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THE ECONOMY OF
GRACE IN SEASONS
OF FRUIT-BEARING

BEING ROOTED,
ESTABLISHED AND
BEARING FRUITS

BECOMING A
MAN OF GOD

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Editor's Note

The seasons upon us are very sensitive in the spirit. God is particularly intentional about the Church bearing the fruit of the truth being communicated by the Spirit; hence the release of grace. Every tree begins as a seed sown which steadily grows by first taking root downward. The strength of every tree is in its root, and this activity is often unseen to the eyes but occurs in the soil as it taps into nutrients for its growth. In the same way, the administration of grace for our growth and establishment is invisible but can become evident over a period of time. What administers grace is the Word of grace which must be received with a kind of attitude - meekness (James 1:21) - for its profitability to appear. There is a great demand in the spirit for believers to depart from grass to become lively stones who can see and partake of the glory (salvation) of the Lord (Is.40:3-8, Luke 3:4-6, 1Peter 1:24-25; 1Peter 2:4-5). It's a season we must fight laziness and every other infirmity (Heb.12:1) that impedes our progression into the next phase of our journey in God. Our first estate is to wear Christ as a garment (Rom.13:14, Gal.3:27, 5:24, Eph.4:24) which is a level of growth that still needs to be sown to bring forth more fruit (John 15:2, 1 Cor.15:44). Even though we must possess the fruit of Christ (Charity), we must not settle at Christ because no man moves into a building with only its foundation completed, we wait for the raising of the entire building.

God wants to dwell in man and will not inhabit His foundation; He needs a completely built house (Is.66:1-2, Eph.2:20-22, 1Peter 2:4-5) with all the mysteries - Christ, the Father and God (Col.2:2) - laid in it. Our quest in this season must be to take root downward, get established, become immovable in the faith, and bear fruit in abundance (Col.2:6-7, Is.37:31, John 15:2-5, Col.1:10).

We believe there are blessings awaiting you from this edition, as God has empowered His servant and handmaiden to bring forth resources for our building. Kindly wait on these words and prayerfully meditate on them so as to partake of the fullness of the grace this edition has in store.

Till the next edition, keep building, keep growing, keep bearing fruit unto righteousness.

Peace.



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THE ECONOMY OF GRACE IN SEASONS OF FRUIT-BEARING

Grace is the force of spiritual growth. You will not be able to grow outside the supply of grace which functions in two dimensions – for your grounding and for your fruit bearing. What Jesus gives us is grace because He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14) which are the materials needed for our growth and building.

In Acts 20:32, Apostle Paul commended a whole assembly to the economy of grace, that is, the word of His grace. The grace of God is manifested in several layers; the grace of God in the Holy Ghost, the grace of God in Christ, and the grace of God in the Father. There are anti-growth forces in the air positioned to fight against the growth and building of men. Your blessings are in heavenly places and you need to be empowered to grow into them. Grace is not an excuse to sin but an empowerment against sinful natures and darkness.

All the substances in Christ are graces. Faith, hope and charity are grace operations. Grace is the vehicle of the virtues of God's life and you cannot be established in any virtue of God without grace. When grace is teaching you, you are being instructed in righteousness.

Titus 2:11-12 KJV

(11) *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*
(12) *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

Pst. Dimeji
Elugbadebo

Senior Pastor
The CityGate Church



The flesh is a force to be reckoned with here, but grace is a stronger force which helps you deny the operations of flesh, and you access grace by responding to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 KJV

(16) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

The flesh is a negative prophecy wanting to be fulfilled, but Christ is the prophecy you must ensure you fulfill. Naturally, we are programmed to fail by fulfilling negative prophecy because of the laws at work in us. However, through Jesus Christ, grace has come to reprogram man. Once a standard of God is being revealed to you and instruction comes to you, it means that there is grace to do it but what Satan does is to tell you that you cannot do or keep that instruction so as to take you out of grace. Anytime you are lacking in anything, you need grace. Grace is supplied through understanding of the revelation of righteousness.

We are in the season of the Lord's appearing and God is committed to our establishment and fruitfulness through grace (Heb.13:9). Grace is the force of establishment without which a soul cannot be rooted. To be established is to be fortified and strengthened and I believe God wants us to be established in the reality of being lively stones, that is, the way of Christ. One way of measuring Christ-likeness among a company of believers is the quality of brethren love (Col.2:6-7).

To be fruitful is to bear witness to the conversation of the knowledge you have received. It is to show the life of what you have received. Fruiting is a kind of weight you need stature to bear and grace is the facility that monitors this process. The cycle of bearing fruit is monitored by grace; you can only bear fruits by grace. This means you need to submit yourself to the tutelage of the Spirit of grace who possesses the wisdom of God's judgment that reveals His ways and makes fruitfulness become a reality in your life.

Colossians 2:6-7 KJV

(6) *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

(7) *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

You can receive Jesus and not walk in Him. You have to first receive Him by agreement with His knowledge and walk in the spirit of what was communicated in knowledge. As we walk in Him, the process of becoming rooted becomes progressive. Without walking, you cannot be rooted. We must walk in what we have received because we can receive knowledge and not walk in it. The spirit of grace helps us walk in what we have received; it strengthens and empowers the heart to do God's will. Walking is demonstrated first by being rooted, then being built up in Him and then, being established; establishment is a complete cycle of being rooted and built up in Him.

Ephesians 3:16 KJV

(16) *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

It is pertinent to note that you will not be rooted without or grounded without walking with what you have received because the ways of the Spirit are fetched out of knowledge. Knowledge is needed for the Spirit to lead you in the things you have received, the Holy Spirit then teaches you to live the life of what you have received. The Greek word for establishment is Rhizo, which is to be thoroughly grounded. Different words were used for being rooted and grounded to emphasize God's intention in establishing us. Grounded is from the Greek word themelioō, which means to be founded, stable or firm. Really, it takes time to make a soul grounded grounded and a stable soul is not easily removed from its state.

Isaiah 37:31 KJV

(31) *And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:*

Bearing fruit is a byproduct of your grounding. The last thing in the cycle of establishment is fruit bearing which means that this is tied to the strength of your salvation - how grounded you are. The word, 'bear', here suggests to me that fruit bearing is weighty. Consider the state of wheat and tares at harvest (Matt.13:27) while the former bends due to the weight of its fruit, the latter remains erect to show its lightness. In the parable of the wheat and tares, the Master asked the servants to leave both to grow as the demarcation would be clearer at harvest.

Fruit is a weight, that is, a type of glory. You will not be able to bear fruit without a foundation because your fruit bearing is directly proportional to your foundation. This means you will be deficient in fruit bearing if your foundation is not thorough, and to be fruitful is to bear witness to the conversation of the knowledge received.

We must walk in truth to be rooted, grounded and to be equipped.

Psalms 1:1-2 KJV

- (1) *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*
- (2) *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

There is a cycle and season of bearing fruit and when you become unproductive in your season, there is a problem. The essence of the word is for fruit bearing and any knowledge that does not lead to fruit bearing is a waste of time, both to us and to the Lord. Consider the case of the fig tree in Luke 13:7 and the owner's displeasure at its state of unproductivity.

