limit then after that I get my rest. But for a lot of people give up. Now God will not put you in a situation where perpetually you are always

having the five things to do. Always running at 120 km per hour. And as a result you live a very short life. Your body cannot stand that kind of stress. I am talking about zeal for God.

I have fellowshiped and worked with different groups and different peoples. Sometimes I find people lacking zeal. I am prepared to work longer. I say as long as this thing needs to be done I will make sure it goes through. Some people will say it is check out time. In God there is no check out time because God goes by completion. When you are called to something, you must finish it.

Paul who wrote a major portion of the New Testament has all these five qualities. That made him head and shoulders above the rest. If you are talking about getting God's best you will find all these five things. In the book of Acts 9 the very first day of his conversion he fasted three days. What type of fast was it? Look at Acts 9:9 carefully. It was a total fast with no food and no water. That was a baby Christian. You can see that he is someone if he is turned to God he is 100% for it; there are no half measures with him. This is the kind of person that Jesus can use to change the world. We are talking about world changers tonight. We are not talking about mediocre Christianity. If you are the type of people who want to change the world, you join the group of over comers to whom are promised the special blessings. He tells us in Second Corinthians 11: 27, *In weariness and toil, in sleeplessness, often in hunger and thirst, in fasting often*. In other words he often fasted. He had a certain zeal for God. And he sought God with fasting. That was why that one man changed and shook the world. When he enters a town the entire town was shaken. Do you know now why we have one thousand Christians and they cannot even touch the fringe of the city? Where are the hundred thousand Christian in this nation? And why are they not turning the nation right side up? All are prepared to do are mediocre measures. It is going to take a long time. If it takes one thousand volts of Holy Spirit power to shake a nation, and if everyone alone has one micro mini volt, it is going to take a lot of people to reach one thousand volts. But if you have just two guys with 500 volts, they will shake the entire nation. I am talking in terms spiritual voltages of zeal for God. That is why one Jesus is enough to shake the entire universe because He was hundred percent given up for God.

One Paul was enough. One Elijah was enough. But too many are mediocre and work in half measures. The Laodicean church was asleep. Jesus is knocking on the door. Paul was a man who fasted often he has developed a certain zeal in God. The second area is tears. If you could be intense in all five areas, you must be a spiritual giant. Not all Christians are intense in all

five. Some are intense in one or two areas. But the second area Paul was intense in is his tears. The things he ministered about affected him right to the core of his spirit. He is all for God and nothing for the devil. Just for some background in Acts 19:10 *And he continued there for two years in the school of Tyrannus until all in Asia heard the word.* And verse 11, *God worked unusual or special miracles by the hands of Paul.* Because of the work in Ephesus the entire region called Asia Minor heard the gospel through one man's ministry. How is that? Look at Acts 20: 31, *Therefore watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn every one night and day with tears.* He told Timothy in Second Timothy 1 how he desired to see his tears that he may rejoice. Only a man who understood the value of tears can rejoice to see it in another. Verse 4, *Greatly desiring to see you being mindful of your tears that I may be filled with joy.* Why should he be filled with joy to see his tears? Because he knows then Timothy will be a hundred percent affected by whatever God has in his life.

Doesn't it feel good when you are able to cry? A lot of people cry for natural things and crisis and grief. They have a right to do it when it is something that is humane and compassionate. But when we are able to come to God and be taken up by the intensity of God's heart and be able to weep over those things, your life will never be the same. I know fasting has changed my entire life. I know that every time when I reached a point where I have no more strength or something that affects me deeply and I weep my nights before God, as the tears drop down I feel the rain was dropping in my spirit. I feel the strength coming in. Some of you may have felt it. I am not talking about ordinary crying. I am talking about weeping before God. That as you kneel down before God in your own private chamber that as those tears come down you feel a hot flush going right through you. It relieves something. It could be any area but you feel it intensely. Your entire being is absorbed in it.

Intensity is what Paul had. I learned to maintain a broken contrite spirit through tears because I know God likes it. The bible says in Isaiah 66 how God looks for those with contrite spirit. And I said, "God this is something you want to see. How do I maintain it?" God said, "You must always be easily moved by My promises and by the things of God through tears." In the early days of my ministry I have to learn this secret. In the early days of my ministry as I launched forth where I began to move in the gifts of the Spirit I became very busy in God. Then I reached a point where I could not cry for souls. I came to God and said, "God its different the freshness is no more there." Do you know how I keep fresh? I cried. If ever a minister of God cannot cry before God for souls or for his kingdom, they lose their freshness and they began to taste like stale bread.

As long as they have tears like Paul had in God, no matter what subject they teach you would say there is something fresh there. There is something fresh and intense. A lot of people are getting stale bread because their ministers have not wept any more. Some ministers have never cried for souls for years. And if that is the picture, there is something very wrong. Paul cried every night before God. Jesus cried. I reached a point and I say God you got to give me your tears to cry. It was not easy but He did. Most of the time when I am in His presence I always cry because there is something about His presence that melts me. As long as I can weep in God's presence I maintain my freshness with God.

The third thing is the joy that Paul had. In the book of Philippians he says rejoice and again I say rejoice. You are familiar with Acts 16 his back together with Silas' was beaten. Locked up in chains at midnight they sang to God. You see Paul moves to the very extreme in intensity when he was persecuted and bleeding. I am giving you for my life. These are the things I show you are the depths and deep things of the Spirit. How do I maintain with thousands of things in my heart to do for the body of Christ. The pressure is intense. But anytime when I need His grace and strength for me I just take up my guitar and start worshipping Him. At times when there is misunderstanding, persecutions will come in cycles from time to time. And you feel it intensely in your soul. The hurt is there. It hurts especially if it is not true. Just take up the guitar and worship God.

Paul with Silas lifted up their voices. The first time I ever dance onto the Lord was in a camp in of denominational church. I had never danced before since I am a very conservative person like most of you. And the majority of people are very conservative. You realize it usually a few people dancing all the time. Now they say the dancers are going into the crowd and select who ever they want to dance with. Then one of them came to me. I was just co-operative don't know how to dance but just move the legs. When I did that unknown to anyone there I felt a hot wave move into me. Like fetters dropping off. And from that time onwards it was easy to be expressive onto God. Those of you who have known me may have some very old tapes about ten years ago. You will notice the preaching is different because my personality has changed. It has changed because of these other areas have slowly filtered into the soul.

In the other different areas that Paul had. Look at the book of Acts 19: 9, *When some were hardened and did not believe but speak evil of the Way, he departed from them and withdrew with his disciples reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.* That is a very tedious work. Everyday you got to debate with people. That is a discipline that Paul had. He had a discipline

to be able to teach and preach every day. Some people find it hard even to preach once or twice a week. Paul preached everyday possibly about three times a day. That is something of what I call zeal. We need to develop that same discipline that he developed in his life too as we move into the things of God. We need to have zeal to do the things of God, and zeal to read the word. Some of you are disciplined in reading the Word. This is one area you show zeal to God.

The fifth and last area is endurance. In the book of Second Corinthians 11, look at the endurance Paul had physically. See physical endurance does produce certain tenacity for spiritual things. That is why a person who is very hardworking in the world, when they are born again and come into God, they also tend to be very hardworking. They retain their tenacity in spiritual things. A person who is lazy when they are born again sometimes they are lazy in the things of God. Second Corinthians 11: 27, *In weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often*. Look at Paul's endurance. Sometimes when I hear people training in ministry, they are so conscious of the modern things. These people cannot change the world. The people who can change the world are people who are willing to pay the price in all these five areas. That is why many times the second generation cannot change the world and do the things the first generation did. Why, the second generation is complacent. They don't understand the price that is involved.

Look at all those people in the world talented. Lets say a classical pianist. You ask that person how much they practice. Ask those who break world records. How many times a day they run. No body receives any thing without some form of endurance coming forth. And that kind of endurance is necessary in the spiritual realm also. Unless we have the intensity like Paul has, sorry to say, you can't change the world. But thanks be to God if you can catch a hold of this area of zeal, we can produce world changers, a group of people who will pay the price for anything. If they believe what God has given to them, they pay the price for it. Paul went through all these things. Like a minister I know wanted to build his church. He wanted to build it without cost. No way, anyone who wants to build a church must pay a price. As I was talking to a young minister who was building his church, I asked him what do you have to give to God. Don't ask others to give until you have given your best. Unless you have given your best into it then only you see others being moved to give the rest in. But there are times where God will give you a blessing for all our sacrifices.

