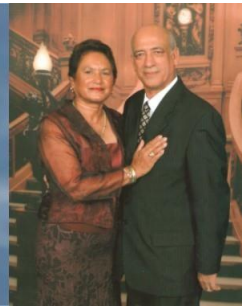




# Calvary Apostolic Ministries

Building a legacy of spiritual truth  
for present and future generations

*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone (Ephesians 2:20)*



## WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND?



**An In-depth Study of the Empowered Hand**

**Joseph D'Allende**

## NOTE BENA

This book is not for sale. The Word of God teaches: "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE." Furthermore, it is not copyrighted for the precise purpose that copies may be freely distributed. For too long many in the BODY OF CHRIST, have made the propagating of THE GOSPEL A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

Calvary Apostolic Ministries encourages that copies may be made of this book and if possible, freely distributed. However, if that is beyond your means do feel free to cover your cost.

Dr Joseph and Mrs Dolores D'Allende are the pioneers of Calvary Apostolic Ministries and up to this point in time have not sought financial aid. We, therefore, appeal to you and the congregation to bear us up in the arms of Prayer as we seek The Lord to help us make the necessary adjustments as we by The Love of God, our Father, The Grace of our Saviour the Lord Jesus, and The Power of The Holy Spirit make the necessary adjustments which will help us expedite our ministry.

Special thanks to my son in The Lord, Pastor Jacob Isaac who donated the finance to set up our first Website (Calvary Apostolic Ministries).

For further information of Calvary Apostolic Ministries please turn to The Addendum.

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## FOREWORD

It has been my privilege to work with Dr Joseph D' Allende over many years, both while he pastored churches in South Africa and more recently conducting Schools of Ministry in New Zealand. He has been my mentor over the years and now this book forms a summary of the central message of his teaching and the values which he holds dear. I am honoured to be asked to provide a Foreword.

Dr Joseph develops his teaching around the image of the hand. Each finger has spiritual significance as do the gestures made with hand and fingers. For example, bringing the hands together becomes a symbol of worship and this leads to teaching on the nature and importance of worship. Much is made of the Exodus stories and the role of Moses' hands in the parting of the Red Sea. The story of Jesus and the feeding of the five thousand involves the hands of Jesus raised in blessing and the hands of the little boy in his act of generosity. Dr Joseph discerns much more than the hands can tell us about our relationship with God and our fellow human beings.

Generosity is one of the values that is emphasised in teaching. Others include humility, the importance of prayer in the Pastor's life and ministry, a sense of vocation and the importance of sticking with the ministry despite the negatives that this sometimes brings. Our hands can be our guide in all this.

I commend this book to all who seek to live the Christian life, and especially to Dr Joseph's colleagues in Christian ministry.

Pastor Jacob Isaac



**Pastors Jacob Isaac and Dr Joseph D'Allende  
Co-Founders of Calvary Ministries  
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# PREFACE

As a Pentecostal minister of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, there is a deep spiritual yearning to witness the power of The Holy Spirit moving once again in and through The Body of Christ. Attending so-called Pentecostal Churches these days is like going to a nominal Church. Speaking in Tongues, Healings, Prophecy etc. are long gone. Loud blaring music and motivational preaching is the order of the service. Open ministry, such as Testimonies, Message of Diverse Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy, and the rest of The Gifts of The Holy Spirit are long gone. The Body of Christ is suffering from Spiritual Malnutrition. The Church is in desperate need of a fresh outpouring of The Holy Spirit. There is an urgent need for The Body of Christ to format the Worship Services once again according to:

**1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 GODS WORD:** SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS? WHEN YOU GATHER, EACH PERSON HAS A PSALM, DOCTRINE, REVELATION, ANOTHER LANGUAGE, OR AN INTERPRETATION. EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE TO HELP EACH OTHER GROW.

Open ministry is not encouraged. Congregants are ministered unto by The Pastor. However, congregants are not encouraged to minister to The Body. The Holy Spirit has blessed The Born-Again with Gifts to comfort, exhort and edify each other. Unfortunately, because they are not encouraged to exercise their Gifts, they lose out on their Gifts and The Body is not ministered unto by The Holy Spirit. This book deals with the Giftings God has placed in our hands. It is the responsibility of the Leadership of The Churches to train God's people in how to operate in their Giftings. However, be there training with no expression, the whole exercise is futile. God has placed in the hands of His dear saints' Power Gifts that transfer God's Power to heal and perform miracles. Let us seek the face of The Lord for The Holy Spirit to bless The Church with The Gifts God wants to restore His Power to His Body, and He has given us the key to unlock His Power. The releasing Key of the Power of God is The Baptism into The Spirit with the evidence of speaking in Tongues and The Laying on of Hands of The Spirit-Filled Leadership and anointed Spirit-Filled congregants. Jesus' public ministry began after The Holy Spirit came upon (see Mathew Chapter 3. Our releasement into ministry is no different.

God's Choicest Blessing.

Dr Joseph D'Allende

# INTRODUCTION

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As a student of The Word of God, I was fortunate and blessed to be taught and mentored by outstanding men and women of God. They all had the same flair in their respective ministries. They all used the teaching principle of The Law of Apperception. From the very onset of their teaching sessions, they had the uniqueness of involving their students in their teaching, and as the lessons progressed, the students felt a part of the entire instruction session. My teachers were seasoned craftsmen; they grabbed your attention from the very beginning of their discourses by taking the student from the known to the unknown. Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, also used this teaching principle.

A classic example of this is when Jesus taught of the importance of Spiritual Bread: "And Jesus answered him, saying, it is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Luke 4:4)." Jesus captured the attention of his audience by taking them from the known to the unknown. He wisely quoted from The Old Testament and then brought to their attention that natural bread was necessary for the sustenance of their physical bodies. However, for man to have Eternal Life, he must accept Jesus as his Personal Saviour, The Bread of Eternal Life. I adopted this unique teaching method. Not only did my students comprehend the teachings, but they have also implemented the teaching method of The Law of Apperception into their respective ministries and that with great spiritual rewards. I have always been fascinated in the spiritual applications of the human hand in The Word of God and to fully comprehend the imperative role and various divine expressions it has in Holy Scripture; it is essential that we remind ourselves of the unique functions of the human hand in its natural setting and thereafter see the correlation between the natural role of the human hand to that of the spiritual purpose of the human hand.

It is the aims of this brief exposition on The Power of the Hand to bring God's people to:

- i. A fresh awakening of the prominent role of the human hand in authentic scriptural worship of The Triune Godhead.

- ii. Know that God considers what is in our hands when He calls us to the ministry?
- iii. Comprehend the dynamics and the vital role the human hand plays in the ordination of God's ministers.
- iv. Know and understand The Old Testament typologies of the human hand and The New Testament interpretations thereof.
- v. Know and understand the significance of the human hand in prayerful intercession.
- vi. Understand and appreciate the role of the human hand in The Baptism into The Holy Spirit.
- vii. Know just who May lay hands on those seeking The Baptism into The Holy Spirit?
- viii. Believe that by the laying on of hands The Gifts of The Holy Spirit are imparted.
- ix. Know just who may lay hands for the impartation of The Gifts of The Holy Spirit?
- x. The sick experience healing by the laying on of hands.



# CHAPTER 1

## FROM THE KNOWN TO THE UNKNOWN

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### **The Five Senses**

God has wonderfully endowed humankind with five senses. It is through these five senses that man contacts his fellowman and his surroundings. The five senses are:

**H**EARING

**S**IGHT

**T**OUCH

**S**MELLING

**T**ASTE

Man hears with his ears, strategically placed on either side of his face. His eyes through which he sees is near to his forehead. The ability to touch and feel is within the two hands and that being the right and left hand. The nose has two nostrils that enable man to smell. The mouth with its jaw, teeth and tongue gives man the ability to chew food and make the necessary distinctions of taste between the various foods he eats.

These senses are vital to the well-being of man, and when these senses fail or cease to operate man is considered as handicapped and impaired.

### **The Precise Position of the Five Senses**

Situated on the face of a person are Four of the Five Senses, and that being hearing, sight, smell, and taste. The touch sense is approximately 80 -100 centimetres from the eyes. It is all by itself and yet they all work perfectly in harmony. They are uniquely correlated by the brain, which transmits directives as the other four senses feed information to the brain. It is the touch ability that acts as the servant of the other four senses. Perhaps considering the following acronym will help us to see the correlation between the hands and the brain:

## **H**ANDS

## **A**CTIVATE

## **N**EUROLOGICAL

## **D**IRECTION

It is the aims of this brief exposition on The Power of the Hand to bring God's people to:

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4. Know and understand The Old Testament typologies of the human hand and The New Testament interpretations thereof.
5. Know and understand the significance of the human hand in prayerful intercession.
6. Understand and appreciate the role of the human hand in The Baptism into The Holy Spirit.
7. Know just who May lay hands on those seeking The Baptism into The Holy Spirit?
8. Believe that by the laying on of hands The Gifts of The Holy Spirit are imparted.
9. Know just who may lay hands for the impartation of The Gifts of The Holy Spirit?
10. The sick experience healing by the laying on of hands.

### **The Hand - the Touch and Feeling Sense**

There is a marked distinction between touching and feeling. When touching we encounter an object and oft times, we are unable to

distinguish what is reached. However, when we feel we able to detect what is affected. The fingers of the engaged hand recognise the article. The hand has five fingers and each with a unique ability. It is because of these special abilities that the fingers are named accordingly:

THE THUMB

THE INDEX FINGER

THE MIDDLE FINGER

THE RING FINGER

THE BABY FINGER

### **The Thumb**

The position of the Thumbs is on the extreme left of the right hand, and the absolute right of the left hand. The Thumbs are the smallest of all the fingers, and yet surprisingly enough it often speaks of the seal of a person. Those unfortunate people who cannot write are encouraged to use their thumbprint as a mark of authentication. Strange and yet so true every person has a different set of prints, and therefore it has the uniqueness of authorising legal documents. Because of this uniqueness, the thumb refers to as the Authority of a Person or the Seal of a Person.

### **The Index Finger**

The Index Finger is the closest to the thumb of authority. The Index Finger is used for pointing and therefore is often referred to as the pointing finger - the finger of direction. The proximity of the pointing finger to the thumb of authority is for a reason. When authority and direction join, they take on an ability that is like that of the tongue. The tongue through speech communicates. The thumb of authority and the finger of direction also talk. Placing pens and pencils between the Thumb and Index fingers gives the ability to write. The tongue speaks to the ears of men with sound, whereas the thumb of authority and the index finger speak with sight.

One of the common uses of the index finger is the calling of people; however, in certain cultures, this is very offensive.

### **The Middle Finger**

The Middle Finger is the longest of all the fingers, and when the hand is touched, it reaches out the furthest on the object felt. Like the thumb

and the index finger when the hands are joined, the middle fingers touch and unite. Sadly, in many cultures, the middle finger is used as a sign of obscenity and insult.

The Ring Finger is the second-longest finger. It is called the Ring Finger for on it in most cultures the wedding ring is worn. The wedding ring is on the left hand. I once heard it is the finger that has a vein linked directly to the heart. After research, I have discovered that this is not true. There was a belief in ancient times that a vein ran from the fourth finger (that is counting from the thumb) directly to the heart. No wonder this vein was nicknamed "vena amoral" which means "the vein of love." It was this view in mind that married couples wore their wedding rings on the ring finger depicting their love for each other as a hand and heart connection.

### **The Little Finger**

The Little Finger is the smallest of all the fingers. Counting from the thumb, it is the last finger of the hand. This little finger is usually used to scratch in the ear. Like all the other fingers, when the hands join, they denote union.

There is so much we can glean from the symbolism of the hand. The hands play a vital role in our communication with people. Gestures (signs) of hands express either respect or disrespect. Before we mention and briefly explain the symbols of the hand, we must remind ourselves there is a constant correlation between the brain and the hand. The hand receives directives from the brain and acts accordingly.

There are two kinds of actions that the hands express and that being voluntary and involuntary actions. Our free will determines Voluntary activities. Classic examples of this are what we decide to eat. Whether or not to do daily exercises to strengthen our bodies. Involuntary actions are those specific actions over which we have no control. Several good examples are sleeping, breathing, and yawning (I find it quite strange that when I see someone stretching, I start stretching almost immediately). The best case of involuntary actions comes from my Primary school days. Our teacher gave us a classic example of how when touching a hot plate or hot pot; we do not decide whether to remove our hand. Without premeditation and thought, we lift our hands instantly.

### **Symbol 1 Power**

As small as the hand is in comparison to the rest of the body (the chest, the legs, the head, etc.), it is rather remarkable how that POWER is associated with the hand. Considering a clenched fist, we note it enables a person to knock down another person. When the hand is open and outstretched to another hand, it can pick a person up.

From this simple thought, The Lord has spoken to me, and I have shared this with many of God's beautiful children: "POWER IN THE WRONG HANDS IS DESTRUCTIVE; HOWEVER, POWER IN THE RIGHT HANDS ARE CONSTRUCTIVE." Usually, an open hand is a hand that blesses others. Often, a clenched hand (a fist) is a hand that destroys others. There are those certain few (people like Hitler, Mussolini, and Bonaparte) who believe that hands mean war. It is no surprise the handgrips most weapons of destruction, the knife, the spear, the sword etc. Remarkably, as much as there are violent people in this world, there are gentle people as well, who are motivated to do good. These people's hands are forever open and outstretched to the less fortunate and downtrodden, willing to pick them up from the muck and mire of an unpleasant life and clasping their weak and feeble hands of the discarded in their mighty hand lead them to a better and God-centred life. There are so many caring types of hands in the world:

**H**ANDS OF MERCY **H**ANDS

OF GRACE

**H**ANDS OF TRUST

**H**ANDS OF PEACE

**H**ANDS OF POWER

Sadly, in this world, there are also those hands that love to fight - the hands of warfare.

### **Symbol 2 Covenant/Agreement**

My parents could not provide the best and sundry for us yet gave my siblings and myself that which money could never buy. They gave us honour and dignity. My father was a man of a few words and yet a man of great action. He lived by his word, and his word was his bond. He was as good as his word and whenever he gave his word to another person as his bond, he joyously yet solemnly said: "LET'S SHAKE ON THAT." My humble father extended his hand in a handshake, thus signifying the confirmation of his promised word.

How sad are the present days, men do not honour their word? Every agreement must be in writing, signed by the parties entering into covenant agreement, further witnessed by at least two witnesses, and signed on the document. Times have sure changed humankind. It was not so long ago that the only requirement was a simple handshake.

### **Symbol 3 Greeting**

My dear Pastor, Apostle Edwin Gray, surely knew how to break down the divide between people. He convinced me and many others of the power of the wave of the hand accompanied by a pleasing smile. I have seen the most miserable and unloved people succumb to a hand wave of greeting and a pleasant smile.

Gestures carry explicit messages and no doubt, a hand wave greeting gesture sure invites people to want to know you. They probably ask themselves why this man is so friendly.

One of the first things that mothers love teaching their babies is the farewell wave. With great joy and pride, we hear them encourage the baby: "Say bye-bye." To our pleasant surprise, the sweet and adorable baby eagerly begins waving their hands and smile gleefully. No doubt, the little child did not say goodbye, but they convincingly spoke with their hands.

In several cultures hugging and kissing is discouraged and at best, left to the women. To refrain from absolute embarrassment, men prefer to shake hands firmly. It is most assuredly a sign of friendship as well. Handshakes in most cultures are signs of welcoming.

### **Symbol 4 Anger**

An angry person is a dangerous person. They can do great harm to people. It is best to avoid them. Often angry people unknowingly give a gesture that forewarns us of evil intent. They raise a clenched hand (a fist) toward people. Many angry people lose their rationality. It is as if another person takes over.

### **Symbol 5 Respect**

The enlisted troops salute their superiors (officers) of an army. No matter where they meet, the enlisted soldier will acknowledge his senior as a sign of respect. The hand raised to the side of the head and bringing the feet together with a stomp is a perfect greeting in the army and navy.

### **Symbol 6 Prayer**

The two hands interlocked portrays two symbols of prayer and that being trust and repentance. Our hands clasped together, and our fingers heavenward it is a sign that we are more than just communicating with God in prayer, we are trusting and believing God will answer our prayer.

When our two hands are linked together, all our fingers face downward except our two thumbs, which face upward, this is incredibly significant. The eight fingers downward are a sign of

repentance. We acknowledge our sins, holding our clenched hands on our chest close to our heart as a sign of remorse and repentance. The two thumbs point upward and note though they face heavenward, they are crisscrossed and speak of the Cross. Our Salvation secured at The Cross of Calvary.

When our hands are open and raised above our stature, it is in most cases a different type of prayer altogether. This symbolism of communion with God deals matters that concern others. It is the prayer of fervent intercession. It is a time that we take on the burdens of others and plead with Almighty God on their behalf.

## **Symbol 7 Approval and Disapproval**

We often use symbolic gestures to communicate. One of the most common metaphorical gestures is the thumbs up or thumbs down. The index, middle, ring, and small finger are closed in a tight fist action with the thumb extended either upwards or downward. The extended upward thumb conveys the unspoken metaphor of approval, whereas the down-extended thumb denotes disapproval. Often when asked probing questions like "how was the game?" Thumbs up sign will indicate the game was good. The thumbs down sign would mean the game was terrible.

## **The Versatility of the Hand**

The hand is the most versatile member with the unique ability to act on behalf of the impaired senses. It has the unique ability to act on behalf of the impaired five senses. The unique hand aids those people who are unable to hear and speak. The illustrious hand assists those unable to read.

The hand manipulates sign language and those who are deaf can hear and communicate as they focus on the manipulations of the hand motions. Those who are unable to speak can relate and that effectively as they too use the art of sign language.

The hand is versatile. The sense of touch in all the fingers gives the ability to read. The blind and the visually impaired can read through the contact and feel the imprint of their hands. Braille (named after the Frenchman who invented Braille) is on embossed paper, which enables the letters of the alphabet to stand out. Each letter has its distinct code and touch thus enabling the blind to read.

Blindness not only robs people of sight and the ability to read but also robs the blind of mobility. Once again, it is the hand of power that comes to the rescue of the blind who are often prisoners in their own homes. By merely placing a marked cane, usually white, in their hand, they can go to most places where all ordinary people go. There is also the remarkable aid of the trained dog who leads the blind. Once again,

the hand plays a prominent part. The dog-lead is placed over the neck of the dog and extends to the hand of the blind person. The dog avoids all the dangerous hazards in the path of the intended journey. It might sound laughable that the lead is not around the ankle, the leg, or the neck of the blind. The dog-lead is strategically in the hand of the blind. It is the hand of the blind that has the strength and the ability to heed (pay attention to, listen to, take note of, observe, notice and regard) the guidance of the dog. Can we imagine the lead around the ankle, the leg, or the neck? The blind person will be hobbling along or slowly choking to death. It is the all-powerful hand, or should I further say the remarkable hand that becomes the hearing aid, the mouthpiece, and the spectacles of the physically impaired.



# CHAPTER 2

## THE ROLE OF THE HAND IN WORSHIP

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### **Preamble**

It is quite alarming that many Christians do not fully comprehend what true Worship entails. To most of us, it is singing praises to God in a liturgical setting and reciting prescribed prayers from a prayer journal. On the other hand, there are congregations led to Worship by a Convenor. Furthermore, there are many Christians that adamantly believe that Worship is a private matter between the individual and God.

Though all the above do have a ring of truth in it, are these forms of Corporate Worship and Private Worship what God expects from the redeemed. Before we answer the pertinent question perhaps, it would be wise to consider just what our standard English Dictionaries say of Worship:

### **The Free Online Dictionary**

The ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by the reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object, which this love is expressed.

ARDENT DEVOTION; ADORATION. OFTEN WORSHIP CHIEFLY

BRITISH USED AS A FORM OF ADDRESS FOR MAGISTRATES, MAYORS, AND CERTAIN OTHER DIGNITARIES: "YOUR WORSHIP."

TO HONOUR AND LOVE AS A DEITY.

TO REGARD WITH ARDENT OR ADORING ESTEEM OR DEVOTION.

TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS RITES OF WORSHIP.

TO PERFORM AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

### **The Oxford Dictionary**

THE RELIGIOUS RITES OR CEREMONIES, CONSTITUTING A FORMAL EXPRESSION OF REVERENCE FOR A DEITY: THE CHURCH OPENED FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

GREAT ADMIRATION OR DEVOTION HAS SHOWN TOWARDS A PERSON OR PRINCIPLE: THE WORSHIP OF CELEBRITY AND WEALTH.

ARCHAIC HONOUR IS GIVEN TO SOMEONE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR MERIT. (HIS/YOUR WORSHIP) CHIEFLY BRITISH USED IN ADDRESSING OR REFERRING TO AN IMPORTANT OR HIGHRANKING PERSON, ESPECIALLY A MAGISTRATE OR MAYOR: WE WERE SOON JOINED BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

The above definitions though sound does not concur with The Scriptures. There are vast differences between the secular interpretation and scriptural interpretation of Worship. To fully comprehend a Biblical analysis of Worship, an intense study should be undertaken from both The Old and New Testaments.

There are 62 verses and 40 verses in The Old Testament and The New Testament that deal with Worship. A total of 102 verses, and therefore, we can most definitely conclude that Worship is an integral part of The Holy Bible.

Time and space do not permit us to deal with all those 102 verses; however, The First Mention Principle of Hermeneutics (The Science of Biblical Interpretation) will help us to cite a Biblical perspective of Worship.

### **The First Mention Principle**

This principle teaches the first time a specific topic (subject, theme) is mentioned; it sets the tone of interpretation. As a servant of The Lord, I adamantly adhere to this principle, however as I declare my understanding of Worship, as a student of The Word it is your prerogative to agree or disagree (perhaps the thumbs up or thumbs down symbol can come into effect). Let us now consider the first mention of Worship in The Bible:

**GENESIS 22:1-18 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** AFTER THESE THINGS, GOD TESTED ABRAHAM AND SAID TO HIM, "ABRAHAM!" AND HE SAID, "HERE AM I," HE SAID, "TAKE YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON ISAAC, WHOM YOU LOVE, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH, AND OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT OFFERING ON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF WHICH I SHALL TELL YOU." SO, ABRAHAM ROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING, SADDLED HIS DONKEY, AND TOOK TWO OF HIS YOUNG MEN WITH HIM, AND HIS SON ISAAC. AND HE CUT THE WOOD FOR THE BURNT OFFERING AND AROSE AND WENT TO THE PLACE OF WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM. ON THE THIRD DAY, ABRAHAM LIFTED HIS EYES AND SAW THE PLACE FROM AFAR. THEN ABRAHAM SAID TO HIS YOUNG MEN, "STAY HERE WITH THE

DONKEY; THE BOY AND I WILL GO OVER THERE AND WORSHIP AND COME AGAIN TO YOU." AND ABRAHAM TOOK THE WOOD OF THE BURNT OFFERING AND LAID IT ON ISAAC, HIS SON. AND HE TOOK IN HIS HAND THE FIRE AND THE KNIFE. SO, THEY WENT BOTH TOGETHER. AND ISAAC SAID TO HIS FATHER ABRAHAM, "MY FATHER!" AND HE SAID, "HERE AM I, MY SON." HE SAID, "BEHOLD, THE FIRE AND THE WOOD, BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING?" ABRAHAM SAID, "GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR HIMSELF THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING, MY SON." SO, THEY WENT BOTH TOGETHER. WHEN THEY CAME TO THE PLACE OF WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM, ABRAHAM BUILT THE ALTAR THERE AND LAID THE WOOD IN ORDER AND BOUND ISAAC, HIS SON AND LAID HIM ON THE ALTAR, ON TOP OF THE WOOD? THEN ABRAHAM REACHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOOK THE KNIFE TO SLAUGHTER HIS SON. BUT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED TO HIM FROM HEAVEN AND SAID, "ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM!" AND HE SAID, "HERE AM I," HE SAID, "DO NOT LAY YOUR HAND ON THE BOY OR DO ANYTHING TO HIM, FOR NOW, I KNOW THAT YOU FEAR GOD, SEEING YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, FROM ME." AND ABRAHAM LIFTED HIS EYES AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, BEHIND HIM WAS A RAM, CAUGHT IN A THICKET BY HIS HORNS. AND ABRAHAM WENT AND TOOK THE RAM AND OFFERED IT UP AS A BURNT OFFERING INSTEAD OF HIS SON. SO, ABRAHAM CALLED THE NAME OF THAT PLACE, "THE LORD WILL PROVIDE"; AS IT IS SAID TO THIS DAY, "ON THE MOUNT OF THE LORD SHALL PROVIDE." AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED TO ABRAHAM A SECOND TIME FROM HEAVEN AND SAID, "BY MYSELF I HAVE SWORN, DECLARES THE LORD, BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS AND HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU, AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOUR OFFSPRING AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND AS THE SAND THAT IS ON THE SEASHORE. AND YOUR OFFSPRING SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES, AND IN YOUR OFFSPRING SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED, BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED MY VOICE.

We, The Born Again of The Spirit understand Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the Patriarchs of the Jewish nation. However, on close examination of Genesis, perhaps we need to reconsider just who is the real Patriarch of The Jewish Nation. On close review of the so-called three Patriarchs and their respective wives, it is evident that all their wives were barren.

**GENESIS 11:30 ESVUK:** NOW SARAI WAS BARREN SHE HAD NO CHILD.

**GENESIS 25:21 ESVUK:** AND ISAAC PRAYED TO THE LORD FOR HIS WIFE, BECAUSE SHE WAS BARREN. AND THE LORD GRANTED HIS PRAYER, AND REBEKAH HIS WIFE CONCEIVED

**GENESIS 29:31 ESVUK:** WHEN THE LORD SAW THAT LEAH WAS HATED, HE OPENED HER WOMB, BUT RACHEL WAS BARREN.

If God had not performed a miracle in each family, there would not have been the Jewish nation. God, who caused the miracle of conception in each family, is the real Patriarch of the Jewish nation. Abraham had a special relationship with The Almighty God. They were in a covenant relationship. God had made significant promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-20; 17:1-8). Covenant promises of posterity, greatness, a blessing to the nations and the father of many nations and an everlasting land covenant. Abraham knew that God would never violate His promises and when commanded by Almighty God to offer up Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham was confused and perplexed. Though Abraham could not comprehend what God asked him to perform, there was the command of God that gave Abraham a glimmer of hope that somehow or the other God will keep His covenant promises. God's special mention of Isaac spurred Abraham on to carry out the strange command. Six times in Chapter 22 God mentions "son", four times before the intended sacrifice of the knife and twice after the intended sacrifice

TAKE YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, WHOM YOU LOVE,  
YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON,  
YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON.

God is precise in His word to Abraham. God was aware of Abraham's other son- Ishmael, and yet on three specific and distinct times He categorically emphasises "your only son." Was God ignoring the fact and truth that Abraham had Fathered Ishmael with Sarai's maidservant- Hagar? Candidly, the answer is a most definite no. Almighty God blessed Ishmael.

**GENESIS 21:13 ESVUK:** "AND I WILL MAKE A NATION OF THE SON OF THE SLAVE WOMAN ALSO BECAUSE HE IS YOUR OFFSPRING.

However, the unique covenant relationship of fathering The Jewish nation and the Everlasting land Promise was to continue with the son of The Covenant Promise and that being Isaac.

**GENESIS 17:15-21 ESVUK:** AND GOD SAID TO ABRAHAM: "AS FOR SARAI, YOUR WIFE, YOU SHALL NOT CALL HER NAME SARAI, BUT SARAH SHALL

BE HER NAME. I WILL BLESS HER, AND I WILL GIVE YOU A SON BY HER. I WILL BLESS HER, AND SHE SHALL BECOME NATIONS; KINGS OF PEOPLES SHALL COME FROM HER." THEN ABRAHAM FELL ON HIS FACE AND LAUGHED AND SAID TO HIMSELF, "SHALL A CHILD BE BORN TO A MAN WHO IS A HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD? SHALL SARAH, WHO IS NINETY YEARS OLD, BEAR A CHILD?" AND ABRAHAM SAID TO GOD, "OH, THAT ISHMAEL MIGHT LIVE BEFORE YOU!" GOD SAID, "NO, BUT SARAH, YOUR WIFE, SHALL BEAR YOU A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME ISAAC. I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT WITH HIM AS AN EVERLASTING COVENANT FOR HIS OFFSPRING AFTER HIM. AS FOR ISHMAEL, I HAVE HEARD YOU; BEHOLD, I HAVE BLESSED HIM AND WILL MAKE HIM FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY HIM GREATLY. HE SHALL FATHER TWELVE PRINCES, AND I WILL MAKE HIM INTO A GREAT NATION. BUT I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT WITH ISAAC, WHOM SARAH SHALL BEAR TO YOU AT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.

### **Whom You Love**

Isaac was dearest to the heart of Abraham. God, Himself speaks this to Abraham. He was to sacrifice the son he loved. No doubt, Abraham wrestled with this command from God; nevertheless, he was obedient and prepared for his journey of heartbreak. They gathered the wood for the fire. The knife to slay the sacrifice was packed away. The donkey was saddled up for the tedious journey of three long days.

### **The Threefold Cord of True Worship**

Within the context of the extraordinary ordeal, that Abraham had to endure was a threefold cord of spiritual truth that possibly calmed his anxious spirit (Ecclesiastes 4:8-12). His profound love for his God was the first cord:

**1 JOHN 5:2 KING JAMES VERSION:** BY THIS, WE KNOW THAT WE LOVE THE CHILDREN OF GOD WHEN WE LOVE GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

Love will always lead to the journey of obedience, which is the second cord of spiritual truth. The third cord that helped Abraham keep his sanity (his good judgement) was his profound (insightful) words of faith: On two occasions, the distraught Abraham pushed his feelings aside and spoke words of intense faith:

**GENESIS 22:7-8 ESVUK:** THEN ABRAHAM SAID TO HIS YOUNG MEN, "STAY HERE WITH THE DONKEY; THE BOY AND I WILL GO OVER THERE AND WORSHIP AND COME AGAIN TO YOU."

**GENESIS 22:7-8 ESVUK:** AND ISAAC SAID TO HIS FATHER ABRAHAM, "MY FATHER!" AND HE SAID, "HERE AM I, MY SON." HE SAID, "BEHOLD, THE FIRE AND THE WOOD, BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING?" ABRAHAM SAID, "GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR HIMSELF THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING, MY SON." SO, THEY WENT BOTH TOGETHER.

The words come again to you and God will provide the lamb for a burnt offering were not just ordinary words; they were words that were energised, produced, and birthed by obedience. Abraham spoke those unique words of faith because of the sincere love he had for his God, a love that was evident through his act of obedience. Whenever love and obedience unite, the inevitable will always follow and that being faith. It is no wonder that Abraham is declared The Father of Faith (Romans 3:27-4:11; Hebrews 11:17-19; James 2:18-23).

Love, obedience, and faith are the pure ingredients that ultimately produce genuine Worship. Abraham's words: "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there and worship and come again to you;" are uniquely profound for it is the first time that worship is mentioned in The Holy Scripture.

Just how did Abraham Worship? Did Abraham raise his hands in Worship? Did Abraham prostrate himself and Isaac before The Lord in Worship? Did Abraham and Isaac sing songs of Worship and praises unto God? The answers are no. Abraham did what is seen by Almighty God as true Worship. He was willing to sacrifice his only son, whom he loved unto Almighty God.

Abraham, after building the altar, bound Isaac to the altar. Isaac, his only son, whom he loved, was firmly laid on the wood to be sacrificed as an act of worship to almighty God. Sacrifice is the type of Worship that Abraham spoke of to his two servants. That which was the dearest to his heart was to be offered up to God as an act of Worship. Abraham raised the knife high above his head, and as he began the death plunge, The God of mercy and grace intervened. God's voice echoed above the heartbroken cry of Abraham as the plunging knife came down to the heart of Isaac:

God's voice echoed above the heartbroken cry of Abraham as the plunging knife came down to the heart of Isaac:

**GENESIS 22:12 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM!" AND HE SAID, "HERE AM I," HE SAID, "DO NOT LAY YOUR HAND ON THE BOY OR DO ANYTHING TO HIM, FOR NOW, I KNOW THAT YOU FEAR GOD, SEEING YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, FROM ME."

Considering Abraham's act of Worship, does God require less from you and me? I do believe that our God loves our singing, our praises, our hands lifted high in adoration and yet He wants so much more from us. He wants us and no wonder The Holy Spirit moved the Apostle Paul to pen these remarkable words:

**ROMANS 12:1-3 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** I APPEAL TO YOU, THEREFORE, BROTHERS, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP. DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

The above Scripture is blatantly (deliberately) clear that which will please The Lord is the sacrifice of ourselves. Sacrifice is true Worship. No wonder the Apostle said this of himself:

**GALATIANS 2:20 EASY TO READ VERSION:** SO, I AM NOT THE ONE LIVING NOW –IT IS CHRIST LIVING IN ME. I STILL LIVE IN MY BODY, BUT I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD. HE IS THE ONE WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF TO SAVE ME.

Abraham raised the knife in his hands to sacrifice his only son whom he loved as Worship as unto The Lord. Is God asking too much of you and me? Is it beyond us? God who is omniscient knows it is way beyond us, and therefore He comes to our aid. God sees the heart of His servant Abraham and stops him from offering up his son whom he loved.

As Born-Again Christians let us bear in mind and Spirit, it is not God's will that we lay on an altar of sacrifice and offer up ourselves to God. Jesus has taken our place on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus willingly offered up Himself on our behalf. The Just died for the unjust (see 1 Peter 3:18). Jesus, who knew no sin became sin that we may become the righteousness of God (see 2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV). In the days, months and years that lie ahead let us rejoice in Worship as we raise our hands unto God knowing full well that Jesus, our Sacrificed Lamb took our place at The Cross of Calvary, the very altar that God, The Father of Jesus Christ had prepared for His only begotten Son.

#### **NOTA BENE**

GOD DOES NOT WANT YOU AND ME AS A DEAD SACRIFICE. THE LORD GOD WANTS US AS A LIVING SACRIFICE. THE DEATH THAT GOD WANTS OF US IS DIEING TO OUR

SELF-WILL AND TO SIN. IN DIEING TO SELF, WE PUT ON CHRIST AND LIVE THROUGH THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AND IN SO DOING WE GLORIFY GOD.

## **Spiritual Applications    Spiritual Application No 1: The Indwelling Christ**

God told Abraham to offer up his only son, that which was dearest to his heart. We are not called to offer up our children to God. It is our Christian duty to dedicate our children to God. God wants us to offer up ourselves. We must understand that we are in this wicked, perverse world, but in no way are we to be a part of it. God has called us out of this world. It is to this evil world that we must die. We are to reckon ourselves alive unto God and dead to this perverse world. Jesus, our Lord and Master, encouraged each one of us to pick up our cross daily and follow Him (Mathew 16:24). Controlling this world are evil spiritual powers that once controlled us. Now that we are Born-Again, we must realise that we need not be controlled anymore by these evil forces. Our old nature of sin and self is dead through the Efficacious Death and Resurrection of Jesus. We have been made alive unto God, and the life we now live is not meant to be controlled by the flesh anymore and the evil insinuations of the powers of darkness that rules this world. We live a life empowered by The Spirit of God:

**GALATIANS 2:20 EASY TO READ VERSION:** SO, I AM NOT THE ONE LIVING NOW – IT IS CHRIST LIVING IN ME. I STILL LIVE IN MY BODY, BUT I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD. HE IS THE ONE WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF TO SAVE ME.