Had the vinedresser not intervened, it would have been cut down (vs.8-9). We should be passionate about bearing fruits unto the Lord by responding to the administration of grace provided to us. One way to engage the laws of fruitfulness is by meditating. David in Psalms 1:2 speaks of his response to the word – delight. Delight here is a state we must all attain because it is difficult for the Word to bear fruit if we fail to give commensurate honour. A major aspect of this is that we must delight in the Word and love it to the point of bearing fruit.

As crucial as attendance at meeting is, it cannot substitute your personal walk with the Lord which is fueled by consistent delight in Him. Meditation becomes a delight when your love for the Lord grows. To meditate means to muse, regurgitate or ruminate. The process of ruminating helps in absorbing what has been given. I believe that one of the things we lack is the discipline of waiting on the word and delighting in the word. When we lack this, we will lack fruits accordingly.

Psalms 1:2 KJV

- (2) *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Day and night here shows consistency. Meditation is a heart thing; it's your heart being in a constant state of fellowship with the word. This is an attitude of a person willing to be instructed by the Spirit. Some of us still lack that personal connection with the Word which is as a result of lack of meditation. Your outcome can be predicted by the way you're living (Psm.1:3). Ask yourself, with the way you're living, can you become a tree? You cannot be a tree if you do not have roots. The tree taps water through the roots - meaning that if your roots are not going downwards, you would not be able to tap enough resources for your building. It is when you are rooted and built up that you can become a tree and bear fruits; fruit bearing is a consequence of growth. Your seasons are almost sure and they are very important in your growth cycle (Psm.1:3). When the Lord is investing in you and you are not responding, you will still arrive at the appointed season, whether you have borne fruit or not, but you will be found lacking.

Jesus was walking into Bethany one evening from Jerusalem with his disciples (Mark 11:11) and from a distance, saw a fig tree. Being hungry, he expected to find fruit judging by the abundant leaves it had even though it was not the season for it to bear fruit (Mark 11:12).

This means the Lord has expectations that you will bring forth certain things in a season and this fruit is tied to your leaves, as the activities of fruit bearing start from the leaves. When there are leaves (prayers, meetings, word, convention, conferences) on a tree, it means there is activity going on in such a tree, and there should be fruits. These spiritual activities can go on and there might be no fruit at all. The Lord does not come when we expect; He comes according to heavenly or doctrinal cycles. We need to live according to the cycles of heaven.

Mark 11:14 KJV

- (14) *And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.*

I remember one of my pastors saying about this scripture that the tree was speaking to Jesus, and that was why it was recorded that Jesus answered it.



Grace is what Apostle Paul communicated to the church through words; and they prospered in grace, which they showed by their faith and love. Graceful words are sound words; and the end of grace is to establish you.

Hebrews 13:9 KJV

(9) *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.*

The heart being established in grace is the same as being established in faith and love. You cannot remove leading from the word and when you yield to this, you are obeying faith. One of the things that milk faith does, is to help you to put your faith in the unseen to receive things that later materialise. The training is teaching you how to depend on God, and the purpose of faith training is not what you get but what you become (Heb.11:1-2). The annals of faith here are more of what men were transformed to (their change) by the reason of their faith. Whatever is graceful is sound or thorough. Jesus is sound because He is full of grace (2Tim.1:13).

Colossians 1:4-5 KJV

(4) *Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,*
(5) *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;*

The truth here is Milk and even in this Milk teaching, they were seeing the hope. The apostles could be entrusted with the Milk allocation because they interacted with the Lord who had Everlasting life while He walked the earth; you could not have fellowshipped with Jesus and not be accurate.

I believe that we will be able to see 'Milk' better in everlasting light. As we grow up, restoration will be ongoing; they will be making us more sound, filling up things that are lacking in our building. Jesus, while teaching everlasting words, had other levels of truth - Christ and Milk - in Him because He had stature.

Any time you are receiving truth, you are receiving grace - grace stretches out truth. Truth is the lubrication of grace; truth is life, the spirit of grace. It is obvious what Apostle Paul was looking to see is truth (Col.1:6). Knowing the grace of God in truth is what is responsible for fruitfulness. God wants us to know the grace of God in truth.

1 Timothy 1:14 KJV

(14) *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

One way the tree spoke was through the many leaves it bore without fruits. We are also saying something in the Spirit when there is so much activity going on in our lives and we are not bearing fruits.

Colossians 1:9 KJV

(9) *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

There is a high sense of fruitfulness in the epistles - the Lord kept telling me to have this kind of sense the apostles had in building. The apostles had knowledge, kept it, and dispensed each allocation of knowledge for the church to bear fruit with it.

Colossians 1:3-4 KJV

(3) *We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*
(4) *Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,*

Fruit bearing is measured in your conversation, which is your measure of faith and love. Paul could measure that this church had a measure of faith and love in the Holy Ghost. They were prospering in faith and love life which are also operations of grace.

1 Timothy 1:14 KJV

(14) *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 1:7-8 KJV

- (7) *As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;*
(8) *Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.*

Life in the Spirit is love; this church came into a measure of love in the Holy Ghost. The measurement of fruitfulness is not measured by our ability to share or articulate doctrine. What is used as a measurement is our conversation. Love in the spirit is a measure of love life among the brethren. A soul can be playing amidst the community and not have a sense of fruit bearing. This community is not a ground for playing ourselves away. You have to pay attention to let the Lord walk through you. If you do not use knowledge to get life, the knowledge will still be there such that if you leave these waters, you will not be able to submit anywhere, because of what you already know. Knowledge is good but life, which is fruit, is much better. We should use knowledge to bear fruit; the end product of every word is fruit bearing.

Colossians 1:9-10 KJV

- (9) *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*
(10) *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

There is will and there is knowledge; but you cannot come into the former without knowledge. Will is spirit, which is testament, prophecy. But knowledge is needed and more than knowledge, you need to break into obedience. Wisdom and understanding are the spirit dimensions of the will. You cannot be a will doer if you are not wise or if you lack understanding. Understanding is a spirit and it does not just come upon men; hence you cannot quickly make an assumption of yourself or rate yourself highly. It is mercy when they reveal who you are to you. The soul is naturally inclined to worship, so, we should avoid men-worship. Worship God and honour ministers.

When light shines, you will see the way you are so you can grow, be established and be thorough. When issues of life show you who you are, it shows you are not good enough. Do not condemn yourself, rather ask for mercy and repent. Let God show you how to live above those things because God wants to take you to a point where you are fortified.



WAR AGAINST LAZINESS

Laziness is a disease that must be treated. It is a burglar that creeps in to steal life and renders a soul unproductive. People often say they are trusting God and do nothing through the waiting process; trusting the Lord is not synonymous to idleness. When you trust the Lord, you are waiting for direction on what to do or what step to take; it is not a state of idleness.

This means that even when you are inactive in the natural, you are alert in the spirit, meditating to receive the counsel or respond to the movement of the Lord to determine what to do. Waiting is to eliminate any atom of distraction so as to gain more attention from the Lord concerning a matter instead of worrying. The state of trusting the Lord is what handles cares (Phil.4:6). Being careful for nothing does not mean being careless or being ineffective. Laziness manifests in every shade. Not being able to consistently follow to the end on a path the Lord leads you is laziness.