It is important for us to understand these five principles because of Jesus Christ and our modern society needs zeal. I think Christians living in cities sometimes are more complacent because of distractions. The village Christians with no T.V. and worldly entertainment give all their time for God. City Christians tends to be lazy and complacent. And it's a rebuttal to our modern civilization. We have the ease of living in a city but we must not lose the zeal. How do we do the zeal? Five areas. And one important test is fasting. Which is why I say for the village people to go to church, they go through the rivers, the jungle and then they reach the prayer meeting God does a great revival, great move of God, visions, angels came and ministered to them. City folks Christians just hop into a car; if there is no transport, don't want to come. Then we ask a question, "Why is there no revival?" We need revival and we are talking about stirring up all the things of God in our life. We can have it but we must show forth our zeal in God. Whosoever will be zealous for God, God will be zealous for them. God wants us to show our zeal. Why, our zeal shows how much we really love Him.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

THREE CLASSIFICATIONS OF PRAYER

In this message, we want to talk about three classifications of prayer. The bible tells us in the book of Ephesians 6 that there are many types of prayer. It says in the Greek *praying with all prayers*. Some translations say *praying with all manner of prayer*. That tells us that there are more than three types of prayer. We are not talking about the types of prayer. We are saying that there are many types and categories of prayer. But of all the different categories we could classify the prayers in terms of the Outer Court prayers, the Holy Place prayer and the Most Holy place.

We are approaching from a different perspective. We have taught on the three different classifications of prayer. We have prayers that are always in the Outer Court. And those are usually prayers for our needs, physical, mental and financial and all those needs that are in our lives. Those are Outer Court prayers. We realize that there are tremendous needs in that area and we are not saying to get rid of them. But we are saying that there is a perspective. Just like in the Lord's Prayer you could analyze it and realize that within the Lord's Prayer, there is the Holy Place, the Most Holy Place and there is the Outer Court where Jesus taught us to pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

Then there is a Holy Place prayer which revolves around the gifts, the ministry of God, the desire for God to use us and that our lives to be a blessings to others. That also is in special realm in itself. There is a necessity for that realm. For the bible tells us in First Corinthians 14 in regard to all the various ministries, and the things of harmony that needs to be there in the church. Then Paul concludes by saying that we should covet earnestly the best gift. Without a desire we cannot develop the gifts of God. So there is realm for Holy Place prayer.

And of course there is the highest realm, which is the Most Holy place. A prayer where you just only want God and more of God. All you desire is for God to be in you and you in God. And there is deep realm that we have touched upon before.

We want to talk about this same classification but in a totally different way and different area. We could examine every bible promise and every bible prayer and you could classify them as functioning in each of these realms. But we are going to look at them differently.

In the realm of the Outer Court the area of prayer has to do with areas of faith. For example the prayer of faith functions in the Outer Court. Without faith we cannot receive anything from God. And we need to learn to pray the prayer of faith for Outer Court prayers to be successful. Now Outer Court prayers and those prayers that we pray affect things or affect circumstances within our own life is the first category and the lowest.

Then as you go deeper is the second category where you alone are not able to bring about the answer to those prayers. There are certain prayers that you could pray and you will always receive. Just like Kenneth Hagin used to say that he has never prayed a prayer in which he did not receive from God. But if you read carefully, he qualifies it by saying that it was prayers in regard to his own personal needs. There are prayers that regard other people's will and free choice. And that he doesn't classify under those prayers of faith.

So there is a second realm of prayer where it requires others to fulfill or bring about the answer to the prayer. For example if you are praying for your loved ones, you can fast all you want but their free choice is still involved. Therefore it is slightly different. You cannot classify this kind of prayer under the first category since the first category is only in regard to your own free choice. When we begin to touch on a free will of another person it enters the second category where for the prayer to be answered it involves other people and other circumstances.

The third and deepest and highest level of prayer that we are going to touch on in this message is where when you pray there is totally no necessity for you to do anything except for you to move into the realm of God.

We could outline it this way. In the first category you need to do something. You need to act, you need to say, you need to believe. That's all in the external realm.

In the second category you need people, you need to have some sort of input into other people in order for the prayer to be answered.

In the third category, which is the highest your only input is into God. In the third category it looks like as if you are doing nothing except praying. You do not even lift one finger. There is completely no work except that prayer is a hundred percent in God in prayer.

In proportion the first category would be possibly be in line with what Thomas Edison said, "One percent spiritual inspiration and ninety nine percent believing God and acting on your faith." Work is ninety nine percent; inspiration is one percent. In the second category it would be like fifty percent prayer fifty percent work.

We realize that there is a certain type of prayer that will not take place. You could pray until the cows come home and it won't work. Depend on the classification. There are certain types of prayer that you could pray for example if you are praying for your own financial need. And you could pray and pray and yet it doesn't come to pass for it doesn't fall into the third category. If you classify it wrongly and you act wrongly, you may die of starvation and suddenly find yourself up in heaven.

And God asks, "Why are you home so early? You say, "Lord I was believing You for my finances." God says, "As far as your finances are concerned, did not my Word say that I will prosper the work of your hands. So without your hands there is no prosperity."

There are certain area of prayer that we need to realize can only take place when we hear from God. A lot of people are praying for finances but they are not doing anything about it. You could believe God for ten million dollars. And it will not come to you unless you also hear the one percent the voice of God and act on what God tells you to do. The Lord is not going to send Gabriel with ten million dollars and escorted by Michael in case the devil stops him half way. He is not going to do that to you.

But in the second category in order for the prayer to work, you need to involve other people. In other words you may have to share with them your vision. You may have to share with them what you received from God. And bring other people's heart and mind into the picture in order for it to come to pass.

In the first classification it is only yourself and God and your hands. However in the third category of classification is so deep that literally there is zero works. Or if you want to put prayer as work then is one percent physical work in the sense of taking care of yourself and maintaining your physical stamina and ability to give yourself to ninety nine percent prayer. At the third classification is ninety nine percent prayer and one percent work. Sometimes we receive the revelation of God through experience first where we know that there is something there. But we cannot understand it yet. We know that there is something that is real that is tangible but we cannot sort of put it into words or describe it with the Word. Revelations are many times received that way. We receive it in our spirit first before we receive it in our mind. That is why we know it in our spirit but we cannot express it with our mind and understanding.

In the early days of my ministry I came across several spots of revival here and there that took place when people gathered together in deep prayer. Among one of them was an early move of God in a little province in Penang in a little Baptist Church. What happened was one day there was this senior student. And they were having a move of God. That was also when the East Malaysians were there. A group of them were bringing forth the same revival that they have in 1970s. 1970s there was a move of God among the Kadazans and some of the students came over. They started gathering and they were praying in the little church which was in Bukit Mertajam. By the time I went there the move was sort of dying off. The students were leaving due to a lack of teaching. I heard about some of the testimonies and all that God has done.

There is a realm when you pray seemingly you do almost nothing. I put it as one percent but ninety nine percent is just solid praying. Where your prayer is so solid that you could literally carry a person from out of nowhere right into the place where you want him to be. There is a realm of prayer call the third classification. How to get into that realm is what we are going to touch on tonight. It is not easy to get into that realm. It takes tremendous concentration and intensity. There is a realm that we touch on from time to time where literally at the very moment where we enter into certain wrestling in the Spirit. Something actually physical manifest forth.

We want to look into that realm and see how to function in this realm here. The Outer Court area we can easily function if we understand the walking in faith etc. But the second and the third realm are very interesting areas. Lets look first at some prayers and classify them.

In the book of Nehemiah 1, Nehemiah heard the news about the walls of Jerusalem being in shambles. Nehemiah 1: 4. Many people only know about the first realm and the second realm but they don't know how to move into the third realm. Verse 4, *So it was when I heard these words that I sat down and wept and mourned for many days. I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.* Nehemiah had a certain level of intensity. For something to capture your thought so much that you cry over a period of many days, it has to have an impact upon your emotions, upon your spirit and upon your mind. There was a certain level of intensity he felt. He even went into fasting and praying. However in spite of the intensity, the thing he prayed about requires the second classification. Part of it has to be through many other people to be fulfilled. He prayed about the city of Jerusalem wanting it to be glorified once again. And it gripped his spirit so much that the intensity flows forth. Have you notice that even as he has the intensity, the whole story of Nehemiah tells us that he somehow has to communicate it to somebody. The king saw him in that intense state of mourning. The king asked, "Why are you sad?" He has never been sad in the king's presence. Even after the king gave him the permission and the legal authority to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah had to go back to Jerusalem and there he had to gather all the Israelites leaders and convey to them what was in his heart. And the rest of the book of Nehemiah tells us how they married prayer and works. That they work as hard as they pray.