Our Sacrifice of Worship is in the Finished Work of The Cross. It is an acknowledgement of what Jesus had accomplished on The Cross. It is this in mind that when tempted by the powers of darkness, we reject their evil insinuations and in so doing, we keep our sins and self nailed to The Cross:

**ROMANS 6:1-4 ESVUK:** WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? ARE WE TO CONTINUE IN SIN THAT GRACE MAY ABOUND? BY NO MEANS! HOW CAN WE WHO DIED TO SIN STILL LIVE IN IT? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT ALL OF US WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH? WE WERE BURIED THEREFORE WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH, SO THAT, JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.



**Spiritual Application No 2: Separated as unto The Lord**  
Rejecting sin and refusing to align ourselves with the standards of this world is our daily Sacrifice of Worship.

### **Spiritual Application No 3: Obedience, Faith and Worship**

The Word of God is precise in its commands: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams (1 Samuel 15:22 KJV)." The sincere love we have for God will ignite Obedience, which in turn will promote Faith that leads to a Sacrifice of Worship. The above Scripture must be in its context for a clear understanding. King Saul was commanded by God to annihilate The Amalekites and all their possessions. King Saul spared the king, and the prized livestock was offered to The Lord as a sacrifice. The sacrifice was not accepted as a Sacrifice of Worship for the simple fact it was a violation of God's command. It was nothing less than an act of disobedience. God's people will obey the promptings of The Holy Spirit to make certain sacrifices. It has been my personal experience that I have been prompted to forego some of my pleasures. I enjoy sport, more so boxing and rugby. Watching these sports or before watching, I have been inspired by The Holy Spirit to pray and seek The Face of the Lord. By the grace of God, I have heeded the promptings most times, and to my sheer delight, I have had wonderful times of Worship. When we sacrifice our pleasure to be alone with God, we will always experience the Presence of The Lord uniquely. Rest assured love for God and obedience will always lead to faith and worship.

### **Study to Show Yourself Approved unto God**

1. In your own words, what is True Worship?
2. Define Hermeneutics.
3. Explain the First Mention Principle of Hermeneutics.
4. What is the significance of God mentioning your only son thrice?
5. List and briefly explain the threefold cord that Abraham used to Worship.
6. Of what New Testament event is the sacrifice of Isaac?
7. What is the distinction of Isaac's sacrifice to that of Jesus sacrifice?

# CHAPTER 3

## WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND?

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### **Preamble**

Many of God's people disregard themselves. They see themselves as nobodies, and because of this innate (inborn, intrinsic, natural) perception of themselves, they sadly fail to achieve in life. Unfortunately, many fail both intellectually and secularly. Born Again, Spirit-filled children of God must deal with this horrible inferior complex. So many of us are in desperate need of a God infused Biblical understanding of just who we are in Christ. Considering our past reminds us of failure, rejection, poverty, and illiteracy. We wring our hands in despair, placing ourselves on the shelves of God's intended blessings, resigned never to be a blessing to God and His Church.

It is true that our environment moulds and shapes us for our future, and often because God was not in the centre of our past, we feel we will fail. Our mindsets must change because there is absolutely nothing that God cannot undo and change for the better. Maybe our upbringing has stripped us of our dignity and self-worth but let us assure ourselves this is precisely the type of persons that our Lord Jesus Christ uses for His glory.

God in His mercy delights to use the discarded, the marginalised and the oppressed. How accurate is the scripture?

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:17 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** FOR CHRIST DID NOT SEND ME TO BAPTISE BUT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, AND NOT WITH WORDS OF ELOQUENT WISDOM, LEST THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS EMPTIED OF ITS POWER.

Early in my ministry, The Good Lord spoke into my spirit these **uplifting words:** GOD WILL TAKE A NOBODY FROM NOWHERE. GOD WILL THEN MAKE THAT NOBODY A SOMEBODY IN CHRIST JESUS AND PLACE HIM SOMEWHERE AND AFTER THAT NOBODY CHOSEN BY GOD FROM NOWHERE IS MADE GOD'S SOMEBODY, GOD WILL SEND HIM EVERYWHERE. Many of us have been marginalised in our family circles and sadly, even in our Churches. Unfortunately, we have brought this rejected spirit into our walk with God. Many of us feel there is no room for us in The Church. We think that we overlooked by The Leadership of our Local Churches and because of this unfounded misconception of ourselves, we become hermits, and we suffer the horrible consequences of self-imposed alienation, which robs us of God's good intentions for our ministries.

No doubt our Church Leadership have disregarded us, however, let me assure all who suffer an acute inferior complex, that The Holy Spirit is not like man. GOD DOES NOT LOOK FOR PERFECTION IN MAN. INSTEAD, HE LOOKS TO THE POTENTIAL IN MAN THAT LEADS TO PERFECTION. The gentle Holy Spirit considers our faithfulness and humility. Our talents and abilities do not impress The Holy Spirit. No matter our rejection, poverty, illiteracy, and incompetence, He is more than able to perform wonders in our ministries.

Let us by the help of The Holy Spirit and the forever-effective Word of God resolve to follow faithfulness and humility. Let us cry out to God to remove this inferior complex, that He may fill us with His Person and Power and that we may become mighty soldiers of The Cross.

Throughout the Bible, there are mighty men of God who once saw themselves as insignificant. Men whose dignity was at a low ebb. They saw nothing good in themselves, but this was not how God saw them. He saw in them His power and glory. Out from their nothingness, He moulded greatness and influence that effected their generation and future generations. God can and will do the very same for you and me. What is in your hand today? Give it to God, and you will be amazed how Almighty God will use you.

## **Moses, The Prophet of God**

One of the remarkable revelations of the unadulterated Word of God is just how God presents His servants to us. All the servants of God are as an open book. No doubt, it is for a definite purpose. God knows how we love to imitate and mimic others and therefore, He purposely displays all His servant's character, strengths, and weaknesses of ministry that we may be Godlier and more effective in ministry. We learn so much from other people's mistakes. EMBRACE THEIR GOOD AND DISCARD THE BAD.

Moses was one of the greatest prophets of Jehovah God, and yet scrutinising his life and ministry, we discover so many flaws. Like you and I Moses was not perfect. However, he served a Perfect God. As we study the life and ministry of Moses, chew the meat, and discard the bones. We too can become mighty men and women of God, doing exploits for God that will bring honour to His name and deliverance and blessing to the people of God.

## **The Meaning of the Name Moses**

I have often asked family, my close friends and myself: "What is in a name? The answer I believe came from The Lord (you be the judge). Names may often carry certain traits of personalities and even specific characteristics of ministries. One common name is Andrew, which means a warrior. Oft time's parents wonder why their son Andrew is

at times very violent; well, he is just living up to his name. Elijah was a famous Prophet of the Old Testament, whose name depicts Jehovah, is God. When we consider all the miracles he performed, the one that stands out is when he proved to Israel, who was the true God of Israel. He said the God who answers with fire is God. The name of Moses is incredibly significant as it means drawing out (of the water), i.e., rescued (see Strong's Hebrew Concordance no. 04872). Moses lived up to his name. He saved God's people from the Egyptians. For over 400 years, they were slaves and this man rescued from the River Nile became their emancipator. With great signs and wonders, he crushed the power of the Egyptians, rendering their gods powerless against the might and power of The God of Hebrews.

### **Moses Early Life (Exodus 2:1-19)**

His parents were Amram and Jochebed (Exodus 6:20). Their names are significant, and when interpreted, we may see the definite role they played in the early years of Moses' life. Amram means high people (Strong's Hebrew Concordance numbers 06019, 5971, and 7311). To fully comprehend the meaning of Jochebed, we must consider all three Hebrew words that make up the name. Looking at The Strong's Hebrew Concordance numbers 03115, 03068 and 03513 we note the following:

03115. dbkwy Yowkebed, yo-keh'-bed Search for 03115 in KJV from 3068 contracted and 3513; Jehovah-gloried; Jokebed, the mother of Moses:--Jochebed.

03068. hwhy Y@hovah, yeh-ho-vaw'  
Search for 03068 in KJV

From 1961; (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah, Jewish national name of God:--Jehovah, the Lord. Compare, 3050, 3069.

See Hebrew 01961 (hayah)

See Hebrew 03050 (Yahh)

See Hebrew 03069 (Y@hovih)

03513. dbk kabad, kaw-bad' Search for 03513 in KJV or kabad {kaw-bade'}; a primitive root; to be heavy, i.e. in a bad sense (burdensome, severe, dull) or in a good sense

(numerous, rich, honourable; causatively, to make weighty (in the same two senses):--abounding with, more grievously afflict, boast, be chargeable, X be dim, glorify, be (make) glorious (things), glory, (very) great, be grievous, harden, be (make) heavy, be heavier, lay heavily, (bring to, come to, do, get, be had in) honour (self), (be) honourable (man), lade, X more be laid, make self-many, nobles, prevail, promote (to honour), be rich, be (go) sore, stop.

Assimilating all the above, we can conclude there are two meanings of the name Jochebed. Firstly, Jehovah is heavily burdened and afflicted. Secondly, Jehovah is gloriously rich in honour. Moses mother's unique name was a vivid glowing picture of just how Jehovah felt about His Covenant people's enduring suffering at the hands of the Egyptians. Their pain became God's pain. Some may say this is an exaggeration; however, when we allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, we see that God, though Almighty is more than able to feel our pain:

**HEBREWS 4:15 ESV:** FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO SYMPATHISE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES, BUT ONE WHO IN EVERY RESPECT TEMPTED AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.

This High Priest is none other than Jesus Christ, The Son of God, whom God the Father addresses as God (Hebrews 1:8). The Strong's Greek Concordance sheds much light on infirmities:

769. *asyeneia* *astheneia*, as-then'-i-ah Search for 769 in KJV  
from 722; feebleness (of mind or body); by implication, malady; morally, frailty: -disease, sickness, weakness.

See Greek 772 (*asthenes*)

Jochebed had a grave responsibility: She had to transfer the burdensome affliction that God felt for His elected people to her son Moses. Once again, some may say this is going too far, however when we consider the very words of God many of God's people will understand that God can and will transfer His heart to His people and that those who will lay down their life that others may be set free from sin's bondage:

Just how was God to come down? Was the Word of God to become flesh that the Israelites be set free from their horrendous years of

enduring bondage? No, not then. God came down and empowered Moses as the chosen emancipator of God's chosen people. Jochebed, in her unique way, was to lay a lasting spiritual call on her little son Moses.

Amram's name means High People. Amram's significant name most certainly depicts just who Moses was to deliver and that none other than Jehovah's High People. God's relationship with The Israelites was unique, for they were the only nation with whom Jehovah God was in a covenant relationship. Moses, the rescued, became the rescuer of God's High Covenant People.

Moses was born during a catastrophic time in the history of the Jewish nation. Fearful of the rapid multiplication of the Jews and the possibility of them joining the enemies of Egypt, waging war against Egypt, and fleeing from Egypt, the king laid heavy burdens upon God's elect. Taskmasters were put over them, afflicting them with extreme burdens. They were physically forced to build store cities at Pithom and Raamses. God's chosen covenant people became Egypt's slaves. They became the workforce of the Egyptians.

Though working under severe conditions, they found solace and comfort with their spouses. The nation of Israel multiplied rapidly. Pharaoh could not understand that with all the harshness of forced labour, he could not stem the escalation of the Hebrews. To control the phenomenal growth of the Israelites Pharaoh decreed, all new-born male babies were to be killed at birth by the midwives.

It was at this crisis time that Moses was born, and after hiding him away for three months, Jochebed prepared a unique basket and sent it down the Nile River with baby Moses in it. An act of great faith. In her heart, she knew that her son was destined for great things for God. Jochebed exercised faith, but she knew that her faith had to be accompanied by wisdom and therefore she sent Miriam, the sister of Moses, to see what would happen to Moses. The Word of God gives a vivid and emotional account of how that baby Moses was rescued from The Nile River:

**EXODUS 2:3-10 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** WHEN SHE COULD HIDE HIM NO LONGER, SHE TOOK FOR HIM A BASKET MADE OF BULRUSHES AND DAUBED IT WITH BITUMEN AND PITCH. SHE PUT THE CHILD IN IT AND PLACED IT AMONG THE REEDS BY THE RIVERBANK. AND HIS SISTER STOOD AT A DISTANCE TO KNOW WHAT WOULD BE DONE TO HIM. NOW THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH CAME DOWN TO BATHE AT THE RIVER, WHILE HER YOUNG WOMEN WALKED BESIDE THE RIVER. SHE SAW THE BASKET AMONG THE REEDS AND SENT HER SERVANT WOMAN, AND SHE TOOK IT. WHEN SHE OPENED IT, SHE SAW THE CHILD, AND BEHOLD; THE BABY WAS CRYING. SHE TOOK PITY ON HIM AND SAID, "THIS IS ONE OF THE HEBREWS' CHILDREN." THEN HIS SISTER SAID TO PHARAOH'S

DAUGHTER, "SHALL I GO AND CALL YOU A NURSE FROM THE HEBREW WOMEN TO NURSE THE CHILD FOR YOU?" AND PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER SAID TO HER, "GO." SO, THE GIRL WENT AND CALLED THE CHILD'S MOTHER. AND PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER SAID TO HER, "TAKE THIS CHILD AWAY AND NURSE HIM FOR ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU YOUR WAGES." SO, THE WOMAN TOOK THE CHILD AND NURSED HIM. WHEN THE CHILD GREW UP, SHE BROUGHT HIM TO PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER, AND HE BECAME HER SON. SHE NAMED HIM MOSES, "BECAUSE," SHE SAID, "I DREW HIM OUT OF THE WATER."

Rest assured Jochebed was the nurse Miriam called. The Word of God does not declare how long Jochebed nursed Moses. I am personally of the opinion between 2-5 years, however, what is of paramount importance is in that short time she not only deposited the call of God to Moses, but she also imparted the very pain that God had for His suffering, enslaved covenant people. The modern-day Church lays stringent teachings on the transfer of evil spirits, however extraordinarily little is said of the transfer of God's Holy Spirit to God's elect. We are so quick to promote the negative and so slow to promote the positive, or even worse; we do not believe that the positive is more than possible. On close examination, there is a positive example of the transfer of spirits in the Old Testament narrative of Elijah and Elisha. The young aspiring prodigy Elijah knew that to fill the spiritual void that Elijah was leaving after his departure, he had to have the very anointing that rested on his spiritual mentor to continue the unfinished work of his mentor and no wonder he asked very specifically for a double portion of Elijah's spirit:

**2 KINGS 2:8-10 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** THEN ELIJAH TOOK HIS CLOAK AND ROLLED IT UP AND STRUCK THE WATER, AND THE WATER WAS PARTED TO ONE SIDE AND THE OTHER, TILL THE TWO OF THEM COULD GO OVER ON THE DRY GROUND. WHEN THEY HAD CROSSED, ELIJAH SAID TO ELISHA, "ASK WHAT I SHALL DO FOR YOU BEFORE I AM TAKEN FROM YOU." AND ELISHA SAID, "PLEASE LET THERE BE A DOUBLE PORTION OF YOUR SPIRIT ON ME." AND HE SAID, "YOU HAVE ASKED A HARD THING; YET, IF YOU SEE ME AS I AM BEING TAKEN FROM YOU, IT SHALL BE SO FOR YOU, BUT IF YOU DO NOT SEE ME, IT SHALL NOT BE SO.

There are those individual scholars, and may I add renowned men of God who stipulate that for biblical truth to be accepted, it must be mentioned at least twice. Thank God concerning the spiritual transfer of Elijah's power, there is a confirmation that there was a definite transfer from Elijah to Elisha:

**2 KINGS 2:15 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** NOW WHEN THE SONS OF THE PROPHETS WHO WERE AT JERICHO SAW HIM OPPOSITE THEM, THEY SAID, "THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH RESTS ON ELISHA." AND THEY CAME TO MEET HIM AND BOWED TO THE GROUND BEFORE HIM.

Using the experience of the two above mentioned prophets, I am of the persuasion that there was a definite transfer of Jehovah's empathy that rested heavily upon Jochebed. After weaning Moses, she had no more dealings with Moses. He was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Though Jochebed was separated from her son, that which was deposited in the spirit of Moses lived on. No wonder there came that time when no longer Moses saw himself as an Egyptian:

**HEBREWS 11:24 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** BY FAITH, MOSES, WHEN HE WAS GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER.

The above verse emphatically states that Moses, by faith, began to see himself as an Israelite. He was more than willing to identify with his people, rather than enjoying the fleeting pleasures of living as an Egyptian prince. Within the inner man of Moses, there was a spiritual awakening and a stirring that he could not fully comprehend. The Spirit of God activated that which Jochebed had instilled in him in that noticeably short space of time. How was this possible, he lived within an environment that was void of Jehovah God? There was no way that faith could come alive; there was no Word of God resounding in Pharaoh's palace. As Born Again, Spirit-filled Christians, we understand it is The Word of God that produces faith (Ro 10:17). The Spirit of God quickened the very Word that Jochebed spoke over Moses, as he was breastfed. As Spirit-filled Christians, we know that God's unadulterated Word will never return null and void; it will forever accomplish its Divine purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

Unable to fully comprehend the inner dealings of The Spirit of God Moses took matters into his own hands and murdered an Egyptian who was mercilessly beating an Israelite. Moses fled in fear of his life for Pharaoh had heard of Moses evil action. Rest assured, often when God's people must flee from impending danger, they rush into the safe arms of their loving God and there in the sanctity of God's holy presence, a new and a better chapter of their life's begins.

### **The Three Specific Periods of Moses' life**

Several scholars wisely sub divide Moses life into three specific periods and that being:



40 YEARS IN EGYPT

40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

40 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF GOD.

As a young minister of the glorious Gospel, I always pondered on this and very graciously, I believe The Holy Spirit in His unique way revealed to me the various reasons (no doubt this is subject to judgement). The first 40 years was a definite period of grandeur in Egypt, raised as an Egyptian. The second period was 40 years in the wilderness for three exact purposes. First and foremost, to take Egypt out of Moses. Secondly, to take Moses out of Moses, and finally to place God in Moses. Remember God had said: "I have come down to deliver my people." We, the modern-day servants of God are no different to Moses and no wonder Romans 12:1-2 speaks volumes to us:

**ROMANS 12:1-3 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** I APPEAL TO YOU, THEREFORE, BROTHERS BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP. DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

God is aware for us to be effective with lasting results in the ministry that we must empty ourselves of self. What is done in the flesh will only be for a time and a moment. As we lay on the altar of sacrifice, God who is a consuming fire will receive the sacrifice. As we yield ourselves to God, we will empty ourselves of self and God will fill us with Himself. God's servants must realise that God's work can only be done with God's power and to have God's power expressed through our life and ministry we must be filled with God to the sense of overflowing. No wonder John the Apostle speaks of living waters flowing from us.

**JOHN 7:37-39 KJV:** IN THE LAST DAY, THAT GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST, JESUS STOOD AND CRIED, SAYING, IF ANY MAN THIRST, LET HIM COME UNTO ME, AND DRINK. HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HATH SAID, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. (BUT THIS SPOKE HE OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH THEY THAT BELIEVE ON HIM SHOULD RECEIVE FOR THE HOLY GHOST WAS NOT YET GIVEN, BECAUSE THAT JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED.

### **The Call of Moses (Exodus 3:1 -4:17)**

It is my understanding that God will always reveal Himself in some peculiar way to those whom He calls to the ministry and every call is uniquely different. We cannot confine God's call to one servant of God's incredible experience to others. Not all of us will have a Moses experience or a Saul experience. What is of paramount importance is that we will hear within our inner man the call of God, whether in a still small voice or the loud sound of the resounding voice of God. Moses call was unique to him. He saw a burning bush that was not consumed. On approaching the burning bush, he hears the voice of The Almighty calling his name twice. He answers and is told to take off his sandals as he is standing on holy ground.

God introduces Himself as The God of the Jewish Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that being the covenant-keeping God (Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-18; 15:1-18; 17:4; 22:15-18; 26:1-5; 28:1-4, 1015). God conveys the sufferings of His covenant people and commissions Moses to deliver God's chosen people. Moses is reluctant for the simple fact he considers himself and not who God is. He makes another excuse that the chosen people of God will not believe him as God had not yet revealed His name unto His covenant people, and the people will not believe that God had appeared unto him.

God knowing the frailty of Moses gives Moses definite and convincing signs that He is most definitely with Moses and that it will be God's power and not Moses' ability nor lack of expertise that will wrestle the chosen people out of the evil grip of Pharaoh.

The first sign is preceded by a question: "What is in your hand?" Moses held in his hand a rod; however, this was no ordinary rod. Fenis Jennings Dake, the composer of the Dakes Bible, states that it was a shepherd's crook. For forty long years, Moses served his father-in-law as a shepherd, minding and caring for the sheep. Moses was instructed to cast the rod to the ground, and even as he obeyed, the rod became a serpent. On picking it up by the tail, it becomes a shepherd's rod once again.

The second sign was Moses hand onto his bosom, and on taking it away from his bosom, the hand became leprous and on re-enacting the process again, the hand was restored to normal.

The third sign was the taking water out from the Nile River and pouring it out on the ground and thus turning the water into blood. What Moses held in his hand was but a shepherd's crook, however, on close examination of The Infallible Word of God there are two occasions that this simple rod is referred to as THE ROD OF GOD:

**EXODUS 4:20 KJV:** AND MOSES TOOK HIS WIFE AND HIS SONS AND SET THEM UPON AN ASS, AND HE RETURNED TO THE LAND OF EGYPT: AND MOSES TOOK THE ROD OF GOD IN HIS HAND.

**EXODUS 17:19 KJV:** AND MOSES SAID UNTO JOSHUA, CHOOSE US OUT MEN, AND GO OUT, FIGHT WITH AMALEK: TOMORROW I WILL STAND ON THE TOP OF THE HILL WITH THE ROD OF GOD IN MY HAND.

God in the above Scriptures is most definitely conveying spiritual truth. Whenever a man takes that which is in his hand, no matter how minute or insignificant and gives it to God, there are significant transformations. The natural will become the supernatural. The mundane (ordinary) will become extraordinary. The insignificant becomes significant.

After all the above convincing signs, Moses was still reluctant to heed the call of God. His final excuse was his inability to speak fluently and eloquently. God once more endeavours to convince him that with God, all things are possible, for it was God who created man.

### **The Symbolism of the Rod of Moses (The Rod of God)**

The Rod of Moses is also referred unto as The Rod of Aaron, the elder brother of Moses (Nu 17:6, 8) and The Rod of God (Exodus 4:20; Exodus 17:9). It was a simple shepherd's rod to guide the herd of sheep and to be a means of support for the tired shepherd. It had no special powers; however, whenever raised heavenward, waved, and struck the power of God would come upon it to perform mighty signs and wonders. It was symbolic of The Mighty Hand of God. Fenis Jennings Dakes in his Dakes Annotated Reference Bible cites 42 miracles (see page 109 of Dakes Bible) that Moses performed:

Nota Bene: All Scriptures from 1-42 are from the book of Exodus.

1. MOSES' ROD TURNED INTO A SERPENT (EX 4:2-3).
2. THE SERPENT WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A ROD (EX 4:4).
3. MOSES' HAND WAS TURNED LEPROUS (EX 4:6).
4. MOSES' HAND WAS HEALED OF LEPROSY (EX 4:7). 5. THE ROD WAS TURNED INTO A SERPENT (EX 4:30).
6. THE SERPENT WAS TURNED INTO A ROD (EX 4:30).
7. MOSES' HAND WAS MADE LEPROUS (EX 4:30)
8. MOSES' HAND WAS HEALED OF LEPROSY (EX 4:30).
9. MOSES' ROD WAS TURNED INTO A SERPENT (EX 7:9-10).
10. MOSES' ROD SWALLOWED THE OTHERS (EX 7:12).
11. THE NILE RIVER WAS CHANGED INTO BLOOD: (EX 7:14-25)
12. HE CREATED FROGS: (EX 8:1-7)
13. HE CAUSED THE FROGS TO DIE (EX 8:8-15).
14. HE CONVERTED THE DUST TO LICE: (EX 8:16-19).

15. HE CREATED FLIES: (EX 8:20-24).
16. HE MADE GOSHEN EXEMPT FROM FLIES (EX 8:22).
17. HE REMOVED THE FLIES FROM EGYPT (EX 8:29-32).
18. THE MURRAIN DISEASE WAS IMPOSED ON EGYPTIAN STOCK: (EX 9:1-7).
19. THE STOCK OF ISRAEL WAS EXEMPT (EX 9:4-7).
20. HE MADE BOILS FROM ASHES: (EX 9:8-12).
21. HAIL AND FIRE CAME: (EX 9:13-35).
22. GOSHEN WAS EXEMPT FROM THE HAIL AND FIRE (EX 9:26).
23. MOSES STOPPED THE HAIL AND FIRE (EX 9:28-35).
24. LOCUSTS DESCENDED: (EX 10:1-15) 25. THE LOCUSTS WERE REMOVED (EX 10:16-20).
26. DARKNESS CAME: (EX 10:21-29).
27. GOSHEN WAS EXEMPT FROM THE TOTAL DARKNESS (EX 10:23).
28. DEATH CAME TO EGYPT'S FIRSTBORN: (EX 11-12).
29. ISRAEL'S FIRSTBORN WAS EXEMPT FROM DEATH (EX 11:7-10). 30. MOSES MADE A PATH THROUGH THE RED SEA (EX 14:21-22).
31. HE MELTED THE ICE OF THE RED SEA (EX 14:26-28).
32. THE HEALING WATERS OF MARAH (EX 15:23-26).
33. BREAD FROM HEAVEN (EX 16:4-35; NUM 11).
34. QUAIL TO EAT (EX 16:8-13).
35. WATER FROM THE ROCK (EX 17:1-7).
36. HIS VICTORY OVER MIDIAN (EX 17:11-13).
37. HE QUENCHED THE FIRE OF DEATH (NUM 11:2).
38. THE HEALING OF MIRIAM (NUM 12:13-16).
39. THE EARTH SWALLOWED THE REBELS (NUM 16:28-33).
40. MOSES STOPPED THE PLAGUE (NUM 16:44-50).
41. WATER FROM THE ROCK (NUM 20:10-13).
42. THE HEALING OF ISRAEL (NUM 21:5-9; JOHN 3:14).

Moses, after making his final excuse of not being eloquent and asking God to send someone else to deliver God's chosen people, angers God. However, God graciously informs Moses that Aaron, his brother, will be his assistant. Aaron was an excellent speaker, and Moses was told that Aaron would speak on his behalf. Aaron was to speak for Moses as the mouth of Moses and Moses being as God to Aaron. Moses' anxiety lifted knowing that he was not alone in the enormous task of emancipating God's elect.

Of the 42 miracles, it is exciting to note the various miracles that were enacted by either Moses or Aaron using The Rod of God;

however, what is essential is that Aaron only used The Rod of God when instructed by Moses to do so.

When Moses finally yielded to the commission, he was told categorically to take the rod of God with him:

**EXODUS 4:17 KJV:** "AND THOU SHALT TAKE THIS ROD IN THINE HAND, WHEREWITH THOU SHALT DO SIGNS."

Moses obeyed God, and on taking the Rod, the great miracle of transformation took place. From being the Rod of man, it became The Rod of God. We cannot deny the fact that throughout the narrative of the deliverance of The Israelites the Rod is mentioned several times as The Rod of Moses and The Rod of Aaron and only twice as The Rod of God:

**EXODUS 4:20 KJV:** AND MOSES TOOK HIS WIFE AND HIS SONS AND SET THEM UPON AN ASS, AND HE RETURNED TO THE LAND OF EGYPT: AND MOSES TOOK THE ROD OF GOD IN HIS HAND (EXODUS 4:20 KJV).

**EXODUS 4:20 KJV:** AND MOSES SAID UNTO JOSHUA, CHOOSE US OUT MEN, AND GO OUT, FIGHT WITH AMALEK: TOMORROW I WILL STAND ON THE TOP OF THE HILL WITH THE ROD OF GOD IN MY HAND.

## **The Hand of God**

In the Introduction of this book, I emphasised that the hand speaks of power and authority. We work and create with our hands. The hand plays a dominant role. In like manner, the hand of God also plays a dominant role in the life and deliverance of His people. The hand portrays God's power and authority. The Rod of Moses and The Rod of Aaron became The Rod of God for it expressed the power and authority of God. The Rod depicted The All-Powerful Hand of God. The deliverance of God's chosen people was a spiritual contest of power and authority between God and the forces of darkness. It was God coming up against Satan. God planned to express His power and authority through a man who had in his hand a simple Rod; however, when that simple shepherd's Rod was handed over to Almighty God, the power and authority of God were invested in it. Therein was the power to crush the false gods of Egypt. Though Pharaoh was the prominent person that Moses and Aaron continually came up against, it was God coming up against Satan.

## **The Ten Plagues on Egypt**

I have always wondered why there were ten plagues poured out upon Egypt. It was always my opinion that just one act of God's supernatural power would suffice for the immediate deliverance of

His chosen people. God, with His infinite wisdom, used The Ten Plagues for four definite reasons:

### **REASON 1**

Pharaoh would know that The God of the Hebrews was indeed God. When Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh the first time of letting God's people go, he was blatantly disrespectful and even denied the existence of The God of The Hebrews: "And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go. I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go (Exodus 5:2)."

### **REASON 2**

Convince the Egyptians that their gods were but idols and had no power to resist the might of The God of The Hebrews. David Padfield in his article *Against All the Gods of Egypt*, states that they worshipped over 80 gods.

### **REASON 3**

God honoured His promise of deliverance He made to Abraham concerning the seed of Abraham:

**GENESIS 15:12-16 ESV:** "AS THE SUN WAS GOING DOWN, A DEEP SLEEP FELL ON ABRAM. AND BEHOLD, DREADFUL AND GREAT DARKNESS FELL UPON HIM. THEN THE LORD SAID TO ABRAM, "KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT YOUR OFFSPRING WILL BE SOJOURNERS IN A LAND THAT IS NOT THEIRS AND WILL BE SERVANTS THERE, AND THEY WILL BE AFFLICTED FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. BUT I WILL BRING JUDGEMENT ON THE NATION THAT THEY SERVE, AND AFTERWARDS, THEY SHALL COME OUT WITH GREAT POSSESSIONS. AS FOR YOURSELF, YOU SHALL GO TO YOUR FATHERS IN PEACE; YOU SHALL BE BURIED IN A GOOD OLD AGE. AND THEY SHALL COME BACK HERE IN THE FOURTH GENERATION, FOR THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES IS NOT YET COMPLETE."

### **Reason 4**

To show forth God as The Father and Saviour of all God's people who put their trust and confidence in him. Not only were the Hebrews saved from The Tenth Plague and that being The Plague of Death, but all those Egyptians also that sought sanctuary in the homes of God's chosen people where The Blood of The Lamb was painted on the lintels, and two posts of the door were saved. This is a classic picture of Jew and Gentile becoming one through the grace and mercy of Almighty God:

**EPHESIANS 2:14 KJV:** "FOR HE IS OUR PEACE, WHO HATH MADE BOTH ONE, AND HATH BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION BETWEEN US.

### **Vengeance belongs to God (Exodus 12:1-32)**

Moses and Aaron played no part in the final Plague and that being The Plague of Death. All Moses and Aaron had to do were but instruct God's elect to prepare a lamb for each of their households. The lamb was to be killed, and the blood thereof was to be painted on the lintel of the door and the two side posts of the door. The blood was a sign to The Lord to pass over those households that had applied the blood of the lamb. What a beautiful picture of all The Born-Again children who are washed in The Blood of The Spotless Lamb of God, even Jesus Christ. Saved from the eternal flames of hell and above all never to be separated from The Triune Godhead.

Moses was born during the time that Pharaoh declared an edict that all the male children of the Hebrews had to be killed at birth. God's people were shattered, and rest assured they cried out for vengeance for the death of their innocent children. Eighty years later, God himself poured out His vengeance on The Egyptians for shedding innocent blood. Herein was a lesson for Moses and all of God's servants to this present day:

**ROMANS 12:19 KJV:** "DEARLY BELOVED, AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES, BUT RATHER GIVE PLACE UNTO WRATH: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY, SAITH THE LORD."

### **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**

#### **Spiritual Application 1: You Never too Bad to become Good**

Moses raised as an Egyptian and yet graciously influenced by the caring and loving Spirit of God that rested upon his mother Jochebed, and that for at least three to five years, became the deliverer of God's chosen people. Initially, he took matters into his own hands and murdered an Egyptian. Even as he fled in fear of his life, he unknowingly ran into his God-ordained future with God. There in the wilderness, God prepared him for divine service. All that what God wanted of Moses was that which was in his hand and his heart. Are there perhaps any similarities between Moses and us? We too were raised in an environment void of God, a world that has often turned its back against God. Like Moses, we also had sinned (perhaps not murderers) coming short of the glory of God. There is always that special day in all our life's that God will make Himself known to us

through the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ and all we must do present to Him, (in our desire for active service in His Kingdom), is what is in our hands. As defiled as they are, God will cleanse our defiled hands the way he washed the vile lips of Isaiah with the tongs from off the altar (Isaiah 6:1-9). Whatever is in your hands, no matter how minute, how large, how insignificant, and even significant, lay it down before His throne of Grace, and you will be amazed of how God through you will deliver those who are enslaved by sin and demonic powers. The Rod of Moses has been replaced with The Word of God, hold it in your hand as a two-edged sword, whirl it in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit and the gods of this world will flee.

### **Spiritual Application 2: God Concentrates on The Potential**

Let us not lose heart as we consider our status. Many of us come from backgrounds of poverty and ignorance. It is true that men, and even some in ministerial leadership, first consider the level of education and influential status of those desiring to enter the ministry. Many are lost to the ministry because they fall short of the expectations of others. I have always maintained that God considers the potential of a man and not the perfection of man. I have further said: "IT IS NOT WHAT WE KNOW, IT IS WHO WE KNOW, AND THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT KNOW IT ALL, WE KNOW HIM WHO KNOWS IT ALL." Let me assure you that God has His eye upon you. Who knows, you might be like David. Obscure, for the simple fact, you are not in the eye of the public. You are surrounded by remoteness. However, in your obscurity, hidden from man, you like David have attached yourself to God, and it is not a man that will propel you to the fore, it is God that will open the door to His perfect will for your life. I am of the persuasion that many a good man is kept down, but no man can keep God's man down. It is so exciting to know that God delights to use the discarded, the marginalised, and the so-called ignorant for the simple reason to shut those up, who are egotistical and who always look down upon others. Like Moses, David also had a shepherd's rod. No doubt, you do not have a shepherd's rod; probably you may have a saw and a hammer. A simple man without a shepherds' rod, but praise be to God, you do have a SHEPHERD'S HEART, and that meets God's standard for the ministry.

### **Spiritual Application 3: God Works Through Man**

Never consider your abilities, nor the lack thereof. It is not what you do for God that counts; INSTEAD, IT IS WHAT GOD DOES THROUGH YOU.

### **Spirit Application 4: Names Carry Personalities**

The naming of our children and even our ministries are significant. Often names and even titles carry characteristics that are not synonymous with godliness. Moses was named by an Egyptian



princess (some Hebrew scholars advocate Jochebed). The name has great significance, in some circles, is seen as The Saviour. The ordinary meaning of the name is drawn from the water.

### **Spiritual Application 5: Mould Your Ministry on Christ**

Our ministries should never be moulded on God's Bible characters. Whenever we mimic, we not only incorporate their strengths but their weaknesses as well. Our model for our life and ministry should only and always be Jesus, for GOD ALONE IS PERFECT.