Proverbs 10:26 KJV

- (26) *As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.*

Anything that makes you not finish what the Lord lays in your heart is laziness. Satan stands in the excuses we give. If you are lazy, you cannot bear fruit (Prov.12:24, 27). If you are someone who lacks the ability to initiative when there is a task at hand and have to wait for people to tell you what to do, you are lazy.

When you have to be coerced or instructed to pray or you have to be told to study the word, you are a child; laziness is described in the abortion of a cycle. Anytime you don't finish what you are supposed to do, the problem is laziness. That is why doing house chores is good for the soul; it helps in culturing discipline. Diligence is doing the right thing at the right time.

Hebrews 11:6 KJV

(6) *But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Blessings follow diligence. What kills the flesh is diligence; it is a training to do the right thing at the right time. When you are blessed, you inherit a nature; blessing is not what you have, it is who you become. To receive this blessing, there is a manner to seek God – diligently.

Proverbs 13:4 KJV

(4) *The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.*

The difference between laziness and diligence is engaging a process. Talent is never enough, what makes you successful is diligence. God can anoint you but if He loves you, He will first subject you to processes that can build your character so that the anointing will be sustained (Prov.15:19 AMP). Another word for a lazy man is a hater of work and such cannot carry out works (obedience) in the spirit. There are works to do in handling the inheritance; without obeying commandments, there will be no reward.

Prov 19:24 (NKJV)

(24) *A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.*

Laziness is worse than a plague; you must hate laziness. Laziness gives excuses for everything and makes you fail to plow (Prov. 20:4). The New Testament abhors laziness. The cycle of sustenance on earth is seed sowing and expectation of a harvest (Prov.21:25). A lazy man gives tenable excuses (Prov.22:13). You should always look for how things can work and not conclude in your heart that they cannot be achieved.

Proverbs 26:14 KJV

(14) *As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.*

May you not be sleeping when you should be praying. We all are lazy somewhere in one area of our lives. The degree to which you are lazy is the degree you can't bear fruit (Prov.26:16). A lazy man finishes tasks in his mind and can never go out of his comfort zone. Laziness is a door to poverty (Prov.6:6-8,11). Unfruitfulness is failure to maximize the grace communicated to you in a season and this results in poverty. To be fruitful, you must fight laziness and be determined not to allow it rule over you.

TRIBULATION, A KEY TO FRUITBEARING

Fruit bearing is a warfare against spirits. Your growth pulls down spirits in the air. What grace does is to empower you to walk against the things designed to hinder your growth spiritually. There is an arrangement against our consistent walk in the spirit and this is why we often hear more than we do the things spoken. We must be aware of the warfare targeted against our growth in order to make quality use of grace to bear fruits.

Grace is an enabler to walk in truth and an empowerment to do God's will beyond what you will do by yourself. Grace is a supernatural flow of access to a life in God that causes you to bear fruits. Grace has substances in it that are the wisdom of fruit bearing. You need to know how to bear fruits; you cannot know 'what' and not know 'how'; there is a 'how' to fruit bearing that is attached to grace. Grace empowers you with the wisdom to walk in the way of Christ.

Without grace, you will not be able to bear fruit after God's kind. Evil spirits can stop the process of converting knowledge to fruit bearing in you. They can also stop a minister from preaching the truth or stop people from hearing the truth.

Beyond just communicating knowledge, we need the spirit of grace to communicate wisdom. Grace is wisdom and wisdom is a fruit, and a substance of grace.

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Luke 2:40 KJV

(40) *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*

A soul bearing fruits has the grace of Jesus Christ. The 'spirit' there is spiritual life; it is the soul state of Jesus. Grace is strength and you cannot have strength until grace energizes your soul. Jesus grew from the energy of God's grace upon Him. The full circle of fruiting is being rooted and grounded and then built up.

Matthew 13:21 KJV

(21) *Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

Tribulation is a normal part of the process of growth; it is a proof that you have a seed in you. This process is what breaks dormancy in the seed so as to bear fruit. In the parable of the sower, those whose depth were shallow became offended because of tribulation instead of making them grow. If you are not rooted and grounded, tribulation will make you offended.

Faith cannot be used in a vacuum; it grows when there is a challenge. There is no promotion without pressure and no fruitfulness without tribulation; you cannot walk in love if there is no opportunity to hate. The hope of the seed (the word we are hearing) attracts tribulation and that is why some people who cannot bear the tribulation throw away the seed. Endure your processes and allow the thoroughness of the Spirit in making the seed grow into fruit bearing.

Christ is a hope, the Father is a hope, God is 'the' hope. Another way to put this is that Christ is a promise, the Father is a higher promise, and God is 'the' Promise. If they are all promises, it means they are preached to us as a hope.

Romans 8:24-25 KJV

(24) *For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*
(25) *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

Once you have seen a hope, you have inherited it and it is then no longer hope but a life. To see a hope is to handle it; once it becomes life, it is no longer hope. Patience is the character of Faith that makes you committed to the promise to the end. Patience means endurance, without which you will not finish the cycle of faith. Faith alone is not enough to inherit the promise; it must birth patience for you to inherit the promise.

James 1:3-4 KJV

(3) *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

(4) *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Many people do not have patience and are quick to seek alternatives under pressure. If God loves you, He will shut all other alternatives so that you can rely on Him only. God knows how to put conditions around you to make you keep seeking Him.

James 1:2-3 KJV

(2) *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

(3) *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

The only way you can count temptations as 'all joy' is when you are seeing something (hope). Faith is not tried until hope is being engaged and it is when you have hope that faith is tried. Joy is born when hope is seen and faith strengthens joy. Joy grows as faith grows and then you can rejoice in hope; Abraham believed in hope, he believed in the promises that hope communicated and because of this, he grew in joy. Your joy level is attached to your state, as you are growing in faith, the hope gets clearer.

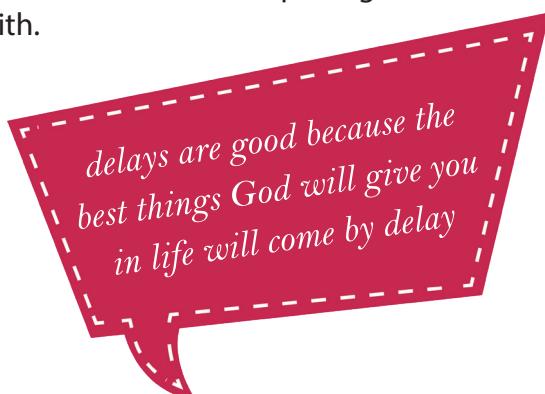
James 1:4-5 KJV

(4) *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

(5) *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

Faith must produce patience if it will give you the promise; it takes finishing faith to have patience. Patience is a character of love. When you have patience, you are a lover and you need patience to inherit the promise. The purpose of the trying faith is to work out patience; patience is a work and a nature, it is a character inside you that will ensure that you are committed to the process of faith.

Patience is long and that is why delays are good because the best things God will give you in life will come by delay and this is how everlasting things are produced in you. God is a God of process; heaven and earth is a work of patience. Some believe their delay is a work of witches and household wickedness, but it could actually be from God or due to ignorance of what to do in a season. It takes judgement to know this. Patience is what makes you complete the cycle of faith; it is the character to endure trials of faith. Without faith, you will back down. Challenges are sometimes proof that you are on the right path. Doing the will of God is demonstrated in your trial of faith or obedience to faith. You will not receive the promise without completing the trials of your faith.