There was no way that he could apply the third classification where all he has to do is to give himself 24 hours a day to visualize and to pray. And then all the stones in Jerusalem started moving together. There was no way he could move into the third classification because there

are certain types of prayer that cannot move into the third classification. And certain types of prayer cannot move from the first into the second classification. Here in the second classification in Nehemiah prayer. He understood there is a necessity to soil and to dirty his hands. To carry the bricks, to do the hard work involved in his vision and in the prayer that God has shown him.

Even though we learnt these three realms, it doesn't mean that you could just decide and say I think I will use the third classification. You can't. What we want to show forth however that there is a certain level where you reach where you can touch and contact the third classification. But what we are pointing to tonight is that it comes with an extreme intensity that needs a supernatural anointing to reach into that realm. Almost like Moses forty days of fasting without food and water. In the natural you cannot go more than three days without food and water. And with water alone you may survive for seven days. But to go for forty days without food and water takes a supernatural enhancement. It takes a supernatural impartation to come into a person's life to sustain the cells and the physical state of a person. But there is that realm.

How do we move from the second realm into the third realm? There are a lot of things in the second realm that is higher than the first realm. The first realm we realize there is a certain intensity of faith. But it is different. In the first realm you know that you have received when you have move into that realm of faith. And your conscience bears witness with your spirit that that is the level of your faith. And when you walk out with a vision in your heart with a faith in your heart, you could say what you want and the mountain will move. You could act on what you want and you would receive what you want. That is the first realm.

But the second realm is important because it is from the second realm that it can lead us into the third realm. It is in the second realm that we experience some of the intensity that takes place in the third realm. You cannot even call it prayer of faith because it is something beyond. The prayer of faith is believing that you received once and after that giving thanks to God. But in these other realms we are talking about intensity. We are not even talking about repetition. We are talking about intensity.

Lets look at Acts 12 and see one of those prayers in the third realm. How do you classify the prayers in the third realm? Whenever you see a hundred percent prayer without lifting one finger, whenever people move into the third realm something supernatural or spiritual must and always will break into the natural realm. It may be an angel actually coming to shake the prison doors or an angel's hands physically being felt. When people move into the third realm there will definitely be a physical side effect that takes place immediately as that person contact the third realm.

In Acts 12:5 *Peter was therefore kept in prison*. If this had happened in America today, they would be writing letters. They will be counter suing the government. They will be doing a lot of natural things. As I mentioned in some areas you could take either the first approach, the second approach or the third approach. I know that for a lot of Christians when an injustice is done to them, they will follow the Old Testament method, Eye for eye, leg for leg you sue me I sue you. You fight me I fight you. That is Old Testament style, New Testament saints. But what they do is they fight with every legal battle and authority possible, exactly like what the American approach does. In other words when an injustice takes place, they will fight all they can. They will fight in the courts. They will fight for their rights. They will fight for their freedom.

In a sense it is true. We are not saying that is wrong; remember that. There is something like Nehemiah's walls that cannot be built unless you add 50% of works to the prayer. However there is another realm of people who lived hundreds of years ago. People who had no resort to legal rules and authority. Perhaps they didn't live in democratic society. But people like for example John Knox, George Muller, do you know that even though they didn't know the faith message because the faith message only came about with Kenneth E. Hagin, it was in the bible in Mark 11:23-24 all the time. But it took him to bring the truth to the body of Christ.

If this realm of prayer of faith message is only known today, the question in Christians' minds is where do the early saints stand in their type of praying. Where do they stand in the intensity of their prayer? For example, John Knox when a lot of injustices were done to him, these people do not know the faith message like we do. Of course they do know their redemption from the curse of the law. Like Madam Guyon if you read her biography of her tremendous closeness with God but yet she did not take authority over a lot of sickness and diseases Satan threw against her. But there are truths that these earlier saints have brought forth that we don't want to miss. We in the last days want to take all the revelations that come out in our

time. We also want to take the revelations that come out from the time the church had started and bring them all together. For in the last days it shall be a total of all the waves that God had brought forth.

What these people had struck is touching on the third classification. You see what John Knox did is whatever the Queen of Scotland or whatever they wanted to do against him, he will just get on his knees and he will pray. He will not resort to natural method. He will not resort to getting people signing papers of protest. He will not resort to a democratic strike. Which is happening today among a group of Christians in America. I am not saying it is right I am not saying it is wrong. But there is a move in the States where people physically are going against abortion clinics. Our position in principle we are against it. So it is not the question of the principle whether it is right or wrong. It is definitely wrong to have abortion. But the method of stopping it is a question. So there are Christians who are committing what we call civil disobedience. They use civil disobedience to bring about a remedy to something that they feel its wrong in society. They are using second classification method. Of course we believe they prayed too. If they don't pray they are not in any classification method. They are just like the world. Just using natural method. But giving them the benefit of doubt that they do what they do with prayer. They prayed before they go to any city to do whatever they did. So they are trying to do it by the second classification.

Yet in those kind of social injustices there is always a higher realm that John Knox has touched upon that the modern Christians had almost lost. We have forgotten the power of the bended knees. We have only known today the power of suing in court and being judged before an unbelieving judge. We have lost our vision of the ability we have in the third classification, which the early Christians have tapped into where they have knelt down like John Knox until the Queen of Scotland said she did not fear the armies of England or any physical army she only fears the prayers of that man. Because when he prays she shakes.

Some of the early revivalists like Charles G. Finney moved so much into that realm that in his meetings the anointing of God and the power of God and the Holy Spirit was there. There was a particular case where there was a relation of one of them who attended his meetings walked right into his meeting. He interrupted the meeting and pulled that lady out right in the middle of Charles G. Finney's preaching. When Charles saw it he dropped right down on his knees and he cried onto God with such intensity, which he had learned through all his years. He said, "Lord, either you convert him now or you take him away." Immediately something struck that

man. He died. There are other cases that happened like that. He prayed, he became quite an expert at that, and the unbelievers were stricken by a conviction that they dropped down on their knees and said, "God help me."

The question before us is this. Where do we classify this kind of power? What kind of power is this besides generally lumping it as the power of the Holy Spirit? This is the third classification of prayer where as you move into it with intensity, it has a supernatural effect on the natural realm immediately. It is quite difficult to enter because to enter into it, number one, you must die to self. To die to self is to be unwilling to use any available means within you and which are made available to you to salvage the situation. See if I were at the first stage, I would still have the ability to provide for you or me. In other words you could answer your own prayer.

At the second stage it looks like works. For example you want to build a wall. You are praying and fasting and on the other hand you are telling people to come and help you. There is a tremendous work for God. So as we analyze the situation we are wondering is it because of your personality or your influence or your leadership or is it really a prayer. It is very hard for us to divide. But it can look from the unbelievers' point of view like he is a good leader he could do the job. You are still involved at the first classification and second classification you are still involved in answering your own prayer. From the Christian perspective we always say it was God who did it. But we know when we say in the first and second category it was God who did it, we know what it was like. It was through our blood sweat and tears. Those of you who come with testimony saying praise the Lord He provided and blessed me with fifty thousand dollars. And everyone say praise God. But those of you who had gone into that will tell you there are a lot of sweat involved. In the second classification also we give all the credit to God after working our fingers to the bones. To the unbeliever it looks like it was your own ability.

But the most clear cut case is the third classification where you didn't even lift one finger. It was so clear cut that through prayers without opening your mouth to people without influencing people which to a certain extend George Muller moved into that. George Muller ran an orphanage, and he made it a point never to ask anyone for the needs of the orphanage. He believes that God sees and He will provide. He took something that belongs to the first realm and he move it into the third realm. How many of us are prepared to walk with God so closely like him? George Muller would sit right there at the breakfast table with an empty

plate and look up to God and say God we thank you for the bread upon the table. You look at him and think he is having some imagery. And always right at the time when he gave thanks there is a knock at the door where he has not told anybody at all. If the moment you tell anybody it goes into the second classification.

Some of you say in that case I want to go to the third classification. Remember if you don't have the intensity to pray through to the third realm you may die of hunger while waiting for the food to miraculously appear. It may not work for you in other words. Some people without the intensity pray about fifteen minutes. Then the rest of the time they read newspaper for one and half hours. Watch T.V. for one hour and go shopping for one hour and they try to do George Muller style. That is why most Christians prefer to get it at the first classification without realizing that there is another realm they can move into.