### **Spiritual Application 6: God Confirms His Word with Signs and Wonders**

Moses had a simple shepherd's rod that God used in great signs and wonders. We have The Word of God. Many servants of God wonder why the signs and wonders of God are so far and between in our day. The answer is so simple. GOD CONFIRMS HIS WORD WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING (MARK 16:20). Be it that The Church is not actively engaged in Evangelism and Missions then sadly, there is no need for God to confirm His Word. GOD FOLLOWS HIS SERVANTS WHO HEED THE GREAT COMMISSION (SEE MATHEW 28 AND MARK 16).

### **Spiritual Application 7: We Are Born-Again for This Crisis Time**

Moses was born during a major crisis. Pharaoh had passed a decree that all the new-born Hebrew male children be killed at birth. Like Moses, we too are born in a crisis time. The book of Esther presents a significant challenge to God's people today:

**ESTHER 4:13-14 ESVUK:** "FOR IF YOU KEEP SILENT AT THIS TIME, RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE WILL RISE FOR THE JEWS FROM ANOTHER PLACE, BUT YOU AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE WILL PERISH. AND WHO KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE NOT COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?"

### **Spiritual Application 8: Our Present Lifestyle Determines Our Future**

Just as Moses' life was divided into three spans, so is our life. Moses had a Past (that was not good) in Egypt. Moses had The Wilderness experience that prepared him for his ministry. Thereafter Moses served God and The Israelites forty years. We too have a Past that was dictated by sin and self. Thereafter, although Born Again, we were spiritually pruned through the process of sanctification. As we matured, God placed us into the ministry. He had purposely designed for each one of us. All of God's people have a Past, a Present and a Future. What is of vital importance is that we always bear in mind that no matter how bad the past was God is more than able to change

his people around and that for the better. My father always told me that people are never too bad to become good. God's grace can mould people for the better. Our Past when forsaken can never mould our future. It is our Present State that shapes our Future. Therefore, we must live dedicated (in the now) unto God that our Future is blessed of The Lord.

### **Spiritual Application 9: Do not Render Evil for Evil**

The very people we minister unto will inevitably come up against us. It is so easy for us to cut them off. At times we might even want to repay them with unkindness and malice. As ministers of The Gospel, we must never repay evil with evil (Romans 12:17). We always must pray for our persecutors and for those who spitefully use us (Mt 5:44). As ministers of The Gospel, we must always bear in mind that we are serving people who are in the process of being perfected. At all times, we must be gracious, always ready to forgive and reconcile. As ministers, we are preaching The Gospel of Forgiveness, and be it that we cannot forgive, then sad to say we are making a mockery of this gracious Gospel of continual forgiveness. Furthermore, we must never ascend to higher positions at the demise of others. We should never use people's setbacks. Our spiritual responsibility is to restore those who have fallen and not to take advantage of their situation (see Galatians 6:1-5). The Hebrews were delivered via THE BLOOD OF A LAMB (A TYPE OF JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD). The Angel of Death passed over the Jewish homes where the Blood was applied on the doorposts and the lintel. All in the Bloodstained houses were delivered. Many Egyptians were in the homes of the Jews, and they too were delivered from death. A classic example of The Grace of God; the forgiving attitude of the Jews who forgave their enemy. Furthermore, a picture of The Body of Christ, where there is no Jew nor Gentile, WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD, FROM GOD THROUGH CHRIST HAS BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION.

### **Spiritual Application 10: The Lone Ranger Mentality**

Many modern-day ministers of the Gospel have The Lone Ranger Mentality. There is so much that we can glean from the ministry of Moses. He saw himself as inadequate as Israel's deliverer. The task was way beyond him, and therefore, God gave Aaron as his ministry companion. In the New Testament, we see similarities. Paul had Barnabas as his Aaron. Moses saw himself as inadequate, and therefore God gave Aaron to be his assistant. In our modern-day, there are too many of us who are overconfident. We consider our status, our theological diplomas and degrees and deem ourselves more than capable of doing the work of The Lord. Jesus, the master

mentor, gives us an excellent example of how we ought to operate in the ministry:

**MARK 6:7 ESV:** AND HE CALLED UNTO HIM THE TWELVE AND BEGAN TO SEND THEM FORTH BY TWO AND TWO AND GAVE THEM POWER OVER UNCLEAN SPIRITS.

Later we see Barnabas and Saul sent forth by the Antioch Church (see Acts 13:1-3). In Acts 15:40, we note that Paul chose Silas as his ministry companion. Too many of God's modern ministers are all on their own and no wonder they burn out. They carry the heavy load all by themselves, and the work of God becomes insipid. We all need other men of God to come alongside us to help us to be effective in the ministry. AS MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL WE MUST AT ALL TIMES REALIZE THAT IRON SHARPENS IRON:

**PROVERBS 27:17 AMPLIFIED VERSION:** AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO, ONE MAN SHARPENS [AND INFLUENCES] ANOTHER [THROUGH DISCUSSION].

# CHAPTER 4

## THE HANDS THAT PARTED THE RED SEA

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### Preamble

I have often asked myself, do we as Spirit-filled Christians play a role in the supernatural workings of Almighty God? Reflecting over the life and ministry of Moses, I have come to a definite and precise conclusion that we do play a decisive and a vital role in the supernatural workings of God. There are those specific times when God acts entirely on His own. God is omnipotent. He does not need us to display His awesome power and yet He purposely blesses us to the extent that we often share in His amazing wonderworking miracles.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there are those predictable (inevitable) times when God does act on His own and those certain occasions that man acts out the miraculous. When we consider Moses in The Old Testament and the role the Apostles played in The New Testament, our faith is ignited toward the supernatural workings of God. This chapter deals with Moses acting out the wondrous miracle of parting the Red Sea. However, it is essential that we also see the Apostles acting out the wonderworks of God that we may know that it is God's will that, we too play an active role in the supernatural workings of Almighty God.

All four Gospels record the feeding of the five thousand with the five loaves and two fish (Mathew t 14:13-21; Mark k 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17). Not all record the lad gave the bread except John's Gospel. However, what stands out is that after Jesus prayed, He broke the bread and gave it to the disciples who in turn distributed the bread and the fish. It took an act of faith on the part of the Apostles to act out the miracle. They shared in the wondrous miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. Before distributing the bread and fish, they organised the seating arrangement of the five thousand. They made the people sit in rows with enough space between the rows of people that there would be an even flow of the bread and fish.

Another outstanding wonderwork is recorded in John chapter 11:144 the raising of Lazarus from the dead. In this wondrous miracle, Jesus also prayed and gave three implicit instructions:

"ROLL AWAY THE STONE, UNBIND HIM AND LET HIM GO

Who rolled away from the stone? Who unbound Lazarus and set him free? Admittedly, it was the Apostles. Once again, it is evident that the Apostles played a vital and meaningful role in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. What God has done through the Apostles,

Moses and so many other mighty men of God inevitably stir our faith to share in the wondrous wonderworks of God?

### **God's Prophetic Word**

God's chosen people were in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 13:40). New Pharaohs ascended the throne of Egypt after the death of Joseph who in fear of the rapid growth of the Hebrew populace and therefore placed harsh taskmasters over them afflicting them with burdens of hard labour. For just on 400 years, God's chosen people were enslaved, building cities for the Pharaohs.

From sunrise to sunset, they laboured and that without remuneration. Cheated out of almost 400 years of their wages, but praise be to God what a man sows that is what he reaps:

**GALATIANS 6:7 ESV:** DO NOT BE DECEIVED: GOD IS NOT MOCKED, FOR WHATEVER ONE SOWS, THAT WILL HE ALSO REAP.

God's people left Egypt extremely wealthy. They received their wages, and may I add even with a massive bonus for work well done. This back pay that they received was prophesied by God when God commissioned Moses at the burning bush:

**EXODUS 3:21-22 ESV:** "AND I WILL GIVE THESE PEOPLE FAVOUR IN THE SIGHT OF THE EGYPTIANS; AND WHEN YOU GO, YOU SHALL NOT GO EMPTY, BUT EACH WOMAN SHALL ASK OF HER NEIGHBOUR AND ANY WOMAN WHO LIVES IN HER HOUSE, FOR SILVER AND GOLD JEWELLERY, AND CLOTHING. YOU SHALL PUT THEM ON YOUR SONS AND ON YOUR DAUGHTERS. SO, YOU SHALL PLUNDER THE EGYPTIANS."

Almighty God made sure that His hard-working chosen people would receive their just reward:

**EXODUS 12:35-36 ESV:** THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAD ALSO DONE AS MOSES TOLD THEM, FOR THEY HAD ASKED THE EGYPTIANS FOR SILVER AND GOLD JEWELLERY AND CLOTHING. AND THE LORD HAD GIVEN THE PEOPLE FAVOUR IN THE SIGHT OF THE EGYPTIANS SO THAT THEY LET THEM HAVE WHAT THEY ASKED. THUS, THEY PLUNDERED THE EGYPTIANS).

It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word for plundered is recover (Strong's Hebrew Concordance Number 05337). What is still more interesting is that God when ratifying the Abrahamic Land Covenant had also prophesied to Abraham of the suffering of his posterity for

four hundred long years, and after that, they would leave the land of bondage with vast possessions:

**GENESIS 15:12-14 ESVUK:** AS THE SUN WAS GOING DOWN, A DEEP SLEEP FELL ON ABRAM. AND BEHOLD, DREADFUL AND GREAT DARKNESS FELL UPON HIM. THEN THE LORD SAID TO ABRAM, "KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT YOUR OFFSPRING WILL BE SOJOURNERS IN A LAND THAT IS NOT THEIRS AND WILL BE SERVANTS THERE, AND THEY WILL BE AFFLICTED FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. BUT I WILL BRING JUDGEMENT ON THE NATION THAT THEY SERVE, AND AFTERWARDS, THEY SHALL COME OUT WITH GREAT POSSESSIONS."

God is a good God. He watches over His Word. God keeps His promises, heaven and earth will pass away, but never The Word of The Lord (Isaiah 55:11; Mathew 24:35).

### **The Hardness of Pharaoh's Heart (Exodus 14:5-31)**

On hearing, that The Hebrews had left, Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he vehemently resolved to bring them back to their slave pits. He mustered up his army and pursued the people of The Most-High God. On seeing the Egyptian army, drawing near God's chosen people panicked and murmured against Moses. The servant of The Lord endeavoured to alleviate their fear; he spoke encouraging words of faith: Moses said to the people:

**EXODUS 14:13-14 KJV:** DO NOT BE AFRAID. STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, WHICH HE WILL ACCOMPLISH FOR YOU TODAY. FOR THE EGYPTIANS WHOM YOU SEE TODAY, YOU SHALL SEE AGAIN NO MORE FOREVER. THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU, AND YOU SHALL HOLD YOUR PEACE.

Moses, by faith, spoke those words before God commanding him to divide the Red Sea. God honoured the words of faith that Moses spoke (EXODUS 13-14). His words of faith pleased God (Hebrews 11:6), and therefore, God told Moses to lift his rod and stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it.

THE COMMAND FROM GOD WAS OUTSTANDING IN THAT MOSES WAS TO DIVIDE THE SEA. MOSES WAS TO ACT IN THE WAY HE HAD SPOKEN BY FAITH. THE SERVANT OF GOD WAS TO PLAY A STRATEGIC PART IN THE MIRACLE THAT FOLLOWED. MOSES PART IN THE MIRACLE WAS TO RAISE THE ROD TO DIVIDE THE SEA; GOD'S ROLE IN THE MIRACLE WAS TO DEAL

WITH THE EGYPTIAN ARMY THAT WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE FEARFUL NATION OF ISRAEL. DISTRAUGHT AND GRIPPED WITH FEAR THEY ANXIOUSLY AWAITED THE IMPOSSIBLE, THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA.

God led the nation of Israel out of Egypt. The Angel of God and The Pillar of The Cloud went before them leading them into the unknown. God was their Leader. God went before them preparing the way. God, himself had set before them an open path. God had one more major task to perform with Pharaoh and The Egyptians and that to annihilate them. It was payback time for the terrible years that Israel had endured as slaves of the tyrannical Egyptians. They were to receive their just rewards in The Red Sea.

The Angel of God and The Pillar of The Cloud strategically placed themselves behind The Israelites and thus between The Israelites and the Egyptian army. God protected His chosen people. The horror of darkness came over the area where the Egyptians were, while in the camp of God's chosen people, the light shone brightly. The Egyptians were unable to move forward; they were severely handicapped by the terrible darkness. No doubt, this inevitably brought a sense of calm upon God's people, for though they were in the light, they could not see the Egyptian army for they were blacked out by the grim darkness. Concerning the Angel of God and The Pillar of The Cloud that led God's chosen people, there are several interpretations from various renowned theologians that are remarkably interesting:

**ADAM CLARK'S COMMENT ON EXODUS 14 :19**

THE ANGEL OF GOD: IT HAS BEEN THOUGHT BY SOME THAT THE ANGEL, I.E., MESSENGER, OF THE LORD, AND THE PILLAR OF CLOUD, MEAN HERE THE SAME THING. AN ANGEL MIGHT ASSUME THE APPEARANCE OF A CLOUD, AND EVEN A MATERIAL CLOUD THUS PARTICULARLY APPOINTED MIGHT BE CALLED AN ANGEL OR MESSENGER OF THE LORD, FOR SUCH, IS THE LITERAL IMPORT OF THE WORD KALM MALACH, AN ANGEL. IT IS HOWEVER MOST PROBABLE THAT THE ANGEL OF THE COVENANT, THE LORD JESUS, APPEARED ON THIS OCCASION ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE; FOR AS THIS DELIVERANCE WAS TO BE AN ILLUSTRIOUS TYPE OF THE DELIVERANCE OF MAN FROM THE POWER AND GUILT OF SIN BY HIS INCARNATION AND DEATH, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY, IN THE JUDGMENT OF DIVINE WISDOM, THAT HE SHOULD APPEAR CHIEF AGENT IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT AND MOMENTOUS CRISIS.

**JOHN WESLEY'S COMMENTS ON EXODUS 14:19**

THE ANGEL OF GOD-WHOSE MINISTRY WAS MADE USE OF IN THE PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE, WENT FROM BEFORE THE CAMP OF ISRAEL, WHERE THEY DID NOT NOW NEED A GUIDE; THERE WAS NO DANGER OF MISSING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SEA AND CAME BEHIND THEM, WHERE NOW THEY NEEDED A GUARD, THE EGYPTIANS WERE JUST READY TO SEIZE THE HINDMOST OF THEM. THERE IT WAS OF USE TO THE ISRAELITES, NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THEM BUT TO LIGHT THEM THROUGH THE SEA; AND AT THE SAME TIME, IT CONFOUNDED THE EGYPTIANS, SO THAT THEY LOST SIGHT OF THEIR PREY, JUST WHEN THEY WERE READY TO LAY HANDS ON IT. THE WORD AND PROVIDENCE OF GOD HAVE A BLACK AND DARK SIDE TOWARDS SIN AND SINNERS, BUT A BRIGHT AND PLEASANT SIDE TOWARDS THOSE THAT ARE ISRAELITES INDEED.

**MATHEW HENRY'S COMMENTS ON EXODUS 14:19**

A GUARD SET UPON ISRAEL'S CAMP WHERE IT NOW LAY MOST EXPOSED, WHICH WAS IN THE REAR, EXODUS 14:19-20. THE ANGEL OF GOD, WHOSE MINISTRY WAS MADE USE OF IN THE PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE, WENT FROM BEFORE THE CAMP OF ISRAEL, WHERE THEY DID NOT NOW NEED A GUIDE (THERE WAS NO DANGER OF MISSING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SEA, NOR NEEDED THEY ANY OTHER WORD OF COMMAND THAN TO GO FORWARD), AND IT CAME BEHIND THEM, WHERE NOW THEY NEEDED A GUARD (THE EGYPTIANS BEING JUST READY TO SEIZE THE HINDMOST OF THEM), AND SO WAS A WALL OF PARTITION BETWEEN THEM. THERE IT WAS OF USE TO THE ISRAELITES, NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THEM, BUT TO LIGHT THEM THROUGH THE SEA, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, IT CONFOUNDED THE EGYPTIANS, SO THAT THEY LOST SIGHT OF THEIR PREY JUST WHEN THEY WERE READY TO LAY HANDS ON IT. THE WORD AND PROVIDENCE OF GOD HAVE A BLACK AND DARK SIDE TOWARDS SIN AND SINNERS, BUT A BRIGHT AND PLEASANT SIDE TOWARDS THOSE THAT ARE ISRAELITES INDEED. THAT WHICH IS A SAVOUR OF LIFE UNTO LIFE TO SOME IS A SAVOUR OF DEATH UNTO DEATH TO OTHERS. THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT HE WHO IN THE BEGINNING DIVIDED BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS (GENESIS 1:4), AND STILL FORMS BOTH (ISAIAH 45:7), HAD, AT THE SAME TIME, ALLOTTED DARKNESS TO THE EGYPTIANS AND LIGHT TO THE ISRAELITES, A SPECIMEN OF THE ENDLESS DISTINCTION WHICH WILL BE MADE BETWEEN THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN LIGHT AND THAT UTTER DARKNESS WHICH FOREVER WILL BE THE PORTION OF HYPOCRITES. GOD WILL SEPARATE BETWEEN THE PRECIOUS AND THE VILE.

Considering these wise words of these mighty men of God, they all agree that The Angel of God was within The Pillar of The Cloud. My



dear friend Rev Keith Walsh says that The Pillar of cloud speaks of the Shekinah glory of God, in which The Angel of God manifested Himself. Adam Clark suggests that The Angel of God was possibly The Lord Jesus.

My interpretation of The Angel of God and The Pillar of The Cloud differs, (however, my analysis is subject to judgement). I am of the persuasion that The Angel of God is The Lord Jesus Christ, whereas The Pillar of The Cloud is The Spirit of God. I have come to this conclusion since The Lord Jesus and His redemptive work is typified in the application of the blood of the slain lamb on the two posts and the lintel of the homes of Israelites. The Pillar of The Cloud typifies the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:13-15). However, a personal word of caution doctrine is not formulated, neither based on Typology, this is my interpretation and is thus subject to your scrutiny.

After God had settled the people, Moses began his part of the miracle. He stretched out his rod over the Red Sea. Moses was a man of great faith; he had seen the power of his God repeatedly through the plagues in Egypt. However, this time, his faith was sure to be tested to the hilt (maximum).

The miracle Moses was about to initiate through the raising of his rod was not just an act of faith; it was also an act of obedience. He obeyed the command of God to raise his rod over the sea, thus exercising faith in God to perform the impossible. As he raised the rod, he immediately heard the howling of a ferocious high wind blowing over and through the red sea causing the sea to part to the left and the right forming a dry thoroughfare. The word of god describes the wind as ferocious. The wind is spoken as a strong east wind. Some may say that God parting The Red Sea used a natural phenomenon. He used the wind to divide the sea. What you about to read you need not concur (agree) with as it is my interpretation. I did not hear from God; my inner man did not leap within as I penned my thoughts. I am of the persuasion that the east wind was a type of The Spirit of God that moved over and through the sea. Better still, it was The Spirit of God. How did I come to this conclusion?

The Word of God is quick and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). God reveals Himself, His actions, and purposes through the unadulterated Word of God. Genesis Chapter 1 clearly shows forth The Triune Godhead in the creation narrative of the heaven and the earth. The Spirit of God's part in the creation was His very moving over the waters. On doing a word study, The Strong's Hebrew Concordance number 07307 sheds explicit (open, clear) illumination (light) on just how The Spirit of God moved over the waters:

07307. xwr ruwach, roo'-akh Search for 07307 in KJV from 7306; wind; by resemblance breath, i.e., a sensible (or even violent) exhalation; figuratively, life, anger, unsubstantiality; by of a rational being (including its expression and functions):-air, anger, blast, breath, X cool, courage, mind, X quarter, X side, spirit((-ual)), tempest, X vain, ((whirl-))wind(-y). See Hebrew 07306 (ruwach)

With the above outstanding information, we can conclude that it was the ruwach that breathed life over the creation of The Triune Godhead. It was the same Spirit of God that moved through and over the Red Sea that moved and breathed over the creation.

It is exceptionally imperative (crucial, necessary) that we briefly reiterate (say again) what has been written concerning The Spirit of God: I have said that The Pillar of The Cloud is none other than The Spirit of God. I had also noted that The Spirit of God that went before God's people removed Himself from going before and went behind God's chosen people to stop the advancing Egyptian army. This personal assessment might pose a problem to some and no doubt I can understand why as we consider the following: Recently I heard a mighty man of God give an account of his personal experience in heaven, the very immediate presence of God. He saw God, The Father and God the Son. He did not see The Spirit of God, and therefore he asked the stupid question (he said the question was stupid): "Where is The Spirit of God?" The reply he got was that The Spirit of God was on earth. Immediately I realised that there was something drastically wrong with his unique experience.

All three persons in The Godhead are Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent. This renowned man of God made the gross mistake of saying (though not in specific words) that The Spirit of God could not be in two places simultaneously (at the same time). The Spirit of God could not be in Heaven for He was on earth, reaping the harvest of souls. I have purposely used this so-called out of body experience to deal with certain sceptics for they may just say that The Holy Spirit in the miracle of the parting of The Red Sea was between The Israelites and The Egyptian army and therefore could not be performing the wondrous miracle of dividing The Red Sea at the same time. I must concur with the sceptics that He was there and yet at the same time because He is Omnipresent, He also was moving over and through The Red Sea, dividing it to the left and the right causing a safe passage for the people of God to cross over safely. There is another great lesson that we can learn from this renowned man's theological error. Paul, the Apostle, gives The Church excellent teaching of how we all ought to deal with our personal experience concerning disclosing our own experiences and revelations to The Body of Christ:

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10 ESV:** "I MUST GO ON BOASTING. THOUGH THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY IT, I WILL GO ON TO VISIONS AND REVELATIONS OF THE LORD. I KNOW A MAN IN CHRIST WHO FOURTEEN YEARS AGO WAS CAUGHT UP TO THE THIRD HEAVEN – WHETHER IN THE BODY OR OUT OF THE BODY, I DO NOT KNOW, GOD KNOWS. AND I KNOW THAT THIS MAN WAS CAUGHT UP INTO PARADISE – WHETHER IN THE BODY OR OUT OF THE BODY I DO NOT KNOW, GOD KNOWS, AND HE HEARD THINGS THAT CANNOT BE TOLD, WHICH MAN MAY NOT UTTER. ON BEHALF OF THIS MAN, I WILL BOAST, BUT ON MY BEHALF, I WILL NOT BOAST, EXCEPT OF MY WEAKNESSES. THOUGH IF I SHOULD WISH TO BOAST, I WOULD NOT BE A FOOL, FOR I WOULD BE SPEAKING THE TRUTH. BUT I REFRAIN FROM IT, SO THAT NO ONE MAY THINK MORE OF ME THAN HE SEES IN ME OR HEARS FROM ME. SO, TO KEEP ME FROM BECOMING CONCEITED BECAUSE, OF THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF THE REVELATIONS, A THORN WAS GIVEN ME IN THE FLESH, A MESSENGER OF SATAN TO HARASS ME, TO KEEP ME FROM BECOMING CONCEITED."

While the ruwach (The Holy Spirit) was moving over, and through the waters, Moses was holding up his Rod. There was a collaboration (teamwork, cooperation, alliance) between The Spirit of God and Moses. They were working together. Moses by extending his Rod was invoking the power of the ruwach over and through The Red Sea. How marvellous is God working with man to do the impossible?

God's people crossed over safely while God held back the Egyptian army. Once over the other side, God spoke to Moses to stretch his hand over the sea that it may come back on the Egyptians. All the Egyptians were drowned as The Holy Spirit directed Moses to bring the waters as one again.

### **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**

There is so much spiritual truth that may be gleaned from the narrative (story) of the deliverance of The Israelites. Applying these spiritual truths diligently and prayerfully to our respective ministries will accomplish much for the glory of our God and the liberation of those dear people trapped by the powers of darkness (see Ephesians 6:13-18)).

#### **Spiritual Application 1: Dealing with An Inferior Complex**

Israel had a human deliverer who used a simple shepherd's Rod that was empowered by Almighty God to part the Red Sea thus enabling God's chosen people to cross through on dry land to the other side. As

Born Again, Spirit Filled children and servants of God; we are the modern-day deliverers. We are called by God to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations (see Mathew 28:19-20). Many of us disregard ourselves. We feel inadequate. We consider our status, our abilities and because they are not of high standing, we make the same excuse as Moses:

"WHO AM I THAT I SHOULD GO TO THE NATIONS"? SO MANY OF US FAIL TO REALISE THAT THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE UNSAVED IS WITH US FOR GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE UNSAVED.

God has given us the answers to all the perplexities of life. We have the way out of the dilemmas (predicaments) of life. We have The Word of God that is more than able to set men free from sin and its horrible addictions and consequences. The very Word that we are holding back from those imprisoned in sin was The Very Word that saved us. If God could do it for us, He that is no respecter of persons will surely do it for them. Let us not reiterate (repeat) the same mistake of Moses. Let us stop looking at ourselves. God's Word is infallible. God says we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (see Philippians 4:13).

Even as the pertinent (relevant, related, important) question resounds: "What is in your hand"? Whatever is in your hand give it to God and He will make something of it. Perhaps you may say there is absolutely nothing in your hand. It is empty and void. Fret not God can still use you, for the simple fact He created everything out of nothing. One of my proverbial (well-known) sayings is God spoke to nowhere and from nowhere came everywhere. From nothing, God created everything. The mere fact that we are Born-Again and Spirit Filled should convince us that God has called and chosen us to deliver those dear people who are controlled by Satan:

THE DELIVERED ARE CALLED AND APPOINTED BY GOD TO BECOME THE DELIVERERS.

As much as you believe in God, so does God believe in you with one high distinction. Our Lord God believes more in you than what you believe in Him and yourself. The classic example of God's trusting in man is Job of whom God said to Satan Have you considered my servant Job."? But you and I may say our testimony and walk with God is not of the same spiritual standard as Job. That is true of many of us. But wait is our call dependent on who we are, or who we were. Our past was plagued with sin, and in no way, we could we compare ourselves with Job. However, we are now servants of God because our history has been eradicated by the efficacious Death and

Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Are we servants of God because of our present day. No doubt, we were responsible for our past. However, our current state is due to the power of God's abundant Grace.:

**"WE ARE A NOW A NEW CREATION AND THEREFORE OLD THINGS (AND THAT BEING OUR SINFUL PAST) HAVE PASSED AWAY, AND WE HAVE BECOME BRAND NEW (SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 MY PERSONAL PARAPHRASED VERSION).**

Furthermore, we live in the dispensation (period) of Grace. The period in which Job lived and the time in which we are distinct (different). Job was a righteous man of God because of his lifestyle, whereas we are made righteous by The Grace of God. It seemed as if Job earned his righteousness by keeping the Law. WE DO NOT EARN OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR BY GRACE ARE WE SAVED BY FAITH. However, Jesus who is Righteous imparted His Righteousness to us and in that sense that is how we qualify for the Ministry.

God has called you; you have come to the kingdom of God for a time such as this. Lift your head heavenward, grab the two-edged Sword of God and march forward into the enemy's camp and declare to all those bound and shackled that you have brought deliverance to them via The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Other than The Born-Again, the immoral (sinful) man face many spiritual and physical obstacles that they have no power and control over. Their dilemmas and perplexities rob them of their Faith; they wring their hands in despair, wondering where God is. Many feel forsaken, and it is at times as these men of God wrestle with God for their deliverance.

Like Moses, Men and Women of God stand before the insurmountable problems of their congregational members praying words of salvation. Men and Women who have the heart of God for God's people soon discover The Power of the Spoken Word over the afflictions, dilemmas, and perplexities of those whom God has entrusted into their care.

It might sound strange, and yet it is true, an inferior complex is self-centredness. It is a wrong concept of self that self believes in self. There is only one correct way all that self-centredness can be erased. We are servants of God, and I must agree we all some time or other in our ministry feel inadequate. What you are about to read may shock you, but I do believe it is a word from The Spirit of The Lord (you be the judge thereof): "God's Servants and Ministers of The Gospel Are an Extension of The Ministry of Jesus Christ." We extend the ministry of our Lord Jesus by heeding The Great Commission (see Mathew 28). Another aspect of overcoming an inferior complex is realising we who are Born-Again are dead to ourselves and alive unto God. No wonder

Paul could say: “

**GALATIANS 2:120 KJV:** IT IS NOT I THAT LIVE; IT IS CHRIST THAT LIVES WITHIN ME.”

I have personally dealt with two complexes and that by The Grace of our Lord. At first, I had an inferior complex, and after graduating with a Diploma of Theology just three years into my Born-Again experience, I developed a superiority complex. I was one of the few in our congregation who went to Bible School and graduated and was I proud of that. Thank God for conviction. God stripped me of pride. Deep in my spirit, I felt the rumbling of The Holy Spirit impressing me with the spiritual fact: “It is not what you know, it is who you know, knowing God the Holy Spirit, the author of all knowledge.” Two humbling Scriptures were embedded into my spirit and soul, and to this very day I regularly quote these Scriptures which not only reminds me of all that I have achieved is but by The Grace of God:

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:27 KJV:** GOD DELIGHTS TO USE THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE

**ZECHARIAH 4:6 ESV:** IT IS NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAYS THE LORD.

### **Spiritual Application 2: Almighty God honours His Word**

God, through Moses, delivered a people with whom He had a Covenant Relationship. God had promised their Patriarch Abraham (see Gen 15:13-16) that he would bring them back to the land he had given Abraham. Ministers of the glorious Gospel must always bear in mind that God is true to His Word. God still watches over His Word to perform it (Isaiah 55:11). God's chosen people were enslaved, in captivity for 400 long years before God answered their heart cries for deliverance. God never forgets His Words of Covenant and nor does He forget the people with whom He has entered Covenant. We, The Born Again are also God's Covenant people, and we can rest assured weeping may endure for a season, but joy will come in the morning (Psalm 30:5). The Men and Women of God must always quote the many promises of God recorded in The Holy Scriptures concerning deliverance to their congregations and more so when those in the congregation have insurmountable problems perplexing them.

### **Spiritual Application 3: Vengeance belongs to God**

Almighty God brought judgement on the Egyptians who had enslaved God's people for 400 years (Gen 15:14). My dear wife, Dolores, has always been a great encouragement in my ministry.

Though she always spoke encouragingly, she also spoke firmly.

With great love, she often told me of my ministerial weaknesses. I hurt too quickly and take too much personally. Over the years I have taken her wise counsel, and I am excited to say that these days the many attacks that I face from within The Church and from without The Church are like water on a duck's back. I have learnt, like so many other men and women of God; THAT NO WEAPON FORMED AGAINST HIS SERVANTS AND HANDMAIDENS CAN PROSPER (ISAIAH 54:17). My eldest daughter, Yolanda, when still incredibly young (probably about seven years old) spoke a precise (accurate) Word of Wisdom that has been a tremendous blessing to me throughout the years of my ministry. I remember very vividly we were at our supper table, and I very unwisely revealed to my wife and three beautiful daughters that I had enough of the verbal abuse, unwarranted rebukes, insults, and gossip and was seriously considering giving up on the ministry. Yolanda looked at me with a smile on her face that stretched across the entire table. Her smile was radiant. Her words echoed throughout the supper-room, vibrating in my spirit as she spoke with love and inspiration: "DADDY, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE ONLY REALLY TALK ABOUT YOU WHEN YOU ARE Important." I choked up and fought back my tears for I realised that I was witnessing Scripture coming to pass before the family and me:

PSALM 2:8 KJV: OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES AND SUCKLINGS HAST THOU ORDAINED STRENGTH BECAUSE OF THINE ENEMIES, THAT THOU MIGHT STILL THE ENEMY AND THE AVENGER.

That night I cried myself to sleep, not only just because of conviction but also because of Parental Pride. To this day, my daughter's words often ring loudly in my spirit when facing ridicule. Over the years, I have seen God's vindication of my ministry. Some of those people who slandered my ministry, were themselves removed from the ministry. Others over the years have come and apologised. I must admit at first, I relished that God had dealt with them; however, I soon realised that I was stooping to their level and the best thing that I could do for my persecutors was but pray for them.

God after 400 long years, poured out His judgement on the Egyptians for touching the anointed of The Lord. Vengeance belongs to God and God alone. Let us not take up arms against those who come up against our ministries. Let us hand them over to God and let Him deal with them. He is a merciful God, and He will always deal with them in a spirit of Love, and forgiveness if they repent, though

He will chastise them. There are four more important spiritual truths that I learnt from my inflicted sufferings: Firstly, never take delight in the demise of others who have come up against you and the ministry that God has entrusted to you. Secondly, the wheels of God grind, and they grind slowly, but they do grind and though God might take what seems at times an eternity to deal with your persecutors, God in His good time will recompense. Thirdly, always we must have a positive attitude toward suffering, or should I rather say a scriptural attitude toward suffering. The Book of Hebrews records a remarkable Scripture of the importance of Suffering: "THOUGH HE WERE A SON YET LEARNED HE OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS WHICH HE SUFFERED (HEBREWS 5:8 KJV)." Jesus, The Son of God, our Redeemer, was taught obedience through suffering. The question that follows: Are we exempt from suffering? Our answer is we are not exempt. Finally, yet importantly, Suffering always moulds The Character of God within His servants., Whenever our responses toward our persecutors are noble, and we do not repay evil with evil God will make us a blessing to others. Many servants and handmaidens of God minister from a level of knowledge acquired, however, the most effective ministry flows from experience:

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 ESVUK: BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT, WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION, SO THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION, WITH THE COMFORT WITH WHICH WE ARE COMFORTED BY GOD.

God comforts us in the ministry as we face trials and persecution that we in turn out of a comforting spirit may comfort our fellow ministers who are passing through similar horrendous attacks from within The Church and from without The Church.

#### **Spiritual Application 4: Without the Shedding of Blood**

Though mighty miracles were wrought by The Rod of Moses, The Rod of God and The Rod of Aaron deliverance did not come to the Israelites. Liberation came via The Passover Lamb. Nine miraculous plagues were invoked upon The Egyptians as The Rod of Moses, The Rod of God and The Rod of Aaron was raised heavenward. The gods of Egypt were belittled (demeaned). They were exposed as fakes and yet the Israelites were still held captive. Only when the lamb when slain and the blood applied to the doorposts and the lintel were God's people set free. Herein lies a great lesson for us modern-day servants of God. Our ministries are enriched with supernatural acts of Almighty God; however, our primary emphasis must always be The Sacrificial Death of Christ, the shedding of his forever efficacious



Blood and His Triumphant Resurrection over sin and death. Miracles are there to destroy the powers of darkness; The Blood is there to set the captive free. Let us never forget that without the shedding of The Blood of Jesus, there can be no remission of sin (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:22).

There is one absolute truth that I must leave with you dear readers for the simple fact it will bring true spiritual balance to our ministries. We cannot argue the fact that God used Moses and Aaron in signs and wonders. God used Moses in the miracles of nine plagues, and yet Pharaoh hardened his heart, repeatedly saying he would not let God's people go. I like many other servants of God trusted throughout my public ministry for God to confirm His Word with signs following (see Mark 16). The mistake I made was I was concentrating on preaching too much on Healing. No doubt healing is a part of The Gospel message and no doubt people got healed, however, did they accept Jesus the Healer, or did they only accept the healing? As much as we should preach on healing, let us take the lesson from Moses. Those plagues crushed the powers of evil, and yet the people were not set free. Only when the blood of the lamb was shed and applied to the lintel, and the doorposts of the Israelites where they set free. This act speaks of The Cross of Calvary where Jesus shed His life's blood for us to be set free from the powers of darkness and that is Satan, our modern-day Pharaoh.

