

Before you read this, I would like you to take a minute to pray this prayer;  
“God, open my eyes to see how this writing applies to me today”.

# ★ Star Light

SL/2023-E3

Like stars, shine through the dark night sky



## the lingering EMPTYNESS

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 'Vanity of vanities,' says the Preacher. 'Vanity of vanities! **All [that is done without God's guidance] is vanity [futile, meaningless – a wisp of smoke, a vapor that vanishes, merely chasing the wind].**’” (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 MSG, emphasis added).

Recently, I was one of those that witnessed the installation of a new water treatment plant. One of the parts of the process that caught my attention, and which God used to speak to me (like the Prophet Jeremiah at the porter's shop – Jeremiah 18:1-17) was the filling of the filtration column. First large sized gravels were poured into the column. Next came gravels of smaller size than the first, then a third set of gravels even smaller in size. By this time, the column was about three-quarter full. Last of all, sand was poured in. When sufficient height was attained, the technician began pouring water into the column. I had expected that with so much space of the 70L capacity of the column taken up by sand and gravels leaving only a little space, may be about 10L, there will be no space left for much water, but I was mistaken. The column still consumed well above 20L of

### MY APOLOGIES

I had hinted in the last edition that we would be looking at how we can hear God in this edition. However, I felt very strongly to write on this topic instead. God willing, we will return to how to hear His voice.

water! It was at this point God opened my eyes to see how much this was a replica of my life and, as you would see, yours too.

Like this filtration column, we come into this world with a purpose but empty. However, to fulfill our purpose, the mandate for which we were brought here, we must be filled. But this is where the trouble starts. We need to and must be filled, but with what?

1. Educational qualifications and certificates? (Ecclesiastes 1:17)
2. Multi-million dollar business or businesses? (Ecclesiastes 5:10, Mark 8:36)
3. Going all out to help the poor and less privileged?
4. Wealth, affluence, connections, and material acquisition? (Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, 5:10)
5. Hard work and a sterling career path?
6. Religion and religious activities? (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:7-9)
7. A tall, dark, and handsome young man with a husky voice and six packs?
8. An angelic looking damsel with sleepy eyes and the right amount of flesh in the right places?

As seen with King Solomon and these other individuals in the verses to be read above, these things (there are many others) are like

the pebbles poured into the column, they only provide a sense of filling, they do not truly fill. Are these bad? No. In and of themselves they are not bad at all, some (like education, wealth, business, etc) are truly relevant and vital to our effectiveness in our mandates in the world we live in today. However, as good as they are, they will not fill you. So what will fill us up? **WATER!**

Jesus had these words to say; *“Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart’”* (John 7:38 NLT). Hear Apostle John's explanation; *“(When he said ‘living water’, he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. ...)”* (John 7:39 NLT). The water that was poured into the column to truly fill it up represents the Spirit of God in our lives.

Do you feel an emptiness in your life today? Money can't fill that void, new designer clothes, bags, and shoes would not, a new relationship cannot, a new Tesla or Lamborghini will still leave you empty, the new mega church you wish to switch to (no matter how powerful the apostle) will not! Only God Can.

Today (February 14) the world over, billions of gifts will be exchanged, billions of messages across all the various channels of online communication will be sent and received in the celebration of Valentine's Day, the day of lovers. Many will be miserable because they could not find a partner (man or woman) to fill up the void in their lives. Many will end the day sad because the man or woman they expected

to fill up the void in their lives had let them down while the void lingers. Many will give up hope of ever having the void filled because they have found that perfect partner but the void remains. Many will go all out to seek satisfaction in drugs, drinks, alcohol, sex and sexual relationships in the hope this will fill the void. But the result will be the same, a lingering emptiness!

One more thing, as the water was poured into the column, we could see bubbles as air was expelled. If the Holy Spirit is not poured into our lives, the devil will fill the voids in our lives with every kind of junk at his disposal; hard drugs/alcohol (Ephesians 5:18), pornography, masturbation, unholy romantic relationships, sex, even religion (a form of godliness without accepting the power that leads to salvation – 2Timothy 3:5) and a host of many others! We must not let him stay.

Are you in any of these categories or in any way feeling an empty void? Why not open your heart to God today so that He can pour into your life His Spirit to fill up the void in your life? Are you ready to accept God's Lordship over your life today and **NOW**? Humble yourself before Him today and say this prayer from a sincere heart: *“God my Father, I am truly sorry I have tried to fill my life with everything else but You. As You have opened my eyes today, I open my heart to You, fill me up Lord. I accept You Lord Jesus into my heart as my Lord and my Saviour. Send Your*

*Spirit into my life to fill this void in my life. Forgive me my sins and strengthen me to live only for You. Amen.”*