Now the third is very difficult because sometimes you do that it may cause you pain where you really suffer and people would wonder why do you have to suffer. All you have to do is to tell people your need. But if you are experimenting with God in that area I would suggest you don't put everything of the first category into the third. Put some things from the first into the third for your spiritual growth. Perhaps there are certain things you are praying about and you know that you could bring it into the third realm but you refuse to say it to a single soul. You want to see the third classification working in that area. You are prepared to just pray and pray until your intensity reached a stage where it hit certain realm and its drawn right to you like the baker carrying the loaves. He knocked on the door and told George Muller and said I don't know why but this morning we have extra loaves. And he comes all the way knocking on your door and even if no human vessels serve God an angel will come right up knocking on your door and say, "This is the bread from heaven - special delivery - angel bread."

But notice here in Acts 12 the rules of the prayer of faith do not apply here. I don not know how much authority they have in those days to resort to natural means of appeal. But in that particular situation possibly there was no more appeal. The only way that could set Peter free was through their prayers. And they turn to that with great intensity. In some of your version they put there the *continuous* or *constant* prayer. I am sorry to tell you that is the wrong Greek word. The word *continuous* has two different Greek words like Hebrews 10: 1 where continuous offerings were brought before God. In the natural people can go a long way if their mind is able to concentrate. A person with a weak will is just like a person whose will is divided into so many distractions. So therefore it becomes weak. Everyone is born with a strong will.

But that will has been consumed by so many distractions that he has lessened his ability to choose. Even in the natural life we realize that people who are able to pursue and concentrate on their objectives go further than those who can't. That is only a drop of water in the ocean in that kind of concentration that can take place in the spirit. Concentration in the spirit can consume your mind and your emotions and even your physical body.

The same Greek word used in Acts 12 here is the same Greek word used in the gospel of Luke 22: 44. When Jesus was pouring out with such concentration that blood dropped down from His skin. It is the same Greek word for *earnestness* in prayer. In Acts 12: 5, the word *constant* is the same Greek word used in Luke 22:44 it says and being in agony He prayed more *earnestly*. The word *earnestly* is the same Greek word as the one found in Acts 12: 5, *constant*. Now it was at that moment when He became so intense that His physical body literally vibrated and every vein and artery in His body is so strained that the blood came out. That is why we should be surprised when some people prayed overnight intensely. Do you notice that sometime when you are praying you are in such a concentration that you are not even aware what was happening in your physical body?

If we were to take a video camera and video you without you knowing and see you move into that intensity, when you look at yourself you may look very funny. At first you pray very slowly and then as you go deeper and deeper into that intensity and then you started crying. You begin to pray for the nation. You are moving slowly deeper and deeper into the higher realm. By the time you move into the third classification you have completely lost consciousness of your physical realm. And whatever you are praying is so intense that it could literally cause vibrations on every side of your body. At first when we are new to this realm we got a lot of side effects. But you could go so deep into this realm that literally you move like Charles G. Finney. If you read Charles G. Finney's writings, he talks a lot about prevailing prayer. He talked about agonizing prayer a lot. And we who are in the modern generation find it hard to relate to what he is talking about with what we hearing on the faith message. But there is a relationship. It is just different classification. And we could move into that realm if we could understand that it is just moving deeper than the second realm.

Hannah was another example here in First Samuel 1. One day it exploded in her life in First Samuel. We know the story of how Hannah longed for a child and she was barren. In verse 7, *So it was year by year she went up to the house of the Lord that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat*. So every year she suffered because she was barren. As I mentioned

the entrance from the second realm into the third realm is very intense. Now this is an important transition. Remember the second and the third are related and both are very intense. But there is something that moved Hannah into the third realm. In verse 10, *And she was in the bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish.* Then she made a vow to the Lord to surrender the child if the Lord gives her a child. What she wanted the most and so much, she says, "Lord I give it all to you." She moved that day into the third and immediately something happened to her womb. Something tangible took place.

If you have ever been in this second realm and you suffer some form of injustice or what I call suffering for the Lord, things that are unjustly done to you, things that are unjustly said about you, things that are classified under persecution and the sufferings of Christ. What is the most natural reaction? Justify, defend, protect. A lot of people use a mixture of these in the second realm. Until the day you decide you will never any more do that. Even if they lead you to the cross and put the nails right through your hands you will refuse to justify and refuse to even protect yourself. You have totally surrendered yourself to God. Then you move into the third realm, which is totally die to yourself. Dying to self means dying to our own ability that is still there.

When Jesus went to the cross at Calvary He still has the ability to set Himself free. All He has to do is to call on the angels of God and instantly He will be set free. Peter tried to protect Him with a sword and He told Peter to put away that sword. Jesus could have called to the Father and God would have sent twelve legions of angels. Just one of the small little angels would have done better than Peter. While He was on the cross He could have come down if He so chooses.

Moving from the second to the third realm is making a willful choice not to lift up any weapons that you have. This is the most difficult thing to do. It is easy to do it when you don't have any weapons. But it is hard to do it when you have weapons. It is easy to do it when you have no resort. In other words just like people who have injustice done to them, they have done everything they possibly can and they got no more resort then only they turn to God. But it is harder, knowing that you got all these choices to take. Each of these choices in the natural is correct but not spiritually. To choose not to use it makes it even harder.

If Jesus went to the cross and He had no ability to protect Himself and no ability to call upon God, that would be suffering enough. But He suffered more knowing He had the ability to

protect himself. Do you know its harder to restrain Himself knowing He had the power than to restrain Himself because He had no power. It takes more for a person to control because he has the power to knock down the other person. But if he has no power than he has no restrain because he has no power. He is where he is because he can't help it not because he can help it. So he can never move into the third realm.

And that is why the second realm is very special. God gives us the freedom if we were to walk carefully to enter the third realm. The doorway into the third realm is the cross. Its only when you walk through the cross that you can see the empty tomb the resurrection power. All your intensity can then come forth. That's the realm that very few people touch on. Although we talk about the cross and we teach the cross, all we have is a sentimental cross that we think about two thousand years ago when Jesus died on the cross for us. We forget that Jesus say take up your cross daily by denying yourself every day. A lot of people failed the chance of receiving it in the third realm because they haven't died to themselves.

For example some of you are praying for a million dollars and then suddenly there comes an opportunity. But there is small little clause in the agreement where you have to make some compromise in your Christian principles. Quickly you compromised; take all the money and give God all the glory. You are still in the first realm. It is harder for you to say no to that million dollars. Knowing that it is not right, knowing that means a compromising your conscience, you prefer to say no and go without. When everything within you cried, "I need that million dollars." Why? You have a five hundred thousand dollar debt that needs to be paid. And you will almost willing; you tell your mind just give thanks and take. But you have to say no; you have to suffer. You say no because there is compromise involved and you walk on with God and you pursue on in God. As you move deeper in God and you choose God, you would say, "If I take it I don't want it to be something that I have to compromise with my conscience and my principles." Even if the world laughs at you. It depends on whether you want to receive it in the first realm or the second realm. If you want it in the first realm then by all means.

But we are presenting that there is a possibility of a third realm coming. But the doorway is the cross. I can assure you, you will be tested and you will be tried until you are so dead to self before the blessings come. But when it comes not only will it be external blessings there will be internal power that comes. See the difference is this the deeper you move into that realm the more the strength you need from the inside. From the outside you require some strength like the first realm. You require a certain amount of strength to stand and act on the Word, to be able to give in order to sow and have the blessings in return. But yet it is nothing compared to the strength you need to receive it from the third realm. Why, in the first realm

it is ninety nine percent works and one percent inspiration. You are receiving something and you are working very hard to bring it into being. There is more of what I call physical efforts and less spiritual effort.

But in the third realm the spiritual effort is so much that it can consume your time with the Lord. In the end what is the difference between receiving a million dollars in the first realm and a million dollars in the third realm. In the first realm you have purely physical benefits and of course the joy of receiving it. But in the third realm you have both the physical benefits and joy receiving it and the transformation that takes place in your soul and in your spirit at the same time. In other words your spirit received a million dollars ability and character that you could never receive it if you didn't receive it in the third realm.

What is marvelous about George Muller is not only the finances and the bread and the supply that came to the orphanages he run. What is marvelous is the character that he become as he walk with God. As you walk more and more with God it forms into a certain character in your life, until you become like Elisha. You remember Elisha moved into the third realm several times. When the Syrians surrounded him, and then the boy said, "Look the Syrians soldiers are around." Elisha said, "They who are with us are more than those who are against us." The boy said, "Where?" and instantly Elisha prayed and said, "God open his eyes." Immediately something happened. It is such a powerful realm you move into that your word become like God's Word. It become into that realm like what we say your word becomes like God's Word, the third realm. He says it and it was done.