### **Spiritual Application 5: The Principle of Restoration**

God will not allow His chosen people to be robbed of what is rightfully theirs (Genesis 15:14; Exodus 12:35-36). He ensures that what is legally theirs through their labour will finally come to them. In our modern-day Church society, The Ascended Gift of The Prophet and The Gift of Prophecy are very prominent. However, most prophecies that I have personally heard regarding many others and myself deal exclusively with blessings, and we thank God for that. However, on close examination of The Word of God, there are Prophecies within the canon of Scripture that also deal with great suffering. One of the classic examples of this is the suffering of The Jewish nation. God prophesied to Abraham, The Father of the Jewish nation, that his seed would be strangers in a foreign land for four hundred years. There they would suffer great affliction, and after their suffering, God would punish their taskmasters and deliver them, and they would come out with great substance (Genesis 15:13).

It is true God is no man's debtor. As a family, we have seen financial miracles. One time we almost lost our home. However, God spoke to certain people to pay off the backlog on our house. It is one thing when the world withholds what is rightfully due to us, but it is a disgrace

when God's people withhold from His servants what is spiritually theirs because of their labour:

**1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18 MKJV:** "LET THE ELDERS THAT RULE WELL BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOUR, ESPECIALLY THEY WHO LABOUR IN THE WORD AND DOCTRINE. FOR THE SCRIPTURE SAITH, THOU SHALT NOT MUZZLE THE OX THAT TREADS OUT THE CORN. AND THE LABOURER IS WORTHY OF HIS REWARD.

Let us learn from the experience that God's chosen people had in Egypt. They stripped the Egyptians bare of their wealth:

**DEUTERONOMY 25:4; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:9; 1TIMOTHY**

**5:18:** LET US NOT MUZZLE THE OX THAT TREADS THE CORN.

Let us bless and always honour God's servants. On the other hand, there are those certain few men of God who bleed Local Churches of their financial resources, taking exorbitant salaries. Though God's workman is worthy of their hire and more so those who Pastor and Teach deserve double honour (1Timothy 5:17), it is always wise that we Church Leaders receive salaries that will not cause the unsaved to slander The Church and thus bring the work of the Lord into disrepute.

### **Spiritual Application 6: God Is No Respector of Persons**

The depth of our spiritual intimacy determines the extent of our spiritual power. What God had done through Moses, God most assuredly can do through you and me. However, we must realise that there is a price to pay (though many of the modern-day ministers believe that Christ has paid for it all). We must shut ourselves off from the world, our pleasures, at times from our families and even at times from Church activities, to be shut in alone with God. Oft we are so busy for God that we lose out on our spiritual intimacy with God. It is God who sheds abroad in our hearts His love and the power of The Holy Spirit as we spend time alone with Him (see Romans 5:5). The power of God to perform the supernatural acts of God in our ministry's hinges on our relationship with God. Time spent with God develops a relationship with God that empties us of self and fills us with God. Busyness depletes our spiritual power. We must bear in mind and spirit it is not what I do for God that counts instead it is what God does through us that counts and therefore we must spend time alone with God in worship, prayer, and intercession.

### **Spirit Application 7: Added Faith**

As ministers of the glorious and forever effective Gospel of Jesus Christ, we should continuously stir up our faith. We know that faith comes from reading, studying, and applying God's unadulterated Word (Romans 10:17; James 1:23). Other than The Word of God, praying in the Spirit also builds up our faith:

**JUDE 20 ESVUK:** "BUT YOU, BELOVED, BUILDING YOURSELVES UP IN YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH AND PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT."

As ministers of The Gospel, many men of God are in step with God through reading, studying, and applying The Word of God, but oh how sad it is that so many are out of step with The Holy Spirit for they do not accept praying in tongues for our day. Some have gone as far as saying that speaking in tongues is of the devil. Well, I wonder what demon controls me when I pray in The Spirit.

However, a word of caution let us not deride (ridicule, scoff, put down) those who sneer us. We who pray in the Spirit must always remember they are our brethren. We are never to attack our brethren. Indeed, the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church. Sadly because of our ignorance and doctrinal indifferences, we attack each other with malicious words, and in so doing, we The Church prevail against The Church, of whom even our critics are an essential part of The Church.

Whenever God instructed Moses to raise The Rod, it took an act of simple childlike faith on his part. He obeyed God and acted in Faith. Once again, I mention the critical link between Obedience and Faith. Rest assured that Faith is born out of Obedience. As God's ministers, we should delight ourselves in God. Like Jesus, we must delight ourselves in obeying the directives we receive from God:

**HEBREWS 10:7 KJV:** "THEN SAID I, LO, I COME (IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME,) TO DO THY WILL, O GOD."

Just as Obedience produces Faith, in like manner, Faith produces Trust and Hope. The following acronym that the Holy Spirit impressed me with illustrates this clearly.

FAITH  
ACTIVATES  
INSPIRES  
TRUST (and)  
HOPE

Though at times, we may obey God with blind faith, it is Faith that inspires (stimulates, provokes, encourages, arouses) Trust and Hope. No matter how grave the problem we may face, Faith will always motivate us to Trust and Hope on God's Word:

**HEBREWS 11:1 ESVUK** "NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN."

**H**OPE

**O**N

**P**ROMISES

**E**TERNAL

As God's servants and handmaidens let us always realise that there is only one way that we can genuinely please our Lord and Saviour:

**HEBREW 11:6 ESVUK:** "AND WITHOUT FAITH, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER WOULD DRAW NEAR TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM."

Let us, the ministers of the glorious Gospel of power and deliverance purpose in our hearts that we will stir up our Faith that we like Moses may become emancipators of God's people.

### **Spiritual Application 8: God's Abiding Presence**

How often have we heard God's people joyfully exclaim that the battle belongs to God and the victory ours? The crossing of The Red Sea is a typical example of this. The Angel of The Lord and The Pillar of Cloud which went before the Israelites moved to the rear of the Israelites to keep the advancing Egyptian army away from the

Israelites. THE SPIRIT OF GOD WENT BEFORE THEM AS A STRONG EAST WIND DIVIDING THE RED SEA. God was behind them, and God was before them. The Presence of God protected their back. The Spirit of God went before them clearing a path for them. Their experience though outstanding does not in any way surpass the experience that you and I have. Like the experience of the Israelites, God will always protect our back. Like the experience of the Israelites, God will always go before us. However, there is one experience that we have that the Israelites did not experience. God went behind them and before them but was never WITHIN THEM. God has and always will go behind us (The Church) to protect us against the wiles of the enemy. God will always go before as a lamp and a light (Psalm 119:105), and more than that

God will always BE IN US. We, every member of The Body of Christ (The Church) is The Temple of God and The Habitation of The Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

**EXODUS 14:10-20 ESV:** WHEN PHARAOH DREW NEAR, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL LIFTED THEIR EYES, AND BEHOLD, THE EGYPTIANS WERE MARCHING AFTER THEM, AND THEY FEARED GREATLY. AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL CRIED OUT TO THE LORD. THEY SAID TO MOSES, "IS IT BECAUSE THERE ARE NO GRAVES IN EGYPT THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN US AWAY TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US IN BRINGING US OUT OF EGYPT? IS NOT THIS WHAT WE SAID TO YOU IN EGYPT: 'LEAVE US ALONE THAT WE MAY SERVE THE EGYPTIANS'? FOR IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR US TO SERVE THE EGYPTIANS THAN TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS." AND MOSES SAID TO THE PEOPLE, "FEAR NOT, STAND FIRM, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, WHICH HE WILL WORK FOR YOU TODAY. FOR THE EGYPTIANS WHOM YOU SEE TODAY, YOU SHALL NEVER SEE AGAIN. THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU, AND YOU HAVE ONLY TO BE SILENT." THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "WHY DO YOU CRY TO ME? TELL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO GO FORWARD. LIFT YOUR STAFF AND STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND OVER THE SEA AND DIVIDE IT, THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL MAY GO THROUGH THE SEA ON DRY GROUND. AND I WILL HARDEN THE HEARTS OF THE EGYPTIANS SO THAT THEY SHALL GO IN AFTER THEM, AND I WILL GET GLORY OVER PHARAOH AND ALL HIS HOST, HIS CHARIOTS, AND HIS HORSEMEN. AND THE EGYPTIANS SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD WHEN I HAVE GOTTEN GLORY OVER PHARAOH, HIS CHARIOTS, AND HIS HORSEMEN." THEN THE ANGEL OF GOD WHO WAS GOING BEFORE THE HOST OF ISRAEL MOVED AND WENT BEHIND THEM, AND THE PILLAR OF CLOUD MOVED FROM BEFORE THEM AND STOOD BEHIND THEM, COMING BETWEEN THE HOST OF EGYPT AND THE HOST OF ISRAEL. AND THERE WAS THE CLOUD AND THE DARKNESS. AND IT LIT UP THE NIGHT WITHOUT ONE COMING NEAR THE OTHER ALL NIGHT. <sup>21</sup> THEN MOSES STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND OVER THE SEA, AND THE LORD DROVE THE SEA BACK BY A STRONG EAST WIND ALL NIGHT AND MADE THE DRY SEA LAND, AND THE WATERS WERE DIVIDED. AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WENT INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA ON DRY GROUND, THE WATERS BEING A WALL TO THEM ON THEIR RIGHT HAND AND ON THEIR LEFT. THE EGYPTIANS PURSUED AND WENT IN AFTER THEM INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA, ALL PHARAOH'S HORSES, HIS CHARIOTS, AND HIS HORSEMEN. AND IN THE MORNING WATCH THE LORD IN THE PILLAR OF FIRE AND CLOUD LOOKED DOWN ON THE EGYPTIAN FORCES AND THREW THE EGYPTIAN FORCES INTO A PANIC, <sup>CLOGGING</sup> THEIR CHARIOT WHEELS SO THAT THEY DROVE HEAVILY. AND THE EGYPTIANS SAID,

“LET US FLEE FROM BEFORE ISRAEL, FOR THE LORD FIGHTS FOR THEM AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS.” THEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, “STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND OVER THE SEA, THAT THE WATER MAY COME BACK UPON THE EGYPTIANS, UPON THEIR CHARIOTS, AND THEIR HORSEMEN.” SO, MOSES STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND OVER THE SEA, AND THE SEA RETURNED TO ITS NORMAL COURSE WHEN THE MORNING APPEARED. AND AS THE EGYPTIANS FLED INTO IT, THE LORD THREW THE EGYPTIANS INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA. THE WATERS RETURNED AND COVERED THE CHARIOTS AND THE HORSEMEN; OF ALL THE HOST OF PHARAOH THAT HAD FOLLOWED THEM INTO THE SEA, NOT ONE OF THEM REMAINED. BUT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WALKED ON DRY GROUND THROUGH THE SEA, THE WATERS BEING A WALL TO THEM ON THEIR RIGHT HAND AND ON THEIR LEFT.

### **Spiritual Application 9: The Just Shall Live by Faith**

Moses exercised great Faith. He took God at His Spoken Word. At all times, Moses obeyed God's commands. As ministers of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must be cautious of where we place our Faith. Many modern-day ministers have taken Faith to a level that is beyond what The Word of God teaches. Having Faith in God's Word is necessary for the working of the supernatural. However, having Faith in Faith is not of God. Let me cite an example of this. Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness. In fact, after His Water Baptism and His inauguration of Prophet, Priest and King at The Jordan River, Jesus was led by The Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. One of the several temptations was that Jesus throws Himself down from the pinnacle of The Temple:

MATHEW 4:5-6 ESV: THEN THE DEVIL TOOK HIM TO THE HOLY CITY AND SET HIM ON THE PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE AND SAID TO HIM, “IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU,’ AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (SATAN QUOTED PSALM 91:11-12).

Although Satan quoted God's Word, Jesus did not hurl Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple. Hypothetically if Jesus had hurled himself, it would have been A PRESUMPTIOUS ACT ON HIS PART. Jesus did not act on The Word of God quoted by Satan for the simple reason it was not God speaking. Anyone may quote The Written Word (The Logos), but not anyone can speak a Rhema Word, which is The Spoken Word of God spoken by The Holy Spirit through God's people. In most cases, it is A Word of Direction. Jesus did not heed The Written Word for the simple reason The Holy Spirit was not speaking through Satan. This

is a classic example of Presumptuous Faith, exercising Faith in Faith. As God's people, we are aware without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). However, we also know that our Faith should be directed into the threefold cord (Ecclesiastes 4:8-12) of expression and that being:

CORD 1: FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD

CORD 2: FAITH IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS

CORD 3: FAITH IN THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

### **Spiritual Application 10: Deliverance and Salvation via The Blood Only**

As much as I passionately believe in miracles for our day, I am of the sincere and dogmatic persuasion that deliverance and salvation only come via The Blood of Jesus, our Personal Saviour. Reflecting over the liberation of The Jewish nation, it is blatantly (apparent) that God worked ten miracles. Out of the ten, nine were against the false God's of Egypt. Though these miracles showed the power of Jehovah God against the false God's of Egypt, they did not bring deliverance for The Jews. As students of The Word of God, we must take cognisance (be aware) of the fact only when a lamb for each home was slain, and every member of the home ate thereof that deliverance came to the Jewish nation. There is so much that we can glean from Exodus Chapter 12 and be amazed at the beautiful types therein. Note a lamb had to be slain, an accurate picture of what John the Baptist had said: "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. John saw Jesus at The Jordan River and introduced Jesus to the crowd as The Lamb of God. Another outstanding truth is seen in the fact that all those in the household were saved. A wonderful picture of:

ACTS 16: 31 ESV: AND THEY SAID, "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED, YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD."

# CHAPTER 5

## THE HANDS OF INTERCESSION

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Many Born-Again Christians fail to realise that their destinies are held in the praying hands of their Pastors. The ministry of a Pastor is unique in that it is a caring ministry. Congregations are more readily blessed when their man of God is an intercessor. In our modern-day Church, we have ministers who excel in preaching. Many are uniquely articulate. Words flow and come easy in their profound teaching. Though this is an essential aspect of the pastoral ministry, it is in no way the hallmark. I have always maintained that any Tom, Dick, and Harry could be an articulate preacher; however, it takes a man of great love for God's people to care for God's flock. Sadly, many Pastors love the crowds and the accolades of their congregations. No doubt the call of the man of God is to be with the people of God, and yet the strength of his ministry and more so the strength of the people whom he pastors are not just dependent on what he says to them through the preached Word of God, it is also crucially dependent on what he says to God on their behalf in his private chamber of prayer. I will never forget these words of wisdom (sadly I cannot recall who said it and I am paraphrasing) THE TEST OF A MAN OF GOD'S SOUL IS HOW MUCH TIME HE SPENDS ALONE WITH GOD IN PRAYER. Allow me the privilege of adding to that Word of Wisdom concerning the pastoral ministry. The making of a good Pastor is not just based on his anointed preaching to his congregants; it is also based on how much time he spends alone with God in prayer for God's people. I DO BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE WE PREACH TO PEOPLE, WE MUST PRAY FOR PEOPLE.

Allow me to suggest how we should set up a prayer roster for all our congregants. A census must be taken of all the members, and if possible, photographs of every congregant must be taken and be displayed in the prayer room of the Pastor. I do realise there are some vast Churches. However, this need not create a problem. The wise Pastor will then divide the congregants among all the Elders and Cell Group Leaders and make them responsible to pray daily for those congregants that are assigned to them. This responsible prayer concept should be operative in all the specified ministries of the Church, such as the Sunday School, Youth, Outreach, Men's Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship Ministries. Preaching is not the lifeblood of the Church. Prayer is the lifeblood of the Church. AS THE



## **Moses The Prophet of God**

Moses is recognised as The Prophet of God of The Old Testament and yet when we make an in-depth study of his ministry most of us will agree that he most definitely had the caring heart of a Priest. I mention that of Moses unreservedly (wholeheartedly). Some of you, dear readers may not agree, and yes, his brother Aaron was the High Priest. No wonder it was Moses that ordained Aaron as the first High Priest of The Jewish Nation. The simple fact is that you cannot impart to others what you do not possess. Why do I stress these ministerial facts of Moses? I do so for the simple reason that as a Prophet of God, he declared to the people of God the very mind of God and as a man of God with the caring heart of a Priest (who offers up sacrifice and that of himself, time, energy, family, pleasure etc) he exhibited the loving heart of God. There is a simple spiritual truth, and may I add no man has taught me this: (years of heartache, self-denial, and the empowerment of The Holy Spirit): You cannot make known the mind of God to His people unless you have the heart of God. God has taught me over the years that it is the fundamental duties of men and women of God to echo the voice of God to God's elect and in turn repeat to God the innermost hurts, groanings, sorrows and sufferings of God's people to God. The servant of God must always bear in mind that he is not only a servant of God but also the servant of man. He, the man of God, is God's representative to man and man's representative to God. The man of God is God's mouthpiece to God's people and in turn the people's spokesperson to God. If ever there was a man of God that fits the above descriptions of a true man of God, it is Moses. This mighty Prophet of God loved God's people more than he loved himself. One of my personal favourite sayings has become the earnest desire of my ministry, and I know that I can excel in the ministry if I make every effort to live up to it: "BEFORE YOU PREACH TO PEOPLE, PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE."

## **Moses, The Intercessor**

I wonder whether Jesus had Moses in mind when he spoke the parable of the lost sheep. Remember Jesus spoke of leaving the 99 and going to look for the one lost sheep (Mathew 18:10-14). Moses had an experience that genuinely showed forth his caring heart for the people of God. They murmured against Moses for there was no drinking water. The murmurings against the servant of God were that ghastly that it almost led to the destructive action of Moses being stoned (Exodus 17:1- 7). Moses cried to The Lord and was instructed to strike

The Rock. Freshwater gushed forth from The Rock, thus quenching the dire thirst of the people.

The Scripture teaches that in no way are God's servants to be ridiculed, threatened, and attacked:

**1 SAMUEL 24:6 KJV:** "AND HE SAID UNTO HIS MEN, THE LORD FORBID THAT I SHOULD DO THIS THING UNTO MY MASTER, THE LORD'S ANOINTED, TO STRETCH FORTH MINE HAND AGAINST HIM, SEEING HE IS THE ANOINTED OF THE LORD.

God is the defender of His servants. He has and will always recompense (repay) those for coming up against His servants. God punished His people severely for coming up against His servant Moses. The Amalekites killed many of the people:

**EXODUS 17:8-13 KJV:** THEN AMALEK CAME AND FOUGHT WITH ISRAEL AT REPHIDIM. SO, MOSES SAID TO JOSHUA, "CHOOSE FOR US MEN, AND GO OUT AND FIGHT WITH AMALEK. TOMORROW I WILL STAND ON THE TOP OF THE HILL WITH THE STAFF OF GOD IN MY HAND." SO, JOSHUA DID AS MOSES TOLD HIM, AND FOUGHT WITH AMALEK, WHILE MOSES, AARON, AND HUR WENT UP TO THE TOP OF THE HILL. WHENEVER MOSES HELD UP HIS HAND, ISRAEL PREVAILED, AND WHENEVER HE LOWERED HIS HAND, AMALEK PREVAILED. BUT MOSES' HANDS GREW WEARY, SO THEY TOOK A STONE AND PUT IT UNDER HIM, AND HE SAT ON IT, WHILE AARON AND HUR HELD UP HIS HANDS, ONE ON ONE SIDE, AND THE OTHER ON THE OTHER SIDE. SO, HIS HANDS WERE STEADY UNTIL THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN. AND JOSHUA OVERWHELMED AMALEK AND HIS PEOPLE WITH THE SWORD.

Both Mathew Henry and Jennings Dakes state that the Amalekites killed off the stragglers (those at the rear). Surely a cowardly attack. Moses, the good shepherd that he was of God's flock, acts out what Jesus says in Mathew 18:10-14. Like Jesus, he cared for the sheep entrusted into his care. He stops the entire nation from moving forward and goes to the rear of the camp and instructs Joshua to choose out an army to come up against the enemy while he goes to the overlooking hill with The Rod of God. Note carefully how The Rod is described, it is now neither The Rod of Moses nor The Rod of Aaron, it is now when the people are in dire danger that it becomes The Rod of God.

Moses stood on the hill, viewing the battle intently (attentively) and raised The Rod of God heavenward. When the Rod of God was raised, the battle went for Joshua's army. However, whenever The Rod of God went down to his side, the battle went against the army of Joshua; a classic picture of what I had mentioned in the subheading The Heart of the Pastor. He holds the congregation's destiny in his

hands. Be it that he is a praying man, a man of God that intercedes for the congregation that God has entrusted him with, they, the congregation will always know the delivering power of Lord Most High. Be it that the man of God loves The Pulpit and does not spend time in intercession for those in the Pew (church seats), then sad to say Satan and his demonic horde will run roughshod (brutal) over God's people.

### **Helping Hands of Intercession**

The Scriptures are not clear whether Aaron and Hur accompanied Moses initially when he ascended the hill. However, they had noticed if The Rod of God was raised heavenward the battle went for them, and when it drooped to his side, the battle went against them. These were wise men of God. They did not rush to raise the hands of the man of God. They surveyed (reviewed) the situation and then acted accordingly. They did something that so many of God's people fail to do concerning their Pastors. They made the man of God comfortable. Standing there on the hill all alone, hands outstretched continuously, and the people upon his heart was way too much for this loving Prophet of God, who had a heart of a Priest. They saw him sink to his knees, unable to continue, the burden of his people was too heavy for him, for he was but a mere man. They wisely sought for a small boulder (stone, little rock) on which they made him sit, thus making him comfortable. After that, they stood alongside him, one on the left and on the right, placing their hands on his weakened arms and raising his hands high with The Rod of God secure in his hands. These men of God who knew that the future of their beloved nation rested with this mighty man of God. They acted without speaking. They knew that words would not solve the critical situation. They worked instantly and yet with great wisdom. They made sure that Moses was no more in physical discomfort, although the spiritual burden weighed heavily upon his spirit. There on the hilltop was a threefold cord of intercession that could not be broken:

**ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12 KJV:** ONE PERSON WHO HAS NO OTHER, EITHER SON OR BROTHER, YET THERE IS NO END TO ALL HIS TOIL, AND HIS EYES ARE NEVER SATISFIED WITH RICHES, SO THAT HE NEVER ASKS, "FOR WHOM AM I TOILING AND DEPRIVING MYSELF OF PLEASURE?" THIS ALSO IS VANITY AND AN UNHAPPY BUSINESS. TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR TOIL. FOR IF THEY FALL, ONE WILL LIFT HIS FELLOW. BUT WOE TO HIM WHO IS ALONE WHEN HE FALLS AND HAS NOT ANOTHER TO LIFT HIM! AGAIN, IF TWO LIES TOGETHER, THEY KEEP WARM, BUT HOW CAN ONE KEEP WARM ALONE? AND THOUGH A MAN MIGHT PREVAIL AGAINST ONE WHO IS

ALONE, TWO WILL WITHSTAND HIM— A THREEFOLD CORD IS NOT QUICKLY BROKEN.

We are our brother's keeper and believe it or not, we like Moses, Aaron and Hur hold the destinies of others in our hands. A great victory was won for Israel against their enemy, not because of Joshua and his army. The battle was won because of Moses, who held the destiny of The Israelites in his hands of intercession and two mighty men of God who said so little but did so much.

### **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**

The effectiveness of God's servants is dependent upon their ongoing relationship with The Lord through Worship, Praise, Intercession, Prayer and Supplication. One of the old pioneers of The Pentecostal Movement hit the nail on the head with his wise words:

THE TEST OF THE SOUL OF THE MAN OF GOD IS HOW MUCH TIME HE SPENDS ALONE WITH GOD IN FERVENT PRAYER.

#### **Spiritual Application 1: Praying Pastors**

As Pastors, we are accountable to God for the well-being of our congregants. I believe that before we Preach to our congregants, we should pray for our congregants. We should always be aware that we hold the people of our congregations in the palm of our hands. Our Prayers of Intercession on their behalf, determine their future, their deliverance, and their blessings.

#### **Spiritual Application 2: The Quiet Times with The Lord**

Though Preaching is an integral facet of our ministry, it is not the highlight of our ministry. The highlight of our ministry is the time that we spend alone with God. It is through ardent (passionate, intense, devoted) communication with God that God rubs off on us. When we shut ourselves off from the mundane (ordinary, routine) of life and shut ourselves in with God, He pours His person into us, that when we stand before our congregations, they will not only hear the Word of God we preach unto them, but they will see The God of The Word. What we teach, God Himself will act out. Be it that we preach on healing, then God will heal. Be it that we preach on forgiveness, then God will forgive. Be it that we speak on the supernatural, then God will show up and perform the supernatural. God will confirm His Word with signs following when His servants spend time with Him alone.

### **Spiritual Application 3: Before We Preach to People, We Must Pray for People**

As crucial as Preaching is, we should always bear in mind that before we Preach to People, we must Pray for people. My dear colleague and friend Dr Ronnie Naidoo shared in his teaching class how that he before every service would be early at Church that he might pray for all those dear people who will be attending the Church service. He went from empty pew to empty pew laying hands on the seats asking God to bless the people that would sit in the specific pews and that The Word of God he would be preaching to them would convict and sanctify (set them apart for blessings) them.

A true story is told of a very renowned Pastor whilst flying to minster in another country had a large stack of photographs with writing on each photo and as he held each one in his hand, he spoke the name of the person's photo he was holding in his hand. This went on for some time, and finally, the passenger seated next to him could no longer wonder what this Pastor was up to and asked him very politely what he was doing. He replied that he was memorising the names of his congregation members that after The Church service, he when shaking their hands would mention their names. He also shared with the passenger that he had photographs of all his congregational members in his prayer room and on alternate days he would pray for specific members. This man was well-loved and appreciated by his flock. Let us forever bear in mind that a Praying Pastor holds the life of his congregation in his praying hands furthermore a praying pastor is loved and appreciated by his congregation. To have a well-balanced active ministry, we must always seek The Mind of God and The Heart of God. We must never forget it is one thing to know everything and to know everyone in the congregation, but it is another thing to Love everyone.

### **Spiritual Application 4: A Meaningful Vertical Relationship Determines a Meaningful Horizontal Relationship**

As Ascended Gifted Ministers, we must never forget that our vertical relationship will always determine our horizontal relationship. When right with God, we will always be right with man.

### **Spiritual Application 5: Loving Hands**

Hands clasped in fervent prayer on behalf of others are a simple but meaningful revelation of God's Love flowing from a man or woman of God that has the heart of God.

### **Spiritual Application 6: Prayer Determines Salvation**

Aaron and Hur are a prophetic picture of the ministry of Jesus, our Lord and The Holy Spirit, who come alongside God's people in the hour of dire need. Scripture teaches Aaron was the first High Priest of the Israelites. The Easton's Bible Dictionary sheds much light about Hur. He was the husband of Miriam, the sister of Moses (Exodus 17:10-12). He was the son of Caleb and the grandfather of Bezaleel, one of the significant artisans who built the Tabernacle of Moses (Exodus 31:2; 35:30; 1Ch 2:19). Aaron is a type of our forever effective High Priest-Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:1; 4:14) and how Aaron assisted Moses is seen in one of the many acronyms God has given me over the years of my ministry:

**P**RAYER

**R**EVEALS **A**LMIGHTY

**Y**AHWEH

**E**TERNAL

**R**IGHTEOUSNESS

### **Spiritual Application 7: We Never Alone When Praying**

In our moments of despair when we struggle to pray and we all alone, let me assure you, my fellow ministers, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit comes alongside (in a spiritual sense) us just as Aaron and Hur had done. Jesus places His hand of Grace in our weak drooping hand. The Holy Spirit places his hand of Power in our other dropping hand and together They lift our hands heavenward. The hand of Jesus is a hand of Grace, and does not the Bible encourage us that the GRACE of our Lord Jesus is more than enough:

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 ESV:** BUT HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." THEREFORE, I WILL BOAST MORE GLADLY OF MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.

### **Spiritual Application 8: Grace**

Pastor James Seekola, a renowned minister of The Full Gospel Church in Durban, gives an acronym that genuinely expresses the unmerited favour that we receive from a loving and caring God:

**GOD'S**

**RICHES**

**AT**

**CHRIST'S**

**EXPENSE**

The Holy Spirit also gave me an acronym which further illustrates God's abundant Grace:

**GOD'S**

**RIGHTEOUS**

**ACT**

**CONQUERED**

**EVIL**

#### **Spiritual Application 9: The Abiding Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit of whom Hur is a type of comes alongside us just as Hur came alongside Moses and raised his weak, feeble hand. It is said that when The Holy Spirit comes, He will enthuse us with His power:

**ACTS 1:8 KJV:** "BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST COMES UPON YOU.

#### **Spiritual Application 10: Prayer Activates God's Power**

I pastored a Church in Havenside Chatsworth, which sadly was not growing numerically, and may I add The Church was struggling to support me financially. I encouraged the Church to pray with me Wednesday mornings at 5 am. I lived about a half an hour car drive away from the Church and no doubt it was a sacrifice on my part. When I arrived for our first early Wednesday morning Prayer Meeting, I was devastated and dismayed. Only five people attended, including me. I went through the motions of prayer, but I must admit, I was so disappointed that my heart was not in it. However, even in my spiritual heartache, God encouraged me. Within my inner man and in

my mind, the word POWER was repeatedly echoing. I yielded to The Lord, and I will never forget what words flooded my spirit and soul: "These are the five people that will bring my power to this Church." The Church grew numerically, and the congregants began tithing faithfully, thus solving my financial problem. These five people became the pillars of our Church. At that first meeting, God peculiarly spoke to me by giving me another acronym and that for Power:

**P**OWER

**O**VER

**W**ICKED

**E**VIL

**R**IVALRY

#### **Spiritual Application 11: Jesus and The Holy Spirit Our Covenant Prayer Partners**

Perhaps there are those of us when facing a personal crisis and interceding for those in desperate need, discover that no one comes alongside us. We are in this spiritual battle all by ourselves. I have been there. I know what it is to face life's challenges and the problems of The Church all by myself. There are no Aarons and Hurs around. What do we do at these crucial times, knowing full well that we are holding the destiny of the members of the congregation in our Hands of Prayer? Let me assure there are two that will come alongside when you are all alone. And that is none other than our High Priest (Jesus) and Hur (The Holy Spirit).

#### **Spiritual Application 12: The Threefold Cord of Answered Prayer**

Whenever we pray according to The Word of God and in The Spirit, it is Jesus who comes alongside us (John 1:1-4) and The Holy Spirit that comes alongside us (Romans 8:26-27). I believe that the best threefold cord of prayer is You, The Word, and The Holy Spirit. Thank God for our fellow brethren that do stand alongside us but when alone fret not for that is the time when two persons of The Eternal Godhead comes alongside you. Who would you rather have alongside you? Brother Jack and Sister Jill or The Word of God and The Holy Spirit. Yes, like you I prefer The Word and The Holy Spirit.



**Spiritual Application 13: Prayer the Lifeblood of The Born-Again**

Prayer is the lifeblood of all Christians, Born of the Spirit and Filled with The Spirit (John 3:5; Ephesians 5:18). Prayer is like water to the human body, stop drinking water, and we will dry up. Stop praying, and we will dry up spiritually. Let me close this exciting chapter with one more acronym that the Good Lord gave me:

**P**RAYER

**R**EVEALS

**A**lmighty

**Y**AHWEH'S

**E**TERNAL

**R**IGHTEOUSNESS

Dr Don B Coleman taught his students that Righteousness is simply God's Holiness in action. Whatever God does is Right. What He does is always in line with His Holy Character. Rest assured when God answers our Prayers, Almighty God answers in Righteous Action.

**Spiritual Application 14: Pray without Ceasing**

God's Word encourages us to Pray without ceasing. I have done my best to heed the encouragement but to no avail. I could not concentrate. Praise God the Holy Spirit taught me how to pray without ceasing. I had to have my mind and spirit stayed on God. Even when working, I had the Godly ability to pray. I did what I was doing as unto the Lord. Prayer is not always words, oft time I simply relax in God's awesome presence without saying a word.

**Study to Show Yourself Approved unto God**

1. List and explain the spiritual characteristics of a Pastor.
2. In your own words, why do we believe Moses although a Prophet of God also had the heart of a Pastor.

3. Explain in your own words why Pastors should pray for people before they preach to people?
4. Of whom are Aaron and Hur a type of?
5. In your own words, explain how God answers our prayers.

# CHAPTER 6

## LOVE FOR GOD PRODUCES GOD'S POWER

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### **Preamble**

As a young boy, I always daydreamed of my name in lights. I saw myself as a famous movie star (probably playing the role of Frankenstein with my looks). Thank God, it did not materialise. Most of us when young imagine ourselves becoming important people having some effect on our world. It is good that we do have dreams. Joseph, the dreamer, saw himself as the head of his family and by the grace of God regardless of all his trials and tribulations, his dream was realised.

### **Joseph our example**

There are great lessons we can glean from Joseph. First and foremost, he never allowed his afflictions to rob him of his God-given dream. Many people allow themselves to be stripped of their vision. The sad fact is they often are the very persons that rob themselves of their dreams. How is this possible? Joseph gives us an excellent example of how to keep our dreams alive. Joseph maintained his integrity. He did not succumb to infidelity. He was faithful to God and his master Potiphar. When interpreting the dreams of others, he always gave God the glory. People lose out on their visions for the simple reasons they forego their integrity, become self-centred and disregard others. Pastor Tyron Pretorius had a saying that just thrilled me, and I have used it several times, in my preaching, though making sure I would quote him: "MANY REACH FOR THE STARS BUT IN THE PROCESS, THEY TRAMPLE UNDERFOOT THE DAISIES." Not only have I used this outstanding truth in my preaching, but I also made sure that as I endeavoured to fulfil my calling that in the process, I would not injure God's people that were in my path.

Many delights in character assassinations of their fellow workers that they more readily climb the ladder of success. Sadly, this spirit is also in The Church. Often when men of God are going through a dark patch in their life and ministry they clamour for position and power. Too often, it is done subtly. Instead of reaching down to the man of God, they highlight his inadequacies. It is so heart-breaking when many a good man of God is robbed of his dream and calling by the very ones who should stand alongside him in his hour of need.

What was Moses dream? Being raised in the palace of Pharaoh was it perhaps to become Pharaoh one day. He was raised as an Egyptian prince and yet he instead chose to be identified with the Israelites:

**HEBREWS 11:23-28 ESVUK:** "BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE WAS BORN, WAS HIDDEN FOR THREE MONTHS BY HIS PARENTS BECAUSE THEY SAW THAT THE CHILD WAS BEAUTIFUL, AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING'S EDICT. BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE WAS GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER, CHOOSING RATHER TO BE MISTREATED WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD THAN TO ENJOY THE FLEETING PLEASURES OF SIN. HE CONSIDERED THE REPROACH OF CHRIST GREATER WEALTH THAN THE TREASURES OF EGYPT, FOR HE WAS LOOKING TO THE REWARD. BY FAITH, HE LEFT EGYPT, NOT BEING AFRAID OF THE ANGER OF THE KING, FOR HE ENDURED AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE. BY FAITH, HE KEPT THE PASSOVER AND SPRINKLED THE BLOOD, SO THAT THE DESTROYER OF THE FIRSTBORN MIGHT NOT TOUCH THEM."