LOVE AND CHARITY

Every love has its charity and charity is love amidst brethren. Love is vertical, while charity is horizontal. For each stage of truth and each level of spiritual growth, there is a love demand or measurement which increases and changes as growth occurs. As your love grows, your charity expands. Your love to God is measured by your charity toward your brethren.

Ephesians 3:18 KJV

(18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

The love of a truth is the fruit of that truth; love is like a harvest of the seed of truth sown. That is why Paul said the 'fruit' of the spirit 'is'; meaning all the fruits are comprised in love.

Galatians 5:22 KJV

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Fruit is a profiting of spiritual life. There is the fruit of spiritual life and the fruit of incorruptible life. Galatians is an epistle of Christ life. When you have love, you have peace and you have joy. If you are always moody, you don't have love. To be in love is to be in the Spirit. Anytime you are in love, you have joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith. Many misinterpret love as romance; but that is not the measurement of love. A man at peace is a lover; such is always in constant joy where nothing ruffles him.

Anyone in joy also has faith and believes God in all circumstances. The life of faith is cultivated by consistent obedience to God. A man of faith does not doubt or panic. Love is the fruit of every truth and when you are in the love of a truth, you are bearing the fruit of that truth. There is a love of Christ that passes knowledge, and that love is a way. Love is a way and not just a precept.

Ephesians 3:19 KJV

(19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Charity is a way; faith, hope and love are all ways and they will first come to us as precepts and then later as ways. We have received charity before as precepts, but as Paul said, there is a more excellent way, which is love. Charity is the demonstration of the love of Christ amongst brethren, while fervent charity is a purer and deeper form of love. In the realm of the Father, there is also faith, hope, and charity; all the mysteries of the kingdom have their own faith, hope, and love.



BEING ROOTED, ESTABLISHED AND BEARING FRUITS

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Our spiritual journey is a long one. This journey can be likened to someone going on an adventure to find the cure for a disease or like a quest to lay hold on God. We need to journey with God until we lay hold on Him. Even though it is a long quest that mercy has to cut short in righteousness, we are persuaded that we shall attain unto this hope. May the Lord bless our lifetime with mercy to lay hold on Him.

There are different phases and points in our journey, and at each juncture, God wants to see fruitfulness in us. We cannot be fruitful except we are first established, and when God is talking about establishment, it is because there is a storm coming. When you are not established, it means you can be blown off by the storm; establishment is like sealing you against a coming tide. Establishment is both bearing fruit and bearing fruit abundantly. It is coming into abundant fruitfulness where nothing can move you away. A sign that you are established is that even in changing times and seasons, you can remain.

Colossians 2:6-7 KJV

- (6) *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*
(7) *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

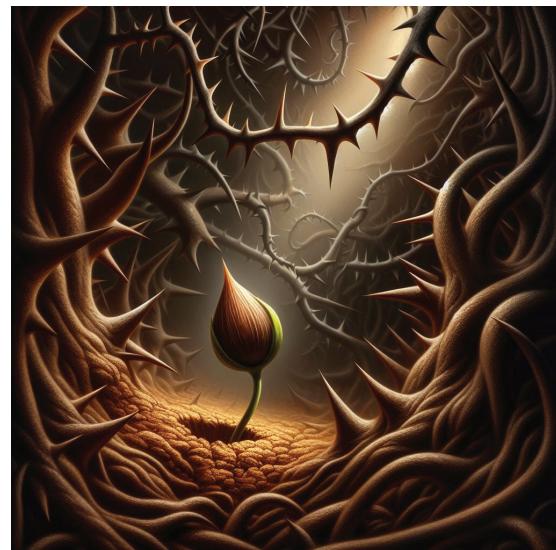
It is not enough to walk in Him, you must also be rooted in Him. It is possible to have received teachings and walked in them but God wants men to become rooted in those things in order to keep them. There are stages in our growth: first, we begin by taking root downward; next, we respond to growth by being built up and then, we become established. After this phase of establishment, we must then abound in life. The things of Jesus should not be scarce in our lives. We cannot become saviours when the things of God are sparse in us, it is when these things begin to grow and abound that we qualify to become saviours. Let's consider the experience of Israel as the Lord brought them out of the land of captivity to plant them in their own land.

Psalms 80:8-9 KJV

- (8) *Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.*
(9) *Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.*
(10) *The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.*

We must establish that planting is a level of root, but taking deep root is another level that makes a tree become mighty. What happened when God took Israel from the land of Egypt as captured in this scripture was a level of separation which involved casting out of nations. Nations are natures, just as the Lord told Rebecca that she had two nations in her womb (Gen.25:23); nations are natures we carry in us.

THINGS THAT CHOKE THE WORD



There are natures that can prevent being established and God must deal with these natures before we can be rooted. Note that God had to first uproot the nations before Israel before planting and establishing them in those lands. They grew and increased because God made room for them; however, as they grew, they engaged themselves in abominable things that choked them.

These can be likened to thorns and thistles (Luke 8:14) which choke the Word of God from bearing fruit. There are several things that choke the word.

Cares and riches of this life are subtle weapons of Satan to hinder fruit bearing. When you have riches that God does not desire you possess at a certain stage of life, they will choke the seed of God in you. Also, being anxious for things like rent, school fees, marriage, career, business, health, etc. will choke the Word.

Care is an enemy that weighs a soul down and hinders the soul from seeking God. The solution to care is to put your eyes on God and cast all your care on Him for He cares for you (1 Pt.5:7).

Avoid steps that will bring you into unpleasant situations. All open doors are not God-ordained doors; you must be discerning to know what to take and what to refuse (remember Moses in Egypt - Heb.11:24-26).

Pleasures of life can also choke the Word in you. A sign that you are in Zion is that your heart keeps panting and desiring for more of God; you must not be content or satisfied with where you are in your journey with God. The pleasures of life can make you want to settle in vanity (see the parable of the man who made a huge harvest – Luke 12:16-20). In the midst of physical abundance, there must be constant dissatisfaction in your heart to attain fruitfulness. The Bible said woe to them that are at ease in Zion (Amos 6:1); a heart at ease cannot come into fruitfulness. You must learn to put your eyes on God and still seek Him in the midst of the challenges and abundance, which can even be more difficult to manage.

Whenever a vine tree brings forth its fruits and the husbandman wants more fruits, what he does is to dig around it.

Luke 13:8 KJV

(8) And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

Preparing room for a root to expand includes breaking the ground around the root to remove stones. The stones depict hardness of heart which prevents the Word from permeating the heart. Hardness of heart was one of the major things that hindered the children of Israel from entering the promised land.

Proverbs 29:1 KJV

(1) He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

When you are obstinate, it becomes difficult for both man and God to reach you. Hardness of heart is caused by deep-seated idols (natures that are deep seated and rigid). Do not say that ‘this is who I am’ because that is not who God is in you. Some hard natures and standards are transgenerational and must be broken before fruitfulness can occur.

A major way to attain fruitfulness is by laying down your life, serving God and the brethren because if you cannot bear the people of God, you cannot bear God. When you have self-love, there is a limit you can go for the brethren.