If you read carefully it says that the Lord listened to his word. It didn't say that he listened to God's word. In the first realm you listen to God's Word and you do it. In the third realm you move so close into God that God, "listens to your words." Please understand me is in the context of what we are talking about. You take this one sentence out and it looks like heresy. But I give you a scripture for that since it is on such a dangerous ground we are treading. In the incident when Joshua stopped the sun. If you were to ask is it God who told Joshua to stop the sun. Or is it Joshua who told God to stop the sun. The question of who initiated it is important. If you examine those special scriptures every time where there was a third classification type of prayer it was man who initiated it. I could assure you when Charles G. Finney prayed for that person and say God either you change him or take him away, it was not God who did that. It was a man walking with God in the third classification. Who could quicken the process? Perhaps without Charles G. Finney's prayer, he may take about ten years to either repent or either go away from God. But through his intense prayer everything was shortened to that few seconds. Either now or not.

2 Kings 6 and this is similar to Joshua's incident in stopping the sun. In verse 17 *Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord I pray, open his eyes that he may see."* Then God opened the young man's eyes, and he saw. Then look at verse 18. Now this looks like Elijah before he died. Elijah before he died he walked so close with God that what he says God says no problem. So when he said if I am a man of God let fire come down. The fire came down. The question is: was it initiated by God or by Elijah? When you are walking in the first realm everything you do needs to be initiated by God.

When you are walking in the second realm everything you do needs to be initiated by God but there is open room for you to initiate something. When you are walking in the third realm, you are so close to God, your nature, your character is so much like God so that you will never desire anything of your own any way. So the danger is removed for doing your own thing. But you have walked through the doorway of the cross until your character your emotions, your mind and everything is so transformed until you are like God. So that what you want is also what God wants. In the third realm you walk so close that you initiate something and God hearken unto your words.

Verse 18, *When the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, (Notice this is prayer in the third realm) and said, "Strike these people, I pray, with blindness."* The power of God came with such brilliance that they couldn't see. Why is it that we don't see much of this kind of things today? Why are we teaching this? In the last days people will learn to move more into this realm. Why are we not seeing much of this today? We have lived in the modern society of technology and science where almost every natural man dream of they could achieve it in the natural. Even going to the moon and talking about going to Mars. So much of that has crept into Christianity that what we want to do is works, works. We call it prayer with works. It depends on whether you want first realm or second realm. We cannot totally remove first and second realm because God does wants us to do some works. But yet a major manifestation in the last days is on this third realm. So powerful that your words become like God's words.

Can you imagine Elisha praying God let your glory come and just close their eyes? These thousands of Syrians soldiers would suddenly not be able to see. At that time if you try to pray in the second realm it won't work. If you operate in the first realm you just pray, "O God help me. What am I to do?" You have to believe God for an escape route. In the second realm you have to be there trying to pacify all the Syrians soldiers. But in the third realm he just

depended on God. In the first you speak to yourself. You have to convince yourself in order to have faith. If you are not convinced of what God says you are not even in the first realm. See in the first realm walking in faith you have to know that God said certain things before you act on faith. A lot of people are not even sure of themselves. They only hear it from somebody. They are acting on somebody else's faith not on their own faith. So it never works. So in the first realm you got to convince yourself. In the second realm you got to convince others. But in the third realm the only person you speak to is God. And you are so close to God that when you speak to God to do something, He does it straight away.

And here is a statement that is made. It says *and He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha*. This is exactly the same like Joshua stopping the sun. Where it says *never before had God hearken to the voice of a man like that day*. We are talking about the third realm where you totally depend on God and not on the natural. To walk in this realm you need tremendous patience. A lot of church problems are not taken care of by the first and second realm. A lot of them are dealt in the third realm. But because the world operates a hundred percent through their own works, they will never understand that third realm. One day when we get to heaven people will understand it.

Elisha moved into that realm that other people immediately felt what he said. It is said that when George Fox prayed all the people around started shaking. It didn't happen all the time. But there were times when this happen. Everyone felt the presence of God when he prayed. They really felt that God came down and talked to him. And it was so wonderful after he finished praying. And they said pray again. He said no I am not going to pray for you just for you to feel it. If he prayed a second time he will be praying not because he was praying to God; he was praying just for the people to feel it again. That was his level of spirituality. Some of us think that when people move into that realm, they will be wonderful. If you were to meet Elijah, Elisha and Enoch face to face, you may not really like them in the natural.

Let me tell you what Lester Sumrall is like. He is one who really walks with God. There was an unknown preacher who attended one of Lester Sumrall's meeting. When he saw this person he said I want you to come and see me in my church. That was about a thousand miles away. This poor guy who was a stranger in U.S. was wondering how he is going to get there. I tell you Lester Sumrall is so sold out to God that he don't think of diplomacy and nicety. It is either in or out. You either get into the kingdom of God or in the kingdom of the devil. And in the end somehow this guy made it all the way to Lester Sumrall. The first thing Lester Sumrall said,

“Why are you raising kids for the devil?” Then after this he gave him a check for about ten or twenty thousand dollars. Then the person says, “Why are you giving me this check if you say that I am raising kids for the devil?” And he is still signing because the Lord says so. So this person went off and went and shared with Col Stringer and Col Stringer shared with me.

You may not like a person who really walks close with God. Some of us think that Jesus is always gentle like a lamb. I tell you when Jesus talk about spiritual things and you come in the flesh, you would be soundly rebuked. Remember the guy who says, “Lord divide my inheritance with my brother.” Jesus said, “Beware of covetousness.” And when He was in a boat his disciples were afraid. He said, “Where is your faith?” Don’t forget about all these incidences too. We always think about the incidences when He says, “I am the Good Shepherd.” “Come unto me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” But don’t forget the other incidences where in the boat when He said, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisee.” He said, “How many loaves were left over after the feeding of the five thousands. “Why is it that you still do not believe?” If Jesus Christ were to come right into our midst, some of you will say, “O Jesus, Jesus.” He will look right into your eyes and say, “You have unbelief.” Remember Peter said, “When everyone will go away from you but I will stay with you.” He says, “Not only you go away you will deny me three times before the cock crow twice.” When you began to walk in the realm of the spirit, you would think that everybody think that you are gentle, never scold people, soft-spoken, character of Christ. With all of us all we want is the money. We forget that the same person Jesus is the one who actually made the cord and used to whip all those people who were selling in the temple. Jesus was doing it because of His zeal for God. If you read carefully in the gospel of John, He actually made that whip himself. He overturned the tables. After that He says, “Come unto me all you who are heavy laden.” Sometimes people expect a wrong image of Jesus. A pastor is someone who plaster you, never scold you, never give you a harsh word. Sometimes when people are in unbelief you got to say, “Look here brother you are in unbelief. Look here brother you got fear in your life. Look here brother you got the world in your mind. Look here brother greed has taken your heart.”

Remember all these incidences show the character Christ. Don’t just take those few verses where Jesus said, “Come and shelter under my wings.” Jesus will not tolerate unbelief. I have walked with Jesus and I know Him as my personal friend. I want you to know that Jesus not only had that nice gentle voice; there are times when the Lord Jesus said, “STOP NOW.” And even our friend Hagin had a few of these experiences. I know what makes Jesus angry. When you go against His Word, when you allow the devil to influence your thoughts, the Lamb of God can also get angry. Have you not read about Revelations what it is called the wrath of the

Lamb? That same Lord Jesus anointed Kenneth Hagin's hands and said, "Go now I send you to preach the gospel and bring healing to the nations." When Hagin tried to cast out the devil, he didn't follow instructions. He told the man, "See if you can bend." The man try to bend and he couldn't bend. The Lord suddenly appeared to him, looked at Hagin and said, "I said, 'If you lay hand on them, if you command them, they will go.' Hagin replied, saying, "Lord I did but they didn't come out." And then Jesus' voice raised up. Even Jesus knows how to raise His voice. He said, "If you command in My name, they will leave." And Hagin said, "Yes Lord I did Lord but they didn't go." And he said for the first time he saw how Jesus looks like when He was angry. His eyes were like balls of fire. He could see the lightening flash in His eyes. The same eyes that he saw rivers of love. He said Jesus pointed His fingers right between his eyes and said, "If you command in My name they will go." Hagin was stunned he had never seen Jesus that angry.