Moses turned his back on Egypt, refusing the throne. Imagine being the Pharaoh of Egypt, then the might of the then known world. He murdered an Egyptian when he was forty years old. He did not fully comprehend that God's hand was upon him when he took matters into his own hands. He was willing to suffer with the people of God. Moses gave up so much. In the desert, God called Moses, and there he received his Prophetic Ministry at the age of eighty.

There are two occasions God offers Moses greatness that defies description. He is offered by God to become the Patriarch of a New Nation that God would birth through him. The offer was even more significant than becoming Pharaoh. Moses declined, and this is what this chapter deals with, just why Moses refused this great offer to become even more significant than Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What is so vitally important is just why Moses refused this outstanding offer? Was he in his right mind? Admittedly, the pressure of leading the people out of Egypt weighed heavily upon him, and therefore he could not think wisely to accept the offer.

Moses rejected the offer. Imagine God's servant saying no to God. He had good reasons to accept, and yet he wisely refused. Much has been written about holding the destiny of the Israelites in his hand. God reminded Moses he held their future in the palm of his hand for the simple reason he had them in his heart. MOSES LOVED THE PEOPLE OF GOD, BUT MORE THAN THAT, HE LOVED THE GOD OF THE PEOPLE. Moses, the man of God, the servant and Prophet of God and the people, held more than the destiny of God's chosen people in his hand; he also held the testimony of God who delivered the chosen people out of the evil clutches of the Egyptians.

## The Disrespect Toward Moses

One of my pet hates is disrespect a spiritual weakness that I continuously must work on. I tend to cut off disrespectful people. Thank God, Moses was in no way like me. If ever there was a man of God that people had, much to thank for it was Moses, and yet they at certain occasions despised him. Twice they wanted to stone him:

**EXODUS 17:1-04 ESVUK:** ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL MOVED ON FROM THE WILDERNESS OF SIN BY STAGES, ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD, AND CAMPED AT REPHIDIM, BUT THERE WAS NO WATER FOR THE PEOPLE TO DRINK. THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE QUARRELLED WITH MOSES AND SAID, "GIVE US WATER TO DRINK." AND MOSES SAID TO THEM, "WHY DO YOU QUARREL WITH ME? WHY DO YOU TEST THE LORD?" BUT THE PEOPLE THIRSTED THERE FOR WATER, AND THE PEOPLE GRUMBLED AGAINST MOSES AND SAID, "WHY DID YOU BRING US UP OUT OF EGYPT, TO KILL US AND OUR CHILDREN AND OUR LIVESTOCK WITH THIRST?" SO, MOSES CRIED TO THE LORD, "WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THIS PEOPLE? THEY ARE ALMOST READY TO STONE ME."

**NUMBERS 14:1-10 ESVUK:** THEN THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION RAISED A LOUD CRY, AND THE PEOPLE WEPT THAT NIGHT. AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL GRUMBLED AGAINST MOSES AND AARON. THE WHOLE CONGREGATION SAID TO THEM, "WOULD THAT WE HAD DIED IN THE LAND OF EGYPT! OR WOULD THAT WE HAD DIED IN THIS WILDERNESS! WHY IS THE LORD BRINGING US INTO THIS LAND, TO FALL BY THE SWORD? OUR WIVES AND OUR LITTLE ONES WILL BECOME PREY. WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER FOR US TO GO BACK TO EGYPT?" AND THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, "LET US CHOOSE A LEADER AND GO BACK TO EGYPT." THEN MOSES AND AARON FELL ON THEIR FACES BEFORE ALL THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. AND JOSHUA THE SON OF NUN AND CALEB THE SON OF JEPHUNNEH, WHO WERE AMONG THOSE WHO HAD SPIED OUT THE LAND, TORE THEIR CLOTHES AND SAID TO ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, "THE LAND, WHICH WE PASSED THROUGH TO SPY IT OUT, IS AN

EXCEEDINGLY GOOD LAND. IF THE LORD DELIGHTS IN US, HE WILL BRING US INTO THIS LAND AND GIVE IT TO US, A LAND THAT FLOWS WITH MILK AND HONEY. ONLY DO NOT REBEL AGAINST THE LORD. AND DO NOT FEAR THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND, FOR THEY ARE BREAD FOR US. THEIR PROTECTION IS REMOVED FROM THEM, AND THE LORD IS WITH US; DO NOT FEAR THEM." THEN THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION SAID TO STONE THEM WITH STONES. BUT THE GLORY OF THE LORD APPEARED AT THE TENT OF MEETING TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

It was one thing to disrespect Moses but another thing to disrespect God. Throughout the wilderness experience, the chosen people of God always murmured against God. They were a complaining people, never satisfied, no matter what good God bestowed upon them. There

is so much a servant of God can take from murmuring and complaining people. However, Moses did not give up on the people that God had entrusted in his care. Moses loved the unlovable.

### **God's First Offer of Greatness to Moses**

I wonder when I consider The Israelites whether the proverb "absence makes the heart grow fonder" is correct. When we reflect on Moses' absence from the people while he was on Mount Sinai receiving The Ten Commandments, their heart toward God and His servant waxed cold. They influenced Aaron to build a golden calf, which they worshipped exclaiming that the idol Aaron made were the gods that brought them out of Egypt.

**EXODUS 32: 1-6 KJV:** "AND THE PEOPLE SAW THAT MOSES DELAYED COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN, AND THE PEOPLE GATHERED THEMSELVES TO AARON. AND THEY SAID TO HIM, UP! MAKE US GODS WHO SHALL GO BEFORE US. FOR THIS MOSES, THE MAN WHO BROUGHT US UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM. AND AARON SAID TO THEM, BREAK OFF THE GOLDEN EARRINGS WHICH ARE IN THE EARS OF YOUR WIVES, OF YOUR SONS, AND YOUR DAUGHTERS, AND BRING THEM TO ME. AND ALL THE PEOPLE BROKE OFF THE GOLDEN EARRINGS WHICH WERE IN THEIR EARS AND BROUGHT THEM TO AARON. AND HE TOOK THEM FROM THEIR HAND AND FASHIONED IT WITH AN ENGRAVING TOOL. AND HE MADE IT A MOLTEN CALF. AND THEY SAID, THESE ARE YOUR GODS, O ISRAEL, WHO BROUGHT YOU UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. AND WHEN AARON SAW, HE BUILT AN ALTAR BEFORE IT. AND AARON MADE A PROCLAMATION AND SAID, TOMORROW IS A FEAST TO JEHOVAH. AND THEY ROSE EARLY ON THE NEXT DAY AND OFFERED BURNT OFFERINGS AND BROUGHT PEACE OFFERINGS. AND THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND TO DRINK AND ROSE TO PLAY."

God, in His just anger, conveyed to Moses what had taken place. God says in no uncertain terms that He had enough of them, and He will begin a new nation with Moses:

**EXODUS 32:7-19 MKJV:** "AND THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, GO! GET DOWN, FOR YOUR PEOPLE, WHOM YOU BROUGHT OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, ARE CORRUPTED. THEY HAVE TURNED ASIDE QUICKLY OUT OF THE WAY WHICH I COMMANDED THEM. THEY HAVE MADE THEM A MOLTEN CALF, AND HAVE WORSHIPPED IT, AND HAVE SACRIFICED TO IT, AND SAID, THESE ARE YOUR GODS, O ISRAEL, WHO HAVE BROUGHT YOU UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. AND THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, I HAVE SEEN

THESE PEOPLE, AND BEHOLD, IT IS A STIFF-NECKED PEOPLE. AND NOW LEAVE ME ALONE, SO THAT MY WRATH MAY BECOME HOT AGAINST THEM AND SO THAT I MAY CONSUME THEM. AND I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION

Did Moses consider this great offer? Did he ponder on it? No sooner had God offered Moses this stupendous (excellent) promotion that Moses declined:

**EXODUS 32:11-14 KJV:** "AND MOSES BESOUGHT THE LORD HIS GOD, AND SAID, LORD, WHY DOTH THY WRATH WAX HOT AGAINST THY PEOPLE, WHICH THOU HAST BROUGHT FORTH OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT WITH GREAT POWER, AND WITH A MIGHTY HAND? WHEREFORE SHOULD THE EGYPTIANS SPEAK, AND SAY, FOR MISCHIEF DID HE BRING THEM OUT, TO SLAY THEM IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND TO CONSUME THEM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH? TURN FROM THY FIERCE WRATH AND REPENT OF THIS EVIL AGAINST THY PEOPLE. REMEMBER ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND ISRAEL, THY SERVANTS, TO WHOM THOU SWEARS BY THINE OWN SELF, AND SAID UNTO THEM, I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR SEED AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN, AND ALL THIS LAND THAT I HAVE SPOKEN OF WILL I GIVE UNTO YOUR SEED, AND THEY SHALL INHERIT IT FOREVER. AND THE LORD REPENTED OF THE EVIL WHICH HE THOUGHT TO DO UNTO HIS PEOPLE."

Moses, a mere mortal, reasoned with God. His words were well chosen yet were not articulate (eloquent, clear). These words of wisdom were heart-wrenching. He wisely spoke of the awesome power of God that delivered The Israelites, yet inferring if God does annihilate the people, then God's mighty act of power in liberating them had been futile. He was saying to God that it served no purpose.

Furthermore, what would the enemy of God's people say? God only delivered them to destroy them. These words were spoken with great humility yet with great authority. Moses, as I have previously stated, loved the people of God and more so The God of the people. He loved God with all his heart, all his soul, all his mind and all his strength (see Mathew 22:37). This great Prophet of God had power with God, simply because of his outstanding love for God. It was not unusual for certain servants of God to have power with God. Jacob, like Moses, also had power with God: "AND HE SAID, THY NAME SHALL BE CALLED NO MORE JACOB, BUT ISRAEL: FOR AS A PRINCE HAST THOU POWER WITH GOD AND WITH MEN, AND HAST PREVAILED (GENESIS 32:38 KJV)." However, there was a marked distinction between Jacob's power with God and Moses' influence with God. Jacob's prevailing power with God allowed God to change his name from Jacob, a deceiver, to that of Israel, a Prince with God. Moses power with God caused God to repent (change His mind) of His impending judgement on His chosen people. I am of the personal persuasion that Moses was compelling (persuasive). However, it was the final persuasion (point of view, argument, urging)

that changed the heart of God toward His people. Deep down in his inner man, Moses was aware that:

PSALM 138:2 KJV: GOD HONoured HIS WORD ABOVE HIS NAME.

ISAIAH 55:10-11 KJV: WATCHES OVER HIS WORD TO PERFORM IT.

Moses, with unique spiritual insight, reminds God of His covenant promises to The Jewish Patriarchs. He speaks of their Posterity (future generations) and their land inheritance. It was Moses who penned The Word:

NUMBERS 23:19 ESVUK: "GOD IS NOT MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE, OR A SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD CHANGE HIS MIND. HAS HE SAID AND WILL HE NOT DO IT? OR HAS HE SPOKEN, AND WILL HE NOT FULFIL ITS."

The last appeal melts the heart of Almighty God, and He repents of His intended Judgement. God repents; He has a change of mind. The deliberate act of God's judgement was justified because of the sin of idolatry; however, God was bound by His Covenant Promises. He had given to The Patriarchs.

Moses missed a great opportunity of becoming The Father of The New Nation of Israel. Can we imagine for one moment these profound words being removed from our beloved Bible, The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and replaced with The God of Moses? Moses was surely a loving and caring man. He stopped the hand of God from obliterating His chosen nation. Moses loved God to the extent that Moses protected the good name of God. There was no way that he would stand by and allow The Egyptians to speak ill of His God. MOSES NOT ONLY HELD THE DESTINY OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN HIS HANDS, BUT MOSES ALSO HELD IN HIS HANDS THE TESTIMONY OF HIS GOD.

### **God's Second Offer of Greatness to Moses**

There has been a common problem between The Israelites and The Church of God. The mutual problem had caused havoc within The Nation of Israel. The Israelites unwisely allowed themselves to be influenced by the principles of democracy. The voice of man was more important than the voice of God. In many Local and Denominational Churches, we have the self-same attitude. I must concur (agree) that there is wisdom and safety in the multitude of counsellors (see Proverbs 11:14). However, it is distinct from democracy. Having the right to vote on a matter and giving counsel on an issue are poles apart. Not all people give sound advice, yet all people have the right to vote.



Moses had sent out twelve spies to check out The Promised Land, and to his dismay, they came back with conflicting reports, which caused undue tension and rebellion:

**NUMBERS 13:26-33 MKJV:** "AND THEY LEFT AND CAME TO MOSES AND AARON, AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL, TO THE WILDERNESS OF PARAN, TO KADESH. AND THEY BROUGHT BACK WORD TO THEM AND ALL THE CONGREGATION AND SHOWED THEM THE FRUIT OF THE LAND. AND THEY TOLD HIM AND SAID, WE CAME TO THE LAND WHERE YOU SENT US, AND SURELY IT FLOWS WITH MILK AND HONEY. AND THIS IS THE FRUIT OF IT. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE THAT DWELL IN THE LAND ARE STRONG, AND THE CITIES ARE WALLED, VERY GREAT. AND WE SAW THE CHILDREN OF ANAK THERE. THE AMALEKITES DWELL IN THE LAND OF THE SOUTH, AND THE HITTITES, AND THE JEBUSITES, AND THE AMORITES DWELL IN THE MOUNTAINS. AND THE CANAANITES DWELL BY THE SEA AND BY THE COAST OF JORDAN. AND CALEB STILLED THE PEOPLE BEFORE MOSES AND SAID, LET US GO UP AT ONCE AND POSSESS IT. WE ARE WELL ABLE TO OVERCOME IT. BUT THE MEN THAT WENT UP WITH HIM SAID, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GO UP AGAINST THE PEOPLE, FOR THEY ARE STRONGER THAN WE. AND THEY BROUGHT UP AN EVIL REPORT OF THE LAND WHICH THEY HAD SEARCHED TO THE SONS OF ISRAEL, SAYING, THE LAND THROUGH WHICH WE HAVE GONE TO SEARCH IT, IS A LAND THAT EATS UP THOSE WHO LIVE IN IT. AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHOM WE SAW IN IT WERE MEN OF STATURE. AND THERE WE SAW THE GIANTS, THE SONS OF ANAK, OF THE GIANTS. AND WE WERE IN OUR SIGHT AS GRASSHOPPERS, AND SO WE WERE IN THEIR SIGHT.

Ten of the twelve spies gave a bad report. Caleb and Joshua gave a good report (see Numbers 14:6). The ten spies lacked faith and were afraid of the giants that dwelt in the land. Sadly, the chosen people sided with the ten spies. The ten who gave a bad report outvoted the two that gave a good report. God punished them severely. Forty years they wandered in the wilderness, a year for each day the spies were in The Promised Land. If ever there was a time that democracy failed dismally, it was that time. The nation was severely influenced by the evil report and decided to appoint a new leader to take them back to Egypt:

**NUMBERS 14:1-20 MKJV:** "AND ALL THE CONGREGATION LIFTED THEIR VOICE AND CRIED. AND THE PEOPLE WEPT THAT NIGHT. AND ALL THE SONS OF ISRAEL MURMURED AGAINST MOSES AND AARON. AND THE WHOLE CONGREGATION SAID TO THEM, OH THAT WE HAD DIED IN THE LAND OF EGYPT! OR, OH THAT WE HAD DIED IN THE WILDERNESS! AND WHY

HAS THE LORD BROUGHT US UNTO THIS LAND TO FALL BY THE SWORD, SO THAT OUR WIVES AND OUR SONS SHOULD BE PREY? WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER FOR US TO RETURN TO EGYPT? AND THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, LET US MAKE A LEADER, AND LET US RETURN TO EGYPT. AND MOSES AND AARON FELL ON THEIR FACES BEFORE ALL THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL. AND JOSHUA, THE SON OF NUN, AND CALEB, THE SON OF JEPHUNNEH, OF THOSE THAT SEARCHED THE LAND, TORE THEIR CLOTHES. AND THEY SPOKE TO ALL THE COMPANY OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL SAYING, THE LAND WHICH WE PASSED THROUGH TO SEARCH IS EXCEEDINGLY GOOD LAND. IF THE LORD DELIGHTS IN US, THEN HE WILL BRING US INTO THIS LAND AND GIVE IT TO US, A LAND WHICH FLOWS WITH MILK AND HONEY. ONLY DO NOT REBEL AGAINST THE LORD, NEITHER FEAR THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND. FOR THEY ARE BREAD FOR US. THEIR PROTECTION HAS MOVED FROM THEM, AND THE LORD IS WITH US. DO NOT FEAR THEM. BUT ALL THE CONGREGATION SAID TO STONE THEM WITH STONES. AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD APPEARED IN THE TABERNACLE OF THE CONGREGATION BEFORE ALL THE SONS OF ISRAEL. AND THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, HOW LONG WILL THESE PEOPLE PROVOKE ME? AND HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE THEY BELIEVE ME, FOR ALL THE SIGNS WHICH I HAVE SHOWN AMONG THEM? I WILL STRIKE THEM WITH THE PESTILENCE AND WILL DISINHERIT THEM AND WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREATER NATION AND MIGHTIER THAN THEY. AND MOSES SAID TO THE LORD, THEN THE EGYPTIANS WILL HEAR, FOR YOU HAVE BROUGHT UP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR MIGHT FROM AMONG THEM. AND THEY WILL SAY TO THE INHABITANT OF THIS LAND. THEY HAVE HEARD THAT YOU, LORD, ARE AMONG THESE PEOPLE, WHO ARE SEEN EYE TO EYE. YOU ARE THE LORD, AND YOUR CLOUD STANDS OVER THEM, AND YOU GO BEFORE THEM IN A PILLAR OF CLOUD BY DAY, AND IN A PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT. AND WILL YOU KILL THESE PEOPLE AS ONE MAN? THEN THE NATIONS WHO HAVE HEARD YOUR FAME WILL SPEAK, SAYING, BECAUSE THE LORD WAS NOT ABLE TO BRING THESE PEOPLE INTO THE LAND WHICH HE SWORE TO THEM; THEREFORE, HE HAS SLAIN THEM IN THE WILDERNESS. AND NOW, I BESEECH YOU, LET THE POWER OF MY LORD BE GREAT, ACCORDING TO AS YOU HAVE SPOKEN, SAYING, THE LORD IS LONG-SUFFERING, AND OF GREAT MERCY, FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION, AND BY NO MEANS CLEARING THE GUILTY, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE SONS TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION. I BESEECH YOU, PARDON THE INIQUITY OF these PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE GREATNESS OF YOUR MERCY, AND AS YOU HAVE FORGIVEN THESE PEOPLE FROM EGYPT EVEN UNTIL NOW. AND THE LORD SAID I HAVE PARDONED ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD."

The situation became bad to the extent that they threatened to stone Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua. Before they could act out their evil intent, The Glory of The Lord appeared in The Tabernacle. God intervened, and from The Tabernacle the LORD (JEHOVAH) spoke and once again, he offered Moses the grand opportunity of beginning a new nation with him. Moses takes a different approach to change God's action. He does mention the Egyptians again with one addition and that being they would inform other nations how that God was unable to bring them to the land He had promised them. Moses was

once again merely saying with all what the chosen people had experienced was futile. God could not take them into the Promise Land. This time Moses does not appeal to God concerning The Covenant promises He had made to The Patriarchs. He pleads to God based on God's everlasting mercy, steadfast love, and forgiveness. Once again, God relents and pardons His chosen people.

Moses refused greatness. DID MOSES DO THE RIGHT THING; DOES NOT PROMOTION COME FROM THE LORD? I AM OF THE PERSUASION HE HAD DONE RIGHT. OUR STATUS IN LIFE IS NEVER TO BE THE GREATEST AMONGST THE LEAST. WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE. What is ultimate for our life is loving God and helping His people. Other than that, we should not climb the ladder of success and recognition at the demise of others. We are to care for each other and not to use other people's traits (unconventional behaviour) to gain popularity and position.

I mentioned earlier in this chapter that it is one thing to hold in one's hands the destiny of God's people and another something to keep God's good testimony in one's hand as well. Moses had great hands because he had a loving heart towards His God and the people of God.

### **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**

It is said that studying history without application is a futile exercise. The pleasure of studying history brings us to determine whether we can apply history to our situations. Should I accept it or discard it. Be it that it will not profit my spiritual walk with God then surely, I should abandon history. However, be it that history will enhance my walk with God, then I should apply it.

#### **Spiritual Application No 1: Our dream is to be like Jesus**

As servants of the Most-High God, we must endeavour by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to live out our dream. Our dream as ministers of The Gospel is to live out the purpose of why God has apprehended us. First and foremost, our calling is to become like Jesus (Romans 8:29). Our priorities must be in chronological order. The character must always precede ministry. Secondly, as servants of The Lord, we must endeavour to excel in our ministry for the simple fact we hold the destinies of God's people in our hearts and hands. Moses had a unique ministry; however, the strength and hallmark of his life was his servant's heart toward God and God's chosen people.

#### **Spiritual Application No 2: Our Destiny**

Moses though often ridiculed, murmured against, and even threatened with death via stoning, did not retaliate. He sought God and God faithfully delivered Moses from the evil intent of his persecutors. Our destiny is with God and not with our persecutors.

Our life is in the hand of God and not man. Therefore, let us fear God and not man.

### **Spiritual Application No 3: Intercession**

Though we must spend much time in intercessory prayer for our congregation, articulation is not paramount. Intercession is not always words; it is more than words. It is spirit to Spirit communication. Eloquent words do not move God. Our love for God and humanity moves God in our intercession for His people. Prayer expresses itself through tears, sighs and groanings. Sometimes, the pain that we feel for others cannot be expressed in words (see Romans 8:26).

### **Spiritual Application No 4: The Greatest in The Kingdom**

In ministry, there is rank. The Bible is clear on this; however, we must never forget that the greatest in the kingdom of God are the servants (Mt 20:24-28).

### **Spiritual Application No 5: True Power**

Although the position brings power, it comes with a high level of responsibility. There are those positions that do bring power and control over others; however, we must still maintain a servant's heart. A true servant of God has the spiritual attitude and fortitude of how best I can serve my fellow brethren. We must never attain positions through our fellow brethren's demise. It is our Christian duty to restore our fallen brethren (Galatians 6:1).

### **Spiritual Application No 6: The Word Governs**

Churches are not governed by democracy. God's unadulterated Word governs The Church. Jesus is the Head of The Church. He is the Word made flesh, and therefore all legal (authorised) principles of governance are to be Word-based. When Pastors allow the unadulterated Word to direct the governance of their Churches, they are simply allowing the principles of THEOCRACY TO GOVERN.

### **Spiritual Application No 7: God's Good Testimony**

As much as we, the ministers of The Gospel hold the destinies of God's people in our prayerful hands, let also always bear in mind that like Moses, we keep God's testimony in our hand and heart as well.

# Final Words

## LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS

Although God cannot tolerate sin and rebellion, He still loves us. God's holy standards are erased in our day. The world is in a mess. Children are being raised to disbelieve God exists. Prayer is forbidden in schools. Marriage is frowned upon. The in-thing is having a partner. Abortion is legal in most of the western world. Same-sex marriages are the order of the day and yet God loves everyone. It is with what they do that God has a significant problem. The world needs our prayers. We are not called to cast the first stone; we are to intercede and to forgive:

**JOHN 8:1-12 GODS WORD:** JESUS WENT TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES. EARLY THE NEXT MORNING HE RETURNED TO THE TEMPLE COURTYARD. ALL THE PEOPLE WENT TO HIM, SO HE SAT DOWN AND BEGAN TO TEACH THEM. THE EXPERTS IN MOSES' TEACHINGS AND THE PHARISEES BROUGHT A WOMAN WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT COMMITTING ADULTERY. THEY MADE HER STAND IN FRONT OF EVERYONE AND ASKED JESUS, "TEACHER, WE CAUGHT THIS WOMAN IN THE ACT OF ADULTERY. IN HIS TEACHINGS, MOSES ORDERED US TO STONE WOMEN LIKE THIS TO DEATH. WHAT DO YOU SAY?" THEY ASKED THIS TO TEST HIM. THEY WANTED TO FIND A REASON TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST HIM. JESUS BENT DOWN AND USED HIS FINGER TO WRITE ON THE GROUND. WHEN THEY PERSISTED IN ASKING HIM QUESTIONS, HE STRAIGHTENED UP AND SAID, "THE PERSON WHO IS SINLESS SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER." THEN HE BENT DOWN AGAIN AND CONTINUED WRITING ON THE GROUND. ONE BY ONE, BEGINNING WITH THE OLDER MEN, THE EXPERTS IN MOSES' TEACHINGS AND PHARISEES LEFT. JESUS WAS LEFT ALONE WITH THE WOMAN. THEN JESUS STRAIGHTENED UP AND ASKED HER "WHERE DID THEY GO? HAS ANYONE CONDEMNED YOU?" THE WOMAN ANSWERED, "NO ONE, SIR." JESUS SAID, "I DON'T CONDEMN YOU EITHER. GO! FROM NOW ON DON'T SIN."

Many Christians fail to realise that everyone sins, and the wages of sin is eternal death. We are all not perfect. Others believe in venial (excusable) and mortal (that which leads to eternal damnation (condemnation)). As Born-again Christians we have the urgent duty to warn people of not accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour, will lead to eternal separation from God. We are not called to judge people. We called to love the unlovable as Christ loves the unlovable. Our mandate from God is to rescue humanity from God's judgement. Furthermore, we are assigned to help man to forsake his sin. Our call

is not to point an accusing finger, nor cast the first stone of judgment. Many people have sinned against you and me and inwardly (secretly) we want to get even with them.

We have an incredible opportunity to behave like Moses. Instead of seeking God's judgement on the very people he delivered from Egypt and who instead of being grateful on two occasions wanted to stone him to death. Moses climbed the mountain of prayer, holding The Rod of God in his hands and interceded on their behalf. Moses, though a Prophet had a heart of a Shepherd, who defends his sheep from the wiles of thieves and wild animals. His heart cries touched God, and the people were spared from the attack of the Amalekites. Moses held the destiny of his people in his praying hands. The standards (values, morality) of the world are far removed from God's holy standard. Prophets are declaring the earthquakes, the terrible fires, floods, tornados, hurricanes, and tsunamis as God's judgement, instead of interceding for God's mercy. Are there ministers of God who have a spirit likened unto Moses, who will wrestle with God to curb all these horrendous calamities (disasters)? I sincerely believe there are many who like Moses will climb the mountains of prayer holding in their hands the most potent Rod ever, The Word of God. Like Moses, the ministers of The Gospel of Jesus and The Born-Again Holy Spirit-filled Christians hold in their Hands of Prayer the destinies of fallen humanity.

Sad but true, many of us Born-Again Spirit-Filled Christians are taken up with the joy of knowing and serving The Lord. And we praise God for his blessings, hut somehow, we forget why we are Born-Again. The Blessings of God never come without responsibility. By God's Grace and the Power of The Holy Spirit, we must make an impact on our neighbours and our communities. We cannot enjoy the benefits of salvation without the responsibility of sharing the benefits with those dear people who are not Born-Again. Regardless of who we are, Ministers or lay ministers of The Gospel, we all are our brothers' keepers. The blood of the unsaved is required by our hands. Let us enjoy our Salvation but not at the expense of the unsaved. As never before let us call solemn assemblies in our Churches and pray for Revival:

**2 CHRONICLES 7:14 GODS WORD:** HOWEVER, IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, PRAY, SEARCH FOR ME, AND TURN FROM THEIR EVIL WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR THEIR PRAYER FROM HEAVEN, FORGIVE THEIR SINS, AND HEAL THEIR COUNTRY.

## **STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD**

- 1.** What is the greatest power?
- 2.** Explain the distinction between Love is God and God is Love.
- 3.** Why does God regard the servant as the greatest in the Kingdom?
- 4.** What is worse? Casting the first or the last stone.
- 5.** Why can we not judge people?
- 6.** Who of all men can cast the first stone? Explain your answer.

# CHAPTER 7

## THE HAND OF MULTIPLICATION

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### Preamble

I have always marvelled how it is quite a challenge for parents to teach their little children to share their possessions with other small children. Some children will howl and scream when told to let other children play with their toys, let alone share their sweets and delicacies.

I was extremely fortunate and blessed of The Lord to have grown up in a home where sharing was never a problem. My dear parents, Joe, and Maud de Allende set forth a loving, caring, and sharing example. Next to my beloved wife, my parents were the most giving people I have ever known. We always had our parent's family, friends and strangers living in our home. Our home was very affectionately known as Joe's and Maud's halfway house.

My upbringing was in a caring, and loving home, where strangers and the destitute were welcomed and treated like a part of our family, which was a tremendous blessing. We were in no way a wealthy family. Both my parents worked to make ends meet. My siblings and I always wore hand me downs. However, we were the richest in the community, for we had that which money could never buy. We had in our home, the kindness of God.

Sharing with others, who are in need, is incredibly challenging, especially when all you have is enough for yourself. A classic example of this is seen in the narrative of the widow:

**MARK 12:41 ESV:** AND HE SAT DOWN OPPOSITE THE TREASURY AND WATCHED THE PEOPLE PUTTING MONEY INTO THE OFFERING BOX. MANY RICH PEOPLE PUT IN LARGE SUMS. AND A POOR WIDOW CAME AND PUT IN TWO SMALL COPPER COINS, WHICH MAKE A PENNY. AND HE CALLED HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM AND SAID TO THEM, "TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, THIS POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL THOSE WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE OFFERING BOX. FOR THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT SHE OUT OF HER POVERTY HAS PUT IN EVERYTHING SHE HAD, ALL SHE HAD TO LIVE ON."



## The Insignificant Lad

All four Gospel record the marvellous miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. However, only John's Gospel mentions the lad who had the five loaves and two fishes:

**JOHN 6:1-13 ESV:** AFTER THIS, JESUS WENT AWAY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, WHICH IS THE SEA OF TIBERIAS. AND A LARGE CROWD WAS FOLLOWING HIM BECAUSE THEY SAW THE SIGNS THAT HE WAS DOING ON THE SICK. JESUS WENT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN, AND THERE HE SAT DOWN WITH HIS DISCIPLES. NOW THE PASSOVER, THE FEAST OF THE JEWS, WAS AT HAND. LIFTING HIS EYES, THEN, AND SEEING THAT A LARGE CROWD WAS COMING TOWARDS HIM, JESUS SAID TO PHILIP, "WHERE ARE WE TO BUY BREAD, SO THAT THESE PEOPLE MAY EAT?" HE SAID THIS TO TEST HIM, FOR HE KNEW WHAT HE WOULD DO. PHILIP ANSWERED HIM, "TWO HUNDRED DENARII WOULD NOT BUY ENOUGH BREAD FOR EACH OF THEM TO GET A LITTLE." ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES, ANDREW, SIMON PETER'S BROTHER, SAID TO HIM, "THERE IS A BOY HERE WHO HAS FIVE BARLEY LOAVES AND TWO FISH, BUT WHAT ARE THEY FOR SO MANY?" JESUS SAID, "MAKE THE PEOPLE SIT DOWN." NOW THERE WAS MUCH GRASS IN THE PLACE. SO, THE MEN SAT DOWN, ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND IN NUMBER. JESUS THEN TOOK THE LOAVES, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE DISTRIBUTED THEM TO THOSE WHO WERE SEATED. SO ALSO, THE FISH, AS MUCH AS THEY WANTED. AND WHEN THEY HAD EATEN THEIR FILL, HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES, "GATHER UP THE LEFTOVER FRAGMENTS, THAT NOTHING MAY BE LOST." SO, THEY GATHERED THEM UP AND FILLED TWELVE BASKETS WITH FRAGMENTS FROM THE FIVE BARLEY LOAVES LEFT BY THOSE WHO HAD EATEN."

Though the name of the lad was not mentioned, he plays a prominent role in the miracle. The lad was more than willing to give his lunch meal to Jesus. When asked by Andrew, there was no refusal on his part. He probably had witnessed several healings of Jesus and was wondering what Jesus could do with his five loaves and two fish. To his amazement, a miracle of multiplication took place with the very five loaves and two fishes which he had lovingly given to Andrew. No doubt there was a lad who grew up in a home that permeated with kindness. Here was a lad that was trained to share with others by caring and loving parents. How accurate are the Scriptures?

**PROVERBS 22:6 ESV:** TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO; EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.

Mark's rendition of this miracle states that they were in a desert place, far away from the bread shops. The people were hungry and needed a meal immediately. The Apostles encouraged Jesus to send the people to the nearby villages that they may buy bread to eat. This was not necessary for The Bread of Life was there to meet the needs of His people (see Mark 6:35-44).

I am of the persuasion that the unnamed and insignificant lad had a ringside seat of the proceedings. I believe he sat next to Jesus, and he was the first to partake (you need not concur; this is my personal belief). Alongside the miracle worker, he witnessed how Jesus operated. There was an order in the distribution of the bread and fish. The large crowd were told to sit down in groups of hundreds and fifties (Mk 6:39-40). This wise action made it easy for the Apostles to manoeuvre among the large crowd. This lad saw though Jesus acted in great power, yet there was dignity and order in the miracle.

Before the bread and fish was given to the Apostles for distribution, Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed the bread and then broke the bread and handed them over for distribution (Mark 6:41). After everyone ate from the five loaves and two fish, the lad saw another miracle acted out before his very eyes. Twelve baskets were filled with the remainder of the meal. An insignificant lad, who was kind saw his bread and his fish feed five thousand people and still have twelve baskets remaining. Out of so little, came forth so much. Jesus took the little that was in the insignificant lad's hands and multiplied it.

I can imagine how the insignificant boy shared his experience with his family and friends when he got home. He was so proud that Jesus used what was in his hands to perform a wondrous miracle.

## **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**

### **Spiritual Application 1: Sharing is Caring**

As Christian parents, we must teach our children to share. They, through our teaching, must discover it is more blessed to give than to receive (see Acts 20:35).

### **Spiritual Application 2: The Blessed Hand**

An open, giving hand is a blessed hand. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

### **Spiritual Application 3: God is The God of Order**

Though miracles are supernatural God in The Feeding of the Five Thousand worked out the wondrous miracle with dignity and order. The people were made to sit in rows with enough space between the

rows which enabled the Apostles to serve the people hassle-free (see Mark 6:39-40).

#### **Spiritual Application 4: A Little is A Lot in God's Hands**

Jesus used what was given to Him. As little as it was, Jesus used it and multiplied it. As little as there is in our hands, all we should do is give it to The Lord and He will make the miracle happen.

#### **Spiritual Application 5: God is No Respector of Age**

As Christians, we are never too young nor too old to be used by God.

#### **Spiritual Application 6: Our Help Comes from Above**

Like Jesus, whenever there is an urgent need for a miracle, let us look heavenward and pray God's blessing.

#### **Spiritual Application 7: Well, Done My Good and Faithful Servant**

Let us glean from the unknown lad that recognition is not always necessary. Fame and fortune should not motivate us. Though many of us will not become famous for what we do in God's work, there is coming that beautiful day when we will hear the words of our Lord:

**MATHEW 25:23 ESVUK:** "HIS MASTER SAID TO HIM, 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A LITTLE; I WILL SET YOU OVER MUCH. ENTER THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER.