Self-love is going any length for yourself but not for God. Anyone that does not love God cannot go far with Him, only those who are dead to themselves can serve Him. The gospel prospers on people’s sacrifice, and it thrives on the blood of men, people laying down their life.

We must love God to the point where there is nothing we cannot sacrifice for Him. Make decisions on how you want to serve God this year.

For instance, personal devotion is not outdated. Set the time you want to spend with God in prayer, in studying the word, and in service to Him.

Psalms 80:10 KJV

(10) The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.

When room is prepared, it allows the plant to take deep roots. There are many shallow Christians today that have no depth in God and this becomes evident when challenges come.

WEARING CHRIST AS A GARMENT

Christ is a garment and the peak of His garment is charity. We cannot talk about charity in a vacuum because it is not abstract but a reality that plays out in our relationships (marriage, saints, brethren, workplace, among others). Many times, we do not know we are in darkness until light shines. It is this light that empowers us to make adjustments in areas where we had previously failed to notice.

Christ is one way to judge spirituality, how Spirit-governed a person can be. One way to judge people is not by what they do but by how charitable the person is. How much work of charity has been done in the soul? Charity is like a plumb line that can be used to judge our spirituality. We often judge the Corinthian church as carnal but we do not share similar evaluation of ourselves. We must know that as long as we are lacking charity, we are not spiritual.

Galatians 4:19 KJV

(19) My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Paul had labored in this assembly and it is clear that he is coming into another labour again to see that Christ is formed in this church. We must bless God for the breakthrough in everlasting light because this is bringing clarity to the economy of grace in the understanding of Christ; we are seeing the realm of Christ more. I believe the reason for this breakthrough is for us to perfect the life in Christ and move up into 'all things' of God.

Christ sanctifies, that is, learning Christ sanctifies and cleanses us. Those who think they need no cleansing do not know Christ. He is the first activity that works sanctification and cleansing in the soul. You cannot put off old things by self-will. Learning Christ empowers you to put off old nature (things that are not in Christ). The first thing they will do when you are learning Christ is to put off the old man; they will first uproot before building a new (Luke 5:37-38). After you have done Christ, you can now begin to learn God's things. One way to lay hold of Christ is to respond to Him as He begins with washing your feet.

John 13:8 KJV

(8) Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

Christ has to wash and cleanse us to take things away. One major thing they do to our soul when we are added to church is to wash us, it is the only way to become active in the life of Christ. You can be "with Him" but not "in Him". What makes you have part 'in Him' is washing. God washes us through His word. A believer that jokes with the word cannot be cleansed. You cannot be a man of charity if they have not cleansed you.

1 Peter 1:22 KJV

(22) Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

It is after you have been purified that you can love other people fervently. When you are cleansed, you are said to have put on Christ. This state becomes a foundation for the next allocation where you move into fervent love with the brethren. You cannot love fervently if you have not completed the course in Christ.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARRIED MEN

The first thing that should be at the back of your mind when choosing a spouse is to know what God has in mind for you as a person, that is, what life He wants you to inherit. There is a way you can live with a woman that can make you have a closed heaven. You cannot afford to joke with your relationship with your wife, marriage can take you to hell or even lake of fire. You should not dwell with them as with the traditions of men or of your family.

Genesis 2:24 KJV

(24) *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

Some men will marry and will not leave their father and mother. If you plan to marry as a man, count the cost and ask yourself if you are ready to pay the price. If you cannot, stay single. You need to check in your home how much you are joined to your wife, in understanding, in mindset, in belief, both spiritually and physically. If your parents still control what happens in your home, you have not obeyed this commandment.

Joining also applies to money, a man can make a woman a devil. You can turn your wife into a devil because of your actions and decisions. If you are the only one earning and your wife is not, don't punish her with resources, you own that money together because you are one. Don't be stingy as a man, rather live with understanding with her, be sensitive to the needs of your wife. As a man, watch out for things you do that affects her. Do not claim you are skilled at knowing your wife's preferences or challenges; still ask her what are the things you can do to make her happy; that is how to live with understanding.

If you are a selfish person, you have no business getting married. Marriage is about service, you don't honour a woman because of the salary she is bringing, but because God said so. Don't honour her because she is spiritual, honour her because it is God's will. Even when she dishonours you, honour her, that is living with her in understanding.

Sometimes, you have to be merciful, you need to put yourself in other people's shoes, give honour to your wife, imagine if you have a female boss at work, how would you treat her? Help her carry her bags, let her feel special, when you are doing that, your heaven will be opened and you can attract God's blessing because you are obeying Him. When a woman is answering you with monosyllables, you should know that you have hurt her; don't gloss over it and assume it is not important; dwell with her in understanding. Be involved in your wife's success – career, business, professional development, etc.

Ephesians 5:25-26 KJV

(25) *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

(26) *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

Love your wife as yourself. Never join in discussions that ridicule women or conversations that peddle world standards about women. Giving yourself includes throwing away your ego. Apologize even when you don't know what you have done, and apologise when you know you are right and she is wrong. Your motivation should be to sanctify and cleanse her just as Christ does for and to us.

Ephesians 5:27-28 KJV

(27) *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

(28) *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

Don't say your wife is not spiritual, rather, help her, give yourself to her, give your time and comfort to make sure she is cleansed and sanctified. If a woman takes up your name, in five years' time, she should have become glorious and Christ-like. A woman comes to your house with spots, wrinkles and blemishes, but part of your duty as a man is to wash and cleanse her. That is why as a woman, you cannot put your head under just any man; marry a man that knows how to access water to wash you.

Ephesians 5:29 KJV

(29) *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

A man should nourish the wife both spiritually and naturally with prayer, love, patience, etc.

Give her enough time for the word to have an impact. Don't say you married wrongly; cherish her and thank God for her; she is a gift to you. When you wake in the morning, thank God for her; thank God for trusting you with a soul. It is a good thing to find a wife and you must be grateful for this.

Proverbs 18:22 KJV

(22) *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

God is giving us a new slate; men must turn a new leaf in the way they relate with their women. If you don't know how to nourish a woman with the little you have, how will God bless you with more? Live with your wife as one with respect to your finances. If a woman is keeping a separate purse, though she is not justified to do that, we need to question the man, and ask if he is one with his wife in his finances. Don't justify your spending and turn down your wife's request. When you are compassionate to yourself, ensure you extend the same benevolence to your wife too. As a man serve your children and your wife, let your children see you serve their mother, when they grow up they will do the same.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARRIED WOMEN

When Apostle Peter wrote to the churches in 1Pt.3:1-5, he wasn't writing to unbelievers but to believers. This scripture implies that even when your husband is acting wrongly to you, it is not an excuse for you to retaliate. There is a way a woman should conduct and adorn herself; it does not mean you should not put on good apparel but that you should not focus on external adornment at the expense of weightier matters (meek and a quiet spirit) that are priceless in God's sight. Submission is adornment.

1 Peter 3:6 KJV

(6) *Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*

Every man wants a sweet woman. When you are a sweet woman (with good character), you become a place of succour to your husband. It is beautiful for a woman to be sweet and tender at heart, not a brawler. No man wants his wife to always point out his flaws or object to their opinion consistently.