So what kind of image do we have of Jesus? Don't tell me that when someone is going to sin and someone has a demon spirit operating in their mind, you say, "Never mind God loves you." That is the kind of image people have of a pastor. That is the kind of image they have of a shepherd. Every time you raise your voice a little bit, they say that is not the shepherd's voice. People don't know that walking in this third realm, you may not end up with the kind of character that is likeable by people. Why because you cannot compromise with sin and you cannot compromise with darkness. You cannot compromise with fear. You cannot compromise with principles that are not ethical. You cannot compromise with a lot of things. You develop a hatred for sins. And you develop feelings against those things that are against God. But of course you temper it with love. Remember Jesus is the one who said, "Woe to you Pharisee, woe to you doctors of the law." While He was "woe-ing" away one of the lawyers there said, "Master by doing that you also hit us." And then Jesus said, "Woe to you lawyers." Jesus was not one who is going to compromise.

A lot of the niceties that we call diplomacy are compromises. If you want to walk that way you will always end up in the first and the second realm because in the third realm you are not even going to negotiate. God never had negotiation with the devil. See the way of negotiation is the way of the world and democracy and diplomacy, telling a lot of half-truths. But the ways of God are different. You may not really like a person who walks in the third realm. People can claim that they walk in the third realm and then they call upon the fire there is no fire only the sun set. But there is a third realm that people do walk into. You don't have to be a full time person to walk into the third realm. If God place you in the secular realm and you learn how to move in your intensity, you know you got business problem and you not only want to move

in the first and second realm, you want to move in the third realm. Then you go fast three days if you really want. If you know you have an important project don't just go to the pastor and ask for prayers, although this is one of the ways. You yourself go and seek God.

Tonight how intense are you? Are you intense enough to be willing to come and kneel down and pray it through? Grab the horns on the altar and say, "I will not let this go until I hear from You." Our weapons are not carnal but let me tell you we do have weapons too. That is powerful and more powerful than natural weapons. You could try anything under the sun but the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. They are mighty in God, spiritual in power.

In a recent case in court, there was a pastor who had to stand trial for some charges. Whether he is guilty or not guilty, I don't know. But there are witnesses of people who were right there. They told me that while the prosecuting lawyer was arguing, instead of keeping to the subject matter of the case and knowing that defendant in the dock was a minister he started talking about God. "Who is God? What is the kingdom of God?" He started railing against God. If he kept to his case and didn't touch on God, on problem. But when he started to use the opportunity to attack God, judgment fell on him. While he was halfway talking, he gripped his heart and said, "My lord," calling on the judge and died. The judge had to call all the journalists and said, "Don't you dare report this matter to the papers."

We need to understand that there is a realm of spiritual fighting that goes beyond the power of the gun, the power of the court, the power of natural harness, the power of abusive words, there is a realm higher of the Almighty God. We tap on that realm when we get on our knees. In Exodus the people of God moved into the third realm when the whole nation cried out to God. The judgment he brought onto Egypt was in response to that cry. Do you know why the bible always talks about widows and the poor? These people had nobody else to depend on for their protection. And you don't need to be a widow or to be poor to ask for God to defend you. As long as you die to self and you choose not to defend yourself, you are qualified to enter into the door of the cross and ask the third realm to manifest. When you began to move into the third realm and God manifest, people will realize that you cannot fight against God. Like Gamaliel says lest we be found fighting God.

That is a powerful third realm and it is available through prayer. I don't care how difficult your business situation is. What the odds are against you. If you were to intensely pray tonight and intensely moved, the Lord willing, dying to self and moving into the third realm, there will be something that takes place right now tonight. Even if God has to turn King Xerxes of Queen Esther's time to stop him from sleeping so that at that night he read about the records of Mordecai. Even if God were to have to do that, for your sake He will do it. The strangest supernatural "coincidences" take place when people turn into the third realm and when the hands of angels move.. Mordecai cannot protect himself in any other way. He didn't appeal to the Queen or anything. He turned this to prayer. Esther you do your job and Esther said my life is at stake. We got no alternative but to turn to God. Mordecai knew that the next day Haman was going to behead him. That was a critical night. But the intensity of the prayer is such that God could stop the king from sleeping. God could choose the chronicles to be read where Mordecai was mentioned. God could turn the king's heart and mind such that the king was determined to reward Mordecai. That very morning Haman came wanting to ask for Mordecai death because he has built the gallows. That very morning the king was determined to reward Mordecai. What a coincidence. All these was done because there is a third realm being tapped. Things that are beyond control, things that are beyond any natural thing possible, only the realm of prayer can touch. That is the realm available for us tonight.

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

In this message we want to look at how to have power with God. We continue from where we have shared on the 3 classifications of prayer in the last message. We are talking about the Most Holy Place in our fellowship with God. There are certain things that we must understand about God and how He works. What He likes and what He doesn't like. After all the rest of eternity is going to be spent with God. You can gain the pleasures of this life and this whole world and its nothing compared with knowing Jesus Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit. We have to know how to move into the depths of God in order to have power with God.

Lets turn to Gen. 32: 22-24 *And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone, and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.*

Jacob had an overnight wrestling match. We are here tonight for an overnight prayer. Jacob had the angel; you have the Holy Spirit helping you to fight with the devil. After all Paul was the one used the word in Eph. 6:12, *"we wrestle not against flesh and blood."* That means we do wrestle. But we wrestle with spiritual forces. So here Jacob wrestled the whole night. I pray to God that all of us understand this wrestling the whole night.

Now in Gen. 32: 25-30, *Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let go unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed. Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask*

about My name?" And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: For I have seen God faces to face, and my life is preserved."

This is one of the most interesting things in the Bible, a man wrestling with an angel. Of course we know that we don't have that kind of physical strength the angels have. What we have is the authority of Jesus. But at that time, Jesus was not manifested yet. It was under the early dispensation. And here Jacob was wrestling with an angel. You see the angel could have probably won the wrestling match. Don't think that was a weak angel. If it were a weak angel, the weak angel would not be able to bless Jacob. If the angel was weaker than Jacob was, then how could the weaker bless the greater? Even when the book of Heb talks about Melchizedek blessing Abraham and Melchizedek as a type of Christ, it illustrates that the greater bless the lesser. So the one who blesses is greater than the one blessed. So the angel had greater power than Jacob did. The angel had greater blessings than Jacob did. That's why Jacob needed his blessing.

But God seems to have commanded that angel not to use his greater strength in his particular, quote unquote, wrestling match with Jacob. It was like an experience that God wants Jacob to go through because Jacob's character needs to be wrestled through and molded. Even from the time when he was in the womb, he was wrestling. He was born a Sumo wrestler. He does not look like one but he had the character of one. Even in the womb, he was wrestling with Esau. That is why when the children were struggling inside Rebecca's womb and she had to come to God and said, "Lord, what is this inside me?" I mean, twins are okay but wrestling? Some twins are another different story. So she came to God and God revealed to her what it was. Then when Esau was born the wrestling match was going on even up to the time they came out. Imagine they were wrestling all the time in their mother's womb. When Jacob came out from the womb, he was holding on to Esau's leg. They named him cheat, swindler because of that incident. All his life he had to get what he wants by wrestling. We know the story of how Jacob cheated Esau of his birth right blessing just by a bowl of red bean soup. So Jacob had to get what he wanted by wrestling. That was his character.

Then later he had to run from his brother and ended up with his uncle Laban.

Uncle Laban was a very cunning businessman. He would have been a typical Chinaman. A five cent coin to him is as big as a bullock cart wheel. He wouldn't give Jacob one bit more. So he didn't treated Jacob well. One had the mentality of a sumo wrestler. The other had the mentality of a Chinaman. Jacob's survival depended on his sumo wrestler ways. See

everything he got in life was a struggle. Even when he got his father's blessing, he cheated too.

God would have to have a special event to deal with his life. God knows how to deal with our inner paths. God had to organize a special event where Jacob would wrestle until he nearly gave up and realized that wrestling doesn't work. The angel could have with one hand thrown Jacob. The fight wouldn't have lasted more than five seconds. Sumo wrestler though he be, he was no match for a big angel. Remember what you read in the story is not because the angel had no power. But the angel was to stretch Jacob to the extent until he exhausted himself. See the angel very easily could just touch Jacob like he did at the ending. One touch and Jacob's bone got disjointed. That tells you how much power he had. But there was a purpose. He wanted Jacob to reach to the end of himself until Jacob comes to his senses that he need not get things in life by wrestling. He has to come to the realization that to get things in life he needs the blessing of God.