#### **Spiritual Application 8: Give to Meet the Needs of Others**

IF WHAT YOU POSSESS YOU CANNOT SHARE OR GIVE AWAY TO THOSE IN NEED THEN SADLY YOU DO NOT OWN IT; INSTEAD, IT OWNS YOU (A word was given to me by The Holy Spirit). The Bible teaches it is more blessed to give than receive (see Acts 20:35).

#### **Spiritual Application 9: Home is Where the Heart is**

Once again, let me share one of the many acronyms which The Holy Spirit shares with me while waiting upon Him.

**H**EAVEN

**O**N

**M**Y (God's)

**E**ARTH

**Spiritual Application 10: MAKE YOUR HOUSE YOUR HOME**

Many people do not see the distinction between a house and a home. Both are dwelling abodes, and yet to the spiritually inclined, there are those peculiar differences. A house is where you lay your head to rest. It is a dwelling place. Though you lay your head down to rest and that can be anywhere in the world, you will miss your home. I love music, and there are those songs, I will play when stressed. Certain songs do something good for me. My favourite singer, Elvis sings HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS. Within the song, there is a line, which says - home is my heart is, and my heart is anywhere you are. Herein lies the distinction, you can lay your head anywhere in the world, but where your heart is, there is your home. It is not the building (the house) that matters; it is the people you love living in the building (the house) with you that makes it a home.

**Spiritual Application 12: Train Up A Child**

A house is but a structure. A home is where you and the people you love live together. A home is where Christian principles are taught and adhered unto. The lad who gave his bread and fish was raised in a home and not in a house, no wonder he was more than willing to give his lunch to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Spiritual Application 13: The Lighthouse Home**

Christian Homes and more so the Homes of God's Preachers are meant to be lighthouses. A beacon of light that forewarns people of the dangers that will destroy them. The haven of rest and peace regardless of what is transpiring outside is The Church and those Christian homes that honour God.

# CHAPTER 8

## GOVERNING HANDS OF ORDINATION WITHIN THE CHURCH

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**New Testament Ordination and the Laying on of Hands** God's Word is the highest authority within The Body of Christ. It is the unadulterated Word of God that governs The Church. Jesus said that He would build His Church and the gates of hell would not prevail against The Church (Mt 16:18). Jesus, as we all know, is The Head and The Chief Cornerstone of The Church (see Ephesians 1:22. 2:20).

One of the significant problems within The Church is understanding how Jesus does govern. Many modern Apostles and Prophets are of the persuasion that The Church is governed by The Ascended Gifts of Eph. 4:11: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Though this is true to an extent, what we must bear in mind that The Fivefold Ascended Gifts are subject to The Word of God. They govern as they submit themselves to the authority of the Word of God given by The Holy Spirit of God and The Foundational Apostles.

Over the years, The Church has foolishly allowed itself to be governed by specific worldly systems of Government that are far removed from the teachings of God's Word. Democracy rules God's Church causing much harm and almost irreparable damage. No doubt the proponents (supporters) of Democracy (though unwisely) base their Democratic system of Church Government on the revealed Word of God. Old Testament and New Testament Scripture are voiced to authenticate their belief.

The Old Testament book of Numbers chapters 13 and 14 paint a vivid picture of Democracy and how it failed miserably. Joshua and Caleb endeavoured to convince The Israelites they were more than able to conquer the inhabitants of The Promised Land. All that was required of the people was to place their trust and confidence in God. The other ten spies said it was an impossible task for the people of the land were mighty, and there were giants among them. Ten said it was impossible. Two said it was possible. The majority ruled, and the nation succumbed to the voice of the majority. For forty years they wandered in the wilderness, all because they allowed the majority to persuade them. DEMOCRACY REIGNED.

Though many Local Churches have moved away from democracy and into what many deem Theocracy, there are still many denominations that follow democracy. They insist that there is Scriptural evidence that supports their method of governance:

**ACTS 6:1-4 ESVUK:** NOW IN THESE DAYS WHEN THE DISCIPLES WERE INCREASING IN NUMBER, A COMPLAINT BY THE HELLENISTS AROSE AGAINST THE HEBREWS BECAUSE THEIR WIDOWS WERE BEING NEGLECTED IN THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION. AND THE TWELVE SUMMONED THE FULL NUMBER OF THE DISCIPLES AND SAID, "IT IS NOT RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE UP PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD TO SERVE TABLES. THEREFORE, BROTHERS, PICK OUT FROM AMONG YOU SEVEN MEN OF GOOD REPUTE, FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND OF WISDOM, WHOM WE WILL APPOINT TO THIS DUTY. BUT WE WILL DEVOTE OURSELVES TO PRAYER AND THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD.

The disciples voted in seven deacons. No doubt this was a democratic expression. However, what many fail to see although the disciples had the vote, their vote was conditional. Specific prerequisites were to be met. The Foundational Apostles set these prescribed prerequisites:

Men of Good Repute

Full of The Spirit

Full of Wisdom

Jesus personally chose the Foundational Apostles. Our Lord and Saviour was their mentor. For close onto three and half years they accompanied Jesus, witnessing His wondrous miracles and teachings. It is on The Teachings of Jesus Christ and The Revelations imparted by The Spirit to these Foundational Apostles on which The Church stands.

**EPHESIANS 2:19 ESVUK:** "SO, THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS AND ALIENS, BUT YOU ARE FELLOW CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD, BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF BEING THE CORNERSTONE."

The Church, throughout its existence, is governed by Jesus Christ (The Word of God see John 1:1-4) and The Teachings of The Foundational Apostles received from Jesus. Therefore, The Foundational Apostles could set forth the prerequisites for the appointing of the seven deacons. Those who were chosen (see Acts 6:1-4) by the people of God met the requirements and were appointed by The Foundational Apostles. Their ministries were confirmed by the Apostles laying their hands on them. The appointment of the Deacons by the Apostles should give the present-day Body of Christ the understanding that Theocracy controls Democracy. The laying on of the hands of The Foundational Apostles on the seven chosen Deacons sets specific

imperative (especially important, essential, crucial, necessary) precedents that The Church must adopt in its governmental expressions.

God has not revoked (repealed, retracted, cancelled) democracy from The Church, however, the governmental prerequisites set forth by The Foundational Apostles must be adhered unto. And based on the prerequisites met the Deacons would be appointed by the Leadership of the Local Church.

Acts 6 being, the first record of New Testament Ordination of Ministry sets forth the precedent of how all ministers were set apart in the early Church. Hands were laid on the seven deacons by the Apostles. Hands of ordination were laid on Timothy as well:

**1 TIMOTHY 4:14 ESV:** DO NOT NEGLECT THE GIFT, WHICH IS IN YOU, [THAT SPECIAL INWARD ENDOWMENT] WHICH WAS DIRECTLY IMPARTED TO YOU [BY THE HOLY SPIRIT] BY PROPHETIC UTTERANCE WHEN THE ELDERS LAID THEIR HANDS UPON YOU [AT YOUR ORDINATION].

It is essential to note that those who laid hands on Timothy at his ordination service were the Elders (Leaders, who were Ephesians 4:11-14 Ascended Gifted Ministers).

This practice of the laying on of hands as the expression of ordination is also seen when we consider Paul's apostolic calling. However, before we discuss his apostolic calling, we must set the record straight concerning Paul's (then named Saul) experience of being sent forth as an Apostle with Apostle Barnabas. Individual scholars regard the laying on of hands by Ananias on Paul as the setting apart of Paul as an Apostle. On close examination of the record of Scripture, this is most definitely not the case:

**ACTS 9:10-22 ESVUK):** NOW THERE WAS A DISCIPLE AT DAMASCUS NAMED ANANIAS. THE LORD SAID TO HIM IN A VISION, "ANANIAS." AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM, LORD." AND THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "RISE AND GO TO THE STREET CALLED STRAIGHT, AND AT THE HOUSE OF JUDAS LOOK FOR A MAN OF TARSUS NAMED SAUL, FOR BEHOLD, HE IS PRAYING, AND HE HAS SEEN IN A VISION A MAN NAMED ANANIAS COME IN AND LAY HIS HANDS ON HIM SO THAT HE MIGHT REGAIN HIS SIGHT. BUT ANANIAS ANSWERED, "LORD, I HAVE HEARD FROM MANY ABOUT THIS MAN, HOW MUCH EVIL HE HAS DONE TO YOUR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM. AND HERE HE HAS AUTHORITY FROM THE CHIEF PRIESTS TO BIND ALL WHO CALL ON YOUR NAME." BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "GO, FOR HE IS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF MINE TO CARRY MY NAME BEFORE THE GENTILES AND KINGS AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. I WILL SHOW HIM HOW MUCH HE MUST SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF MY NAME." SO, ANANIAS DEPARTED AND ENTERED

THE HOUSE. AND LAYING HIS HANDS ON HIM, HE SAID, "BROTHER SAUL, THE LORD JESUS WHO APPEARED TO YOU ON THE ROAD BY WHICH YOU CAME HAS SENT ME SO THAT YOU MAY REGAIN YOUR SIGHT AND BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT." AND IMMEDIATELY, SOMETHING LIKE SCALES FELL FROM HIS EYES, AND HE REGAINED HIS SIGHT. THEN HE ROSE AND WAS BAPTISED, AND TAKING FOOD, HE WAS STRENGTHENED. FOR SOME DAYS HE WAS WITH THE DISCIPLES AT DAMASCUS. AND IMMEDIATELY, HE PROCLAIMED JESUS IN THE SYNAGOGUES, SAYING, "HE IS THE SON OF GOD." AND ALL WHO HEARD HIM WERE AMAZED AND SAID, "IS NOT THIS THE MAN WHO MADE HAVOC IN JERUSALEM OF THOSE WHO CALLED UPON THIS NAME? AND HAS HE NOT COME HERE FOR THIS PURPOSE, TO BRING THEM BOUND BEFORE THE CHIEF PRIESTS. BUT SAUL INCREASED MORE IN STRENGTH AND CONFOUNDED THE JEWS WHO LIVED IN DAMASCUS BY PROVING THAT JESUS WAS THE CHRIST.

Considering the above scripture concerning Acts 6, the following is evident. The Foundational Apostles laid hands on the seven as an act of approval and ordination. Ananias is mentioned as a disciple; The King James Version mentions him as a certain disciple. We have discovered that THE FIRST MENTION PRINCIPLE clearly stated that Apostles laid hands and not disciples. Furthermore, Ananias laid hands for two specific reasons and that being for Paul to receive his sight once again and to be filled with The Holy Spirit. Paul after his experience with Ananias began witnessing of Jesus. Ananias laying on of hands was most definitely not an ordination exercise. WHAT IS ALSO OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IS THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT RECORD ANY ORDINATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE PRIVATELY. The consecration of the seven deacons, the ordination of Timothy and the ordination of Paul was held in Local Churches in the presence of The Leadership (by the Leadership) and the congregants of Local Assemblies. Furthermore, Paul's encounter with the disciple Ananias took place three days after he met with The Lord (Acts 9:8-9). Paul was a novice of The Faith, and The Word of God is explicit that the laying on of hands-on novices to set people apart for ministry is strictly prohibited (see 1Timothy 3:16). Paul's apostolic ordination took place at The Antioch Church, several years after his conversion:

**ACTS 13:1-3 ESVUK:** NOW THERE WERE IN THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH PROPHETS AND TEACHERS, BARNABAS, SIMEON WHO WAS CALLED NIGER, LUCIUS OF CYRENE, MANAEN A MEMBER OF THE COURT OF HEROD THE TETRARCH, AND SAUL. WHILE THEY WERE WORSHIPPING THE LORD AND FASTING, THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID, "SET APART FOR ME, BARNABAS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK TO



WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM." THEN AFTER FASTING AND PRAYING, THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM AND SENT THEM OFF.

It is interesting to note the Leadership were present at The Antioch Church Worship and Fasting Service. God's Word is precisely clear that Prophets and Teachers were present. While worshipping The Lord, The Holy Spirit directs The Leadership (Prophets and Teachers in this case) to set apart Barnabas and Paul (then called Saul). It is remarkable to note further how the Leadership reacted. They were not prompt; they changed the order of the service from worship and fasting to that of prayer and fasting. Their actions were purposely specific. They had a time of appraising the directive from The Holy Spirit through prayer and fasting and thus confirmed the directive. The service takes another turn. It becomes an ordination service; hands are laid on Barnabas and Paul, and after that, they are released from The Antioch Church and sent forth as Apostles to the nations.

### **The Ordination of Elders, Bishops and Overseers**

It has always been my persuasion that these three were Officers of The Local Church. They were the resident minsters of Local Churches. In our modern-day, they are termed, Pastors and Overseers. Their ordinations follow the same pattern of The Deacons and that of hands being laid on them.

Some Independent Local Churches and Denominations do not see Elders as Ascended Gifts. At the first Church, I attended, I was privileged to serve as a Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon. This Church had its roots in the Apostolic Church of Great Britain. However, it was an indigenous, Self-Governed, Self-Supported and Self-Propagated congregation. They believed strongly in the Fivefold Ministry; however, they did not accept Elders as Fivefold Ascended Gifted Minsters.

Whenever we are not sure about conflicting issues, we must always allow The Word of God to speak for itself. God's Word will always bring clarity to any contradictory subject. I am sure by now that you as the reader have concluded that I believe very strongly in what most theologians deem The First mention Principle. Once again let me reiterate the importance thereof. It will always set a precedent. At the first Church Council, which was held in Jerusalem, we note that The Elders and The Apostles were present. They discussed the weighty matter of whether Gentile converts had to be circumcised to finalise their salvation. Apostle Peter, on whom Jesus said I will build my Church (i.e., Peter's confession that Jesus was The Christ, The Son of The Living God) gave witness of his experience of what transpired at the home of Cornelius. Barnabas and Paul testified of the mighty signs and wonders that God had performed amongst the Gentiles.

James (possibly the half-brother of Jesus) writes a letter to those who were troubled by those promoting circumcision which should give us the understanding that The Elders and not just The Apostles were a part of the decision-making body. The mere fact that The Elders were part of the decision making should convince us that they were Governing Elders. Note the words penned:

**ACTS 15:1-29 ESVUK:** "FOR IT SEEMED GOOD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND US.

My question is, who is us? Without a doubt, these are The Elders and Apostles, the then Governing Body of The Early Church. Furthermore, reading Acts 20:28 we note that Elders are mandated to FEED THE CHURCH AND THE GREEK WORD FOR FEED IS SHEPHERD WHICH GIVES US THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ELDERS ARE PASTORS, MEMBERS OF THE FIVEFOLD ASCENDED GIFTED MINISTRIES.

### **Old Testament Ordinations and the laying on of Hands**

Born Again, Spirit Filled Christians cannot ignore The Old Testament. The Word of God is blatantly clear that all scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16), and that means both The Old and New Testaments. There is a classic example in The Old Testament of ordination by the laying on hands. Moses ordained Joshua and that by the laying on of hands:

**NUMBERS 27:12-23 ESV:** MOSES SPOKE TO THE LORD, SAYING, "LET THE LORD, THE GOD OF THE SPIRITS OF ALL FLESH, APPOINT A MAN OVER THE CONGREGATION WHO SHALL GO OUT BEFORE THEM AND COME IN BEFORE THEM, WHO SHALL LEAD THEM OUT AND BRING THEM IN, THAT THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD MAY NOT BE AS SHEEP THAT HAVE NO SHEPHERD." SO, THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "TAKE JOSHUA, THE SON OF NUN, A MAN IN WHOM IS THE SPIRIT, AND LAY YOUR HAND ON HIM. MAKE HIM STAND BEFORE ELEAZAR THE PRIEST AND ALL THE CONGREGATION, AND YOU SHALL COMMISSION HIM IN THEIR SIGHT. YOU SHALL INVEST HIM WITH SOME OF YOUR AUTHORITY, THAT ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL MAY OBEY. AND HE SHALL STAND BEFORE ELEAZAR THE PRIEST, WHO SHALL ENQUIRE FOR HIM BY THE JUDGEMENT OF THE URIM BEFORE THE LORD. AT HIS WORD, THEY SHALL GO OUT, AND AT HIS WORD THEY SHALL COME IN, BOTH HE AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WITH HIM, THE WHOLE CONGREGATION." AND MOSES DID AS THE LORD COMMANDED HIM. HE TOOK JOSHUA AND MADE HIM STAND BEFORE ELEAZAR THE PRIEST AND THE WHOLE CONGREGATION, AND HE LAID HIS HANDS ON HIM AND COMMISSIONED HIM AS THE LORD DIRECTED THROUGH MOSES.

## **The Significance of the Laying on of Hands**

Everything that is done has significance and more so that which is recorded in The Word of God. The laying on of hands in an ordination service portrays profound spiritual truths:

**HONOUR:** GOD TOLD MOSES TO PUT SOME OF HIS HONOUR UPON JOSHUA (SEE NUMBERS 27:20). LAYING ON OF HANDS IS AN IMPARTATION OF AN ANOINTING WHICH RESTS UPON A SERVANT OF GOD TO ANOTHER SERVANT OF GOD.

ELIJAH'S HONOUR WAS ALSO TRANSFERRED TO ELISHA. ELISHA ASKED FOR A DOUBLE PORTION OF GOD'S ANOINTING THAT RESTED UPON HIS MENTOR

**RELEASEMENT:** BARNABAS AND SAUL (PAUL) WERE MINISTERING AT THE ANTIOCH CHURCH WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT SPOKE TO THE LEADERSHIP TO SET BARNABAS AND SAUL APART FOR THEIR MINISTRY THAT HE HAD APPOINTED THEM UNTO. THIS WAS A DIRECTIVE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE LEADERSHIP TO RELEASE THE TWO SERVANTS OF GOD FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH. THEIR MINISTRIES WERE NO MORE CONFINED TO A LOCAL CHURCH. BARNABAS AND SAUL WERE FUNCTIONING AS TEACHERS, AFTER THE DIRECTIVE THEY WERE ORDAINED AS APOSTLES. HOWEVER, THERE IS A MAJOR

DISTINCTION BETWEEN PAUL'S AND BARNABAS' APOSTLESHIPS. PAUL WAS A FOUNDATIONAL APOSTLE. PAUL RECEIVED DIVINE REVELATION. HE WROTE THIRTEEN BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. BARNABAS, THOUGH CALLED AS AN APOSTLE DID NOT RECEIVE DIVINE REVELATION. IN THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE BARNABAS THERE IS NO RECORD OF BARNABAS' WRITINGS AND THEREFORE BARNABAS WAS AN APOSTOLIC MISSIONARY.

### **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**

God's unadulterated Word sets the directives for sound governance in Local and Denominational Churches. And therefore, it is essential that the Biblical principles of Democracy and Theocracy are applied and used in the rightful settings for Ministries such as Deacons, Elders and Ascended Gifted Ministries.

**Spiritual Application 1: Novices Are Not to Be Set Apart for Ministry**  
Servants of God who before their ordination were already engaged in active and faithful ministry should be ordained and set apart for ministry. Saul (Paul) is a classic example of this:

**ACTS 11:25-26 ESVUK:** SO, BARNABAS WENT TO TARSUS TO LOOK FOR SAUL, AND WHEN HE HAD FOUND HIM, HE BROUGHT HIM TO ANTIOCH. FOR A WHOLE YEAR, THEY MET WITH THE CHURCH AND TAUGHT A GREAT MANY PEOPLE. AND IN ANTIOCH, THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS.

Paul (Saul) was called and separated unto Apostleship after he taught for one year at the Antioch Church:

**ACTS 12:1-3 ESV:** NOW THERE WERE IN THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH PROPHETS AND TEACHERS, BARNABAS, SIMEON WHO WAS CALLED NIGER, LUCIUS OF CYRENE, MANAEN A LIFELONG FRIEND OF HEROD THE TETRARCH, AND SAUL. WHILE THEY WERE WORSHIPPING THE LORD AND FASTING, THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID, "SET APART FOR ME BARNABAS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK TO WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM." THEN AFTER FASTING AND PRAYING, THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM AND SENT THEM OFF.

### **Spiritual Application 2: Fivefold Ministers Prophetically Call and Appoint Ministers**

Any of and only members of The Fivefold Ascended Gifts may be used of God to reveal the call of God upon a Servant of God. However, the call should be confirmed by other Ascended Gifts. After that, the members of the Presiding Eldership must lay hands upon the new minister and set him/her apart for his/her ministry (Acts 13:1-4; 1Corinthians 14:29).

Strange but so true within The Apostolic Renewal Movement there is a firm belief within certain circles that only Apostles have the prerogative to call men into the ministry and ordain them. This action is far removed from Scripture for the simple reason it elevates the Apostolic Ascended Gift above the other Ascended Gifts. I find it very weird how that these Apostles have come to this conclusion for the simple fact The New Testament gives us a clear mandate of who of The Fivefold may call and ordain ministers. We had noted in Acts 13:1-4 that of The Fivefold Ascended Gifted Ministries only two types were present at the Antioch Church. These two types being Prophets and Teachers. There were no Apostles. However, either a Prophet or a Teacher called Barnabas and Saul and surprisingly into Apostolic Ministries.

These God appointed Apostles, and may I add though mighty men of God have drawn their conclusions. It is my sincere belief that they base their assumption on The Old Testament truth that only Prophets could call and set men apart for the ministry and kingship. What they have done is changed the calling and ordination roles from the role of

the Prophet to that of an Apostolic role. No doubt they base this on 1 Corinthians 12: 29 which conveys the fact that the Apostolic ministry is first in rank regarding the other Ascended Gifts. This to me, is also a misinterpretation on their part. To me, it merely teaches that when there is a need for setting Churches in order, then the Apostolic ministry will come to the fore. And when the Church needs direction, then the Prophet will come to the fore. And when the Church needs to grow numerically, then the Evangelist will come to the fore. And when the Church needs care, then the Pastoral ministry will come to the fore. Finally, when the Church needs instruction, then the Teaching ministry comes to the fore.

As students and ministers of The Word we must realize that one gift does not supersede the other for the simple fact these are gifts given to The Church by Christ and probably the best way I can endorse my belief (note I did not say The Holy Spirit, you judge for yourself) is to ask you two simple questions. Of the nine Gifts of The Holy Spirit which is the most important? Most people will have their own peculiar choice. But for the sake of conveying my point effectively let us presume most will say Prophecy. Now let me go on to my second question-- if you are seriously ill what of the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you need to be manifested to meet your need? I dare say it is not Prophecy; what you need is the gift of healing. This tells us that the most important gift is the gift needed for the hour and situation. As students of The Word, we must always adopt Biblical examples which will safeguard The Church from one ministry controlling the other ministries. One ministry never supersedes the other and more so in calling and setting apart men and women for the ministry. How can I say this? I mean it with an excellent affirmation for The Word of God gives us an excellent example. In Acts 13, Barnabas and Saul are called and by The Holy Spirit into their respective Apostolic Ministries. Barnabas as a Missionary Apostle and Saul, who became Paul into a Foundational Apostolic Ministry. Though the Word declares, The Holy Spirit spoke. The Spirit used either one of the Prophets or one of the Teachers that were present at that meeting. The Word of God does not tell us whether it was a Prophet or a Teacher. What we do know it was not Saul (Paul) or Barnabas, for surely no man calls himself in the office of an Apostle. Note carefully there were no Apostles present at that meeting and yet two men were called (either by an Ascended Gifted Prophet or an Ascended Gifted Teacher) and therefore this should give us the understanding that any of The Fivefold Ministry may be used of The Holy Spirit to call men and women into ministry. One absolute safeguard that The Holy Spirit has taught me over the years (which I have firmly adopted in my ministry) is I have set men and women aside for Ministry, whom I in The Lord have trained for the ministry.

**Spiritual Application 3:**  
**The Calling and Appointing of Ministers Are Not Conducted in Private**

Callings and Ordination services should be held at a public venue.

**Spiritual Application 4:**  
**All Prophetical Callings and Appointment into The Ministry Must Be Evaluated According To 1 Corinthians 13:29.**

Though any member of The Fivefold Ministers may call men and women into the ministry, the teaching of 1 Corinthians 13:29 should be adopted. Leadership must judge and determine the validity of the source of the call. We understand three spirits are operative in The Church and that being the spirit of man, evil spirits, and no doubt the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, there must be a unanimous approval by the entire Leadership and by that, I mean The Eldership

In Acts 13:3, we must note the word "they" is mentioned thrice. Who are they? None other than the Prophets and Teachers. Are we allowed by The Holy Spirit to violate The Threefold Cord of Truth (see Ecclesiastes 4:8-12) that only Prophets and Teachers were present in The Antioch Church and with this certain Scriptural information do we have the right to prescribe to The Body of Christ that only Apostles have the prerogative to call and set men and women aside for the ministry? The answer is most definitely NO. Any of the Fivefold Ascended Gifts have the prerogative to propheticallly call and set God's servants aside for Ascended Gifted Ministry.

**Spiritual Application 5:**  
**The Word of God Governs the Call of Men and Women into The Ministry**

Of the two forms of Governance in the Church and that being Democracy and Theocracy, which of the two must the Church adopt? Both types of Governance must be adopted. However, each form of governance must be approved in their respective settings, which means democracy must apply in the setting forth of the Diaconate, bearing in mind that the prerequisites set forth by The Foundational Apostles must be adhered unto by the leadership of the Local Church. Furthermore, the verification of the democratic vote of the congregation must be approved by The Leadership and not just the Pastor.

The Apostles approved the democratic vote of the appointing of the Deacons. The plural form of Apostles is mentioned and not the singular. Another vital fact to bear in mind is the Modern-Day Church does not need Apostles to authenticate the voting in of the Diaconate. It is merely The Leadership of the Local Church who apply the

principles of qualifications of Deacons recorded in the books of Timothy 1:2-8 and Titus 1:7.

Many Pentecostal Churches use The Gift of Prophecy to call and appoint the Eldership and Deaconate. It is my perception (insight) that this is acceptable. However, with the following authoritative prerequisites

### **The Qualifications of an Elder (1 Timothy 3:1-6 ESV)**

Above reproach (without blame, accusation)

Husband of one wife

Sober minded (temperate, clear-headed)

Self-controlled

Respectable (decent)

Hospitable

Ability to teach

Not a drunkard

Not violent, but gentle

Not quarrelsome Not a lover of money manages his household well keeping his family well

His children should be submissive

Must not be a new convert (a novice in The Faith)

Must be humble

Respected in his community

Be it that the person has been called prophetically and does not meet the criteria (standards) the Prophecy must be rejected.

### **The Qualifications of the Deaconate (1 Timothy 3:8-12 ESV)**

Must be dignified (honourable)

Not double-tongued

Not addicted to much wine

Not greedy for dishonest gain

Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience Tested first then serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless Their wives:

Must also be dignified

Not slanderers

Sober minded

Faithful in all things

### **Spiritual Application 6: Imparting Honour**

It is remarkable how God honoured His servants. I am amazed that God said to Moses to take some of his honour and impart it to Joshua. God has graciously involved His servants in empowering His people to be active ministers in the Church and the world. I wonder what honour you and I bestow through the laying on of hands when ordaining ministers. Let us hope and pray that it is nothing less than the glory of God that rests upon us.



# CHAPTER 9

## HANDS THAT TRANSFER MINISTERIAL ANOINTING

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### **Preamble**

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the hand portrays significant diverse aspects of ministry that the modern-day Church must comprehend and implement. Thus far, we have considered the following:

The role of the hand in worship

What is in your hand

The purpose of the hand in miracles

The purpose of the hand in intercession

God in your heart and your hand

The hand of multiplication

The hands of ordination

There is so much more that must be considered that as students of The Word of God, we may have a well-rounded biblical comprehension of the prominence afforded to the hands of man and God.

Easton's Bible Dictionary sheds much light on the crucial role of the human hand in The Word of God:

THE RIGHT HAND DENOTED THE SOUTH, AND THE LEFT THE NORTH (JOB 23:9; 1SAMUEL 23:19). TO GIVE THE RIGHT HAND WAS A PLEDGE OF FIDELITY (2 KINGS 10:15; EZRA 10:19); ALSO, OF SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORS (EZEKIEL 17:18; JEREMIAH 50:15). THE RIGHT HAND WAS LIFTED IN TAKING AN OATH (GENESIS 14:22, ETC.). THE HAND IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED, PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT HAND, AS A SYMBOL OF POWER AND STRENGTH (PSALMS 60:5; ISAIAH 28:2). TO KISS THE HAND IS AN ACT OF HOMAGE (1KINGS 19:18; JOB 31:27), AND TO POUR WATER ON ONE'S HANDS IS TO SERVE HIM (2KINGS 3:11). THE HAND OF GOD IS THE SYMBOL OF HIS POWER: IT IS BEING UPON ONE DENOTES FAVOUR (EZRA 7:6,28; ISAIAH 1:25; LUKE 1:66, ETC.) OR

PUNISHMENT (EXODUS 9:3; JUDGES 2:15; ACTS 13:11, ETC.). A POSITION AT THE RIGHT HAND WAS REGARDED AS THE CHIEF PLACE OF HONOUR AND POWER (PSALM 45:9; 80:17; 110:1; MATHEW 26:64).

There are several more spiritual truths the hand depicts that I find especially important and enlightening. These being:

The hands that anoint for service

The hands that impart spiritual gifts and

The hands that agree and send forth ministry.

### **The Hands Which Anoint for Service**

As a student of God's Word and a servant of The Lord, it has always been my perception that men and women of God must be released into the ministry by senior men of God. There is more than enough evidence of men of God being set apart for ministry by senior men of God in The Word of God. No doubt, this sets a precedent that the modern Church must emulate (see Chapter 5). Over the years, I have personally watched several saints of God take the ministry upon themselves. They broke away from their Churches to start their Churches. They were not sent forth with the blessing of their leadership. To my dismay and countless servants of God, we have seen several Churches birthed in rebellion. Some of these Churches have grown tremendously, and therefore it has become acceptable in certain Church circles to leave your Church and start new Churches without being released with the blessing of the Leadership. Many fail to understand though these breakaway Churches may blossom numerically, financially, and even spiritually, God does not honour the so-called man of God who has divided The Church of Jesus Christ to multiply The Church of Jesus Christ, rather God honours His Word that the man preaches. No wonder The Word of God speaks of The Bema Judgement.

The Old Testament gives us a classic example of how the patriarchal blessings were sought. Jacob desired the blessing of Isaac, his father, to the extent that he robbed Esau out of his birth right. On his death bed, Jacob prophesied over his children pronouncing judgements and blessings. Some scholars may disagree. However, we must not fail to understand though Isaac and Jacob dealt with their families, the spiritual truth sets a precedent for the simple fact we are the family of God, and we do believe in spiritual fathers, and therefore the releasement of our ministries and blessing of our spiritual fathers is essential.

Considering Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus, the Foundational Apostles, Paul and Timothy, Paul and Titus, there is enough evidence that as spiritual fathers they released their spiritual sons into the ministry. On close examination, not only had these spiritual fathers released their sons into the ministry to continue where they had left off, but they also imparted the Anointing that rested upon them.

Regarding the ordination of Joshua by Moses, we note the following:

**NUMBERS 27:18-23 KJV:** AND THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, TAKE THEE JOSHUA THE SON OF NUN, A MAN IN WHOM IS THE SPIRIT, AND LAY THINE HAND UPON HIM; AND SET HIM BEFORE ELEAZAR, THE PRIEST, AND BEFORE ALL THE CONGREGATION; AND GIVE HIM A CHARGE IN THEIR SIGHT. AND THOU SHALT PUT SOME OF THINE HONOUR UPON HIM, THAT ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL MAY BE OBEDIENT. AND HE SHALL STAND BEFORE ELEAZAR THE PRIEST, WHO SHALL ASK COUNSEL FOR HIM AFTER THE JUDGMENT OF URIM BEFORE THE LORD: AT HIS WORD SHALL THEY GO OUT, AND AT HIS WORD THEY SHALL COME IN, BOTH HE AND ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WITH HIM, EVEN ALL THE CONGREGATION. AND MOSES DID AS THE LORD COMMANDED HIM: AND HE TOOK JOSHUA AND SET HIM BEFORE ELEAZAR, THE PRIEST, AND BEFORE ALL THE CONGREGATION: AND HE LAID HIS HANDS UPON HIM, AND GAVE HIM A CHARGE, AS THE LORD COMMANDED BY THE HAND OF MOSES.

Most versions of The Bible denote that Moses was to impart some of his honour to Joshua. The English Standard Version makes mention of the conferring of Moses' authority. Moses' honour and authority were in the anointing of God that rested upon him. Could we not conclude that when setting men and women of God apart for active ministry, is it not just releasing them but also an impartation of the anointing that rests upon us as well.

There is no doubt a strong element of truth in the fact that leadership impart spiritual anointing when we consider Elisha and Elijah. Undoubtedly there was no laying on of hands by Elijah on Elisha, and yet Elisha received what he had asked for and that being nothing less than a double portion of The Spirit of God that rested upon Elijah (2 Kings 2). With great relish (delight), we can categorically exclaim that Releasement Invokes the Anointing.

Elijah's relationship with Elisha is a remarkable example of fatherhood and sonship. A true spiritual father withholds nothing from his spiritual sons. It is the spiritual desire of true spiritual fathers that their spiritual sons surpass them in the ministry. Reflecting over my ministry, there were those many occasions I decided to quit. I never pastored flourishing Churches. My dear wife had to work and

that tirelessly to support our family. If my memory serves me right of the Churches, I pioneered and planted not one of them were over 120 saints of God (and that includes the Sunday School). I watched my contemporaries blossom in the ministry. Many built massive edifices while I struggled. Thanks to God, my beloved wife and friends continually encouraged and corrected me, and I just kept plodding away. Today I am so excited I did not throw in the towel. There are two beautiful Church buildings that my sons in The Lord have erected. Their ministries have surpassed my ministry to the extent my spiritual sons now minister to me in all aspects of the ministry. Success in the ministry is not always seen in what one does and accomplishes; rather, success is seen in what our spiritual sons accomplish. Sometimes we must admit that we can only take people so far and no further. Our sons in The Lord, whom we release into the ministry, will take of our anointing, and their anointing and take the people of God to depths and heights in God that we will never imagine.

A classic example of this is seen in Moses and Joshua. As great as Moses was, he could not take the people into The Promise Land. It was his spiritual son Joshua who took God's chosen people into the Promised Land.

Paul was an astute student of God's Word, and I am more than positive Paul implemented what he had read and studied from the Old Testament principles of Spiritual Fatherhood and Sonship. No wonder Paul penned these profound words:

**2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2 KJV:** "THOU, THEREFORE, MY SON, BE STRONG IN THE GRACE THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS. AND THE THINGS THAT THOU HAST HEARD OF ME AMONG MANY WITNESSES, THE SAME COMMIT THOU TO FAITHFUL MEN, WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO."

Paul's profound teaching ministry was imparted to Timothy, who in turn is encouraged to impart his teaching ministry to others. Timothy not only heard of Paul's mighty exploits; he also had the honour of accompanying Paul on his apostolic journeys. Titus was another outstanding spiritual son of Paul who Paul empowered to the extent that he done exactly what Paul had done and that to appoint the leadership of the Churches:

**TITUS 1:5 KJVL:"** FOR THIS CAUSE LEFT I THEE IN CRETE, THAT THOU SHOULDEST SET IN ORDER THE THINGS THAT ARE WANTING, AND ORDAIN ELDERS IN EVERY CITY, AS I HAD APPOINTED THEE.

Paul imparted to Titus governing powers to ordain Elders in every city in Crete thus setting The Churches in Governing Order.

**ACTS 14:23 KJV:** AND WHEN THEY HAD ORDAINED THEM ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH AND HAD PRAYED WITH FASTING, THEY COMMENDED THEM TO THE LORD, ON WHOM THEY BELIEVED.