One of the things that God will do for you as you mature in the faith is to know when to apply the brake. The love language of a man is beyond good looks and sex; being submissive to your husband is in letting go of your opinion for his to stand. When you tell your husband this is how things should be and he refuses, submit and pray about the issue, he may come back to say that you are right.

As a wife, it is dishonourable to walk out on your husband or fail to have a discussion with him for things to be resolved especially when he is requesting for that. In cases when you have a divergent opinion from his, calmly express your views and if he fails to see from that lens, lay it down and you can raise it after some days. Women should be sweet in words and in character. It is good to be sweet, there is nothing beautiful about being cantankerous. Rather than being cantankerous, be patient with him until he changes; Satan can set you up with things that make you lose life. By the time you start praying, you will have grace to bear things. Be merciful and excuse your spouse, don't speak rudely to your husband.

1 Peter 3:5-6 KJV

(5) *For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:*

(6) *Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*

It takes a conscious effort not to fall into the sin of dishonour against your husband.

Proverbs 31:11 KJV

(11) *The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

Position yourself in a way your husband can easily share his joy and challenges with you. If you are not tender, you will irritate him. Pray about your state and ask God to help you. Serve your husband with everything you have, make him happy and comfortable. Serving your husband and brethren is a secret to abundance, you will not have to struggle to get things done. Sickness will be far away from you if you honour and serve your husband in the fear of God. Don't just take money from him, offer to help in his work, career, business; chiefly, help your husband to serve the Lord. Men don't like staying under but you can help your husband to always stay under spiritual authority. Tell him when he needs to give more attention to the Lord. Push your husband to be influenced by people who can make him grow. With you by his side, your husband should prosper in the things of God.



BECOMING A MAN OF GOD

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A man that has not been built up is still flesh. We all journeyed into flesh as we trafficked with the law of sin and death (Isaiah 40:6). No one is born spiritual. The new birth is what allows God to change the state of our souls; it is the beginning of the programme of salvation in man. The glory of flesh is a fading flower, and both are all corruptible.

The word of the Lord is the word of incorruption (1 Peter 1:25). The everlasting gospel has a forerunner - the gospel of Christ. This word of incorruption cannot be preached to flesh; sanctification is what can be preached to flesh.

Isaiah 40:3-4 KJV

- (3) *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*
(4) *Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:*

Salvation is a work that begins in the way and peaks in the highway. This way is not literal; they have to work a highway in you for salvation to be revealed.

Isaiah 40:5-6 KJV

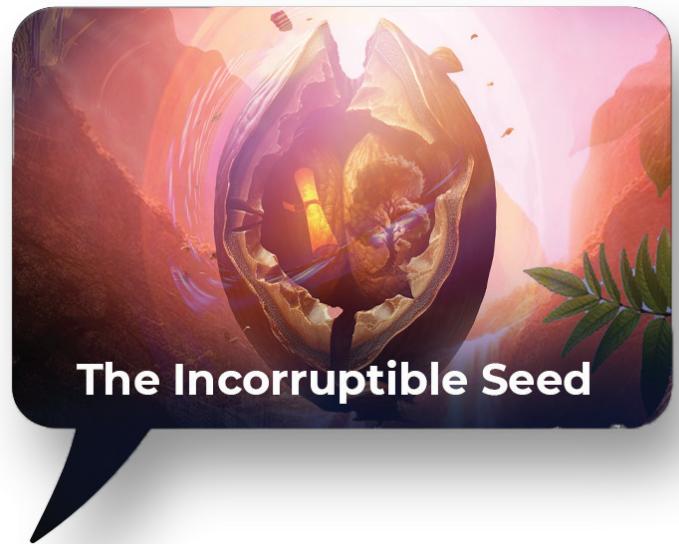
- (5) *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*
(6) *The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:*

The glory of the Lord is the salvation of the Lord. The purpose of the teaching of Christ is to prepare a way for the God of glory. Salvation is the appearance of the God of glory.

1 Corinthians 13:8 KJV

- (8) *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

God wants to gradually bring us into the unfailing order and charity is the beginning of the unfailing order. Charity is an empowerment to take the incorruptible garment. The commandment given to the daughter of Zion is to be fervent in charity (heated charity).



The Incorrputible Seed

1 Peter 1:22 KJV

- (22) *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

Isaiah 40:7-8 KJV

- (7) *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.*
(8) *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

The purpose of the Word of God is to make you stand forever.

1 Peter 2:1-2 KJV

- (1) *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*
(2) *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

God's intention is to make man abide forever (not living forever). This is for man to arrive at a state in the soul where he has acquired the nature of God's life, which is incorruptible, undefiled and unfading (1 Peter 1:4). To live forever is not the same as being incorruptible; the incorruptible seed must first germinate in you.

Malice, guile, hypocrisies are things that will not make us abide forever; they stop us from journeying into incorruption. These have to be laid aside to complete our journey into corruption.

1 Peter 2:4 KJV

- (4) *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious*

We cannot be fully presented as a lively stone centre if we have not put on the full garment of Christ as charity. Putting on the garments of Christ comes in seasons.

1 Corinthians 13:13 KJV

(13) *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

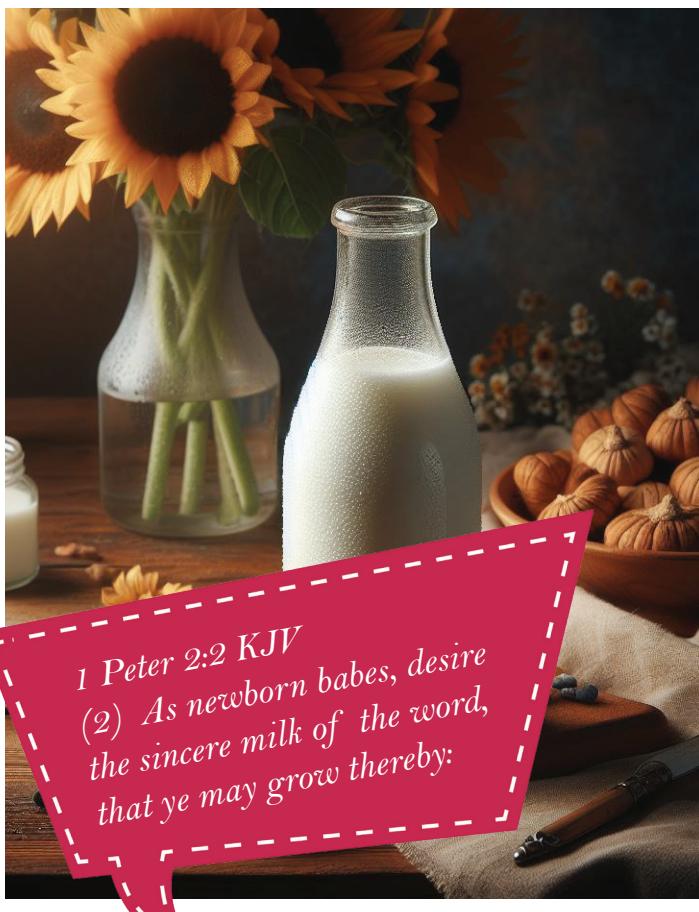
There are different seasons of birth in the world of Christ. You can hear the word of everlasting life but it would not be profitable in you until you fully become Christ. Hearing here is to make you hasten your Christ formation.