From that time onwards there was a remarkable change in his life. He became Israel a prince with God. Jacob had a reminder all the rest of his life; he had to walk with a limp. That reminded him of the day he was stretched right to the limit. His hipbone got disjointed. The angel did impart certain blessings of God that God had pre-ordained to be brought forth to Jacob's life. But his life begins to change only when his personality is changed and he became Israel, prince with God. A prince is someone who just inherits. A Sumo wrestler had to fight. But a prince is someone who just inherits what the king would give to him. He became the prince of God.

That's what we want to talk about, the secret power with God. The only way by which we could reach to the depths of God's heart is to reach to the end of ourselves and completely die to ourselves. The only power we can exercise is where we come to a complete end. There are degrees of dying to self. You can walk with God for 20 years and find out after 20 years there are still a lot of things you have to die to. Jesus said, "He who wants to follow Me have to take up his cross." These will be a lot of things that you will be surprised that you got to die to. The blessings and the power with God never come until you die to self. How much power you have with God is in proportion to how much you have died to yourself. There is no way you can use God's power to fulfill your own end. God will not place a level of authority and power in your life until you die proportionately to yourself. In a sense we died in Christ objectively. But subjectively the application of it is a continuous thing. Paul said, "I die daily."

Let me show a few more people so that you will realize that dying to self is not just walking free from sins. That's the Outer Court experience. I am talking about the Most Holy Place. Those things should have been gone long ago. We are not talking about sin. We are talking about a complete death to self. You are not concerned whether you have enough for tomorrow. You are more concerned with, "God, what do you want to do?"

Let's turn to Is. 6:1-5 *"In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and lifted up... For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among people of unclean lips. And my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."*

Isaiah was a very godly and religious man. He had already begun his ministry. From chapter 1-5 he had already been ministering as a prophet of God. But one day when he met God in the Most Holy Place, he discovered there are still a lot of things in him that he got to die to. He discovered his lips were unclean. He may be perfect in his deeds and perfect in the performance of religious duties. But his lips were not perfect. There was still something that he has to die to. Only when he reached that stage did he have a greater blessing of God. He had a realization that he died to himself. God gave him a special blessing from above. He sent a seraph with a coal of fire from the altar of heaven touched his lips and from that day forward a greater anointing came on his life. He moved greater than before with God. He had a greater power with God than before. Think about this man. God could tell him to walk about in a filthy and dirty loincloth and he did it because he had completely died to himself. He couldn't care less what people say. He wouldn't care what people think about him. He couldn't care for the things around him. He is only conscious of pleasing God, "What do you want me to do and I'll do it."

Think about another person Job. In the beginning he was a very righteous, sincere good man, upright, famous. He was one of the richest men of the east. Then after his tragedy happened where his children died, his possessions taken away, his body was rigged in pain, his friends came to find out what sin he had committed. Job constantly said, "I am alright, I did right, I am righteous." I mean he felt that he was right. He felt there was no reason for anything to happen to him. Quote unquote, he was self-righteous. In Job 38: 1 God appeared to him, *The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said.* So when God appeared to Job in chapter 40: 3, *Job answered the Lord and said, Behold I am vile. What shall I answer You? I lay my hand*

over my mouth.” He never said that until the Lord appeared. As long as the Lord did not appear to him, white looks like white to him. It looks like he had a whitest shirt in town. But when God’s dazzling white holiness came before him, his own shirt looks black.

When Job met the Lord, he discovered he had some more things to die to. He had to die to his self-righteousness. But after the experiences, he had twice the blessings that he had before. See if you have power with God, you have power over circumstances. If you have power with God, you have power over the vast resources of this earth. Billions of dollars mean nothing to you because power with God controls the whole planet earth. If you have power with God, you have tremendous resources because millions of angels of God are working mightily on your behalf. But power with God only comes in proportion to your dying to self. There is no way God can tolerate self in His Presence. If you think carefully, there is naturally no reason to live for self. The most complete life you could live is fulfillment in God. Think about what you can do with your own life, not much. But think about what God can bring and do to your life.

There is another dear lady in 1 Sam. 1:6-7. She constantly wept and cried. Her rival also provoked her severely to make her miserable because the Lord had allowed her womb to be closed. So it was, year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, the rival provoked her. Therefore she wept and did not eat until her husband, Elkanah was disturbed. Here is a woman who every year wept before the Lord and cried. Not to have children was a great disgrace in her days. She constantly wept before the Lord, nothing happened. Nothing changed year after year but one day she changed. See nothing will change around you until you change. If you choose to remain the same nothing will change. You have to change first. Husbands pray for their wives. The wives will not change until you change first. Wives are praying for their husbands. The husband will not change until you change first. When you change then there is greater hope of change of things around you. Nothing changed because she did not change. But one day she changed. She did not look at herself any more. She experienced a dying to self. She said, “Lord it’s not important anymore what I am going through the disgrace. But Lord I don’t want just a child. I want a child that serve You and I give You back that child.’

She stopped thinking about herself. And she starts thinking about the Lord. She starts dying to self and she starts living for the Lord. And lo, and behold she had a child. She kept her

promise she gives him to the Lord. After that she had many other children. See the key to power with God is dying to self. That's the secret.

As we look at these circumstances, there are 4 areas that we have to die to. No.1 in Jacob's life he was to die in using the ways of the flesh to do the things of the Spirit. His motives were right and good. He wanted the right things but he went after it the wrong way. He wanted the birthright, and he went after it by cheating. He wanted the blessing and he went after it by deceiving his own father. He wanted his pay. He went in a very subtle way. He got cheated himself because you always reap what you sow. That's how he ended up marrying two wives. But that was his way.

Sometimes people will think that as long as the motivation is correct, as long as the end is right, it justifies the means. There are some Christians that think that they can use the natural and please God. You are Jacob and self is still involved. Any Christians that use natural means to try to please God or do God's work that God has not ordained is displeasing to Him. I mean if God commands you to do something the natural is involved. But when God has not told you what to do and you cook up something to do out of your own intelligence, the natural way to please God, you are Jacob and you will never please God. The stink of self is there. And as long as self is there, the Holy Spirit says, "I want nothing to do with that." I wonder throughout all the works of the church throughout the whole planet, how many percent is the work of Christianity done in the flesh under the name of Christ. It displeases God. Only what is born of the spirit is spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh. Sometimes when people see the Lord blessing you with natural things, they don't understand that those things are received not from the natural. They are received from the spiritual. Then when they try to copy the same thing and use the natural, it will never work. Remember we have to die to trying to do God's work with our flesh, with our natural mind and with our natural ability. Unless we die to that, you will never experience power with God. That is why there are a lot of things done but there is no power. There is no power with God, unless there is a death to self. That's the first thing we have to die to. Dying to the Jacob in our life, using the natural to do the spiritual.

The second thing we have to do is in the life of Isaiah. It says in Isaiah 6: 1, *In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord.* See Uzziah was quite a good king but with a bad ending. King Uzziah was a very good king and had the blessings of God. But at a certain time in his life, he went into the temple and he took the censer and he wanted to do what the priest did. He thought by being king, he can do what he likes. Man and ministers must be careful not to

overlap their offices and roles. God doesn't care one dot whether you are a king or a pauper. He only wants us to do His will and nothing else. King Uzziah came into the temple, took the censer and the priest said, "This is not proper. It's only for the priest," and he got angry. He offered the censer and leprosy struck him the rest of his life. He lived a leper's life until he died.

In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord. The second thing you got to die to is to die to looking to man. Trusting in man. Leaning on the arm of flesh. That is very hard for people to take. When you really walk with the Lord, the Lord doesn't even want you to lean on any human being. I am not saying that He is asking you to be a lone ranger. Neither am I saying that He is asking you not to work together with others or to fellowship with others. In this life we will always work together as different parts of the body. I am talking about something that happens inside of you when your trust is completely absorbed in God. Something in you has died to leaning on other human being. You can work with them. You can fellowship with them, which you need to. But leaning on them until you became less and less dependent on God but on them is an evidence of the self-life. It's an evidence of relying on the arm of the flesh. We got to die to that. Only those who understand what the Gospel of John says, "Jesus knew all men and did not give Himself to them, for He knew the heart of all men." It was more or less a statement of consecration and how utterly He depended on God.