Paul, a Governor of The Body of Christ, imparted to his spiritual son Titus the ministry of an Apostolic Governor. Titus, like his spiritual father, set Churches in order by setting in position the spiritual leadership of The Churches in Crete. He did precisely what his spiritual father had done for the simple fact his spiritual father imparted to him by the power of The Holy Spirit the anointing of governance that rested mightily upon him.

I am of the persuasion considering the ministerial and father and son relationship between Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and The Foundational Apostles, Paul and Timothy and Paul and Titus that the anointing that rested on the spiritual father was most definitely imparted to the spiritual sons. Moses gave his honour and authority to Jacob. Jesus imparted His anointed teaching ministry to The Foundational Apostles, and this is seen in the command of The Great Commission:

**MATHEW 28:19-20 KJV:** "GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST: TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: AND, LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD. AMEN."

Paul imparted through the anointing his profound teaching ministry to timothy (note the word teach in 2 timothy 2:1-2 see page 107). Paul through the anointing that rested upon him imparted an anointing of governance to Titus, no wonder he was to ordain elders in Crete (see Titus 1:5).

God's work is done through the anointing. It is the enablement from The Holy Spirit imparted by spiritual fathers to their spiritual sons to perform the actions of God. All forms of ministry require an anointing, and that is whether we preach, teach, perform miracles, or minister healing to the sick.

## **The Hands Which Impart Spiritual Gifts**

It is clear from The Word of God Paul's fervent desire was to impart spiritual gifts:

**ROMANS 1:11 KJV:** "FOR I LONG TO SEE YOU, THAT I MAY IMPART UNTO YOU SOME SPIRITUAL GIFT, TO THE END YE MAY BE ESTABLISHED."

It is interesting to note that the original word used for imparting denotes to give over and that being to share (Strong's Greek Concordance 3330, 3326 and 1325). Paul's vision for the Roman Church was that they be strengthened by the spiritual gifts he desired to impart to them. Here was a man of God who knew that the impartation of the supernatural was essential to the wellbeing of God's people. Paul's heart desired to establish his fellow Christians with the blessings he had received from the Lord. Doing a word study on the word established shows the intent of Paul becoming noticeably clear.

THE STRONG'S GREEK CONCORDANCE USES THE WORD STERIZO WHICH WHEN TRANSLATED MEANS TO SET FAST, AND THAT IS (LITERALLY) TO TURN RESOLUTELY IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION, OR (FIGURATIVELY) TO CONFIRM: -- FIX (E-)STABLISH STEADFASTLY SET, STRENGTHEN (SEE SGC NUMBERS 4741, 2476 AND 4731).

Paul understood he was a custodian of the spiritual gifts that God had entrusted him with and as a wise steward of God's enrichment, he caringly imparted (shared and gave over) to others that which God had deposited in his life that they be established (strengthened) in the faith and the ministry. Paul's first epistle to his spiritual son reminds Timothy of the spiritual gift The Elders imparted to him:

**1 TIMOTHY 4:14 ESV:** "DO NOT NEGLECT THE GIFT, WHICH IS IN YOU, THAT SPECIAL INWARD ENDOWMENT] WHICH WAS DIRECTLY IMPARTED TO YOU BY THE HOLY SPIRIT] BY PROPHETIC UTTERANCE WHEN THE ELDERS LAID THEIR HANDS UPON YOU AT YOUR ORDINATION."

Paul, in his second epistle to Timothy, charges him to rekindle the gift that Paul had imparted (shared) to him by the laying on of hands:

**2 TIMOTHY 1:6 KJV:** "WHEREFORE I PUT THEE IN REMEMBRANCE THAT THOU STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD, WHICH IS IN THEE BY THE PUTTING ON OF MY HANDS."

It is clear from the above Scriptures the impartation (sharing) was common in the early Church. It is no wonder the early Church was so powerful. What blessings and empowerments The Holy Spirit had deposited into their ministries was not kept to themselves? They sought out faithful and more so the young who had the call of God upon their life to impart the supernatural of God. They knew that The Church could only grow and flourish through the impartation of the supernatural.

## **The hands that agree and send forth ministry**

It is common in our day to hear men and women of God say that they were called and sent by Prophet or Apostle so and so. I do not have a problem with God's people called by The Ascended Gifts. However, I do have an issue and that being:

Was the call to the ministry private?

Was the sending forth also private?

Considering point 1 no call to the ministry is ever a private matter. I base my firm belief in Acts 13. There were several men of God in attendance. The Word of God is adamantly clear of the presence of Prophets and Teachers. Whether the meeting was a general Church Worship Meeting or a meeting of the leadership, I do not know for the simple fact. The Word makes no clear statement. What is clear that either The Prophet or The Teacher was used of the Spirit to make the relevant announcement of Saul and Barnabas being released from the Antioch Church.

On close examination of Acts 13, we note The Call is given, and then the Prophets and Teachers lay their hands-on Barnabas and Saul and send them forth. The Call came, it was judged whether it was of the Lord or not. These servants of God tested the Spirits. Just who initiated the call? Was it of a human spirit, an evil spirit, or was it of The Spirit of God? And because it was of the Spirit of God all laid their hands upon Barnabas and Saul and they were released into their appropriate Apostolic Ministries. Saul, who later was called Paul into The Foundational calling of an Apostle, whereas Barnabas as a Missionary Apostle.

Before these two mighty men of God were sent, there was that definite period of acute judgement. No doubt their action was a forerunner to Paul's writing recorded in 1 Corinthians 14:29: Hands were only laid on the two men of God for the simple fact all agreed.

"LET THE PROPHETS SPEAK TWO OR THREE AND LET THE OTHER JUDGE."

Hands were only laid on the two men of God for the simple fact all agreed. In closing, this relevant section let us always adhere to the order of Scripture when setting men and women aside for the ministry. The three primary revelations to bear in mind and spirit are:

**REVELATION 1:** CALLING AND ORDAINING FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES INTO THE MINISTRY IS ONLY DONE BY FIVEFOLD MINISTRY.

**REVELATION 2:** IT IS NEVER PRIVATE. LEADERSHIP AND MORE SO IN THE PLURAL SENSE MUST BE PRESENT.

**REVELATION 3:** AFTER JUDGEMENT IS MADE AND AGREED UPON ACCORDING TO 1CO 14:29, THE LEADERSHIP AND THAT BEING ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP MUST LAY HANDS AS A SIGN OF AGREEMENT AND RELEASEMENT INTO THE RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES.



# CHAPTER 10

## THE HANDS WHICH IMPART THE BAPTISM INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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To this very day, controversy surrounds The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. There are those certain Denominations that reject the speaking of tongues as the sign of having experienced the unique experience of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. Others, on the other hand, are adamant that speaking in tongues is the scriptural evidence of receiving The Baptism. It is my understanding from the study of The Holy Scriptures that speaking in tongues is only the initial evidence. The ongoing evidence of having received the experience is witnessing of the saving grace of Jesus Christ through His efficacious death on The Cross of Calvary and His glorious Resurrection over sin and death. Unfortunately, many of us fail to comprehend that the two evidence cannot be divorced for the simple fact that the purpose of the experience is to enable God's Born-Again children to witness. The mere fact that we speak in tongues is evidence that God has chosen us as His witnesses of the saving power of Jesus Christ (see Acts 1:8). Another controversy is the belief and endeavour to prove from Scripture that the laying on of hands is essential for the receiving of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. On the other hand, some likewise believe and endeavour to prove from Scripture that the laying on of hands is not necessary to receive The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. On close examination of The Scripture, we discover that there are instances where hands are not laid and where hands are laid. No doubt this variation creates major theological problems that need to be addressed.

In Chapter 2 I emphasized the Hermeneutical rule of The First Mention Principal and when applying this principle to the Baptism into The Holy Spirit we note that on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the 120 disciples in the Upper Room there was no involvement whatsoever of the apostles nor the disciples. There was no laying on of hands. The initial outpouring was a direct act of God and because of this, we may say that this would, therefore, be the continual pattern of receiving the experience. However, this is not the case. After the initial outpouring of the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, there are instances thereafter where hands are laid and where hands are not laid. What is of paramount importance is just why are there are those occasions when hands are laid and why there are also those occasions why hands are not laid. To decide

whether hands are to be laid or not we have to review all the instances of The Baptism into The Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. The Acts of The Apostles records all the instances of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 (hands were not laid)

Acts 6:1-4 (the deacons chosen were filled with The Spirit and there are no evidence hands were laid on them) BV

Acts 8:1-24 (hands were laid on the new converts by the Apostles Peter and John),

Acts 9:10-19 (hands were laid on Saul),

Acts 10:1-48 (hands were not laid) and

Acts 19:1-6 (hands were laid).

Revising the above information, on two occasions hands were not laid and on three occasions hands were laid. No information is cited in The Acts of The Apostles whether hands were laid or not on the seven chosen deacons chosen when they received The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. Some may say they were a part of the 120 that experienced the Baptism in the Upper room when no hands were laid. This is pure supposition and therefore we cannot be dogmatic in coming to a definite conclusion.

### **The Outpouring of The Holy Spirit on The Day of Pentecost**

As previously stated, the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit was an act of God void of man. As the 120 disciples and apostles waited on The Lord; The Holy Spirit manifested Himself as a mighty rushing wind filling the entire house with His presence and settling upon each of the 120 in the form of tongues of fire. This act of God through the rushing mighty wind from heaven and the tongues of fire filled the 120 men and women with The Holy Spirit. Everyone, of the 120 were immersed into The Holy Spirit and their spiritual reaction was the outflowing of speaking in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them the utterance. The Church of Jesus Christ (Mt 16:18) was birthed with the mighty deluge of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. It is of great importance that we as God's elect take cognizance of the facts of what transpired on the day of Pentecost. First and foremost, The Church was birthed by a supernatural act of God. Secondly, The Baptism into The Holy Spirit came from Heaven, and this is blatantly clear for a sound came from heaven like a mighty rushing wind distributing the

tongues of fire. Thirdly what happened on the day of Pentecost was the fulfilment of the prophecy of John the Baptist:

**ACTS 2:1-4 CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE:** WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD ARRIVED, THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE. SUDDENLY A SOUND LIKE THAT OF A VIOLENT RUSHING WIND CAME FROM HEAVEN, AND IT FILLED THE WHOLE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE STAYING. THEY SAW TONGUES LIKE FLAMES OF FIRE THAT SEPARATED AND RESTED ON EACH ONE OF THEM. THEN THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK IN DIFFERENT TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT ENABLED THEM.

**MATHEW 3:11 CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE:** “I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER FOR REPENTANCE, BUT THE ONE WHO IS COMING AFTER ME IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I. I AM NOT WORTHY TO REMOVE HIS SANDALS. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE.

The prophecies of Joel, John the Baptist and Jesus concerning the outpouring of The Holy Spirit were fulfilled on the day of Pentecost:

**JOEL 2:28-20: CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE:** I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL HUMANITY; THEN YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY, YOUR OLD MEN WILL HAVE DREAMS, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS. I WILL EVEN POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON THE MALE AND FEMALE SLAVES IN THOSE DAYS.

**ACTS 1:8 CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE:** BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME ON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”

**JOHN 7:37-39 JUBILEE BIBLE 2000:** IN THE LAST DAY, THAT GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST, JESUS STOOD AND CRIED OUT, SAYING, IF ANY MAN THIRSTS, LET HIM COME UNTO ME AND DRINK. HE THAT BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HAS SAID, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. (BUT THIS HE SPOKE CONCERNING THE SPIRIT, WHICH THOSE THAT BELIEVE ON HIM SHOULD RECEIVE, FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS NOT YET GIVEN BECAUSE JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED.)

## **The Spirit-Filled Deacons**

The workload of The Foundational Apostles was way beyond them. Their daily devotions of prayer and worship to The Lord, the preparation and preaching of sermons, the visitation of the new converts and going from house-to-house breaking bread (feeding

God's people with The Bread of Life—The Word of God) filled their day. Rather than burn out, they wisely gave the saints the privilege of voting in seven Deacons who would take control of the distribution of the daily needs of the widows. However, they laid down certain prerequisites that conditioned the vote. One of those conditions was those chosen had to be filled with The Spirit.

Is the evidence of speaking in tongues and being filled with The Spirit the same experience? Is there any difference between the two expressions filled with The Spirit (see Acts 2:4 KJV), and full of The Spirit (Acts 6:3 KJV)? There is no distinction. We are filled with The Spirit and Full of The Spirit. The 120 were **FILLED** with The Spirit, which speaks of their first experience of speaking in tongues. God **Filled** them and now that they have the experience, they do not require a new infilling for they are FULL of The Spirit. The initial evidence of the experience of Acts 2 was speaking in other tongues as they were filled with the Spirit. The Apostles required nothing less of the deacons. They too would need to speak in other tongues as evidence of them being full of The Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2:4 we note the following: they were all filled with The Holy Spirit. To be filled means to be full of The Spirit and to be full of The Spirit is to be filled with The Spirit. Being Filled and Full of The Spirit is but an expression which means the same experience. Speaking of a filled glass of water or a full glass of water is the same fact. The analogy of a full or a filled glass of water speaks of the possibility of an overflow of water. What did Jesus say? If any man thirsts, let him come to drink and out his belly will flow rivers of living water. Filled means an overflow and like Jesus: "From your belly will flow rivers of Living Waters.

Reading the prerequisites for the voting of the Deacons we note that one of the three prerequisites is: Full of The Spirit:

**ACTS 6:1-4: NEW KING JAMES VERSION:** NOW IN THOSE DAYS, WHEN THE NUMBER OF THE DISCIPLES WAS MULTIPLYING, THERE AROSE A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE HEBREWS BY THE HELLENISTS, BECAUSE THEIR WIDOWS WERE NEGLECTED IN THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION. THEN THE TWELVE SUMMONED THE MULTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLES AND SAID, "IT IS NOT DESIRABLE THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE THE WORD OF GOD AND SERVE TABLES. "THEREFORE, BRETHREN, SEEK OUT FROM AMONG YOU SEVEN MEN OF **GOOD REPUTATION, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WISDOM**, WHOM WE MAY APPOINT OVER THIS BUSINESS: "BUT WE WILL GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER AND THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD."

## The Samaritan Revival

The eleven Foundational Apostles were mandated by Jesus to go into all the world. Their mission was to make disciples and teach the nations. Going into the world was not to be a haphazard exercise. Jesus laid down a chronological sequence of where to go:

**ACTS 1:8 EVANGELICAL HERITAGE VERSION:** BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

The preaching of The Gospel was to begin Jerusalem, then to the Province of Judea, then Samaria and finally the world. This chronological sequence still applies today:

Jerusalem speaks of our Home

Judea speaks of our neighbourhood

Samaria speaks of our Enemies.

For several years, the Apostles concentrated on the home base, Jerusalem, converting thousands and training them to do exactly what they, the apostles had done. The Jerusalem converts were trained to reach out to their fellow men of Judea.

The apostles were wise custodians (guardians, overseers) of The Gospel. They had the wisdom to multiply their ministry by training their converts to do exactly what they were doing. Jesus had commanded the Apostles to first disciple the new converts and then teach them to do exactly what Jesus had taught the Apostles to do.

Philip, one of the chosen Deacons, disciplined and well trained for the Evangelical ministry took The Gospel to the enemy of the Jews, The Samaritans. The Samaritans were once pure Jewish people. They were the Ten Northern Tribes of Israel. Because of their persistent idolatry, God issued them with a Bill of Divorce (see Jeremiah 3).

Assyria conquered The Ten Northern Tribes and one can imagine how the religion of The Ten Tribes that was already polluted adopted the culture of The Assyrians. They moved away from the pure Jewish Religion, embracing idolatry vigorously.

It is to this nation that the Deacon Evangelist goes unto. Surely, he was well disciplined and trained, for not only did he love the enemy of his people by evangelising them. God used him mightily in signs and wonders. While Philip preached demons cried out. The presence of

God was that mighty in his evangelical campaign not only were demons cast out, but people who attended his Evangelical campaigns were also healed. What a wonderful lesson for The Church today:

GOD CONFIRMS HIS WORD WITH SIGNS AND WONDERS FOLLOWING.

Though Philip was mightily used of God, some theologians believe he had a shortfall in his ministry. The new converts did not receive The Baptism into The Holy Spirit:

**ACTS 8:5-24: KJV:** AND PHILIP WENT DOWN TO THE CITY OF SAMARIA AND PROCLAIMED CHRIST TO THEM. AND THE PEOPLE WITH ONE ACCORD GAVE HEED TO THOSE THINGS WHICH PHILIP SPOKE, HEARING AND SEEING THE MANY MIRACLES WHICH HE DID. FOR OUT OF THOSE HAVING UNCLEAN SPIRITS, MANY CAME OUT, CRYING WITH LOUD VOICE. AND MANY WHO HAD BEEN PARALYZED AND LAME WERE HEALED. AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY. BUT A CERTAIN MAN CALLED SIMON HAD LONG BEEN CONJURING IN THE CITY, AND AMAZING THE NATION OF SAMARIA, CLAIMING HIMSELF TO BE SOME GREAT ONE. ALL GAVE HEED TO HIM, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST, SAYING, THIS ONE IS THE GREAT POWER OF GOD. AND THEY WERE PAYING ATTENTION TO HIM BECAUSE FOR A LONG TIME HE HAD AMAZED THEM WITH CONJURING. BUT WHEN THEY BELIEVED PHILIP PREACHING THE GOSPEL, THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, THEY WERE BAPTIZED, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. THEN SIMON HIMSELF BELIEVED ALSO, AND BEING BAPTIZED, HE CONTINUED WITH PHILIP. AND SEEING MIRACLES AND MIGHTY WORKS HAPPENING, HE WAS AMAZED. AND THE APOSTLES IN JERUSALEM HEARING THAT SAMARIA HAD RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD, THEY SENT PETER AND JOHN TO THEM, WHO WHEN THEY HAD COME DOWN, PRAYED FOR THEM THAT THEY MIGHT RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR YET HE HAD NOT FALLEN ON ANY OF THEM, THEY WERE BAPTIZED ONLY IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS. THEN THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM, AND THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT. AND WHEN SIMON SAW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS GIVEN THROUGH LAYING ON OF THE APOSTLES' HANDS, HE OFFERED THEM MONEY, SAYING, GIVE ME THIS POWER ALSO, THAT ON WHOMEVER I LAY HANDS, HE MAY RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. BUT PETER SAID TO HIM, MAY YOUR SILVER PERISH WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE GIFT OF GOD MAY BE PURCHASED WITH MONEY. YOU HAVE NEITHER PART NOR LOT IN THIS MATTER, FOR YOUR HEART IS NOT RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. THEREFORE, REPENT OF THIS WICKEDNESS OF YOURS, AND PRAY GOD IF PERHAPS THE THOUGHT OF YOUR HEART MAY BE FORGIVEN YOU. FOR I SEE THAT YOU ARE IN THE GALL OF BITTERNESS AND IN THE BOND OF INIQUITY. AND ANSWERING

SIMON SAID, YOU PRAY TO THE LORD FOR ME THAT NONE OF THESE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SPOKEN MAY COME ON ME.

Much has already been said of the Evangelist Philip, however much more can be said of this wonderful servant of God. He had a great revival in Samaria. From being a deacon looking after the daily needs of the widows he had progressed by the grace of The Lord to an Evangelist. It is a spiritual fact that those who care for the needs of the destitute will always grow in the ministry. Furthermore, it is to be noted to whom he ministered unto and that being the Samaritans who were despised by the Jews. His heart was always toward those marginalized and rejected (Acts 6:1-4). Great signs were wrought in his ministry. Demons were cast out and many were healed of their deformities. Even his opposition succumbed to his preaching of The Gospel. Simon, the sorcerer submitted to the authority of Christ and was publicly baptized along with many Samaritan converts. Simon was amazed at how Philip was used of The Holy Spirit in signs and great miracles.

The news of what took place at Samaria soon reached the Apostles at Jerusalem and Peter and John were mandated to strengthen the work of what Philip had started. Though great signs and wonders took place and multitudes were Born Again and Water Baptized it seemed like Philip had not reached the level in his ministry to take the converts to a higher level of blessing and that to receive The Baptism into The Holy Spirit.

Perhaps Philip, being an Evangelist (soul winner for Jesus) felt inadequate to teach on the subject, bearing in mind that he was an Evangelist and not a Teacher. Perhaps Philip knew his limitations. Peter and John, two of The Foundational Apostles were amazed at the great work accomplished, however, they saw the urgent need of strengthening the new converts and therefore they laid hands on the new converts and imparted The Baptism into The Spirit:

**ACTS 8:14-17 KJV:** NOW WHEN THE APOSTLES WHICH WERE AT JERUSALEM HEARD THAT SAMARIA HAD RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD, THEY SENT UNTO THEM PETER AND JOHN: WHO, WHEN THEY WERE COME DOWN, PRAYED FOR THEM, THAT THEY MIGHT RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST: (FOR AS YET HE WAS FALLEN UPON NONE OF THEM: ONLY THEY WERE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS.) THEN LAID THEY THEIR HANDS ON THEM, AND THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.

Unfortunately, many theologians use this portion of Scripture to validate their teaching, that the laying on of hands by the leadership of The Church imparts The Baptism into The Holy Spirit and the

speaking in other tongues is not necessary. They cite (mention) Acts 9 when hands were laid upon Saul (Paul) by Ananias. Comparing the experience of the Samaritans to that of Saul here is the common denominator of both not speaking in tongues. Though we cannot deny there was no mention of the speaking forth of other tongues when Peter and John laid hands on the new converts, we must consider the other experiences when hands were laid, and tongues were spoken.

In certain Church Denominations and even Independent Church Movements Acts Chapters 8 and 9 are highlighted to promote their teaching that there is no need to speak in tongues as evidence of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. A few years ago, I listened intently to the renowned baritone singer George Beverly Shea who accompanied evangelist Billy Graham on his evangelical crusades throughout the world. He spoke of himself and Billy Graham seeking The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. A certain minister came to their hotel room prayed and laid hands on them. To my dismay the singer said they most definitely sensed the presence of God; however, they did not speak in other tongues. As far as he and Evangelist Billy Graham were concerned, they received the Baptism into The Holy Spirit. If ever there is an evangelist that I respect and honour it is Dr Billy Graham, however, I cannot concur with his interpretation. Many others who concur with Dr Graham and George Beverly Shea use Acts Chapter 9 to validate the laying on of hands as an impartation of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit and that without the speaking of tongues. Though many vehemently deny the speaking in tongues based on Acts 8 and 9 there is surely a definite inference that the Samaritans spoke in tongues. I have come to this conclusion based on Simon the sorcerer's asking for the power to impart the experience:

**ACTS 8:18 ESV:** AND WHEN SIMON SAW THAT THROUGH LAYING ON OF THE APOSTLES' HANDS THE HOLY GHOST WAS GIVEN, HE OFFERED THEM MONEY, SAYING, GIVE ME ALSO THIS POWER, THAT ON WHOMSOEVER I LAY HANDS, HE MAY RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST.

Would Simon ask for the power to impart The Baptism into The Holy Spirit if there was no supernatural reaction to the laying on of hands? Surely, he had heard his fellow Samaritans speaking in tongues. I am of the persuasion it was because of the spiritual reaction to the laying on hands by the Apostles that he wanted the power to impart The Baptism for his purpose and that simply to make money. He was rebuked by Peter and praise be to God he repented.



## SAUL THE PERSECUTOR BECAME THE PREACHER

My dear Father taught me an adage (proverb) that I hold dear to my heart. I often use it when preaching and teaching:

YOU ARE NEVER TOO GOOD TO BECOME BAD, AND YOU NEVER TOO BAD TO BECOME GOOD.

Even now reflecting over the adage an example comes to mind. Noah, the first boat builder who found grace in the sight of The Lord was the also first vinedresser. Unfortunately, he was also the first drunkard. Saul, the persecutor of the Church became Paul the Preacher.

Paul was Pharisee. A young man that knew The Law of God. He was taught by Gamaliel, the renowned Scholar. His zeal for his religion propelled (drove) him to make concerted (rigorous) efforts to stop the advancement of The Christian faith. He had Christians imprisoned. They were afraid of him to the extent that they left their homes. Many went to Antioch, where strange as it is their very persecutor became their Teacher and it was from The Antioch Church that Paul together with Barnabas were sent forth as the first Missionary Apostles. Out of all the Apostles, Paul was the most prolific (productive, fruitful) in ministry. Who does he owe his illustrious career unto? None other than Jesus who baptized him into The Holy Spirit and that with the evidence of speaking in other tongues:

**ACTS 9:8-18 CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION:** SAUL GOT UP FROM THE GROUND, AND WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES, HE COULD NOT SEE A THING. SOMEONE THEN LED HIM BY THE HAND TO DAMASCUS, <sup>AND</sup> FOR THREE DAYS HE WAS BLIND AND DID NOT EAT OR DRINK. A FOLLOWER NAMED ANANIAS LIVED IN DAMASCUS, AND THE LORD SPOKE TO HIM IN A VISION. ANANIAS ANSWERED, "LORD, HERE I AM." THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "GET UP AND GO TO THE HOUSE OF JUDAS ON STRAIGHT STREET. WHEN YOU GET THERE, YOU WILL FIND A MAN NAMED SAUL FROM THE CITY OF TARSUS. SAUL IS PRAYING, <sup>AND</sup> HE HAS SEEN A VISION. HE SAW A MAN NAMED ANANIAS COMING TO HIM AND PUTTING HIS HANDS ON HIM, SO THAT HE COULD SEE AGAIN." ANANIAS REPLIED, "LORD, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT THE TERRIBLE THINGS THIS MAN HAS DONE TO YOUR FOLLOWERS IN JERUSALEM. NOW THE CHIEF PRIESTS HAVE GIVEN HIM THE POWER TO COME HERE AND ARREST ANYONE WHO WORSHIPS IN YOUR NAME." THE LORD SAID TO ANANIAS, "GO! I HAVE CHOSEN HIM TO TELL FOREIGNERS, KINGS, AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ABOUT ME. <sup>16</sup>I WILL SHOW HIM HOW MUCH HE MUST SUFFER FOR WORSHIPPING IN MY NAME." ANANIAS LEFT

AND WENT INTO THE HOUSE WHERE SAUL WAS STAYING. ANANIAS PLACED HIS HANDS ON HIM AND SAID, "SAUL, THE LORD JESUS HAS SENT ME. HE IS THE SAME ONE WHO APPEARED TO YOU ALONG THE ROAD. HE WANTS YOU TO BE ABLE TO SEE AND TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT." SUDDENLY SOMETHING LIKE FISH SCALES FELL FROM SAUL'S EYES, AND HE COULD SEE. HE GOT UP AND WAS BAPTIZED.

Thus far we have determined that Peter and John were the first to lay hands for the receiving of The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. This also has caused further controversy in The Body of Christ. Some vehemently advocate that only certain members of the clergy should lay hands for the impartation of The Baptism into The Spirit. Certain Denominations only use Bishops and Archbishops. Most Pentecostal Churches use only Fivefold Ministers.

On close examination of The Word of God, we note that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and He delights to use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. It is rather interesting to note how God introduces Ananias. God, as we all know, is all-wise and I am positive that in His foreknowledge He foresaw the problem that would exist between the laity and the leadership of The Body of Christ and therefore not only does The Foundational Apostles lay hands, but a certain disciple also lays hands for the impartation of The Baptism. This is most definitely a wise move on the part of our all-wise God. Man will always make distinctions of status and position. Man, glories in position and status, not so our God. The Scripture describes Ananias as a certain disciple. I have done a word study on the word certain and to my delight, there was no emphasis on status or position. It speaks of whosoever and whomsoever (Strong's Greek Concordance number 5100). No rank or file is noted. However, though Ananias was not a Foundational Apostle and just a simple disciple (a pupil) certain spiritual characteristic needs to be earnestly noted of him:

He was a MAN OF PRAYER, who not only spoke to God, but to whom God spoke.

He was obedient to the command of God, regardless of his fear.

He laid hands on Saul for The Baptism into The Holy Spirit and that Saul be healed of blindness.

He water baptized Saul.

Considering the above characteristics of Ananias, we can conclude why he is mentioned as a certain disciple. Men of God, regardless of status who fervently seek God through prayer, will hear from God. Certain disciples who are men of prayer and hear from God will put

aside their fear and inhibitions and obey God to the hilt. Those who fervently pray will be great imparters of truth and power. Great stalwarts of The Gospel will be touched by the insignificant to become significant, and most definitely this was the case of Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the Apostle to the gentiles.

Acts 9:1-19 makes no mention of Paul (then known as Saul) speaking in tongues. Ananias mentions two specific reasons why God had sent Paul to him:

**ACTS 9:17:** AND THAT BEING PAUL MAY RECEIVE HIS SIGHT AND BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

It is interesting to note once again the phrase used in Acts 2:4 is used also used in Acts 9:17. The phrase being: filled with The Spirit. This denotes a strong correlation to Acts 2:1-4 when the 120 disciples were filled with The Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

No doubt, there is no mention of Paul (then named Saul) speaking in tongues when Ananias laid hands on him. However, when we follow the ministry and life of Paul (the Apostle born out of season) there is more than enough evidence that he spoke in tongues:

**1 CORINTHIANS 14:18 COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE:** I THANK GOD THAT I SPEAK IN TONGUES MORE THAN ALL OF YOU.

In most Church circles Paul is revered as the most outstanding Apostle next to our Lord Jesus Christ. He was a prolific servant of Jesus Christ. He wrote most of The New Testament. Though he is respected and honoured throughout the Church Age there are those certain theologians (and throughout the Church Age) who accept his profound revelations except his phenomenal teachings on The Baptism into The Holy Spirit.

### **Breaking Down the Middle Wall of Partition**

Jesus instructed the Apostles to take The Gospel to all the nations of the world. However, they confined their efforts only toward The Jews. God had to propel (drive, motivate) Peter to take The Gospel to the Gentiles. This was vital for the growth of The Church. God gives Peter a vision that starts the process of The Church becoming multi-ethnic:

**ACTS 10:9-48: GODS WORD TRANSLATION:** AROUND NOON THE NEXT DAY, WHILE CORNELIUS' MEN WERE ON THEIR WAY AND COMING CLOSE TO JOPPA,

PETER WENT ON THE ROOF TO PRAY. HE BECAME HUNGRY AND WANTED TO EAT. WHILE THE FOOD WAS BEING PREPARED, HE FELL INTO A TRANCE. HE SAW THE SKY OPEN AND SOMETHING LIKE A LARGE LINEN SHEET BEING LOWERED BY ITS FOUR CORNERS TO THE GROUND. IN THE SHEET WERE ALL KINDS OF FOURFOOTED ANIMALS, REPTILES, AND BIRDS. A VOICE TOLD HIM, "GET UP, PETER! KILL THESE ANIMALS AND EAT THEM." PETER ANSWERED, "I CAN'T DO THAT, LORD! I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING IMPURE OR UNCLEAN." A VOICE SPOKE TO HIM A SECOND TIME, "DON'T SAY THAT THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS MADE CLEAN ARE IMPURE." THIS HAPPENED THREE TIMES. THEN THE SHEET WAS QUICKLY TAKEN INTO THE SKY. WHILE PETER WAS PUZZLED BY THE MEANING OF THE VISION, THE MEN SENT BY CORNELIUS FOUND SIMON'S HOUSE AND WENT TO THE GATE. THEY ASKED IF SIMON PETER WAS STAYING THERE. PETER WAS STILL THINKING ABOUT THE VISION WHEN THE SPIRIT SAID TO HIM, "THREE MEN ARE LOOKING FOR YOU. GET UP AND GO DOWNSTAIRS. DO NOT HESITATE TO GO WITH THESE MEN. I HAVE SENT THEM." SO, PETER WENT TO THE MEN. HE SAID, "I'M THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR. WHY ARE YOU HERE?" THE MEN REPLIED, "CORNELIUS, A ROMAN ARMY OFFICER, SENT US. HE IS A MAN WHO HAS GOD'S APPROVAL AND WHO RESPECTS GOD. ALSO, THE JEWISH PEOPLE RESPECT HIM. A HOLY ANGEL TOLD HIM TO SUMMON YOU TO HIS HOME TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY." PETER ASKED THE MEN TO COME INTO THE HOUSE AND HAD THEM STAY OVERNIGHT. THE NEXT DAY PETER LEFT WITH THEM. SOME DISCIPLES FROM JOPPA WENT ALONG. THE FOLLOWING DAY THEY ARRIVED IN CAESAREA. CORNELIUS WAS EXPECTING THEM AND HAD CALLED HIS RELATIVES AND CLOSE FRIENDS TOGETHER. WHEN PETER WAS ABOUT TO ENTER CORNELIUS' HOUSE, CORNELIUS MET HIM, BOWED DOWN, AND WORSHIPED PETER. BUT PETER MADE HIM GET UP. HE TOLD HIM, "STAND UP! I am ONLY A MAN." AS PETER TALKED, HE ENTERED CORNELIUS' HOUSE AND FOUND THAT MANY PEOPLE HAD GATHERED. HE SAID TO THEM, "YOU UNDERSTAND HOW WRONG IT IS FOR A JEWISH MAN TO ASSOCIATE OR VISIT WITH ANYONE OF ANOTHER RACE. BUT GOD HAS SHOWN ME THAT I SHOULD NO LONGER CALL ANYONE IMPURE OR UNCLEAN. THAT IS WHY I DID NOT OBJECT TO COMING HERE WHEN YOU SENT FOR ME. I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU SENT FOR ME." CORNELIUS ANSWERED, "FOUR DAYS AGO I WAS PRAYING AT HOME. IT WAS AT THIS SAME TIME, THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON. SUDDENLY, A MAN DRESSED IN RADIANT CLOTHES STOOD IN FRONT OF ME. HE SAID TO ME, 'CORNELIUS, GOD HAS HEARD YOUR PRAYER AND HAS REMEMBERED YOUR GIFTS TO THE POOR. SO, SEND MESSENGERS TO JOPPA, AND SUMMON A MAN WHOSE NAME IS SIMON PETER. HE'S A GUEST IN THE HOME OF SIMON, A LEATHERWORKER WHO LIVES BY THE SEA.' SO, I SENT FOR YOU IMMEDIATELY.