1 Peter 2:1 KJV

(1) *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*

The purpose of the incorruptible meal is to make sure that we lay aside all the vices stated in this scripture.

Malice is from the Greek word 'kakia', which means malignity, desire (tendency) to injure, ill-will (the tendency not to wish your brother well). To be malicious is an energy; a sin of the heart.



New born babes of God do not know how to injure or malign people. Guile is from the Greek word 'dolos' meaning trick, decoy, wile, deceit, subtility. As you are coming into the day of salvation, these works must have been done away with in the soul. Hypocrisy is from the Greek word 'hypokrisis'. It means a stage play or an act. It is possible to act love, but this is not the same as having love in the heart. Love is a nature; not an act, it is also a work by the laws of God. To be a hypocrisy is a level of deceit. God does not want us to act like we love each other; He wants us to love one another. Circumstances will come to prove, try and expose our infirmities. In such situations, we should be sincere to know we need help. This will work out strength in us to handle circumstances. Our love will always be tested, hence we must live out these commandments.

As babes of God, there are certain things that we must put aside to make us eligible for incorruption. The teaching of Christ breaks into incorruption, and that is where sins in the Holy Place are dealt with. When the God of glory appears, He does not want to see envy, malice, hypocrisy because we should have mastered charity.

Charity is the fruit of life amidst the brethren. To a measure, charity is unfeigned and sincere; at this stage, they would have seared sins that are against charity amidst the brethren. What makes brethren not open to one another is sin.

Guile is like bile in chickens which is usually bitter. When they treat this in us, we can get to a state where we can never be offended. There is no charity soul that will not be progressive.

Revelation 2:4-5 KJV

(4) *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

(5) *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

Churches found wanting in the Most Holy had a faulty Christ formation, hence they could not make progress and were asked to go back.

The foundation for first love is charity. Once your charity is faulty, there will be gaps in your journey in the everlasting curriculum.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 KJV

- (4) *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*
- (5) *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*
- (6) *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*
- (7) *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

Charity here is a man; it is the conversation and reality of certain kind of men. There are laws built in you that can make you be like this.

1 Peter 2:1 KJV

- (1) *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*

A charity man can put these off because a work has been done in him. All expressions in 1 Corinthians 13 are fruits of a life.

Envy means feeling ill-will, negative energy, conveying displeasure at another's good. These things happen without our permission, manifesting against even scripture confessions sometimes but we can live against them based on the template of truth we are receiving.

These are the fruits of the old man, operating via laws. The commandments of Christ go after these laws; it cripples them and makes you unable to do such things again because you have a new law at work in you. Satan will still come and tempt you but you have to get to a point that you can naturally work against those laws.

Ezekiel 36:26 KJV

- (26) *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

When the law is written in the heart, what you automatically get is the product of the law.

Satan can use any temptation to try you at any stage. When David sinned the sin of Bathsheba, he was not young but in his fifties. Satan will try and try you till you are totally free from his grip.

Job 1:8 KJV

- (8) *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

Temptations are to make you know your state; they are not to make you fall into condemnation. Your flaw should make you run to God hoping to receive mercy for transformation. Evil speaking is from the Greek word; *Katalalia* meaning defamation, backbiting, evil speaking, detraction, slander. These are things we do without thinking - our filthy natures that would not make the incorruptible seed to grow. Therefore souls like these cannot come to receive the blessing of salvation.

It will take the preaching of everlasting life to finish your course as a spiritual man. You will not see all the lines of Christ, until you start hearing the teaching of everlasting life.

Psalm 19:12-13 KJV

- (12) *Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.*
- (13) *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.*

Even you cannot understand your errors and shortcomings; you therefore need to pray to God to search you.

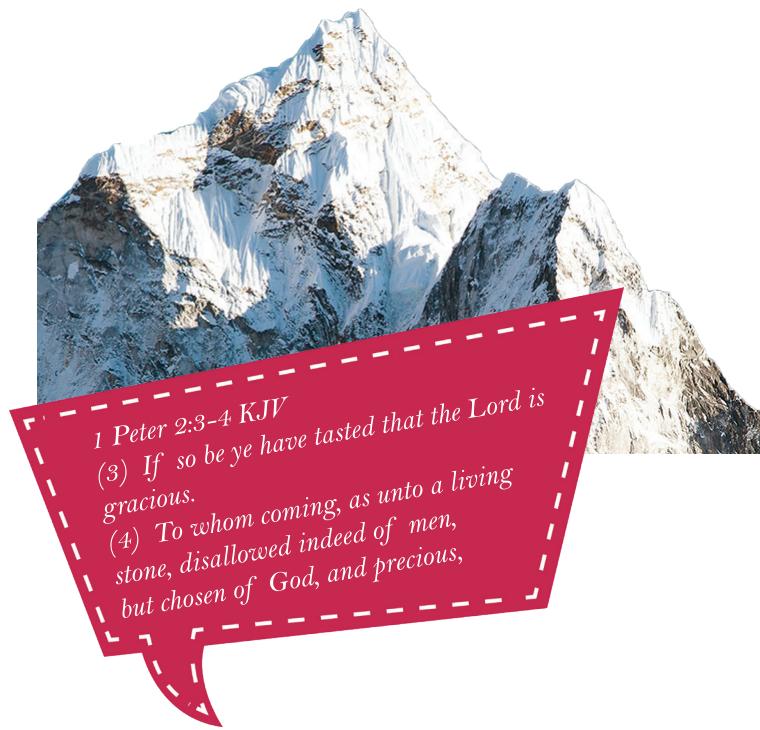
1 Peter 2:2-3 KJV

- (2) *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*
- (3) *If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

You have to first taste before you come into sight. You first taste the Milk of the Word of God which is a teaching that empowers you to see.

Psalm 34:8 KJV

- (8) *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*



*1 Peter 2:3-4 KJV
 (3) If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
 (4) To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,*

1 Peter 2:4-5 KJV

- (4) *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,*
- (5) *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

Holy priesthood is what the journey in the sanctuary produces; the last stage of this is becoming a peculiar people. To be a 'peculiar people' means having received the inheritance of the incorruptible. A lively stone assembly is a holy priesthood and in this realm, natures of 1 Peter 2:1 cannot be found.

1 Peter 1:22 KJV

- (22) *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

Fervent love is supposed to generate the energy for the incorruptible seed to grow.

1 Peter 4:7 KJV

- (7) *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

Charity has no suspicions or fear; these are things fully dealt with in the conversation of charity.

2 Peter 1:3 KJV

- (3) *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

1 Peter 4:8-9 KJV

- (8) *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*
- (9) *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

All things of Christ peak in charity. Charity is a stature that houses the things of Christ. Fervent charity is supposed to be a purgant that deals with all kinds of hidden sins that cannot be taken care of in the sanctuary.

The Lord here is the everlasting God that wants to come to lively stone as a living stone. The purpose of tasting this Milk is so that you can put off all forms of darkness that can inhibit the program of incorruption. These people are not new converts.

1 Peter 2:5 KJV

- (5) *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

Many of these people are already wearing Charity garments. This sacrifice is the only offering that God takes from Zion.