Now in Isaiah's life, King Uzziah was the greatest stumbling block in his life. Isaiah was looking to him all the time until he didn't anymore look to the Lord. He had to die to that. I am not saying that there are no good examples to look at. Because Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ. Be imitator of me," he said as he imitated Christ. But even if we learn from all who walk with God, there must be an element in our life that our total leaning is on God. So the second thing that we see in dying to self is dying to being dependent on others. Dependent on others for your encouragement. Dependent on others for your comfort. Dependent on others for companionship. Dependent on others for your emotional nourishment. You got to die to all those things and become totally dependent on God. I am not saying human beings can't give you some form of encouragement, they can. But the difference is you are no more dependent on them. If it comes, praise God but you are no more dependent on that. Can you see what God needs? He needs absolutely yielded people to Him.

The third area we got to die to, in Job 40, saying, "Now I have seen Him. I am vile. I am nothing." The third thing you got to die to is to realize and have a deep sense of knowing that

anything even if its one percent of self is vile. This is to have the true perspective of your own self minus God. What Job saw was what he looks like minus God. Your self minus God is the vilest thing on this planet earth. But not everybody sees that. Because deep inside each one of us, we think we are great without God. Or sometimes we think of ourselves too highly. We see in ourselves that we are jolly good fellows. You haven't really seen yourself. You've only seen a plastic self of yourself because the light was not strong enough.

In the third point I am not talking about going against the good self-image. Let me put the balance here. The truly good self-image is the only image you can see that God sees of your potential. In other word you still should have a good self-image. But the self-image is seen through God. There are two sides to a coin. Good selfimage is not seeing who you are alone minus God. Good self-image is to really see through God, you plus God. That's a self-image. Some people see this part, "you plus God" but they didn't see "you minus God," so they don't appreciate "you plus God." You don't appreciate the plus until you see the minus. There seems to be a proposition that the greater we realize how nothing we are, the greater our dependence on God. The greater you realize how vile you are minus God, the greater you realize the grace of God. That God comes into your life could bring beauty out of ashes. When God comes into the picture, beauty comes. This takes a dying to self because the self likes to think well of itself. It naturally wants to cover up the bad points and project the good points. Even the worst criminal in the prison today, bad though they know consciously that they are but deep inside there is still a part of them that say, 'I am not too bad.' That means I still got some good in me. But they have not seen a total devastation of self by the Glory of God. That takes a

complete dying where you really see how vile you are with God. Then you realize there is only God who can bring beauty out of the ashes. There is no revelation of great things in God until you see without Him you can do nothing. Jesus said, "Abide in Me and I in you and you shall bear much fruit.' But the other side of the coin is, "Without Me you can do nothing."

The realization that there is nothing good in us is strong in Paul's life. Then the opposite revelation is God who works in me. So in the third point is a complete revelation of what the self looks like to God. In Job's experience it is dying to selfrighteousness. Do you know that in everyone there is an element of selfrighteousness? But it takes the greater Glory of God to unveil the self and we see how vile the self is and realize there is completely no room even for selfrighteousness. That's almost like quote unquote a complete annihilation of self but its not. It is more a revelation of the total inability and the total nothingness of self.

Not everybody has a revelation of nothingness of self. We all have a “somethingness” of self. But it takes a revelation of nothingness of self until you just really know you are nothing.

Although we may intellectually accept it now but let me tell you, it can still be there. For example when someone says something bad about your name and you feel hurt and you react, the self-righteousness has not died yet. That’s the third point I am talking about. Or when someone can still hurt you, you haven’t “died” yet. As long as you can feel the hurt, the feeling, the pain of the self, you are not dead. For example, if I really have this third point of revelation and I know I am nothing, dung, dirt, rubbish, then when someone says something about me, I will never feel hurt. I will say, “Yes, you are right.” I will never feel hurt anymore. When you have fully experienced this third point, there’s no way people can hurt you when someone says something against you because you have seen the worse. Do you know that in this world you can’t please everybody? There will always be a percentage who will not be happy with you. When you don’t feel it, that’s where you experience the third point. When someone said you are like this and like that, you try not to react because you’ve learned that love is not easily provoked. But yet you feel the pain. As long as you can feel the pain, you are not dead.

Is it possible to reach a point where you don’t feel the pain? Yes and when you reached that point, the only pain you feel is when people say something about the Lord Jesus or the Father or the Holy Spirit. You are so dead that you realized there is only God and you. People can say anything about you and you don’t feel the pain. But the moment they start talking about Jesus, the pain comes; the tears come to your eyes. And you weep, “O Lord they are hurting You.” You have become so in union with Him. You are totally nothing and only Jesus in you. That’s where Jesus wants to bring us. When you reached the third stage, you have great power with God. You understand God’s heart and your heart beats with the heart of God. They could not take the smile out of your face. You know they are right. You are nothing. But the moment they talk about Jesus, you feel it to the very depth. The secret to power with God is dying to self. And you are going to understand God so much that you are literally just flowing in what God is doing on this planet earth and with great power. When you reached that stage and as much as you love God and you honor God’s name, God becomes almost to the opposite way where He began to protect your name. He will even go to the extent of showing that this is My precious child, don’t touch him or her.

The fourth thing to die from is found in Hannah. Basically, Hannah had to die to the things of this life. It was important that she had a child. But she had to die to all the things of this life, childbearing, motherhood. For us it will also mean finances, a home, a car, big bank account, successful business, large ministry, and established ministry. You have to die to the desire for anything of this life. Not to say that those things are wrong. For God created all these things for us to enjoy. God placed them on this earth. We are not talking about the rightness or wrongness of the things of the life. But we are talking about the consecration and perspective of things of this life in relation to the eternal realm. Everything of this life, even your husband or wife relationship even being motherhood or fatherhood is only temporary. In heaven we neither marry nor given in marriage. In heaven there is no buying or selling. All these things are only on this life. And the third death is to die to this world.

Paul says in Gal., "In Christ I am crucified from the world." As far as the world is concerned he was crucified. He has died completely. See those who live in the Outer Court do not understand those who live in the Most Holy Place because their perspective is different. In the Most Holy Place you wouldn't care whether you eat with a wooden spoon or a golden spoon, whether you drive an old junk or a nice new car, whether you wear a \$5 Mickey Mouse watch or a \$10,000 Rolex watch. These have become immaterial. You couldn't care for these things anymore. I am not saying that God is not going to provide for you. But I am saying outside God will bless you, but inside you something has died. The desire to own, to have to possessions, to have the best in life has died and that desire can only die when you say, "Lord, You are more precious than silver, more costly than gold, more beautiful than diamonds.' In the Most Holy Place, you seek first the kingdom of God and all the things of this life are added to you. Whether they are added to you immediately or not immediately, you couldn't be bothered. You just keep walking with God and living for God.

There are some people who are over concerned with the natural things. They haven't died to the things of this world. Remember we all pass through those stages where we do go through those things in life. Like a little child that wants ice cream, that's no problem. They are just growing stages. But it becomes a problem when you stay there. The Outer Court is to lead you to the inner chamber. Every one of us will know that we have passed through these stages to a certain extent. You could identify with it. You learn those stages of faith and exercise in the Spirit realm. But the problem is many never outgrow. Spiritually many are still in their pampers for the past 20 years old. How would you like to see an adult coming to church wearing pampers with a huge big milk bottle? They never outgrow. Though God blessed them to a certain extent, they don't progress deeper in the things of the Spirit. Press in deeper, further

until you are dead to the things of this life. You've passed through those stages where you liked and desired many things and you didn't get them. Many times you got things in life because you exercised your faith. Now you grow until you reach a level where these things that you have been hankering after are nothings. You have died, you couldn't care for them all you look for is the Lord and His holiness. By the time you died in the fourth area, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father, the Holy Spirit become literally the most precious possession of your entire being and entire life. So when you die completely to self, you have tremendous power with God. It's only when you die to those desires like Hannah in the fourth area, the real blessing comes. Suddenly God will give you more than you could have asked.

The interesting thing is in all these four areas; you can never die until God reveals a part of Himself to you. Jacob died and became Israel when God revealed a part of Himself through the angel. Isaiah died more to himself only when God revealed His glory. Job died to himself and his self-righteousness when God in the whirlwind revealed Himself. Hannah died when she began to get the revelation of having the keys of God that she has something to give to God. See in all these areas there has to be some revelation of God. Tonight as you seek God as you wait upon Him, let God reveal Himself. Only the revelation of His holiness, His light, His power in Himself can cause us to die to ourselves. Only this will give us greater power to move on this planet earth. Power with God and power on the earth to do His will.