THANK YOU FOR COMING. ALL OF US ARE HERE NOW IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING THE LORD HAS ORDERED YOU TO SAY.” THEN PETER SAID, “NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT GOD DOESN’T PLAY FAVOURITES. RATHER, WHOEVER RESPECTS GOD AND DOES WHAT IS RIGHT IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM IN ANY NATION. GOD SENT HIS WORD TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND BROUGHT THEM THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. THIS JESUS CHRIST IS EVERYONE’S LORD. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THROUGHOUT JUDEA. EVERYTHING BEGAN IN GALILEE AFTER JOHN SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT BAPTISM. YOU KNOW THAT GOD ANOINTED JESUS FROM NAZARETH WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH POWER. JESUS WENT EVERYWHERE AND DID GOOD THINGS, SUCH AS HEALING EVERYONE WHO WAS UNDER THE DEVIL’S POWER. JESUS DID THESE THINGS BECAUSE GOD WAS WITH HIM. WE CAN TESTIFY TO EVERYTHING JESUS DID IN THE LAND OF THE JEWS AND JERUSALEM. PEOPLE HUNG HIM ON A CROSS AND KILLED HIM, <sup>BUT</sup> GOD BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE ON THE THIRD DAY. GOD DID NOT SHOW HIM <sup>TO</sup> ALL THE PEOPLE. HE SHOWED JESUS TO WITNESSES, APOSTLES HE HAD ALREADY CHOSEN. WE APOSTLES ARE THOSE MEN WHO ATE AND DRANK WITH JESUS AFTER HE CAME BACK TO LIFE. HE ORDERED US TO WARN THE PEOPLE, ‘GOD HAS APPOINTED JESUS TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.’ Also, ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY THAT PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE ONE NAMED JESUS RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR THEIR SINS THROUGH HIM.” WHILE PETER WAS STILL SPEAKING, THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO EVERYONE WHO HEARD HIS MESSAGE. ALL THE BELIEVERS WHO WERE CIRCUMCISED AND WHO HAD COME WITH PETER WERE AMAZED THAT THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD BEEN POURED ON PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT JEWISH. THEY HEARD THESE NON-JEWISH PEOPLE SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGES AND PRAISING GOD. THEN PETER SAID, “NO ONE CAN REFUSE TO BAPTIZE THESE PEOPLE WITH WATER. THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE SAME WAY THAT WE DID.” SO, PETER ORDERED THAT THEY SHOULD BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. THEN THEY ASKED PETER TO STAY WITH THEM FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

Peter, like Ananias, received a command from God in a vision whilst in fervent prayer. He is chosen by God to be the very first person to take The Gospel to the Gentiles. The vision and the command from God, was beyond his comprehension and he wrestled with God, however, the men sent by Cornelius convinced him to accompany them to the home of Cornelius. Whilst preaching The Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and his household. They all spoke in other tongues. There was no need for Peter to lay hands for whilst preaching he was interrupted by the move of The Holy Spirit. Cornelius and his

household were Baptized into The Holy Spirit. The Apostle Peter on whom the foundation of The Church is laid (Eph 2:20) made a stupendous (astounding, awesome astonishing, breath-taking statement): "CAN ANYONE WITHHOLD WATER FOR BAPTIZING THESE PEOPLE, WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST AS WE HAVE." Peter equated the experience of the household of Cornelius to the exact experience that the 120 had in the Upper Room, for he heard them speaking in tongues. We must note that Peter omits the rushing mighty wind and the cloven tongues of fire. The great phenomena of the rushing mighty wind and the cloven tongues was not a part of the experience that Cornelius and his household experienced. The convincing factor that God had also chosen the Gentiles to be an integral part of The Body of Christ was the speaking in tongue; the exact phenomena that the 120 disciples experienced in the Upper Room.

### **Paul's Missionary Trip to Ephesus**

Paul on his third missionary journey encounters certain disciples who had not received The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. He baptized them in water and thereafter laid hands on them and they received The Baptism into The Holy Spirit. We come to this conclusion for the simple fact they spoke in tongues (Acts 19:6).

Other than the initial evidence of speaking in tongues, the Ephesians received an added blessing from The Holy Spirit (see 1Corinthians 12:7-11), they received The Gift of Prophecy.

**ACTS 19:1-6 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION:** AND IT HAPPENED IN THE TIME APOLLOS WAS AT CORINTH, PAUL WAS PASSING THROUGH THE HIGHER PARTS TO EPHESUS. AND FINDING CERTAIN DISCIPLES, HE SAID TO THEM, HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT SINCE YOU BELIEVED? AND THEY SAID TO HIM, WE DID NOT SO MUCH AS HEAR WHETHER THE HOLY SPIRIT IS. AND HE SAID TO THEM, THEN TO WHAT WERE YOU BAPTIZED? AND THEY SAID, TO JOHN'S BAPTISM. AND PAUL SAID, JOHN TRULY BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE, SAYING TO THE PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE INTO HIM COMING AFTER HIM, THAT IS, INTO JESUS CHRIST. AND HEARING, THEY WERE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS. AND AS PAUL LAID HIS HANDS ON THEM, THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME ON THEM, AND THEY SPOKE WITH TONGUES AND PROPHESED.

### **STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD**

- ✦ What are the two signs of receiving The Baptism into The Holy Spirit?

- ✦ Is it possible for Born-Again Christians to have a disappointing Baptism into The Spirit? Explain your answer.
- ✦ What is the significance of The Holy Spirit poured out on the day of Pentecost?
- ✦ Why were hands not laid upon the 120 in the Upper Room?
- ✦ Explain the chronological order of witnessing.
- ✦ What is meant by the term: Filled with The Spirit?
- ✦ Who may lay hands on those seeking The Baptism into The Spirit?
- ✦ Is it essential that all Born-Again Christians receive The Baptism into The Holy Spirit?
- ✦ Explain the spiritual distinction of The Born-Again experience to Baptized in The Spirit.

# CHAPTER 11

## THE LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

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### **Preamble**

As a servant of The Lord, I have always emphasised the privilege and honour we have as children of God to lay hands on the sick. Over the years of my ministry, I discovered that God is most definitely concerned about the whole man and by that, I mean body, soul, and spirit. I passionately believe the healing of God's people through the laying on of hands is evidence that God cares for his people. To this very day, God is touched with the feeling of our infirmities (see Hebrews 4:15).

The awesome God that we serve has through His abundant Grace and power of The Holy Spirit allowed us to play a dynamic role in the healing of the sick. It is so beautiful to know that The Church of Christ has been commissioned and approved of God to heal the sick by the laying on of hands.

Unfortunately, the entire Church does not accept the supernatural for our day and age. Those who do not believe healing and miracles are for our day categorically declare that signs and wonders ceased at the close of The Apostolic Age. Countless books have been written on the so-called closure of The Apostolic Age and may I add this has harmed The Church considerably. Perhaps I should explain myself just how The Church is damaged for we do know NO WEAPON FORMED AGAINST THE CHURCH CAN PROSPER (SEE ISAIAH 54:17). Individual members of The Church who are sick in the body are influenced by these writings and are robbed of their faith to believe God for their healing. These writings against the supernatural in our day are persuasive and they most definitely impact on people's faith.

This chapter deals extensively with the fact that The Apostolic Age has not ceased and be that true then most assuredly we can expect signs and wonders in our day. No doubt my previous statement will be challenged. Many will say The Foundational Apostles have passed on. Yes, they have passed on. HOWEVER, THE DIVINE REVELATION OF GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO THEM LIVES ON TODAY. HOW TRUE IS GOD'S WORD: HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY BUT NEVER THE WORD OF THE LORD? LET THE MODERN-DAY CHURCH REALIZE THAT THE SUPERNATURAL WORKS OF GOD ARE FOR OUR DAY FOR THE SIMPLE FACT THE SUPERNATURAL IS EXERCISED THROUGH THE WORD AND WHO IS THE WORD? JESUS IS THE WORD AND IT IS JESUS, THE WORD OF GOD THAT PERFORMS THE SUPERNATURAL AND NOT THE APOSTLES.



Reading John 7:38 in its contextual setting gives me the understanding that the living waters refers to the power of The Holy Spirit flowing from the servants and handmaidens of God to perform the supernatural for the benefit and well-being of God's people and may I add both saved and unsaved. As Born-Again Spirit Filled Christians, we are aware for the supernatural to flow from His people we must realize It is not by might nor by the power of man, it is through The Spirit of God alone. We are but the conduit that The Holy Spirit flows through.

To comprehend, appreciate and implement the contents of what follows in this chapter requires prayer and therefore I urge you to spend time seeking the face of The Lord, our Healer Divine before reading this chapter.

The Holy Spirit continually looks to men and women in The Body of Christ to use as conduits of blessings to the members of The Body of Christ and the unsaved world. He does not look for perfection. He knows of our frailty. However, The Holy Spirit does consider our commitment to Christ and our love for our fellow man. Many because of their status, feel that The Holy Spirit will pass them by. They think they do not qualify. Most feel inadequate for they are perhaps not fluent in expressing themselves. Some regard their lack of education and their horrible past. Often it is good that we do feel this way, for the mere fact we have a good start in that our trust is not in ourselves to express the power of The Holy Spirit, our confidence is totally in God. Man, in offering us certain influential positions, will always ask for our credentials. In the system of the world, we must qualify. Strange but true being used of The Holy Spirit requires no credentials. When I consider myself, I had minimal scholastic education? I only had a Diploma of Theology, and yet God called me into the ministry. According to the standards set by the world and even The Church, I in no way qualified for the ministry. On reading and hearing The Scripture, I soon changed my mind. I discovered that my call to the ministry did not hinge on my lack of qualifications, preferably according to God, I met all His peculiar prerequisites, and therefore I was earmarked for the ministry:

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:27 KJV:** BUT GOD HATH CHOSEN THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE, AND GOD HATH CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE THINGS WHICH ARE MIGHTY.

I agree with The Holy Spirit for many of my peers considered me a fool and weak, and therefore I qualified according to God's standards. It was probably at this time that I penned one of my favourite sayings: "GOD DOES NOT LOOK FOR PERFECTION IN THOSE WHOM HE CALLS, RATHER HE LOOKS TO THE POTENTIAL THAT WOULD LEAD TO PERFECTION."

Over the years, I discovered at the time of my calling. I was a fool. However, I did not remain a fool and that for the simple fact, God's Word made me wise unto salvation (see 2 Timothy 3:15). No doubt many of God's beautiful people feel exactly how I felt and that inadequate. Do not despair see yourself as the world sees you - FOOLISH AND WEAK **and** I can assure you God will either bring you into The Ascended Gifted Ministries or bless you with one of the nine Spiritual Gifts of The Holy Spirit.

## **The Gifts of Healing**

Considering all nine Gifts of The Holy Spirit on close examination, one may note that only The **Gifts** of Healing is the only Gift mentioned in the plural. While preparing for the ministry at Bible College, several students noticed the uniqueness thereof and questioned the Lecturer. Dr Don B Coleman (fondly nicknamed Dr Doctrine by the students) gave an excellent answer. He said it was probably more than likely that the mere fact that there are countless maladies (sicknesses) that The Gifts of Healing covered every type of illness and therefore it could be the possibility that The Holy Spirit gave to several of the Born-Again Spirit-filled saints of God a special Gift of Healing. To me, this meant that not one individual had all The Gifts of Healing, rather one specialised in healing sickness and not all illness. No doubt this may not go down well with some of us. However, it should be considered as a likely possibility for I know of some Men of God who undoubtedly have great success with healing certain sicknesses and yet when praying and laying hands on certain people with other ailments nothing happens. I accept Dr Doctrine's perception. Other than the uniqueness of the plurality with The Gifts of Healing; it is the only Gift of the nine Gifts of The Holy Spirit where The Scriptures mention the laying on of hands:

**LUKE 4:40 ESV:** WHILE THE SUN WAS SETTING, ALL THOSE WHO HAD ANY WHO WERE SICK WITH VARIOUS DISEASES BROUGHT THEM TO HIM; AND LAYING HIS HANDS ON EACH ONE OF THEM, HE WAS HEALING THEM.

**ACTS 18:8 ESV:** AND IT HAPPENED THAT THE FATHER OF PUBLIUS WAS LYING IN BED AFFLICTED WITH RECURRENT FEVER AND DYSENTERY, AND PAUL WENT IN TO SEE HIM, AND AFTER HE HAD PRAYED, HE LAID HIS HANDS ON HIM AND HEALED HIM.

**MARK 16: 18 KJV:** THEY WILL PICK UP SERPENTS, AND IF THEY DRINK ANY DEADLY POISON, IT WILL NOT HURT THEM; THEY WILL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY WILL RECOVER.

**LUKE 13:13 ESV:** AND HE LAID HIS HANDS ON HER, AND IMMEDIATELY SHE WAS MADE ERECT AGAIN AND BEGAN GLORIFYING GOD.

## **The Working of Miracles**

How strange it is for Christians to be termed Believers by the unsaved. Some would be shocked to know what we as Believers believe and do not believe. We believe the Bible wholeheartedly and that being both Old and New Testaments. We accept all that happened. But how sad most of us only see it as history. What God has done in the past is no more. Too many of us see The Scriptures as a historical book about God, His people, and His work of Salvation. And when most of us Ministers of The Gospel resound The Truth of The Word, we echo it in a historical sense. We preach and teach of that which had happened. The Gospel which is meant for the wellbeing of the whole man and that being body, soul and spirit is mostly preached toward the Soul and Spirit of man and no more to the needs of the physical frame of man.

Countless denominations and Independent Churches do not believe in the wondrous miracles that are taking place in our day. And yet they dare to preach on the miracles recorded in both Testaments. I love the historical facts of the wondrous miracles of The Testaments but like so many saints of The God who changes not. I long to see God move miraculously in the now.

Several famous men of the cloth, whose names I do not want to mention, have gone out of their way to discredit those who believe and practice The Gifts of The Spirit. Some have gone as far as saying these signs and wonders are of the devil. Is this not perhaps THE SIN AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT. I pray not; for then these men of the cloth are doomed and so are their congregations who follow their teaching against the present wondrous works of The Holy Spirit.

God has not changed. Let me assure you: He is still the same today yesterday and forever (Hebrews 13:8). The attitude of these men and women of the cloth must change toward the working of miracles and may I add not just for God to be glorified but also for the urgent needs of men, women, and children to be met.

I have a spiritual saying which is often laughed at, but I do not mind the slurs, the scoffing, and insults whenever I voice it:

"ANY TOM, DICK AND HARRY CAN PREACH THE WORD OF GOD, BUT IT TAKES A PETER AND A JOHN AND A PAUL TO PRESENT THE GOD OF THE WORD."

God will not confirm His Word with signs following if you preach and teach and do not believe what you preach. God acts on our behalf and for His glory when we have faith to find The God who performed

wonders in the past will still perform miracles in the now. I am amazed at how these men of the cloth read Scripture and discriminate against The Early Church and the Present-Day Church. What do I mean by discrimination? Well, the answer is so logical. Does God favour The Early Church more than The Present-Day Church? Is God partial? Their belief is the wonders of God was only for The Early Church and not for The Present-Day Church.

The relevant question must follow: "Have the needs of the saved and the unsaved changed"? The WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT GOD is no respecter of persons (see Acts 10:34). The physical needs of man have not changed in any way; they have intensified what with Aids and so many horrible new diseases.

Have these men of the cloth gone to the extent that they do not trust God; they instead put their faith in the doctors and surgeons. We must thank God for the medical profession. These dedicated people do so much for humanity. However, there is so much they can do and then no more and that is the time God steps in with His anointed servants whom He has blessed with The Gift of The Working of Miracles.

As Born-Again Spirit Filled Children of God, we must always remind ourselves that we are living in a world that is controlled by the powers of darkness. Satan with his demonic horde and human agents has ensnared humanity with sin and diabolical sicknesses. Our human endeavours as reasonable as they are will never rehabilitate humanity. We need a supernatural power to set man free from the clutches of sin and sickness. God in His love for mankind has given us The Working of Miracles to set man free from the stranglehold of the devil.

Miracles are nothing less than supernatural acts from God that defy nature and logic. The working of Miracles is not of the mundane (ordinary), they are from Heaven's Throne of God, and that is why they are extraordinary. Throughout the Scriptures there are bountiful miracles recorded in The Old Testament such as the parting of The Red Sea, bread and meat rained from Heaven to feed the Israelites in their wilderness wanderings of forty years, the stopping of rain and the calling forth of rain and in The New Testament the wondrous works of Jesus and the Apostles. Be it that we study Church history, we will be amazed by what is recorded. My wife and I had personally experienced several miracles. Allow me the privilege of sharing a few of these with you.

I was unemployed and had mislaid my unemployment card. I could not receive my unemployment fund without presenting the unemployment card. We searched high and low, every nook and cranny throughout the house until the early hours of the morning, but to no avail. We decided to go to bed. We prayed a simple prayer asking God, our Father, to please help us find the card. After a few

hours' sleep, we woke up and went to the kitchen and amazingly there it was on the kitchen table. This was most definitely a miracle.

On another occasion, while still unemployed God gave us a financial miracle to pay our rent. One old lady, a member of The Church, we attended was in prayer, and God spoke to her to give us a certain amount of money to pay our rent. She heeded the instruction, and the surprising fact was what she gave us was the exact amount for one month's rent. How did she know what to provide us with? Nothing else but a miracle.

For several years as a full-time Minister of The Gospel, I worked without remuneration (wages, salary). My dear wife during these hard years became the breadwinner. What she earned helped us through those dark years and may I add just about. There were several occasions that we had no lights, no food in the house. Although we struggled at this time, we bought a house and may I mention this was made possible not just by the beautiful works of God but also through one of the kindest men in South Africa and that is Raymond Ackerman, the founder and owner of Pick and Pay. His company gave loans to their employees to purchase their own homes at a rate of only two interest percent.

There was that horrible time I fell three months behind the mortgage payments. I got an eviction notice. We were about to lose our home unless we paid by a specified date and that all that was owing. I kept it to myself. I did not want to burden my hardworking wife. She was already carrying a heavy load. I even contemplated suicide. Thank God, he saw me through this horrible and evil way out. I decided to see this problem as my walls of Jericho. I lived on the border of a vast sugar cane plantation. I went to the farm and mapped out in my mind an area as my Jericho walls. I determined to walk around the perimeter the exact number of times that Joshua and the Israelites marched around the walls and those 13 times. Once per day and on The Sabbath seven times. The very last walk around I had a deep impression to go home and make three cups of tea for God was sending a married couple to meet my financial need in the next hour. I took a slow walk home and just before the hour was up, I made three cups of tea and that for the couple and myself. The hour went by, and no one pitched up. I lost heart and cried saying to myself it was not God who impressed me, instead it was myself trying to convince myself that God was going to meet my need. About a half an hour later I heard a knock on the door. I opened the door, and there stood a tall, gentleman who I invited in. We sat down, and he introduced himself. To my delight, he was a Born-Again Spirit-Filled Believer, for almost a quarter of an hour we spoke of the work of The Lord. I inwardly said to myself, this brother in The Lord is not here to minister to my needs for his wife would have been with him as The Lord had said a

couple. I felt urged to ask him where his wife was, and to my astonishment, he told me she is sitting in the car.

I told the gentleman to bring his wife inside. I made another three cups of tea and served them. Things in the home were so bad that there were no biscuits to serve with the tea.

We sat talking for about another hour, and we prayed together, and after that, they left. Not one word was mentioned about meeting my financial need. I sobbed like a baby. It was not God who had spoken to me. My mind had played tricks on me. In my brokenness, God spoke to my spirit and convinced me that he had sent the married couple, and they will minister to my needs.

Fortunately, they had given me their address. I made up my mind that I would ask them for a loan. I was warmly welcomed. I wasted no time. I told them of my predicament and asked them whether they might loan me the money to pay my mortgage. The wife started laughing and said they came to me for a loan. My spirit dropped. Inwardly I asked myself was God playing tricks with me? The dear lady stopped laughing and said she was joking. With great joy and tears in her eyes, she told me that for several months while she and her husband were praying that God spoke to them to meet my financial needs. The Lord gave her a vision of me.

She, together with her husband, asked me for the eviction notice of our home, the light bill, and any other unpaid accounts I had. I showed all the bills, and she with a caring heart, paid all the bills. The next day she took my eldest daughter (Yolanda) shopping and not just for groceries, but clothing for my daughter as well.

Do I believe in miracles? Yes, for God has wrought wondrous miracles in my family. My baby daughter (Michelle) contracted meningitis. The doctors were concerned. They thought she would not pull through. I was with my dear Pastor (Apostle Edwin Gray) on a Mission Trip to Eshowe. He prayed a simple, yet powerful prayer and my baby daughter (Michelle) was miraculously healed.

Do I believe in miracles? Yes, for my God has wrought wondrous miracles in my family. My dear wife, Dolores, has had over 40 operations, with several being major. All our children were Caesarean birthed with many complications. Three of her stomach operations lasted just over 8 hours each. She has a broken surgical needle lodged in her stomach. God saw her through all that. Do I believe in miracles? Yes, for our God, The Healer Divine has wrought countless miracles in our family. I once heard a saying that I will never forget, and it goes like this: Doctors will perform surgery and Nurses will do the bandaging, but it is God and God alone who performs the healing.

#### LAST WORDS

GOD HAS DEPOSITED GREAT POWER IN YOUR HANDS. SEEK THE FACE OF THE LORD. WAIT UPON THE LORD. GOD WANTS TO USE YOU MY DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER IN THE LORD. LIFT HOLY HANDS UNTO THE LORD FOR HE IS ABOUT TO ANOINT THOSE HANDS WITH HIS SUPERNATURAL POWER.

NEVER FORGET:

GOD USES THE FOOLISH PEOPLE OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE. AMEN

# ADDENDUM

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Joseph D'Allende was born at 15 Pine Road Woodstock Cape Town of the parents' Joseph and Maud de Allende. He attended Holy Cross Primary and Saint Agnes Secondary Schools.

He was Born-Again in 1975 and attended Open Door Assemblies Greenwood Park Durban. He served The Church as a Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon.

Joseph studied at International Bible College obtaining a Diploma of Theology. And thereafter lectured at I.B.C for three years. Thereafter, he pioneered two Schools of Ministry in Chatsworth and Newlands East.

Frequently, Joseph was blessed of The Lord receiving invitations to minister in Tent campaigns. Many regarded Joseph as an Evangelist, however because of Joseph's Teaching Ministry he was approached by Life Centre Ministries to pioneer A Bible School in Sydenham. By God's Grace, he wrote the Constitution and Prospectus and set the Bible school in order. He was the principal for just over two years. Due to financial constraints, he had no alternative but to seek a pastor's post as his work at Life Bible School was without remuneration.

Joseph pioneered three Churches which today have buildings. One of the major joys of his ministry was writing Church constitutions for Churches who transitioned from Democratic Principles of Governance to Theocratic Principles of Governance

In 2003 Joseph and his wife, Dolores immigrated to New Zealand and there he had the honour of serving The Tongan Assemblies of God for about four years. Joseph is grateful to Pastors Lenati, Sikalu and Leo for sharing their pulpits with him. He set up a school of Ministry at Pastor Lenati's Assembly and assisted Pastor Sikalu in his School of Ministry.

For the past nine years (2011-2019) Joseph has worked on his Internet Ministry. With the help (by the way paid help) of Ian Sinclair, he has set up eighty-one International Websites of various languages which reach about 110 countries.

Presently Joseph is transcribing his 130 preaching videos and putting them into book form and translating them into 77 International Websites.

The illustrious man of God believes he owes all that he has done to God, for he resolutely believes it is not what he has done, rather it is what God the Holy Spirit has done through him. His dear wife, Dolores has financially supported his ministry throughout all the years, taking on the responsibility of The Bread Winner of the family. Unfortunately, the strain has harmed her health. People stand aghast when Joseph tells them Dolores has had over forty operations. Many

times, Doctors and Surgeons have given up, but Dolores said that though the Doctors and Surgeons perform the operations, and the nurses do the bandaging, it is God who performs the healing. Dolores encouraged Joseph never to solicit donations. She convinced her husband whom she loves with all her heart that she will always support his ministry financially. The loving and caring wife is seventy-five years young and still working to support her husband's ministry.

Joseph through Dolores' financial support has ministered in Swaziland, Botswana, Mauritius (twice), Pakistan (twice), Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Tonga.

Out of nothing Joseph and Dolores have made things happen for God and with God. God has enriched them with Pioneering Spirits. With all what God has done with and through Dolores and Joseph. He brags that no one in all The Body of Christ qualifies for the ministry like himself: "God delights to use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise," This man of God encourages all of God's people with one of his famous adages:

GOD WILL TAKE A NOBODY FROM NOWHERE AND MAKE THAT NOBODY A SOMEBODY, AND AFTER GOD HAS MADE THAT NOBODY A SOMEBODY AND PLACED HIM SOMEWHERE, GOD WILL SEND HIM EVERYWHERE.

#### LAST WORDS

GOD HAS DEPOSITED HIS POWER IN YOUR HANDS. SEEK THE FACE OF THE LORD. WAIT UPON THE LORD. GOD WANTS TO USE YOU IN THE SIGN GIFT MINISTRY. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS IMPARTED HIS POWER THAT YOU MAY TRAIN AND ORDAIN MEN AND WOMEN FOR THE MINISTRY. AND NEVER FORGET GOD DELIGHTS TO USE THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE.

# TENETS OF FAITH

## **PREAMBLE:**

The Word of God warns The Church “THERE ARE MANY VOICES IN THE WORLD (1 CORINTHIANS 14:10).” These voices often are not echoing THE VOICE OF GOD and therefore Calvary Apostolic Ministries deems it extremely essential that The Church appraises THE TENETS OF FAITH OF CALVARY APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES BEFORE EMBRACING ITS MINISTRY. THE TENETS OF FAITH are clearly and explicitly defined to avoid any confusion and misinterpretation.

No doubt the lifestyle and character of the ministers of The Gospel of Jesus Christ are just as important as their doctrine. Like all men, Dr D’Allende has also made his mistakes and fallen short of God’s glory. God’s goodness, mercy and abundant grace have led him to repent and to seek the favour of God over the years. Forgiveness and The Love of Almighty God have over the many years moulded, refined, and shaped Dr D’Allende to where he is at in his God-ordained ministry today.

**TENET 1. THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES** The Old and New Testaments are THE AUTHENTIC, INSPIRED, AND INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD and are profitable for:

DOCTRINE,

REPROOF,

CORRECTION AND

INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (1THESSALONIANS 2:13; 1 PETER 1: 21; 2 TITUS 3:16).

## **TENET 2. THE TRINITY**

There is only ONE TRUE GOD (Deuteronomy 6:4), the Creator of the universe (Isaiah 43:10) and mankind (Genesis 1:26-27), who has revealed Himself in The Holy Scriptures as God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son of God, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2Corinthians 13:14; John 14:26; 15:26).

## **TENET 3. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh (John 1:14), who was in the beginning with God (Genesis 1:1-4) and is God (John 1:1-4; Hebrews 1:8). The Holy Scriptures emphatically teach the following concerning Jesus Christ:

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH (ISAIAH 7: 14; MATTHEW 1:23; LUKE 1:31, 35).

HIS SINLESS LIFE (HEBREWS 4:15; 1 PETER 2:22).

HIS MIRACLES (ACTS 2:22; 10:3).

HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE (ISAIAH 53:1-12; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3).

HIS BODILY RESURRECTION (MATTHEW 28:6; LUKE 24:39; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:4).

HIS EXALTATION TO THE RIGHT OF GOD THE FATHER (ACTS 1:9-11; 2: 33).

HIS ABIDING MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION (HEBREWS 7:25) AND

HIS IMMINENT RETURN (JOHN 14:1-4; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18).

#### **TENET 4. THE DEPRAVITY OF MANKIND**

Although men and women were initially created in the image and likeness of Almighty God (Genesis 1:26), like Adam and Eve, all human beings have wilfully sinned and therefore come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), thus incurring upon themselves the penalty of labour, disease, physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 3:10; 23; 6:23).

#### **TENET 5. Soteriology**

Salvation is only through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as one's Personal Saviour (John 1:12; 14:6; Acts 4:12). It is never experienced through self-righteous deeds (Is 64:6). Salvation is experienced by exercising faith in the gracious act of Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross of Calvary and His bodily Resurrection over death and the grave (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Ephesians 2:8-9). Other than exercising faith, all must:

REPENT OF THEIR SINS (ACTS 2:38),

BELIEVE AND CONFESS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (ROMANS 10:8-10) AND

WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (HEBREWS 12:14).

#### **TENET 6. HELL - THE SECOND DEATH**

Though Hell was initially prepared for the devil and the fallen angels (Matthew 25:41), the Word of God emphatically declares that the fearful, the unbelieving, the abominable, murderers, whore mongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death (Revelation 21:8; 2:11; 20:6).

#### **TENET 7. THE ORDINANCES**

The two Ordinances practised in The Church are Water Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Both these Ordinances are not Sacraments. They do not

possess soteriological benefits as found in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ over death and the grave. They are but analogies and visual aids to constantly remind The Church of the accomplished atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins of depraved humanity.

**WATER BAPTISM:** ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS (JOHN 3:1-6) ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES TO PUBLICLY IDENTIFY WITH JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE ACT OF WATER BAPTISM (MATTHEW 28:19; ACTS 2:38; ROMANS 6:1-4). THE MODE BEING IMMERSION (MATTHEW 3:16; ACTS 8:36-39) AND IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (MATTHEW 28:19-20).

**THE LORD'S SUPPER:** ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS (JOHN 3:1-6) ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S TABLE (HOLY COMMUNION, THE LORD'S TABLE) AS A SIGN OF THEIR FAITH IN THE EFFICACIOUS ATONEMENT FOR SIN AND THE SOON RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FOR HIS CHURCH (1CORINTHANS 11:23-34).

#### **TENET 8. THE BAPTISM INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Baptism (immersion) into the Holy Spirit, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues, is God's divine purpose of enabling the Born-Again Believer to effectively witness of Jesus Christ (Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 17-21; 8:14-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-6).

#### **TENET 9. THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Almighty God's endowment to the Spirit-filled Born-Again Believer to express God's omnipotence and omniscience at given times for the common good of The Church (profit withal 1 Corinthians 12:7) and Edification, Exhortation and Comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3,12, 26, 31).

#### **TENET 10. THE CHURCH**

The Church comprises of all Born Again Believers called out from the world by The Spirit of God (John 16:8) to constitute The One True Church upon the earth with the expressed purpose of establishing The Kingdom of God. The Church in The Holy Scriptures is also termed:

THE BODY OF CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 10:17:12:12-13),  
THE TEMPLE OF GOD (1 CORINTHIANS 3:16) AND THE  
HABITATION OF GOD (EPHESIANS 2:22).

### **TENET 11. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of The Church (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22; 2:20) and governs His Church through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and The Word of God (The Sword of the Spirit John 16:12-15; Ephesians 6:17), who in turn reveals the will and purposes of Jesus Christ to the God-appointed leadership of the Denominational and Local Autonomous Congregations. The Leadership being THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES OF APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS AND TEACHERS (Ephesians 4:8-16).

### **TENET 12. THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY**

Although Local Churches within Church Denominations and Local Independent Churches are part of the worldwide Body of Christ, each Local Church holds to its prerogative of being an Autonomous Indigenous organ of The Body of Christ. The principles of SELF GOVERNANCE, SELF SUPPORT and SELF PROPAGATION are inherent in each Local Church and yet every Local Church recognizes THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY and therefore Local Denominational and Independent Churches accept THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIONSHIP TO SPIRITUAL FATHERS, COUNSELLORS AND ASCENDED GIFTED MINISTERS, who in a spirit of love and care minister to The Local Churches, bearing in mind that they never prescribe nor dictate to the Local Churches (Acts 20:28).

### **TENET 13. THE SPIRITUAL LAW OF ASSOCIATION**

The Church is The Body of Christ, made up of all Born Again Believers. Within the Body of Christ, there are diversities of interpretations and doctrines. Each Local Church reserves their prerogative to choose with whom it shall foster a relationship to safeguard their persuasion of interpretation and doctrine (Acts 20:28).

### **TENET 14. THE FIVEFOLD ASCENDED GIFTS OF CHRIST**

Jesus Christ, The Head of the Church, has blessed His Church with the Fivefold Governmental Ascended Gifts for the well-being and extension of The Kingdom of God (Ephesians 4:8-11; 1Corinthians 12:28). These essential Gifts are operative till the coming of The Lord for His Church (Thessalonians 4:18), with one major distinction and that being these gifted ministries are not Foundational as the early Church Ascended Gifts (Ephesians 2:20). They do not receive Divine Revelation; rather they receive ILLUMINATION ON THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD ENTRENCHED IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. Though there is this major distinction their purpose of ministry is the same as The Foundational Gifted Ministries (Ephesians 4:13-15).

### **TENET 15. TITHING AND FREE WILL OFFERINGS**

For The Church to fulfil its God-given mandate (Matthew 28:19-20), it is compulsory that all Born Again Believers support their Local Churches

with the Tithes and Free Will Offerings (Genesis 14:20; 28:22; 2 Chronicles 31:1-21; Nehemiah 13:10-14; Matthew 23:23; 1 Corinthians 9:7-9; 16:2; 1 Titus 5: 17-18; Hebrews 7:1-11).

## **TENET 16. ESCHATOLOGY**

**THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH:** The Rapture is The Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13) of all those Born-Again Believers (John 3:1-6) who have died in The Lord and living Born Again Believers, who are caught up in the air to meet The Lord. The Rapture is the imminent event that causes The Church to escape the horror of the Tribulation period (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Daniel 9:27).

**THE TRIBULATION PERIOD:** This is the seven-year period divided into two equal parts termed in The Holy Scripture as The Lesser and Greater Tribulation (Revelation 11:2-3). It is during this period that God deals with the unsaved world and Israel. These two periods are also referred to as Jacob's Trouble and Seventieth Week (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 20:1-6).

**THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST AND THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST:** The Second Advent is the visible return of Jesus Christ with His saints. Christ together with His saints will rule from Jerusalem for ONE THOUSAND YEARS whilst Satan and his Fallen Angels, the False Prophet and the Anti-Christ are bound in The Bottomless pit (Zechariah 14:5; Acts 1:1-5; Revelation 20:1-6).

**THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT:** After the Millennial Reign of Christ and His saints, all the wicked dead will be resurrected to appear before God's Throne and be judged according to their works and cast into the lake of fire (Re 20:11-15). Scripture also refers to this event as THE SECOND DEATH (Revelation 20:14b).

**THE NEW JERUSALEM:** A new Heaven and a New Earth will come down from Heaven and God will forever dwell with His people (Re 21:1-7).

**TENET 17. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL:** The Church of Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18) does not replace Israel. Throughout the Old Testament Israel is referred to as a Kingdom (1 Samuel 15:28; 24:20; 1 Kings 21:7), whereas The Church is termed A Body, Temple, Habitation, Royal

Priesthood, Holy Nation, and a Peculiar People (1Corinthians 3:16; 10:17;12:12; 1 Peter 2:9). Furthermore, The Covenant that God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is an EVERLASTING COVENANT (Genesis 17:7, 8, 19).



MINISTRY REPORT  
SEPT 2011 UNTO 30 NOV 2020

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# DONATIONS

Our Books, Videos, Podcasts and Essays ARE NOT FOR SALE. The Bible teaches that it is more blessed to give than to receive (see Acts 20:35). However, Calvary Apostolic Ministries has since 2011 been financially supported by Dr Joseph and his wife Dolores. Joseph withdrew his savings to finance Calvary Apostolic Ministries. Furthermore, Joseph has retired since 2017 and receives a monthly pension.

Dolores at the age of seventy-five is still working and is keeping the ministry alive with her tithes. We have thus far not solicited financial help, however with what The Lord has laid upon our spirits and the lack of funds we have no choice whatsoever but to appeal to The Body of Christ for financial assistance. We have opened a Banking account whereby all Donors led of The Lord may contribute to our God-ordained ministry. And therefore, we are giving The Body of Christ a detailed description of what The Holy Spirit has accomplished through Calvary Apostolic Ministries from September 2011 unto 30 November 2020. We encourage God's Born-Again people to make our appeal a prayerful concern and allow The Holy Spirit to lead and direct God's people to support this ministry.

May God's choicest blessings be upon you as you make this a matter of sincere prayer.

God's blessing upon you, your spouse, family, friends, and congregation.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD GOD

Dr Joseph D'Allende

NOTA BENA: PLEASE NOTE OUR MINISTRY IS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE TAX REBATES ON YOUR DONATION.

OUR BANK ACCOUNT:

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