Romans 12:1 KJV

- (1) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

This is not limited to your physical body alone, but your soul is a type of a body to your soul. How your soul is determines how well you are in the spirit. To offer a living sacrifice, you must first be holy and acceptable - that is, fully Christ. To be a living sacrifice, the Lord must appear to you as a living stone. Here, the Lord expects the church to have perfected charity.

1 Corinthians 13:1 KJV

(1) *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

When you invest in charity, you are investing rightly. We rate ministers most times according to the level of their anointing instead of rating them after charity. One can know all kinds of mysteries and not know the mystery. Understanding the mystery of Christ is becoming a man of charity.

1 Corinthians 13:2 KJV

(2) *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

It is possible that you can move mountains, but you cannot move hatred. It is possible for someone to have overcome the fear of physical death and still not have charity. Charity is the beginning of being something in the eyes of God. Nothing you have in the natural can amount to anything before God.

1 Corinthians 13:3-4 KJV

(3) *And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

(4) *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

A man can go as far as physical martyrdom and still not have the life of charity. Not envying or vaunting is a product of a nature of charity. The law of charity restrains you in places where you are supposed to show yourself or vaunt; it makes you live less than who you are.

1 Corinthians 13:5 KJV

(5) *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*

Charity is a level of stone; a precious cornerstone and that is why such can endure and still be kind. Charity is a form of richness in a soul that makes it forebear people and remain kind even when such persons do not deserve it.

In a company of people in a house, just one person who has become Christ is enough to bear witness to life by bearing others without grumbling.

Philippians 2:14 KJV

(14) *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

At this point, sacrifice has become a second nature.

Matthew 5:41 KJV

(41) *And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*

Natural love is not dependable hence brethren life is a good preparation for marriage. If you struggle to love your brethren, you will struggle with marriage. Divorces today are mostly because of the nature of men. You can build a predictable nature of love, through brethren love. When you do brethren love well, you are building capacity to love your spouse, especially when you can serve well.

1 Corinthians 13:6-7 KJV

(6) *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*
(7) *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

Many ministers cannot keep quiet when they are attacked - they have a sense of recompense. I remember Bishop Oyedepo said at a time that it takes two to fight; that's high wisdom. A charity man will not be offended even when the premise of offence is created.

1 Peter 2:23 KJV

(23) *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

Can you die to what people think or feel about you? That is the figure that Jesus took for us - our sinner identity. Even in times when we do not verbally defend ourselves when wrongly accused, we still have temptations to complain and grumble on the inside.

Acts 8:32 KJV

(32) *The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:*

1 Corinthians 13:7 KJV

(7) *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

'Bearing' here is how Jesus related with Judas; I believe our Lord Jesus fought for Judas till the end, if there was a need, He could have died for him.

1 Corinthians 13:8 KJV

(8) *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

A charity man is higher than a prophetic man. To be in charity is to operate a higher law of prophecy. Charity is a kind of prophecy you enter to come into the never failing order. In our realm, prophecies fail. It takes growth to perfect the laws of charity. A charity man secures himself in the will of God. When you are walking in love, you are living in a realm higher than prophecies.

Isaiah 38:1 KJV

(1) *In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.*

Isaiah 38:4-5 KJV

(4) *Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying,*
(5) *Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.*

In this scripture, a prophecy ceased and God invented another because of a change of state, we should therefore focus on change of state. The New Testament itself is God's prophecy. When we do Christ well, there are certain things that God naturally takes away. All tendencies to disobey God are because of natures in us. Love is higher, it is the fulfilment of all laws (Rom 13:10). Even when bad circumstances happen, God permits it in love. If God allows something, it means love allowed it.

1 Corinthians 13:11 KJV

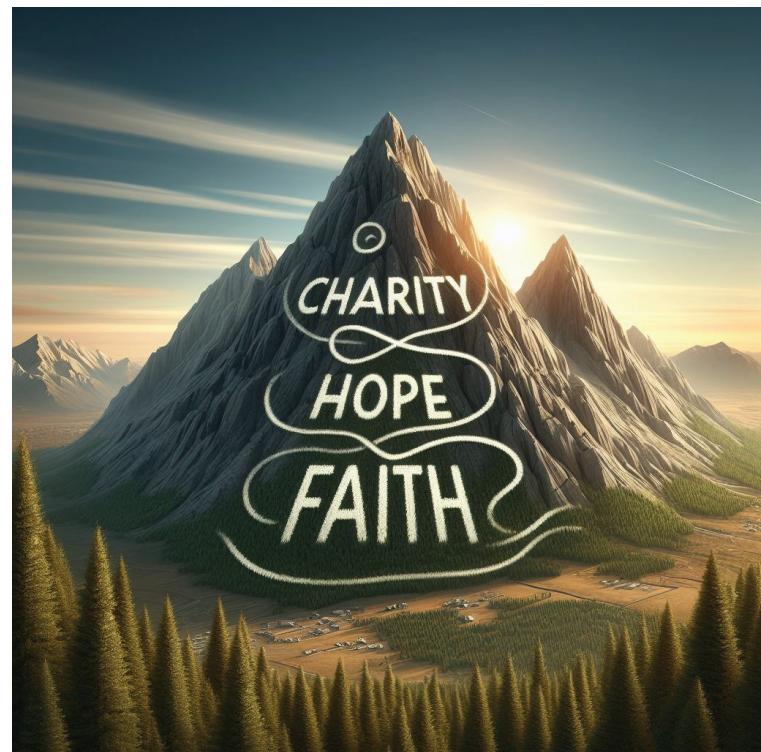
(11) *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

Charity is a man, just like faith and hope. You cannot take away childish things from men when the focus is not on making or building them. God makes you a man by raising your understanding and giving you His judgement (1 Corinthians 14:20).

Ephesians 4:31 KJV

(31) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

It takes a man to lay aside his rights. Standing on one's rights is another state in the spirit a man or a woman can occupy.



1 Peter 2:1 KJV

(1) *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*

It takes a man to lay aside malice. A man in Christ has a childlike heart and easily takes the blame but a man in malice never forgets offences.

1 Corinthians 14:20 KJV

(20) *Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*

For instance, you can love your wife to a point that you do not know how to fight with her. Understanding makes you lose your rights and makes you meek.

God is committed to making us men, to the point where we put aside malice, envy, hypocrisy and our relationships become true.

1 Peter 3:10 KJV

(10) *For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:*

1 Peter 4:7-8 KJV

(7) *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

(8) *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

When we come into a place of loving ourselves, we would no longer take note of others' differences.



PASTOR DIMEJI ELUGBADEBO

Pastor Oladimeji Elugbaadebo is a seasoned minister of the New Testament, passionate about the establishment of men in the core of the faith - knowing and growing into the fullness of God. As the Lead Pastor of The CityGate Church, an apostolic centre with a prophetic thrust, he has wealth of experience in directly relating with the flock and empowering them to pursue conformity to the image of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, through sound doctrine.

He also has a deep thrust into the Body and has consistently declared the intent of God for His people for over two decades. This commitment to seeing the Church attain unto her high calling is expressed in his itinerant ministries to the Body of Christ both locally and internationally. He is married to Pastor Fisayo Elugbaadebo, a sound teacher of the Word, and their home is blessed with Olubiyi and Aanuoluwa.

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